

Significance of Public Transport in Tourism: An Analysis

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Introduction:

Tourism is growing service sector in India. During last three decades there is tremendous increase in Tourism in different fields. As per definition of Britannica, tourism is the act and process of spending time away from home in pursuit of recreation, relaxation and pleasure, while making use of the commercial provision of services. There is different types of tourists in India. Some tourists enjoy visit to religious places where as other tourists are busy in site seen in nature and seashore. All age groups are involved in tourism. As there is increase in number of tourists there is increase in number of tourist service providers too. There are registered as well as unregistered travel agencies in India. There are number of complex issues related with tourism sector. Tourism industry is also facing number of challenges in India. In this research paper attempt is made to discuss the significance of public transport in tourism. There is need of good Public Transport facilities to promote healthy tourism in India. But unfortunately there is decline in the service of Public Transport which has created number of problems. Let us analyze the significance of Public Transport in Tourism in India.

Objectives:

The objectives of this paper are as follow:

- 1) To point-out the major problems in tourism sector of India.
- 2) To explain the importance of Public Transport in Tourism.
- 3) To discuss the tourism in India from environmental perspective.
- 4) To discuss social, economic, administrative dimensions of Tourism in India.

Statement of Problem:

India is the most populous country in the world with more than 140 crore population, unlike developed countries in Europe and America. So we cannot use the ways which are being followed by European tourists. There is gradual increasing trend of use of private vehicles for tours and picnics. During last three decades especially after 2000 people are preferring private vehicles for tourist purpose. Before 2000 tourist was basically depended on Public transport. In case of Maharashtra, MSRTC and Railways was used by huge number of tourist. It was properly supported by auto and taxi services in towns and cities. Hence, the issue of traffic jam was confined with metropolitan cities like Pune and Mumbai only. But if we observe the condition of major tourist places in recent years, there is problem of traffic jam and problem of parking. This problem has created the of number of new socio economic problems in India. Environmental pollution and solid waste in tourist place is serious issue.

There is need of use of State Transport, Rail Transport, Airways etc. for tourist purpose. These public transport need to be properly supported by auto, taxi, tanga etc. in tourist places. If we provide cheap public transport and cheap supporting transport we can solve the major problem of traffic jam and pollution.

Especially during weekend and vacation time we watch the common news of traffic jam. On occasion of Depawali, Ganesh Utsav, Holi, Summer Vacation, Common Public Holidays

highways and toll plaza are rushed with car and such other tourist vehicles. Almost all major religious places in Maharashtra such as Pandharpur, Kolhapur, Shirdi Sai Baba, Trambakeshwar in Nasik, Jejuri, Akkalkot, Ganpatpule, are facing the above mentioned problem. Not only these religious places even other religious places in Maharashtra and India having the same problem. Hours together people need to wait to get line clear on National Highways and major roads.

Sea Shores in Konkan, Mahabaleswar, Pachagani, Ajantah-Verul, Kas Pathar, Raigad, Shaniwarwada, Seashores, Forts, all these tourist places are also facing the same problem.

To overcome this problem we need to make our public transport comparatively cheap, convenient and easily accessible. In this era of cut throat competition and liberal economy there is competition among vehicle companies to promote use of private and luxuries vehicles. In order to provide proper transport facilities major cities have been connected by 4 or 6 lane highways. But, due to huge population and large number of private vehicles even these mega highways also not enough to solve the problem. Therefore transport policy should be in favour of public transport and against private transport. In other words autos and taxis should be imposed minimum tax or made tax free. So that they can provide service to people in reasonable rate within city. There should be provision of common and luxury bus services, so that people can get facilities as per their economic position. Good train facility is also going to solve major issues of tourists.

Major Issues in Tourism in India:

1. Lack of good roadways is limitation in Tourism. This is not the problem of remote and suburban areas but, this is the problem of highways and major cities too. For instance Pune-Bangluru National Highway No. 48 is not upto the mark. The work is in progress from last one decade. This is the condition of in other parts of India.
2. Lack of standard price of different services for tourists. During peak time tourists are being looted by some service providers, such as hotels, autos, taxis, restaurants etc.
3. Illegal tourist agents and agencies. Number of unofficial tourist vehicles provide service to people. They are not trained or some times misshappens take place.
4. Limitation in athiti devo bhava approach. In fact it is the broad philosophy and principle for tourists. Generally outsiders are being cheated by some local service providers. Outsiders are overcharged for their services like stay, food, products etc.
5. Arrogant approach of tourists in particular places is also one of the major problem. Especially young tourist behavior in certain places need intervention of police. Number of times people in tourist place do not observe rules or guidelines. Unruly behavior of some tourists makes other tourist lot of problem. For instance not to observe lane discipline on highways and parking places make other tourists problem.

Conclusion:

In short we need to look towards the Tourism in India from very broad perspective. If we do not take right decision at right time nation has to pay huge penalty in days to come. There will be problem of air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, and plastic pollution. There should be ban on use and throw culture all over India and tourist places in particular. If we promote the use of Public Transport two major problems we can overcome. If we could able to control traffic jam and

pollution, we could make our tourism more beautiful. On the contrary if we go on broadening the roads in the name of development and tourism we will face severe consequences in future.

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