

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF TOURISM IN VISHALGAD

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ABSTRACT

A fort had existed at Vishalgad long before it became a jagir. The Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had escaped to it after being besieged at Panhala Fort in 1660 and in 1844 it was one of the forts of Kolhapur State that initiated a rebellion against a Brahmin regent called Daji Krishna Pandit who had been installed by the British to govern the state in 1843 at a time when the natural heir to the throne was underage. He took direction from a political agent of the East India Company and among their actions were reforms to the tax of land. These reforms caused much resentment and, despite Kolhapur having refrained from involvement in the previous Anglo-Maratha Wars, a revolt against the British began in 1844. The rebellion began with soldiers locking themselves into hill-forts such as those as Panhala and Vishalgad, and then spread to Kolhapur itself.

Keywords: Tourism, Battle, Maratha, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Panhala

1. Introduction

Tourism is an industry concerned with attracting people to a destination, transporting them there, housing, feeding and entertaining them upon arrivals & returning them to their homes. It is an industry which deals mostly with consumers, tourism, money and people which provide them goods and services. There is a difference between tourism and other industries. Tourism is light industry requiring little capital investment, which can be utilize the intangible and immovable assets like culture, heritage, natural vegetation, beaches, parks, mountains, sculpture etc. It brings national integrations. Cultural tourism relates to the doing of man that lends attractions to the landscape. These cultural expressions constitute potential recreation resources like people, lifestyles, bizarre traditional, mores, manners, beliefs and faith which often find expressions in local or regional fairs and festivals, art forms and architecture. Which contribute to the richness of any landscape; so this must be study with geographical curiosity. So, here an attempt is made of study of Vishalgad. General cultural tourism sees an unusual culture as an important part of the tourist experience but more as a backdrop to general tourist activities than as the primary focus of the holiday itself. It is the local colour, festivals and costumes that attract cultural tourists. (Wood, 1984)

2. Objectives

- ❖ To evaluate present status of tourism at the Vishalgad.
- ❖ To explore the major problems related to growth of tourism in Vishalgad.
- ❖ To suggest a few remedies for the development of tourism in the Vishalgad.

3. Data And Methodology

Primary data is collected by visiting Vishalgad. Questionnaire was prepared and filled up by people who engaged in tourism activity at Vishalgad. Interviews of few tourists were taken. Secondary data is collected from district census handbooks and available published and unpublished materials. Then collected information finally tabulated analyzed, interpreted and conclusions were drawn.

4. Study Area

This place is located in between latitude 16°54'24"N and 73°44'40"E longitude. The fort is located at 76 kilometers away North-West of Kolhapur, 60 kilometers north-west from Fort Panhala and 18 kilometers south of Kolhapur Ratnagiri road. It is situated on the hills that divide the region into two parts viz. Ambaghat and Anaskura Ghat. Since it is placed on the border of the hilly portion of Sahyadri ranges and the Konkan region, it got great political significance in the historical times. It was regarded as a 'Watch tower' for both the regions. The height of the fort is about 1130 meters (i.e. 3630 feet) high from the sea level.

Only one river is flowing in this region which is known as Kasari originated in the Pawankhind and one dam constructed on this river at Amba Ghat.

The rainfall is heavy especially in the hilly eastern part that is on high Crestline of Sahyadri. Weather in rainy season is humid and in winter season, it is very cool. On this mountainous region average temperature in summer season is 33⁰c and in winter season average temperature is 18⁰c.

The forests in the Vishalgad and AmbaGhat area on provides one of the significant attractions to the tourists. In the region of cover near about 87 percent forest areas. The main species are Teak, Sagavan, Shisav, Ain, Kinjal, Khair, Katt, Nana, Taman, Heddu, Arjun, Sakul, Kumbha, Karambel, Bhendi, Babul, and Suru. Fine teak wood are also found in this region. In this forest area some animals also found such as Bison, deer, tiger, leopard, rabbit and monkey

5. Results & Discussion

History Of Vishalgadfort

The fort was constructed by the ShilaharaKing 'Marsinh' in 1058 A.C. Initially, he named it as 'Khilgil'; in 1209, the then king of SeunaYadavas of Devagiri defeated Shilaharas and captured the fort In August 1347, the fort became a part of BahamaniSultanat During 1354 to 1433, the fort was under the rule of Vijayanagar Empire. In 1489, Yusuf Adil Shah separated himself from the Bahamani kingdom along with the area under his command and founded his independent Sultanat at Bijapur. Hence, the fort was attached to Adil Shahi Sultanat. In 1659, Shivaji captured the fort with the help of the officers on the fort After Shivaji Maharaj death, Chhatrapati Sambhaji would spend most of his times on the fort. He took initiative in renovation and reconstruction of some parts of the fortresses and gates of the fort in 1689, Rajaram Chhatrapati fled to Fort Gingee in Karnataka (now in Tamilnadu) from fort Panhala and thus 'Vishalgad' became an un-official capital of the Maratha Empire.

Battle of Pavankhind

Battle of Pāvankhind was a rear guard battle that took place on July 13, 1660 at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fort Vishalgad, near the

city of Kolhapur between the Maratha sardar Baji Prabhu and Siddi Masud of Adilshah. The Marathas held the Adilshahi forces till Shivaji reached the fort Vishalgad. The Adilshahi forces were 15,000 strong against 600 Maratha light infantry. The battle is known for gallant defense of the mountain pass by Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande.

Panhala to Vishalgad Trekking

An approximate route of 75 km to be completed in 3 days. This journey usually starts from Kolhapur to Panhala by bus. Panhala is a Taluka place and actually has lost the charm of a fort with all the tar roads penetrating to every corner on the top. About 60km northwest of Panhala and 18 km south from Kolhapur-Ratnagiri road Vishalgad is situated on a mountain. The road passes through thick wood. Now the fort is known to people as place of Malik RaihanDargah. Sati Mandir is there in memory of Ambadevi the queen of King Rajaram who burned as Sati after the death of her husband. The Samadhi or tomb of great warrior BajiPrabhuDeshpande who fought until death with SiddiMasood, commander of Adilshaha who was perusing Shivaji at the time when he escaped from siege of Siddi to fort Panhala and was rushing to Vishalgad.

Analysis

Tourist Attraction

The fort has following sites nearly in ruins today except the *Dargah*.

- 1) Amruteshwar Temple
- 2) ShriNrusinha Temple
- 3) TakmakTok
- 4) Sati's Vrindavan

The *Dargah* or tomb of Hazrat Malik Raihan. Thousands of Devotees visit the *Dargah* every year.

Population Of Tourism Business Sectors

The total sampled population of Vishalgad is about 600; in this population about 250 are females and 350 are males population the total adult populations is 300; the total number of sampled survey families are 100 in Vishalgad. From which about all populations is engaged in tourism business. These are engaged in following sectors of tourism business. (Table 1)

Table 1: Population Of Tourism Business Sectors In Vishalgad

Tourism Business Sectors	Percentage (%)
Shops	23.41
Labor	8.21
Sweet Mart	2.82
Chicken Center	5.76
Land Owner	38.11
Hotel	2.82
Wood Cuter	1.35
Room Holder	17.52
Total	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Flow Of Tourists

Flow of tourists to the region decided the economic status of the destinations. If the number of incoming tourists is more, the earning of the destination is more. Therefore, the study of incoming tourists is made the following table 2 reveals that the position of incoming tourists in the region.

Table 2: Flow Of Touristsin Vishalgad

State/ Country	No. of Tourists	Percent (%)
Maharashtra	19	38
Goa	05	10
Karnataka	26	52
Total	50	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Occupational Structure Of Tourists

Occupational of these tourists may help to understand the economic status of the tourists. The following table 3 given idea about the occupation of the tourists.

Table 3: Occupational Structure Of Touristsin Vishalgad

Occupation	No. of Tourists	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	8	16
Education	3	6
Private sector	22	44
Construction	3	6
Household	11	22
Government servant	3	6
Total	50	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Frequency Of Visits Of Tourists

Table 4: Frequency Of Visits Of Touristsin Vishalgad

Frequency of Visits in Year	No. of Tourists	Percentage (%)
Five Times in Years	25	50
5-10 Times in Years	14	28
Above 10 Times in Years	11	22
Total	50	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Mode Of Transportation

Mode of travel is very significant component of tourism. The following table 5 shows the nature of mode of travel to Vishalgad.

Table 5: Mode Of Transportationof Touristsin Vishalgad

Mode of Transportation	No. of Tourists	Percentage (%)
Two Wheeler	19	38
Four Wheeler	24	48
State Transportation	07	14
Total	50	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Stay At Number Of Days

Table 6: Stay At Number Of Daysof Touristsin Vishalgad

Days	Percentage (%)
0-2	61.11
2-4	27.77
Above 4	11.12
Total	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Daily Expenditure

Table 7: Daily Expenditure Of Touristsin Vishalgad

Expenditure in Rs.	Percentage (%)
0-500	22.22
500-1000	22.22
Above 1000	55.56
Total	100

Fieldwork: June, 2019

Economic Impact of Tourists in the Vishalgad Region

Increase in the income of residents ,Increasing opportunities fir shopping, Increasing opportunity for jobs, Demand for female labour, Increasing cost of land & housing, Non-Availability of land for housing,

Increasing general price for goods and services, Degradation of cultural goods as commercial goods, Rental houses as source of income, Effects of location on sale, Scarcity of essential goods, Scarcity of essential goods during the season, Increase in the number of hotels, Modernizations of infrastructure.

Physical Impact Indicators of Tourists in the Vishalgad Region

overcrowding & Congestion, Noise & air Pollution, Water Pollution, Quality of Sewage Disposal, Supply & quality of fresh water, strain on public utility services & recreational facilities, Road Condition, Development of Slums, Freely Moving cattle & problems of Congestion, Acute problem of dirtiness at religious spot, Modernization of Infrastructure, increasing number of religious institution, increasing number of Hotels, Need of separate parking facility.

Problems Of Tourists

We observed that many people from Maharashtra and Karnataka state visit to Vishalgad; but they face various problems as follows-

1. Roads

We observed that while visiting the Vishalgad people face problems of roads. Due to bad condition roads people are facing various problems in traveling along with it the road from bottom of fort to Darga is very difficult and very steep slope that's why there are so many obstacles in transport of goods.

2. Parking

There is no parking facility at the fort for visitors. It has been affecting on the tourism.

3. Water

It seems that water is a serious problem on the Vishalgad. Due to polluted water and lack of water supply, tourists as well as local people are facing various problems. Therefore, if tourists need some water then they have buy the water. There rates of drinking water is 20Rs. per bucket and water for other uses is 15Rs per bucket. Along with it we do not sure about pure water. There are some wells but

because of uncleanness it has is not proper to drink.

4. Accommodation

There is no proper governmental or private residential facility for tourists. That is why many problems exist there and it affects tourism.

5. Food Facility

Tourists are not getting proper food facility on Vishalgad. They're very few Hotels and the meal in that hotel are not vegetarian and healthy. Along with it the rates are very high.

6. Expensive Market

There are some retailers in the Darga like scarification of animals (chicken) that's why people many things from market. But these things are very costly in comparison with other market.

7. Education

Majority of people on Vishalgad are illiterate

8. Condition of Houses and Shops

The houses and shops are built in very small places. As well as the roads lanes are very narrow.

9. Pollution

There is varying serious problem of pollution on Vishalgad. Offering in the Darga is a non-vegetarian that's why many chicken have scarified there wasted materials of that chicken destroyed near the Darga on the fort that's why uncleanness and water pollution is observed.

10. Health & Sanitation Problem

There are no health facilities on the Vishalgadh that's why if there will be any health problem, people have to go any other nearer place like Shahuwadi, Malkapur and Kolhapur.

11. Deforestation

For various reasons the deforestation on the Vishalgad is observed like to prepare food and firewood. Therefore, natural beauty of Vishalgad is destroying.

12. Electricity

On the Vishalgad, local people as well as tourists have been facing the problem of

electricity. There is no availability of electricity for 16 hour regularly. That's why this problem is arising.

13. Insecurity

We observed that local people and tourist fill insecure on the Vishalgad. This problem is increasing day by day.

14. Unemployment

Due to unemployment many obstacles and difficulties occurs in the development of Vishalgad. With it there are numbers of beggars. That is why unemployment is a serious problem on Vishalgad.

Summary & Conclusion

In India is very reach in cultural tourism so many monuments like Tajmahal forts and religious places are popular in the world. In Maharashtra forts of ShivajiMaharaj are the more attached with feelings of the people and even religious places also having tourism importance. So Vishalgad is one of the fort from ShivajiMaharaj which having great history and natural attraction of AmbaGhat also and religious centre like Dargah also.

Vishalgad is situated on the top of hill in the sub ranges of Sahayadri. It is well known as an important religious tourist point as well as it has historical importance because once king ShivajiMaharaj had stayed there. Many people from various religions 'Hindu and Muslim' visit for religious and tourism purpose

regularly. 'Hajrat Peer Malik Rehan Baba's Darga' is symbol of Hindu- Muslim unity.

Suggestions

There is need to develop good conditioned roads and the government should look after it. Government should provide some residential facilities like lodge, hotels for tourist. There should be facility of guides, government offices for information and help in case of emergencies. The food in the hotels should be pure and filtered. Electricity is a major problem. So use of wind energy is a better way on this problem there should be different arrangement for the destruction of garbage and wasted things, so the natural beauty of fort will increase. And eventually the most important things that health, so government should look after it and should established some medical offices. And at last the security that should be different for security. This place having historical importance it should be focused here and most important thing should be that preservation of historical monument should done here by government. Wide publicity of this tourists spot is necessary. Publicity of forest and animals should be there. Trekking camp should be organize between Panhala and Vishalgad should be arrange so here tourism can be develop. Here waste dispose should be done in proper manner then only cleanliness can maintain. Incentives should be provide to the local people for that.

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