

Responsible ecotourism-Todays need

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism is a rapid growing industry. It is a travel activity that ensures direct financial support to local people. Ecotourism also teaches travellers to respect local culture of destinations where travellers are visiting. There is urgently need for Responsible ecotourism. Ecotourism practioner has to come together and evolve a methodology to minimize the negative aspects of ecotourism on the environment and in hence the cultural integrity as local people.

Key words: Ecotourism, Cultural integrity, environment.

Ecotourism is the fastest growing sector in the International tourism. Ecotourism is of Special interest for its relationship with conservation sustainability and biological diversity, Bhattacharya¹. Ecotourism has become an important sector for developing countries seeking to maximize foreign exchange earnings, increase employment and secure financial resources to conserve Natural cultural heritage. The industry has grown from being a marginal aspect of National economic life to an important Socio economic asset Since late 1970s, As WTO⁵ observes tourism is the world's largest growth industry with no signs of slowing down in the twenty first Century. The most important definition for tourism has been provided by Hunziger and Kraft (cited in Burkhart and medlik²) as "tourism is a sum of relations and phenomenon resulting from travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as it

does not lead to permanent residence and is not connected with any permanent or temporary earning activity". Ecotourism was defined by the ecotourism society (Tes) as "Responsible travel to nature areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of the local people"⁴. The main aim of ecotourism are ecological and Socio-cultural integrity, responsibility and sustainability³.

Negative aspects of ecotourism:

Like industrialization, urbanization and unsustainable agricultural practices of human society ecotourism is now also considered to be having serious effect on the environment. The number of roads disrupted the grass cover which has serious effects on plant and animal species. Ecotourism often include deforestation and disruption of ecological life system and

various forms of pollution.

Natural Resource Management:

There are several places where the Natural resources are abundant. Without knowing the proper utilization of certain resources they are destroyed and floral and faunal species are becoming extinct. Natural resource management can be utilized as a specialized tool for the development of ecotourism. Ecotourism programmes can be introduced for the conservation of these resources. Several organizations, NGO's, Scientists are working on this field.

Responsible ecotourism :

Responsible ecotourism focuses on socially responsible travel and special interest for its relationship with conservation and Bio diversity. Ecotourism involves travel to destination where floral fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attraction. Responsible ecotourism includes programmes that minimize the negative aspect of conventional tourism on the environment and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. There is need for

proper guide lines and directions of international standards to sustain its natural growth. To day its necessary that ecotourism practitioners all over the world has to come together and evolve a methodology for Responsible ecotourism.

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