

Development of Tourism near Loktak Lake (Moirang) in Manipur using Geographical Information and Management Techniques

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Abstract

In today's -world, Tourism is an important socio-economic activity. It promotes national integration which helps in improving infrastructure, creates employment opportunities and augments foreign exchange earnings. In an area where a place of tourist attraction is located, there exist a tourist economy besides the domestic area economy. It also lends helping hand to cultural activities. However in order to fulfill all the pleasure from tourism there are also many problems that its beauty and variety of cultural and natural environment. Its isolation from the outside world, insurgency, political instability, inaccessibility, lack of transportation and infrastructure facilities and ruggedness topography are some of the important impediments coming in the way of development. The problems are multi-dimensional. During research, various options and feedbacks regarding the development of tourism were collected from the household/local people and local policy maker. Leaving apart the problems there also lies the huge potential of tourism in the area. With the recent festival of Sangai festival 2017 in Moirang as the curtain raiser marked the opening and beginning of future aspect of tourism.

Keywords: Insurgency, Instability, Multidimensional, Political, Ruggedness, Sangai Festival 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

The present study is concerned about the problem in the field of development of tourism and its future prospect of Moirang which is an important in order to explain the changes including socio-economic, land-use and environmental condition that occur in the region. Therefore ,the main objectives of the study area is to evaluate the existing facilities in terms of physical ,social, cultural and historical background ,and highlight the future scope in Moirang.

II. METHODOLOGY

The report is prepared by empirical method which is based on observation and experience .The methodology and techniques which are used in the study area is simple.

The following steps are being followed

A. Pre-field

Collection of available secondary data from the google map, topographic map, preparation of questionnaire etc.

B. Field

Collection of primary data by conducting survey through random sampling and personal observation by visiting the important tourist places of Moirang.

C. Post-field

Processing of data and report writing.

III. PRESENT SCENERIO OF MOIRANG

Moirang is a beautiful historical town, about 45 km south of Imphal City and located in Bishnupur District on the south western part of Loktak Lake. "It is high time to select Moirang as our model destination" said by a key functionary of Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF), a forum of different personalities who love to promote tourism as one of state's income generation industry. A view of Sendra Tourist Home on a large Phoomdi in the Loktak Lake is well connected by road and air, Imphal, the capital city of Manipur is 39 km away from the lake, by road. The lake is a unique destination for tourism. The lake offers excellent opportunities for visitors to enjoy the beauty of the lake and its several islands located inside it are studded with floating phoomdis of different

geometrical shapes. The important islands which offer facilities for visitors are Sendra and Phubala. At Moirang town, on a fringe of the Loktak Lake, is the INA (Indian National Army) Museum which will be of interest to tourists. The exhibits include letters, photographs, badges of rank and other articles associated with the INA. A bronze statue of Subhas Chandra Bose in the uniform stands in the lawn. Besides food, sight-seeing and shopping Moirang Bazar and Keibul Lamjao National Park are also one of the tourist interest places.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

From the given basic facts, Moirang can be said as one of the largest tourism town in Manipur. Despite of the existing resourcefulness of natural and cultural heritages in the places, tourism is not able to flourish as an economic activity in the state. In this context we are trying to identify the factors for retardation of development in Moirang. The first and the foremost encounter are mindset of the inhabitants and their inherent nature of the society. Because, they have a tendency of suspicious to the outsiders or visitors in the area. This kind of closeness in the surrounding was one of the defensive mechanisms for the survival of their society which is still acting as hangover to these days also. Secondly, the region is yet to make cataloguing as well as documenting all the spots and complexes of the natural heritage located in the surrounding region. Further varieties of distinct cultural events existing within the region have to be documented. After having all these information, a complete mapping, basic infrastructural facilities are to be extended. At present, there is not enough standard service provider system. Over and above, the tourist interest products and issues relating to price, security, health, safety and quality etc. would be studied. Thirdly, more emphasis is given to preservation and protection of the archeological and natural heritages, development of the monument complexes and museums. Further, efforts will have to be made preserve and promote folk and tribal art and crafts and oral traditions, which are in danger of extinction. Lastly, the potential impact of climate change on the cultural and natural heritage is also a subject of growing concern. And hence, protection of natural and cultural heritage in order to create an appropriate framework for the preservation of Moirang's heritage for the benefit of current and future generation is a must. For this, we have awaked awareness that the surrounding fragile ecological balance of Moirang and its natural resources could be dramatically and irremediably disrupted as consequences of certain unchecked human activities.

The following factors have been identified as major impediments in the development of tourism.

A. Isolation

Moirang which is one of the destinations of the local tourist is isolated from the rest of the world. This locational isolation, land lock, hill girt causes a distinct entity. The first need is to open this area to the rest of the world as well as to inter-link the area/region by developing efficient road network.

B. Insurgency

Due to lack of intermingling not only with the rest of the country but also among different class of people groups has led to lack of national consciousness and insurgency. Many outlaw groups called insurgents operate in the area/region. Their anti-social activities are the main reasons for the installation of many army battalions who have occupied tourist houses. Due to insurgency in the region the communication and transportation is not safe and it arise many problems for the outside visitors.

C. Political Instability

Due to instability of the Government, any developmental works or plans could not be implemented properly in any sectors. Due to this development in tourism sector has also been pretended.

D. Law and Order

Ban, general strikes and road blockade are many frequent in this region due to the consequent of moral degradation, rampant corruption, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse; student unrest etc. these social moments and unrest have reacted adversely in the growth of tourism in the state.

E. Entry Permits

Tourists are required to obtained restricted area permits from Ministry of Home Affairs or Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Moreover, inner line permits (ILP) is necessary for those domestic tourists who would like to come to Manipur via Nagaland. Moreover, foreigners are permitted only 10 days for staying including coming and going in Manipur. They have to form a group of not less than 5 persons. This is also one of the main hurdles for foreign visitors.

F. Rugged Topography

The tourists find the journey to (Moirang) which passed through rugged hills long and tiresome. Construction work in such rugged topography is not only inexpensive but needs a huge workforce. This is one of the regions why, railway line is not yet touch to this region where Moirang is located.

G. Transportation

Internal and inter-state communications are very poor which is very essential for the development of tourism. Roads are bumpy and very narrow both the internal and inter-state roads viz. the two National Highway N.H, NO. 39 and 53. The blocked of this N.H. due to landslides in monsoon season are sometimes occurred, rail link is absent other than N.H. and air link to this place/state and the frequency of flight is negligible and air-fare is exorbitant. Tourism activities in this area are facing a great problem of inaccessibility.

H. People's Motivation

More than half of the populations are mainly engaged in agriculture fishery and other activities. In such condition of sedentary life, people's participation in the growth of is far to visualize. Furthermore the participation activities that are practicing have endangered. Many species and destroying the pristine natural habituated. Tourism industry needs a holistic support from all the sides.

I. Policy Vision

The state government does not have any proper policy documents for tourism planning. Tourism industry in this region is directionless and hence its development activities are also sluggish.

J. Management

The management for the developments of tourism is the hands of bureaucrat's directions and secretaries of state tourism departments. They are civil services officers and hence they are frequently transferred from one department to another. Frequent changes of top management authorities and lack of committed leaders and workforce have been one of the hindrances in the development of tourism.

K. Information

Information about various tourism centers and cultures is not disseminated at the right time. Use of new information technology is almost absent for publicity.

L. Promotion

The effort of marketing and promotion of tourism in the state are not satisfactory. The propaganda on various occasions could not be handled effectively and hence the state does not successfully project a palatable image of the region. Tie-ups with other well established travel agents and for operations are also lacking and hence traffic in the region of sluggish.

M. Inter-state Co-operation

Inter-state problems in the region are very prominent. No co-ordination effort has been taken up to work for development and growth of tourism in the region. Co-ordination among various departments of the state is also lacking and as a result, holistic view in solving the problem is absent.

N. Accommodation

There no good hotels like five star hotels. There are some luxurious hotels in Imphal. Hotel at the imphal sites are negligible. Hence tourist find difficulties in greeting accommodation in tourist centers far from the main town.

O. Fooding

Lack of standard hotels in the state except in the capital and wayside amenities, good and suitable food as per tourist's wishes cannot cater at all sides.

P. Tourist Guide

It is not wrong to say that proper guide is needed for the foreign and domestic tourists who are strangers in this region. Tourist guide are not easily available.

Q. Trained Employees

Lack of proper training facilities to the employee working in the tourism organizations is another hurdle is dealing with tourists satisfactory. As such, it leads to sending back unsatisfied customs. Most of the people running tourist organization take up the business not by choice. They do not have professional knowledge and expertise.

V. ITS FUTURE PROSPECT

Tourism in Moirang offers ample scope to excel its natural and cultural resources provided the above listed problems. When properly addressed to at least at minimum level. The bitten prospects may ignite from the wondrous balance flora and fauna that abound in its environment. Responding the rhythms of topographical features and micro-climate favor's, Moirang environment

sustain a variety of range endemic plant and animal lines. This combination of natural wonders and cultural tradition are to be enjoyed at leisure. Home of colourful people and dazzling rituals Wreath and legends finely festivals and an evocative classical dance form, martial arts and indigenous games. Moirang may be able to attract of tourists all the year. Village tourism or community tourism in this area may provide another aspect for heritage tourism.

Eco-tourism is one of the brighten prospects of the area. The potential of the Loktak Lake and the Keibul Lamjao National Park, is a value for academicians, environmentalists and for the development of tourists can be stated. The white shimmering lake fuel of colorful lilies, Lotus and isles and surrounding hill and moles for the development of the aquatic based nature tourism along with cultural and socio-cultural arts and crafts promotion tourism opportunity is provided at Moirang. Not only this recently Government of Manipur with Manipur Tourism Department organized the opening function of, Sangai Festival 2017 as a curtain raiser in the birthplace of Sangai at Keibul Lamjao. This is the beginning of huge attraction form foreign tourist as well as promotion of tourism from every corner of different place. During the 10 days festival the government also provided free transportation service form Imphal to Moirang which led to the expansion of tourism facilities.

VI. SUGGESTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN MOIRANG

There should be proper water way between Thanga and Karang as often phoomdis make disturbance in the way. Therefore in order to avoid such problems ropeway or cable ways should be constructed. And if it is installed than it will be the first time in Manipur to provide such a service i.e. ropeway or cable ways. Good and well-furnished hotels are necessary at Moirang and nearby areas. Offcourse traditional lodging can also be provided. Better quality of road transport facility for easy movement of tourist. If Loktak tourism is organised, a large number of domestic and foreign tourists may be attracted. All historical sites including Thonglen Yumpham, Puremba Yumpham etc., are needed to be kept as tourist spot. Moirang lai haraoba should be celebrated in a grand manner as well as well organised advertisement section are in need before the beginning of lai haraoba. A large tourist home is needed at Moirang town, besides Sendra and Keibul Lamjao National Park. A well exposition of Khamba and Thoibi epic in the forms of dance, pena performance, mukna-kangjei, khongjom prava, kaophaba and hiyang tanaba should be organised regularly at Moirang. Floating hotels with the facility of night stay can also be introduced along the shore of lake.

VII. CONCLUSION

The forgoing study can be concluded in the way that

- 1) Moirang located in the state of Manipur which is an isolated, closed, under-developed, hill glint and geographically a distinct entity. It consist of a beautiful lake, cultural centers and the isles with the hills surrounded to it.
- 2) The area abounds in unrivalled natural scenic beauty of the landscape with fascinating orchards/farmland, pristine pastures, hills dales, magnificent wet land. White shimmering lakes fuel of colorful lilies, lotous and a formation of encircle of phumdie's and isles.
- 3) Moirang has a rich cultural heritage which manifests in form of graceful dances enchanting festivals, fairs, distinctive ritual functions, nuptial style, traditional songs drama, indigenous form of martial art, sports, games, handicrafts and handloom.
- 4) There are many place of tourist attraction like places of national scenic beauty, wetlands, wild life sanctuary, biodiversity reserved, religious centers, historical centers, etc.
- 5) There is unlimited potential for the development of tourism in Moirang. It properly concerned and enacted by the participation of the local people state government and the central government.

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