

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

In recent times ecotourism has become as an important tool of sustainable development. Countries with abundant natural resources are paying more and more attention to identify areas with natural beauty so that those areas can be developed into ecotourism destinations. Ecotourism has not only a positive impact on the economy but it has also influenced the culture and life style of the people who live in those regions where tourism has been developed and improved their economic conditions. Ever since the area of nature related tourism has emerged, many studies have been conducted to understand the different dimensions of ecotourism. The present review of literature is an attempt to highlight a cross section of the studies which deal with the field of ecotourism.

2.1. Survey of published literature on Ecotourism

Heywood argues that tourism has the potential to be a relatively clean industry as it relies upon the environment for its continuing existence and success. The spill over benefits of tourism includes conservation and the preservation of natural areas, archaeological sites and historic monuments. Notwithstanding the fact that tourism is a viable tool for economic prosperity for both developed and developing world, academicians, policy makers and environmentalists are more concerned about the various impacts – socio-economic and environmental – of this multifaceted industry.

Ecotourism, with respect to sustainable development, is interpreted as relating to economic sustainability, ecological sustainability, the long-term viability of tourism, and accepting tourism as a part of an overall strategy for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation (Butler 1998). This requires a more appropriate and conscientious approach, which can equip ecotourism as a means to protect environment and in turn sustain biodiversity (Newsome 2000).

In natural areas tourist accommodation and shelter, and associated continuous activities result in the removal of vegetation (Newsome 2002). Loss of vegetation cover in this way is frequently accompanied by soil compaction and loss of soil structure leading to increased surface water run-off, soil erosion and decline of species diversity.

These problems have been identified in Kenya's National Park and Wildlife reserves (Hunter 1995). In the present era of globalization, the world's collections of highly diverse cultures that are adapted to the local environment are being replaced by cultures that are characterized by high levels of material consumption. As a result there is a loss of valuable information (embedded in traditional cultures) and value systems that could improve the understanding of practical steps to achieve greater sustainability. The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity are an integral component of many ecosystems (WRI 2002). In order to maintain ecosystem diversity it is imperative to preserve social and cultural diversity (especially indigenous or tribal culture). Ecotourism can be useful in maintaining indigenous cultures. On the positive side, many studies have claimed that tourism has a strong incentive in reviving lost art and culture (Mehta 2002). In a seminal study by Scheyven (1999), the key element of ecotourism is that it should contribute to the improvement of the cultural appreciation and understanding of both host communities and for the tourists; cultural heritage and local pride (Page, 2002). The native Nepalese and Tibetan handicrafts were languishing for lack of patronage prior to the advent of tourism and have experienced a revival after the influx of the tourists (Gurung 1989). Language and literature, dress code, local food, local art and craft are the key aspects of any local culture and these should be given appropriate emphasis when planning ecotourism.

Improvement of the socio-economic condition of the local people is one of the major objectives of developing ecotourism, which can lead to sustainable development. Ecotourism strives to be not only a conservation mechanism and an economic development tool, but also a development process that seeks to remain harmonious with local cultural and social needs (Wood 2002).

Depending upon the approach it can be helpful in generating livelihood opportunities; that otherwise could prove detrimental for the society and the people. The number of tourists coming to the ecotourism destinations within acceptable limits creates a positive economic impact in the form of job generation increased income and a net profit. Ecotourism becomes more successful, when it is linked with the existing environmental friendly traditional economic activities. For example, in Papua New Guinea, villagers have a source of income from tourist accommodation built on their property. By collaborating with the local tour operators they are providing

accommodation to tourists (Weaver, 2000). This helps local people achieve income and employment, and the extractive pressure on natural resources is lessened. Further, residents are more likely to support tourism and conservation (even to the point of protecting the site against poaching).

When ecotourism provides job opportunities for local people, the migration of the young people becomes less. This has been experienced in Papua New Guinea. Here, Ambua lodge is built in a highland area and provides employment opportunities to the local people, which has stopped urban drift towards crime ridden major cities (Weaver, 2000).

Satisfaction of visitors with the ecotourism experience is essential to long-term viability of the ecotourism industry. *Optimum satisfaction of touristic aspiration* is essential for the survival of ecotourism destinations. Ecotourism is a responsible form of tourism where visitor satisfaction depends upon the management regime of the ecotourism destination as well as level of environmental awareness of the tourists. In this context, repeat visit of tourists can be one of the indicators of a high level of tourist satisfaction for a particular destination. As ecotourism destinations are supposed to have limited infrastructure to comply with sustainability principles, the satisfaction of tourists become crucial for its success (Page, 2002). It is, therefore, essential to take care of tourists' demands. To maintain its level of sustainability, ecotourism destinations require ecotourists (environmentally aware tourists), who can appreciate the opportunities and limitations offered by the destinations itself. This requires considerable changes in attitude and behaviour so that indigenous culture and environment are respected (Newsome, 2002). Indicators of tourist satisfaction include: duration of tourists stay, overall satisfaction level of the tourists, trends of visitation per year, feedback from ecotourism service providers (i.e. cooks, guides, transporters and kiosk owners).

Ecotourism from a development perspective considers not just total economic benefits for the community, but also how these benefits are distributed and the social and cultural effects of ecotourism development on local people (Inbakaran, 2001). The desired goal of ecotourism can be fulfilled by their meaningful participation in managing ecotourism activities. There is a need to make them aware through meetings,

workshop, conservation projects etc. According to Omarans and Ariffin (Hunter 1995), a study in the Kampong Batu Feringghi, Penang, Malaysia, successively used community participation through open meetings to help in the formulation of the plan to promote an environmentally sustainable traditional village suitable for alternative tourism.

Awareness generation helped the local community to understand the pros and cons of ecotourism development. This will help them to extend tourism up to an acceptable limit, which will not harm their culture. Nowadays, home stay accommodation for tourists is a feature of ecotourism. This gives a homely feeling and good hospitality to tourists. At many ecotourism sites it has become a source of good income. The additional income gained from this is used to improve the quality of life of the local community (Weaver, 2000). To ensure that the economic benefit reaches the lower strata of society, there is need for a grass root level institution that will empower the people to take development decisions. Such groups include JFMC (Joint Forest Management Committee) EDC (Eco-development Committee) and SHG (Self Help Group) etc. These can help in the generation of local level funds for environmental conservation. Nowadays younger members of the community aspire to a standard of living that the tourists display and may take employment in government and commerce in an attempt to realize their aspiration (Hunter, 1999). However, utilization of the traditional knowledge system for ecological conservation and related development should always be encouraged. The younger generation is the carrier of social values, norms, and traditional economic activities from one generation to the next generation. They can play very important role in preserving their natural resources and continuing their socio-cultural identity. According to Negi (1990), the whole system requires an environmental and ecological preservation including nature, wild life, man and his activities, ecology and environment.

In the book '*Tourism Management – A Global Perspective*', Batra and Chawla (1994) hold the view that "ecotourism is perceived as a viable alternative route by which a measure of economic benefit can be reaped from tourism, with minimal damage to the environment and society and maximum advantage to local people".

Ravi Shankar Kumar Singh (1995) in his book '*Ecotourism and Sustainable Development*' remarks that ecotourism activities have been increasing rapidly worldwide over the past two decades and further growth is expected in the years ahead.

Vijaya Koteswari (1995) observes that any nature based form of tourism with observation and appreciation is for admiring, enjoying and studying nature. Tourists in small groups with local partners can go on ecotourism. It creates awareness about the conservation of heritage, natural and cultural assets, both among locals and tourists by participatory, interactive, enlightening and educational experiences apart from immense pleasure. It also empowers the locals to restrict the others interacting with the nature.

Daniel Gnana Sagar (1998) holds the view that ecotourism is the only way to maximize the economic, environmental and social benefits of tourism. Everyone is a stakeholder in the process and we clearly need to avoid our past shortcomings and negative momentum with more and more travel and travel related organizations addressing the needs of the ecotourists and impact that they have had. In India too, the movement is gathering and promoting ecotourism in the country.

In the book '*Sustainable Tourism: A Geographical Perspective*', Hall and Alan (1999) describe, "*Ecotourism is environmental friendly and sustainable tourism, which also benefits the local community*".

David and Fennell (2000) in their book '*Ecotourism: An Introduction*' highlight the need to promote the right kind of tourism, that is quality and eco-friendly tourism so that maximum benefit can be harnessed without affecting and altering physical and social quality.

According to Ralf Buckley (2000), "ecotourism, like tourism in general, is an industry as well as a social phenomenon and for private sector ecotourism operators, ecotourism is a business enterprise". He also emphasized the marketing of ecotourism and environmental education.

Anthony Chamy (2001) opines that environment has become one of the most important criteria for today's traveller. Whereas comforts and luxuries once played the major role in a traveller's decision-making process, things have evolved since then. Today's tourists are willing to pay for the preservation of the natural and social

environments they seek to explore. He tries to explain bridging the gap between innovation management models traditionally used in high technology industries with the new emerging ecotourism industry.

Maheshwar Rao (2002) explains the role of tourism in every country as a revenue earner and the most significant source of foreign exchange. He warns that a badly organized tourism development strategy have some adverse effects on the country rather than the development of the country.

Syamala (2002) believes that ecotourism has become a need for everyone who wants to refresh from the routine fast city life. Ecotourism provides many interesting tours to the heart of Mother Nature. Ecotourism in India is about taking a break from the busy life and leading a slow paced life in the midst of greenery. In her words, *“instead of waking up with the alarm we can wake up with chirping of birds, we can have healthy and timely food rather than having fast food – fried stuffs”*. India offers many ecotourism spots, which are safe.

Biju (2004) highlighted the need for defining ecotourism properly. He also mentions, tourism which is an ecologically sensitive area needs close monitoring. In short, tourism in the nature-based area should be ecologically sustainable. There should also be provision for learning process for a visitor. The economic benefit of such an activity should accrue to local population to ensure sustainability.

According to Usha Bande (2005) ecotourism stands for the management of tourism in such a manner that man derives maximum benefits from nature without disturbing its innate balance. It seeks to restore man’s communication with nature and to ensure the fulfillment of the need of the local cultures and traditions remain undisturbed and intact.

Raghavan (2005) opines: ecotourism is ecologically sustainable with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation. It is therefore necessary to bring together conservation and development in the activities yearning economic progress.

Sasikumar and Binu (2006) have remarked that the principles under which the concept of ecotourism was based such as natural conservation, sustainability, benefits

to local community and possibilities of education and interpretation, the nature and category of eco-tourists and the potentiality of the spot are the primary variables which are to be considered while planning for an ecotourism project.

According to Kirti Shiva Kumar (2007), “ecotourism is the management of tourism and conservation of nature in a way, so as to maintain a fine balance between the requirements of tourism and ecology on the one hand and the needs of local communities for new job skills, income generating employment and a better status for women on the other”.

Mohanlal (2007) holds the view that ecotourism is being entertained by many communities and governments as a reasonable and rational way for economic development and preserving their particular bit of the environment.

Noyal Thomas (2007) emphasise that regulated tourism has always been an important part of the protected area management to generate valuable revenue and able to raise the awareness levels of the people visiting these areas towards the conservation of these resources.

Prabha Shastri Ranade (2008) in her book *‘Ecotourism, Perspectives and Experiences’* analyses a number of issues to determine what constitutes successful ecotourism and how to balance conservation with development. She also makes an attempt to highlight broad issues related to the concept and principles of ecotourism. Her book highlights ecotourism and local economic development. It considers how ecotourism can generate economic benefits and provide alternative employment and income opportunities for the local communities.

Shrivastav (2010) advocates the role of ecotourism in community upliftment. In his words, “*tourism stimulates cultural activities and leads to improved understanding of each other and better relations between the tourists and the hosts*”. Ecotourism act as a tool for initiating upliftment of the community especially in the villages.

According to Dr.Vijaya Kumar’s book *‘Environment, Tourism and Development’* (2014), tourism and environment should not only depend upon each other, but also benefit mutually. He also highlights the importance of environment in tourism.

2.2. Survey of Literature on Case Studies Related to Ecotourism

The following section gives an appraisal of select case studies related to the development of ecotourism in different parts of the world including Sikkim.

Rai Suresh C. and Sundariyal Rakesh C. (1997) in their study '*Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation: The Sikkim Himalaya*' have made an attempt to show how tourism activities can be implemented sustainably in the state of Sikkim in such a way that local culture and environment is protected and local community is benefited. The study has found that local forests are under pressure due to fuel, timber and fodder requirements, which has resulted in change in the composition and density of forests. The author is of the opinion that with increase in the inflow of foreign and domestic tourists the region will experience social, economic and cultural changes. He states that there is evidence to show that the younger generation is strongly attracted to western culture. The author feels that the existing benefits of ecotourism is going more to tour operators than to the local people. If this can be changed and local people can get more benefits, then these local people can contribute more to protect the bio diversity of the region. The local persons possess extensive knowledge about the biodiversity of the region with their own ways of managing the local resources. For this reason it makes sense to train local people to become part of ecotourism. The author further states that diversification of tourist destination is also necessary to prevent the overcrowding of only few tourist destinations. It will also help in decentralizing of tourism, in turn creating employment to more people in the region.

Chettri (1998) in his case study about '*Impact of Tourism on Biodiversity*' made an analysis about environmental impact of tourism in the Sikkim Himalaya. Initiation of conservation activities has been geared up and the communities started participatory monitoring for resources and wildlife. In order to maintain biodiversity of the area, it is necessary to look for the specific niche depending on qualitative indigenous species for firewood, fodder and timber.

Banerjee and Smriti Kumari (1999) conducted a case study about Remote Sensing and GIS based ecotourism planning. According to them, being nature based tourism; ecotourism takes into account the natural ecological attraction, their conservation and development. Its main aim is to safeguard the environment, making it

beneficial to the local people by generating revenue and education and pleasure for the tourist. In their study, an attempt is made to identify potential ecotourism sites in eastern India using Remote Sensing and GIS techniques in forest dominated areas of Western Midnapore, West Bengal.

Batra Adarsh (2001) in his study '*Himalayan Ecotourism in Shimla*' talks about the environmental impact of tourism on Shimla and suggests measures to develop tourism in the area in an environmentally friendly way. According to the author the present tourism trends are oriented towards the increase in the volume of tourists. The study shows that the majority of the tourists visiting Shimla are Indian tourists and they visit Shimla for mostly sightseeing and pleasure. But majority of the respondents feel that presently Shimla is much polluted and lack proper sanitation facility. The researcher feels that the reason for this increasing pollution in Shimla is unplanned growth causing deforestation and environmental pollution. The study shows that in order to materialize the immense ecotourism potential of Shimla a planned approach with special consideration to protect the ecology of the region is necessary. The author says that this can be achieved through controlling the inflow of tourists, environmentally acceptable means of transport, conservation of the natural environment to make the growth of ecotourism in the region more sustainable.

Kohli (2002) conducted an outstanding study about *Ecotourism and Himalayas*. According to him, "it is necessary to develop Himalayas in order to improve the standard of living of the local people and to promote further growth of national economies of this region". The solution lies in carrying out all this development in a new era of heightened co-operation without disturbing the ecosystems of the Himalayas.

Panigrahi Nilakantha (2005) in his article titled '*Development of Eco-tourism in the Tribal Regions of Orissa: Potential and Recommendations*' has made an attempt to analyse the opportunities the state of Orissa presents in developing traditional ecotourism in the tribal regions of the state. The author feels that the state of Orissa can be a successful ecotourism destination if the state concentrates on developing tourism from a cultural and environmental point of view. The state has rich ecological and cultural heritage which can be developed into ecotourism destinations by making the tribal communities of the state equal partners in the development of ecotourism. The

author feels that the tribal communities should be given opportunity to earn a dignified livelihood from ecotourism; in the process making them not only preserve their own culture but also preserve the ecology which is giving them an opportunity to earn a livelihood. There is a need to develop infrastructure in the tribal regions of the state so that people coming to these ecotourism destinations are not discouraged from visiting these regions. The author opines that the state government of Orissa has to protect the culture of the indigenous people and also the ecology in which they live in from all forms of external influences. It needs to recognize the indigenous peoples' rights over the regions in which they have lived traditionally and make them part of the development by giving them opportunity to preserve their culture and tradition.

Clem Tisdell and Wilson Clevo (2005) in their study titled '*Perceived impacts of Ecotourism on Environmental Learning and Conservation: Turtle Watching as a Case Study*' have made an attempt to show how ecotourism can be helpful in promoting awareness about nature and help in conservation of endangered species in Queensland, Australia. The study found that turtle based ecotourism has helped in increasing the knowledge about environment and conservation and also has helped in the conservation of the sea turtles. The author also feels that such ecotourism initiatives based on sightseeing have significance because they make the tourist pay willingly towards conservation of nature. The initiatives of this type can also help reinforce environmental education and increase concern for the conservation of the wild life. The authors found during their study that interaction with wild animals in their natural settings was very helpful in building pro-conservation attitudes among the tourists. So the authors conclude that ecotourism can make a very positive contribution to sustainable conservation of nature and the sustainability of tourism development based on it.

Thampi P. Santosh (2005) in his article '*Ecotourism in Kerala, India: Lessons from the Eco-Development Project in Periyar Tiger Reserve*' gives an account of the ecotourism project in the Periyar Tiger Reserve at Thekkady in Kerala. The project was started with the involvement of the former inhabitants of the forest and had two basic objectives when it was started. They were managing protected areas with involvement of the local people. The idea was to use the knowledge of these people regarding forest and wild life to promote participatory ecotourism activities in the region. The major

ecotourism attractions in this project are the trekking and camping programmes in the forest, which are becoming very popular among the tourists. The author feels that the success of the Eco-development project in the Periyar Tiger Reserve shows that with careful planning and implementation of the ecotourism projects both conservation of the forests and protecting of the livelihood of the people living in and around the region can be achieved.

Tambe Sandeep, Bhutia, K.S. & M.L. Arrawatia (2007) in their article '*Mainstreaming Ecotourism in Sikkim Economy*' discuss the importance of ecotourism in Sikkim's economy. The authors feel that the varied geographical setup provides very good opportunity to develop different ecotourism activities in the state. The unique geographical setup makes it possible to have tourism activity throughout the year making ecotourism a major contributor to Sikkim's economy.

Choudhury Janmejy (2007) in his article titled '*Nature Queen Chilka and Ecotourism*' has discussed the ecotourism potentials of Chilka lake which is one of the largest bird sanctuaries situated in the state of Orissa in India. The author feels that just like Konark, Chilka can be developed into a world class ecotourism destination. The author states that the natural beauty of the Chilka Lake has attracted many poets and philosophers and nature lovers to it. If the government of Orissa takes initiatives to develop this place as an ecotourism destination then it can make the state one of the most important ecotourism destinations in the country.

Eja, Iwara, Eja et al. (2009) in their article '*Socio-Economic Implications of Ecotourism Development in Plateau State, Nigeria*' have tried to make an assessment of the socio-economic implications of ecotourism in the Plateau state of Nigeria. The study shows that the favourable climate and manmade tourist attractions have made the plateau state a tourism heaven in West Africa. The author feels that there are many challenges which the government agencies as well as private entrepreneurs might have to face in developing tourism in the plateau state in the future. The first big hurdle in developing tourism in the region is need for education. Education is required to create awareness among the people and improve management skills. He feels that there is need to develop amenities like energy, potable water and hotel facility to have an efficient tourism operation.

Kumari S. et al. (2010) in their article '*Identification of potential ecotourism sites in West District, Sikkim using geospatial tools*' by integrating five different environmental indexes have tried to identify and prioritize the potential ecotourism sites in West District of Sikkim in India. The study shows that increased human interference is causing irreversible damage to the eco system. The authors feel that in this scenario, if ecotourism has to be introduced in such regions there should be methodical management of the regions while offering benefits to the local communities. The study is an attempt to develop ecotourism indicators for identification of potential ecotourism sites and development of methods to assess the ecotourism sustainability. The study also provides environmental parameters which other similar studies can make use of in other ecosystem studies.

Adedoyin S.F. et al. (2011) in their article titled '*Potentials of and the socioeconomic benefits of selected ecotourism centres in Ijebu Zone of Ogun State Nigeria*' speak of the problems and potential of eco-tourism in the Ijebu Zone of Ogun State Nigeria. The authors found during their study that the Ijebu zone in Nigeria with its manmade, natural, cultural and religious tourism assets has the potential to cater to a wide variety of tourists. The authors feel that by improving these tourism assets which are mainly owned by the state a lot of tourists can be attracted to the Ijebu Zone and at the same time Ijebu Zone has lot of potential for increased revenue generation for the state. The authors also feel that by reducing the tax burden on the individuals, they should be allowed to engage in more leisurely activities. This will help in promoting tourism in the region and generate more income through tourism.

Rajasenan D. et al. (2012) in their article '*Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Ecotourism Development: The Case of Kerala*' show the community perception on the sustainable livelihood of ecotourism site of Kerala. The study shows that in Kerala majority of the people living in and around ecotourism areas belong to tribal communities. The levels of education among the people of this area are very low and most of them are dependent directly or indirectly on the tourism sector. The author says that ecotourism has helped in the economic development and protection of livelihoods of tribal communities. The positive outcome of this development has been the reduction in the exploitation of forest land by these tribal communities and sustainable growth of ecotourism in Kerala. The author feels that with appropriate

policies the ecotourism potential in Kerala can be maximized and weakness and threats can be minimized. This can result in Kerala becoming an important tourism destination.

Devi Meena Kumari (2012) in her article titled '*Ecotourism in Assam: A Promising Opportunity for Development*' discusses about how ecotourism has provided opportunity for a state with abundant natural resources and sustainable means of development. The author states that even though the state has a good flow of both domestic and international tourists, when compared with other states of the country it lags behind in ecotourism. The reason for this is small number of places being developed as ecotourism destinations. She opines that with the abundant natural resources at its disposal the state has high potential to become a leading ecotourism destination. The author sees lack of infrastructure, transport and communication facilities and problem of insurgency as major hurdles in development of ecotourism in the state. In order to develop the ecotourism in the state there is need for public-private initiative. The author feels that if the developmental activities can be linked with the development of tourism then the state has a promising opportunity to become an important ecotourism destination.

Ramchurjee Nichola Anastasia and S Suresha (2013) in their study titled '*Ecotourism in Bagalkot District, Karnataka, India: An Assessment of the inhabitants' awareness and attitudes*' make an attempt to assess the attitudes and awareness of the people of Bagalkot district towards sustainable tourism. The authors feel that ecotourism can be an excellent source for promoting sustainable development in developing countries. The study shows that local residents of the Bagalkot region have good awareness about ecotourism. They feel that even though there are some negative effects of ecotourism, with careful planning these negative effects can be kept under control and ecotourism can be made sustainable. The study shows that planning and local participation is essential for the success of ecotourism. The authors feel that the government agencies should work in coordination with the NGO's and local community for success of ecotourism. The authors express that Bagalkot region lacks infrastructure, transport and communication facilities, but if these facilities could be developed the ecotourism destinations in the region could be turned into world heritage sites.

Dandapath Pijush Kanti and Mondal Manojit (2013) in their study titled '*Urbanization and its impact on coastal ecotourism in West Bengal*' have made an attempt to show the impact of change in the urban land use patterns in the coastal region of Purba Medinipur in West Bengal and its impact on ecotourism in the region. The authors feel that the development of the coastal regions of West Bengal has become a point of contention between various interest groups in the state. There have been several measures that have been put in place by the government for the protection of the coastal regions of West Bengal, especially the mangroves of the Sundarbans and the aquatic life of the region which is unique to this region. The authors feel that even though the coastal region of West Bengal has a vast potential for the development of ecotourism this opportunity has not been fully utilized. The reason for this according to the study is that, the scientific regulations which need to be followed while implementing the ecotourism in a region are not followed in this coastal region and the local communities are also not involved in the development of the region as an ecotourism destination. The region lacks infrastructure which is required to develop it into an ecotourism destination but of late the government has been taking measures to develop the required infrastructure in the region. The authors feel that the coastal region of Bengal provides an excellent opportunity with its rich natural resources to develop into a world class ecotourism destination if the urbanization patterns in the region are regulated.

Nag, Ashish (2013) in his study '*A Study of Tourism Industry of Himachal Pradesh with Special Reference to Ecotourism*' has made an attempt to find out the major ecological and environmental situations in Himachal Pradesh. He has also analysed the development of ecotourism and advantages of ecotourism to the state of Himachal Pradesh. The author has found higher levels of awareness among the people of Himachal Pradesh regarding ecotourism. The author has also found that there was a feeling among the people that the protection of environment in the ecotourism region is a shared responsibility of the local residents as well as the tourists who visit these regions. The study also shows that a lot of visitors to the ecotourism region are not satisfied with the transportation facilities and low quality of service. The author feels that there is vast potential in Himachal Pradesh to develop it into an ecotourism destination. But to become a popular ecotourism destination the state has to develop

infrastructure, improve accessibility and improve the quality of service which is available to the tourists visiting the state.

Dam Supriya (2013) in her paper titled '*Issues of Sustainable Ecotourism Development in Sikkim: An Analysis*' speaks about the different aspects of sustainability of ecotourism in Sikkim. The study has found that the majority of the tourists visiting Sikkim may not know about the sustainability aspect of ecotourism and this is more so among the domestic tourists. In Sikkim the ecotourism is practiced more in protected areas because of which the tourists get to experience the untouched natural beauty of Sikkim. The author feels that while developing Sikkim as an ecotourism destination sustainability concerns should be given importance. The needs of the future generations should be taken into consideration while developing the ecotourism destinations. This is because if sustainability is not taken into consideration the tourist congestion can lead to environmental degradation. Environmental degradation in areas of ecotourism can lead to mass unemployment among the people of the region who are either directly or indirectly associated with ecotourism. This can lead to a situation where the local people have to be provided with alternative employment opportunities. The author opines that if tourism is imposed on local people, especially on rural and minority communities without taking them into confidence it can lead to social disruption in the region resulting in failure of tourism.

Rao Maruti N. and Pawar Rohit (2013) in their study titled '*Assessment of Community Participation in Ecotourism and Conservation at Dandeli Wild Life Sanctuary, Karnataka, India*' have made an attempt to understand the participation of community residents in ecotourism and conservation activities at Dandeli wild life sanctuary in Karnataka. The study shows that even though ecotourism activities in the Dandeli region have created employment opportunities for the people of the region, still majority of the people living in this region live below the poverty line. This is because the local community has not benefited much from the ecotourism activity in the region. The study has found that the reason for this is the tourism agencies have failed to take the local community into confidence while creating the action plan for ecotourism in the Dandeli region. However the people of the region have respect towards the policy of the government for conservation of wild life and nature. The study shows that even though there has been lot of entrepreneurship opportunities in the Dandeli region for

the local people, the people belonging to the local community have not been given preference during allotment of jobs. The study shows that ecotourism has had a negative impact on the local lifestyle, culture and tradition. The project has also failed to provide community service to the residents of the local community. In order to make ecotourism successful in the Dandeli region the study suggests that the government should involve the local community in planning, monitoring and evaluation process of the project, and then only the ecotourism efforts can be successful in the Dandeli region.

Hussain Ifthikar and Das Daisy (2013) in their article '*Study of Ecotourism: a Special Reference to Assam*' make an attempt to explain the ecotourism policy of the government of India and Assam state government. The author feels that ecotourism has an influence not only on the economy of the state but it is also a great strategy to improve the social and economic conditions of the local community when they are made participants in the development of ecotourism. The author is of the opinion that local culture and heritage can be preserved through ecotourism as local culture and handicraft can be a major tourist attraction. The author feels that different government departments should work in coordination with the non-government organizations and local stake holders to develop ecotourism activity in different areas.

Reddy Sai Prasad C.S. et al. (2013) in their article '*Eco Tourism Problems and Prospects W.R.T Andhra Pradesh: Some Observations*' speaks about the impacts of ecotourism on the local population in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh government through its community forest management programme has created many eco-tourism activities like bird watching and trekking. The authors are of the opinion that these initiatives have opened many employment opportunities for the local youth, women, tribal and minority communities in turn sharing the benefits of ecotourism with the local community. Similarly the Andhra Pradesh tourism department has developed many new ecotourism destinations and has been at the forefront in attracting tourists, both domestic and international. The article states that even though there have been many positive influences, there have also been many negative effects of ecotourism in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The authors feel that the growth of ecotourism has resulted in conflicts at local levels for control over land and sharing of profits. The authors are of the opinion that there is a need for stronger regulations for control and prohibition of

uncontrolled growth of ecotourism projects. If the growth of ecotourism is unchecked then it might lead to a situation, where ecotourism might become a problem instead of opportunity.

Das Niranjan, (2013) in his article '*Assessment of ecotourism resources: an applied methodology to Nameri national park of Assam India*' speaks of ecotourism potential within the Nameri National Park which is a part of river Brahmaputra region. In the study the author concludes that the area of Nameri National Park has the 'appeal' and 'supply' of resources with high rated tourist attractions to become a successful ecotourism destination. The author also feels that with the changing nature of the tourist demands and supply of locally available tourist resources using a suitable framework and tourism development strategies the Nameri National Park can be turned into a very good eco-tourism destination.

Deka Chandralekha et al. (2014) in their study titled '*Prospects of Ecotourism in Jeypore Rainforest of Assam, India*' have made an attempt to examine the possibilities of ecotourism in the only rainforest of Assam. The author feels that the Jeypore rain forest can be developed into an excellent ecotourism destination with the potential to develop activities like jungle trekking, bird watching, elephant riding etc. The study shows that the development of ecotourism can create a number of employment opportunities to the locals which would make them less dependent on the government on employment opportunities. This can be beneficial in several ways as it encourages the local people to protect the biodiversity of the region and gives them a sustainable source of income. Similarly it also provides the government with new sources of revenue.

Viji M. (2014) in her paper titled '*Ecotourism and the Sustainable Socio Economic Development*' speaks of how ecotourism can be made sustainable for the socio economic development of the region. The author feels that the income generated through ecotourism activities can be used in the development of the protected areas. Tourism can result in creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities to the people living in the region, which would result in reduction of excessive dependency on agriculture especially in rural areas. The author is of the opinion that today a small part of the income generated through ecotourism goes to the hands of local people, therefore

it should be taken care of that majority of the income is retained with the local people. This in turn will act as an impetus to the local people to conserve their ecosystem.

Pandey Deepan (2014) in his article '*Prospects and Constraints of Ecotourism in the state of Sikkim*' makes an attempt to show the possibilities and hurdles in developing eco-tourism in Sikkim. The author feels that if implemented correctly ecotourism can be a great source of income for the poor families and can act as an incentive for the local communities to protect the environment. On the other hand if tourism activities are not properly monitored it can have negative impact not only on the ecology but also on the social and economic life of the local communities. The author feels that uncontrolled growth of tourist related infrastructure can put pressure on the carrying capacity of the destination areas resulting in decline in the number of tourists coming to the region. In case of Sikkim people come to visit the state not only for its natural beauty but also to see the tribal culture and traditions of the region which is very unique. This means tourism can help preserve indigenous life style and culture while providing benefits to the indigenous people. In a state like Sikkim which is popular with tourists many regions have ecotourism as the only option for economic development. In such regions utilizing the ecotourism potential is of utmost importance to achieve economic development and at the same time see to it that the ecotourism is sustainable and do not have a negative impact on the ecology or the socio economic life of the people in the region.

Kumar Amit (2014) in his article titled '*Sikkim: A Role Model of Ecotourism in India: A Critical Analysis*' critically analyses the ecotourism policy of Sikkim which is making an attempt to create responsible and sustainable ecotourism. The author states that the efforts made by the Sikkim government in developing ecotourism in the state can act as a benchmark for the other states in the Himalayan region to follow. The sharing of benefits approach adopted in Sikkim will make it possible for the local communities to participate and contribute towards the conservation program. The author feels that this approach to ecotourism by the state of Sikkim has made it possible for the state to achieve the title of greenest state in the country. The people-oriented approach adopted by the Sikkim government aims to achieve its target by turning waste land into greenery with the help of the people. The author has observed that ecotourism has reduced the dependency of the local communities on the forests by providing them

alternative employment opportunities. With these steps the state has become a model of ecotourism to the country.

Chakrabarti Anjan (2014) in his article titled '*Economic Development and Tourism in Sikkim: A Critical Review*' has critically analysed the growth and decline of tourism in the state of Sikkim and government's role in reviving tourism in the state. The author, on the basis of secondary data states that even though Sikkim has been identified as a popular tourist destination, the overall picture of tourist inflow to Sikkim is insignificant. The author states that the reason for this lack of tourist interest in Sikkim is due to regional imbalance in the expansion of tourism. The different government agencies which are working for the development of tourism in the state are working in isolation with each other. The author is of the opinion that if Sikkim wants to develop tourism, it needs to have an integrated approach with the involvement of all the stakeholders, and then only tourism can be developed in a better way all over the state.

'Environment Tourism and Development International Perspectives' is a book edited by Vijaya kumar B (2014). The book contains articles written by different authors dealing with the various dimensions of tourism from different parts of the world. Vijaya Kumar, in his article '*Environment Tourism and Development*', gives a general idea of the issues the book deals with. The author feels that development and tourism are mutually beneficial to each other. But when development leads to pollution it comes into sharp conflict with environment and tourism. The author opines that ecotourism can play a major role in sustainable development.

Rajan J. in his article '*Social Representations Theory of Tourism*' (ibid), talks about the need for research in the field of tourism. He is of the opinion that there is lack of information regarding how tourism affects the local communities and how local communities respond to the growth of tourism and also the impact of tourism on the socio-cultural life of the local communities. This information can be very helpful in creating a socially responsible tourism which is beneficial both to the tourist and the local population.

Vijayan J. and Rajan J. in their article '*Community Participation in Tourism Development*' (ibid), talk about the importance of community participation in

development of tourism in a particular region. According to the authors community participation is important because the changes which are brought about by development of tourism affect the local population more than anyone else. They feel that making the local community partners in the decision making process about things which affect them is important, similarly the benefits of development of tourism should also be shared with the local community.

Saroop Roy, in his article '*Ecotourism Concept and Practices*' (ibid), talks about the concept, consequences and different dimensions of tourism. According to the author the concept of ecotourism has been diluted and has been turned into a product. He feels that globally ecotourism is being replaced by new models of sustainable development like responsible tourism.

Hall Marilyn in her article '*Implications of Global Climate Change for Forest Tourism and Recreation*' (ibid), speaks about the implications of climate change on the tourism industry. According to the author excessive human interference in the ecosystem has resulted in high degree of climate change. The climate change is mainly due to destruction of forests and this in turn has affected the ecotourism and all the development activities which are dependent on forests.

Joseph Sabu in his article '*Environmental Impact Assessment*' (ibid), speaks about the need and significance of assessment of impact of ecotourism on the environment. The author feels that in order to reduce environmental degradation due to tourism there is need to assess the impact of tourism on the ecosystems. He feels that by studying the impact we can modify the developmental programmes to be more sustainable and the resources could be used more efficiently for sustainable development.

Easa P.S. in his article '*Ecotourism and Biodiversity Conservation*' (ibid), speaks about how ecotourism can play a major role in developing awareness about bio diversity conservation. The author is of the opinion that, in a country like India where there is excessive pressure on land due to over population, biodiversity conservation becomes really challenging. But states like Kerala have been successful in conserving the biodiversity and have developed sustainable ecotourism projects.

Narayanan kutty T.P. in his article '*Butterfly Parks and Ecotourism*' (ibid), talks about how butterfly parks can be helpful in developing ecotourism and play an important role in biodiversity conservation. The author is of the opinion that since butterflies play an important role in pollination and preserving biodiversity conservation, butterfly parks can be very beneficial for the environment. He goes on to say that these butterfly parks can be great ecotourism destinations also.

Thampi Santhosh P. in his article '*Ecotourism Marketing: Sustainable Approaches*' (ibid), speaks about the marketing of ecotourism as a sustainable means of development. The author feels that there has been lot of confusion surrounding marketing of ecotourism as it has dual objective of conservation of the environment and helping the local communities. He is of the opinion that while marketing ecotourism components, traditional, social and ecological marketing should be taken into consideration. The author proposes that while developing sustainable tourism marketing models, things like target tourists, desirability of the tourist place and coordination among the stakeholders should be taken into consideration.

Subromoniam A. and Nayar T.S. in their article '*Vegetational and Floristic Diversities in Kerala*' (ibid), speak about the different types of plants and trees found in the state of Kerala.

Kumar Manoj, in his article '*Thenmala Ecotourism Destination*' (ibid), speaks about Thenmala, which is a small village located in the south eastern part of Kerala. According to the author, due to careful planning and implementation the area surrounding the Thenmala village has remained unchanged. This has made it a perfect model of sustainable ecotourism for other places in the state to follow.

Obinalli Gloria in her article '*Sustaining Development through Eco-Friendly Tourism*' (ibid), speaks about how an environmentally dependent activity like ecotourism can be a useful model of sustainable development.

Muhammad Nahar in his article '*Certification in Sustainable Tourism: An Analysis*' (ibid), speaks about the certification initiatives for better standards and sustainability in the field of ecotourism.

Gale Chris in his article '*Community Targeted Recruitment and Training in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector, India*' (ibid), speaks about the process which is used in

training and recruiting the people who are involved in the tourism and hospitality sectors in India.

Thimm Tatjana in his article '*Sustainable Rural Tourism in Germany - the Case of Ecocamping*' (ibid), speaks about the new sustainable ecotourism initiative that has been taken up in Germany. The author speaks about how camping which is very popular in Europe has been used to develop the rural parts of Germany in a sustainable way.

Venu Gopal C.K in his article '*Decreasing Forest Cover in India: A Threat to Sustainable Development*' (ibid), speaks about how the decreasing forest cover in India is not only raising environmental concerns but also becoming a threat to sustainable development activities like ecotourism.

Jojo T.D. and George Ashish Mathew in their article '*Integrated Approach to Sustainable Tourism in Vembanad Lake: A way forward*' (ibid), talk about the sustainable ecotourism activity which is carried out in and around the Vembanad Lake which is one of the largest tropical wetland ecosystem in the southwest coast of India.

Varghese Renjan Mathew in his article '*Ecological Footprint and Tourism in Kerala*' (ibid), talks about the measures taken by the government of Kerala in developing various ecotourism destinations in the state for a sustainable development of the state.

Das Abhijith (2013) in his study titled '*Growth and Prospects of Cultural Tourism in North Bengal (W.B) India with special reference to Malda District: A study of Tourism and Recreational Geography*' aims to explain the impact of tourism on the lifestyles of the people living in and around the tourist locations. The study shows that the people living in the region which is in and around tourist locations have a positive attitude towards tourism. The study also shows that the people feel that tourism can play an important role in the local economy as a major source of employment and income generation. The author feels that the development of tourism in the Malda region has had positive implications on the region in the form of development of infrastructure, communication and improvement in the general standard of living among the people.

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