

## **8. A Study of Physical, Economic and Socio - Cultural Impact of Pilgrims on Host Population in Khed - Shivapur pilgrim Centre in Pune District of Maharashtra**

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### **Abstract**

Tourism is the world's largest and fastest growing industry. According to the WTTC tourism generates more than 230 million's jobs directly and indirectly. In Indian economy tourism contribute 6.23% to the national GDP, its provide 8.78% of the total employment. On the basis of the purpose of tourist's tourism is classified as Natural tourism, Health tourism, Disaster tourism, Sports tourism, Adventures tourism, Agro- tourism, Ecotourism, Ethnic tourism, and Religious tourism etc. The tourism development in any area is responsible for positive as well as negative impacts on any tourist destination. It helps to develop region by adding national income, development in hotel industry, transportation, marketing and to improve infrastructural facilities in tourists' places. Besides these advantages, tourism industry is also responsible for many disadvantages like adverse effect on socio-cultural setup of the region, creates shortage of day to day required things, raise the prize of land, accommodation, food, cloths, traffic congestion, loss of natural habitats, pollution and degradation of environment etc. Religious tourism as a special interest event has a highly complex impact on local communities. The impact study is an attempt to examine empirically the impact of pilgrimage on local population. It is an investigation of residents' perception of impacts of tourism rather than a measure of actuary impacts. The procedure adopted in this method is very simple. For each statement in a Likert Scale the respondent is asked to indicate not only the direction (agree, disagree) of his or her response but also degree of commitment to that response (Strong, moderate or slight). People's attitude is represented by his or her scores across all items in the

scale. The analysis of data reveals that host population in Khed-Shivapur is enjoying the benefits of pilgrimage i.e. improved standard of living, pure and adequate water supply, increased opportunity of job and shopping, changes in occupational structure etc.

**Key Words:** Pilgrim, Religious, Impact, facility, spiritual tourism,

### **Introduction**

Tourism is a global Phenomenon. It is the world's largest and fastest growing industry. According to the WTTC tourism generates more than 230 million jobs directly and indirectly In India tourism has become one of the major sectors of the economy, contributing to a large proportion of the National income and generating huge employment opportunities. In Indian economy tourism contribute 6.23% to the national GDP, its provide 8.78% of the total employment. On the basis of the purpose of tourist's tourism is classified as Natural tourism, Health tourism, Disaster tourism, Sports tourism, Adventures tourism, Agro- tourism, Ecotourism, Ethnic tourism, and Religious tourism etc.

Religious tourism is also known as a pilgrimage tourism or spiritual tourism. The evolution of tourism could also be attributed to journeys undertaken since ancient times to place considered as sacred. People travelled singly or in groups for the of spiritual benefit. Religious tourism is a journey, undertaken for the sake of worship and to pay respect to a site of special religious significance.

The tourism development in any area is responsible for positive as well as negative impacts on any tourist destination. The employment generator, development in hotel industry, transportation, marketing to improve infrastructural facilities in tourists' places is the Positive impact. While adverse effect on socio-cultural setup of the region, creates shortage of day to day required things, raise the prize of land, loss of natural habitats, traffic congestion and pollution, degradation of environment are the negative impact of tourism industry.

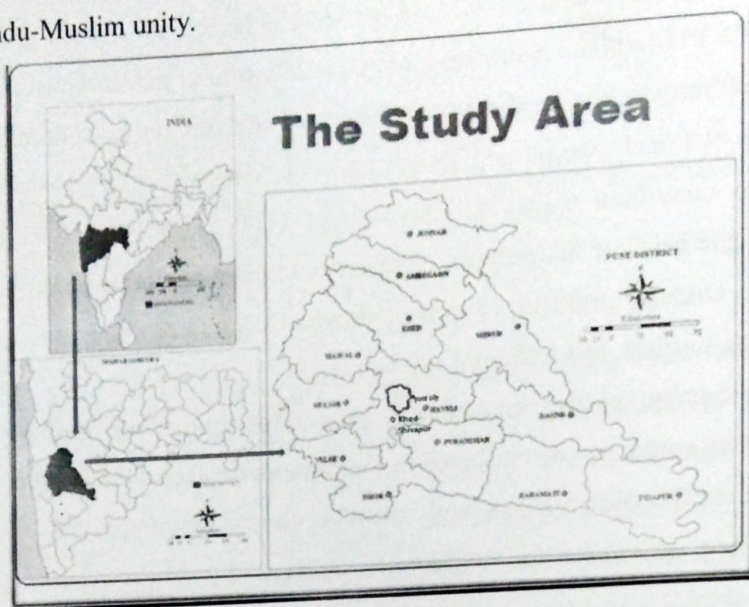
Religious tourism as a special significance incident has a highly complex impact on local communities. The purpose of this study is to understand the resident attitudes to the physical, economic, socio cultural impacts of tourism development in Khed-shivapur. The impact study is an attempt to examine empirically the impact of pilgrimage on local population.

### **Study Area**

Khed Shivapur Dargah is of Sufi Saint Kamar Ali Durvesh is situated in Haveli Tahsil of Pune district about 23 kms away from Pune. on Pune- Bengaluru national highway. It located on

$18^{\circ}19'41''$ North latitude and  $73^{\circ}51'6.53''$ East longitude. It has an average elevation of 692 metres from mean sea level.

Khed Shivapur Dargah is about 700 years old Dargah of Sufi Saint Kamar Ali Durvesh who lived here around the year 1200 A.D. It which is the most popular Muslim religious Centre, but also Hindu people also visit for pilgrim purpose. The Khed-Sivapur dergah is the good example of Hindu-Muslim unity.



### Objectives

The objective of the present study is to assess the Physical, Economic and Socio-cultural impact of Religious tourism on host population at Khed-Sivapur.

### Methodology and Data

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. To collect primary data intensive field surveys were conducted. Questionnaire and interview method is used during field survey. Data regarding physical impacts of Religious tourism is measured by the Likert scale and analysis has been made. For the analysis of the attitude of community, one hundred fifty residents were selected from Khed-Shivapur village. A set of questionnaires was designed. The response to each question was rated on seven points "Likert Scale" ranging from - 3 to +3 with zero equaling no effect on item resulting from tourism. Likert Scale is a technique for the measurement of attitude a scale giving values for individual reactive attitude. There were seven response alternatives for every attitude statement. These are strongly disagreeing, moderately disagree, disagree, undecided, agree, moderately agree and strongly agree. The resulting seven-

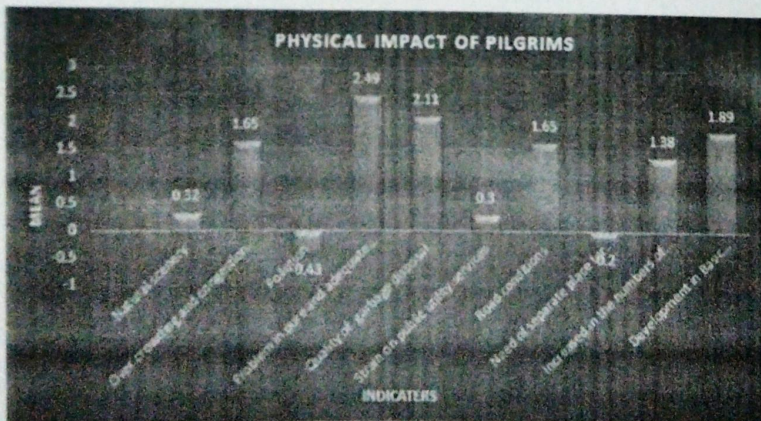
point scale could be represented by numbers ranging from -3 to +3 to find the individual overall attitude (-3, -2, -1, 0 +1, +2, +3). This technique gives us not only direction (agree – disagree) but also degree of commitment to that response.

**Table 1**

**Views of local Residents on Physical impact of Pilgrims in Khed-Shivapr**

Sr. No.	Indicators	Scale of Impact							Total	Mean	SD
		-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3			
1	Natural scenery	1	12	46	12	37	42	0	150	0.32	1.40
2	Over Crowding and congestion	1	3	22	2	11	65	46	150	1.65	1.46
3	Pollution	1	34	34	62	3	11	5	150	-0.43	1.27
4	Problem in pure and adequate water supply available	0	1	0	0	3	65	81	150	2.49	0.65
5	Quality of garbage disposal	0	1	8	3	4	79	55	150	2.11	1.02
6	Strain on public utility services	1	12	62	12	10	35	18	150	0.3	1.67
7	Road conditions	0	1	17	0	15	99	18	150	1.65	1.11
8	Need of separate place for parking	10	31	42	5	23	36	3	150	-0.2	1.72
9	Increased in the numbers of shops	0	2	6	3	68	64	7	150	1.38	0.88
10	Development in Basic Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	32	10	16	150	1.89	0.56

Source-Primary Data



Note: (+) values shows positive effect; (-) values shows negative effect;

The higher the mean value larger will be the effect.

The physical impact is known as an environmental impact. The physical impact studies in study area mainly deals with the resource demands which pilgrimage makes. At the same time pilgrimage act as an impact for the development of facilities which in fact improves the living conditions of the people.

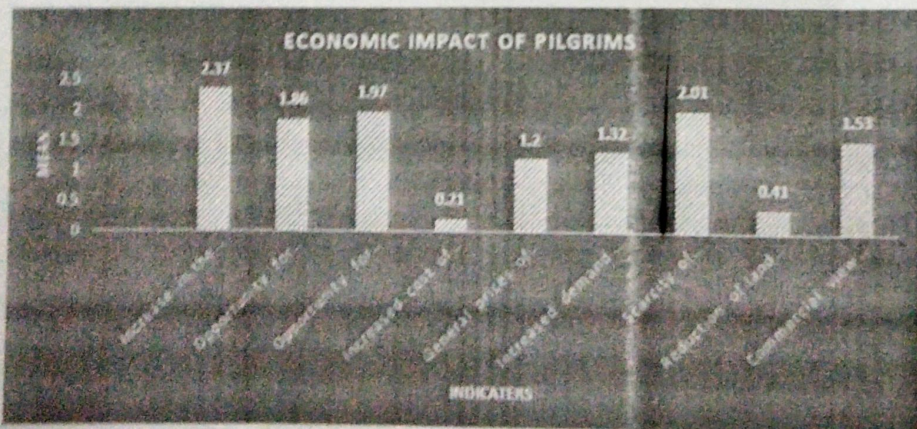
According to table 1 the host communities in Khed-Shivapur felt that increasing number of pilgrims at destination creates negative and positive impact. Positive impact is seen in availability in pure and adequate water supply (+2.49), Quality of garbage disposal (+2.11), Development in Basic Infrastructure (+1.89), Road conditions (1.65), Increased in the numbers of shops(+1.38), Natural scenery(+0.32) , Strain on public utility services (+0.3), While negative impact is seen in increasing overcrowding and congestion (+1.65), Pollution (-0.43), Need of separate place for parking (-0.2).

Table 2

Views of local Residents on Economic impact of Pilgrims in Khed-Shivapr.

Sr.No	Indicators	Scale of Impact							Total	Mean	SD
		-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3			
1	Increase in the income of residents	0	0	0	2	17	54	77	150	2.37	0.74
2	Opportunity for shopping	0	0	2	0	53	57	38	150	1.86	0.84
3	Opportunity for jobs & Business	0	0	2	4	30	74	40	150	1.97	0.83
4	Increased cost of land and housing	2	27	40	3	32	38	8	150	0.21	1.66
5	General prices of goods and services increased	0	6	15	2	51	71	5	150	1.20	1.16
6	Increased demand for female labor	0	3	12	2	57	69	7	150	1.32	1.03
7	Scarcity of essential goods during festivals	0	0	2	5	16	94	33	150	2.01	0.76
8	Reduction of land around the temple site	0	6	45	40	7	45	7	150	0.41	1.40
9	Commercial view point of local people	0	3	15	3	19	99	11	150	1.53	1.13

Source-Primary Data.



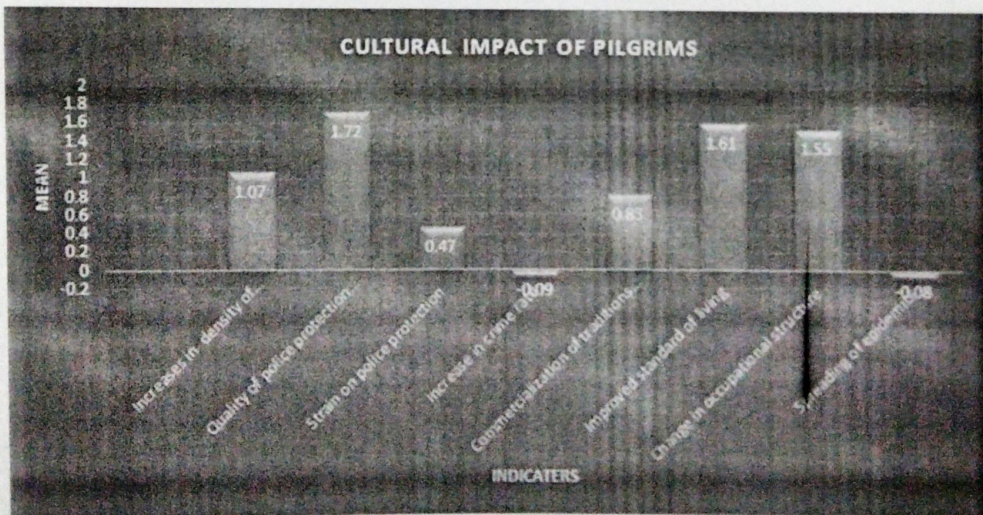
Generally, it brings changes in traditional source of income for local residents. Its positive effect leads to boost the economic development of the destinations. From the selected nine indicators of economic impact all nine indicators shows positive response of host on pilgrimage (Table 2 and Fig. 2) It is observed that Increase in the income of residents(+2.37) Scarcity of essential goods during festivals(+2.01) Opportunity for jobs & Business (+1.97), Opportunity for shopping(+1.86), Commercial view point of local people(+1.53), Increased demand for female labour(+1.32), General prices of goods and services increased (+1.20), Reduction of land around the temple site(+0.41), Increased cost of land and housing(+0.21). It is observed that the effect of pilgrimage on khed-Shivapur is strong and positive.

Table 3

**Views of local residents on Socio- Cultural factor impact of Pilgrims in Khed-Shivapr.**

Sr. No.	Indicators	Scale of Impact							Total	Mean	SD
		-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3			
1	Increases in density of population in the town / village	0	3	17	34	19	66	11	150	1.07	1.26
2	Quality of police protection improved	0	0	8	2	25	104	11	150	1.72	0.83
3	Strain on police protection	0	6	57	12	11	63	1	150	0.47	1.46
4	Increase in crime rate	0	7	28	100	2	13	0	150	-0.09	0.85
5	Commercialization of traditions and customs	0	0	18	54	20	51	7	150	0.83	1.16
6	Improved standard of living	0	1	0	10	64	45	30	150	1.61	0.92
7	Change in occupational structure	0	1	4	10	61	44	30	150	1.55	1.01
8	Spreading of epidemics	3	0	3	144	0	0	0	150	-0.08	0.44

Source-Primary Data



It shows the impression about the hosts' (residents) response to the socio-cultural impacts of pilgrimage at the destinations with the help of eight indicators socio cultural impact is assessed.

Table no.3 shows residents of Khed-Shivapur felts that heavy pilgrim concentration at destination Quality of police protection improved(+1.72), Improved standard of living(+1.61), Change in occupational structure(+1.55), Increases in density of population in the town / village(+1.07), Commercialization of traditions and customs(+0.83), Strain on police protection(+0.47), They are disagreeing about Increase in crime rate(-0.09), Spreading of epidemics(-0.08).

### Conclusions

Tourists visiting khed-shivapur have strong Socio-Economic impact and Environmental impact on village as far as certain indicator concern but there is negligible impact of some indicator is recorded.

1) The Positive impact is seen in availability in pure and adequate water supply, Quality of garbage disposal, Development in Basic Infrastructure, Road conditions, Increased in the numbers of shops, Natural scenery, Strain on public utility services.

2) The negative impact is seen in increasing overcrowding and congestion, Pollution, Need of separate place for parking.

3) Increase in the income of residents and Increased cost of land and housing has been observed.

4) Opportunity for jobs& Business and Opportunity for shopping has been improved.

5) Pilgrimage in this place is responsible for Commercialization of tradition and customs.

6) Improved standard of living, Quality of police protection is observed.

7) Change in occupational structures observed.

8) Increase crime rate is observed due to pilgrimage.

### Suggestions

Need based resource development plan is prime requirement for the Khed-Shivapur.

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