

11. Prospectus of Developing Tourism in India as Dark Tourism

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Abstract

Now a day's people lead a stressful life due to increasing competition day today life. People need change in their day today life routine i.e. they choose to move one place to another place which is commonly known as 'tourism'. Tourism industry having lots of scope now a day in market. Tourism are many types its depends on their purpose like eco tourism, agro tourism, medical tourism and religious tourism etc. The concept of this kind of tourism emerged with their importance; dark tourism is also a part of that.

Dark tourism is a multi-layered mixture of history and heritage. Dark tourism also known as "black tourism" and "grief tourism" or "Thana tourism". Thana tourism derived from the ancient Greek word "Thanatos" for the personification of death, refers more specifically to violent death. It has been defined as tourism involving travelling sites which are historically associated with death and tragedy. In this paper we have studied the challenges faced by dark tourism in Maharashtra, place of interest and present scenario.

Dark tourism spot in India are related with its history and rich heritage culture, spots reveals about past war and some spot reveals the curse of area which gives us fact and stories. In India there are many places with the historical importance can be define as black tourism, grief tourism. In these paper we have tried to study the role of dark tourism sites in developing tourism in India. We have taken most famous places which have dark or negative importance in history.

Key words: Dark tourism, Dark tourism spot in India, Importance of dark tourism.

Introduction

Dark tourism is a multi-layered mixture of history and heritage. Humanity has been interested in ending of life since the time of pilgrimages and before. There are many tourist

attraction which are connected directly or indirectly with death, war memorials, war museums, battle fields and prison camps attract visitors.

After a natural disaster not only the close relatives of victims but also outsiders travel to the area. The core of this thesis is to find out what means dark tourism and how it influences the tourists for visiting the dark attraction and especially the declared spot. Dark tourism also known as "black tourism" and "grief tourism" or Thana tourism.

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Current Scenario of Indian Tourism

When we think about India, the pictures of Temples, Forts, bright colours, Festivals and rich culture come into mind. Tourists travel with the enthusiasm of exploring a new place and for leisure, quest, spiritual and edifying purposes. In India, tourism is considered as a very fast growing industry in the world, which also gives its contribution in the economy of the countries from and to, the tourist travel. India is a tourist ecstasy because of its rich heritage, religious spots, mountains and joyous festivals. These influences are seen as "Motivators". Motivators can be keen learning about lifestyles, culture, and special interest in event took place in past at different locations, respectively. Mainly, tourism is of conjugal, Outbound and Inbound forms and is of various types. Some of the types are Cultural Tourism, Religious Tourism, Dark Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Beach Tourism, Business Tourism etc. This paper focuses on dark tourism developing in India as tourist interest with facing some problems.

Dark Tourism and its Scope in India

Now a day's person is influenced by social and cultural activities or happenings. A tourist may get influenced and one's feeling of travelling may relate to one's observation of the World. However, there are so many things or people, from whom a traveler gets carried away and these inspirations work as motivators to travel a particular place. The interest of people influenced him or her to visit the place for relaxation. Not even two persons have the same psychosomatic acceptance to something or someone. It sheer curiosity that pushes people to tread the road less travelled to seek answers. Travel, by far, has always been related to journey and exploring beautiful places, but with this type of tourism finding its ground; it only explains how the human mind cannot be tamed. Those how an avid traveller and have been irked for some time for not

getting the opportunity to visit some unusual places, this is the time. Take a detour from your regular plans, and visit these spots in India to experience how these places withstood the test of time. Dark tourism concept sound a bit weird, it is fact catching up with the trends. And in India, with such a long history, dark tourism automatically finds its spot.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the scope of Dark tourism sites in India
2. To study the role of dark tourism sites in developing in India

Existence in India

Almost every type of tourism exists in India because of this diversity of cultures, festivals, religions etc. The existence of Dark Tourism in India is not much known, but there are many spots in India that fit under the category of "Dark Tourism". Some of them are:

(i) "Bhangarh Fort" **Alwar district of Rajasthan, Bhangarh Fort** is a 17th-century fort, infamous all over India for being the '**Most haunted place in India**'. Because of the numerous ghostly experiences and happenings in the fort premises, villages have sprung up far away from the fort, due to the fear of what lies within. Even the **Archaeological Survey of India** or the **ASI** has forbidden the locals and tourists from entering the fort at night.

(ii) "Kuldhara" is an abandoned village in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, India. Established around the 13th century, it was once a prosperous village inhabited by Paliwal Brahmins. It was abandoned by the early 19th century for unknown reasons

(iii) "Bhuj" evidenced of huge earthquake on 26 January 2001. Huge destruction took place and loss of life and property.

(iv) Jallianwala Bagh – The Jallianwala Bagh is a public garden of 6 to 7 acres (2.8 ha), walled on all sides, with five entrances. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Indians, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab.

The shooting continued for about ten minutes and the whole ground was covered with the blood of people. Today, it is seen as a memorial of those who sacrificed their lives.

(v) "Dumas Beach, Surat (Gujarat), is the beach covered with black sand and various paranormal activities have been observed here. It is believed that the persons walking around the beach at night have been disappeared. This is also considered as a dark Spot in India.

(vi) "Three Kings Church" in Goa, India is also famous for its paranormal activities. Church is the house of King Holger where the three kings fell to their respective deaths. Since then, it is believed that the premises of the church is possessed by the unresting souls of the kings, and there have been sightings and strange activities reported.

(vii) "Mussoorie" being a famous recreational destination for Tourists, is also a place where Dark Tourism exists. "The Lambi Dehar Mines" in Mussoorie is one of the spookiest places in India. Millions of workers died in the mine while working. Unusual deaths and activities have also been observed at this place .

(viii) "Savoy Hotel" at Mussoorie is yet again a haunted place in India. Various unusual activities have been observed in this hotel. This beautiful Hill station has various hotels but this hotel makes the visitors to be scary of this place.

(ix) At the "Shaniwarwada Fort" in Pune, there is believed that a prince was unkindly murdered and there have been various supernatural activities experienced by people nearby. So, because of these situations, this place is considered as a part existence of dark tourism in India.

(x) Hyderabad's notorious "Ramoji film City" is one of the biggest and famous film cities of India where there are various hotels and in these hotels, supernatural activities have been observed. Strange marks are left on the mirror, the leftover food scatters around the room, and invisible forces tear one's clothes and so on. These kinds of activities make this place haunted.

(xi) Bhopal gas tragedy in the year 1984 gas was leaked and tragedy took place where lots of people lost their lives. It is considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster.

(xii) Andaman and Nicobar island (cellular jail) 80,000 prisoners are brutally beaten regularly and physically and mentally torture by British at the time of independency.

(xiii) Hotel Taj in Mumbai evidence of terrorist attacked on 26th November 2008 where people found the terror of humankind .

(xiv) Taj Mahal build by Sahajahan in memory of her wife Mamtaz .people belived that her soul still come every fullmoon .

Challenges to Growth of Dark Tourism in India

The term "Tourism" and its domains are basically known to all. Some of its popular domains are Religious Tourism, leisure Tourism, and Cultural Tourism etc. These are the types of Tourism that are widely known but "Dark Tourism" is not that famous as all above and there are some problems or challenges behind that. To promote dark tourism in India, we must have to

overcome these problems. Some of the challenges that dark tourism faces have been stated here and also, strategies to overcome these challenges have been provided

1. Lack of Promotion
2. Lack of Tourist services
3. Improper Maintenance of Sites
4. Low Accessibility Status
5. Branding Image of India
6. Local Co-Operation by People
7. Supportive Governmental Policies

Conclusion

It is seen from the studies that dark tourism has not earned public interest in India. No. of sights are in existence in India and it has historical importance. These sites are not maintained and developed in the view of dark tourism. To develop such sites in India strong marketing policy should be adopted. Awareness is needed to promoting the concept of Dark tourism among masses in India. Dark tourism sites have high potential for tourism in future. Government support, local co-operation and accessibility to the site is necessary for the development of dark tourism sites in India.

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