

“INPUTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AT DARAKI CHATTAN CAVE – A PREHISTORIC ROCK ART SITE IN CHAMBAL BASIN, INDIA”

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Abstract – India is a country that is very rich in terms of Heritages we have. Heritages attract a lot of tourism and tourism promotes the Socio-Economic development. Now in this time where everyone is looking for new destinations and experience in tourism. Rock art sites are untapped and underrated as a heritage resource in India. If the rock art sites are promoted strategically and sustainably than the rock art heritage can contribute in socio economic development of the region. But developing a rock art heritage is not a simple task and it involves a lot of dynamics that makes the system and decision making a lot more complicated. Author has visited the site personally to observe the critical points for holistic development to understand the system more closely and find the inputs for strategic management of heritage.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Socio-Economic development, rock art, heritage management.

Introduction

India is the country that is extremely rich in heritage because of our rich cultural understanding. We have so much heritage that gives us advantage in the world to use it for economic upliftment of the county and as a basic tool for poverty relief and bring Socio-Economic development. But we have forgotten and did not give attention in India to the oldest heritages in the world. That is the rock art heritage. The only survived oldest heritage having human manifestations. Rock art is found in the very deep interior forest areas where sometimes reaching itself becomes the major challenge. Rock art heritage gives immense opportunity for sustainable development within forest areas. This Daraki-Chattan heritage site is said to be the oldest survived heritage of human cognitive development in India. It's a cupules site have more then 500 cupules on its both the walls. It is located in Bhanpura, District Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.

Sustainable development

It is considered as to utilize the resources in such a way that they are not compromised for the future generations (UNESCO Operational guidelines 2017). That promotes the concept of sustainable development. As the protection of heritage and environment will conserve the whole environment and for socio-economic development tourism is developed. But the

tourism has to be developed in such a way that the environment is preserved and protected. That requires the immense need of highly alert and holistic management of rock art heritage.

Summary of review

India is third richest country in the world. Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh is the only world heritage rock art site in India. Other popular sites are Eddakal cave from Waynad , Kerla. These two sites are fetching tourists and have the economic pillar attached with the rock art heritage site. Both the sites are studied completely to understand the nature of rock art tourism in India. And found that balancing between conservation of heritage site and economic development is the biggest challenge for the rock art heritage in India.

Methodology – To identify the challenges and the dynamics for sustainable management in terms of long term survival of the Daraki-Chattan site. Author has personally gone to the site and made onsite observations for expected challenges and their solutions for the long term sustainable development with the help of discussions held with field expert, local village persons nearby the site and in the town.

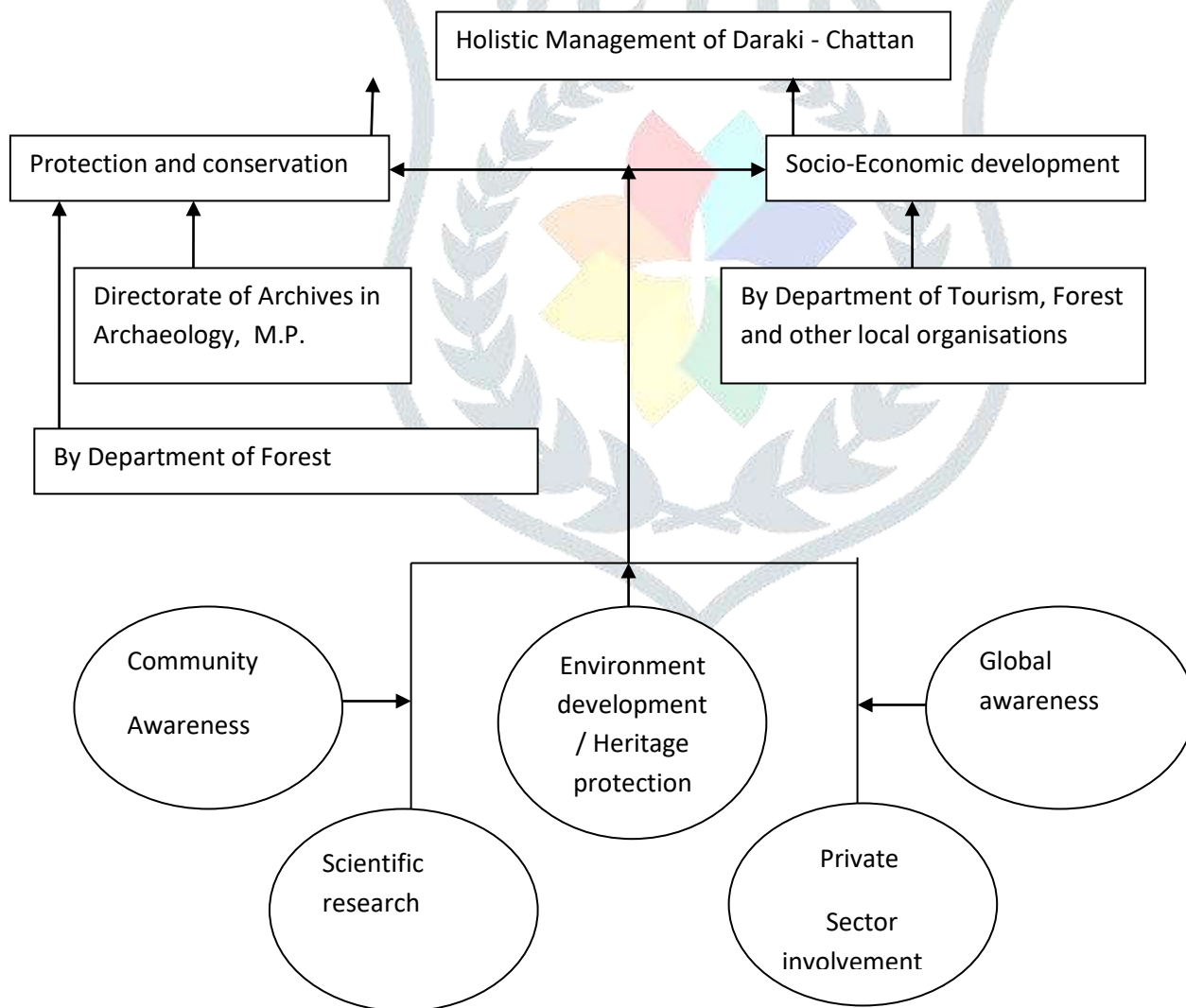


Figure: Holistic development of tourism for Daraki-Chattan as per the understanding developed

Stake holders of the rock art heritage system

As it is clearly evident that multiple players are associated with the rock art site. And all the players should be aware for the sustainable development for the Daraki-Chattan. These are as given in further table.

| Stake holder / associated player | Institution or group | Direct / Indirect |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Owner of Heritage | Local community people | Major (Direct) Stake holders |
| Custodian of heritage | Directorate of Museum and Archives M.P. | |
| Owner of land | Forest department | |
| Development of Heritage | Department of Tourism / Local tourism development body | |
| Civil constructions | PWD | Minor (Support) Stake holders |
| World Heritage status | UNESCO | |
| Researchers | Subject expert and from other fields | |
| Service providers | Cab drivers, food joint owners etc, hotel owners. | |
| Visitors / Tourist | Customer | |
| | | Source of economic input |

Findings

In the light of the personal observations and discussions with local community people. Author has a preliminary understanding of the issues for the sustainable development of rock art heritage.

To be considered for long term protection and conservation of the Site

- Formation of Management committee of different stake holders is needed as no one part can completely conserve rock art site.
- The decision making process by the committee: The committee members can provide the Input but the final decision will be taken by the Directors of the EIP project.
- The site should be permanently closed for visitors by erecting metallic gate
- For the access and any kind of activity inside or outside of DC and in buffer zone, prior permission of the management committee should be needed.

Measures to be taken for the of buffer zone

- Channel fencing around the Indragarh fort
- New passage and dedicated area for animal grazing going through the hill site of Indragarh Fort.
- law for instant penalty should be enacted for trace passing the core and buffer zone.
- Channelize away the runoff water above the cave
- Proactive measures for fire prevention
- Continuous monitoring and updating feedback including security personal its presence on the site.
- Restricting unauthorised visits of foreigners and locals.
- Continuous drives for mass awareness

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- Construction of the Stone Age museum with DC replica near Bda Mahadev temple
- Allocated picnic areas , experience zones , markets and camp sites
- Customized Guided tour packages with trained drivers
- Trained guides in sufficient number
- Developing training workshops for presentation of DC
- Security guards to prevent unwanted human interference with any site and for any kind of misconduct.
- All the training inputs are to be directed from the management committee
- Augmentation for rich experience for different age groups – Adventure sports – Hiking in mountains, Bungee jumping and rope way to explore the landscape at Bda Mahadev temple
- Developing tour circuit including Chaturbhujnath Nala, Magjine shelter and Dharm Rajeshwar caves.
- Creating experience in connection with local traditions – Dance , music & food
- Taking care of seasonality as the summers are too hot and visitors are not expected in that time.
- Local agricultural resources are betel leaves and many medicinal plants other than the traditional corps.
- Plenty of other cultural resources are their that is Bada Mahadev, Chota Mahadev, Ranjana Jalashaya, Sita khardi with tradiditional food Dal Bafla.
- Developing short curriculum (two days) for kids and students related to environment , flora & fauna, taphonomy, Rock Art, tool typologies and cultural traditions of the region, and
- Developing short films for mass awareness

Conclusion

Daraki-Chattan is a unique rock art site. A masterpiece in the world. That should be branded as its uniqueness as the unique selling point. The tourism should be developed in synchronization with need of the local community around and

the people in need. Strategized with the local resources to be converted as small business. All the cultural resources that are tangible and intangible in Bhanpura. A tourism circuit for local visitation should be developed to deliver overall experience. The development plan should be developed in the orientation of sustainable development. Promoting culture and supporting Socio-Economic development. The plan can be more reliable and impactful. If the observation of this study are taken care before the tourism development plan is proposed for Daraki-Chattan cave

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