



Covid-19 and its effect in the Socio-economic development On tourism Industry with special reference to Meghalaya in India.

Dr. Anima Mazumder

Sngap Syiem College Mawkyrwat
South west khasi hills district
Meghalaya. India

Abstract

Meghalaya is a little hilly state in India with a fascinating scene, unique culture, custom and conventions. Meghalaya is “The Abode of Clouds” and it is the one of the beautiful state in North-East India and also called “Scotland Of The East” offering a variety of sights, activities, food and festivals to the tourists attraction. Coronavirus which is also known as Covid-19, Pandemic has a significant impact on tourism Industry due to the resulting tourist restriction. The pandemic affected the Socio-economic development of the tourism industry in Meghalaya particularly hotels, airlines, restaurants, travel agents, local taxies etc. All business and services provide along the tourism value chain including farmers, vegetable suppliers who supplied vegetables to a restaurant or hotel and a taxi driver who shulttes tourists from airport to hotels, all are affected due to Covid-19. In this paper, an attempt is to made how Covid-19 has been affected on tourism industry in Meghalaya and also explain how to enhance Socio-economic development of tourism industry in Meghalaya is the biggest challenges. It requires an overall plan to increase tourist destination and effectively using limited resources to the current environment. This paper is based on secondary data collection which are collected form articles, websites, books etc.

Keywords: Tourism, Socio-economic development, farmers, enhance.

Introduction

Tourism in India is important for the country's economy and it is growing rapidly. India's travel and tourism industry outperformed its economy as a whole. Meghalaya is the “Abode Of Clouds” is one of the most beautiful state in the North-Eastern Region. It is also called “Scotland Of The East”. The Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a body blow to the tourism industry in Meghalaya. This sector provides substantially to State's revenue. Not only the Government but also the people engaged in the sector too have been hit hard. Tourism is linked to improvement of infrastructure, construction of resorts,

hotels, guest houses and tourists agents etc. During pandemic all tourists spot in the state are shut and the rooms in hotels and guests houses are lying empty. To the second wave of pandemic the Government has banned the entry of tourists. So that the tourism industry has been adversely affected in Meghalaya. Covid-19 has been affected the socio-economic life of the people who generated their income from tourism sector.

Meghalaya State Profile:

Meghalaya meaning “Abode Of Clouds” from Sanskrit (Megha, “Clouds”+a-laya, “abode”) is a state in Northeastern India. Meghalaya was previously part of Assam but on 21th January 1972, the Districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya. The population of Meghalaya as of 2016 is estimated to be 3,211,474. Meghalaya covers an area of approximately 22,430 square kilometers, with a length to breadth of about 3:1.



Objectives of the study:

1. To find out the various impact of Covid-19 for the Socio-economic development of the tourism industry
2. To make suggestions towards the enhancement for the Socio-economic development of tourism Industry.
- 3.

Methodology

– This Paper is based on secondary data collection which are collected from articles, websites, books, newspaper, news etc.

Covid-19 impact in the North-Eastern India's tourism Industry

The pandemic has been impacted travel and tourism industry globally. Every corner of the globe causing loss of lives and jobs as well as slumps in general economic activities. The industry is as a whole world a loss of almost US\$ 4.5 trillion. Domestic visitors spends decreased by 45% while international visitors decreased by 69.4% compared to 2019 (Source: World Travel And Tourism Council, Economic Impact Reports 2020). Almost all sectors have been adversely affected due to Covid-19. From April to June 2020, India's GDP dropped by a massive 24.4% while the 2nd wave of Covid-19 is going down in the rest of India, infections are rising in many North-Eastern states. North-East India which comprise

of 8 states has been affected due to Covid-19. The economy of the state sink down airlines, restaurants, agents, hotels, tourist sport resorts, guest houses, tourist taxi were all shut down during the time of Covid-19. All socio economic activities are adversely affected due to Covid-19. To the 2nd wave of pandemic the Government has banned the entry of tourists to Meghalaya. The economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic in North-Eastern Region has been largely disruptive. The pandemic has brought economic hardship, especially to young individuals. Income from all sectors has been declined due to Covid-19. The production of goods and services also declined due to Covid-19.

Negative effects Of Covid-19 on tourism sector in Meghalaya:

1. Increases the prices of taxi fair
2. Reduce income of hotels, restaurants.
3. Increases price of goods and services.
4. Increases cost of fair (communication).
5. Decreases the international travelers.
6. Changes in pattern of social interaction.
7. Increases the collection of taxes.
8. Economic loss due to decrease in number of tourists.
9. Loss of jobs of many people who are involved in tourism industry.
10. Decreases the state revenue.
11. Increases unemployment
12. Creates fear among the tourists.

Conclusion

Tourism is one of the significant industry in Meghalaya. It is regarded as a boon to economic development providing employment opportunities specially for the local inhabitants. Tourism has a positive in the past. But after covid-19, in this situation how to enhance the socio-economic development of the state is the biggest challenge. It requires an overall plan to increase the tourist destination, tourist security etc and effectively using limited resources to the current environment and focus should be local inhabitants. To increase the rapid ratio socio-economic development for the tourism industry, the Government assistance and co-operation of local people are very much required.

Suggestions for the development of tourism industry:

1. Visiting a place one should be shelter, safety, hospitality, transport and communication.
2. The Government assistance should be required for the development of the particular place.
3. The Government should know the local peoples demand so the local people to grasp the golden chances in their best possible efforts.
4. To rural area, the guest houses should be improved. A tourism society within the village along with the traditional institutions(Dorbar shnong and Dorbar Hima) and the local people are working together to develop rules and regulations to protect the environment while developing tourism on the areas.
5. Try to understand the importance of the tourism sector in Meghalaya's economy, then the present and the future impact of the pandemic.
6. To improve infrastructure facilities, food stalls, resorts, quality of food, hotels etc. So that the local people will be benefited through income generated from these.

