



TOURISM IN ANJAW DISTRICT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh is well blessed by nature covered by hilly mountains and blessed with flora and fauna. It has a rich culture and ethnic heritage is surrounded by nature and is a perfect place for adventure tourism, ecotourism etc which make a perfect place for tourists to visit. The present paper makes an attempt to study the problems and prospects of tourism in the district and to make necessary suggestions for Tourism development in the study area. The study observed that necessary steps needed to be taken by the government in cooperation with local people to encourage Tourism activities in the District.

Keyword : Tourism development, problems, prospects, Anjaw District

Introduction

The tourism industry is considered to be one of the most important sectors for growth and development, prosperity and for improving balance of payments. There are several benefits of the tourism industry such as income, foreign exchange, development of industries like handicrafts construction, agriculture etc are some of the advantages provided by tourism sectors. Some other benefits such as transportation, accommodation and other services related to the tourism industry also contribute to the overall development of the economy.

Arunachal Pradesh is a landlocked state of India with an area of 83743 square km with total population of 1,382,611 (as per the census 2011). The territory is in the extreme lying between 26°28' and 29°31' North latitude, 90°31' and 97°30' East longitudes. It is the largest state in North East India. shares its boundary with neighboring countries with Bhutan in the west, China, Tibet in the North and the Northeast, Myanmar in the East and Southeast, Assam and Nagaland in the South.

Arunachal Pradesh being the unexplored states in the northeast region which has tremendous potential for tourism due its scenic natural beauty valley, wildlife that represent unique biodiversity, cool and population free climate, simple people with great hospitality and their rich culture and tradition as well as religious heritage, green forest, snow clad mountains, rivers, places of historical and religious importance, provide wide range of tourism activities such as wild tourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism, wellness tourism, religious tourism, adventures tourism, rural tourism etc.

Literature review

Singhna (2005) in his paper “Tourism as An Alternative Strategy for Economic Development of the North East Region” the author presents an analysis for tourism development in the Northeast Region. The paper highlighted the major constraints towards the growth and development of tourism sectors and attempted to identify all possible measures to focus the tourism vision of the state so as to achieve economic development in the Northeast Region.

Kransnokutskiy, Kulchittskij, Perova, Bystrova (2016) highlighted the main trend and prospects of development of international tourism. The focus on the provision of international tourism markets of the world. The study found that the development of international tourism needs to create individualized tourism products to meet the complex needs of the tourist flow.

Sharma (2018) attempted to identify the main prospects and problems of tourism in Shivasagar district of assam. The objective of the paper is to review the various tourist destinations and to assess the potential of tourism in the district. The study found that despite having huge potential for tourism development only few destinations were used for tourist attraction spots. The paper also suggested the government should adopt proper strategy to implement state tourism policy for the development of major national and international tourism.

Venkateswarlu (2019) in his paper focuses on the prospects and problems of tourism sectors in India. The study found that in order to achieve tourism goals in India they need to focus on their service sectors related to tourism like hotels, accommodation facilities, transports and should promote different types of tourism, Eco-tourism, Rural tourism etc citing examples of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia. Study suggested that in order to grow in the field of tourism the government must encourage Indian citizens to holiday within India.

Dahal (2020) attempted to analyze the problem and prospects of tourism development in Nepal with special reference to Bhaktapur Durbar square. This paper highlighted the present situation of tourism related issues in Nepal. The author also suggested that for tourism development in Nepal it is necessary to encourage tourists to revisit Nepal And also to solve problem transportation facilities, physical facilities in tourist areas and also encourage tourists to stay in Nepal for longer periods.

Jha (2021) in his paper “Eco-tourism Vis-a-vis Prospect of Economic Development In Arunachal Pradesh” underlined that economic development can be accelerated in Arunachal Pradesh by promoting Eco-tourism provided the infrastructure like transportation network and other means of communication have to be developed. The author highlighted the Eco-tourism potential and suggested measures to develop it.

Chaudhary, Sarkar, Gebria, Panigrahi (2022) attempted to highlight the growth, prospects and challenges of the tourism industry in Orissa. The authors also emphasis on opportunities for religion tourism, heritage tourism, Adventure tourism, rural tourism etc. provided some challenges need to be addressed such lack of connectivity, safety of traveler, hotels of international standard and pollution etc. the major finding of the paper suggested that GDP of the state depend on tourism sectors which is possible through government intervention to meet challenges of this sectors in general and popularizing tourism destination in specific.

Statement of Problems

The study is conducted to find out the prospects and potential of tourism in Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh. The area is rich in scenic beauty, culture, adventure tourism, ecotourism but still remains unnoticed by the government. If necessary action is taken by the government in cooperation with local people, local agencies with proper programme and policies then it could attract more tourists for the district and help in promoting tourism in the district.

Objective of the study

- 1) To find out the prospects and problems of tourism in Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 2) To make possible recommendation and suggestion

Research Methodology

The present study is empirical in nature and based on primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through field surveys and secondary data is collected through using different books, journals, articles, websites, etc. For the purpose of the study, a personal interview and interaction was done with the respondent to collect information. The sample of 30 visitors and 30 locals was selected by following a simple random method. The data collected is presented in simple table form.

Study Area

The proposed study will be done in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is the Easternmost part of India which was split from Lohit district on 16 February 2004 under Arunachal Pradesh Reorganization of district Amendment Bill. The district has a population of 21,167 (according to the census 2011), the least populated district in the state. It covers a total area of 6,190 km of Arunachal Pradesh. The population density of the district is 3 habitants per square km (7.8/sq km) and the population growth rate was 13.77% (2001-2011) and the district has the sex ratio of 805 female out of 1000 male. The district has the 3rd least literacy rate with 56.46% (according to census 2011). Mainly inhabited by Mishmi (Digaru and Mizu) and in a small Zikhrong tribe (earlier called as Mayors). The district borders China in the North. Hawai is the headquarters of the Anjaw district and it is the second least populous district in India and the district has seven administrative units namely Hayuliang, Hawai, Manchal, Goiliang, Walong, Kibithoo, Chaglogam. The economy of the district is based on agriculture and the main crops are maize, millet, rice, beans, cardamom, orange, pear, apple, etc.

Problems of Tourism in Anjaw District

During interaction with the locals and tourists, a few of the prominent observations made during the study are explained as follows-

- 1) One of the major problems faced by the tourist is accommodation facilities, there is only one lone resort at the tourist spot, which has no vehicle facilities for the movement of tourists. It has been observed that there is no tour operator, and no travel agency provision by the government tourist player. Besides, it has been found that there are no proper registered tourist guide facilities in the tourist spots. Local people are working as guides for tourists without any proper registration charging very high fees as per their convenience.
- 2) In spite of having natural beauty and cultural attractiveness, there are many places in the district that are enormous to the tourist. These spots are unknown to the people due to a lack of publicity, a lack of transportation, and communication.
- 3) Lack of proper management- There is no proper system for maintaining tourism in the area. There is no proper rule in charging fees, locals can charge according to their convenience which creates inconvenience for tourists.
- 4) Besides inadequate publicity of the tourist spots, lack of cooperation among locals itself, insufficient awareness of tourism among local people, and their attitude towards outsiders, and problems caused by natural calamities such as landslides, and road blockage also cause hindrance to the growth of tourism in the Anjaw District.
- 5) It was found there were shortest accommodation facilities like hotels, lodges, and home stays, besides that there is also no proper management system for a tourist guide. There is a need to create more local transportation facilities like local tax, and local vehicles.
- 6) The majority of the people of the district belong to low-income groups and the uneducated are not aware of the benefits they can get from the tourism sector which is why they are not taking part in the development process.

Prospects of Tourism in Anjaw District

- 1) The District has a good number of places for adventure spots and new sports such as rafting and paragliding should be encouraged.
- 2) The district has good numbers of rivers and lakes, natural hot springs and potential places for ecotourism.
- 3) Nowadays social media plays an important role in the development of the tourism industry and in promoting tourism. It helps to provide the right information to the right people. It can be used to create awareness about tourist destinations that are available in different places.
- 4) Since the region is difficult and dangerous With the help of virtual tourism technology, Tourism can be promoted which will help in creating a wonderful visual visitor experience that helps the visitor to visit virtually without physically visiting.

Suggestions

- 1) Tourist circuits should be advertised and promoted to create awareness among the people. A different promotional scheme such as an online travel guide, and videos on different tourist places should be done, social media should be used to promote the tourist spots in the district.

- 2) There should be provision of a ticket entry cum pass system at tourist spots with proper tourist guides, with genuine licenses issued by the competent authority.
- 3) Government and private agencies should carry out rigorous promotion activities through print and electronic media. websites should be opened to provide up-to-date and proper information.
- 4) Tourism activity is basically seasonal in nature, hence to meet the seasonal demand for accommodation, tent accommodation, etc should be made at the initiative of local people.
- 5) The tourism department of the state should carry out periodic assessments. A suitable technique should be adopted to collect actual tourism arrival data to the state, so the actual demand for tourism can be determined.
- 6) Maintaining traditional homes and home stays should be encouraged to promote tourism in the District.
- 7) There is a need for a proper management system in the district. The locals should be encouraged to charge nominal fees for their services so that more tourists are encouraged to visit again in near future.
- 8) It was also felt there is a need for tour information agencies, tour operators, and tour agencies so that more and more people visit the places without any inconvenience. Transportation service within the district should be improved to facilities comfortable for tourist visits

Conclusion

The Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh has much potential for the development of tourism in the district but lacking in proper planning it has not been developed. Although the tourist spots are famous for adventure and scenic beauty due lack of planning and promotion has been a hindrance before the development of the Tourist center in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

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