



IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL TOURISM (SP. REF. MAHARASHTRA) IN GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract:

Preface:

Globalization contributes to knowledge and it expands the horizon of the local knowledge. It plays an instrumental role in both the national and international transformation. Globalization has gained an important status in the modern changes witnessed in the global commercial ambience. Due to globalization there is seen development in the economic, the social, the cultural and the educational fields. The concept of globalization is not new for the people of India. There have been discovered evidences to international trade during the Sindhu civilization of the Ancient times. There are references to international business in the ancient literary works like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

KEY WORDS:

Historical Tourism , Globalization, international transformation , international business .

CONCEPT OF GLOBALIZATION:

1. Globalization is nothing but the expansion and spread of the financial transactions outside the geographical territories.
2. Service Sector: Service means the immaterial financial transaction between the producers and the consumers consisting in the primary or complementary process without producing any material products. This comprises banking, finances, transportation, communication, entertainment, engineering, information & technology, tourism, education, health, security, etc.

Tour has been a part and parcel of human life since the Ancients times. It consists in discovering unknown areas, finding out new and unseen places, experiencing the changes in the new atmosphere, visiting places of religious importance. The present concept of human tourism has its roots in the ancient tour. In comparison with tour the concept of tourism has been modern and scientific. It is commercially a different process. Globalization has taken tourism to the international level. According to Peters the author of the book titled International Tourism, tourism has become a key factor in the international business and it is gaining more and more importance every passing year.

MEANING OF GLOBALIZATION:

Globalization means an expansion of the economic transactions beyond the political boundaries. It helps create a free atmosphere for capital, services and labour.

DEFINITIONS OF GLOBALIZATION:

1. Globalization means a continuous transformation witnessed in the fields of business, finance, employment, technology, transportation, migration, atmosphere, living standards, governance, social system and culture.
2. Globalization is a national interdependence caused by an increase in commodities, services, international capital and fast disseminating technology. By International Monetary Fund.

MEANING OF TOURISM:

The concept of tourism is associated with tour which has been taken from the Latin word *tornos*, which means circle. This word is said to have given rise to tour or package tour.

Another etymology forwarded of the word tour is that it has been derived from a Hebrew root *torah*, which means to learn, to teach or to find out. It is a fact that an exact and scientific definition of tourism has not been established as yet.

DEFINITIONS OF TOURISM:

1. Tourism is defined as a journey done out of curiosity or for fun from one place to another place. Oxford Dictionary
2. A tourist is he who moves from the place of residence to one place and another for rest, business or other purposes and remains in these places not more than one year. International Tourism Organization
3. Tourism is nothing but a durable migration of the people from their residential places to other places for the sake of business, research, entertainment, rest, recreation or other reasons. British Tourism Department

The state of Maharashtra with its geographical diversity is quite favourable for tourism business. The state which is prosperous during all seasons is said to have witnessed tourism since the British reign over the nation. It has been recognized as a chief economic transaction in the globalized situation of the nation. As a result, the government of Maharashtra declared the year 2011-2012 to be the Year of Tourism. According to the World Tourism Organization, the following varieties of tourism are important:

1. Medical Tourism
2. Eco Tourism
3. Social Tourism
4. Adventure Tourism
5. Literary Tourism
6. Agricultural Tourism
7. Wine Tourism
8. Rural Tourism
9. Cultural Tourism
10. Cruise Tourism
11. Sports Tourism
12. Entertainment Tourism and
14. Research Tourism.

The diversity of India bringing diversity in tourism is quite unparalleled. Thus, Max Muller was inspired in saying that if at all there is a nation so prosperous, powerful and beautiful in the entire world, it is India. The geographical diversity is strengthened by the diversity in lifestyle, art and culture. The tourists are attracted here by the snow-clad mountains, cascades, beautiful beaches, national sanctuaries, flora and fauna and the sacred religious centres. India has had a prosperous and enduring heritage of architecture and sculpture. To top it all, the Indian art, handicraft, folklore, dance, music form an inseparable part of cultural and religious fields. There have been created thousands of tourist places in the nation due to the diversity in nature, history and culture of India.

GEOGRAPHY OF MAHARASHTRA:

The state extends between the latitudes 15.6° North and 22.1° North and longitudes 72.6° East and 80.9° East. Being a part of the Indian Subcontinent, a section of Maharashtra is plain. As far as the geography of Maharashtra goes, much of the state consists of the high Deccan plateau, which is separated from the straight Konkan coastline by 'Ghats'.

The east-west width of Maharashtra is 500 km and the north-south length is 720 km. There is the Arabian ocean to the west of Maharashtra, to its north-east is located Gujarat, to the north and east Madhya Pradesh, to the south-east is Andhra Pradesh and to its southern direction are placed Karnataka and Goa states. Due to the geographical, cultural and religious features, Maharashtra is one of the leading states in India. Therefore, Sindhudurg, a district in Maharashtra, has been attributed the status of the first tourist district in India.

HISTORICAL TOURISM IN MAHARASHTRA:

The state of Maharashtra has had a rich history of forts which sing the historical heritage of the state. The forts in Maharashtra are its historical assets. According to the 1960 Act the government of Maharashtra has declared the state secured monuments. In toto Maharashtra has 360 forts, out of which 44 forts have been declared to be the national heritage sites and 46 forts are brought under the state heritage sites. The Satvahan, the Wakatak, the Chalukya, the Yadav, the Bahamani, the Mughal, the Adilshah, the Marathas, the British and the Portuguese rulers in Maharashtra are said to have built the sea forts, the mountain forts, the ground forts, the forest forts.

There are found different famous temples in Maharashtra. The Sahyadri ranges in the state accommodate a number of these monuments. On the one hand, the caves and sculptures of Ajanta, Ellora, Karle, Bhaje, and Gharapuri illuminate the ancient culture of the Hindu, the Buddha and the Jain religions and on the other, the hill-stations of the Sahyadri, the Satpuda and the Vidarbha mountain ranges are of international acclaim. The silvery beaches of the Konkan coast and the sanctuaries at Nagzira, Navegaon, Karnala, Tadoba, Pench and Boriwali attract the tourists.

HISTORICAL STATUS OF TOURISM:

History plays an important role in the field of tourism. History and the historical events create a kind of curiosity in the minds of the people, who are inspired into making visits to such historical places. The historical places thus get developed in the course of time. The historical places are divided into the following types:

1. Forts
2. Battlefields
3. Historical Monuments
4. Caves and Temples
5. Capitals and Palaces of the bygone rulers and regimes

IMPACT AND BENEFITS OF TOURISM:

1. Foreign Currency: Tourism is an effective means of generating the foreign currency. The foreign tourists have been contributing to the foreign currency for years together.
2. Employment Generation: Tourism is a means of generating employment. Tourism creates direct and indirect employment opportunities.
3. Local Business: Tourism gives rise to the opportunities for local business transactions. Half of the population of the tourist centres in the nation are directly or indirectly involved in the business related to tourism.
4. Increase in Investment: The 90% of the capital investment in tourism is in stable and definite material form. This investment have returns, therefore there is an increase in this type of investment.
5. International Cooperation: Tourism provides impetus for international cooperation and understanding and gets rid of misconceptions and misunderstandings among nations.
6. Increase in Unanimity: The tourists visiting different places cause understanding and harmony among people. There is facilitated an introduction to the cultures and customs of different places.

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