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Sustainable Tourism a New Aspect in Tourism Industry: A Case Study on Tribal Tourism of Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Away from the glitches of monotonous life, every soul desires a retreat that could offer them memorable experience that could heal, teach, and help expand the mental periphery. A holiday and vacation can indeed add value to a human life. To spend a mind blowing holidays we need an amazing destination. Arunachal Pradesh offers a very distinct flavor of tourism. Along with the mind-blowing scenic beauty of the eastern Himalayas, Arunachal Pradesh serves a very spicy platter of her cultural diversity. Arunachal Pradesh is a home of 26 major tribes and many more sub tribes. There are approximately 3649 tribal villages present in the state, many of which opened their gate for the tourists to experience a world of unknown and wonders. The concept of sustainable tourism contains three important pillars which are economy, environment and culture or social issue. Tribal tourism of Arunachal Pradesh covers all these three aspects. It promotes the economy, sustain the environment and support the culture. Thus the prospect of tribal tourism is a golden opportunity both for the tourists and the local community in every possible way.

Index terms— tribe, tribal tourism, tribal home-stay, cultural diversity, sustainability.

1 Introduction

Travel is an important aspect of a human life. Travel helps expansion of knowledge and vision. It helps us to understand cultural differences and promotes tolerance towards each other. Travel actually helps us develop our consciousness, our inventiveness, and our perspective. It overall influences how we perceive the world around us. After a good long and meaningful travel experience mindset of any individual is bound to modify. Thus a sustainable travel is obviously going to bring some positive value in one's life. Sustainable tourism concerns economy, environment and also the social issues. Sustainable tourism covers every possible positive aspect of human civilization. It tourism doesn't only cover economy and environment, but also consider culture, community development as an integral part of travel experience. It involves providing job opportunity to the local youth. Encouraging and restoring the heritage, tradition etc. All these aspects happen to be part of a broader understanding of sustainable tourism.

Tribal tourism indeed promotes sustainability. Lifestyle of the tribal community is not only a different experience for the tourists but also lesson that should be learnt keenly. We can consider Tribal tourism as one of the beautiful, colourful and vibrant component of sustainable tourism. A very simple yet mundane life of the tribal people can be so much inspiring and empowering to change a city dwellers' mindset to something that regards kindness, care and tolerance towards our mother nature and surrounding. A simple and peaceful life of the tribal community can really be an eye opening event that can literally show us what we had been missing all the while.

2 II.

3 Objective

Objective of this study is to understand the scope of sustainable tribal tourism in North East India, with special concern to Arunachal Pradesh. The study aims to highlight the tribal tourism zones in Arunachal Pradesh and understanding the importance of different tribal communities and their contributions and value. The study also targets to realise the overall relationship of sustainable tourism with respective of tribal tourism. How culture and eco tourism blends with each other, the study also aims to find that.

4 III.

5 Research Methodology

Secondary data is collected from travel network websites and government organisation websites. As the entire study has been conducted on the basis of secondary data and information government websites and tourism websites has been studied to find out different information related to the topic Research works on sustainable and eco tourism has been consulted. Different research activities and observations on the study have been studied to understand the concept of sustainable tourism and how tribal tourism fits into the concept.

A brief study on different tribal groups of Arunachal Pradesh is done, keeping in concern the tribal community that offers home-stay and is open for tourism. Their culture and tradition is understood properly and how it would help a tourist evolve with the experience they are going to have with them. Festivals of the tribal communities are also understood from the perspective of sustainability.

6 IV.

7 Literature Review

Tribal tourism includes culture, diet, forestry and environment of the indigenous people. (Chang, Lin and Chuan 2021). Thus a tribal tourism embraces every aspect of lifestyle of indigenous people, their way of living, their food habit, economy, agriculture, customs, festivals etc.

Indigenous tourism is a kind of tourism activity that is attracted by artistic performance, scenic point, historical heritage and customs of the aboriginal culture” as per Ryan and Huyton. Thus we can understand that the main USP of the tribal tourism is its raw exposure to a world which a city dweller can hardly imagine. They are attracted to their artistic performance, crafts, lifestyle, heritage custom etc.

Tribal tourism can also be termed as 'Ethnic tourism' or 'Ethno tourism'. (Rebecca Hallet 2020). Tribal tourism has so much to do with the culture. Tour to the hearth of ethnicity, so we can obviously term it as a ethno tourism or ethnic tourism.

Aboriginals retaining their culture and tradition can be the main attraction of such tourism. Thus tourism and culture exchange can put forward a positive impact on the environment and community. The safe cultural exchange of the tribal tourism, the objective of promoting the indigenous heritage, restoring the tribal culture etc all these aspects makes tribal tourism a real sustainable tourism.

8 V. Concept of Sustainable Tourism as an Aspect of Tribal Tourism

A sustainable tourism concerns a proper scope of economy without hampering, damaging or exploiting resource. A proper sustainable tourism must also seek to promote local culture, tradition and custom. A proper cultural understanding and exchange is what expected from Tribal tourism but without tampering the core essence of the indigenous culture. Tribal tourism does promote the culture of the tribal community, envisaging the value they hold like the tribal agricultural practice, their concern related to environment, their customs of worshipping different aspects of environment all can be a integral part of the tour which will eventually surfaces as vision and value for the visitors who might be living a very hectic city life.

Tribal tourism is indeed a tourism that embraces sustainability from every aspect. A home stay inside a tribal village does not require to burn down or destroy a huge area of forest or destroy any other natural resource, it does not require a gigantic infrastructure, thus it also doesn't require transportation of huge raw materials that would lead to a large amount of green house gas emission. Rather it promotes the ways to preserve the nature, how to grow your own organic food in your own garden, how recycling is being done etc. Tribal tourism upholds the culture, promote the traditions in true sense. With the advent of the wave of westernization the indigenous culture is in the verge of depletion. People are slowly being drifted from their own root, people are even forgetting their mother languages. Thus in such critical scenario a tribal culture, tradition, festival at any obscure corner world remains unseen, unheard, The sagas would remains unsung. Thus tribal tourism gives a platform to these indigenous tribal groups to show their culture, tradition, lifestyle to the people who might haven't experienced the life the way they does, or who doesn't perceive the nature as the tribal communities does.

9 VI.

10 Scope of Tribal Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh

For amazing holidays we need an amazing destination. Arunachal Pradesh offers a very diverse zest of tourism. Along with the mind-blowing scenic beauty of the eastern Himalayas, Arunachal Pradesh serves a very spicy platter of her cultural diversity. Secluded and hidden from the rest of the world, the state became open for tourism since 1992. After 25 years the state celebrated a gala international tourism day on 27th September 2017, spotted as the paradise for the tourists who seek adventure and thrill. Arunachal Pradesh really does offer some splendid chroma of ethnology and heritage of respective tribal groups. Home of 26 major tribes and many more sub tribes, scattered in 3649 villages, tribal tourism is one of the vital attraction for the adventure seekers. And the interesting fact is that every tribe displays their own vibrant shade of praxis. These emerald green valleys of eastern Himalayas are civilized with diverse tribal legions. The Wanchos, Khamtis, Singpohs, Adis, Mishmis, Apatanis, Nyishis and many other ancestries has left their mark on this land, and now this is wide open for the cutting edge visitors. The tribal home stay is now a phenomenal opportunity for an exposure to this unique and exclusive tribal style of living. Highlighting here are some of the beautiful places of Arunachal Pradesh that offers a splendid experience of Tribal home stay within the ethnic heath of the tribal communities. Different tribal groups of Arunachal Pradesh had opened their door for the tourist letting them taste the flavour of a diverse culture.

11 i. Tribal Villages

? Yazili is a Nyshi Tribal Village is located at the Lower Subansiri district. It can be reach with only a 6 hour drive from Ziro. It is located near the beautiful Ranganadi river. Nyshis do demonstrate a very beautiful holistic, organic and sustainable way of living. They grow their own food, which is absolutely organic and chemical free. Yazili is located beside the majestic unexploited and also mostly unexplored dense forest. Even their religion embraces spirits associated with the nature. Thus few days of experience in Yazili would definitely influence the tourist's mindset, when he/she also becomes a part of beautiful organic lifestyle.

Volume XXII Issue IV Version I 16 () ii. Tribal Festivals Festivals are an integral part of the Tribal society. They are the symbolism of the speciality and distinction of culture a tribal society holds. Every tribal community do have their special festival or celebration. And every festival has their own set of colour and vibrancy. These festivals are part of their lifestyle which demonstrates their beliefs, faith and practices as a whole. Tribal festivals are an excellent part of sustainable tourism. Tribal festivals are so magnetic that they can attract visitors from faraway places with their magnetism of vibrant colour.

12 Conclusion

Tribal tourism is a sustainable tourism in real sense. Conservation of nature, economic development and promotion of culture all these three angels are predominant in Tribal tours. This can be look upon as follows:

? Tribal tourism of Arunachal is more than a tourism experience, rather it is a tour of lesson. Experience with the tribal community can prove to be really visionary. Thus this becomes a sheer fact that culture and heritage are the true asset of any community and ethnicity. Culture and tradition is that magnet that pulls people from all over the world. The tribal home stay is now a phenomenal opportunity for an exposure to this unique and exclusive tribal style of living. The Wanchos inhabiting in the south-eastern part of the Tirap district, mesmerises people with their gorgeous headgear and heavy string beaded jewellery. The Vaishnav Noctes along the Indo-Myanmar border of the Changlang district would fascinate visitors with their traditional lifestyle. They are far more divided into sub tribes and exogamous clans. The excellent craftsmen Singpohs prevails along the Siang and Noa Dihing rivers. Agriculturists Khampti tribe occupies the fertile bank of Kamlang, Dihing and Tengapani. Mishmis and Mijis of the Dibang valley district are there to cherish the explorers with their rooted indigenous lifestyle. Hrussos or Akas with their painted face are similar enticing to an explorer's eye. The traditional Ponung dance of the Adis can contribute an unforgettable chapter in one's travel diary. The Galos had mastered the awesome art of weaving highly artistic designer clothes specially the popular traditional black and white designer skirt. Thus tribal art and culture is also a show stopper that would attract thousands of visitors.

Thus home stay opportunity with these tribes are gaining momentum and giving a fair acceleration in the Tourism industry of Arunachal Pradesh. Like the Ziro valley home stay with the Apatani tribes, Zomithang home stay with the Monpas, Nampong home stay near the densely forested Patkai hills are alluring enough to attract good number of tourists each year. So if one desires to learn how a tribal kitchen looks like or how does a chicken gets cooked inside a bamboo shell. How does a tribal dance feel around a luminous bonfire at night near a dense tropical forest, Arunachal Pradesh has to be a sure destination. For excitements and goose bumps, for adrenaline and peace mind for spicing up the vacation, for ultimate joy and exploration, Arunachal Pradesh welcomes the entire world with wide open arm.

It runs for 3 days and demonstrate wonderful colourful costume dances with the objective of removing evil spirit and confirming happiness and prosperity.
? VII.

Figure 1:

Figure 2: ?

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