

TOURISM IN THE COAST : ECONOMIC BOOM VS ECOLOGICAL DOOM

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is unprecedented growth of tourism in the coastal areas in Asian Countries-hotels, resorts, leisure facilities etc. With globalization tourism has become an industry from service sector. However it has adverse effect on natural setting, cultural heritage etc. and often pollution problem has been created with damaging ecology and biodiversity. The paper provides a balanced approach in sustainable development.

2. ASSETS OF COASTAL AREAS

Many coastal areas have scenic beauty, marine life, wild flora and fauna, sandy or rocky beaches etc. There are indigenous people and other cultural identity and diversity are to be preserved.

India has a long coastline and a number of activities like port, resort, industries, residential areas, often conflicting are being built. Infrastructure development, resort towns, industrial towns, land reclamation, deforestation, coral mining, fisheries etc. have demising effect. One such area is Sunderbans biosphere area in eastern coast which has mangrove forest, tiger reserve, crocodile farm etc, together with landslides, intrusion of saltwater, disaster etc. The economic boom out of tourism and economic development has resulted in ecological doom.

3. INTEGRATED PLAN

An integrated plan for sustainable development of coastal region is required. Modern techniques are now available and emphasis will be on cultural aspects of tourism in the framework of environment and ecology.