



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE: THE SHIMLA CASE

¹ Pooja Chauhan,

Affiliation: Research Scholar, Tourism Management, CT University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

²Dr. Kushal Singh

Associate Professor, School of Hotel Management, Airlines and Tourism, CT University SOHMAT, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

³Dr. Arun Singh Thakur

Associate professor in UIHTM, Punjab University.

1452

Abstract:

A multifaceted economic activity, tourism affects the environment in various ways. While environmental resources serve as the foundation for tourism, it also has a variety of good and bad effects on the environment due to the by-products it produces. The major goal of the current study is to examine the connection between Shimla City's environmental performance in 2022–2023 and tourism. Both first hand and second hand data has been collected. First hand data has been collected from the locals was gathered online to conduct a first-hand survey. The results imply that there are both desired and undesirable effects of tourism in the city. Positive effects on built-up environments can be seen more often than negative ones on the natural environment. Research will also clarify how the Shimla region's residents are struggling as a result of the excessive number of visitors. The natural environment is being greatly impacted by the new construction being constructed for the expansion of tourism.

DOI Number: 10.48047/nq.2022.20.4.nq22376

NeuroQuantology2022;20(4): 1452-1459

¹**First Author** Pooja Chauhan Research Scholar, Tourism Management, CT University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

²**Second Author** Dr. Kushal Singh Associate Professor, School of Hotel Management, Airlines and Tourism, CT University SOHMAT, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

³**Third Author** Dr. Arun Singh Thakur, Associate professor in UIHTM, Punjab University.



Introduction

Tourism is travel that is done for pleasure, work, or both. According to the World Tourism Organization, tourists are people who travel to and stay in destinations other than their normal environment for longer than 24 hours and for no longer than one year in a row for leisure, business, or other purposes unrelated to the exercise of an activity that is compensated from within the destination. Tourism is the whole of connection phenomena resulting from strangers' travel and stays, provided that neither the stay nor any associated paid activity implies the establishment of a permanent residency. Tourism is the transitory, short-term migration of individuals to a location outside of their usual areas of residence and employment, as well as the activities they engage in while at each location.

The worldwide tourism business has grown tremendously in both developed and developing countries. The travel and tourism sector continues to be significant industries in more than two dozen nations. As tourism is now recognized as a crucial and indispensable factor in socioeconomic growth and development, particularly for employment generation, foreign exchange earnings, national integration, international understanding, raising and improving the quality of life of host people, improvement in local infrastructure, preservation of heritage, etc., tourism manifests the progress and development of any region or

Introduction to Himachal Pradesh

The state of Himachal Pradesh is located in northern India. Its area is 21,495 sq. mi (55,673 km²), and its borders are the Tibetan Autonomous Region to the east, the Indian states of Punjab to the west and south, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the south, and Uttarakhand to the southeast. Himachal Pradesh means "region of snowy mountains" in its literal sense. Himachal Pradesh was formerly referred to as Deva Bhumi. Prior to the Rigveda, the Arvan influence was felt in the area.

destination. Tourism development has an impact on the local economy, community, and environment. Environmental issues and the growth of the tourism industry are strongly related. It is feared that the current speed of unheard-of tourism growth has generally been detrimental to the environment. Additionally, the environment of a nation is challenged by tourism development, and environmental issues tend to worsen. The tourism sector has recently had a significant negative impact on the environment in India's Himalayan hill stations.

This topic is quite contentious since it's important to reduce the negative environmental effects of tourism and work towards creating a sustainable tourist development in up-and-coming hill resorts. The difficulty lies in ensuring the tourism industry's long-term viability so that residents may benefit from it as a tool for community development and empowerment as well as a chance for economic growth and the conservation of natural resources. In order to determine if residents support continued tourism development, it is crucial to gauge their impressions of the environmental effects of tourism in Himalayan hill stations like Shimla. It can be challenging to understand residents' sentiments. Residents' environmental attitudes are a sign of their support for the growth of the tourism industry.

British colonial rule was established following the Anglo-Gorkha War. Except for the Siba State in the Punjab Hills, which was governed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh until 1857, it was originally a part of Punjab. Himachal was initially designated as a union territory in 1950, but following the passage of the State of Himachal Pradesh Act in 1971, it became the 18th state in the Indian Union. There are numerous prominent boarding schools in Himachal. Hima in Sanskrit means snow. Acharya Diwakar Datt Sharma, a renowned Sanskrit scholar from Himachal Pradesh, gave it its name.

Himachal Pradesh, a state in the Himalayas, is blessed with extraordinary natural attractions. There are now a lot of places that are tourist destinations with abundant biophysical and cultural resources. Located in Shimla's hinterland, the Kufri-Chail-Naldehra area is a location of extraordinary beauty that draws about 0.3 million tourists from both domestic and international travel. The majority of visitors come from the nearby states of Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab. The state has developed this as a tourist route. A secondary tourist destination, Kufri lies 16 miles from Shimla and is most known for its zoo, natural park, and winter sports. These attractions are all cared for by the State Forest Department. The nine-hole golf course in Naldehra, which has dense groves of deodar trees, is well-known. Chail, which is 45 kilometers away, exudes the elegance of a royal preserve. It served as the Maharaja of Patiala's summer residence. His palace has been transformed into a vacation destination. The world's highest cricket pitch is located there as well.

Hsieh and Kungb (2012) stated that the tourism industry has more negative effects on the environment than other service industries like insurance, finance, real estate, and so forth since tourism operations have a closer connection to transportation, which could result in more pollution. More electricity is required for hotel and food services.

Green et al. (1989) noted in their research that the environmental impact is the main worry in the development of tourism initiatives. If the potential effects are not properly considered, it could lead to the depletion of the resources that support tourism. The growth of tourism also benefits the built environment, particularly when infrastructure and buildings are upgraded.

Juanita et al. (1987) have argued that the economic benefits of tourism development should be considered, and that any cultural,

social, or environmental harm should be grounds for dispute. It has become crucial for scholars to provide guidance for the environmental planning of tourism in light of the rapidly expanding global tourism industry. Amuquandoh (2010) stated the issues like endangered species, biodiversity, and the effects of humans on the environment are brought to light by tourism. Preserving natural areas as opposed to using them for other purposes like forestry, agriculture, and mining typically has an economic benefit.

Chand (2013) stated that social factors, such as age, gender, education, and occupation, have a greater impact on residents' perceptions about the environmental effects of tourism. For tourist planners and authorities to reach the sustainability for hill tourism promotion, it is also useful to take into account the perspectives of the locals who are most familiar with the socio-cultural and natural environment in the area.

Verma and Thakur (2015) The trend towards ecotourism is both a threat and an opportunity to develop more sustainably through planning for resource regeneration, diverting tourist traffic to ensure that any destination's carrying capacity is not exceeded, and raising awareness in the host community so that they are equipped to deal with the negative effects of mass tourism.

The most inventive way to maximize the economic potential of tourism while minimizing its negative social impacts and environmental dangers is, as is often the case, to take a middle ground. Only ecotourism, where visitors, service providers, hosts, and government are knowledgeable and ready to use tourism as a growth engine, can provide sustainable results. Batta (2015) stated that the local community's reliance on environmental resources. In addition to using the trees for fuel and feed, the local populace frequently usurps timber rights for legitimate domestic reasons. Alarm is raised by the community's reliance on Common Property Resources (CPR). These resources are the ones that are most frequently used to build

roads, parks, parking lots, industrial projects, and other infrastructure like public hospitals. The poor are most affected when CPR is converted to other uses.

Julta (2000) Sstated that Both visitors and locals expressed a great desire to preserve the past by preserving the British legacy of the city. It is necessary to identify new places to accommodate urban growth while preserving and protecting the natural landscape and urban identity. According to the study's findings, Shimla's urban planning must be founded on the principles of sustainable development and must take into account the needs of the area's current social, economic, and political structure.

Objectives

To find how local resident see the effects of tourism development.

To determine how much locals are aware of the benefits of tourism.

To understand how the local population feels about the damaging effects of tourism.

Research Methodology

To gather original data for the study, an online survey was used. The majority of the questionnaire's inquiries centred on the impact of tourism on local ecosystems. The sample size

Batra (2014) that the state has established a number of rules for the protection of the state's ecology, Shimla in particular need special consideration. Despite the pollution implications of such a policy, there is still a very high concentration of visitor activities in a little amount of time and space. As a result, Shimla still under extreme environmental strain in many regions. The problem of insufficient parking places at several locations throughout Shimla is still not fully resolved. No system has been created to provide advance notice of the availability of lodging and parking spaces at Shimla entry points.

was 36 responders, all of whom were locals. Convenience sampling and snowball sampling, both non-probability sample methods, were used in the study. A five-point Likert scale was used to design the quiz, with answers ranging from strongly Agree to strongly Disagree.

Analysis

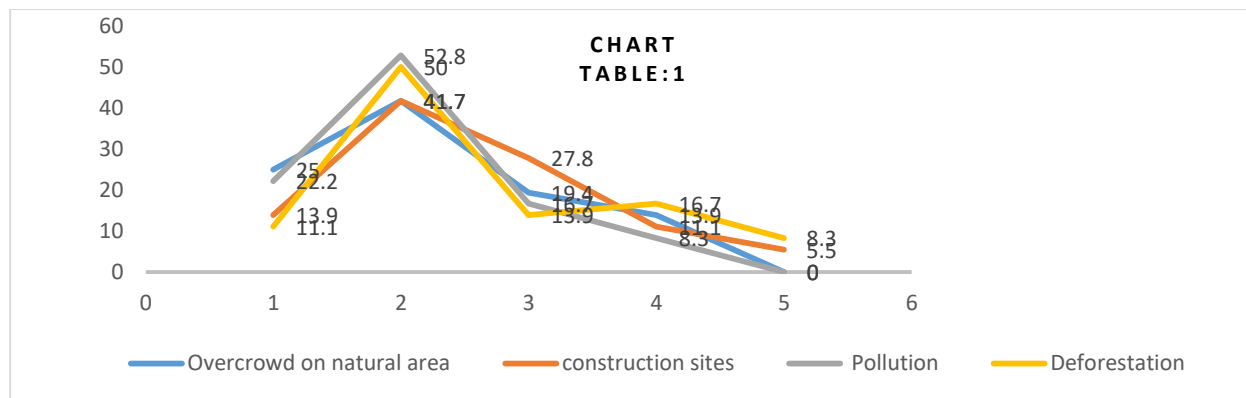
The study below shows that Table 1 and its chart analysis define Objective 3, Table 2 and its chart analysis define Objective 2, and Table 3 and its chart analysis define Objective 1.

1455

Table:1 local residents' perception towards negative impact of tourism.

Tourism negative impact	SA (%)	A (%)	N&N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
Natural area is overcrowded because tourism.	25	42	19.4	13.9	0
Tourism negative impact can be seen in construction site.	14	42	27.8	11.1	5.5
Pollution has increased because of tourism.	22	53	16.7	8.3	0
Tourism affect can be seen on deforestation.	11	50	13.9	16.7	8.3





The majority of respondents agreed with all of the assertions in Table 1 that demonstrate the detrimental effects of tourism on the environment in Shimla. A quarter of respondents (25%) strongly agree with the statement, compared to 41.7% who agree, 19.4% who neither agree nor disagree, and 13.9% who disagree. The highest rating is strongly agreeing, while the lowest is strongly disagree. Another assertion made to respondents was that tourism has a detrimental influence on construction sites. Of them, 13.9% strongly agree, 41.7% agree, 27.8% agree, and 11.1% and 5.5 strongly disagree.

According to the analysis, the majority of respondents strongly agree with the statement, while the minority strongly disagree. Statement analysis shows that 22.2% of respondents strongly agree with the claim that pollution has increased as a result of tourism, while 52.8% agree with the same claim, 16.7% of respondents neither agree nor disagree with the claim, and 8.3% of respondents strongly disagree, as shown in chart 1. According to the analysis, 11.1% of respondents concur that tourism has an impact on deforestation, followed by 50% who also concur, 13.9% who neither agree nor disagree, 16.7% who disagree, and 8.3% who strongly disagree.

1456

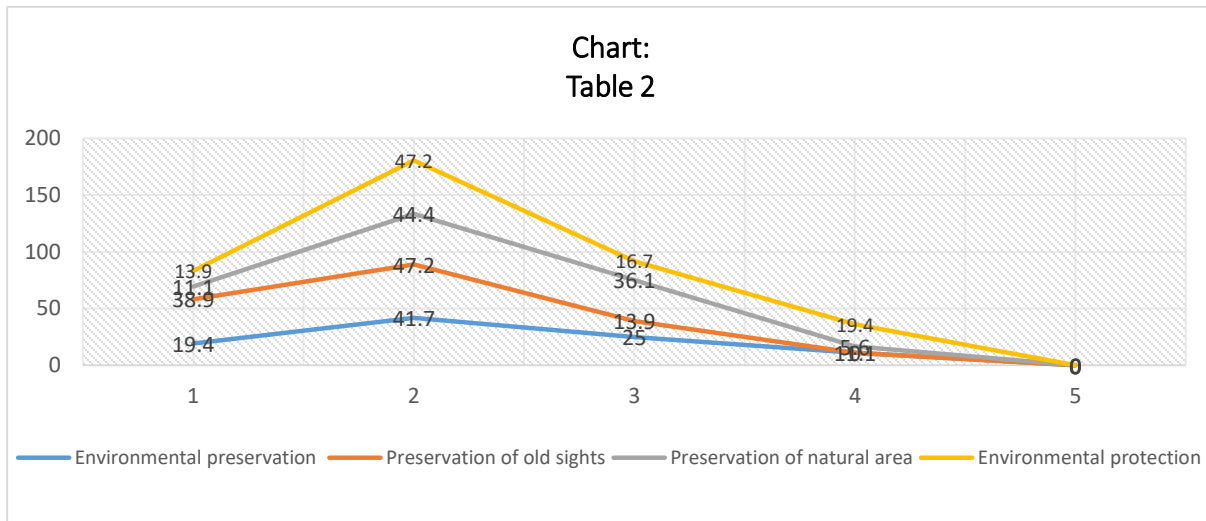
According to the graph, which is based on the claim that tourism contributes to environmental preservation, 19.4% respondents strongly agree, 41.7% agree, 25% neither agree nor disagree, and 11.1% and 2.8%, respectively, disagree with the assertion. According to the other claim that tourism development

preserves historic sites, 38.9% strongly agree, 47.2% agree and 13.9% neither agree nor disagree. According to this statement, 11.1% highly agree, 44.4% agree, 36.1% neither agree nor disagree, and 5.6% and 2.8%, respectively, strongly disagree with the assertion.

Table: 2 local people view towards positive impact of tourism

Positive impact	SA (%)	A (%)	N&N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
Environmental preservation can be seen because of tourism.	19	42	25	11.1	2.8
Ancient sights are preserved by tourism development.	39	47	13.9	0	0
Tourism development helps to preserve the natural area.	11	44	36.1	5.6	2.8
Tourism development focus on environmental protection.	14	47	16.7	19.4	2.8

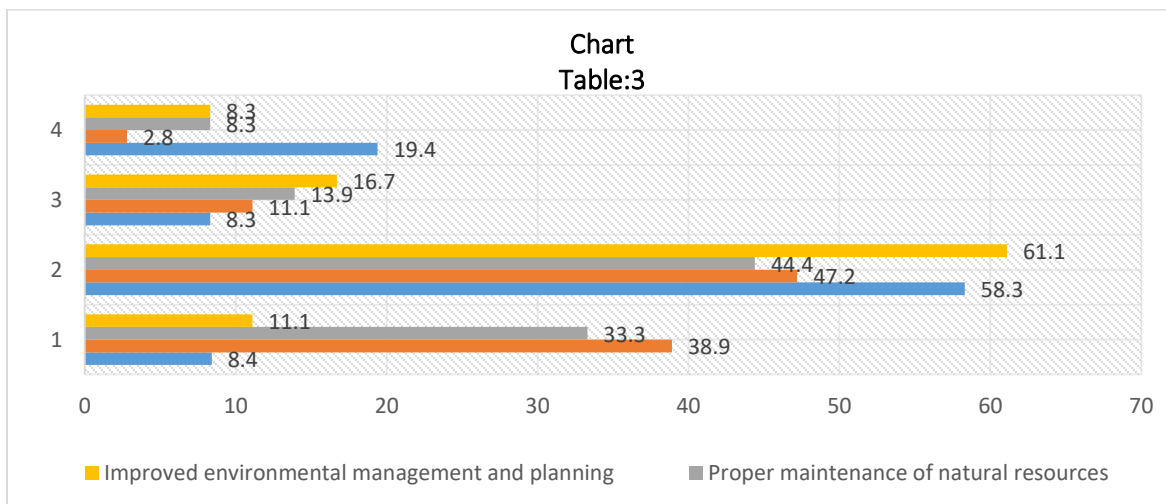




According to the last statement listed in table 2, 13.9% of respondents strongly agree with it, 47.2% of respondents agree while doing so, and 16.7% of respondents neither agree nor disagree with it, while 19.4 are disagree and 2.8% of respondents strongly disagree with it.

1457

Table: 3 Tourism development impact perceived by local residence.



Tourism development other impact	SA (%)	A (%)	N&N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
Tourism increase environmental awareness among local	8.4	58.3	8.3	19.4	5.6
Tourism play important role in Infrastructure development	38.9	47.2	11.1	2.8	0
Natural resources are managed by tourism development	33.3	44.4	13.9	8.3	0
Tourism development support environmental management and planning	11.1	61.1	16.7	8.3	2.8



According to study, 8.4% of respondents strongly agree that tourism raises environmental consciousness among local residents. While 58.3% of respondents agreed, 8.3% neither agree nor disagree, 19.4% disagree, and 5.6% strongly disagree. According to the second statement in Table 2, 38% of respondents strongly agree with the position, while 47.2% of respondents agree with the position; 11.1% of respondents neither agree nor disagree and 2.8 respondents strong disagree. According to the third statement given in the above table, 33.3% of respondents strongly agree with it, while 44.4% agreed. By contrast, 13.9% of respondents neither agree nor disagree with the statement, and 8.3% of respondents disagree, as shown in chart 3. 11.1% of respondents highly agree that tourism development supports environmental management and planning, compared to 61.1% who agree, 17% who neither agree nor disagree, and 8.3% who strongly disagree. 2.8% strict disagreed.

Conclusion

According to my findings, tourism has an effect on the environment that is both positive and detrimental. Locals believe that tourism has both positive and harmful effects on the ecosystem. I have come to the conclusion that tourism is to blame for the detrimental effects on the environment, according to local residents, such as pollution, crowding, and deforestation. 46.6 respondents agreed that tourism has a negative influence on pollution, crowding, and deforestation, and 32.3% strongly agreed with these general negative effects. Overall, 19.45% of respondents are unsure of its detrimental impact, while the remaining are not agreeing with it. Positive environmental effects include environmental protection, the preservation of historic sites, and the protection of natural regions. 20.8% of respondents say they strongly agree with all these good environmental effects, while 45% agree, 22.9% disagree and 22.9% are unsure. I

also draw the conclusion that tourism enhances locals' knowledge of the environment and benefits infrastructure. Additionally, it supports environmental management and aids in the management of natural resources.

References

1. Amuquandoh, F. E., (2010). Residents' perceptions of the environmental impacts of tourism in the Lake Bosomtwe Basin, Ghana. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 18(2), 223–238. doi:10.1080/09669580903298531
2. BAGRI, S. C. (2008). Indian Hospitality Congress, Centre for Mountain Tourism & Hospitality Studies HNB Garhwal University—Srinagar Garhwal. *Anatolia*, 19(1), 180–182. doi:10.1080/13032917.2008.968706
3. Batra, A. (2014). Revisiting Shimla Eight Years Later: Has Anything Changed? *AU-GSB E-JOURNAL*, 2(2).<http://www.assumptionjournal.au.edu/index.php/AU-GSB/article/view/397>
4. Batta, R. N. (2003). Tourism's Potential for Financing Conservation Areas: A Study of Kufri-Chail-Naldehra Area of Himachal Pradesh, India. *Tourism Recreation Research*, 28(1), 57–65. doi:10.1080/02508281.2003.11081386
5. Batta, R.N. (2015). Tourism's Potential for Financing Conservation Areas: A Study of Kufri-Chail-Naldehra Area of Himachal Pradesh, India. *Tourism Recreation Research*. 28. 57-65. 10.1080/02508281.2003.11081386
6. Chad, M. (2013) Environmental impacts of tourism in Shimla hills of India: An empirical study of resident's perceptions. Vol. 14 Issue 2, p35-46. 12p.
7. Green, H., Hunter, C., Moore, B., (1989). Assessing the environmental



- impact of tourism development: the use of the Delphi technique.35(1), 51–62. doi:10.1080/00207238908710549
8. Juanita C.L., Pauline J. S., Turgut V., (1987). Resident perception of the environmental impacts of tourism. 14(1), 17–37. doi:10.1016/0160-7383(87)90045-4
 9. Jutla, R. S. (2000). Visual image of the city: Tourists' versus residents' perception of Simla, a hill station in northern India. *Tourism Geographies*, 2(4), 404–420. doi:10.1080/146166800750035512
 10. Verma, V. (2015). Proposal /synopsis on " Analytical study of eco-tourism to the tourist places by creating awarness " case study of (Shimla. Retrieved from https://www.academia.edu/14731139/PROPOSAL_SYNOPSIS_ON_ANLYTICAL_STUDY_OF_ECO_TOURISM_TO_THE_TOURIST_PLACES_BY_CREATING_AWARNESS_CASE_STUDY_OF_SHIMLA
 11. Verma, v. And Singh, s. (2015) analytical study of eco-tourism to the tourist place by creating awareness case study of (Shimla),<http://www.aguijpsr.com>.