

Determinants Of Sustainable Tourism- Evidence From The Tourist Destinations Of Western Ghats- A Need For A Closer Look

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt of designing and developing a framework for employing the concept of tourism, in particular the eco-tourism – the gain from tourism without compromising on the yield from ecological balance. This paper gives a multidimensional view to the readers to look tourism as a need for the economic growth and on the other side its usual disturbance to the environment with a closer look in particular applied to various quality aspects of life promoted by sustainable development. Here, a framework which is proposed is not just confined to tourism locations, destinations or the pictures relating to the gain of it. Rather it includes the scope for further research to articulate and address the issues concerning to broad array of positive and negative shades of tourism developments and to explore the potential for sustainable call of an action to protect, preserve and purify the thoughts of human with regard to the exploitation of nature as a whole and forest in particular. Western Ghats – A spread in the state of Karnataka, A popular destination, naturally created heaven on the earth with entire elements of green and green resources have taken for the study for an in-depth look and thereby to propose the ways for sustainability to renew the interest in the impact of tourism on environment, society and culture.

Key Words: Eco tourism, Tourism Development, Conservation and Sustainability.

Introduction – Time to Fact and Act.

The Western Ghats, a series of hill ranges, run parallel to the western coast of south-western India from 21° N to 8° N (Pascal, 1988). Being close to the Arabian Sea, they receive heavy southwest monsoons. (Kumara, H. N., & Singh. M, 2004). The tropical evergreen rain forests have been occupied by the western slopes and by the ridges. The eastern forests on the other side contains mostly the rain shadows, deciduous and scrub forests. The Ghats, with a length of about 1600 km from north to south and with an east to west width of 30–80 km, are a mosaic of heterogeneous habitat types.

The history reveals that since about 200 years the human interventions of sponsored forestry and non-forestry activities in the Western Ghats are in the reveal and on the record since recent past. (Chandran, 1997).

Commercial plantations, tea and coffee cultivation, power generation through hydro dams; brought millions of people to the top of hills and long standing for the sake of exploring the western Ghats with the intention of individual gain and economic well-being. Consequently, natural habitats have undergone drastic changes.

The gain from green since many years have opened the doors to many locals, policy makers and government to think of another source of revenue from western Ghats – i.e. through Tourism and related activities.

People of the entire world have become habitual of exploring the world, the attractions, the food, the culture, the politics, the policies as hot news and tourism of different destinations as cool sets. The various destinations for tourism include the man-made structures, built-in definitely the long stretch of Western Ghats which accounts for infinite beauty, greenery, and living species which is greater than any other part of the world.

The Western Ghats of southern India witnesses many variety of green plants, trees both flowers and non- flowers, known for immense beauty of cloudy weather during monsoon, abundance of mists, unique chirp of birds, rare species of birds, animals and insects, evergreen and everlasting beauty of sky in deep blue, long and lengthy rivers, curvy roads, huge mountains, the nature at its best in terms of naturally built river canals, beaches, mountain valleys and etc.

In India Western Ghats have stretched in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. All these states permits for tourist visits to its Western Ghats in their own way and they consider this as one of their main source of revenue to individual and to the state as well.

Since Western Ghats have listed in UNESCO world heritage list, the support for humanly activities like tourism, town-shiping is supported on an obvious manner both by the government and by local bodies.

To note points with special reference to Karnataka's Western Ghats as a need for the current study; it proves that Karnataka is mentioned as one of the site to be visited must by the tourists and travellers because of its richness in offering scenic beauty, natural attractions to tourists like long rivers, beaches, canals, dams, deep sighted greenery plants and etc. Since Karnataka has got a good flow of rivers, the agricultural activities can be seen at its best and this state also witnesses all kinds of weather attentions, time to time schedule of climate and etc. Alongside, we can also see built in

monuments, temples of variety and rich architecture, ancient history recorded since Ramayana and Mahabharata to many sites, treating rivers as holy and practice of worshipping rivers and beaches during particular seasons, culturally heritage centres, exhibitions, birds sanctuaries, Zoo gardens, man-made bridges, railway lines on the top of the hills, rivers, the richness in the arts like Yakshagana (Ata), Kola, Bharathanatyam, Naga Mandala (few practices of people residing on coastal stretch and on Ghats), offering vivid food items made from naturally available fruits, vegetables and grains, the varieties of sea food, and also an upgraded elements like e-management of tourists, advance hotel booking, tourist mobile apps, classified hotels have made the beauty of nature even more better and this has started attracting the travellers from all over the world to visit Karnataka and thus Western Ghats have regarded as one of the hot spot in Karnataka for tourists.

Not only this, the upcoming and upgraded elements in Western Ghats tourism like adding adventure sports, exploring deep curvy roads; beach view, river view and scenic locational guest houses, lodges and homestays; fishing activities, scuba, sky diving, swim pools, expanding a night in tent stays, family tour packages, trekking guides, sun-rise and sun-set view-points, beach sports, kayaking, boating activities on the river; hanging bridges, instant sea foods on the river side hotels; Coffee at hill top restaurants, and many other known, explored or yet to be explored matters have made the people so crazy and needy of spending their holidays at these spots forever or at least once in their lifetime; and many more have of such things have proved the title of Karnataka tourism – ‘One state many world’

Getting closer into the attractions of tourism in Karnataka in Western Ghats, it has generated lot of employment opportunities to the local people, huge recognition for the local bodies, high income generation to the individuals, associations or enterprises involved in it and to the government on the whole.

This has given a new insight to the researchers that Western Ghats not only offers beautiful destinations to visit, but also offers many natural resources to explore and also for exploiting for the individual benefits without much worrying about the policy matters or conservation of the forest and the natural resources.

There comes the need for a closer look – a task to ensure the understanding of what is sustainable tourism, how to protect the forest reserves, preserve the natural resources, and determine the best elements of eco-tourism as a whole.

However, few field data and evidences from previous literatures are available on their distribution and status from extant populations, and their classifications have made largely on the basis of the areas where the sustainability treatment is required, the areas where the natural resources have exploited since the decades. As a norm it is necessary to research the primate populations of Western Ghats which need to be saved and served afresh and also determine the correlating factors that needs a deep attention of ecological balance and tourism growth alongside. Also, the anthropogenic chiefly of environment and pollutants originating from human activity and related factors need to be addressed since the Western Ghats known is hub spot for many birds, animals, insects species and most of them have either reached the extent or endangered.

The focal point of the current research is to give a closer look on the status and distribution system of nature supported elements and related factors in tourism activities and discharge of eco-friendly activities by individuals, locals, tourism operators, policy makers and tourists themselves with reference to the most visited or so called hot-spot tourist destinations of Western Ghats of Karnataka which includes the districts such as Uttara Kannada (South Canara), Udupi, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu. The community supported activities with regard to forest conservation and natural resources preservation is also observed and recorded from the review and acknowledged accordingly. Each eco-zone of Western Ghats exhibits different anthropological issues. Thus, we also hoped to advocate viable localities for the conservation of its resources by not compromising on the gain it accounts through extensive activities of tourism.

Review of Literature – Looking Back to Move Ahead.

In the appeal of domain knowledge on the said topic the researcher undertakes review of available, related literatures of similar nature and varied percepts. This process has included the steps such as understanding the background study, the need for the understanding of the same, collect the relevant information from the literatures to best fit them as evidences, identify the gap and work on the same for further implications. For the purpose of the current study, the researcher has taken up the literatures related to India tourism on the whole, Karnataka tourism in particular, Western Ghats tourism in mention. The summary drawn from the reviews are presented below:

Northcote, J., & Macbeth, J. (2006) In order to meaningfully evaluate tourism systems in terms of sustainable parameters, the ITY framework is proposed. At its base are tourist, financial, economic, environmental, social, and cultural areas. At the second level are the current or expected returns for each area. The third is the required level that the system needs in order to remain sustainable. In this paper, a framework is proposed that will help planners articulate and address a broad range of positive and negative developments in the tourism system. The guiding principle behind it is that management requires consideration of the costs and benefits along a number of yield dimensions, namely current or expected levels, required levels in order for the system to be sustainable, potential levels possible within a sustainable system, and the overarching ideological approach to integrating sustainable practices.

Khalil et. al (2007) Examined the role of tourism in the short – run economic development in case of Pakistan through error correction models and the casual relationship between tourism receipts and economic expansion. The result points out that there is a strong relationship among tourism, receipts and economic expansion.

Triguero-Mas, M. et. Al.(2009) long-term integrity of protected areas have been integrated for the purpose of the study keeping the urban and rural perceptions to protect the environment with reference to one of the popular site of Western Ghats of Karnataka – Dandeli. This paper gives a comparative view of urban and rural residents' perceptions on the impact of a protected areas and also analyses the association between the perception of economic, social and environmental impacts, and overall attitude towards the protected areas. The results section reveals the fact that Local residents' perception of the economic costs generated by the Protected Areas increased the likelihood of negative attitudes towards it, especially for residents living within or on its borders.

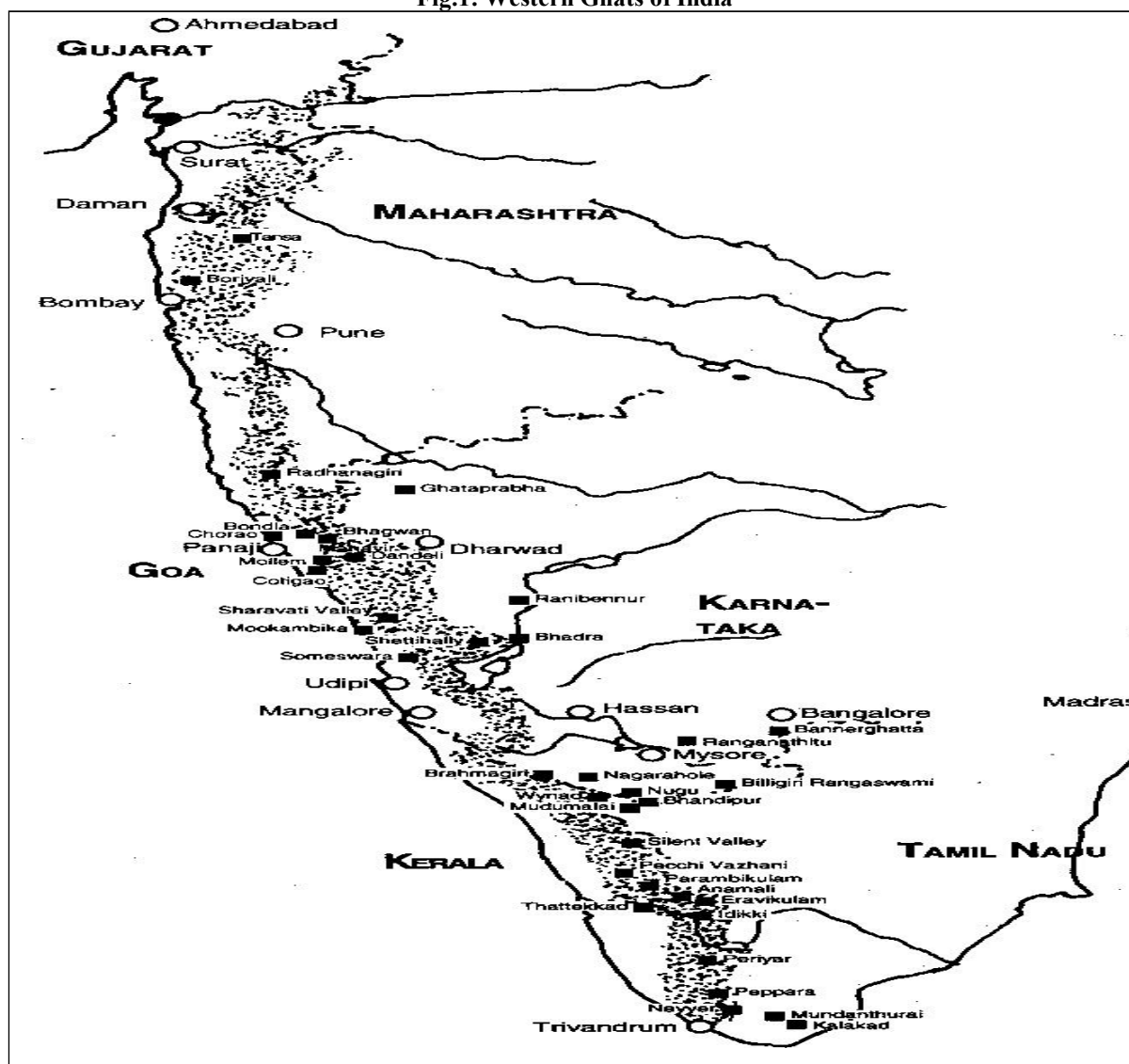
Mishra P.K (2011) on Causality between tourism and Economic Growth; Empirical Evidence from India. Analyse the growth of tourism in India and observed that it is one of the efficient tools for promoting economic growth of the host country. According to the study last few decades, tourism industry in India has been growing at a rapid pace for the last few decades and it has vast potential for generating employment and earning large amount of foreign exchange besides giving a fillip to the country's overall economic and socio-cultural development. The study used popular time series models for the period spanning from 1978 to 2009. The results provide the evidence of long-run unidirectional causality from tourism activities to economic growth of the country. Based on this the study recommended for active partnership among the all wings of the central and state governments, private bodies and voluntary organizations in the Endeavour to attain sustainable growth in tourism and overall economy as well.

Dr. N Maruti Rao (2013) the article calls for an action of preservation and conservation of bio-diversity along with eco-tourism having the support from communities and locals in every decision making and others. This study aimed at evaluating the participation of community residents in ecotourism and conservation activities at Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary; review benefits received by residents from wildlife sanctuary. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used for the selection of respondents. With an adoption of structured questionnaires and analysis the results depicted that there is very low participation of community residents in the tourism support activities and Karnataka tourism on the other end will not seek any forms of support or suggestions and their decisions is what is the finding of the study. The tourism agents, tourist guides or travel planners were also failed to have an interaction with community residents while implementing any of their plans regarding eco-tourism at Dandeli and at the same time the local publics were not informed or simply ignored while lot of forest reserves are being utilised. The study also reveals that community residents were not involved in planning and management process of conservation of wildlife and biodiversity of Dandeli located in Western Ghats section of Karnataka.

Joseph, P. D., & Pakkeerappa, P. (2015) in his study the eco-tourism being the focal point, the research constraint itself to the coastal locations of Karnataka. The empirical research on the basis of gathered from tour operators and tourists gives an array of information related to sustainability of coastal tourism, nature friendly initiatives that tour operators as individual and government as a whole has to take in order to protect the tourist destinations, likely generating sources without compromising the best deals of nature and series of being nature friendly. The study tails up the features of development of coastal tourism and its intervention by different pollutants and also notes on its least importance to sustainability. The study suggests for involvement of local community at various levels of concerned policies as a requisite and at the same time the authorities should ensure the development of local community, their social interest should also be serviced in the well-directed way.

Rajeshwari, B., & Bai, J. M. S. (2019) this article is concerned on the point of infrastructure for the development and growth of tourism, its opportunities and at the same time the likely effect of adoption of too much urbanization policies and utilisation heavy loads of resources for the sake of tourism and for the creation of luxury and comforts. In the quest to provide facilities for tourists the environment has been affected in other ways, large hotels and other facilities for tourists and likes consume large amounts of power in their quest to provide a long list of patrons with all the hip electronic comforts. With the adoption of empirical research as a method, post hypothesis testing concludes that Transport, Accommodation, Shopping, Facilities, Local transport, Safety & Security (Police Service) and Sanitation are below average level with concern to infrastructure requirements and actual availability.

Fig.1: Western Ghats of India



Source: Biodiversity in the Western Ghats – An Information Kit.

Summary of Review of Literature – Plugging the Leaks.

From the review of above literatures it is summed up that the primary challenges posing by eco-tourism aspects of Western Ghats is the poor policy frameworks on profitable and ecologically sustainable industry, and simultaneously efforts to achieve a satisfying experience for visitors and raising standards of living in the host community. With this respect the above literatures have either concentrated on ecological substances of Western Ghats or its related tourism activities alone. To fill this void or the gap the current study proposes to examine the determinants of sustainability factors of tourism in the Western Ghats with reference to Karnataka state region and linking of the similar issue to the another key aspect called tourism growth, development and management.

Statement of the Problem – An Enroot

It is pivotal to maintain sustainability in tourism in order to achieve the quality in engagement and enriching the tourism value and label as a best spot in the minds of tourist patron and nextly to have continuity of usage of resources available both man-made and natural resources to its best without the thought on exploiting for the sake of immediate gain. Thus, the research addresses the issues related to exploitation of natural resources for the gain of the self, reaching to win-lose (human-environment) without worrying much about the possible negative reactions of the environment in future and likely causes thereby. As a further note with the intention of achieving win-win (human-environment), the research calls

for an action towards sustainability in the tourism. Hence, the current research is narrated on the ‘Determinants of Sustainable tourism - Evidences from the tourist destinations of Western Ghats – A need for a closer look’

Objectives of the study – An endless Challenge.

1. To identify and examine the issues to be narrated on social, cultural and economic aspects on the Western Ghats Tourism of Karnataka and suggest appropriate measures in terms of design policies and guidelines to address the issues.
2. To identify the economical considerations of the Western Ghats Tourism destinations and suggestions for strengthening the economic value of Western Ghats tourism.
3. To protect bio-diversity and propose mechanisms to mitigate the man-made disturbances to the nature and promote the Western Ghats as a Bio-diversity and ecotourism destination.

Methodology – The Ways Out.

The research purpose included three dimensions – Identifying the determinants of sustainability, promote tourism in the Western Ghats and suggestions for eco-tourism policies as a win-win ideology. It is a conceptual paper with an adoption of descriptive method in it and study of various factors contributing to the central theme through previously available

literatures, web sources, and tourism statistics orientation. Thus, the findings and analysis is based on evidences and data gathered from secondary source and literatures.

Need for Sustainability in Tourism – A Vantage Point.

Environmental protection became a major issue in the 1990s after the introduction of the concept of sustainable development by the Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Development) in Our Common Future (1987). This report was seen as an expression of the increasing environmental awareness toward the latter part of the 1980s. Tourism as an economic activity has an inevitable effect on the environment of the destination. The environment is often regarded as the major pull factor of tourist movements, contributing to the desirability and attractiveness of a tourist destination. As the environment is an indispensable asset to the tourism industry, the protection and conservation of environmental resources (which include natural, cultural and historic resources) are prime considerations for the tourism industry, upon which it depends as primary inputs in the production of the tourist output. (Christine Lim, 2002)

Upon the passage of time when tourism became an international product, an environmental concerns through an organisation such as green globe and etc. Have raised to its par in order to give a new spear to tourism and environment with the support of the world and termed it as sustainability. The evidences from conceptual notes clearly depicts that sustainability in tourism is achieved by allowing space to eco-tourism initiatives or simply the implementation of nature-based tourism protocols applied on the field.

Ayala (1995) defines eco-tourism as “tourism that educates the human for the protection of the green, accompanies the enjoyment with an understanding of the destination and promoting the value of preserving and conserving the resources. As the world’s population becomes increasingly urbanised, the demand for tourist attractions which are environmentally friendly, serene and offer amenities of a unique nature, has been growing rapidly (Christine Lim, 2002). Thus an academic actions, sponsored interventions of practitioners, policy makers decisions on this regard, public’s involvement in adhere to policies of nature protection, the local residents practices of applying the theory of environmental protection for their own well-being should be well-addressed so that the globe will be green protected. When the bridges are connected between sustainability and one of the important destination to be serviced, served and protected for its abundance of beauty, and natural resources is the Western Ghats of India because of its huge number of tourist destinations, attractions, tour operators, tourist visiting schedules, revenue generating package of tours available like adventures, trekking, river rafting, cool stays, family fun, fishing, honey moon spots, escalation of enjoyment and entertainments through well planned and well-structured home stays, guest houses, lodges and resorts. When connections are made between tourism and sustainability we find few hardening facts that the natural resources of Western Ghats are explored and many times exploited because of the greediness of travellers, tour agents and policy holders also. Being high profit motives, the natural resources are exploited more than what is actually deserved to be used or utilised. This situation is giving a raise to another phenomena called ecological imbalance.

Determinants of sustainability – Right to Timely Deliver.

Few determinants proposed to make an eye-opener to reach to the target of sustainability in Western Ghats tourism. Call for an action of policy makers and practitioners to look out of these determinants posing challenges to the sustainability.

1. The Ghats are reaching to its delicacy because of too much occupation of lives of human on the top of hills, river side, and beach side and emptying the available resources for human consumption.
2. Disposal of wastes in an unscientific manner by the tourists or destination visitors without giving a minute attention

on its further effects. Evidences gathered from beach cleaning and river protection organisations depicts the facts that people throw used plastic bottles, snack covers, unwrapped plastics etc. directly into the water without even the second thought.

3. Too much of consumption of water at tourist spots, hotels, lodge or in restaurants which creates the shortage of water resources for the future generations.
4. The intensity of usage of location and its further impact.
5. The ruthless effects of climate change, noise pollution, disturbing the wild life though false and restricted actions like crackers bursting, shooting and vehicle horns.
6. Sand mafia – unauthorised access to the rivers and river sources and exploiting the sand resources for the commercial gains.
7. Generation of cheap labour by local residents on a tourist destinations
8. Rare species, trees or useful plant may be destroyed for creating and offering pleasures and pleasing tourists.
9. Using wildlife sanctuaries, bird sanctuaries, and natural attractions as tourist attractions to generate revenue for the economy and not to preserve them.

Findings and Suggestions – Setting the Priorities.

There is a paradigm shift in the tourism policy from the early objective of attracting tourists to promoting is as an engine of economic development through employment and revenue generation to eco-tourism which focuses on promoting environmental friendly tourism. Though several policies are made, the integration with other policies is not yet achieved. The Indian tourism sector is one of the largest service industries in the country in terms of its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange earnings (FEE) as well as for providing employment to millions. As per the latest data available, tourism in India has shown a phenomenal growth in the past decade contributing 6.8% to India's GDP. Tourism industry in any country flourishes on the basis of competitiveness of facilities like infrastructure, accommodation, transport and recreation and that is where the role of various stake holders right from central and state government to entrepreneurs and society as a whole. But another aspect comes into play alongside is the support for the tourism activities without disturbing the elements of nature in case of eco-tourism or in sustainable tourism.

Ecotourism with an achievement target of sustainability in Western Ghats encircles around natural environments having unique biodiversity and cultural significance. Ecotourism conserves natural resources and promotes taking care of natural and cultural resources. Ecotourism should raise funds to of ecological and socio-cultural resources (Satyaprakash Das, 2020).

The below lines adds to the findings of the study in its own way concerning on the central theme of sustainability and tourism in Western Ghats of Karnataka.

1. Many sites belonging to the region of Western Ghats shown varied cultured people, different practices and immeasurable lifestyles. Since their life began on these shores they cannot be separated from the sustainability focus and hence the local residents need to be given importance and right to lead their life along with the dictation of sustainability policies.
2. Karnataka has been recognised as a nature paradise by tourists and is ranked the fourth most visited state for tourists in India. As per a government report, “119.86 million domestic and 0.63 international tourists” have visited Karnataka in the year 2015. The Tourism sector contributes 14.8% to the GSDP of Karnataka; plans are afoot to expand to 26% by 2020 (Satyaprakash Das, 2020) hence the economic prospects should be worked along.
3. Many regions under the coverage of Western Ghats has witnessed huge migration of civilian's in-order to experience urbanization and move to an improved cities. This is indicated by low ratio of people living for long duration and during later days this has resulted in conversion of their original house as travel rooms, hotels, lodges or homestays. It is also found that the Chikkamagaluru and koorg region has resulted in conversion of local resident's original house to guest house and offering it for tourists and yielded lot of profits.
4. Culture plays an important role in the development of any region. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. There are many temples found on the Western Ghats and many of them have built by various kings, saints of various origin about many years ago and has witnessed a heritage of our tradition and follow up of culture. This represents the huge number of pilgrims visiting to these temples and record of related pilgrimage activities.
5. It is also found that there is settlement of individual residents near the tourist destinations of Western Ghats since many years and found their lives by many kinds of trading activities near these tourist destinations. There is also a finding of migrated people from other states and started trading activities and having stay from long many years. Example being Sri Mukambika Temple, at Kolluru, Udupi district has a record of migrated people from nearby state Kerala for trading activities near the temple since it attracts huge number of travellers from all over the country and many of them are from the state of Kerala.
6. Visitors to Western Ghats are found to be from varied parts of the country and globe. Maximum visits will be

during weekends since the approach of road trip, bike trekking is possible from nearby cities like Bangalore, North Karnataka and other states like Goa and Kerala. The visitors will have stretch of their stay mostly for a week or more because of too many attractive destinations. Another finding from the field is that the visitors are guided very less or not being informed of their actions in the destinations regarding waste disposal, usage of water and etc. because of the fear that they get shifted to other traders in case it is related to shopping or other hotels in case it is related to accommodation out of humility and ego aspects. This gradually reduces the income on the part of the tour agents or tour operators. As a suggestive mechanism a destination operators can educate visitors by posting wall stickers, play cards, continuous promotion of the tourist sites and conservation of the resources.

7. Western Ghats as an ecotourism-based spot, most of the planning and development of the attraction has been concentrated on the need to co-exist with the fragile natural environment of to achieve sustainable development. Planning initiatives take into account the building of accommodation, water and energy supply, liquid and solid waste disposal, pest management, community involvement and environmental education. In addition to providing the traditional resort-leisure product, it has been argued that ecotourism resort management should have a particular focus on best- practice environmental management, an educational and interpretive mannerism of locals and tour agents, operators and visitors too.
8. In 2003 Karnataka Government introduced Wilderness Tourism policy with an objective to open up forest areas for eco-tourism. There is a conflict between tourism and eco-tourism. In Karnataka tourism policy 2009-14 initiatives are there for the development of the infrastructure and destinations but the eco-tourism objective is to minimize the new infrastructure and comply with environment regulations. A new eco- tourism policy has to be implemented.
9. It is found that there is poor management or poor functionality from the ages from the government level to look after the concerns regarding sustainability and tourism activities on par with nature protection policies. Many literatures evidences that the support from the local panchayats, district associations and state and central government policies enriches the tourism management solve the kiosk.
10. It is also found and suggested that the native vegetation and growing plants around the resorts, hotels; gardening and other mechanisms will supplement the ill effects of tree- cuts, dwelling mountains, reducing the sand beds and etc.
11. The rooms which offers accommodation should be built and constructed in a such a way that the natural sun light should be utilised in maximum cases and the usage of powers for elevators and inside the rooms should be made at minimum extent. Walkways can also reduce the power consumption levels.
12. LPG power generations should be made available in maximum cases at tourist hot spots instead of diesel run power generators.
13. Tourism supported educational institutions has t be established nearness to the tourist destinations and educate and motivate local residents to look after the nearby tourist destinations so that the western Ghats tourism can flourish even more better with local people, adoption of local culture and less rivalry among locals.
14. A comprehensive policy should be framed, which achieves the objectives of conservation, promotion, cultivation & sustainable utilization of medicinal plant resources by making Karnataka Medicinal Plant Authority as the nodal agency.

Conclusion – Learning from Experiences.

The conservation of the natural resources, man-made structures, huge heritage temples, monuments, mosques, wide range of species of birds, animals and insects, blossoms and the blooming flowers, the green wood trees, the grey shed lights, deep love on nature vested on Western Ghats of Karnataka being the main picture of this paper; the author examined about the field, investigated about the appealed and found congealed with the determinants that pose for sustainability factors of Western Ghats and an encouragement to related Tourism activities. The economic gain and the social satisfaction should be the main motive of people handling the tourism activities in these regions as Western Ghats accounts for an infinite resources and these resources when it is utilised and explored in a proper way the future generation can have a promise of pleasing weather and promising deals of nature. An awareness to the usage of energy resources by the travellers and visitors, the waste management and waste disposal mechanisms, the water management, avoiding use of plastics, having sense of behaviour in the particular locations without disturbing the wild life and other species and many more adoption of such modes, methods and mechanisms by local residents, individual tour operators, traders nearby tourist's destinations, the local bodies coming under the purview of such destinations, general public as a whole and tourists or visitors in particular plays a vital role in acting as the real determiners of sustainability in tourism of Western Ghats of Karnataka and hence the study concludes with a suggestion of closer look on their actions, reactions and an interaction with nature.

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