

Solid Waste Management for Sustainable Tourism

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ABSTRACT

Solid Waste Management is becoming an alarming issue and is gaining lot of attention in our country. The management of solid waste has become a problem in all metros, municipalities and even in small villages. The waste management has become a tough task along with the population explosion. Especially the solid waste management in the tourist places is a major concern because of the presence of huge number of outsiders every day. This paper is about the waste management process of six tourist sites of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and its effectiveness in bringing sustainable tourism. In-depth interviews of key informants engaged in the solid waste management process of these areas has been administered along with observation of ongoing waste management process. The findings show that sensitization of the visitors and creating awareness on waste management using various techniques is the prime factor, followed by reducing the influx of waste especially the non-biodegradable waste and finally treating the generated waste are the major parameters to successfully tackle the problem of waste management. The cleanliness and hygiene in a tourism site is often directly proportional to the influx of tourists and to create a sustainable tourism.

Key Words : Solid Waste Management Literacy; Solid Waste Production and Collection; Solid Waste Disposal and Treatment, Sustainable Tourism

INTRODUCTION

The United Nation designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism. Development of Travel and Tourism creates jobs, increase exports and prosper the economy, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. In India, Travel, and Tourism is the third largest source of foreign exchange, *i.e.*, 5.4% of our total exports. The recent statistics showed that the tourism sector had contributed 3.3% of GDP in 2016 directly which is 9.6% in case of total contribution (Turner, 2018). The sector had provided 5.8% of direct employment and 9.3% total employments. The tourism sector can be divided into two streams namely leisure tourism and business tourism. In India, 94.6% of the total tourism is running under leisure tourism (Turner, 2018) which contain Cruise tourism, adventure tourism, medical tourism, religious tourism, etc.

Leisure tourism is a kind of tourism where traveller

wanted to experience a change in climate and place and learn something new, enjoy the pleasant scenery or to know more about the culture of the destination. Tourism helps in to relieve the stresses in the day to day life, and make them refresh in the coming days. Those who are in search of all above will prefer to stay in some quiet and relaxed destinations preferably at hilltops, beaches, or islands (Forms of Tourism, 2013).

Here comes the importance of a neat and clean ambience and fresh air circulation which are the key things for leisure tourism. A proper waste management system is essential for a neat and clean ambience as it can reduce the maximum waste production and eliminate the existing waste items completely. Waste management is a serious issue in our present-day world. In India, 1.5 million-tons wastes are producing every day where 1/4th of it is getting treatment (Jadhav, 2018). Since the population has a huge effect on waste generation, it is a common phenomenon that half of the waste is produced