

Study of Tourist Places and Related Job Opportunities in Raigad District (M.S)

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ABSTRACT

Tourism is the business of traveling for pleasure or business, and tourism is the business of traveling, attracting, accommodating and entertaining tourists. The World Tourism Organization defines tourism more generally. "Things that go beyond the common man's understanding of tourists that are not limited to holiday activities, because people travel and live there. "usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure and not less than 24 hours, business and other purposes. The main purpose of this paper is to study Tourist Places in Raigad District which are creates job opportunities for the population of this District.

Introduction

Tourism is one of the most popular parts of human life in 20th century. India is a land of tourism. Especially Maharashtra is an important and best center place of tourists and Raigad district may be declared in future as tourist place in Maharashtra.

Tourism needs variety and Raigad district offers to every visitor something that is not found elsewhere in the local and outside people in India. It offers very things in a rich variety namely mountains, hills, valleys, a number of historical forts, thick and green forest sea beaches, landscape, fairs and festivals, etc.

Objectives

- 1) To study the endowment tourist places in Raigad district.
- 2) To focus on the means of job opportunities for local people.

Methodology

The data collection is based on secondary sources. The secondary data is collected from the literature of other researchers and Govt. published reports of several departments. For example, reports of the various departments, census handbook, and gazetteer of Raigad district.

Study Region

Raigad district which is situated in a State of Maharashtra. This is located in the Konkan Region. The district is renamed the fort of Raigad which was Well known for the former capital of the Maratha leader Shivaji. The district facing huge of the Western Ghats of Sahyadri range.

Population

According to the 2011 census 2,635,394 and the district has a population density of 368 inhabitants per square kilometer (950 /sq m). The population growth rate of the district in 2001-2011 was 19.36 %. (Several scheduled tribes live in Raigad district.

Subject Theme

Some of the following Geographical, Historical, and Cultural Tourist Places are selected for Study.

Beaches

Raigad offers a whole lot of beautiful and sun soaked beaches that penetrate the Arabian Sea.

1. **Kashid Beach:** Kashid Beach is located on the Konkan Coast on the Arabian Sea, south of Alibag and north of Murud-Janjira Road near Raigad. There is a huge sea fort and lighthouse.
2. **Kondivli Beach:** Kondivli Beach, located on the way to Shrivardhan, is 18 km away from Harihareshwar. The beach is noted for its brownish black sand. The Peshwa Smarak and Somdevi temple are the attraction.
3. **Harihareshwar Beach :** Harihareshwar beach lapped by the Waters of the Arabian Sea and the gentle winds and soft sands make this beach an enticing spot. Kalbhairav temple complex its major attraction.
4. **Shrivardhan Beach:** The Shrivardhan beach is one of the spectacular sun kissed sand beaches of Raigad. The beach has a nice atmosphere with unpolluted air and a blue sea.
5. **Diveagar Beach:** It is blessed with a very wide and clean beach with intense natural beauty. Most important things is that the Lord Suvarnaganesha is one of the main attractions for tourists.
6. **Kashid Beach:** It is 36 km away from Alibag, on the Alibag Murud Highway. This beach is possibly one of the cleanest and most beautiful beaches in the region with almost 'white' sand.
7. **Alibag Beach :** This is the the main beach of the town. The beach have blackest sand. In the right of the center of the town Ali Shah Bawa's mazhar so the beach is also named after him.

Fort

Raigad has quite a few renowned forts of which many have become an attraction for visitors.

1. **Raigad Fort:** is situated about of 30 km. east of Mahad in Raigad. Known to be Shivaji's impregnable capital, this was the place where he was crowned and died..
2. **Prabalgad Fort:** is situated on the Pune-Mumbai Highway near Panvel is the Prabalgad fort which was used as a temporary residence by Umaji Naik, a freedom fighter, in 1823.

- 3. Birwadi Fort:** Located about 11 km east of Mahad in Raigad is the Birwadi Fort on the way to Bhor. The fort was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj along with the Lingana to increase the protection of Raigad fort.
- 4. Revdanda Fort** was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji and is located at Revdanda in Raigad District.
- 5. Siddhagad Fort:** is situated about 16 km southeast of Murbad near Raigad. The Fort is divided into lower fort which is about 1,400 ft above sea level and the upper fort which is about 3235 ft above sea level.
- 6. Karnala Fort:** is situated at Karnala near Panvel, along the Pune-Mumbai Highway. It was constructed around the 13th century and was managed by the families of the Mudhan, Angres, and Peshwas until 1818.
- 7. Murud-Janjira:** is the Situated in the coastal village of Murud, and local name for village of Murud. The sailboats from Rajapuri jetty is approached by this Fort. The main gate of the fort faces Rajapuri on the shore.

Tourist Spots of Religions

- 1. Shri Varad Vinayak Temple** is an ancient shrine located at Mahad near Raigad. It is considered to be one of the Ashta Vinayak shrines of the state, celebrating eight instances of legends related to Lord Ganesh.
- 2. Pali Ballaleshwar Temple** is also known as Ballaleshwar Vinayak Temple which is one of the Ashta Vinayaka temples dedicated to Lord Ganesh in Raigad. Located at Pali, the temple enshrines a 3 ft tall image of Lord Ganesh with Siddhi and Buddhi on either side.
- 3. Jagadishwar Temple,** built in Shivaji's Royal Palace, is clear proof of his devotion towards Hinduism. History says that Shivaji used to visit this temple daily.

Lake

Raigad as much is known for its beaches is also known for some of its spectacular lakes

- 1. Savna Lake** is located near Karjat in Raigad district which lies west of Manekgad. The lake is a natural attraction with greenery surrounding it.
- 2. Gangasagar Lake** is an artificial lake which was constructed adjacent to the Raigad fort is the Gangasagar Lake. The popular belief is that this lake was built in the time of Shivaji's
- 3. Palasdari Lake** lies near Karjat in Raigad District. The lake is small and it is 3 km ahead of Karjat Railway Station. The Palasdari Fort is near by the Lake.

Other Tourist Spots

- 1. Jijamata Palace** a significant place in the history of Maratha kingdom. Jijabai, the mother of Shivaji is credited for the greatness of Shivaji. The Jijamata palace is the place where Jijabai, a lady of high values, lived till her death

- 2. Karnala Bird Sanctuary** is the very famous Bird Sanctuary in the District which is located in Panvel Taluka. The sanctuary is cover very small area of 12.11 square kilometers. In this Sanctuary the resident of various bird and animal also seen at any time of the year, especially during the monsoons. But most of the best time of migratory birds can seen from October to April
- 3. Matheran Hill Station**, a fascinating hill-station about 80 km east of Mumbai in Alibag district, is situated at an altitude of 800m.
- 4. Raigad Ropeway** There is a ropeway on Raigad fort. Which is the nearest passenger transport route to Raigad fort. Raigad Fort is located in Raigad district and the state of Maharashtra.
- 5. Elephanta Caves** Lying in the north- west direction of the coastline of Raigad are three small villages of Elephanta or Gharapuri Island.
- 6. Raj Bhawan** is the palace of Shivaji Maharaj from where he administered and managed his kingdom. The palace is made by a dual podium and wooden columns to carry the grand structure.

Observations in Relation to Job Opportunities

- 1. Florist:** One generally finds a row of stalls selling Flowers at the places of worship and shrines. It has become a flourishing business that absorbs illiterate and jobless people. They earn their livelihood by selling flowers and garlands to devotees. Moreover, the flowers are also supplied for auspicious celebrations on demand. It is a source of getting oneself self-employed without making a big investment in business.
- 2. Photographer:** It is a common sight of some people with cameras at the historical places and at the sight-seeing of ancient cultural and traditional heritage of India. They are professional and novice photographers who frequent these places of importance. Their modus operandi is to sell photographs and brochures to tourists and visitors with information relevant to the sites visited. They also photograph individuals and groups in the atmosphere, as required by charging them
- 3. Book - Seller:** A good number of book-stalls are located at historical and tourist spots. At such stalls, books on monuments, maps and informative booklets on ancient culture and tradition of India are sold to tourists and visitors. It is source of income to the local people.
- 4. Toy-Stalls:**We see many toy-stalls at fairs and whenever auspicious occasions are celebrated at the places of worship, shrines etc. These stalls are the main attraction to the children who visit the places with their parents. Local people, who erect the toy stalls, earn their livelihood.
- 5. Guides:** Jobless people are sometimes constrained to work as guides just for a few rupees. They show the visitors and tourist the places of historical importance. They also impart interesting information to them. Thus they give their services and earn.
- 6. Lodging and Boarding:** Hotel-owners engage some locals to recommend their hotels to the visitors and tourists for which they are paid.

7. Entertainment: Fairs are held at places of worship and shrines to entertain children. On such occasions we find giant wheels, swings, clowns, circus, folk art, dramas, tamashas etc for children and adults alike. In these activities so many people get jobs and get money. The following are the places of religious festivals.

- 1) Masha Yatra (It is arranged by Murbad Taluka This festivals attach to the near about 14 taluka)
- 2) Dahivali, Bhaliwadi, Yatra's at Karjat Taluka.

8. Transport Facilities: S.T. buses, auto-rickshaws and private minibuses are put into services to carry tourists and visitors to and These transport services create jobs for many.

9. Worship Material: Many stalls are erected near the places of worship and shrines to sell candles turmeric sacred holy-thread, holy-water, cotton, kumkum and other such things. They are essential for the devotees to offer to Gods and Goddesses. Many people earn their livelihood by selling such things. The stalls also keep photos and statues of Gods and Goddesses for sale. The following Yatras are held:

- 1) Tamhnath God Shiva Yatra in Karjat Taluka.
- 2) Dattajayanti huge Yatra in Uran Taluka
- 3) Varsova God Datta Yatra in Alibag Taluka.

Conclusion

As a matter of fact, unemployment poses a great problem to illiterate and unskilled labors. This class of people desperately hunts for jobs in vain. Since they do not have finance for investment they resort to doing such jobs cited in the text above. Present, 11.3% of the population depend on the sale of flowers, garlands, sweets, etc. They also sell such items at fairs. (raigad.nic.in/htmldocs/overview.htm)

Sources:

1. Gazetteer of Raigad ,District Government of Maharashtra.
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3. "Maharashtra Desha" Uddhav Thakares Books
4. "Sadh Sagarachi," Parag Pingales Books