

Tourism in Hadoti Region: Problems and Prospects

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Abstract

The area ruled by the Hada rulers or the Hada community, a clan of Rajput; present day Kota, Bundi, Baran and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan is known as the Hadoti region". The region of Hadoti or Hadouti derives its name from Hada rulers. The nature has been very generous in this area. The region has lush green valleys, dense forests, lakes and fertile fields. All these form a picturesque countryside, but despite of its rich natural beauty and cultural history, Hadoti is one of the least explored area of Rajasthan. In order to draw tourists in Hadoti region there is a need to study the problems and prospects of tourism in Hadoti region. This article covers all the major problems and prospects relating to tourism industry of Hadoti Region

Keywords: Tourism, Rajasthan, Hadoti Region, Problems, Prospects etc

Introduction

Conceptual Diagnosis

The Hadoti region is a treasure of cultural heritages, forts, palaces, temples, pre historic sites and splendid nature, but the development of tourism is low. Over the last two decades DoT, RTDC and other agencies are trying to increase tourists in this area. Various fairs and festivals are being organized by the tourism department; some notable are- KajleeTeej Bundi; Dol Fair, Baran; Dusshera Fair, Kota; Chandrabhaga Fair, Jhalawar and Bundi Festival, Bundi. With the focused efforts tourists' inflow have been increased in this area, but the progress is not consistent so far as was expected to be. Years ago, Rudyard Kipling, famous English writer and winner of Noble Prize for literature has written about the picturesque beauty of Bundi and latter, James Todd, a historian has also written praiseful about the fort of Bundi, but the arrival of foreign tourists as well as domestic tourists are just countable in Hadoti region. Despite of its rich natural beauty and cultural history, Hadoti is one of the least explored area of Rajasthan. Present study is a sincere effort to cover all the shortcomings, problems and prospects of tourism in Hadoti region.

Tourist Arrivals in Hadoti Region

Statistical data regarding tourists' arrival in Hadoti region is as follows:

Tourist arrivals in hadoti region

(As on 31st March)

No. of Tourists				Percent change over previous Year		
Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2010	247850	19853	267703	-04.10	-26.90	-6.27
2011	216446	19802	236248	-12.67	-00.25	-11.74
2012	198836	18525	217361	-08.13	-6.44	-07.99
2013	201423	18708	220131	01.30	0.98	01.27
2014	194736	18687	213423	-03.31	-00.11	-03.04
2015	237598	17978	255576	22.01	-03.79	19.75
2016	237850	17328	255178	00.10	03.61	-00.15
2017	235079	16457	251536	-01.16	-05.10	-01.42
2018	28594	18491	304445	21.64	12.35	21.03
2019	289004	**	**	1.06	**	**

(Source: Annual Progress Report, DoT. Govt. of Rajasthan, 2010-2020)

** The foreign tourists arrival for the year 2019 are under the process of counting.

The analysis of the above table reveals that: There is mix trend in the domestic tourist arrivals in Hadoti region whereas a decreasing trend in foreign tourist arrivals during the entire period of 2010 to 2017.

1. In 2015, there was a boom of 22.01 percent as compared to 2014 in domestic tourist arrivals in Hadoti region whereas there was a decrease of 3.79 percent in foreign tourist arrivals during the same period and a decrease of 5 percent in 2017.
2. There seems stagnation in foreign tourist arrivals as well as domestic tourist arrivals during the period of 2015 to 2016, whereas a decrease of 1.42 % in total tourist arrivals in 2017 was observed in Hadoti region.
3. In 2019 surprisingly, domestic as well as foreign tourist increased by 21.64 percent and 12.35 percent respectively. There is also an increase of 1.06 percent in domestic tourists in 2020 over 2019.

Objectives of the Study

The study has been under taken to know about -

1. What are the hurdles and drawbacks in the development of tourism in this region.
2. To mention the suggestions for removal of the problems and short comings in the sphere of tourism of this region.
3. Up to what extent the government of Rajasthan has fulfilled it's role in the development of tourism in Hadoti region.

Review of Literature

The researcher has gone through the publications of the state government, other agencies and the published work of other scholars in the sphere of tourism of Hadoti region. Some of the work has been delineated as follows :

A.F. ferguson and co. has prepared *A 20 Years Perspective Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Rajasthan*, on behalf of DoT, Govt. of Rajasthan but in this report no specific study has been done study has been done for Hadoti region. In 2015, Dr. Anukriti Sharma in her article, *Wild Life Tourism: Prominent Panorma at Hadoti Region of Rajasthan* has done a fine work, but the study is associated with wildlife only. Similarly in 2019, Renu Meena, Ram Prakash Saran and Veena Chourasia in their article, *First Report on Ecotourism Potential in Sorsan Region of Rajasthan* has also mentioned about the potential of ecotourism in Sorsan (District Baran in Hadoti region), but the study is limited up to *Great Indian Bustard* and eco tourism.

In 2019, A. K. Bhatia in his book titled *International Tourism Management* has covered most of the aspects of tourism, but this book is international innature. Similarly In 2020, M.R. Dileep in his book *Tourism : Concepts, Theory and Practice* has covered most of the theoretical aspects of tourism, but the book gives general information of tourism.

Thus the above cited studies are specific in nature and do not cover the problems and prospects of tourism pertaining to Hadoti region, but helped the scholar to understand the previous work done, related aspects to carry out the present study.

Hypothesises

1. The resources of tourism in Hadoti region have not been fully utilized

2. The Government of Rajasthan have not played its effective role in the development of tourism in Hadoti region.

Research Methodology

1. Analysis of primary data, collected through the pre framed questionnaire .field survey and use of secondary data obtained from the publications of Department of Tourism Govt. of Rajasthan, semi government agencies and from periodicals and journals published by other institutions related to tourism industry.
2. In addition to it, personal interviews were conducted of some of the tourists (domestic and foreign), hoteliers, transport and tour operators, government officials and others engaged in the sphere of tourism in Hadoti region.

Problems

The following findings in totality were viewed:

Ineffective Tourism Policy

It is reflected in unserious, inadequate efforts, no proper vision & mission for the preservation and development of tourism industry in this region. A distinctive tourism policy, marketing strategy and individual budget have not been formulated so far. Additionally DoT, RTDC have not formulated a comprehensive scheme for the Hadoti region. Even Baran having not Tourist Reception Centre, so no separate data regarding tourists arrival are available of Baran district.

Poor Infrastructure Development and Transportation

Infrastructure development is poor in this area. Roads are still under construction, train facility is very poor, slow and also not regular on every route. Moreover within 4 major cities of Hadoti there is no direct train connectivity. Only Kota has air services, but failure of air connectivity at Kota has adversely effected tourist's arrivals in Hadoti region.

Insufficient Tourism Services

Tourism requires certain prerequisites such as – travel agents, tour operators, information and guiding services, accommodation providers, transport operators, trade associations, regulatory bodies and tourism development promotion groups etc. Except Kota and Bundi most of these services are either not available in the Hadoti region Or in a miserable condition.

Poor Accessibility to Destinations

Tour operators & travel agencies knowingly neglect and avoid to visit such places to tourists where accessibility is poor and tourists in absence of any knowledge make a most favourable and convenient choice in visiting nearby tourist destinations. In this way some significant and worth seeing tourist destination are left over that is not in favour of tourist as well as that destination.

Undeveloped Tourist Destinations and No Proper Maintenance

Many notable historical monuments and forts are situated nearby water bodies or hilly regions. Over the years with close contact with water bodies and effects of weathering these heritages are greatly affected from leakages of water and negligence. The Government has shifted many artistic statues and

artefacts from this region to other places. Baran and Jhalawar districts have suffered maximum losses in this regard.

Insufficient Accommodation

Accommodation component of tourism is essential for providing food and also rest. Though, Kota and Bundi districts are having satisfactory accommodation facilities, but Jhalawar and Baran districts are far behind. There is need of star category hotels, comfortable resorts and other types of accommodation. It is an astonishing fact that poor accommodation facilities are the causes and results of poor tourism.

Lack of Amenities

Amenities like lavatories, toilets, clean drinking water and appropriate shelter huts in and around public spots, tourist destinations and at the place notably visited by the tourists is essential. Other facilities like dancing, recreation and amusements are important for every tourist centre. If we glimpse at the availability of amenities in Hadoti region we find that the picture is dull,

Improper Safety and Security

In recent year tourism and tourists are greatly harmed and affected by terrorists and anti-social elements. If any such event happens in any part of the globe, here in Hadoti region every tourist also becomes concern and worried about the safety and security of human lives and belongings. There are no effective measures for speedy settlement of complaints and suggestions raised by the tourists also.

Encroachment of Tourist Sites

Tourists come with a great expectation to visit our heritages, monuments and other artefacts. It has been perceived during the survey that almost every historical site have been encroached by some disturbing factors such as hawkers, beggars, lapkas, tout fellows and other local carters. They either forced tourists to make some purchase or demand food, money or other articles as beggings.

No Parking System

Though, the famous tourists destinations are having well connectivity, but in urban and semi urban areas the traffic system is not proper or even in miserable condition. Most of the tourist destinations in Hadoti region are situated at crowded and congested places such as Garh Palace of Kota, Government Museum of Jhalawar, Rani Ji Ki Baori of Bundi, etc.

Irresponsible Tourists

Many times the behaviour of tourists as well as civilians is irresponsible. They act in such a way that their activities are against civic sense. One can see garbage thrown by them which is harmful for wild animals and nature. Besides, at heritage sites they mark their presence by scratching on the walls and making diagrams without considering the valuable importance and beauty of that place.

Negligence Towards Cleanliness and Hygienic Food

Hygienic and purity is also associated with the quality of food. Tourist's major attraction is also to taste the delicacies and food specialities of the region, but except a few places almost every food is either

prepared or served in unhygienic and unclean conditions. During the survey the foreign tourists also complained for non availability of continental cuisine and other food of their choice.

Overcrowding

The overcrowding makes the tourist places uncomfortable, uneasy, unhealthy and unsafe not only for the tourists, but also for the locals. In Hadoti region, the overcrowding has been observed during the fairs– festivals. Simultaneously these overcrowding has direct impact on the conservation, protection and preservation of historical monuments, environment and scenic beauty.

Seasonal Business and Specific Category of Tourists

The hot and dry climate of Hadoti do not suit to tourists. They visit the land in winter season. Thus the problem of seasonal business arises. It effects earnings, employment and revenue adversely. In Hadoti region there is a class tourism instead of mass tourism for a limited period and area.

High Charges of Archaeological & Historical Sites

Tourists come to destinations for knowledge, leisure and relaxation, but it is noticed during the survey that high tariff charges spread great disappointment among them. Moreover, there are many hidden charges, but frustration grows very much when in spite of paying the amount there is nothing to be viewed or extra services.

Shortcomings of the RTDC

The RTDC is suffering from many problems such as shortage of funds & staff, skilled and trained men power and lack of co-ordination. Absence of stable tourism policy, professional attitude, innovative marketing and performance evaluation system. Besides, impediments from local natives, non corporation of travel agents and insufficient communication with travel agents are the other major problems of the RTDC.

Other Problems of Tourism in Hadoti

Inadequate advertisement, higher tax rates, non availability of continental food, poor visa facilities, insufficient communication facilities, inadequate health care facilities, booking difficulties of accommodation, delay in action by government officials, low political will for development of tourism, setback from demonetisation and COVID 19 and malpractices are the other problems.

Prospects

In Hadoti region there are so many places of historical importance, ecological importance, pilgrimage importance and pre –historical importance, besides a rare bio-diversity and scope for adventure, especially for water sports, The Department of Tourism organizes adventure-sports festival at Kota with co-operation of professional sportsmen and army personnel to attract the tourists. The boating facility in Chambal River between Kota and Jawahar Sagar is available from Chambal Garden at Kota. The tourists may also enjoy boat rides in Jaitsagar in Bundi and Keshoraipatan. The boat ride from Rangpur to Keshoripatan in the back drop of setting sun and the profile of the Keshavrai temple in foreground is an enthralling experience. A ride through crowded lanes

of Bundi in a royal Buggy or a city tour of Bundi on horseback can be an attractive proposition. This facility can be availed by the tourists at Bundi. A bullock cart safari in the Sorson Great Indian bustard hunting closed area is available from Amalsara village and the jeep safaris in the sanctuaries are facilitated from Kota by the Tourist Reception Centre. The trekking on the banks of Chambal River or thick forest of Mukundara National Park are not only a healthy way to pass the time. but also an ideal way to watch birds and other wildlife. Rajputana Aviation offers joyrides in a four seated aeroplane over the city of Kota and Chambal River.

The dams, reservoirs, tanks and rivers of Hadoti offer some excellent bird- watching opportunities. The reservoirs of Kota Barrage, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, etc. are huge wetlands and support a healthy population of residents and migratory birds. The medium sized dams such as Vardha, Alaniya, Sawan Bhado, Abheda, Ranpur, Hindoli, Girdharpura, Sorsan, Kanaksagar, etc. can be easily reached either from Kota or Bundi. The environment of these places is peaceful and over 110 species of water birds have been reported here. Mukundara National Park, Ramgarh, Vishdhari and Shergarh sanctuaries are known to have rich avian diversity of forest loving birds.

The painted stork breeding colony of Udupuria village is worth a visit during winter months when the whole area is abuzz with the calls of hundreds of chicks and juveniles competing with each other for food and parental attention.

The cave shelters and cave paintings of prehistoric man through stone, copper and iron ages to early history have been discovered in Hadoti. A glimpse of these ochre, green, red and white coloured drawings provide an insight of social life and the intellect of early men

In spite of all these attractions slow growth of tourism clearly indicates that Tourism potentials have not been fully utilized in Hadoti region, secondly If we glimpse at initial starting, we come to know that some private entrepreneurs, hoteliers, guides who belong to Hadoti region with support of royal families, personally invited tourists both domestic as well as foreign to attend some specific occasions such as Kota Dusshera fair, visit to Taragarh Fort at Bundi, temples of Baran, museum of Jhalawar and a few other places. Thus, State Government and government agencies have not played an effective role in exploiting the tourism potentials of Hadoti region

Now, the state government has taken tourism sector under priority and many new avenues of tourism have been emerged. Thus overall it was viewed that positively Hadoti has full potential to invite

tourists if above mentioned predicaments are timely resolved and elements for promoting tourism are satisfactorily adjusted.

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