

Sustainable Development: Sustainability and Safe Tourism

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Abstract: In 21st century, the concept of sustainable development is well known and most burning topics of discussion. In times where man is moving towards never ending quest for comfort and luxury; development is taking place in a rapid haphazard manner. This haphazard development leads to many calamities making a surrounding unsafe. In order to keep harmony in environment, development should be pertained in a sustainable manner. The following paper highlights the meaning, pillars and features of sustainable development; a preview and analysis of the hazards that has taken place in the study area that is Kullu-Manali belt in focus; correlation between lack of sustainable development and occurrence of these hazards and how they impact the tourism in the area. It also tries to define the meaning and essence of tourism, the main types of tourism sustaining in the region and how much sustainable development is important in the growth of tourism sector. This paper tries to conclude that sustainable development emphasize and lay path for safe tourism. It further tries to show through trend analysis the relationship between hazard risks due to haphazard development in the region and number of tourists that visited the region. Finally, it tries to answer whether sustainable development has a direct impact on tourism sector or not.

Keywords: Sustainable development, sustainability, tourism, hazard, risk, trend analysis.

Introduction:

Sustainable development is not a new or unknown topic in 21st century. It is a term that is well known and form one of the most burning topics for discussion. It is the umbrella term on whose meaning and shadow development roadmaps for different nations are carved out. As the title of the following paper reads out “Sustainable Development: Sustainability and

Safe Tourism”; it is quite loud and clear that the underlying research paper deals with how and to what extent sustainable development forms the basis of policy formation of tourism in the taken study area and what is the relationship between sustainability and safe tourism if any. In the end of the paper the entire conclusions are discussed highlighting the findings of the researchers.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To elaborate the meaning of sustainable development, sustainability and tourism and how these are interrelated.
2. To highlight how tourism is geographical in approach.
3. To outline the impact of seasonal hazards on tourism sector.
4. To show how in the absence of sustainable development, haphazard development leads to calamities making surrounding unsafe; thereby, affecting the tourism industry.

Methodology:

1. Data analysis of secondary data.
2. Descriptive observation of study area by site seeing.
3. Creation of combination graph like line and bar graphs to see the trend.

Study Area:

Kullu is one of the twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh with geographical dimensions extending along 31.99°N and 77.40°E having geographical area of 5503 sq. kms. It is surrounded by Rampur in south, Mandi and Kangra district in west, Lahaul-Spiti in north and east. The district is highly mountainous with number of valleys. The average elevation ranges between 1200mts amsl to 6000mts amsl and it falls in a transitional zone between lesser and greater Himalayas. The highway running across the district is National highway 3 which is highly susceptible to rock falls and landslides. As the entire region is part of Himalayas which are young fold mountains and the sediments of which they are formed have not still undergone compaction of massive level.



Map Showing Kullu District in Himachal with Map of India in Inset

Meaning Of Sustainable Development, Sustainability and Tourism

To begin with sustainable development, it can be defined as, “the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.” (Brundtland Report, 1987) The term can be simplified as a process or strategy in which development occurs in such a manner that while utilizing the resources of nature we all use them in judicious manner without hampering with their replenishing capacity. It talks about maintaining a mutual relationship between development and environment.

On the other hand, sustainability in the broadest sense, refers to the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. (Mollenkamp,2022) It is often broken into three core concepts like sustainable development namely economic, environmental and social. While correlating sustainability with tourism we can keep the concept of corporate sustainability in mind. In its context, sustainability refers to more than just environmentalism. Harvard Business School lists two ways to measure sustainable business practices: the effect a business activity has on the environment and the effect it has on the society, with the goal of sustainable practice being to have a positive impact on at least one of those area. While dealing with the meaning of tourism, the word tourism is normally viewed as a composite concept involving not just the temporary movement of people to destinations that are removed from their normal place of residence but, in addition, the organization and conduct of their travel activities and of the travel facilities and sa social,

cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business or professional purposes. (UNWTO, 2008)

After dealing with the above three terms on which this research paper is woven it can be interpreted that geography is common link between sustainability and tourism. The following few lines tries to tell the relationship between tourism and geography. Tourism is geographical because its dimensions include:

1. Human-environment interactions and landscapes.
2. Conservation and management of places and environment.
3. Environmental perceptions and sense of place.
4. Spatial behavior and human mobility. (Williams and Lew, 2015)

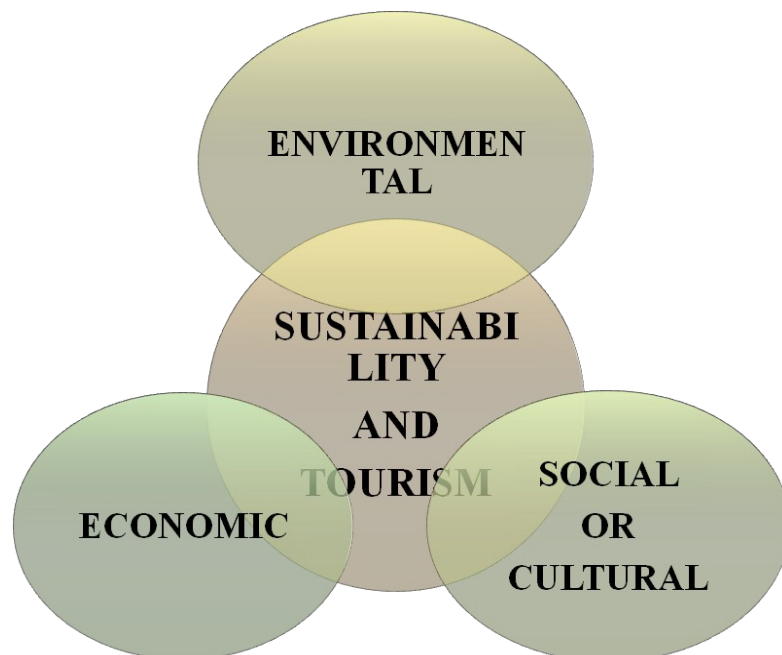


Figure Showing Working Cores of Sustainability and Tourism

Hazard Profile OfThe Study area

A hazard is a source or a situation with the potential for harm in terms of human or ill-health,

damage to property, damage to the environment, or a combination of these. (<https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au>) The study deals with the frequency of seasonal hazards namely landslides and rock falls due to torrential rainfall and haphazard development and how it hampers the tourism sector. Therefore, it's kind of important for us to know hazard profile of the study area. A hazard profile is a description and analysis of a specific type of local hazard. Hazards that can take the form of disasters are: -

1. landslide 2. Snow avalanche 3. Floods (flashfloods) 4. Mass wasting (falls, rotational and transitional slides, flows, creeps)

There are several reasons that the risks of hazards are rising. They are:-

- Due to increasing rate of deforestation.
- Extensive slope-cutting.
- Haphazard construction of roads.
- Heavy torrential rainfall (climate change).

In order to cope up with all these hazards several techniques can be employed like: -

- Afforestation
- Embankment
- Better drainage system on slope
- Check on Urban Sprawl
- Encouragement to eco-tourism



Image Showing Landslide



Haphazard Construction in Kullu Valley

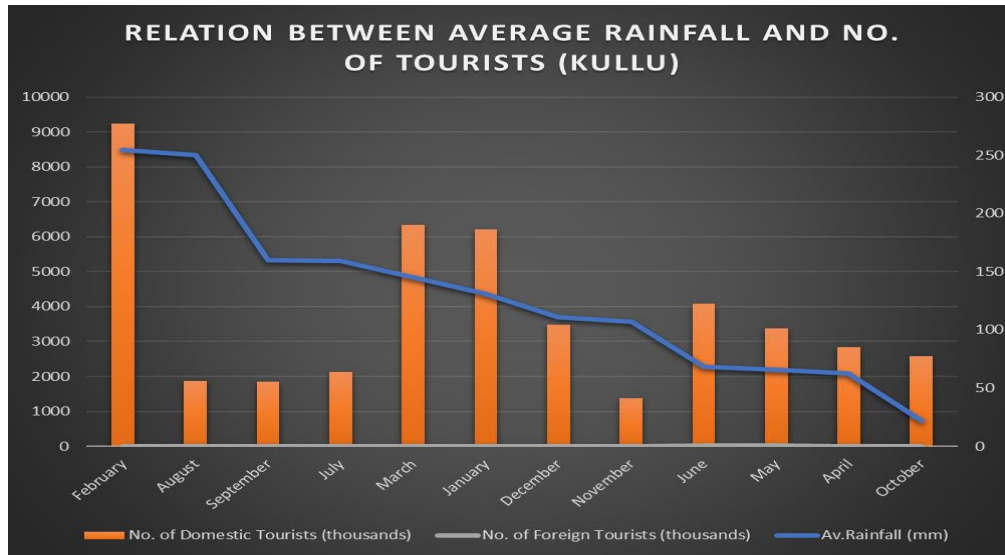
Data of Rainfall, No. Of Foreign and Domestic Tourists And Creation Of Combination Graph

The following table shows the monthly data on the amount of rainfall in mm and number of foreign and domestic tourists in thousands.

MONTHS	ACTUAL RAINFALL	DOMESTIC VISITOR	FOREIGN VISITOR
JANUARY	130.8	214226	5653
FEBRUARY	254.7	246263	5264
MARCH	145.1	343335	5790
APRIL	62.5	284041	13450
MAY	65.5	337502	15638
JUNE	68.7	408235	16552
JULY	159.5	213126	12538
AUGUST	250	186924	6369
SEPTEMBER	160	185803	10461
OCTOBER	22	277251	9805
NOVEMBER	106.8	138842	8642
DECEMBER	110.6	348083	9974

The above data is of year 2019. The actual rainfall data has been taken from Meteorological Centre, Shimla and the visitors data for the same year has been taken from Ministry of Tourism.

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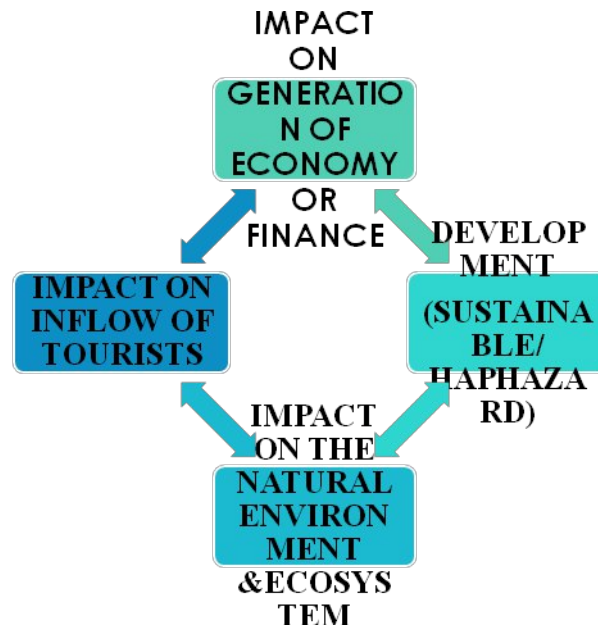


Combination Graph Showing Relation Between Average Rainfall and No. of Tourists (Kullu)

In the above combination graph the line graph is showing the average precipitation and multiple bar graphs is showing the number of tourists. Through it a clear relationship between both is visible showing the place witnesses least number of tourists during the rainy months of July, August and September depicting that as these both the place is susceptible to natural hazards. Therefore, the safety of the place is complex and number of tourists at decline. Furthermore, the increase in number of seasonal hazards and hazards due to haphazard massive development activities also hampers the economy of tourism sector.

Conclusion

After going through the data available, observing the sites of the region the following cyclic relationship between development and tourism has been created which reflects that there is a direct relationship between development and tourism. And sustainable development



boosts the upliftment of tourism sector of a region.

Figure Showing Cyclic Relationship Between Development and Tourism

Therefore, it concludes that hazards hamper the safety of a tourist destination which in turns impacts the number of tourist flow. Hence, highlighting that sustainability and sustainable development has direct role in tourism industry.

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