



STUDY ON BASIC PROBLEMS FACED BY TOURIST VISITING NAGPUR'S “DEEKSHABHOOMI” ON OCCASION OF “DHAMMACHAKRAPRAVARTAN DIN”

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ABSTRACT

Travel for religious purpose assumed a significant importance. Deekshabhoomi is situated in Ramdaspath in Nagpur city, is a sacred monument regarded as the pilgrimage centre of Buddhists. The place has great significance in the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. “Deekshabhoomi” means land where people get converted to Buddhism. Every year thousands of pilgrims visit the city; the event organizers gear up for the events week before the actual event even then there are places where the problems are identified. Some most common problem faced by the tourist in event are travel, food, water, accommodation and above all the security of the pilgrims in the event. The tourist visiting the city feel unsecured as on many occasions when they are facing problem like smokers and drunker in the event premises where the social policing is required in order to make the tourist feel safe and secured in the events inviting masses of people.

Keywords: Pilgrims, Tourist, facilities.

INTRODUCTION

Travel for religious purpose assumed a significant importance. The practise of travelling for religious reasons, going on a pilgrimage, become a well-established custom in many parts of the world (Bhatiya, 2003). Religious tourism, also commonly referred to as faith tourism, is a type of tourism, where people travel individually and in groups

for pilgrimage, missionary, and leisure purposes (eturbonews, n.d.).

Religious tourism is also known as pilgrimage and spiritual tourism. The evolution of tourism could also be attributed to journeys undertaken since ancient times to places considered as sacred. People travelled singly and in groups for the purpose of spiritual benefit and to attain



salvation and moksha (chapter1.pdf, n.d.).

Religious tourism is a journey, undertaken for the sake of worshiping and to pay respect to a site of special religious importance. These destinations are scattered all over the world (Rodey, 2009). The domestic tourist takes a break from the regular work and finds a good reason to travel under this type of nomenclature of tourism. Deekshabhoomi is situated in Ramdaspath, about 5kms. south – west of Nagpur city, is a sacred monument regarded as the pilgrimage centre of Buddhists. Deeksha literally means acceptance of religion and hence Deekshabhoomi is regarded as the land where people get converted to Buddhism. It is an Ideal place for the mediation for the visitors.

The place has great significance in the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. “Deekshabhoomi” means land where people get converted to Buddhism. A beautiful universal monument is built on “Deekshabhoomi” in the form of

the greatest hollow stupa. On the “Dhamma chakra Pravartan Din” thousands of Buddhist pilgrims participate.

Most of the visitors are tourist who are in need of the basic need of facilities shelter sheds, toilets, drinking water and food outlets, at this point of event the organizers try to provide few of them but understanding the volume of tourist it at times not sufficient. The event can be remarkable if proper provisions are made.

Significance

The religious tourist on the meridian visit is focusing more on the visit than the facilities that are offered by the organizers. The main problem lies with the minimum facilities need by the tourist like the shelter and the most important drinking water. The researcher is trying to find out the various problems faced by the visitors so as to suggest remedies to overcome the problems.

Objectives

1 Identifying the basic problems faced by the tourists.



2 To assess the deficiency of amenities for the tourist.

3 To suggest corrective measures.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive and analytical research design had been used for the study. The data was collected through questionnaire which was distributed to one hundred tourists visiting "Deekshabhoomi" in Nagpur during the period of 30 September and 14th October 2017 which were Vijaydashmi and "Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din". General survey had been taken to analyse the tourism scenario. The questionnaire includes the questions on visit, transport, accommodation, security, drinking water, health care, etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

From table 1, it is evident that majority of respondent that is 91% have visited Deekshabhoomi earlier and remaining 9% of visitors are visiting Deekshabhoomi for first time during event of Dhammachakra Pravartan Din.

From table 2, it is indicated that in majority 47% of visitors

preferred transportation facility offered by train, 39% preferred the Bus Facility and 12% of visitors preferred personal vehicles from hometown to Nagpur. Only 2% of visitors prefer by airplane.

From table 3 majority that is 45% of respondents preferred walking up to Deekshabhoomi after reaching Nagpur, 23% of visitors preferred bus facility and 2% of visitors preferred taxi who reached Nagpur by Airplane.

From 100 samples 61 tourist who had taken support of organizer provided facilities and responded. The table 4 shows that 38% of respondents were satisfied with the event organizers 25% of respondents were happy by the support and 29% opined the support was fair to handle such a large gathering of people and 8% of respondents stated that it was adjustable for a day or two in such large gathering, the tourist should be treated well.

From table 5 shows that the in majority 39% of respondents preferred staying in schools and colleges 26% prefer to stay with



relatives and remaining 33% of visitors preferred Dharmshala and tents. It also shows that hotels are preferred by 2% visitors who are flying to Nagpur from their hometown.

From table 6 responders staying in school, Dharmshala and open ground opines that it is not that secured as it should be; 96% of the responders do not feel safe at such places where as out 4% of opined that they find it secured.

From table 7 it is seen that 37% of visitors had witnessed the anti-social behaviour by drunker and smokers in public.

Table 8 shows that 81% of respondents faced problem due to smokers whereas 19% in public faced the problems of drunkenness which is not accepted by the visitors who opined that such people should be fined at such places.

Table 9 shows that 68% of visitors were satisfied with the health care support provided by the event organizers, as all the visitors opine that the health care support in very important because

the travellers to this location need to have food, water from many sources and it is not that hygiene many times.

From table 10 it is clear that 27% of visitors remarks satisfied on the health care support provided by the event organizers and 19% of visitors remarks it as good a majority of respondents that is 35% marked it poor as the support staff did not communicated well with the visitors.

From table 11 it is crystal clear that of visitors were provided with drinking water by the event organizers at Deekshabhoomi during the event of Dhammachakra Pravartan Din and Vijayadashmi.

Table 12 shows that 24% of visitors opined that portable water was an acceptable level provided by the event organizers at Deekshabhoomi during the event of Dhammachakra Pravatan Din where as 76% of people found that the level of acceptance was very low and the visitors had to buy



pouch of water for drinking by paying of Rs.5/- for the same.

From table 13 majority of visitors that is 48% stayed for three days in row and followed to them is 40% of respondents who stayed for two days. Travellers who stay longer, where as 12% people who travel with personal vehicle and stayed for more days in the vicinity of Deekashabhoomi.

Summary and Conclusion

“Deekshabhoomi” is not only famous for its architecture beauty and historical importance, but it is also major tourist attraction in the state of Maharashtra. There is a huge gathering of pilgrims during Vijaydashmi and Dhammachakra Pravartan Din at Deekshabhoomi. The tourist on religious tourism are in need of some basic facilities at destination. The researcher found many tourists with such needs from new as well as repeat visitor.

Most of the tourists were found to be revisiting the destination, the transport facility from their hometown was seen to be train and bus where as some

people preferred personal vehicle and very few by airplane. Further the preferred facility towards Deekshabhoomi was walking for most of the people and some preference were for city bus, autorickshaw and taxi was also seen. Tourist were also using transportation facilities provided by the event organizers. Most of the tourist were aware about accommodation facilities. Tourist had preferred the accommodation at relatives and Dharmashala felt secured as compared to those who took shelter in tents, schools and colleges accommodation. During the event most of the tourist prefer langar food. There was seating arrangement for tourist. Tourist said that they faced the problems due to smokers, drunker and thefts of goods.

Event organizers provide health care support. Tourist also were satisfied with the provided health care support. Provision for drinking water was made by the event organizers but the tourist preferred to buy pouches of water rather to drink that water. The



stay of the tourist was dependent on the transportation and accommodation which was ranging from two days to more than four days. The tourists remarked towards the support from event organizers was mixed in between satisfactory to fair support.

To conclude the researcher would like to make a note that the event is very big and the organizers are trying their level best to provide good facilities and support for the ease of the journey of tourists but there are many lacunas due to which the inconvenience is causing to the tourist. Thus, it is necessary to plan, organise and execute the full-proof plan of action for the convenience of the beneficiaries.

Suggestions

1. Special arrangement is required to make an event a remarkable.

2. The event organizers must give special attention to accommodation, security and good drinking water.
3. Government should take proper steps towards organizing such big gathering of pilgrims.
4. Local administration of city should arrange shuttle services for the local movement of tourist.
5. There should be licensed food vendor to provide quality food to the pilgrims.
6. The private and government security should be installed to check the anti-social behavior of pilgrims and take corrective action to overcome different situations.
7. The students from NCC and NSS should be called for services.

Table 1. Re-visiting Deekshabhoomi

| Sr. No. | Response | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 91 | 91% |
| 2 | No | 9 | 9% |
| 3 | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data



Table2. Transport facility availed from Hometown to Nagpur

| Sr. No. | Mode of travel | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | By train | 47 | 47% |
| 2 | By airplane | 2 | 2% |
| 3 | By bus | 39 | 39% |
| 4 | By personal vehicle | 12 | 12% |
| 5 | By taxi on contribution | 0 | 0% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table3. Transportation facility taken to reach Deekshabhoomi

| Sr. No. | Means of travel | No of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | By Autorickshaw | 18 | 18% |
| 2 | By taxi | 2 | 2% |
| 3 | By bus | 23 | 23% |
| 4 | Other -Personal Vehicle | 12 | 12% |
| 5 | Walking | 45 | 45% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 4. Remarks on support from event organizers

| Sr.No. | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Good | 15 | 25% |
| 2 | Satisfied | 23 | 38% |
| 3 | Fair | 18 | 29% |
| 4 | Okay | 5 | 8% |
| | Total | 61 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 5. Preferred accommodation

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Relatives | 26 | 26% |
| 2 | Dharmshala | 18 | 18% |
| 3 | Tents | 15 | 15% |
| 4 | Hotel | 2 | 2% |
| 5 | School/College | 39 | 39% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data



Table 6. Secured accommodation

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 3 | 4% |
| 2 | No | 69 | 96% |
| | Total | 72 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 7. Witnessed faced anti-social behaviour

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 27 | 37% |
| 2 | No | 45 | 63% |
| | Total | 72 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 8. Types of antisocial behaviour

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Smokers | 22 | 81% |
| 2 | Drunker | 5 | 19% |
| | Total | 27 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 9. Health care support

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 68 | 68% |
| 2 | No | 32 | 32% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 10. Remarks on health care support

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Excellent | 2 | 3% |
| 2 | Good | 13 | 19% |
| 3 | Satisfaction | 18 | 27% |
| 4 | Fare | 11 | 16% |
| 5 | Poor | 24 | 35% |
| | Total | 68 | 100% |

*Source: primary data



Table 11.Provision for drinking water

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 100 | 100% |
| 2 | No | 0 | 0% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 12.Opinion on potable drinking water

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 24 | 24% |
| 2 | No | 76 | 76% |
| | Total | 100 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

Table 13.Stay of visitors

| Sr. No | Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Two days | 39 | 40% |
| 2 | Three days | 47 | 48% |
| 3 | Four days | 7 | 7% |
| 4 | More than four days | 5 | 5% |
| | Total | 98 | 100% |

*Source: primary data

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