



Scope for Quality Tourism as Sustainable Livelihood in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India

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Abstract

With time, tourism has evolved in terms of its types, purposes, scale and dimension and thereby influenced the habitat, economy and society both directly and indirectly as well as positively and negatively. Today, it can be adopted as a very effective livelihood option especially in areas with high tourism potential. However, due to lack of infrastructure, the local inhabitants often depend on other less profitable sustenance options. The land of Pauri Garhwal, a district of Uttarakhand is blessed with splendid view of snow-bound peaks of Himalayas, scenic valleys, meandering rivers, dense conifers, and hospitable people with a rich tradition and culture to attract both the domestic and foreign tourists. The present study is an attempt to identify the scope, status and hindrances of tourism industry for becoming a better alternative livelihood option for Pauri Garhwal.

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Introduction

In the present day, worldwide tourism is the fastest growing industry. It is basically denoted as a smoke-less industry, but improper management may definitely turn it into an unsustainable and environment hostile industry. Well managed and planned tourism activities can positively strengthen the local economic scenario along with other associated socio cultural aspects. Though Pauri is the head quarter of the district Pauri Garhwal and the Garhwal division, yet this district is less developed than that of other districts of Uttarakhand in terms of socio economic aspects (HRD, 2004). Most of the people are engaged in the primary economic activities like agricultural practices, remarkably in their indigenous ways. The district is endowed with potential resources of development of tourism in a diversified way that may offer its multi-dimensional blends of tourism products to the visitors from India and abroad also.

Study Area

Pauri Garhwal, a district of Uttarakhand state encompasses an area of 5230 Sq. Km. and situated between 29°45' - 30°15' North latitude and 78°02' - 79°02' East longitude. Pauri is situated at an elevation of 1814mts. above sea level. Administratively this

district is divided into 9 Tehsils and 15 developmental Blocks. Pauri is ringed by the districts of Chamoli, Rudrapur and Tehri Garhwal in North, Bijnor and Udamsinghnagar in the south, Almora, Nainital in the east, Dehradun and Haridwar in the west.

Objectives

The major objectives of the present study are as follows

1. To study the present economy in Pauri,
2. To study the status of tourism in the district,
3. To evaluate the basic infrastructural facilities of tourism industry available in the study area, and
4. To analyze the potentiality of cultural tourism in Pauri.

Methodology

The study is conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data. In case of primary data local dwellers were interviewed and surveyed at different villages like Thapliyal, Ujiari etc. according to the purpose of study. The secondary data were collected from various sources like Census of India, District Magistrate's office of Pauri, Bikash Bhawan at Pauri, office of Garhwal Mandal Vikash Nigam, National Library, NATMO,

district websites etc. The relevant maps are exclusively generated by the author with the help of statistical techniques and GIS software like TNT Maps. Therefore, the study is based on both the spatial and non-spatial data.

Natural Habitat of Pauri

Geology

Geologically, the district exposes a complete section across the Himalayas from the plains to the Tibetan watershed. On the south, the narrow sub-Himalayan zone of low forest covered hills and shallow valleys or duns display a great sequence of fresh water deposits of upper-tertiary age, aggregating 17,000 ft in thickness and composed in ascending order of lower Siwalik or Nahal sandstones, with subordinate shale, middle Siwalik soft sandstone and upper Siwalik conglomerates. The great main boundary is separated by reversed fault sharply from the succeeding lower Himalaya and marked by a general rise in the hills by a cessation of the sub-Himalayan forest. The outer Himalayan zone and central axis include enormous tracts of snowy peak composed of slates and massive time zones, sometimes succeeded by bands of Mesozoic limestone (southern half) and shale and of schistose shale, quartz schist and basic lava flows (northern half).

Climate

The climate of Pauri Garhwal is very cold in winter and pleasant in summer. The main seasons are (a) sitkala or cold weather (mid-October to mid-February), (b) ruri or hot season (mid-February to mid-June) and (c) chaumasa or rainy season (mid-June to mid-October). In the rainy season the climate is very cool with a green landscape. However, in Kotdwar and the adjoining Bhabar area it is quite hot reaching high 40°C during the summer. In winter, heavy snow fall engulfs most part of the Pauri district. During the summer season local thunderstorms frequently strikes with heavy thunder shower. The average annual rainfall for the last 10 years ranges between 35 — 60".

Drainage

Garhwal is drained entirely by the Ganges River and its affluents. The term Ganges is only applied to the river formed by the junction of Alakananda and Bhagirathi at Devprayag. The Alakananda flows south west to Nandaprayag, where it meets the Mandakini, a river rising from the glaciers on the western slope of Trisul. Srinagar is joined by Bhagirathi from Tehri at Devprayag and the Nagar at Byansghat. From Byansghat the Ganges flows almost to west as far as Lachmanjhol. From Lachmanjhol to Haridwar, it forms the boundary between Garhwal and Dehradun. Along the rivers the hills present gradual slopes at the base and ends in a succession of narrow terraces and flats and as a rule cultivated.

Socio Economic Status

Population

Pauri Tehsil has the largest population in Garhwal (687,271) with 47.5% male and 52.5% female population and a sex ratio of 1103 females/1000 males (2011 census). It is a rural area with only 16.4% urban population. Scheduled caste population shares about 11.7% of the total population. Birth rate is high with about 12.2% child population. However, dependency ratio is not medium.

Education

Most of the peoples are educated with 82.02% average literacy. Male literacy is significantly high (92.7%) compared to the female literacy (72.6%). Educational institutes of various levels are abound; even there is a university for higher education in Srinagar, only 30 km from Pauri.

Occupational Pattern

Economy is rural with dominant primary activities like agriculture. Besides, a significant proportion are engaged in small scale industries, commercial shops, and services in local offices. Some are also engaged in wood-logging and pastoralism. In Pauri town, people are mostly involved in trade, commerce and service sector (Fig. 5).

Tourism

With steady growth of population landuse pattern changed from forest cover to terraced cultivable land, causing a serious environmental concern. Population structure, literacy rate and age-sex ratio denotes a broadly balanced situation. In a purely subsistence economy, it is an urgent need of the people of Pauri, to adopt an alternative livelihood option and it is in this regard that eco-tourism has been developed as it seems to be the best strategy for its sustainable development. The tourism industry of Pauri Garhwal has been categorized into multidimensional and extended categories. The places of attractions are —

1) Khirsu: The snow-covered mountains of Khirsu offer a panoramic view of the Central Himalayas and attract a large number of tourists. From here one can get a clear view of many a peak. Located 19 km away from Pauri at an altitude of 1,700 m, Khirsu is a peaceful spot, free from pollution. Accommodation is available at the Tourist Rest House and Forest Rest House.

2) Kalagarh: Situated at a distance of 48 km from Kotdwar, it is an ideal places for nature lovers. The dam across Ram Ganga river is also worth visiting. Accommodation is available at the Irrigation and Forest Rest Houses.

3) Chaukhamba View Point: Situated only 4 km from Pauri, the Chaukhamba View Point ridge overlooks the

splendid Idwal valley and Chaukhamba peaks. It is one of the prominent places of Pauri because of its mesmerizing scenic vistas.

4) Tarkeshwar Mahadev: It is 36 km from Lansdowne at a height of 1800 m, and is known for its temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Surrounded by thick forests of deodar and pine, it is an ideal place for those who seek beauty in nature. The temple committee provides a dharamshala for accommodation.

5) Jwaladevi Temple: It is 34 km from Pauri and is one of the well known religious places of the entire division and a large number of devotees come here round the year for darshan.

6) Neelkanth: It is only 32 km from Rishikesh via barrage and 22 km via Ram Jhoola. It abounds in religious favour, mythological significance and picturesque surroundings. According to a legend, this place derived its name from Lord Shiva.

7) Binsar Mahadev: Amid the dense forest of birch, rhododendron and deodar, the temple of Binsar Mahadev is located at an altitude of 2480 m and lies at a distance of 114 km from Pauri.

8) Tara Kund: Situated at a height of 2200 m, Tarakund is a small picturesque spot amid lofty mountains in the Chariserh Development Area. A small lake and an ancient temple adorn the place.

9) Doodhatoli: Doodhatoli, at an altitude of 3100 m is covered with dense mixed forest. It is one of the most picturesque places and offers a panoramic view of the Himalayan ranges and the surrounding areas.

10) Kanvashram: Mythology says that this is the place where the great sage Swami Vishwamitra meditated and the heavenly damsel Menoka disturbed him. This place is situated at a distance of about 14 km from Kotdwar, and has a great historical and archaeological importance.

11) Chila: Chila is a part of the famous Rajaji National Park. The fauna include elephants, spotted deer, stag deer, neelgai bull, wild bear, fox, porcupine, jungle fowls and peacocks. Besides, migratory birds are also seen on the river Ganga. There is a Tourist Rest House in addition to a Forest Rest House.

12) Auli: Auli, 16 km from Joshimath is an ideal winter resort run by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN). A 3 km long slope ranging from a height of 2519 - 3049 m is a major attraction. The Auli resort run by GMVN has snow beaters which beat the snow to keep the slopes fit for skiing all the year round.

13) Pauri: Situated at an elevation of 1814 m on the northern slopes of Kandoliya hills, Pauri is headquarter of the district Pauri Garhwal. It provides a panoramic view of the snow clad Himalayan peaks of Bandar Poonch, Swarga Rohini, Jonli, Gangotri Group, Jogin Group, Thalaiya - Sagar, Kedarnath, Kharcha Kund, Sumeru, Satopanth, Chaukhamba, Neelkanth, Gauriparvat, Hathiparvat, Nanda Devi and Trisul. Different villages of Pauri viz. Thapliyal, Ujjiari etc. are enriched with indigenous traditional values and cultures.

14) Skiing: The hills of Uttaranchal have all the ingredients for adventure sports packed with excitement and thrills an unexplored valley, towering peaks, flowing rivers, snow-capped mountains, a splendid combination of flora and fauna and vast tracts of virgin snow. Garhwal is an ideal venue for adventure seekers on the glaciers. It also offers the thrills of exploratory long distance skiing round the year.

15) River Rafting: Half-day float trip from Brahmipuri to Muni Ki Reti (11 km) is a very enjoyable option for both children, adults and elderly people with professional river guide and world class equipment. It includes transport to starting point, tea/ soft drinks, and rafting. Other attractions are shown in Fig.7.

Basic Tourism Infrastructure

There are certain infrastructural facilities which are essential to promote, develop and uplift the tourism industry in a particular area like accommodation, foods, transport security, water availability, markets, banks, public utilities, health localities etc. Among these, the basics are accommodation, transport and security. Status of these basic industries in respect to Pauri Garhwal is as follows—

(a) Accommodation: Accommodation facilities for visitors are not well developed and adequate. Number and distribution of the hotels and lodges do not have parity with diversified distribution of tourist destinations. There are limited tourist and forest rest houses in Khirshu, Chila forest, Binsar forest, and Kalagarh forests. Only there is a tourist complex in Kanvashram, and a resort run by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam in Pauri, Auli and Joshimath. All these are run by government through Forest, Irrigation, Engineering and Soil Conservation departments. Private hotels and lodges have not yet developed in and around the desired destinations. Though the region has high potentiality of receiving guests (both domestic and foreign) but unfortunately these destinations are lacking the required standard accommodation facility.

(b) Transport: Pauri town is an important nodal point of transportation in Garhwal district. It is situated on the way to Rishikesh, Devaprayag, Rudraprayag, and it is

well connected with Auli, Joshimath, Badrinath in the north, Nainital, Ranikhet, Almora in the east and Dehradun, Mussoorie in the west.

Road Transport: Pauri is well connected with all parts of the district by hill roads. Slopes of the roads are gentle to moderate. There is a large bus terminus at the heart of Pauri. The most common mode of transport is either bus or taxi. Bus services are provided by the state-run Uttarakhand Roadways, Garhwal Motor Owner Union (GMOU) Ltd. and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) Ltd. Operations of the Uttarakhand Roadways are limited mainly to Inter-state routes and major cities/towns of the district/state.

Railway Transport: The only railway station of the district is at Kotdwara, which was established by the British as early as 1889. As Pauri Garhwal district is situated in the Shiwalik range, expansion of railways network has been restricted.

Air Transport: Pauri Garhwal district does not have any regular air services. The nearest airport is Jollygrant, Dehradun, about 155 km from Pauri and about 120 km from Kotdwara.

(c) Tourist Security: Tourist security is nowadays a big social issue in various hills and forests of different parts of India. But Pauri is a peaceful zone where resident and tourist both are safe and secured from all sorts of security related issues. The American Methodist Mission has its head quarter here. Pauri is also the head quarter of the district Pauri Garhwal and the entire Garhwal division since 1840, which provides a strong and systematic administrative security. compare to image A (Fig.6).

Tourism Potential

Tourism in Pauri Garhwal District especially in Pauri Tehsil includes a number of exploring options. Pauri Garhwal is considered as nature's paradise and it attracts people through its charm and magnificence. The beautiful valleys, snow clad mountain peaks and the amazing views of the nature are the key components that attract the travellers. Beside this, transportation and tourist security facilities in Pauri is also quite satisfactory. So if accommodation facilities are diversified and upgraded then Pauri can definitely offer its multi-dimensional blends of tourism to the visitors.

The Fig. 8 shows that in 2003 almost 70% of the local tourist visited Pauri, rather 5% of visitors are foreign visitor and 25% are from other States of India. These scenarios have partially changed in 2012 i.e. local visitors contribute 56%, foreign visitors 6% and National visitors are 38%. Within 9 years this level of change is found in Pauri because small scale

upgradation has been done in accommodation facility for the tourists. The Fig. 9 describes the variation in hotel room types between 2003 and 2012. It is found that on the basis of tourist requirement Economy, Dormitory, Semi Deluxe and Deluxe class room have gradually increased for their pleasure and luxury, but it is not enough to cope up with the demand.

Similar variation in availability of facilities at hotels are being observed between 2003 and 2012 (Fig. 10). Facilities like television, heater, gyser, intercom, restaurant, banquet etc. have increased in time but it remains still beyond expectation. There are still lots of scope / space left for tourism development in Pauri. Quality and quantity of hotels, types of room as well as facilities available in hotels are not upto the mark here. So to develop the tourism industry as a fair enough livelihood option, Pauri needs much concentration of Govt., NGOs, Private entrepreneurs, investors as well as healthy cooperation of local people.

Major Findings and Suggestions

Diversification of tourists' accommodation facilities throughout the district is urgently needed. Transport network system should be upgraded, especially in remote tourist destinations to attract maximum number of visitors in the district. Proper advertisement of diversified tourism products of Pauri is an important aspect that is needed for the effective promotion of tourism industry throughout the district. Tourist Information Centers should be introduced throughout the district of visitors' better understanding of tourism products. Local CBOs (Community Based Organizations) are needed to be more active in managing village tourism. State Government and NGOs should take more initiatives to introduce tourism industry at village level in a larger dimension only after ensuring minimum impact.

By conducting different types of workshop and meeting, the local people of remote villages should be motivated to involve themselves in village tourism in order to get the benefit of tourism industry. Local stake holders have to be given responsibilities to encourage local people to participate in tourism industry. Improvement should be required in respect of sanitation, electricity, pure and safe drinking water, medical facilities, parking facilities of tourist vehicles etc. Training to be provided for restaurant and hotel owners on health and hygiene to improve food quality.

Conclusion

In spite of having so many attractive resources, the Pauri Garhwal is not recognized as a favourite tourist destination till date although it can be made an ultimate tourist destination through proper planning and mass awareness. There is a lot of scope to develop an eco-tourism project for environmental sustainability in this region and this can eventually become a positive alternative sustainable livelihood option for local needy

people as mono-cropping is the usual practice. Along with nature-based tourism, promotion of cultural tourism and adventure tourism hold the key to the future development strategy of the region.

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Table – 1: Demographic Features of Pauri Garwal

Description	2011	2001	Description	2011	2001
Population	687271	697078	Sex Ratio (/’000 males)	1103	1106
Male	326829	331061	Child Sex Ratio (/’000 male child)	904	930
Female	360442	366017	Child Population	83901	101255
Growth Rate (%)	- 1.41	3.91	Literate	494889	461675
Area (sq km)	5329	5329	Male Literate	262148	253270
Density (/ sq. km)	129	131	Female Literate	232741	208405

Source: Census of India, 2001, 2011

Table – 2: Demographic Features of Pauri Garwal (Rural – Urban), 2011

Description	Rural	Urban	Description	Rural	Urban
Population (%)	83.60	16.40	Sex Ratio (/’000 males)	1144	917
Total	574568	112703	Child Sex Ratio (/’000 male child)	913	860
Male	268029	58800	Literate	404558	90331
Female	306539	53903	Male Literate	213355	48793
Child Population	71170	12731	Female Literate	191203	41538
Children (%)	12.39	11.30			

Source: Census of India, 2011

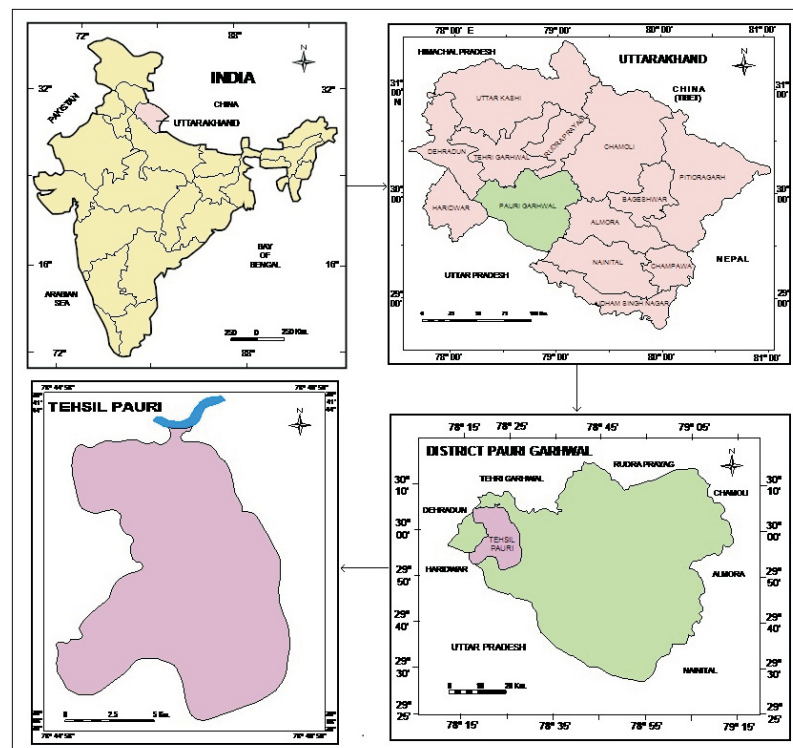


Fig. 1: Location Map

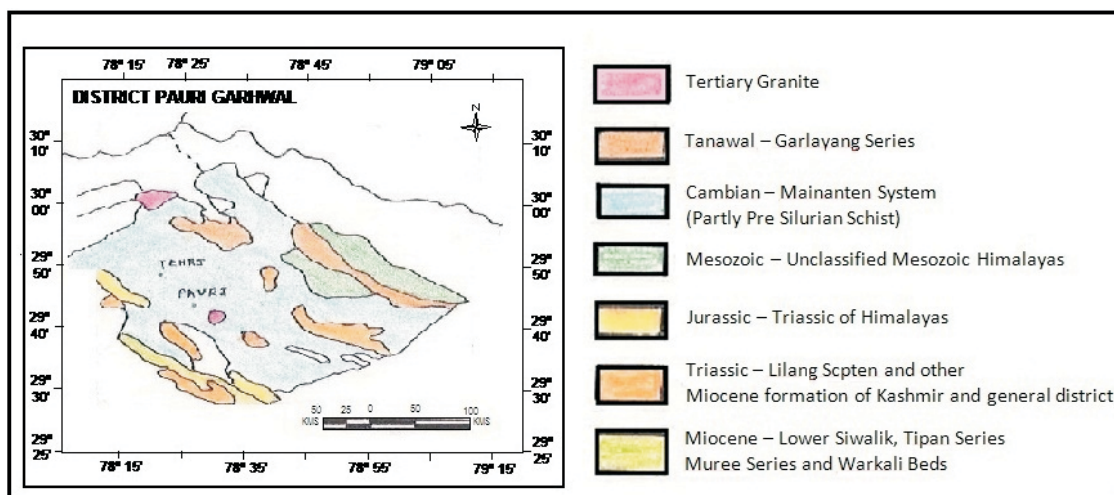


Fig. 2: Geological Map

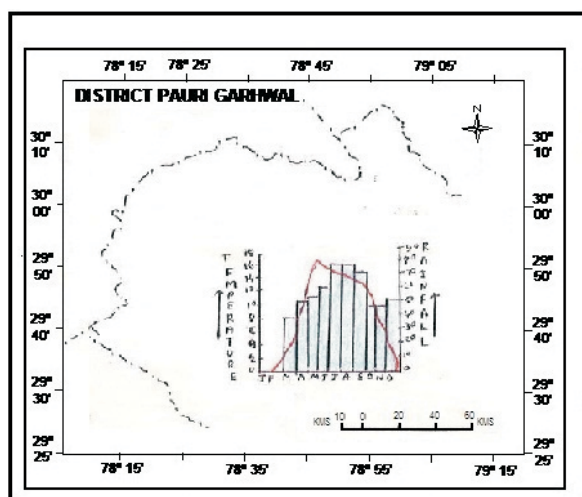


Fig. 3: Climatic Condition

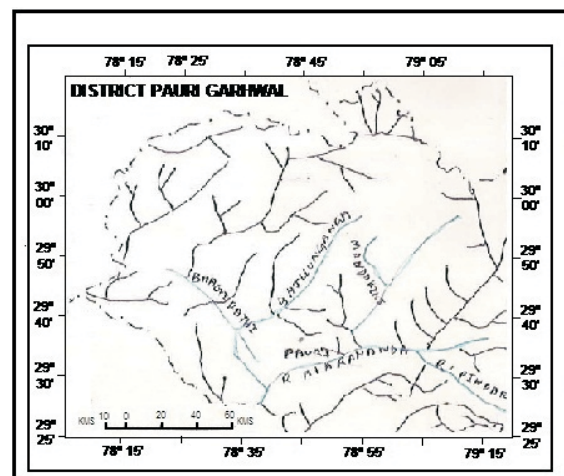


Fig. 4: Drainage Map

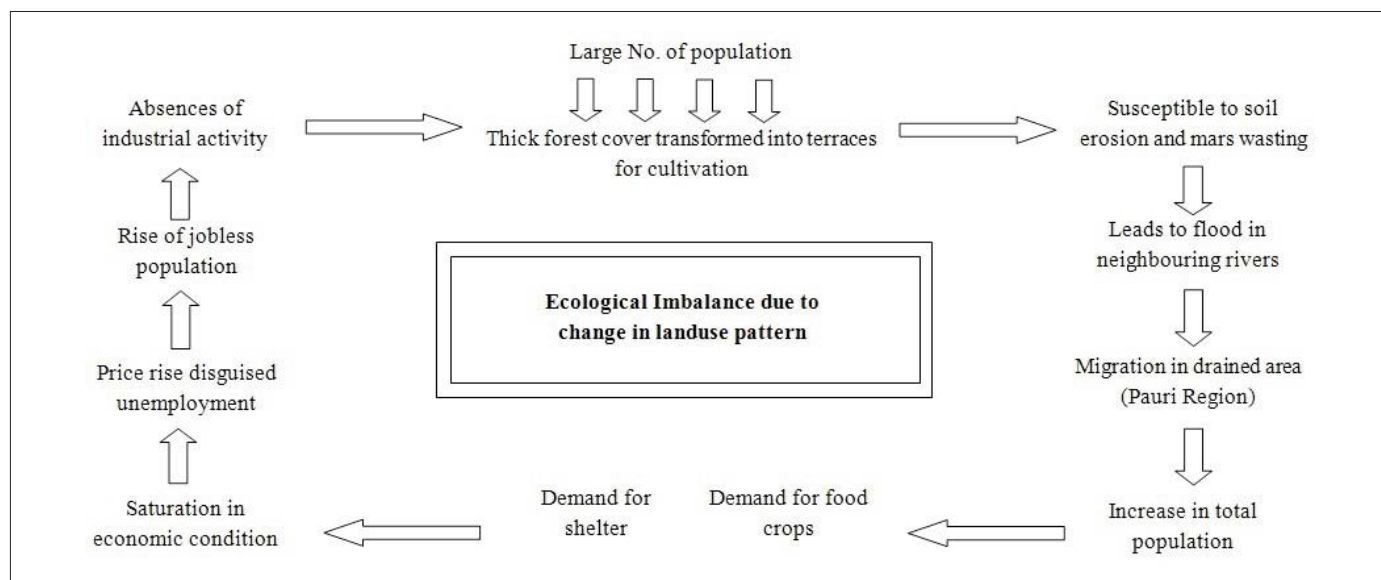


Fig. 5: Ecological Balance

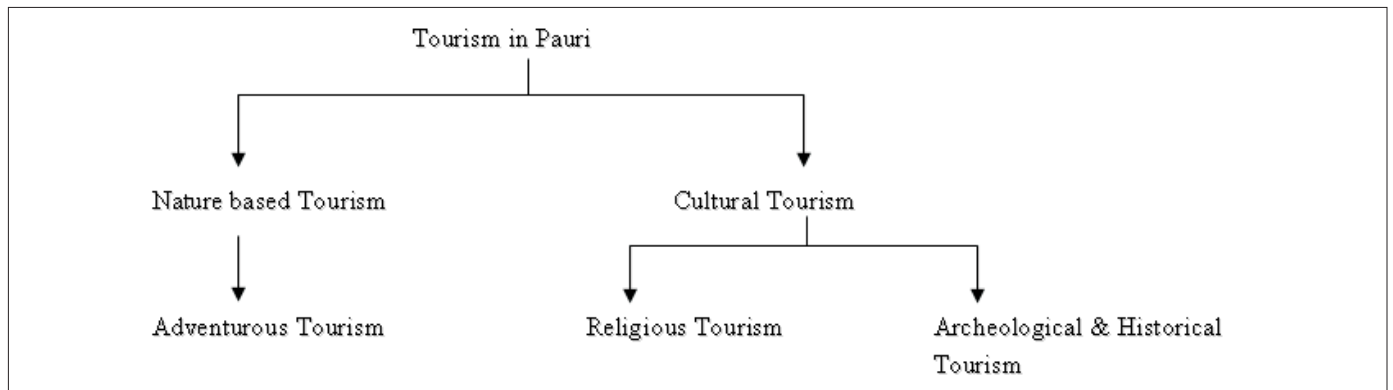


Fig. 6: Types of Tourism in the Study Area



Fig. 7: Places of Tourist Attraction in and around the Study Area

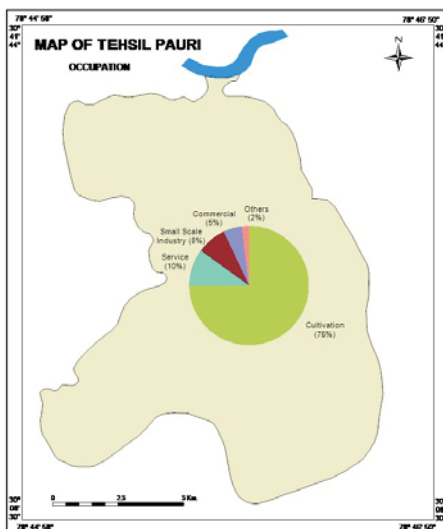


Fig. 8: Occupational Pattern of the Study Area

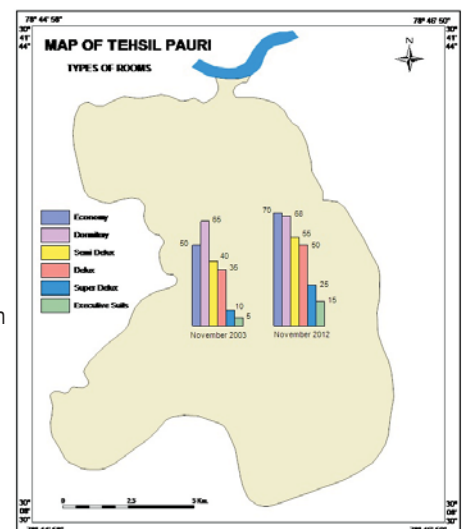


Fig. 9: Types of Room in the Study Area

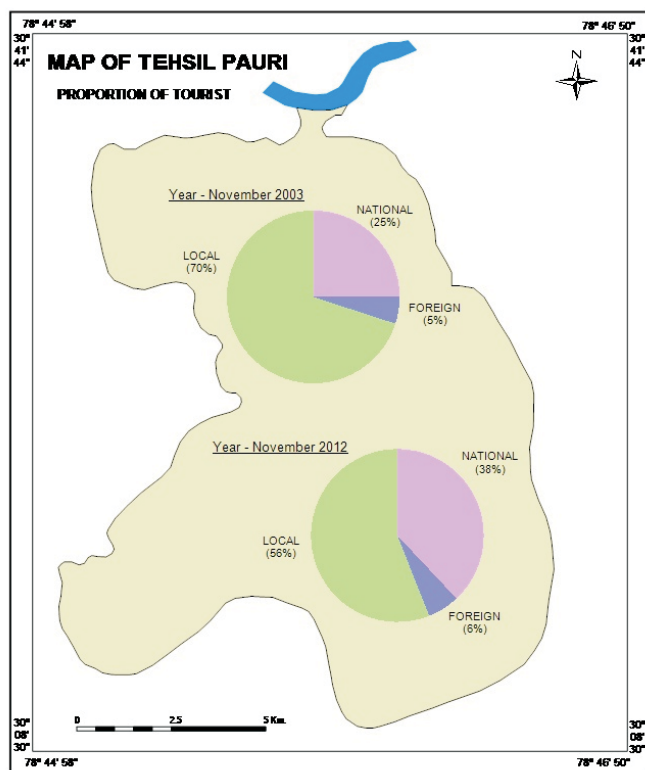


Fig. 10: Types of Tourists in the Study Area

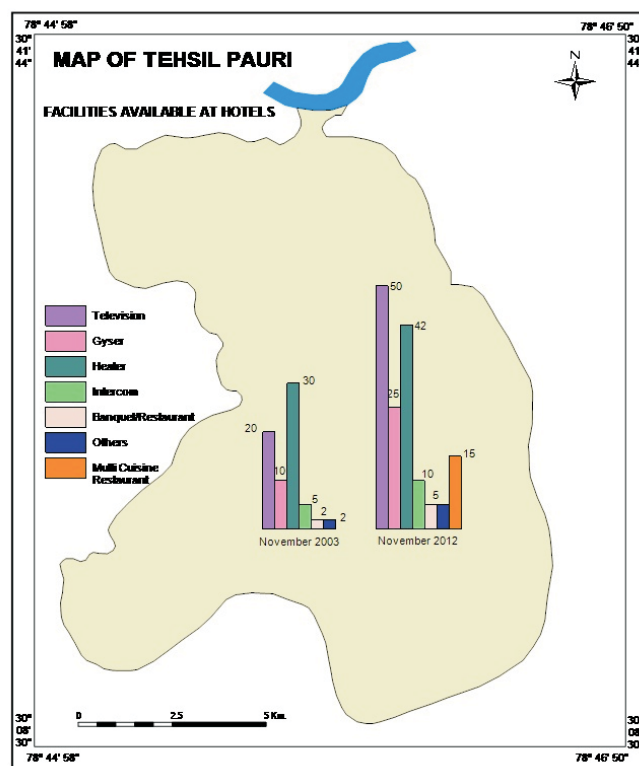


Fig. 11: Facilities Available in Hotels of the Study Area



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