

“Economic and Cultural Impacts of Tourism in Sylhet: A Possible Track of Tourism with a Goal of Sustainability”

The exploration of the Mystery of Economic Development; Tourism is a leading factor, especially in the Third World. The purpose of this research is to explore the various aspects of tourism development in the host community in Sylhet considering socioeconomic, cultural social, and environmental. The specific goals are: The first aim is to determine the views of the local people on tourism development, second, the purpose is to find out the advantages and drawbacks and finally the purpose is to come up with viable solutions toward sustainable tourism development.

The specified type of research is mixed methods, which means that both quantitative and qualitative data are collected and analyzed. The research data were obtained from 174 respondents under structured questionnaires, face-to-face interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations. The respondents were also asked and chosen through the process of stratum random sampling to enhance variety. Frequency and distribution analysis, internal consistency estimation through Cronbach Alpha, factor analysis, TA.

The findings show that tourism development has indeed aroused the economy of Sylhet provided employment opportunities for the citizens, and added value to the handicrafts and hospitality industries of Sylhet. Still, some of the problems that were mentioned include an imbalance in the distribution of the gains and an increase in the cost of living. The cultural effects involved on the one hand positive effects regarding traveling and tourist awareness of Sylhet heritage along with cultural imperialism and change of lifestyles. It has economically benefited the host country through improving infrastructure, public services, and literacy levels but on the other hand, socially damaged through social classification and overflipping of the social structure. In terms of the environment, tourism has created awareness and conservation; however, environmental challenges like degradation, management of wastes, and over-tourism cannot be escaped.

The socio-economic impacts of ethnic tourism as advocated in various works of Sadapathor, Jaflong, and Ratargul have shown that it has brought jobs, added income, and the ability to reconstruct culture and above all the interchange of cultures. But it has also resulted in the loss of culture and social transformation in some parts derivation of habitats and improper disposal of wastes. Another important discovery that the research made was the issue of interconnectivity between the development of tourism and the protection of the environment in Sylhet.

