

‘Impact of Eco-Tourism in Baripada’

Sanket Prakash Kela
FOURTH YEAR B. ARCH
2019/2020

Abstract:

Today, Tourism is one of the key sectors generating revenue and employment. Baripada being rich in heritage, culture and scenic beauties, makes it one of the most preferred tourist destinations. But this also brings in forth, the concern for conserving and protecting our major sites. Hence, drawing our attention towards eco-tourism. What would be the impact of developing eco-tourism in Baripada village? is question raised. To study geography and ecology of Baripada. To study the socio-cultural context of Baripada. To study the potential of Baripada as eco-tourism place. To study the steps to adopt sustainable eco-tourism. This article studies the concept of eco-tourism and its various aspects. The data collection method used was primary data from interview method and secondary data from e- journals, books and websites. The results show that there is a continuous increase in the inflow of tourists in Baripada in recent years, which demands continuous and rigorous efforts on the part of Tourism and tourists to support and promote Eco-tourism. This study proposes to analyze the tourist potential of Baripada village and the scope for improvement.

Keywords: Eco-tourism, ecosystem, sustainable, Baripada village, socio-cultural

Date of Submission: 10-01-2022

Date of acceptance: 24-01-2022

I. Introduction:

Ecotourism is entirely a new approach in tourism. Ecotourism is a preserving travel to natural areas to appreciate the cultural and natural history of the environment, taking care not to disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, while creating economic opportunities that make conservation and protection of natural resources advantageous to the local people. In short, ecotourism can be categorized as tourism programme that is - "Nature based, ecologically sustainable, where education and interpretation is a major constituent and where local people are benefited." All this together can be called ecotourism. If a travel does not satisfy any one of these constituents, then it is not called a real ecotourism venture.

1.2 Introduction to site:

Baripada:

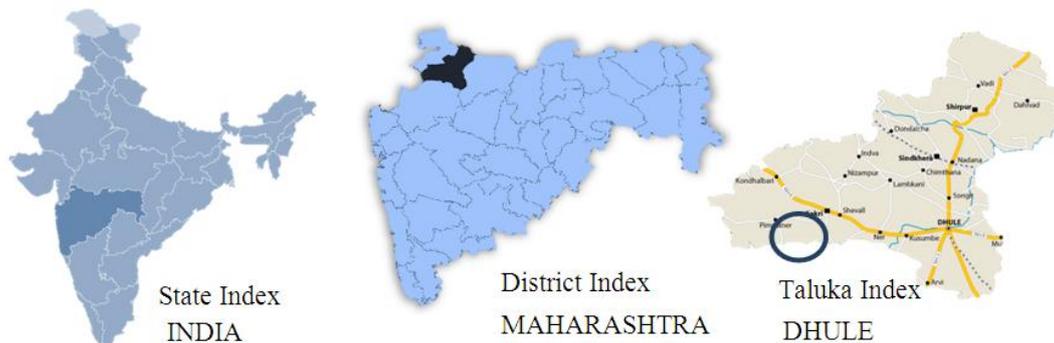




Fig1: Baripada village (source: Google maps)

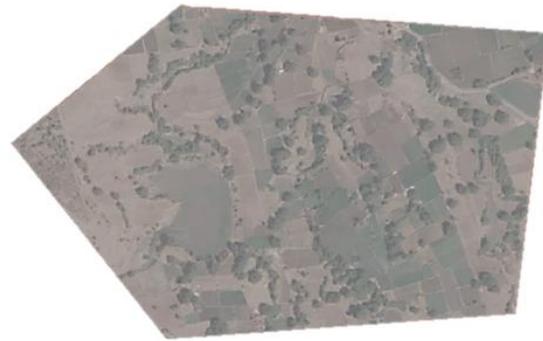


Fig2: Baripada village (source: Google maps)

Baripada is located 20°52'06.8"N 73°59'00.8"E. Baripada is a small Village/hamlet in Sakri Taluka in Dhule District of Maharashtra State, India. It comes under Mapalgaon Panchayath. It belongs to Khandesh and Northern Maharashtra region. It belongs to Nashik Division. It is located 70 KM towards west from Dhule.

1.3 Ecology of Baripada: The village is surrounded by a 445-ha forest supporting a rich vegetation composed of species such as teak or saag, devakhumba, palas, pangara, ain, kumbha, moha or mahua, neem or kadulimb, karwand and others. Wild animals found here are panther, Indian wolf, black-naped hare, fox, monitor lizard, and others.



Fig3: Baripada village (source: Chaitram Pawar)



Fig4: Baripada village (source: Chaitram Pawar)

1.4 Need of study:

Baripada is a beautiful village having various wonderful places. The villagers of Baripada developed many rules about tourism. It is also about uniting conservation of many types, communities and sustainable travel, and those who implement, participates in the market ecotourism activities should adopt with some principles. This can be improved when people build respect to environment and cultural awareness and provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts by generating financial benefits for both people and industry,

designing, constructing and operating low- impact facilities. This is beneficial as it can improve tourism system and conservation of environment to make a better society.

1.5 Aim: Role of socio-cultural values to promote eco-tourism in Baripada.

1.6 Objective:

- I. To study geography and ecology of Baripada.
- II. To study the socio-culture of Baripada.
- III. To study the potential of Baripada as eco-tourism place.
- IV. To study the steps to adopt sustainable eco-tourism.

1.7 Scope:

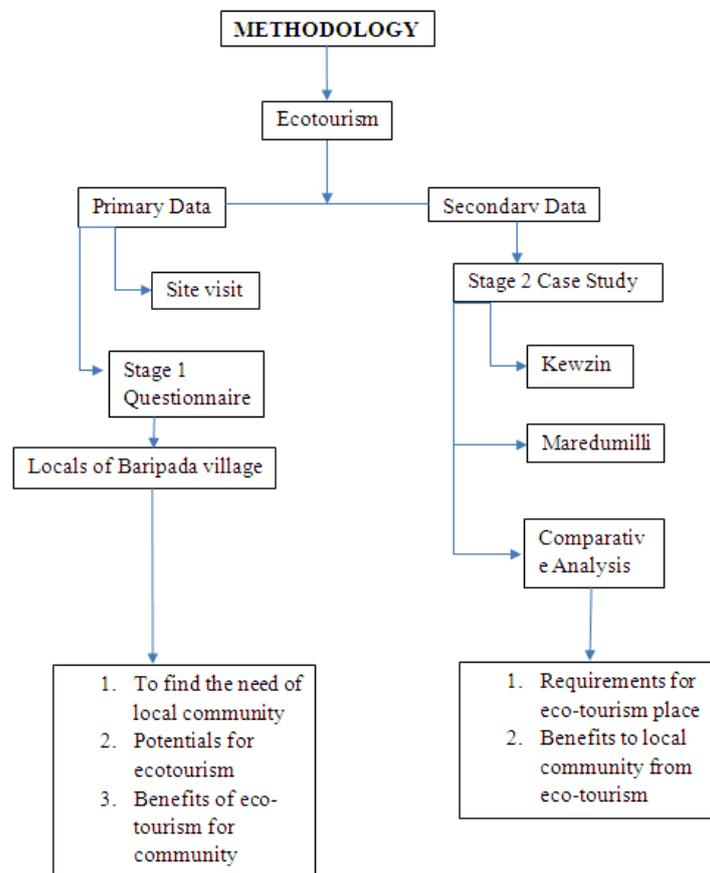
Scope of research can be extended to develop community based sustainable eco-tourism in 445ha dense forest area of Baripada.

1.8 Limitation:

This particular study is limited only to analyze the existing situation and acknowledge the potential for eco-tourism. Which can further be supported by policies and design interventions in later research proposal.

II. Methodology:

The study has adopted by interview and case study method. Interview of locals of baripada with questionnaire regarding eco-tourism is taken. The secondary data has been collected from the concerned department, published book & journals, botchers, magazine, case studies and from various related websites etc. The data were also analyzed through the relevant inferences were drawn.



2.1 Ecotourism:

‘Ecotourism is a form of tourism inspired primarily by the natural history of an area, including its indigenous cultures. The ecotourist visits relatively undeveloped areas in the spirit of appreciation, participation and sensitivity. The ecotourist practices a non-consumptive use of wildlife and natural resources and contributes to the visited area through labor or financial means aimed at directly benefiting the conservation of the site and the economic well-being of the local residents...’

Ecotourism is entirely a new approach in tourism. Ecotourism is a preserving travel to natural areas to appreciate the cultural and natural history of the environment, taking care not to disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, while creating economic opportunities that make conservation and protection of natural resources advantageous to the local people. In short, ecotourism can be categorized as tourism programme that is - "Nature based, ecologically sustainable, where education and interpretation is a major constituent and where local people are benefited." All this together can be called ecotourism. If a travel does not satisfy any one of these constituents, then it is not called a real ecotourism venture.

2.2 Pros and Cons of ecotourism:

Is Eco Tourism Beneficial? Undoubtedly, Yes! As the eco-tourism is a nature-based tourism which preserves the nature and the cultural values of the locals.

2.2.1 Pros:

- Eco Tourism minimizes the negative impacts on the local people and the natural environment.
- Eco Tourism minimizes the negative impacts on the local people and the natural environment.
- Eco tourism directs economic and other benefits to the local people by providing them employment.
- It promotes conservation of natural assets and enhances the cultural integrity of the local people.
- Eco tourism has become the major source of income and is attracting lot of travel agencies than ever before.
- It promotes the preservation of wildlife and the natural habitats. Providing positive attitude and experience among the travelers.
- Eco tourism supports the international labor agreements.
- Ensures that the natural resources are conserved and managed properly so that they could be saved for the future generations.

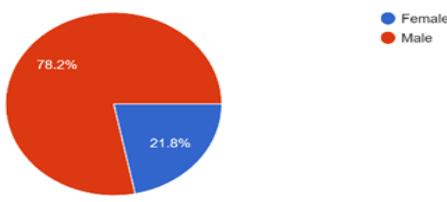
On the other hand, if eco-tourism is not monitored properly it can be as damaging as the mass tourism:

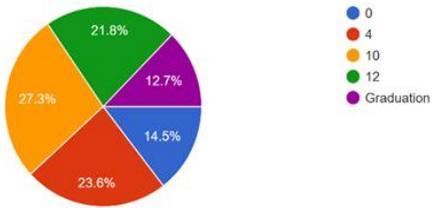
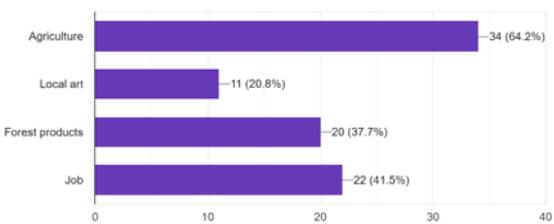
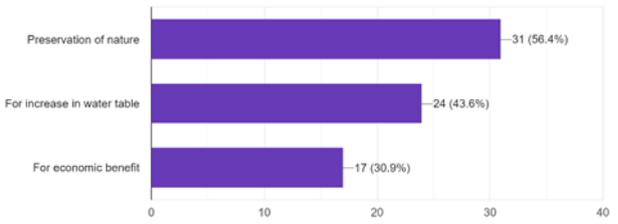
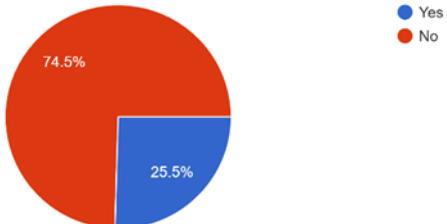
2.2.2 Cons:

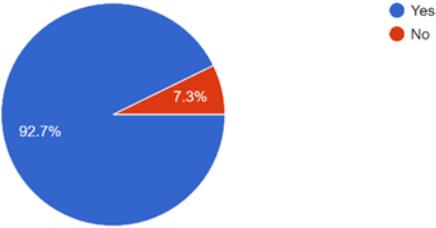
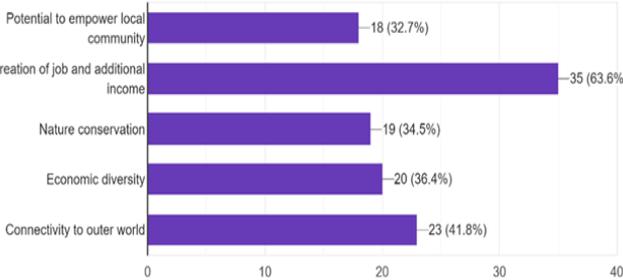
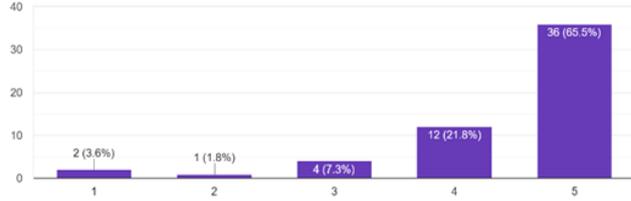
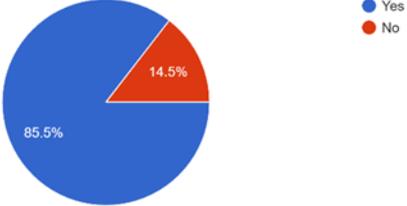
- It is the major threat to the rich biodiversity and natural habitats of the wilds in the jungles.
- Eco tourism tends to conserve the environment at the expense of the development prospects for the third world communities.
- Located in the eco systems, eco-tourism projects itself are the biggest obstacle in the way of the development of the environment.
- Competition for eco-tourism income between the various groups leads to social disharmony.

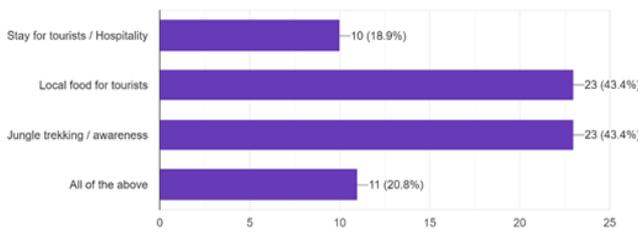
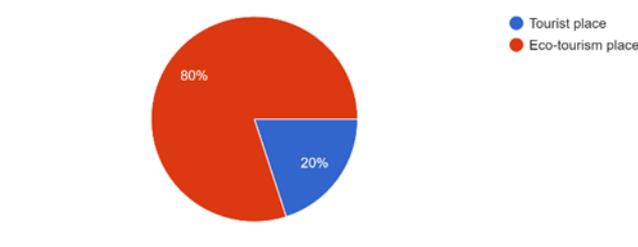
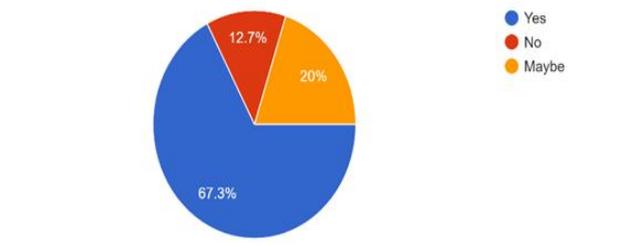
Increased use of resources by the human population, even in the smallest sense cause problem to the environment.

2.3 Stage 1 – Google Forms:

Sr. no	Data	Statistics	Inference						
1.	GENDER	<p>Gender 55 responses</p>  <p>Legend: Female (Blue), Male (Red)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Gender Distribution Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>21.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>78.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Female	21.8%	Male	78.2%	-
Gender	Percentage								
Female	21.8%								
Male	78.2%								

<p>2.</p>	<p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>Education 55 responses</p>  <p> ● 0 ● 4 ● 10 ● 12 ● Graduation </p>	<p>Many of the villagers are studied till 4th class, very few are graduated from baripada village.</p> <p>Literacy rate is low.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>OCCUPATION</p>	<p>Mode of occupation 53 responses</p> 	<p>Major occupation of villagers is agriculture and forest products</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>ABOUT AIM WHILE WORKING FOR CONSERVING OF FOREST</p>	<p>What was your aim while working for conservation of Forest in Baripada ? 55 responses</p> 	<p>Their aim while working for forest conservation is to preserve the nature</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>KNOWLEDGE ECOTOURISM</p>	<p>Have you heard about Eco-tourism ? 55 responses</p>  <p> ● Yes ● No </p>	<p>About 75% of villagers don't know the concept of eco-tourism</p>

6.	OF NEED FOR ECOTOURISM	<p>Is there any need for Eco-tourism ? 55 responses</p>  <p>Legend: Yes (Blue), No (Red)</p>	<p>After explaining the concept nearly all villagers feel the need for eco-tourism in</p>
7.	IMPACT FOR POSITIVE ECOTOURISM	<p>What positive impact of Eco-tourism you think will be beneficial ? 55 responses</p> 	<p>Need for job and income both the needs will be fulfilled by eco-tourism</p>
8.	ECOTOURISM FOR NATURE CONSERVATION	<p>How important is Eco-tourism for nature conservation ? 55 responses</p> 	<p>Ecotourism is important and will prove helpful for nature conservation</p>
9.	TOURISM FOR ECONOMY	<p>Is tourism will be economically beneficial for you ? 55 responses</p>  <p>Legend: Yes (Blue), No (Red)</p>	<p>Ecotourism will be economically beneficial for villagers of baripada and amongst them it will be more beneficial to farmers.</p>

10.	FOR ACTIVITIES ECOTOURISM	<p>Which activities will you provide for Eco-tourism ? 53 responses</p> 	<p>Villagers are interested to provide local food and to aware tourists about forest conservation.</p>
11.	NEXT CHOICE FOR HOLIDAY	<p>If you get chance for holiday, which type of destination would you prefer ? 55 responses</p> 	<p>After knowing the concept of eco-tourism majority for own holiday destination is towards eco-tourist spot.</p>
12.	OPINION ABOUT GENERATION	<p>Whether next generation of your village will conserve the forest as you did ? 55 responses</p> 	<p>They think future generation of their village will also conserve the forest as they did.</p>

2.4 Stage 2 – Case Study:

The case study comprises of analysis of two case studies of eco-tourism villages.

2.4.1. Eco-tourism in Maredumilli

Sr.no	Parameter	Maredumilli	Inference
1.	Location	The Maredumilli Community Conservation and Eco Tourism Area is situated on Maredumilli – Bhadrachalam road, nearly 4 Km. away from Maredumilli village.	-
2.	Biodiversity	The Maredumilli Forests of East Godavari District are having rich biodiversity and the area is having semi evergreen forests with undulating terrain, which forms part of the Eastern Ghats.	1. The location of Maredumilli is comprises of river and forest area both factors proved beneficial for ecotourism.
3.	Demographics	-Town population of 3664 Number of houses are 764	-
4.	Local community participation	The eco-tourism project is managed by the local indigenous tribal communities of Valamuru and Somireddypalem and also the Valmeekipeta Vana Samrkhshana Samithi with the active support of Andhra Pradesh Forest Department.	1. The local community is actively participated for ecotourism 2. Tribes in the area are participated for movement.
5.	Economic benefits	1. Revenue to the 30 local families involved in the tourism project that is additional to their routine earnings. 2. Direct employment for 30 families, including women, in one way or the other through the project. 3. Sale of tribal handicrafts made of bamboo.	1. Eco-tourism gives direct employment to 30 families 2. Sale of handicrafts. 3. Income from sales of forest products.

		4. Income from sales of forest products such as Honey, Gooseberry, Jackfruits and Toddy. 5. Tips from visitors while performing tribal folk dances.	
6.	Benefits to the Forest department	1. Effective protection of forest and wildlife with involvement of tribal communities through Forest Protection Committees. 2. Weaning away the tribal community from practicing shifting cultivation that is unsustainable and harmful to the environment.	1. Protection of forest and wildlife. 2. Reduction in forest wood sales.
7.	Social Benefits	The local communities also get social benefits out of interaction with the visitors. As tourism activity increases in the area, the local people exhibit their indigenous traditional skills and disseminate these traditional knowledge systems to the visitors. The local tribes also get trained in interpreting the flora, especially the medicinal plants, as well as the habits and habitat of the wild fauna, traditional therapies and healing system.	1. Locals exhibit indigenous traditional skills. 2. Trained in interpreting medicinal plants.

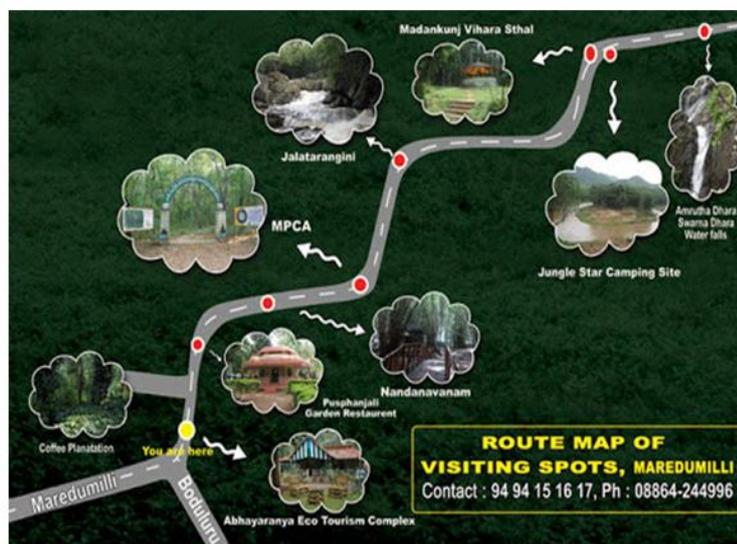


Fig5: route map of visiting spots of Maredumilli (source- Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development)



Fig6: Maredumilli eco-tourist destination (source- Andhra Pradesh Tourism)

2.4.2. Kewzing Eco-Tourism

Sr.no	Parameter	Kewzing	Inference
1.	Location	Kewzing is situated in South Sikkim, just 8 kms from Ravangla and 76 kms from Gangtok	-
2.	Biodiversity	The village of Kewzing in Sikkim is set against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains and is a picture of scenic beauty. The village is also surrounded by Mount Narsing and Mount Kabru. The village on the whole comes across as a peaceful hamlet that presents an image of rustic simplicity in all its splendor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The natural presence of mountains, rivers gives special support for ecotourism. 2. The snow-covered mountains give picturesque of nature and its beauty.
3.	Demographics	District population of south Sikkim is 146,850	-
4.	Local community participation	The said committee comprised of 15 Bhutia families from Kewzing village. This was one of the key factors that led to the initiation of this project. The committee is headed by three prominent members who act in the capacity of President, Vice-President and General Secretary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation of locals are remarkable in kewzing for ecotourism 2. At initial stage 10 families and later 15 families are actively participated in ecotourism activity.
5.	Economic benefits	Households with no income sources were able to sustain themselves in a fair manner while families who were already generating income from traditional activities were able to enhance their income considerably (Peaty, 2004). With the changing preferences of tourists who opted for eco-tourism rather than regular tourism, the scenario is set to improve further.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Income from home stay program. 2. 70% income from eco-tourism activities.
6.	Social benefits	As far as social impact is considered, the local communities were presented with an opportunity to interact with people from diverse cultures both national and international that helped them to gain a perspective on the varied cultures that exist in society.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trained for hospitality in village. 2. Community centers and handicraft centers are opened to exhibit local work.

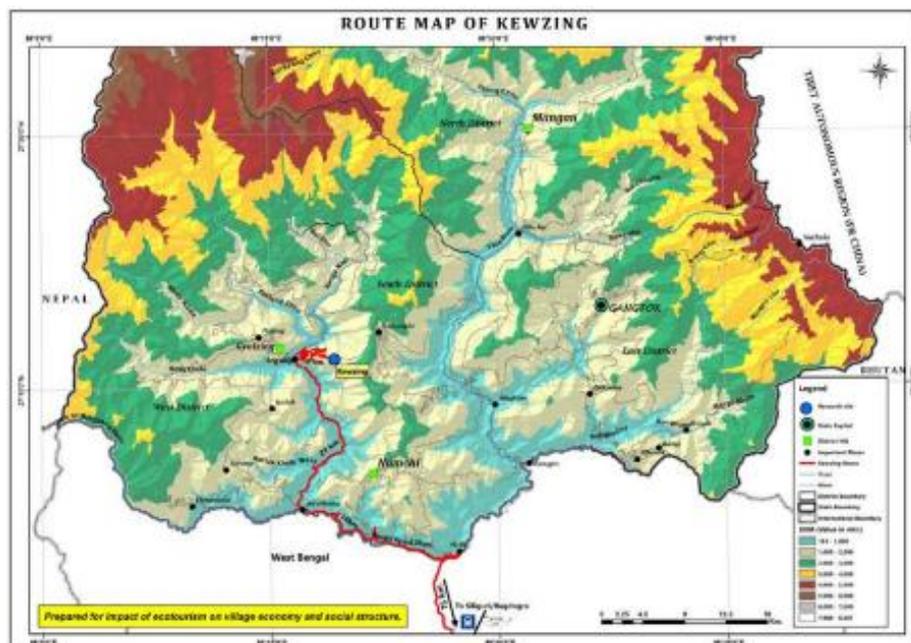


Fig7: Route map of Kewzing (source- Kewzing Tourism Development Committee)



Fig8: Nature in Kewzing (source- Kewzing Tourism Development Committee)

2.5 Comparative analysis:

Sr. no	Eco-tourism	Maredumilli	Kewzing	Baripada	Inference
1.	Location	-The Maredumilli Forests is in East of Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh (India).	- The Kewzing forest is located in South Sikkim, just 8 kms from Ravangla and 76 kms from Gangtok (India).	- Baripada is a small Village/hamlet in Sakri district of Maharashtra (India).	-
2.	Demographics (according to 2011 census)	-Town population of 3664 Number of houses are 764	-District population of south Sikkim is 146,850	- Population of Baripada is 700 and number of houses are 100	-
3.	Economic Condition	- Eco-tourism gives direct employment to 30 families - Sale of handicrafts. - Income from sales of forest products.	- Income from home stay program. - 70% income from eco-tourism activities.	- Major source of income is only agriculture and related works.	- Eco-tourism will give employment to unemployed locals in village.
4.	Social Condition	-Locals exhibit indigenous traditional skills. - Trained in interpreting medicinal plants.	- Trained for hospitality in village. -Community centers and handicraft centers are opened to exhibit local work.	- Tribal community with unity is living in village with population of 700.	- Platform to exhibit and showcase the local art and craft. - Training in sector of hospitality and tour guide.
5.	Impact on forest	-Protection of forest and wildlife. - Reduction in forest wood sales.	- New types of plants were found after research. - Protection of flora and fauna.	- Community protects the forest with the help of local rules and regulations.	- Protection of forest and wildlife in 445ha of forest.

III. Inference:

Eco tourism is big business, generating direct and indirect revenue for the Government and local people.

E.g. the local people have found much benefit in ecotourism activities in and around Kewzing. The planned and focused activities have also led to increase in revenues for local authorities. The local people have been involved in tourism-based activities through ecodevelopment projects.

The village of Baripada is surrounded by a 445-ha forest supporting a rich vegetation and providing shelter for many wild animals. Despite of having rich culture, historical importance there is no any activity to promote the economy of local community. And there is no any platform for local arts.

The eco-tourism will generate employment to youths of Baripada. This will gradually increase the economy of village and surrounding. And will help for creating sustainable environment. This will provide platform for local arts and crafts.

IV. Conclusions:

The Baripada has a variety of natural eco-tourism potential. The village has huge biodiversity resources as well as tourism resorts and other various exotic landscapes, as the beautiful green forest is surrounded by Sahyadri hill ranges. Moreover, the fort of Salher have rich cultural and historical importance. Baripada has a huge beauties of the untapped ecotourism potential hot spot for the growth and development of eco-tourism ventures. Throughout the studies, it was found that the Tourism Department and Government of Maharashtra require additional measures and promotional strategies to improve the prospects of ecotourism in the area. If,

properly developed, eco-tourism in the area of Baripada will generate employment opportunities especially to the unemployment youths and economic surplus without causing inseparable damage to the environment, conflicts to the individuals, sentiments and ethos of the host population but also it could gear up the economic growth of the village.

References:

- [1]. <https://kalpavriksh.org/baripada-village/>
- [2]. <http://www.uniindia.com/baripada-village-free-from-all-sorts-of-problems-claims-forest-advisory-committee-member/other/news/341608.html>
- [3]. http://www.apo-tokyo.org/gp/e_publi/gplinkeco/10chapter8.pdf
- [4]. <http://www.sustainabilityoutlook.in/content/making-indian-ecotourism-sustainable>
- [5]. Travel Blog (2014). Community Based Tourism Development project in Kewzing, Sikkim. [Online]. 2014. Available from: <https://www.travelblog.org/Asia/India/Sikkim/blog-853684.html>. [Accessed: 24 October 2015].
- [6]. Peaty, D. (2004). Community-Based Tourism in the Indian Himalaya: Homestays and Lodges. [Online]. Available from: http://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/acd/re/krsc/hss/book/pdf/vol02_04.pdf.
- [7]. Mohan KrishenKhanna, Chapter Eight Ecotourism in India.
- [8]. Fennel and Eagles 1990, the conceptual framework of ecotourism.
- [9]. Ecotourism and Development book by Romila Chawla.
- [10]. Om Parkash, Chapter 7, Ecotourism in India.
- [11]. Journal of Ecotourism 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, Vol.4 No. 2.
- [12]. Professor Nawab Ali khan, Development of ecotourism resources in India.