



TOURISM POTENTIAL IN AKOLE TEHSIL, AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The development of tourism is influenced by historical, cultural, technological, religious, economic and environmental factors. In order to develop tourism in any place, it is necessary to first study the potential of tourism development in those areas and then it is very important to develop tourism. In short, Akola tehsil has a large amount of natural diversity. Among these tehsil, Kalsubai is the highest peak in the state of Maharashtra. Due to the natural diversity of the area, it has a lot of potential. In Adventure, Natural, Historical, Religious, Agro-based etc. tourism activity has been developing in Akole. For e.g. scope for Trekking, bird watching, safaris, facing, boating and wild life safari in the forest region etc. These things are focusing the regions and some tourism activities of Akole.

KEY WORDS: Resources, Tourism, Potential, Human Resources, Akole.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is renowned as the largest industry in the world. It contributes about 10 per cent Gross Domestic Product out of total in the world. Tourism is a service sector, which has a great potential for increasing economy, employment, infrastructural facilities and eliminate the regional disparity. Tourism has comprehensive nature therefore, it known as the fourth dimension of contemporary economics. In many developing countries like India tourism become a major source of regional development, which is backward due to the lack of natural resources. Especially, rural and tribal area of the country has great potential of tourism because of pleasant environment, diversity in physical features, distinctive culture and different socio-economic status⁽¹⁾. As tourists always get attracted towards the mountain destinations, tourism as a sociocultural and economic phenomenon can be develop a lot in the mountainous region, if planned properly. In this context, the Akole tehsil of Ahmednagar district has a great potential for tourism development. The western mountainous region of the tehsil offers many tourism products of nature with a wide ecological range and biodiversity. In addition, the socio-cultural dimension of tribes of this region is one of the major tourist attractions⁽¹²⁾. Ahmednagar district is famous for various geographical, historical, religious and cultural Aspects. Akole large amount share to geographical resources and Tourism. The good Potentiality of geographical resources so large amount development of Tourism activities. The main aspect is there are

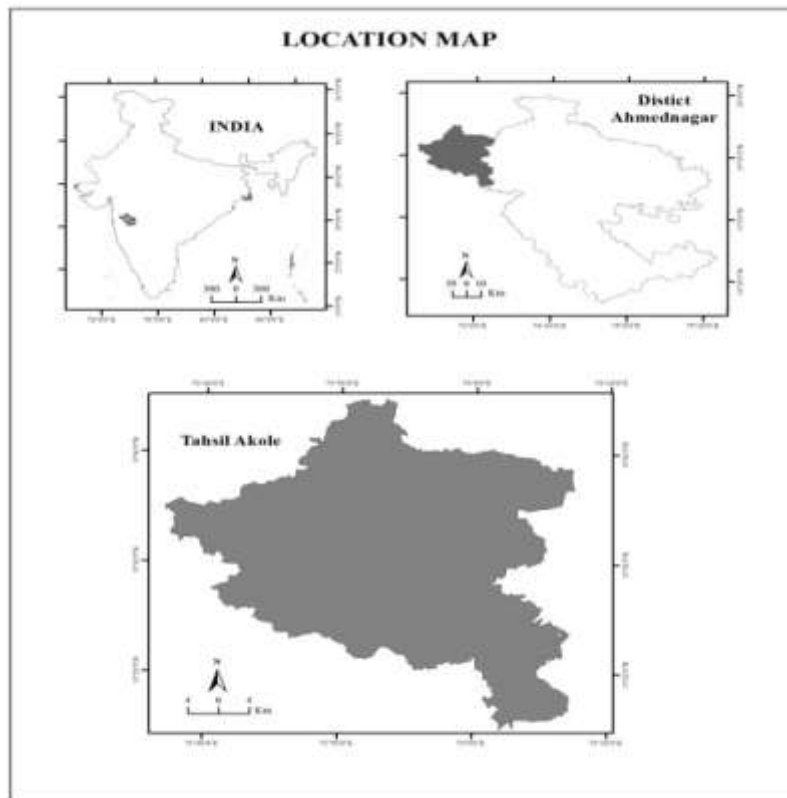
hilly off shoots of the Sahyadris in Western part of the district. They have called Kalsubai, Adula, Baleshwar and Harishchandragad hill ranges. Kalsubai, the highest peak (1646M) in the sahyadris, lies in Ahmednagar district. Another peak is, Ratangad, Kulang and Ajuba Dogar etc. we see the Vitha-Ghat on the way of Randha falls etc. Akole tehsil of Ahmednagar district is well known tribal area of Maharashtra. It is east towards part of the Western Ghat, Abundant natural scenery, diver's physical features, pleasing climate, specific tribal culture, reservoir and biodiversity are the main tourism characteristics of Akole tehsil. However, government infidelity is responsible for under development of tourism potential in this region.

STUDY AREA

Geographically, Ahmednagar district is the largest district in the state of Maharashtra. It is divide into 14 tehsil. It is divide into 191 villages and coverage area about 1, 50,508 hectares. There are total population of this tehsil is 2, 71,719 (2001) one of which 1, 01,966 (ST) tribal people in this area. Akole is a tehsil place in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra state, well surrounded with the mountains of Sahyadri. Akole tehsil is located in 19° 15' 14" N to 19° 44' 59" N latitude and 73° 37' 00" E to 74° 07' 24" E longitudes. Total geographical area of 150508 hectors. Area under the forest in 41698 hectors. The total agriculture lands have about 98712 hectors and average of rainfall is 508.9 mm.



Map No: (01) LOCATION MAP



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

For this research paper, two main objectives have been taken into consideration for the potential of tourism development in Akole tehsil.

1. To study of tourism Classification in the Akole tehsil.
2. To study Geographical Resources and Tourism potential in Akole tehsil.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present research paper is based on the primary and secondary data sources. Primary data were collected through people participating rural evaluation method, spot observation. The Secondary data were achieved through various reference books, research papers, and newspaper article. Tourism atlas, maps, reports on district tourism plan for Ahmednagar district were used as a secondary source of information. GIS software has also been used to create tourism maps and location amp.

GEOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES FOR TOURISM

According to Robinson, have great Geographical components of tourism Developments and Tourist Attractions. Which have been termed as geographical components of tourism. There are seven geographical components are Accessibility and Location, Space, Scenery, Climate, Animal life, Settlement features and last Culture. There are certain Geographical features of the world that that attract travelers to them/ types of climate are most suitable for different types of tourist activity .there are five main Geographical Features, which attract travelers to them.

- a) Climatic Resources for Tourism b)Coastal Resources and the sea c) Landscape and wildlife Resources d) Historic Resources for Tourism e) Cultural, entertainment, manmade resources for tourism. The large Amount Geographical Resources available in the Akole tehsil for e.g. Forest, Wild life's and Animals, Climate, Mountain, Good of History, Culture etc. So very large amount Scope of tourism and good of capable tourism Development the Akole Tehsil.



CLASSIFICATION OF TOURISM (TABLE NO. 01)

Sr. No.	Types of Tourism and Geographical Resources.	Places/ Area
1	Natural	Kokan-kada, Kalsubai Peak, Bhandardara Dam, Umbrella Falls, Randha Falls, Tawa Water Falls
2	Historical Forts	Patta fort or Vishramgad (1396 meters), Harischandragad, Ratangad
3	Religious	Amritheshwar, Agasti Rishi Ashram, Ratangad, Taaked
4	Cultural	Tribal Cultural
5	Forest and Wild Life	Kalsubai and Harischandragad Forest area Wild life (Flora and Fauna) KajavaFestival(during September To November).
6	Agro & Forest based (Eco-Tourism)	Agricultural & Forest Area.
7	Adventurous Tourism	
	A) Mountains Play	
	Rock Climbing	Kokankada, Alang, Malg, Kulang etc.
	Trekking Routes	Kalsubai, Harischandragad, BalubhiDongar, Kandaka, Kothale, Chanchakar, Muda, AjubaKridaDongar etc.
	Mountaineering	Kalsubai, Harischandragad, BalubhiDongar, Kandaka, Kothale, Chanchakar, Muda, AjubaKridaDongar etc.
	B) Forest Play	
	Jungle Cap and Safari	Kalsubai, Harischandragad, Ratangad Forest area
	Wild life	Kalsubai, Harischandragad, Ratangad Forest area
	Angling and Fishing	River – Pravara, Mula river and Bhandardara Dam, Ghatghar Dam
	Boating	Bhandardara Dam, GhatgharDam, Nilwande Dam etc.

Kalsubai and Harischandragad wild life sanctuary is situated at Akole Tehsil, in the district of Ahmednagar. The kalsubai peak has an altitude of 1646 m and is the highest peak in Western Ghats. It is an ideal place for people who want to enjoy the beauty of nature far away from the city life. The sanctuary has various temples, peaks and forts that make it a place of rich past. Some of monuments located here are Alnag, Kalsubai, Kulanggad, Bahiroba, Harischandragad, Madangad, Ratangad and many more. All this makes the sanctuary an ideal place for trekkers. The place is very rich in natural vegetation cover and abounds in various species of plants and trees. Mostly the vegetation is southern moist mixed deciduous and in places that are near to the western coast the vegetation is semi deciduous semi evergreen type. Some of the common species of trees found here are Aashing, Gulchavi, Parjambhual, Hirada, Bahava, Beheda, Kudal, Avali, Jambhul, Siras, Chandawa, Lokhandi, Kharvel etc. There are various bushes around like Dhaiti, Mandar, Chilhar, Ber, Rametha, Kapipatta etc. In some areas of the sanctuary large patches of different species of grass occurs. Some of the grasses found here are Pawanya, Harali, Marvel, Surad, Dongari etc. The sanctuary is a dwelling place of various species of animals that include reptiles, mammals as well as the birds. Some of the common mammals found here are Palm civet, Wolf, Jackal, Barking Deer, Leopard, Mongoose, Jungle cat, Wild Boar, Hyena, Bats, Sambhar, Porcupine, Indian Giant Squirrel etc. The reptile group includes Fan-throated Lizard, Monitor Lizard, Turtles, Snakes and many more. One can also

see around both land birds as well as the water birds. Some of the common birds seen around are Egrets, White Necked Storks, Water hen, Herons, Black Ibis etc.

AGASTI RISHI ASHRAM AND AMRITESHWAR

Situated on the bank of the Pravara River, this legendary dwelling finds a place in the scripts of the Ramayan. It is said that Lord Ram, Laxman and Sita visited Agasti Rishi. The Rishi had then given Lord Rama a miraculous arrow, which was used to kill the devil, Ravana, in order to rescue Sita. Amritheshwar temple dates back to 1100 AD. Built in a distinct Hemadpanti style, the intricately carved temple still stands proud. Other places worth visiting are Konkankada (another trekker's delight), a small garden and a swimming tank.

Patta / Vishramgad

Fort is located in Kalsubai range a mountain range that emerges from Sahyadris at Alng-Kuloang and Madangad forts near Igatpuri and run east-west direction till Sinnar in Nashik district.

MOUNTAINS PLAY AND ADVENTURE TOURISM

A host of mountains sport in also part of western Akole tehsil. There are various trekking routes; climbing, Mountaineering etc. enjoy the Adventure tourisms in the Akole tehsil. The Western Part of Akole tehsil good potential Area for Adventure tourism.



“Rock climbing: The rocky cliffs of Kokankada challenge to the take great risks. And other challenge area is Alnag, Malg and Kulang Mountain etc.” Trekking routes and Mountaineering, Kalsubai the highest peak (1646 m) in the Sahyadri range. It is an ideal place for these who enjoy trekking, as are the surrounding hills. Kalsubai and other places were good condition and opportunities of trekking, mountaineering because the western part of Akole in nearest all mountains (Forts) height is above sea level 1250 m. the western side a great for trekking, climbing, mountaineering rock climbing etc.

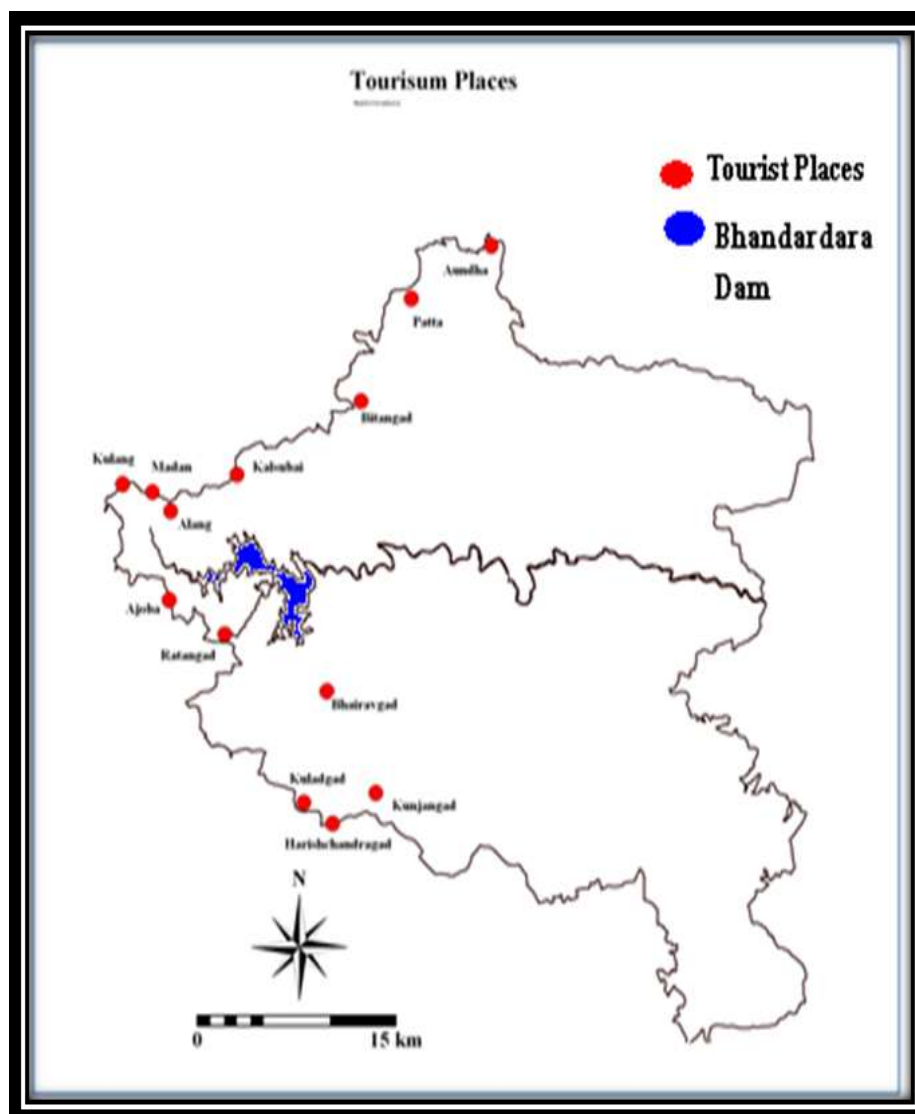
FOREST PLAY AND ADVENTURE TOURISM

“Jungle Cap and Safari: The Night and Day time good condition of living forest area in western part forest area.” As well as forest safari and discovering of medical plants and wild life large opportunities. This area to maximum cover by mountain range.

WATER PLAY AND ADVENTURE TOURISM

Angling and Fishing: The Pravara River on the eastern slopes of the Sahyadris between Kulang and Ratangad. Peninsular of Pravara, Mula River and Bhandardara dam, Ghatghar dam. Offer some great opportunities for fishing and boating in Bhandardara dam, Ghatghar dam. Offer some great opportunities for boating.

Map No: 02 (Tourism Places in Akole Tehsil)





CONCLUSION

Geographical Resources condition is suitable for the development of tourism but for this development, government should need for the care of that tourist places. People should essential know about this tourist places. Mentioned above tourist places have been essential doing advertisement and to develop in road networks to all tourism places. At that, time there should be develop of Eco-tourism. So large amount scope of all types' tourisms Activates in the Akole tehsil. Akole tehsil of Ahmednagar district have full of potential of tourism on the basis of pleasant environment, natural beauty, wildlife, pilgrim's centers and historical tourism sites. But still the area is lacking behind to attract tourists at the national and international level. There are some causes were we want to pay attention. Lack of promotion and publicity about the tourism sites is the major obscurity. Low levels of awareness among stakeholders regarding the potential. Infrastructural facilities like public convenience facilities, medical facility, accommodation facilities, absence of integrated efforts to promote the many facets, electricity, seating resting, street light, parking, guard railing, toilet block, drinking water, street lighting direction signage's etc. are require for tourism development.

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