TOURISM IN INDIA (MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS)

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Abstract: This paper aims to Indian tourism problems; especially what influences tourists, what makes them don’t travel to India and many other problems. The paper suggests how to fix the problems in India's tourism and focuses on the nearest future plan and tourism development in India.

Keywords: Indian tourism, tourism problem, natural beauty, foreign travelers, future plan.

Introduction

India is a beautiful and exotic country with colorful traditions and centuries of history. However, the country can be difficult to maneuver for tourists visiting India. Much of India's infrastructure has not been updated since the British left in 1947, so transportation and facilities, while available, have yet to be modernized. If India wants to establish itself as a solid travel destination and increase tourism, the government and business should take steps to make the country more hospitable to foreign travelers.

Global problems

Tourism problems are more common in the rural interior of the country. These areas are rich in natural beauty, but they often lack basic infrastructure and accommodations for tourists. Often these regions are highly agrarian. The government is often unable to secure enough land for developing tourism infrastructure because it adversely affects local farmers. An instance of this phenomenon is Orissa. Insufficient accommodation, unclean rooms and food problems plague tourists who come to India. Many places in the interior of the country are not well-connected by proper roads, railways or airways. Excessive bureaucracy also delays new hotel and transportation projects [3].

Tourists are often exploited economically, and criminal elements in India can make visits to India unsafe for women and elderly tourists.

The tourist attractions in India are also being damaged by pollution. Oil refinery smoke is damaging the Taj Mahal, while ecosystems of the coasts, Rann of Kutch and the Himalayas are being battered by pollution [1].

These problems have contributed to India's low share of 1 percent of the world's total tourist arrival percentage. It also leads to concentration of tourist attention to certain parts of the country. For example, the transport and communication industries of Delhi-Jaipur-Agra in northern India and Bhubaneswar-Konark-Puri in Orissa are preferred over other equally attractive Indian destinations. These problems also shorten the tourist season in India, which then leads to unemployment in off-seasons [4].

To tackle worker shortages, the Indian government has set up the Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management. A large number of private-sector training centers are also being set up. Single-window clearance schemes can help the government quicken the process of approval of tourism infrastructure projects.

Relaxing tax burdens on the Indian citizens will promote domestic tourism as people have more savings for vacations. More cost-effective medical treatment has made India the world's second most preferred medical-tourism destination [2].
Despite all the problems with tourism in India, the industry has a bright future. Tourist arrivals in 2010 are expected to rise 22 percent and foreign exchange earnings from this industry are predicted to rise 33 percent above 2004 earnings. The positive expectations have been based on the current growth rate of the industry despite various problems; this growth is being attributed to the fast-growing Indian economy for the past three to four years[4].

How to improve Tourism in India

India needs to improve its public services and foster basic hygiene if it wants to appeal to the foreign tourist. This means modernizing its sewer systems to stop the spread of disease, creating more public housing to get rid of the shantytowns and implementing regular trash disposal measures. Once India cleans up, it will be a more inviting place to visit. Another issue with an adverse effect on India's tourism is its widespread environmental pollution. Air quality throughout India is notoriously bad, since there are no curbs on emissions and lax enforcement to prevent gross polluters. Most days, the air in big cities such as Mumbai has a red tinge to it, causing watery eyes and coughing. Respiratory infections are common, especially among sensitive individuals or those with allergies. Additionally, air pollution is beginning to show its effects on prominent tourist landmarks, such as Agra’s Taj Mahal. In recent years, toxic air has damaged the ancient marble of the monument, jeopardizing its beauty and requiring significant repair. Water quality is also inconsistent. With improper sewage treatment and no curbs on water polluters, potable water for drinking and cooking is difficult to come by. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and dysentery, are common, especially in rural villages with few clean water practices. If India wants to encourage tourism, it needs to act to improve the quality of its air and water so Indians and tourists alike can breathe the air and drink the water freely [1].

India's transportation system is also in need of a serious overhaul. Although cars and trucks traverse India's roads, laws for operating vehicles are widely ignored. Often the result is pure chaos, as cars, trucks, bicycles and rickshaws drive into opposing traffic and ignore traffic lights to get where they need to go. Fatal car and truck accidents are common. For a tourist visiting India, the experience of traveling along India's lawless roadways can induce cardiac arrest. While India also has an extensive railway system, due to overcrowding and poor maintenance, this mode of transportation is not much better. Trains are frequently so crowded that people sit on the roofs of moving trains or hang out the windows. While a rare breed of adventurous tourist may find traveling on India's trains exciting, the majority of tourists might find using India's railways highly inconvenient. India needs to enforce its traffic laws and reduce railway overcrowding so that visiting tourists will have an easier time traveling from place to place. As India's
population grows, forests are cleared to make room for more housing and development. The destruction of these forests leads to a loss of habitat for many of India's famed fauna, such as Bengal tigers, Asian elephants and Indian ring neck parrots. If India does not make greater efforts to reduce this loss of habitat, tourists searching for safari like encounters with the animals made famous in Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book" will be out of luck. India needs to preserve ecotourism by protecting its forests and the animals that inhabit them. In addition to making India a more hospitable place to visit, the country needs to highlight the unique sights and offerings it has that are unavailable anywhere else [2].

**Conclusion**

India is very modern when it comes to engineering, medicine and technology, but its infrastructure and public services are antiquated or nonexistent. In both big cities and small villages, open sewers and inadequate plumbing are widespread. Mounds of garbage along the sides of the road are common. The Taj Mahal, one of the most easily recognizable monuments in the world, is an obvious tourist destination. However, India has many more places to visit that foreign tourists may not know about. Jaipur, also known as the Pink City, is a popular travel destination for Indians and those of Indian descent living abroad, but it is not widely known to foreigners. The beaches of Goa are a tropical paradise but are also relatively unknown to the rest of the world. India needs to market itself to the world as a unique country with much to offer the visiting tourist.

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