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## THE STUDY OF TOURIST FLOW PATTERN AND TOURIST PROFILE OF SIKKIM



Swarup Saha<sup>1</sup> and Gopal Chandra Debnath<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION :

Tourism is the most popular form of recreations. Tourism has become one of the fastest growing industries and an economic and social phenomenon of major importance. Tourism today is a larger giant in terms of employment, investment, output and value.

### STUDY AREA :

Sikkim is a very small hilly state in the Eastern Himalaya. This tiny Himalayan state is widely acclaimed for its spectacular terrain, snowy mountains, luxuriant forests with exotic flora and fauna, sacred lakes, pristine glaciers, cascading waterfalls, holy cave, medicinal hot springs, roaring rivers and gentle streams.

### OBJECTIVES :

- ✦ To assess the tourist (their number,

### ABSTRACT

*Sikkim is a landlocked Indian state located in the Eastern Himalaya. The 'most backward regions' often offer 'the most exotic' resource-base for the promotion of tourism. This may be applicable for the states located in the Himalaya. For such area, tourism is one of the ways to enhance economic development. The mountain environment of the state is ideally suited for outdoor recreation. This article analyses tourist influx trends in Sikkim in term of domestic and foreign tourist flow and tourist profile. Sikkim has been undertaken for in depth research as it is one of the best Potential sites for the Development of Tourism, and due to development of tourism, movement of people and infrastructure will be more frequent which will help to generate income and capital, resulting local area development.*

**KEYWORDS :** *Tourist Flow Pattern, Tourist Profile, Domestic Tourist Flow, Foreign Tourist Flow.*

### SHORT PROFILE

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characteristics, travel patterns etc.) and what are their motives.

- ✦ To study the tourist flow pattern and tourist profile.
- ✦ To examine the variation between Domestic Tourist and Foreign Tourist flow.

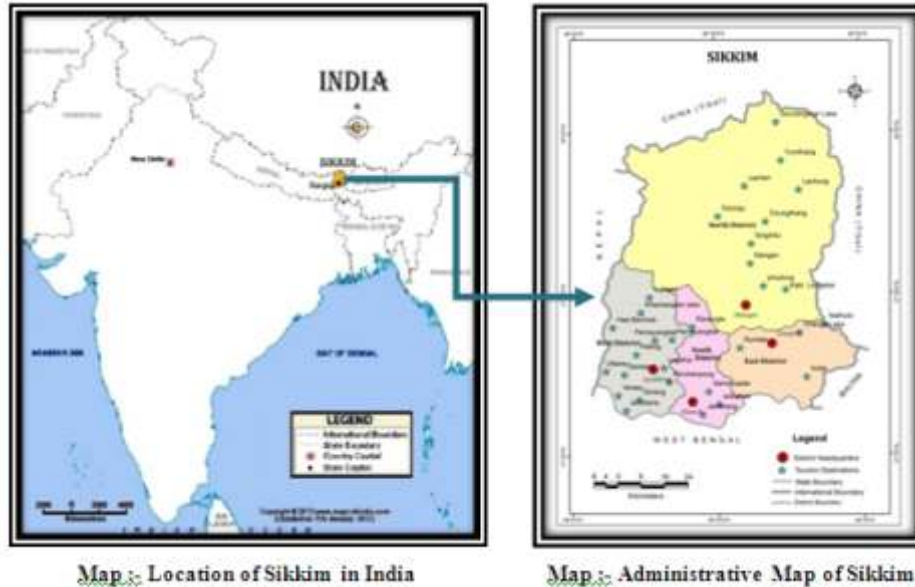
### Data Base And Methodology:

This study is based on both Primary data and Secondary data. The Primary data have been generated through a field survey by Personal interviews. However, the secondary data have been collected from Sikkim tourism department and other Web sites.

Field survey data and secondary data compilation and evaluation are done for analyzing and mapping purpose.

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<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.



**Domestic Tourist Arrival :**

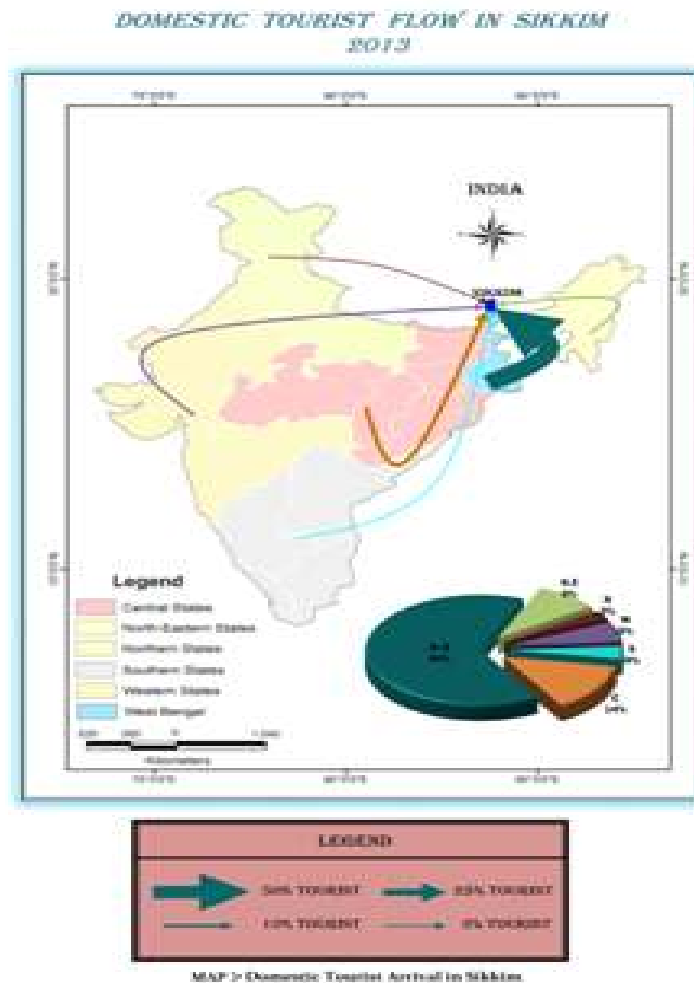
Domestic tourist flow in Sikkim from different parts of India has been identified

through Primary Field Survey. In this flow analysis India is sub-divided into six zones. These zones are shown in the following table –

ZONES	SATES
WEST BENGAL	West Bengal
NORTH-EASTERN STATES	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura
NORTHERN STATES	Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal
WESTERN STATES	Maharashtra, Gujarat
SOUTHERN STATES	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
CENTRAL STATES	Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh

On the basis of these six zones the Percentage flow of tourist has been shown in the following map.

TOURISTS COMING FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS	NUMBER OF TOURISTS	PER CENT OF TOTAL
FROM WEST BENGAL	129	64.4
FROM NORTH-EASTERN STATES	19	9.4
FROM NORTHERN STATES	5	2.7
FROM WESTERN STATES	12	6
FROM SOUTHERN STATES	7	3.5
FROM CENTRAL STATES	28	14
TOTAL	200	100



From the map it is clear that maximum numbers of tourists (Over 60%) are from West Bengal. The second large proportion of tourists is coming from the Central states. And the tourist proportion from the Northern states is lowest (Less than 1%). So from this map the spatial flow of tourists from different parts of India is clear to us.

**FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVAL :**

International tourist flow in Sikkim from different parts of the world in the year of 2013 has been shown in the following flow map. The total number of tourists come from different countries are summed up continent wise, and then the flow of tourists from different continents has been shown.

It is clear from the map that maximum numbers of tourist (Above 50%) are come from

Europium countries. Among Europium countries most of the tourists are coming from U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland etc.

More about 25% of tourists come are from Asian countries. Apart from India, the other nations of Asia from where large numbers of tourists are coming to Sikkim are Thailand, Nepal, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea etc.

From North America more about 14% of the total tourists come to Sikkim. Among North American countries most of the tourists are coming from U.S.A., and Canada.

From South America and Africa the number of tourists flow is very low. From Africa 2% and from South America less than 1% tourists come in the year 2013.

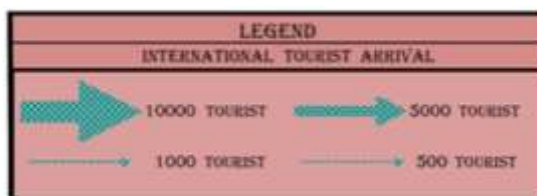
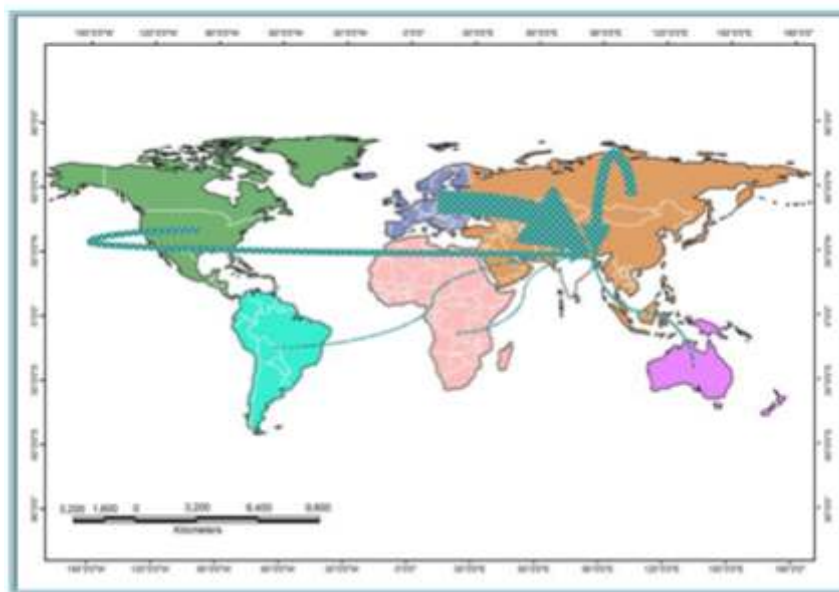
5% of the total tourists come from Oceania. Australia and New Zealand are the two

nation of Oceania from where tourists come to Sikkim.

Most of the foreign tourists are coming for trekking purpose. They mainly come in the winter season but the peak period on domestic

tourist arrival is the summer that is the March-April-May months. If visa the rules and permits relaxed to some extent then the numbers of foreign tourists will increase in a huge volume.

**INTERNATIONAL TOURIST FLOW IN SIKKIM  
2013**



MAP-2- International Tourist Arrival

	NO. OF TOURISTS	PER CENT OF TOTAL
ASIA (EXCLUDING INDIA)	5,081	24.5
AFRICA	421	2.0
N.AMERICA	2,863	13.8
S.AMERICA	182	0.9
EUROPE	11,080	53.4
OCEANIA	1,120	5.4

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION :**

This study identifies that people coming to Sikkim from West Bengal, forms the major portion of tourists (over 60%). Proportion of tourists coming from Abroad and other states of

India apart from West Bengal is low. Maximum numbers of foreign tourist (Above 50%) are come from Europium countries

If the rules and permits relaxed to some extent and some sorts of infrastructural

development like, starting of train service in Sikkim, good road network etc then the number of foreign tourist as well as domestic tourist will increase in a huge volume, which will help to upgrade the economic condition of the state through tourism sector.

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