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THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN MALE MAHADESWARA HILLS AND HIMAVAD GOPALASWAMY HILLS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

The religious tourism is most importantly to tourist and mainly art, culture, traditions and eco-friendly and wildlife conservations spot is attraction to pilgrimages, largely attraction to MM Hills and medium attraction to GH Hills for this Chamarajanagar districts, both of places are boarder lines involving of state of Karnataka. This area is ancient period religious places is purpose of temple attracting to people, GH Hills are less infrastructure abounded to tourist and MM Hills

is having more infrastructure facilities and very less recreational activities.

KEYWORDS:

Religious tourism, Pilgrimages, Infrastructure, Eco-friendly, Recreational facilities.

INTRODUCTION:

Religious tourism, also commonly referred to as faith tourism, is a type of tourism, where people travel individually or in groups for pilgrimage, the Religious Tourism can be defined as travel with the experiencing of religious forms, or the products they induce, like art, culture, traditions and architecture. The MM Hills and Gopaldaswamy hills is a religious place and its forest area, considered as wild life sanctuary in eastern Ghats, as Eco tourist place and pilgrimages tourist spot. These industries become a diversified and gradually have segment into varied submarkets

such, as pilgrimage/religious tourism in MM Hills HG Hills is main religious spot of the Chamarajanagar district. Male Mahadeshwara betta (MM Hills) has become a universally famous religious pilgrim center. It is having large forest area and this area of greenery in this district, near attached Karnataka and Tamilnadu border end of hogenakal falls. It is most famous for ancient temples have thick forests. Most dominantly has flora and fauna most attracting to be pilgrimages.

Govardhanagiri is another name of Himavad Gopaldaswamy Betta, its located in Gundlupet Taluk this religious place is inter link to be bandipura Nationala Park and wild life tiger reserve forest. There are prohibited in side of man trucking and private vehicle, in this area one and only for religious places is purpose of

temple attracting to people. Its tourism can be an eco and animal friendly tourism and it relationship between religious tourism also its simplest sense, is watching wild animals in their natural habitat.

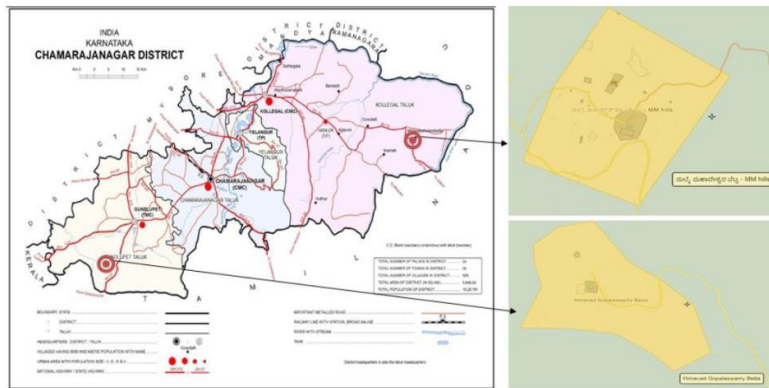
OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the religious tourism places in its characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

This methodology is depend on primary and secondary data sources and using the satellite imaginary of location map and collects the information on tourism palaces and its infrastructure status from tourism department, mujarayi department, and forest department. PWD. KSRTC. Statistic department etc.

Location



ISSUE AND PROBLEMS

1. Information about tourism places.
2. Accommodation/restaurants/hotels
3. Physical infrastructure, mainly bathrooms, toilet rooms, transportation, shopping complex, drainage, electricity. SWM etc
4. Safety and security is a major challenger of religious tourism place.

Comparative analysis of Male Mahadeswara Hills and Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills

1. M.M HILLS

MM Hills(Male Mahadeshwara betta) is a pilgrim town located in the Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district of southern Karnataka. The ancient and sacred temple of Sri Male Mahadeshwara is a very popular pilgrim centre. It draws lakhs of pilgrims from the states of Karnataka. The area of the present temple surroundings is 155.57 acres (0.6296 km²). Location map of Karnataka Geographic limits of the map: 18.45°N 11.48°N 73.66°E 78.62°E.

here attract nagamale hills most of piligimage place its 8 km from MM hills temple, and covering forest area of male mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary is protected Wildlife sanctuary in the Eastern Ghats and is located in state of Karnataka, established in 2013 and forest area of 906.187 km².

Attraction of the tourism place events of the trend

Golden Chariot : Golden Chariot

MahaRatha : Maha Chariot

Main Utsavas : At Diwali, Maha Shivaratri & Ugadi

Special Days : Shravana, Mahalaya, Dasara, Diwali,

Nityotsavas : Silver-tiger chariot, Silver-Basava chariot &

Rudrakshi Mantap chariot

Pushkarini : Anthara Gange

No of visitor's profiles

Years	MM Hills
2011	2640076
2012	3928294
2013	3976364
2014	4949697
2015	2965890
2016	50991420
2017	27005232
2018	17454326

Source: district tourism department

Visitors are every year increasing in mm hills and very less visited visitors in 2011 year, in MM hills are many festivals conducting for shivarathri, month end of amavase, vijaya dasami festival time pilgrimages are most visited in this area.

Link to other tourism places

MM. Hills link with hogenakal falls and gagana chukki and barachukki falls MM Hills is very famous religious tourism places attracting tourist and various seasons visiting more than lakhs peoples and nearest very attracting neighbor tourist places such has hogenakal falls, it's the located in tamil nadu boarder area, all religious pilgrim are visiting to MM Hills after that visiting nearest places is Hogenakal falls, visiting so many visitors and scenic beauties, recreational places of the water sports boating games is the famous in hogenakal falls is attracting visitors from MM hills religious tourist pilgrims and tourists. It's the major link with religious tourism is linking to Gaganachukki and Bharachukki Falls are twin waterfalls, Gagana Chukki (90 metres) and Bhara Chukki (69 metres), Cauvery River splits into two streams which fall from cliff forming this twin waterfall. Gagana chukki and Bara chukki falls this also major tourism place, but Gagana chukki fall is located shivana samudra(Shimsha) in mandya district boarder area and Bara chukki falls is located in Chamarajanagar district boarder places, in Gaganchukki falls is very attracting of hydro power generation unit is attracting and it's the Asia's First hydro-electric power station is located at the waterfall in this places. MM Hills religious tourism is given links with more than attracting visitors and Barachukki is very famous tourist places flowing of Cauvery river is creating Barachukki waterfalls it is also attracting the boating games is highlighted and playing in side of waterfalls is wondering the place in Chamarajanagar district.

FACILITIES

Tourist place	Particulars
MM Hills	Drinking water 9 Stand (thombe) tanks 11 – 1000 litter tanks 8 hand pumps

Drinking water supply is very sufficiently and not a problem of the drinking purpose and another purpose sufficiently providing water facilities **Less amount of the accommodation structures in MM Hills**

Names	day/rate
Shiva Darshini	Rs.350
Mahadeshwara Bhavan	Rs.200
Guru Darshini	Rs.250
Giri Darshini (for VIPs)	Rs.300
Mahadeshwara Guest House	Rs.300
Kaveri Darshini	Rs.200
Surya Darshini	Rs.300
SriShila Bhavan	Rs.300
Sambram Veda Guest House	Rs.200
Srimaan Maharaja's Choultry	Rs.100
Sankamma Nilaya	Rs.125
Billaiah Nilaya	Rs.125
Karaiah Nilaya	Rs.125
Sheshanna Nilaya	Rs.125
D Type Ground Floor Kuteera	Rs.300
D Type First Floor Kuteera	Rs.300
E Type First Floor Kuteera	Rs.100
E Type Ground Floor Kuteera	Rs.150
E Type Kuteera	Rs.250
D Type First Floor Kuteera	Rs.125
D Type Kuteera	Rs.100
Tubular Sheds	Rs.75
BSPS	Rs.200
Pilgrims' Rest House	Rs.150
ACCP Pilgrim Shed	Rs.400
RCCP Pilgrim Shed	Rs.400
Rent for Mat	Rs.2

Accommodations for boarding and lodging facilities are available for visitors in MM Hill. There are having both private and government accommodation available

Tourist spot	Police station	ATM	Telephone centre	Hotels	Check post	Toilet rooms /bath rooms	Hospital	Petrol bank
MM Hills	1	1	7	5	2	4 toilets rooms & 5 Mobile toilets rooms	1	1

Parking facilities

Tourist spots	Two wheeler	Jeep/car	tempo	bus
MM Hills	10 /-	15/-	25/-	75/-

Parking is one of the major issues and importance's that are created by the increasing road traffic and space, the availability of parking space in tourist place.

Transportations facilities



Both of private and Govt bus stand in MM Hills

Kollegal to MM Hills very good transportation facilities and road condition also very good condition 12 meter roads width and Kollegal to MM Hills distances between 80 Km length and bus facilities for bus (private and Public) KSRTC TNSRTC. From District head quarter to that place are connecting NH 209 to Kollegala and connecting to MM Hills SH 79 is pucca roads and narrow roads.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

This religious tourism places controlling and avoiding solid wastes and all places cleanly conditions environment situation is good conditions avoiding and controlling from check post level also and its very few part of the solid waste fall for the area and after collection of solid wastes burning and dumping some pits only.

GOPALASWAMY HILLS

These hills very famous religious tourism place and located in the gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district, the main core area of the Bandipur National Park is having wild life sanctuaries and tiger reserve forest. Most of fog predominate covers the hills station surrounded. Its geographical profile of Latitude 12.97°N and longitude 77.56°E, its 1454 meter Sea Level, for entry fees collected from the forest department in check post. Attraction of other places of Bandipura national park and ooty is important places.

Religious tourism visitor's profile

Years	Gopalswamy Hills
2011	146644
2012	23917
2013	124968
2014	228807
2015	208544
2016	1299180
2017	1419490
2018	2948079

Source: District tourism department

Visitors flows is every year increasing in GH hills and very less visited visitors in 2012 year, in this places are conducting many festivals for sankranthi and yugadi, shivarathri and here most attract to beauties of scenery is importantly and Most visited in June to September months.

Less Infrastructure facilities

Goplaswamy hills are tiger reserve forest and there are no developed works on the places, it has been one temple, one forest building only and one-toilet rooms available.



Parking facilities and small refreshment area in check post, but not available on a hills top

Transportation

Before four years back vehicle allowed inside forest near to temple, but now a day has prohibited private vehicle, behind check post to further 5 km distance available KSRTC bus travelling 8AM to 5PM timings after that not allowed inside of forest and doesn't visiting to temple.



Check post bus stop area GH hills bus stop area

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The following of the findings on survey and suggestion based on the study of religious tourism places are:

1. Rest rooms or rest places shortages in religious tourism.
2. Road networking infrastructure.
3. Accommodation shortages problem in some religious tourism places.
4. Religious tourism places are destination stay for 2-3 days in major religious Places.
5. Most tourist will staying in resort places.
6. Physical infrastructure is very less.
7. Shopping facilities is very less development.
8. A religious tourism place has improved employment.
9. Religious tourism has shows respect local tradition and culture.
10. Infrastructure, sanitation facilities not improved.
11. Providing services petrol bank and other amenities.
12. Home stays rooms.
13. Problem of recreational facilities.
14. Awareness programmes
 - No Plastic zone
 - Don't drink and drive
 - Prohibition of animal splattering
15. Separate building implement of barbershop
16. Implementing eco-tourism in Hills station
17. Greenery view point to seen the scenic beauty in middle hill station places

CONCLUSIONS

The Religious tourism it can define as travel with the experiencing of religious forms, or its products. They encourage to socio-cultural traditions is attraction of religious places in area and no proper Information about tourism places, most of unconditionally (except MM Hills) accommodation, restaurants, hotels, physical infrastructure, mainly bathrooms, toilet rooms, transportation, shopping complex, drainage, electricity. Solid waste management is poor level maintained in study area then one of the safety and security is a major challenger to pilgrimage places.

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