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Edited by : Dr. Safiqur Rahman

PANORAMA

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Edited By:

Dr. Safiqur Rahman M.A., M. Ed., LL.B., PGDHRM, M. Phil, PhD. Panorama: Research Papers & Articles- A Collection of Research Papers, Articles on Arts, Humanities, Management & Social Science. Panorama a research based International Book of Multidisciplinary Studies with Peer reviewed book. Published by Dr. Safiqur Rahman on behalf of Unity Education Foundation, Guwahati.

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Editorial:

Phone: 8471960948

We feel great pleasure to present this issue 'PANORAMA' which contain research paper, Articles on Arts, Humanities, Management and social science on research based book before our eminent highly educated readers hand. As we know Teaching, Research and extension are the basic dimensions of higher education. The present volume "PANORAMA' is such an effort to bring multidisciplinary studies in our compendium to gain and to disseminate knowledge. This is our small contribution from Unity Education Foundation to provide a platform for the various research and studies to bring before the society. The ultimate goal of the book is to draw knowledge, information & understanding to attain certain accomplishment.

I express deep sense of gratitude to Adv. AS Tapader, Chairman Unity Education Foundation and other members for there all round help & encouragement in this regard. I am thankful to all the authors for their support & timely cooperation with us. I am also thankful to Jedidah Nyawira Kimathi, Kenya for helping & encouraging us in different ways during the course of this work.

The editorial board consists of prominent academicians from reputed Institutions and Universities. I am greatfull to all the esteem members for their constant support & cooperation to prepare this book.

Lastly, I hope that the book would be of great use to those who are working on the areas of expertise and as well to those who want to gain insight into the subject. I also welcome your comments & suggestions. I wish the readers many moments of happy & informative reading,

Dr. Safiqur Rahman

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FOREWORD

The book entitled "PANORAMA" is excellent in area of diversified aspect of educational and scientific thinking in the world. This book makes the emphasis on development of teacher and quality education, cultural life of Karbis, dress and ornament of Bodo people, ecological status of floodplain, lokasamgrah, political empowerment of women, karma in Jain and Buddha philosophy, child health, biotechnology and biodiversity, growth rate, right to education, race, class and gender, urban growth, life skills, rural-non institutional credit, human rights, women in Indian television, ecological movement in Assam, employment and labour market, ethics of non-vedic schools in Indian philosophy, study of Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Indian women poets writing in English, insurgency and ethnic conflict in Assam, a humanist writer Lakshminath Bezbarua, constitutional commitment toward protecting minority rights in India, reflection of multicultural politics, loan recovery mechanisms of Bank, impact of environment on livelihood in North East India, teaching of English and need of innovative practices, the women centric customs of the Ahom Society and economic aspects of sustainable tourism development in India. This book is wonderful for the readers who have interest in educational, scientific, cultural, ethnic, religious, philosophical, environmental, ethical and developmental thinking in their mind. This book is also very useful for teachers, research scholars and students in India and abroad. Last but not least, the authors of the different book chapters made most apraiciateable efforts .For this very reason this book would serve as reference book in India and abroad.

Best Wishes

alahr

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Contents

1.	Socio-Economic Impact of Flood: A Study of Laharighat Revenue Circle, Morigaon	
	Pompi Bora	
2.	Peace and Conflict Studies: An Emerging Discipline	1
	Parismita Bhagawati	
3.	Provision of Civic Amenities and Other Facilities and Services in Guwahati City	4
•	in Access to Social Justice: From Dwellers Perspective	
	Dr. Bibeka Nanda Gogoi	_
4.	Correlation Between Body Image Profiles and Psychomotor Variables	9
٠.	of District Level Female Athletes	
5.	Dr. Pulen Das	17
٦.	Section 498a of i.p.c.: Its Association with Criminological Theories	
6.	Anjilina Kalita	22
U.	Social Media Influencers: Shaping and Influencing Popular Culture Trends	
7	Ananya Gogoi	25
7.	A Study on Factors Affecting Green Products Purchasing Behaviour	
	Daisy Das	29
8.	Tiwa Women and Their Empowerment in Morigaon District of Assam, India	
^	Dr. Lakhimi Nath	36
9.	To Study the Demographic Pattern of Presbyopia in Assam and Meghalaya	
	Mrinal Kalita / Dr Arup J.D. Sarma	
10	Dr Mir Alam Siddique / Dr Amarendra Deka	40
10.	Tribal Revolts in Central and Eastern India	
	Jeoti Pangging	42
11.	Undivided Goalpara District a Sacred Land for Multi-Religious Faiths: A	
	Historical Discussion	
	Ibrahim Hussain Sheikh	47
12.	Unemployment in India: Causes and Implications	• ,
•	Antara Dutta	52
13.	Urban Articulation: A Case Study in a Rural Assamese Migrants'	22
	Colony of Guwahati	
	Puja Nath	56
14.	Assessment of Work Culture Based on Different Parameters of Job	20
	Satisfaction in Kumaon Region of Uttarakhand	
	Dr. Kiran Joshi / Dr. Phakir Singh	
	Brii Mohan Joshi	
15.	Effectiveness of Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS):	61
	A Study With Reference to Three Leading Special Libraries of Jorhat	
	Anurag Borpatra Gohain	
16.	A Socio-Legal Analysis of Lllegal Termination of Pregnancy in India	66
	Hiya Das	
		71

17.	Women Empowerment Through Self Help Groups : A Case Study of	
	Lakhimpur District of Assam	
	Bhoirab Jyoti Konch	76
18.	Assessment of Knowledge and Practice of Menstrual Hygiene	
	Neha Kar	83
19.	Between Free Choice and Tradition: Contemporary Perspective on Marriage	
	Among the Sonowal Kacharis	
	Sujata Sonowal	87
20.	Extension Services: Social Connectivity of Libraries	
	Pranjal Deka	93
21	The Impact of Byzantine Art in W.B. Yeats with reference to his 'Sailing to	-
21.	Byzantium' and 'Byzantium'	
	Mandira Sana Basumatary	97
00	Customary laws: Special Reference to the Death Custom of The Rabhas of	71
22	Goalpara District	
	Rumi Nath	100
22	. The Role of Community in Social Order	100
23	Sanghamitra Baruah	103
24	Student and Anti-British Struggle in Colonial Assam: Revisiting the History of	103
-	their Contribution in Indian National Movement	
	Monjit Gogoi	108
25	5. The Importance of Value Education in Present Education Systems	100
	Dr. Ruchi H. Arya	112
26	5. The Myth of Egalitarian Status of Traditional Bodo Women in Society	112
	Kabi Ranjan Musahary	116
27	7. Cultural Identity Through Khiring Khiring Baitho Puja	116
	Sukanya Sonowal	100
28	3. Effectiveness of Education for Children With Special Needs	122
	Javshree Das	
29	9. Oral Tradition and the Written word: A study of Raja Rao's Kanthapura	127
	Adul Croch	
30). The Challenges of Demonetization on Unorganised Sector: A Post	129
	Demonetization Study	
31	Lovin Kro / Saurabh Barman . Panchayatiraj System in Assam	132
,		132
32	Dharma Das Accord-Making Experience and B	1.40
22	Accord-Making Experience and Peace-Building Process in India's Northeast: An appraisal of the Post Peace A	140
	apprensar of the Fost-Bodo Accord Complexities in DTAR	
22	Bijaya Sarmah Feminist Legal Theory	
33	Feminist Legal Theory: Feminist Lawmaking and Women's Role in Making History	143
	Role in Making History	
	Pallavi Aggarwal	
34	Green Revolution and Its Impacts in India	148
	Farbin Sultana Rogum	0
35.	Marriage and Divorce Older Muslim Law	155
	Divale	133
26	Reality and Fiction in Ben Okri's the Famished Road: A Postcolonial Study	1.50
50.	Sambhabana Ray	159
	Tourism Industry in Assam: Prospects, Problems and Remedies Bikash Das	
37.	Bikash Das Bikash Das	171
	243	

Tourism Industry in Assam: Prospects, Problems and Remedies

Bikash Das

Abstract: Tourism is a fastest growing industry in the world. Tourism industry may work as an income and employment generator for a country or region. Tourism in Assam is based on wildlife, natural beauty, unique flora & fauna, holy shrines, green tea gardens, rivers, vibrant and colourful cultural festivals. Assam has a great tourism potential, which are to be explored as commercial resources. This paper is an attempt to analyze the prospects and problems of tourism industry in Assam. The paper also provides some suggestive measures to solve the problems faced by the tourism industry in the state.

Keywords: tourism, potential, wildlife, flora & fauna.

Tourism means short term movement of the people to their favorite places outside the native places. In the ancient time it was considered as a hobby, but at the present time it is considered as a huge industry all over the world. Now a day, tourism is one of the fastest growing industries of the world. Assam is one of the most attractive tourist spots of the country. Tourism industry plays a vital role in the economy of the state.

Assam, the gateway of Northeast India is situated within the latitude 24° North to 28° North and longitude 90° East to 96° East. The total geographical area of the state is 78,438 square Km and the total population is around 3.12 Cores. The state is divided into two parts namely Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley. Assam is well known for its natural resources. There are many attractive places in Assam which are identified as tourist hotspots of the state. However, many problems are being faced by the tourism sector in the state. These are geographical isolation, lack of government attention, poor transportation, lack of investment, natural calamities, political instability, terrorism etc. Although many problems are involved in the tourism industry of Assam, the state has a vast potentiality of income and employment generation in the state. Proper government initiatives should be taken by the government for promoting the tourism industry in the state, so that the economy of the state may grow through the tourism industry.

Gupta VK (1987) made a study on tourism potential in India. The study found that the tourism sector in India has been rapidly growing after independence. It also found that many initiatives have been undertaken by the government to develop the tourism sector in the country.

Farooq et al. (2012) finds that tourism has direct positive impact on the livelihood of the people of a region or country. The study has been made in Galiyat where the local people consider tourism as beneficial for them.

Rizal Parveen and Asokan R. (2013) studied on the contributions of the tourism industry to the economies of the North Eastern Indian states. It is found that the tourism sector contributes a considerable share to the Gross Domestic Product of the North Eastern states of the country.

Prospects of Tourism Industry in Assam:

Assam, the gateway of Northeast India is well known for its unique natural beauty which includes different verities of flora and fauna available in the state, historical monuments, religious places, tea garden etc. It is a land inhabited by different ethnic groups and communities. Each community has their unique culture and traditional way living which are another component of tourism in the state. Assam has a vast potentiality of tourism development based on which the economy of the state can be developed. The main components of tourism industry in Assam are national parks and sanctuaries, rivers and wetlands, forests, wildlife, cultural heritage sites, religious places, tea gardens etc. The tourism potentialities in the state can be divided into the following categories (3,5,6).

Wildlife Tourism:

Assam is famous for its colourful wildlife. Some exclusive species of wildlife are available in the forests of the state. The one-horned rhinoceros of the Kaziranga in Assam is world famous. Other exclusive species of wildlife found in the state are hollock gibbon, the pigmy hog, the golden cat, the golden monkey etc. There are five National Parks namely Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa in Assam which covers an area of 1561 square km. On the other hand, there are eleven wildlife sanctuaries in the state which covers an area of 493 square km. All these can make Assam as one of the most attractive tourist places of the world.

Nature Tourism:

Assam has a vast scope of nature tourism. The state is situated in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots. Assam has a plenty of resources for developing nature tourism which include forests, flora and fauna, blue hills, waterfalls, national parks, bird sanctuaries etc. There are so many places of natural beauty in Assam where different species of rare animals and birds are found. If the tourism potentials of the state are fully utilized then it may be the backbone of the state economy within a few years.

Tea Tourism:

Assam is world famous for its tea. The state produces more than 50% of the country's total tea production. There are about 1000 tea gardens in Assam which are tremendous sources of natural beauty. The inhabitants of tea garden areas have a unique way of living. There unique culture, songs and dances are the centers of tourist attraction. The tourists from different places of the world visit the tea gardens of Assam to see the people and their colorful culture.

Cultural Tourism:

Assam is a land inhabited by different ethnic groups and tribes. Each ethnic group and tribe has their unique cultural heritage. According to the census 2001, there are 23 tribes in Assam. About 13% of the state's total population is occupied by the tribal communities. Each tribal community has their own customs, religious belief, language, culture, festivals, food habits, songs and dances which are the main sources of cultural tourism in the state. The Bihu festival celebrated by the people of Assam is another source of cultural tourism in the state.

Pilgrim Tourism:

Assam has a great prospect of developing the pilgrim tourism in the state. The religious places Assam has a grown are the centre of pilgrim tourism in the state. In the religious places and the temples of Assam are the centre of pilgrim tourism in the state. Kamakhya temple of Assam is and the temples of Assam is one of the most attractive religious places of the country. About 1000 visitors visit the temple in every

day. Kamakhya is well known for its Ambubachi Mela celebrated in the month of June. During the Ambubachi Mela more than 1 Lakh pilgrims come for pilgrimage. The other religious places of tourist attraction in the state are Barpeta, Batadrawa, Madan Kaamdev temple, Majuli etc. Majuli, the largest river island of the world is one of the most attractive tourism spots in Assam. It is the nerve centre of Vaishnav Culture propounded by Shrimanta Sankardeva. The tourists from different countries of the world visit Majuli to see the Satras and the natural beauties of the river island. Thus Assam has a great prospect of pilgrim tourism based on these religious places.

Assam has a vast scope of eco-tourism based on its natural beauties and climatic conditions. The state has a vast potential of developing eco-friendly tourism as it is virtually free from industrial pollution. Its green forests, blue hills, enchanting rivers are the sources of eco-tourism in the state. However, some infrastructural facilities like good transport, good hotels for food and lodging, water sports equipments have to be developed for the development of eco-tourism industry in the state.

Besides, tourism industry has witnessed glorious success and rising gradually after globalization. The tourism industry is providing employment opportunities and economic benefit to the unemployed people of Assam. Table-1 shows a picture of tourism traffic to Assam and revenue earned from the tourists in the recent years.

Table: Tourists' Traffic and Revenue Earnings in Assam.

Table: Tourist		E-mings(Rs in Lakh)
	CTourists	Revenue Earnings(Rs.in Lakh)
Voor	Number of Tours	20.41
Year	14,777	31.72
1990-91	16,998	
1995-96	9,88,329	31.72
1999-2000	12,47,419	41.03
2002-03	21,95,615	69.01
2004-05	34,93,527	81.30 94.99
2006-07	35,03,613	94.77
2007-08		Survey, Assam,

Source: Directorate of Tourism, Assam and Economic Survey, Assam, 2003-04, p.42 & 2008-09, p.80.

Although Assam has a plenty of natural resources and tourism hotspots the tourism industry of the state is not well developed. There are many obstacles of developing the tourism industry in the

- (i) Geographical Isolation: Geographical isolation is the main reason responsible for the backwardness of the tourism industry in Assam. Assam is situated in the Northeastern part of India Which is comparatively isolated from the other parts of the country. Geographical isolation stands as an Obstacle to communicate the state with the other parts of the country. As a result, the state fails to
- (ii) Natural Calamities: Assam is a heavily disaster effected zone of the country. Flood problem is an annual event in the state. Most of the tourism places in the state are affected by flood in every Year. During the flood season it is very difficult for the tourists to visit the state. On the other hand, flood and other natural calamities like soil erosion, deforestation and drought bring thread to many tourism places of the state. For example, Majuli, the largest river island of the world situated in Assam is going to lose its identity due to the soil erosion problem. At present, the total area of Majuli is 352 square Km which was 1250 square Km in 1950.

(iii) Lack of Tourism Infrastructural Facilities: To develop the tourism industry some infrastructural facilities are needed. These are hotels with food and lodging facilities for the tourists, good communication, clean and hygienic food, water sports equipments etc. These infrastructural facilities are not so developed in Assam. As a result, inspite of its huge potentialities the tourism industry in the state remains very backward.

(iv) Poor Transportation:

Poor transportation is another reason of underdevelopment of the tourism industry of Assam. Most of the places of tourist attraction in the state are situated in a long distance from the national highways. Moreover the communication system to these places is not so comfortable. Therefore the domestic tourists as well as the foreigners are not interested to visit the state.

(v) Lack of Government Attention:

Lack of government attention is another problem related with the tourism industry of Assam. The state government as well as the central government are totally failed to utilize the tourism potentialities of Assam. No any remarkable tourism policy is being adopted by the government in the state.

(vi) Terrorism:

Terrorism is a dangerous problem in Northeast India. Assam is also no exceptional. Now a days, kidnapping, killing, bandh, strikes curfew have become as common events in the state. Tourists from foreign countries and domestic tourists consider it very risky to travel the state. They think that they may be the target of the terrorists.

(vii) Absence Tourists guide:

Another problem related with the tourism industry of Assam is that the state does not have any trained tourists guide. It is very essential to have some tourists guide to popularize the components of tourism of a particular region. The government does not take any remarkable initiatives for training the tourist guide.

Suggestive Measures for Promoting Tourism Industry in Assam:

It is very essential to develop the tourism industry in Assam for socio-economic development of the state. With this regard the following suggestions are provided.

- (i) A huge investment should be made by the government to eradicate the problem of geographical isolation. Besides, communication drawbacks should be removed from the state through proper investment policy.
- (ii) The infrastructural facilities of tourism like good hotels and lodges, reliable communication facilities, hygienic food and water, water sports equipments should be developed to improve the tourism industry in Assam.
- (iii) Government should make proper government tourism development policy to improve the tourism industry in the state.
- (iv) Awarness of the people is very much needed to develop the tourist places of the state. Public awareness to develop the socio-economic condition and environmental atmosphere of the tourist places.

(v) Government as well as the inhabitants of Assam should make a joined effort to bring political stability in the state.

(vi) Proper initiatives should be taken by the government to train t to be the tourist guides. Some institutions or training centers should be set up and developed in the state.

Conclusion:

From the above analysis we may conclude that there is a vast scope of development of tourism From use and development of tourism industry in Assam. The state has a plenty of natural resources and beautiful places which may attract the attention of the foreigners as well as the domestic tourists. On the contrary, many problems are being faced by the tourism industry in the state which includes poor transportation, lack of infrastructure, natural calamities, geographical isolation, political instability etc. Inspite of these problems, Assam has a vast potentiality of economic development through the tourism industry. Proper initiatives should be taken by the government to develop the tourism industry, so that it may create income and employment opportunities in the state.

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