



# Tourism Development and its Impacts in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: An Understanding from the Host Community Perceptions

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## Abstract

Tourism has both positive and negative impact on the host community. This paper tries to find out the perceptions of the host community towards tourism development and its impacts in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A simple random household survey was conducted among 353 respondents of Shaheed Dweep to know about perceptions on two factors of impact: (i) Costs of Tourism Development and (ii) Benefits from tourism Development. An exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was applied for it. The findings reveal that tourism development has created lots of employment opportunities as one of the positive impacts but on the other side as a negative impact, it found that due to the seasonal nature it is creating more part-time job than full-time among the host community.

**Keywords:** Host community, Tourism Development, Impacts, Perceptions, Shaheed Dweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

## 1. Introduction

“Tourism development” means tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts,

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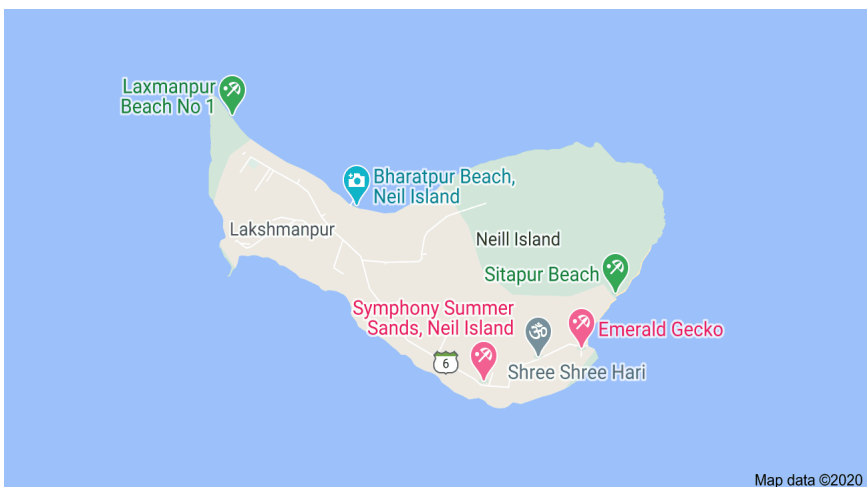
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addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities (UNWTO, 2005). The term “host community” in tourism can be defined as people who live in the vicinity of the tourist attraction and are either directly or indirectly involved with, and/or affected by the tourism activities (Smith, 2001). The Host community perception can be referred to as “attitudes” (Lindberg & Johnson, 1997). Tourism Development creates economic, socio-cultural and environmental changes in the host community’s life. Some changes are more beneficial than others (Lee, 2013). The host community are one of the important stakeholders of tourism development. Tourism development will be more successful with the involvement of the host communities as their perception and attitudes are important for the decision-makers to achieve sustainable tourism (Eshliki & Kaboudi, 2012). Host communities’ perceptions of the cost and benefits of tourism are the major factor in tourist satisfaction and are important for the success of the tourism industry (Andriotis & Vaughan, 2003). The role of destinations uniqueness is also very important in shaping communities attitudes towards impacts and support for tourism development (Gursoy & Rutherford, 2004). The positive perceptions of the host community are very important to the success of tourism planning and developmental projects (Ap, 1992). The tourism development research should consider the roles of perceived benefit on tourism planning and development (Jafari, 2001). There is an importance of host community involvement in the planning and management of tourism for its sustainable development (Cater, 1994). The host community participation in tourism developmental projects and decision-making must be encouraged and it should not remain confined only to the dominion of the government (Wilson et al. 2001). For the overall tourism development, all the members of the host community in tourist destinations must be encouraged or involved in the tourism development planning projects rather than a small part of the communities who are directly involved in it (Garrod, 2003). Hence, this paper tries to look into the different perceptions of the host community on the impacts of tourism development in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## 2. Research Site

Port Blair is the capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It consists of 826 islands, out of which only 38 islands are inhabited by people. This island is a paradise for tourists. It is the islands of green paradise on the blue surface ((Rajavel, 1998). Tourism in islands is very sensitive. The environment is fragile and could be easily disturbed and damaged. Proper environmental planning is a prerequisite for the development of tourism in the islands (Shelly, 1991). Tourism and fishing are the major industries of the islands. However, as per government policies, tourism is mainly concentrated in Andaman's group of islands and is restricted in the Nicobar group of islands. Shaheed Dweep is formerly known as Neil. Aquatic activities and Eco-friendly resorts have an equal degree of influence on tourism development in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Deka & Baruah, 2021). The beach resorts play a very important role in the development of tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The "trained staff" of the resorts contributed a lot to the tourism development and resort business in the islands (Deka & Baruah, 2021).

Figure1: Map of Shaheed Dweep (Neil Island)



Source: <https://www.indiamike.com/india-images/pictures/Neil>

Table 1: Numbers of Resorts in Shaheed Dweep (Both Government and Private)

Shaheed Dweep	Resorts		Total no. Resorts
	Government	Private	
Numbers	01	34	35

**Source:** Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration

**Table 2:** Tourist attractions in Shaheed Dweep

Sl.No	Tourist Attractions	Uniqueness/ Tourist Activities
01	Bharatpur Beach	White sandy beaches with water adventure sports.
02	Sitapur Beach	White sandy beaches with a sunrise point.
03	Laxmanpur-1	White sandy beaches with scenic views.
04	Laxmanpur-2	Natural Bridge

**Source:** Field Survey

### 3. Literature Review

The research on host community perceptions on the impacts from tourism development is increasing due to the relationship between community support and government future tourism developmental projects (Angelkova et al., 2012). The relationship between the resident perceptions and tourism impacts could be seen in four stages and described as “embracement, tolerance,

adjustment and finally withdrawal. Embracement takes place when the host community are benefitted from tourism; they accept it and feel positive about it. In the tolerance stage, the host community begin to feel the impacts of tourism and involvements occur in the tourism development. Depending on the degree of their involvement in tourism, some of them adjusted with the change as per the adjustment stage while others do not. Finally, withdrawal takes place when the host community no longer can cope up with the impacts of tourism and a negative perception prevails among them (Ap & Crampton, 1993). The host community must have an active say on what kind of tourism should be developed or not and be free enough to reject any kind of tourism if it is not fit to their lifestyle and culture (Richard & Hall, 2000). A strong positive and vibrant relationship always exists between tourism development and the positive perceptions of the host community (Nzama, 2008). In making tourism business successful the positive attitude of the host community is necessary along with the better quality of environment and product and services (Murphy, 2006). The host community will show a positive response even though if they are not benefitted economically from tourism but benefit socially and culturally. (Conlin & Baum, 1996; Tosun, 2002; Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2011; Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011). The perception of the host community is the most accurate factor to evaluate the current situation of a tourist destination (Cottrell & Vaske, 2006). The host community perceptions on the impact of tourism development varied based on their perception of the benefit generated from the development (Dyer, Aberdeen & Schuler, 2007). Tourism development brings benefits to the host community The tourists increasingly expect tourist's accommodation which must be presented in the local style so that it delivers a feeling of local flavours (Kamra & Chand, 2010). Sustainability and performance are the two main aspects of tourism development. The destinations' governance and strategic planning must be oriented towards reinforcing high-quality resources and offers to attain the destinations' competitiveness and sustainability (Diaz & Rodriguez, 2016). Tourism gives impetus to national income. It constitutes a demand for services and consumer goods that stimulates the production sectors bringing with it an automatic increase in national consumption and has a chain reaction effect on

the entire national economy. The tourism industry is not based on idealism; it is a dynamic field, which covers the involvement of land, labour, capital, organisation including public finance (Lodha & Raina, 2004). Tourism has a multiplier effect on the economy in a tourist destination besides employment and income generation at the same time. In a tourist destination with the help of tourism a significant improvement can be made in the income and standard living of the host community (Mathur, 2007). Eco-tourism should be given priority in tourism sectors especially in areas like the Himalayas, North Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. Tour operators must be encouraged to promote eco-tourism packages and the local community must be motivated to participate in this endeavour. Education and training programmes must initiate by the local government authority to tour guides and the local community (Misra & Sadual, 2008). Natural resources like Coastal resorts, wildlife, rain forests, and Good weather conditions are a mixture of environmental features that attract a tourist to particular tourist destinations (Narasaiah, 2006). In modern-day tourism, the social, environmental, cultural and ecological aspects have due weightage in the process of tourism development (Negi, 1990). The host community are more positive when they have benefited from the development of tourism (Wall, 1996). The tourism industry described 'tourist destination' as a composition of both site and event attraction which acts as a pull force to draw a tourist to a particular tourist destination. The site attraction includes (national parks, wildlife sanctuary, beach, mountains, rivers etc.), cultural (area of archaeological interest, historical buildings and monuments, places of historical significance, museums), tradition (national festival, arts and handicrafts, native life and customs) along with other attractions like the climate of the destinations itself a unique attraction not available elsewhere". However, destinations' attractiveness could be diminished by violence, political instability and natural destruction and overcrowding along with inappropriate infrastructure (Armstrong & Kotler, 1997) The key issues and problems of Islands tourism are sustainable tourism, global tourism and the impact of tourism in the islands. (Gupta & Bansal, 1998). The demand pattern of tourism varies from market to market. It keeps on changing over a comparatively shorter period

based on the prevailing socio-economic, environmental and political situations in the tourist destination and the tourist market (Punia, 1997). Tourism is a highly labour-intensive service industry; it creates a wide range of jobs from unskilled to highly specialised positions. The positive impact of tourism is that it creates employment in the remote regions of developing countries where there are abundant tourist attractions (Nigam, 2002). A tourism product is something that satisfies the tourist's needs. Various travel motivators give shape to different tourism products. It includes festivals, wildlife, beaches, yoga, spas, adventure sports, conventions and conferences, shopping, purchase of souvenirs etc. Accessibility, amenities and facilities for tourists, climate, accommodation, architectural resources etc will also influence customers' purchasing decisions. Tourism products comprise natural beauty, infrastructural facilities, cultural attractions etc. (Jacob et al., 2007). The tourist is the consumers who avail the facilities and services of the tourism industry and by accessing their behaviours in terms of expectations and demand it could be possible to evolve a strategic plan for the promotion of tourism in an area (Bhattacharya, 2004). The tourist destination is the target area that tourist visit. It is the core component of tourists' holiday experiences ranging from urban tourism destinations holiday experiences to rural or wilderness experiences. The tourist destination is made of different groups referred to stakeholders such as the host community, the tourism industry, the public sectors, the tourist and another group (Page et al., 2001). There is a great need to recognise and understand the community-based traditions of sustainability concerning tourism development in a tourist destination (Saarinen, 2006). Environmental and planning theories deals with tourism development include natural and manmade. Proper planning is required to maintain a balance between the natural and manmade environment in tourist destinations (Nickerson, 1996). Natural attractions are not sufficient to attract a tourist to a particular tourist destination. With the natural attraction, manmade tourist facilities and services are to add further to attract the tourist (Ratti, 2007). Infrastructure plays a greater role in the development of tourism in a tourist destination. Hence, the government should give due importance to it (Chauhan & Khanna, 2007). The assessment of tourist demand based on their

perceptions is required for tourism development in a destination. It helps in understanding and accessing the requirement for transportation, accommodation and another tourist facility (Kamra, 2001). Tourism developments catalyse economic, socio-cultural and environmental changes in the life of the host community of a tourist destination. Therefore, host community participation is a must for the sustainable development of tourism (Stylidis et al., 2014). The host community support is necessary for the successful operation and sustainability of tourism. The host community are the main stakeholder in leisure and tourism management (Choi & Sirakaya 2005). There are positive and negative impacts of tourism development on the host community. Through tourism development, economic and social growth can be achieved by the under-developed countries, but also it sometimes disrupts the society's moral values (Perez & Nadal 2005). There is an important relationship between economic gain and the support of the host community. The host community will be more supportive of tourism development for its economic gain (Hamil, 2004). The host community perceptions towards tourism impact can also be divided into positive and negative. (Arefet al., 2009). There are three types of impact that can be seen in tourist destinations from tourism development. This impact affects the host community economically, socially and environmentally. The economic impact can be seen through employment and income generation, the social impact can be seen through the revival of traditional craft and ceremonies, increased intercultural communication and understanding and environmental impact include protection of parks and wildlife, natural vegetation and many more (Andereck et al., 2005). In developing countries' tourism development has become an important tool of economic development through employment generation, foreign exchange earnings for the host community. It can be argued that in the process of tourism development the traditional lifestyles and ethnic values of the host communities can only be preserved and conserved when they are actively involved in it (Mitchell & Reid, 2001). For the sustainable development of tourism, the host community participation must be encouraged in the planning and management process of tourism (Small & Edwards 2005). In developing countries, the participation of the host community in the decision-making process of tourism



development is limited and insignificant. Their participation is often being neglected or overlooked by the policymakers of the tourism industry (Dola & Mijan, 2006). The host community motivation can be attained for tourism development only when they are being encouraged to take participate in the decision-making process (Li, 2006). In making tourism business successful the positive attitude of the host community is necessary along with the better quality of environment and product and services (Murphy, 2006). The attitudes of the host communities related to the development of tourism improve by the cordial relationships between the host and the tourist (Zhang et al. 2006). In developing countries tourism development has become an important tool of economic development through employment generation, foreign exchange earnings for the host community. It can be argued that tourism development brings economic prosperity along with social well-being and stability to the host community (Weaver & Opperman, 2000). The importance of the involvement of the host community in the development planning process of tourism and more studies regarding the community's participation in different aspects must be undertaken (Teye et al. 2002). For sustainable tourism development host community participation and support is a must. According to the author, it is the host community that understands better than others that how a destination adapts to change for their betterment (Page, 2007). The positive impact of interactions between the host community and tourism activities in terms of employment and income generation, societal peace, improve quality of life and integration of different cultures. Tourism offers opportunities to host communities to make new friendships and expose them to the new world of fortune (Kumar et al. 2003). Host community participation is very important for tourism development, if it is not there then there is every chance of growth of hostility between the tourism promoters, tourists and the host community (Nyaupane et al. 2006). To minimise the possible negative impact of tourism development and maximise its benefits, understanding the perspectives of the host community helps a lot particularly in developing countries (Gursoy et al., 2010).

#### 4. Methodology

A simple random household survey was being conducted during November - December 2020 to find out the host community perceptions towards impacts from tourism development in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The questionnaire explored the impacts of tourism development on the host community in two ways - (i) Cost of Tourism Development and (ii) Benefits of Tourism Development (economic, socio-cultural and environmental). Respondents were given 19 questions on tourism impacts based on 5 points Likert scale where “1” represented “strongly disagree” and “5” represented “strongly agree”. The sample size for the simple random household survey was decided using Yamane(1967) equation as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where “n” is the sample size, “N” is the population of Shaheed Dweep which is 3040 (Census Report, 2011) and “e” is the acceptable sampling error taken as 0.05. Based on the above equation the sample size obtained was 353 respondents. The respondents were mostly in the age group between 18 to 65 years of age who are directly or indirectly affected by the tourism development. An almost equal share of the male-female ratio is maintained in the selection of the respondents.

Table: 3 Respondent profiles (n=353)

SI.No	Variables		Number	Percentage
01	Gender	Male	180	50.99
		Female	173	49.00
02	Age	18-25	45	12.74
		26-40	159	45.04
		41-65	133	37.67

		Above 65	16	04.53
03	Qualification	Below Graduate	73	20.67
		Graduate	190	53.82
		Post Graduate	67	18.98
		Above Post Graduate	23	06.51
04	Occupations	Government Service	65	18.41
		House-wife	41	11.61
		Resort employee	50	14.16
		Tour Guide	25	07.08
		Tour Operator	29	08.21
		Boat Operator	23	06.51
		Transport Operator	28	07.93
		Street Vendors	31	08.78
		Souvenir Shopkeepers	29	08.21
		Adventure operators	22	06.23
Others	10	02.83		

Source: Compiled by the author

**Table 4:** Impacts from Tourism Development

	Positive	Negative
Economic	Employment creation Increased in expenditure & investment Improved standard of living time than full-time job Increased foreign exchange earnings, Local infrastructural facilities	Localised inflation Seasonal Business Create more part-time Business becomes highly competitive
Socio-cultural	Strengthening traditional & cultural values An Improvement in social services	Potential increased in crime, drug use Potential increased in prostitution Modification of local culture
Environmental	Conservation of natural resources Increased Environmental awareness	Overcrowding Pollution Changed feeding and breeding habits of wildlife The general spread of garbage and litter Trampling of plants and reduction in local biodiversity

Source: (Mathiesen & Wall, 1982). (Lea, 1988). (Murphy,1983), (Pearce, 1989). (Hall, 2001).

**5. Discussions**

The 19 items of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism development were subjected to an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) using principal component analysis. The factor analysis (table: 3 & 4) was carried out to identify the respondents’ perception on impacts from tourism development in Shaheed

Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The suitability of data for factor analysis was assessed through reliability analysis.

**Table 5:** Factor analysis on Cost of Tourism Development (n=353)

Factor	Items	Factor Loading	Mean	Std Deviation
Costs of Tourism Development	Tourism development increased the price of local goods and services for the host community.	.573	4.01	1.11
	Tourism development creates more part-time jobs than full-time jobs due to the seasonal nature of the tourism business for the host community.	.475	4.10	0.99
	Tourism development has increased migration from the mainland to the islands.	.821	4.06	1.07
	Tourism development increases crime, drug use prostitution in the islands.	.635	3.78	1.24
	Tourism development has created modification and over-commercialisation of local culture and traditions.	.474	3.93	1.03
	Tourism development creates pollution in the islands	.556	3.95	1.22

Tourism development produces a large number of waste products.	.837	3.86	1.34
Tourism development has changed the islands natural landscape through the construction of artificial tourism infrastructural facilities.	.631	4.05	1.05
Eigenvalues		3.11	
% of variance		30.56	
Cumulative variance (%)		54.90	
Cronbach's alpha		0.81	

**Source:**Compiled by the author

**Table 6:** Factor analysis on Benefits from Tourism of Tourism Development (n=353)

Factor	Items	Factor Loading	Mean	Std Deviation
	Tourism development creates employment opportunities for the host community.	.612	4.00	0.96
	Tourist development has increased the standard of living due to tourist spending on the host community.	.545	3.91	1.21
	Tourism development provides opportunities for local businesses to	.573	3.57	1.05

	the host community.			
Benefits from Tourism Development	Tourism development helps in bringing new investment to the islands.	.586	3.72	1.14
	Tourism development resulted in the creation of more local infrastructural facilities for the host community.	.634	3.63	1.28
	Tourism development has resulted in more recreational facilities for the host community.	.684	3.65	1.29
	Tourism development created a sense of pride for the host community by exchanging local cultural and traditional values with the tourist.	.446	3.86	1.20
	Tourism development provides more opportunities for cultural activities to the host community.	.756	3.48	1.18
	Tourism development has improved the facilities of tourist spots.	.582	3.61	1.24
	Tourism development helps in the conservation of natural resources as tourism attractions.	.486	3.78	1.29
	Tourism development	.496	3.14	1.11

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has increased the environmental awareness among the host community.

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Eigenvalues	3.52
% of variance	30.28
Cumulative variance (%)	53.90
Cronbach’s alpha	0.84

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**Source:** Compiled by the author

The Barlett’s Test of Sphericity shows statistical significance with the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value of 0.75 and 0.69 exceeding the recommended value of 0.6 (Hair et al.,1995) which means the items can be subjected for further exploration to identify underlying factors that may exist. Reliability analysis (Cronbach’s alpha) was calculated to test the reliability and internal consistency of each factor and a cut-off point of 0.4 was used to include items in the interpretation of a factor (table: 5 & 6).The results showed the alpha coefficient for all two factors ranged from 0.81 to 0.84. The value is acceptable as it is above the minimum value of 0.50 indicated for reliability for basic research (Nunnally, 1967).

It has been observed from Table: 5 regarding factor 1: (Costs of Tourism Development) in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands it has been seen that Tourism Development has created more part-time jobs than full-time jobs due to the seasonal nature of tourism business for the host community (mean score=4.10) which is the highest than the other items of the factor: 1. It has also been seen that Tourism development has increased migration from the mainland to the islands (mean score=4.06) which need to be addressed with due concern by the tourism planners and the Govt. authority. Tourism development has changed the islands natural landscape through constructions of artificial tourism infrastructural facilities (mean score=4.05) which need to be seriously addressed for sustainable tourism development. Tourism development has increased in the price of local goods and services for the host community (mean score=4.01).



Tourism development creates pollution in the islands (mean score=3.95).

It has also been seen from Table: 6 regarding factor 2: (Benefits from Tourism Development) in Shaheed Dweep of Andaman and Nicobar Islands it has been seen that Tourism development creates employment opportunities for the host community (mean score=4.00). Due to which it has increased the standard of living due to tourist spending to the host community (mean score=3.91). Tourism development created a sense of pride for the host community by exchanging local cultural and traditional values with the tourist (mean score=3.86). Tourism development helps in the conservation of natural resources as tourist attractions in the islands (mean score=3.78). Tourism development helps in bringing new investment to the islands (mean score=3.72).

## **6. Conclusion & Scope for Further Research**

This study establishes that though tourism is creating employment opportunities in the islands at the same time, the issue of the seasonal character of the tourism business is also being noticed affecting the full-time job benefits for the host community. These findings could be used to introduce necessary interventions for the policymakers while formulating the policies for the development of tourism throughout the year befitting the host populations. The study also revealed that tourism development has increased migration from the mainland which is a matter of concern for the different tourism stakeholders in maintaining the indigenous character of the islands. It is also found that tourism development has created a sense of pride for the host community by exchanging local cultural and traditional values with the tourist and being effective in bringing new investment to the islands. Future exploration could be done by including the host community to assess their scope of employment opportunities in diversified areas of the tourism industry in the islands. Research could also be taken up to look at the various investment opportunities for the host community in the tourism business.

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