



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM IN TADоба ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE.

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Abstract:

The TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), located in Maharashtra, India, is one of the country's premier protected areas for tiger conservation and eco-tourism. This study explores the socio-economic impact of tourism on the local communities surrounding the reserve. Through a mixed-methods approach involving surveys, interviews, and secondary data analysis, the research evaluates how tourism contributes to income generation, employment opportunities, infrastructure development, and community empowerment. The findings reveal that eco-tourism has significantly improved livelihoods, especially for those engaged in hospitality, guiding, and handicraft sectors. However, the benefits are unevenly distributed, and there are concerns regarding cultural erosion, environmental degradation, and seasonal dependency. The study underscores the need for inclusive tourism policies that balance conservation priorities with local socio-economic development to ensure sustainable tourism in the region.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact, Eco-Tourism, Employment Generation.

Introduction:

Tourism is one of the most influential socio-cultural and economic activities of the 20th and 21st centuries¹. The tourism industry is one of the most lucrative industries in the world today. This industry, which is run without much

investment, has gained an important place in the development of every nation. In the 21st century, tourism will be the world's number one service industry, this prediction made by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) is going to become true by growing tourism. In 2019, the industry had a global turnover of about 2.9 trillion US \$. In 2019 the total number of international tourists was 1.5 billion.² The growing number of tourists is a testament to the glorious tradition of the tourism industry.

Tourism not only generates economic turnover through inter-state tourism but also does the transmission of culture, language, traditions and folklore from one region to another. Even at the international level, tourism is an important medium to exchange cultures, languages and ideas between nations.

Tourism in protected areas has emerged as a significant tool for both wildlife conservation and rural development. The TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), located in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, India, is one of the most prominent tiger habitats in the country and a popular destination for eco-tourism. Over the past two decades, TATR has seen a steady rise in tourist footfall, largely driven by the global appeal of tiger sightings and the reserve's rich biodiversity.

With this growth in tourism, there has been a parallel transformation in the socio-economic landscape of local communities living in the periphery of the reserve. Villages near TATR have increasingly engaged in tourism-related activities, including employment as safari guides, hotel staff, transport providers, and

¹Manila Declaration on World Tourism. World Tourism Conference, Manila, Philippines.10 October 1980.pp.1-4.

²First comprehensive Report on global tourism, United Nations World Tourism Organization, 20 Jan 2020,

sellers of local crafts. Infrastructure development such as roads, communication networks, and hospitality facilities has further contributed to regional development.

However, tourism in and around protected areas like TATR brings with it a complex mix of benefits and challenges. While it offers economic opportunities and incentivizes conservation, it may also lead to socio-cultural changes, unequal distribution of income, and environmental stress. Understanding these dynamics is essential for ensuring that tourism remains a sustainable and inclusive activity that supports both conservation goals and local livelihoods. This study aims to assess the socio-economic impacts of tourism in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, with a focus on the extent to which it has contributed to the well-being of local communities, the challenges they face, and the strategies needed to optimize benefits while minimizing adverse effects.

Methodology:

This study based on primary and secondary data. Primary data collected by researcher by visiting various places around TATR. Secondary data collected from Government offices and reports. Some interview of villagers conducted by researcher to study the socio-economic impact of tourism.

Study Area:

The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in the eastern district of Chandrapur in Maharashtra. 20° 4' 53" North to 20° 25' 51" North Latitude And 79° 13' 13" East to 79° 33' 34" East Longitude. The Reserve will be extended to 1727.17 sq.km. is spread across the area. This includes 625.40 sq. km. of core zone and 1101.77 as the buffer zone.

On April 9, 1955, Tadoba National Park was formally created enclosing an area of 116.55 sq. km. area. Also on 25/02/1986, Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary had been established in 508.85 sq.km. area. The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve came into existence in 625.40 sq. Km. area on 27/12/2007 by merging Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary on 23/02/1995

(116.55 + 508.85 = 625.40), both Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary were declared as Core or Critical Tiger Habitat. Then after on 5/5/2010 1101.77 sq. km. area was declared a buffer zone around Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. It covers a total of 79 villages.

Results and Discussion:

The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is a region known as an animal paradise. Considering the number of wildlife in terms of wildlife tourism, Tadoba is one of the largest tiger reserves in Central India. About 581 different species of animals, including tigers, leopards, deer, nilgais, sambars, dogs, cats, bears, birds, insects, butterflies, etc., are seen living in the Tadoba-Andhari tiger Reserve. These include 80 species of Mammals, 192 species of Aves, 54 species of Reptiles, 84 species of Pisces, 68 species of Butterflies, 11 species of Amphibians, 76 species of Insects. , Centipede 12 species, Scorpionida 34 species. The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is famous for its dense forest including 87% of the total area is reserved. These forests have a variety of mixed forests. We found Teak forests cover 11.48%, mixed forests 76.16%, grasslands 7.17% and treeless areas 5.19% of total area in Core Zone. And mixed forests 63.09%, Zudapi Forest 1.82% and treeless areas 35.09%. of total area in Buffer Zone.

The rich flora and fauna of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve proves the potential for tourism. The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve has about 115 tigers in 2022, including core and buffer zones. The Tiger density in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is 1 tiger in 15.10 sq. Km. Due to the high density of Tiger and other wildlife more than Two lakhs tourist are visited to TATR every year. With the increasing number of tourists, the revenue is also increasing. The total revenue received from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in 2014-15 was 3 crore 52 lakh 45 thousand 952 rupees which has increased to 12 crore 07 lakh 84 thousand 330 rupees in 2018-19.

Table 1: Revenue of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve from Tourism

Year	Revenue from Core Zone (in rupees)	Revenue from Buffer Zone (in rupees)	Total Revenue (in rupees)
2014-15	3,33,97,502	18,48,450	3,52,45,952
2015-16	4,82,87,668	33,09,335	5,15,97,003
2016-17	6,00,70,779	57,55,350	6,58,26,129
2017-18	7,95,04,468	87,79,570	8,82,84,038
2018-19	9,93,77,299	2,14,07,031	12,07,84,330
Total	32,06,37,716	4,10,99,736	36,16,37,452

Source: Office of the Field Director and Chief Conservator, TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur

The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve has had a social, cultural and economic impact on the villages in the area. While discussing the economic impact, it is necessary to review the employment opportunities created by the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Just as the creation of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve has resulted in forest conservation and wildlife conservation, employment opportunities have also been created here on a large scale. The citizens of the villages in the core area of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and the villages in the buffer area had to earn a living by farming and collecting secondary forest produce and wild fruits from the forest. However, since the start of tourism in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger

Reserve, due to the availability of many types of employment opportunities, the sources of income of the citizens of this area have increased and the standard of living has improved to some extent.

1. Direct Employment: Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is generating direct employment through tourism guides, gypsy drivers, gypsy owners, tourism managers, forest workers (temporary), hotel operators, home stay operators, waiters, hotel managers, kitchen staff, housekeeping, tea stall operators, snacks center operators, juice center operators, fruit stalls, car repair shop workers, scaffolding stays, butterfly gardens, boating centers, night safaris, cycling, bird scaffolding, adventure sports centers, etc.

Table 2: Direct Employment Through Tourism in TATR (2019)

Sr. No..	Nature of Employment	Number	Sr. No..	Nature of Employment	Number
1	Tourist Guide	324	13	Snacks center owner	28
2	Gypsy Driver	319	14	juice center owner	17
3	Gypsy Owner	212	15	Fruit stall vender	8
4	Tour Manager	30	16	Mechanic	16
5	Forest Worker	378	17	Machan Stay	6
6	Hotel /Resort owner	24	18	Butterfly Garden staff	7
7	Home stay Owner	56	19	Boating centre staff	10
8	waiter	122	20	Night safari assistant	12
9	Hotel Manager	54	21	Cycling Guide	4

10	kitchen staff	71	22	Bird machan Guide	4
11	Housekeeping staff	121	24	Adventure Center staff	4
12	Tea stall vender	32	24	Fire Wachter	534
				Total	2393

(Source : Data collected by researcher)

2. Indirect employment from tourism:The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve has provided direct employment to a total of 3,000 to 4,000 people. Apart from this, there are about 3,000 to 4,000 people who are indirectly employed as interpreters, tour operators, massage therapists, vegetable sellers, milk and curd sellers, poultry farms, fishermen, mutton sellers, grocery stores, boat shops, photographers, egg sellers, car washing centers, washermen, bread and bread sellers, etc. Tourists visiting the TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve also contribute to many businesses in Chandrapur city.

Employment generated by forests:The forests in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve have created a large number of employment opportunities in Chandrapur district. These mainly include the following forest products.

1. Bamboo: The paper manufacturing factory, Built Paper Mill at Ballarpur in Chandrapur district, requires a large amount of bamboo. A large amount of forest area is covered with bamboo in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Thousands of people have been provided employment by the workers and employees working in this factory, the laborers who cut the bamboo, the communication system required to reach the bamboo factory, and the workers in it.

2. Tendu collection: There are a large number of tendu trees in the forests of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Bidi is made from tendu leaves. The work of tendu leaf collection is done on a large scale in Chandrapur district. In the villages in the buffer areas of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve as well as in other villages nearby, the work of collecting tendu

leaves is going on on a large scale in the months of March, April and May. People are getting seasonal employment on a large scale through tendu leaf collection. However, they are getting good financial income through that.

3. Mahua Collection: There are large numbers of Moh trees in the forests of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Moh Phule is a major source of income for the tribal community in this area. Various drinks and foods are made from Moh Phule. Therefore, there is a huge demand for Moh Phule. Citizens of the buffer area are getting some employment through the collection and sale of Moh Phule.

4. Wild Fruit Sale: The forest of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is very rich in wild fruits. In the forests here, fruits known as wild fruits such as amla, mango, jambul, tamarind, char, bor, yeronya, kavat, tembhar, katbor, khirnya, etc. are found in large quantities. The tribals of this area collect these wild fruits and bring them for sale in Chandrapur city. This also provides some employment.

5. Honey collection: Bees naturally make honeycombs on trees in the forest and the tribal community extracts honey from it and sells it in the city. There is a high demand and price for honey brought from the forest in the city. Recently, efforts are being made to reduce human activities in the forest, due to which activities like honey collection, tendu leaf collection, and wild fruit collection are being restricted. However, the TadobaAndhari Tiger Project has provided a large amount of employment to the citizens of the area.

List of Public works for the citizens of the buffer zone in TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve from 2015-16 to 2019-20

S.N.	Types of Work	Number of Work
1	LPG connection	21169
2	LPG cylender refilling	181268

3	Allocation of milch animals	231
4	Well fencing construction	377
5	Solar lights	1451
6	Solar fencing	3382
7	Toilets construction	3260
8	Pond / drain deepening	140
9	Kitchen ota construction	7075
10	NirdhurChool construction	1026
11	Tank/Borewell construction	92
12	L B S	1598
13	E- Learning sets distribution	108
14	Water filter installation	24203
15	Garbage pot supply	317
16	Digital cameras Installation	208
17	Seating ota construction	1003
18	Guide Traning	50
19	Smart Anganwadis	16
20	Cement Bandhara construction	1
21	Machan construction	120
22	Seating bench distribution	259

(Source: office of the Deputy Director, TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve (Buffer), Chandrapur

Conclusion:

Through the revenue generated from tourism in TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve, various activities are being implemented on a large scale for the construction and conservation of forests in TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve and the residents of the buffer zone. Along with providing employment to the citizens of this area, various facilities are being provided to improve their standard of living. Innovative schemes like ban on axe-cutting and smoke-free are being implemented to protect the citizens from wild animals. Increased income opportunities, association of tourists from all over the world and exchange of ideas are seen to be changing the mindset of the people. The inclination of the

citizens towards education has increased. As a result of all this, a positive impact is seen on the social and economic life of the people living in the buffer zone of TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve.

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