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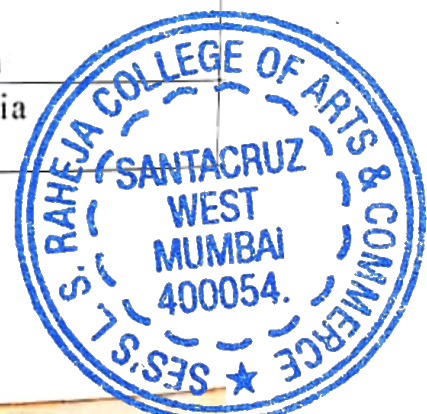
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## Development and Challenges of Tribal Tourism with Special Reference to Tribal of Central India

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### Abstract:

*'Tribal tourism' as defined by Terry Ward, journalist and travel writer, is "a new form of travel in which tourists visit tribal villages in order to be exposed to a culture completely different from their own." In Central India, states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh see maximum tribal tourism. Tribal tourism has been instrumental in creating various financial opportunities for the tribes living in the hinterlands. It has helped foster awareness about the indigenous people in India, many of whom face oppression, lack of opportunities and social exclusion.*

*Even today, every Indian tribal group holds an inheritance of traditions, which are deeply rooted in their culture and lifestyle. The tribal tours in India are most refreshing and energizing. It will take you away from the chaos of the city and town to the calm and peaceful place where people still believe in living a simple life just like their ancestors do. The Indian civilization is one of the oldest in the world. You can still find the remains of this oldest civilization in the primeval places of the country and explore more about the culture, traditions, rituals, customs and lifestyle of the India tribal people.*

**Keywords:** Tribal Tourism, Tourism

### Introduction:

The tribes of central India are lakhs in number. These tribes are mainly found in the Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. The Major tribes included are Gond, Bhil, Koli, Warli, Katkari, abhuj, Birhor, Kharia and Kamar, Rathwas etc. Most of these Tribes are following their age old traditions and customs. They come under the category of Scheduled Tribes according to the government of India. The Heritage of these tribes have enriched the culture of India in a way. The heritage of these tribal groups is unique which can be seen by observing their dress, dance, Folklore, dress, dialect myths, Painting, rituals and rites etc. One can easily make out how different they are from other social groups and rich culture makes them different in a crowd. They still follow the old traditions where the nature is worshipped in various forms. They still use wooden plough for cultivating crops like rice, maize, millets which are their staple food. Gond, Bhil, Kavar, Nagesia, Andh and Korku tribes practice agriculture as a source of livelihood. But they also engage in subsidiary activities like working as agricultural or industrial or forest labourer.

They continue to make various types of traditional art and craft items but with some modifications. Baskets, bell metal artefacts and iron wood carvings are being made but as per the present market needs and sold at market rates.

However before looking at the emergence of tourism in India, looking at the history of travel would be in order. The History of the travelling is as old as the history of mankind from the earliest time man has wondered in search of food and shelter. In the history of the world, there has never been a migration of people from one country to another on such a large scale as it is taking place today.

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number of reasons can be described behind man's desire for travel. Since ancient time, man has been a confirmed traveller, he often migrated new places for change. Wars and religious undertaking have also been responsible for shifting men from one place to another. Trade and commerce was the major cause of men travelling from one place to another and involved to a large number of people look out for business. However only the person who travel for pleasure and want to know the mode of living and culture of different countries, can only be called tourist in the true sense. The credit of travelling for pleasure for the first time goes to Romans. They had a very good communication system and security also which are essential for travelling especially for pleasure. Another reason for travelling was the intention of people to explore the world and to see what all lies on the other side of the world. The people of economically strong countries to show their feeling dominance and to impress others by their way of life.

**Definition, meaning of concept of regional tourism:**

Etymologically the word "tourist" dates back to 1232 A.D. It has come from the "tour" which derived from Latin word "tornus" i.e a tool for describing a circle or a turner's wheel from 1643 onwards it has been in vague in the sense of tourism as it is being understood these days. The world 'tourist' is derived from the term 'tour' which according to Webster's international dictionary means "a journey at which one returns to the starting point, a circular trip usually for business, pleasure or education during which various places are visited and for which an itinerary is usually planned". In Sanskrit we come across three terms for tourism derived from the rootword 'atna', which indicates going of leaving home for some other places. A 19<sup>th</sup> c dictionary defines tourist as 'people who travel for pleasure of travelling, out of curiosity and because they have nothing better to do, and even for the joy of boasting about it afterwards.

The growth of cultural tourism are related to some fundamental shifts in society. As society has developed, so the basis of human needs and wants has also changed. As we became increasingly able to satisfy our basic needs for food and shelter, we turned our attention to the satisfaction of 'higher order' needs, such as status and self-fulfillment. People are no longer just concerned to accumulate goods, but they also want to develop themselves and their own consumption skills through cultural and creative activities.

**Tourism is compose of three basic elements:**

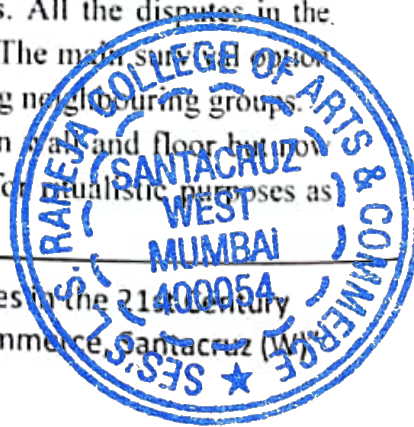
1. A dynamic elements involves to a selected destination or destinations
2. A static elements which involves a stay in the destinations
3. A consequential elements, resulting from the two preceding elements, which is concerned with effects on economic, physical and social sub-systems with which the tourist is directly or indirectly in contact.

Thus, tourism is a composite phenomenon which incorporates the diversity of variables and relationships to be found in the tourist's travel process.

**Lifestyle of the Central Indian Tribes:**

The tribal have adopted the primitive way of living. They are dependent upon firewood, grass. Timber etc. to carry on their day to day activities. These tribes are organised into small villages that have a chief head of the tribe or elder of the villages heading the villages. All the disputes in the village are solved by the chief as they have the legal authority of the same. The main source of food for these tribes are is hunting, farming, gathering of fruits and roots and selling neighbouring groups.

The painting style of tribe is unique. Traditionally they painted it on wall and floor but now they have started using paper as well as canvas. These painting are made for realistic purposes as



well as to spread peace and purity in their surroundings. Drawn during the festivals or rituals connected with seasonal changes, sowing of crops, the onset of rain, harvest or on significant occasion in their families such as birth, puberty, marriage, pregnancy and death, they are symbols drawn a fresh each time, in the courtyard, or the threshold and on other spaces in the house.

A comparative appraisal of tribal and contemporary art reveals a closer kinship between the two for both tend to free themselves from the constraints of naturalism. Tribal art, though it derives its substances from nature, depicting birds, animals and plant life, does not render it in the naturalistic manner. As in the world of myths, where the events do not follow a realistic sequence but create a parallel reality, so is the case with tribal painting or for that matter any art piece. Symbols drawn on the wall with white rice paste, ochre or yellow earth color, done by women or the tribal priest are common to both folk and tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh. The Rathwas of Gujarat, Warlis of Thane District of Maharashtra, the Gonds of Central India decorate the wall of their houses and with beautiful paintings and appliqué designs of animals, humans and other subjects. In spite of the all pervasive influence of religion on the art of tribal India, there are certain forms of decoration that appears to be largely secular in purpose. Such are the secular wall decoration of the Gonds and Pradhans in Mandla and the wood-carving of Gond, Baiga, Santhal, Kond, Juang and Saoras.

The decoration of the houses of the tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh, is the responsibility of the women. Bas-relief work is usually done on the inner walls of the house, around the central courtyard. It is usually done during the construction of the house when wall is still wet. The wall is rubbed clean so as to obtain a smooth texture. Dowels or pinches of clay are quickly and deftly applied directly on the mud walls to form ridges lines, curves and dots in order to produce the designed shapes. However, in order to prevent clay surface from cracking and crumbling a fresh coat of clay and cow dung is applied from time to time. The use of lime wash or other earth colors can occasionally be seen on these walls.

However, with the fast disintegration of tribal society and culture, their art too is disappearing. Fortunately, whatever is left of it, is being sustained by tourist demand and the newly awakened interest in ethnic things among the urban elite

**Tribal Tourism includes wide ranges of activities, such as:**

- Languages
- Religion , rituals, belief and practices
- Nature
- Sports
- Festivals and Fairs
- Arts and crafts
- Designs
- Music, Singing, Dance
- Storytelling
- Weaving, creative textile
- Food

**Enhancing the economy through Tribal Tourism:**

- Develop and create more homegrown creative people and unique products
- Generates new jobs in the creative tourism sector
- Guides
- Transportation Jobs



- Local craftspeople
- Hosts
- Infrastructure development
- Use creative tourism to attract people interest in urban renovation

**Challenges and Role of the government in tribal tourism:**

1. The government must come out with a master plan of the requirements of environments as well as the impacts on the social fabric of the tribal society.
2. The object of this planning exercise is to beautifully and make tourism an attraction, instead of making it crowded with traffic jams and shopping centres.
3. The authenticity of these cultural have to be preserved.
4. A national Tourist Organisation ought to be developed to promote the marketing of the tourist products produced by their people.
5. The government may develop a strong research and development wing that would conduct studies for gauging the causes of motivations to undertake journey to destinations and marketing research both overseas and within the country to provide guidelines to be the private sector for development and promotion.
6. For the healthy development of tribal tourism in a country like India, it is desirable for the government to provide facilities for training in hotel management, tourism and travel agency work
7. To have a successful tourism policy, the government must go all out for generating a favourable tourist climate by simplifying entry and exist formalities, by providing better transportations facilities and by educating the people in general for welcoming tourist to their country.

**Conclusion:**

Tribal tourism is about tourists getting actively involved in the creative lives of the places they visit and meeting and interacting with local people. Active involvement in creativity makes a deeper impression on tourist, implies the need for them to stay longer in the destination and offers the opportunities to develop meaningful relationship with the local community, enhancing the likelihood they will return.

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