

Environmental Impacts on Tourism in India

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ABSTRACT:

Tourism is one of the biggest and fastest growing sectors in the global economy and has a significant impact on the environment, culture, society and also on the economy both positively and negatively. There is a need to minimise the various impacts which badly affect tourism sectors by proper tourism planning, managing and undertaking in a way that is environmentally sustainable, socially beneficial and economically feasible. Focus should be given more on Ecotourism and proper planning on balanced use of resources. The positive impact of tourism leads to development of the host communities whereas the negative impact of tourism can gradually destroy environmental resources on which it depends. The main aim of the study is to understand the impact of tourism both positively and negatively on the environment and to find out the direct impact of tourist activities in the respective tourism areas. The sample frame taken in and around Maduravoyal Bridge and complete collection of flooring samples are collected directly from the public and thus the size of the sample is 200 and it is collected through a convenient sampling method. The main purpose of the paper is to review various environmental impacts of tourism and the effects of tourism on various natural resources, environmental pollution and on the physical environment. The relationship of tourism with the environment is complex. Tourism has the potential to create beneficial effects on the environment by causal to environment protection and conservation. It involves many activities that can have unpleasant environmental effects.

KEYWORDS: Tourism, Environmental Impacts, Ecotourism, Natural resources, Tourists, Pollution.

I. INTRODUCTION:

In 1976, the Tourism Society Of England's definition was " Tourism is the temporary, short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally work and live and their activities during the stay at each destination. It includes movements of all purposes." There is continued growth and diversification of tourism has been experienced over the decades and it has become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Tourism has become a thriving global industry with the power to shape developing countries in both positive and negative ways. No doubt it has become the fourth largest industry in the global economy. Similarly, in developing countries like India, Brazil and China tourism has become one of the major sectors of the economy, contributing to a large proportion to the National Income and also able to generate huge opportunities in creation of employment . It has become the fastest growing service industry in the country with huge potential for expansion and diversification. There is a need to discuss the positive and negative environmental impacts of tourism. Environmental impact of tourism can be discussed in two ways as : Positive and Negative Impacts. The positive impacts are like Direct financial contribution, Raising Awareness, Increase in Government Revenues & etc... whereas the negative impacts are like Depletion of Natural Resources, Land degradation, Pollution & etc... . The latest trend in the tourism industry is called "ecotourism", which refers to travel that combines preserving the natural world and sustaining the well-

being of the human cultures that inhabit it. (Mowforth and Munt, 2003) In general, ecotourism differs from traditional tourism in two main respects: first, ecotourism openly promotes environmentally friendly travel and seeks to ensure that visitors do not disturb the natural environment of flora and fauna, nor do they leave behind rubbish and hazardous materials, which can disrupt the delicate ecosystem. A second aspect of ecotourism is that it seeks to promote “sustainable” tourism. Tourism that destroys the natural environment, or that leads to the disappearances of local human cultures and values is not compatible with ecotourism. An early example of ecotourism occurred in Kenya in the 1970s when the Kenya Government began to collect fees for tourists to support conservation and park maintenance in the wildlife reserves. The main aim of the study is to understand the impact of tourism both positively and negatively on the environment and to find out the direct impact of tourist activities in the respective tourism areas.

II. OBJECTIVES:

- To develop and promote the competitiveness of India as tourist destination
- To study the environmental impact of tourism.
- To analyze both the aspects of environmental impacts.
- To discuss various preventive measures for the negative environmental impact of tourism.
- To ensure employment generation and economic growth by the tourism industry.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

(Chanchani, Seshadri, and Viswanath 2019)The study aims to assess the environmental situation arising at two important locations in North Western Himalaya-Kullu and Manali due to increasing pressure of tourism. It takes up the problems of over construction of hotels, deforestation, air pollution, solid waste, water pollution and also suggests some mitigating measures to lessen the load of different forms of pollution. Hotel construction registered its highest growth in this region (about 38%) during 80s due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. One-quarter of the hoteliers and tourists consider deforestation as one of the topmost problems arising due to unregulated tourism. **(Li et al. 2021)**The country has experienced an increasing use of its natural and cultural environment for tourism, resulting in tourism resources being adversely impacted in many tourism destinations. Specifically, research on tourism impacts on the biophysical and socio-

cultural environments, tourism carrying capacity, environmental quality assessment, and measures for the protection and management of tourism resources was reviewed. **(Batta 2000)**The importance of tourism as an instrument for economic growth and employment generation, particularly in remote and backward areas, has been well recognized world over. It is the largest service industry globally in terms of gross revenue as well as foreign exchange earnings. Tourism plays an effective role in achieving growth with equity objectives which we have set for ourselves. The extant tourism literature suggests that the expansion of the tourism sector can contribute to long-run macroeconomic performance of developing countries. India vining high potential for the expansion of the tourism industry can be a catalyst for the long-run socio-economic growth. Thus, we have investigated the impact of tourism on India's economic growth over a period from 1990 to 2015. The results predict the possibility of a long-run equilibrium relationship between tourism and economic growth.

(Madan and Rawat 2000)The majority of the tourists preferred to use the indigenous hotels and about 96% of the tourists used a private vehicle rather than public transport. The installation of modern tourist related facilities and infra-structure has led to the aesthetic degradation of the landscape. Tourist facility development is often disorderly and scattered. To reduce the traffic to Mussoorie town it is suggested that some nearby places like Dhanaulti and Park estate should be developed for tourism. It was recorded that the greatest number (60%) of the tourists were middle aged, 53% of the tourists worked in professional services. The majority of the tourists preferred to use the indigenous hotels and about 96% of the tourists used a private vehicle rather than public transport. **(Alderman and Yemtsov 2013)**It is a well-known fact that tourism is a sector that can contribute to the economic growth of a region. Moreover, tourism produces social benefits to the region (i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises' development, creation of new jobs, improvement of infrastructure etc.). Culturally, tourism is said to be an element of community enrichment, thanks to the meeting of different cultures. Also tourism can positively contribute to the maintenance of a natural environment by protecting, creating or maintaining national parks or other protected areas. This paper focuses on the tourism sector and its impacts on the economy, environment, politics and the sociocultural being of the host community. The main aim of this research is to highlight the well-organized and managed economic impacts by host communities on the host

community. (Saiardi 2017)The Tourism ministry has also played an important role in the development of the industry, initiating advertising campaigns such as the Incredible India Campaign, which promoted India's culture and tourist attractions in a fresh and memorable way. It helps the country in creating employment opportunities for a large number of people. Moreover, it is also one of the important engines to attract more foreign exchanges with its potential. We need to concentrate on liberal policies, relaxation in taxes, comprehensive packages and so on to influence tourist and foreign investment. There is also a need to increase the government's role to make India flourishing in tourism and established in the global market. India has a rich source of tourism for the establishment of the brand.(Nash 1996) Tourism is the world's largest industry without making smoke. It occupies one in nine global jobs and contributes 10 percent to the world's Gross Domestic Product. It is a dynamically developing area of external economic activities. It affects different other sectors of the economy through its high growth and progress rates, substantial amounts of foreign currency inflows, infrastructure expansion and introduction of new management and educational experiences. Consecutively it adds positively to the social and economic development of the country as a whole. Its actual and potential economic impact is amazing.

Tourism contributes both positively and negatively to the environment. It involves many activities that can have adverse environmental effects. Many of these impacts are linked with the construction of general infrastructure such as roads and airports, and of tourism facilities, including resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, golf courses and marinas. The negative impacts of tourism development can gradually destroy environmental resources on which it depends. On the other hand, tourism has the potential to create beneficial effects on the environment by contributing to environmental protection and conservation. It is a way to raise awareness of environmental values and it can serve as a tool to finance protection of natural areas and increase their economic importance. (Gursoy and Nunkoo 2019). (A. Sharma 2014)Tourism in mountainous regions is a significant source of revenue generation. However, it has also been associated with many adverse environmental consequences. This study aims at assessing the negative impacts of the incessant upsurge in tourism development on the physical environment of Mussoorie, a well-known mountain tourist destination in India. The impact indicators

for the region were identified and assessed by qualitative and quantitative analysis of field observations. The observations indicated the aggravation of traffic congestion, atmospheric pollution, undisposed solid waste, water scarcity and infrastructure unavailability as the prevalent issues, especially during the peak tourist months. (Foster and Boardman 2018) tourism brings negative environmental effects such as degradation of landscapes and habitats, increased vulnerability of avifauna and wildlife, and pollution leading to the decline of species. Environmental Impacts of Tourism in Developing Nations is a pivotal reference source that explores some of the critical challenges faced in the tourism economy particularly with regard to the impacts on the environment in developing nations. It also explores the impact tourism plays in the biophysical environment such as the issue of climate change. (R. Sharma and Rao 2018)Although there is awareness regarding the environmental impacts of tourism, tools to quantify regional impacts are incomplete. This paper develops a new method using the concept of Ecological Footprint to assess the environmental impacts of tourism activity. It presents an approach to estimate the production footprint of tourism activity at a local level. The Ecological Footprint of Tourism (EFT) is an impact indicator and can be used as one of the tools to gauge sustainability of development activities. It brings to light the less obvious demands placed on ecological capital. (Milano, Cheer, and Novelli 2019)According to a report by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC, 2002), India could generate 25 million additional jobs in the Tourism Sector by 2010. This is due to the reason that an increasing number of tourists now prefer to visit attractive natural environments or protected areas set aside for conservation.

Located at the top of the environmental and industrial chain, tourism is extremely sensitive to environmental conditions and to the impacts others have on the system. In fact, the state of tourism itself may be a key indicator of system stability. (OECD 2008) This research project attempts to examine the impact of tourism on economy, environment, and socio-cultural aspects and explores how it incorporated sustainable tourism development as the core mission to achieve economic, environmental, and socio-cultural development of tourist destinations. The main objective of this research is to examine the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural sustainability of tourism development. The research findings can guide the government agencies, tourism operators, hotels and restaurants, and NGOs while

formulating and implementing tourism policies. The research findings may be used by other states to incorporate and implement the principles of sustainable development in their tourism development plans and programs.

(Markham et al. 2016) Mountain tourism in developing countries is becoming a growing environmental concern due to extreme seasonality, lack of suitable infrastructures and planning, and interference with fragile ecosystems and protected areas. This paper presents a study devoted to assess the adverse environmental impacts of tourism, and in particular of trekking-related activities, in Ladakh, Indian Himalaya. The proposed approach is based on the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) modeling and remote sensing imageries to cope with the lack of data that affect the region. The main objective of the study was to understand patterns of tourism-induced environmental degradation, so as to support mitigation interventions, as well as the development of suitable tourism policies.. (Rizal 2016) Tourism has strong linkage with the economic growth and development in India. Because of its maximum backward and forward linkages, tourism contributed more in the income and employment generation in India. However, the development of the tourism sector in India also raises some of the issues related to the environment. The findings of the study revealed that an environmental issue of tourism in India is different per region or state. (Dar and Khuroo 2020) Kodagu district has been internationally recognized as one of the environmental "micro hot spots" due to the biological diversity and distribution of the Western Ghats. The present study deals with an impact of extreme tourism on the environment and socio-economic conditions of the district. The study shows that tourism has made substantial contributions to the livelihoods of local communities especially on socio-economic conditions. The study contributes to the knowledge and information on the current status of tourism vulnerability and diverse opinions on the conservation in among the local communities.

(Stankov et al. 2019) Tourism is a cultural phenomenon. It both impacts cultures and society, and is shaped by cultures and society. Tourism therefore has a profound effect on the host country and can enact huge changes in the community, and this impact is particularly noticeable in less-developed nations. The paper is an attempt to discuss the impact of tourism on Indian culture, considering the question of protecting and maintaining the cultural heritage and certain allied issues. Increased leisure time and changes in

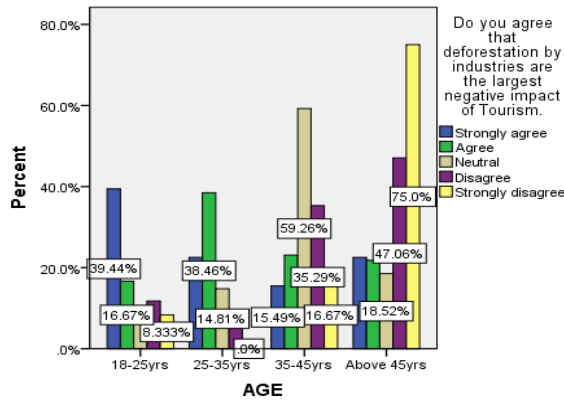
lifestyle and consumption have given renewed importance to the tourism sector; formerly confined to the wealthy classes the chance to travel and visit other cultures is now commonplace. (Singh 2007) the impact of tourism in mountain areas, based on the experience of the Kulu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India. Because of problems of accessibility, tourism is only a relatively recent phenomenon in the valley. Manali, now overwhelmed by tourists every summer and autumn, was the first town to develop as a tourist attraction. Visitors create visible cultural contrasts in a primitive mountain society which had remained almost a closed system for centuries. Tourism, like other industries or human activities, can induce varying degrees of negative environmental and social consequences. The convergence of fast growing global tourism, largely due to higher income, more leisure time and lower transportation costs, allied with technological advancements and new tastes in recreation activity, has raised serious concerns about tourism's sustainable future (Manjoo 2018). "Over Tourism" is now a trendy new term that frames such concerns about tourism's environmental and social impacts Research on tourism's environmental impacts, the subject matter of this chapter, has confirmed that tourism is responsible for a host of direct and indirect environmental effects Less certain, however, is whether this body of scientific literature actually informs or shapes tourism development toward greater sustainability. (Séraphin, 2020)

IV. METHODOLOGY:

The present study of this paper is based on primary data collection by the researchers and follows some secondary sources books, journals for the paper. The statistical tool followed here is Graphical representation and charts are attached to this research work. The sample frame taken in and around Maduravoyal . A complete collection of flooring samples are collected directly from the public and thus the size of the sample is 200 and the samples have been collected through a convenient sampling method. This research follows empirical study. The Independent variables are age, gender, marital status, educational qualification, occupation. The Dependent variables are eco tourism, tourists, negative impacts, conservation awareness, and natural resources.

ANALYSIS:

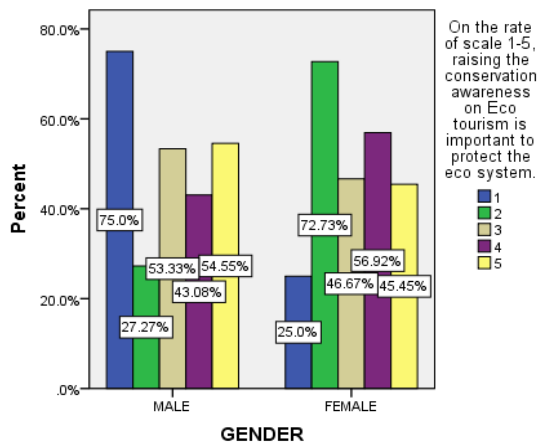
Figure 1



LEGEND:

The above graph is between age distribution of sample population and their responses on deforestation by the industries are the largest negative impact on tourism.

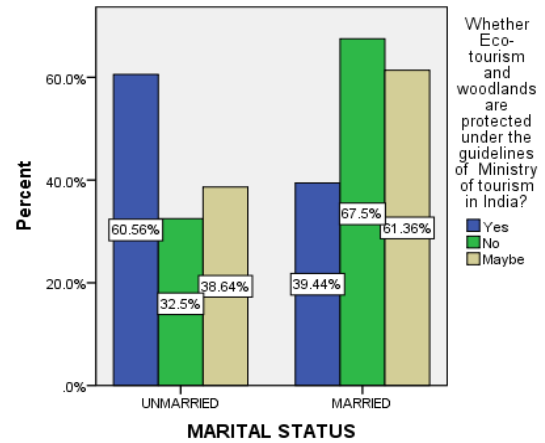
Figure 2



LEGEND:

The above graph is between the gender of the sample population and their responses on the rate of scale 1-5, raising the conservation awareness on Ecotourism is important to protect the Ecosystem.

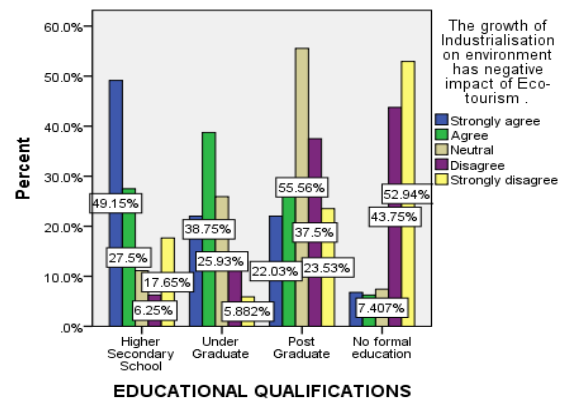
Figure 3



LEGEND:

The above graph is between the Marital status of the sample population and their responses on Ecotourism and woodlands are protected under the guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism in India.

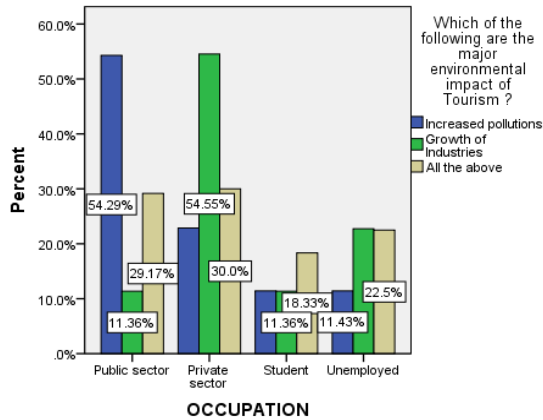
Figure 4



LEGEND:

The above graph is between Educational qualifications of the sample population and their responses on The growth of Industrialisation on the environment has a negative impact on Ecotourism.

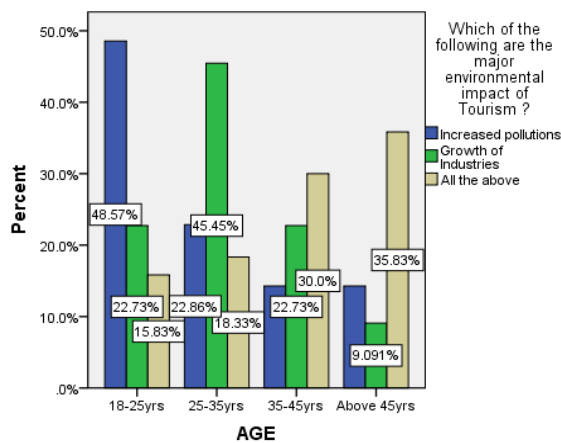
Figure 5



LEGEND:

The above graph shows the occupation of the sample populations and their responses on which of the following are the major environmental impacts of tourism.

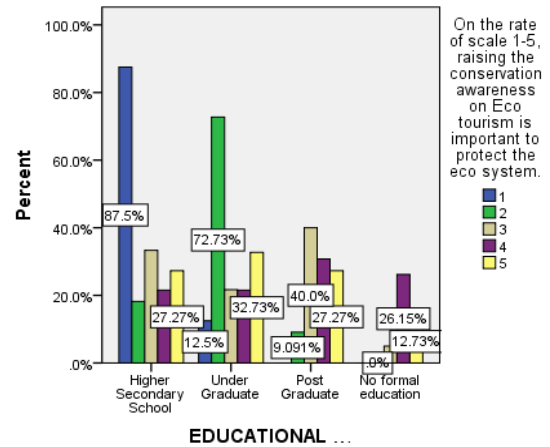
Figure 6



LEGEND:

The above graph shows the age of the sample populations and their responses on which of the following are the major environmental impacts of Ecotourism.

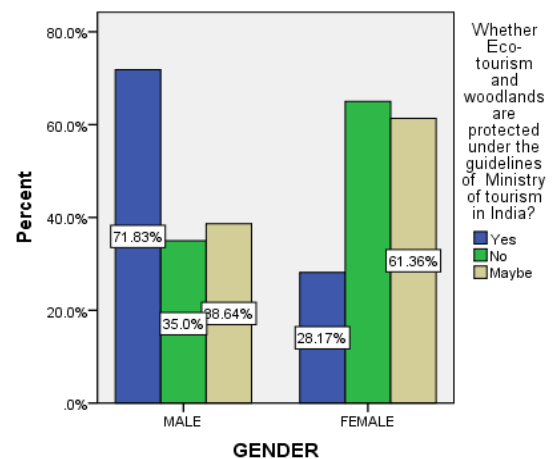
Figure 7



LEGEND:

The above graph is between the educational qualifications of the sample population and their responses on the rate of scale 1-5, raising the conservation awareness on Ecotourism is important to protect the Ecosystem.

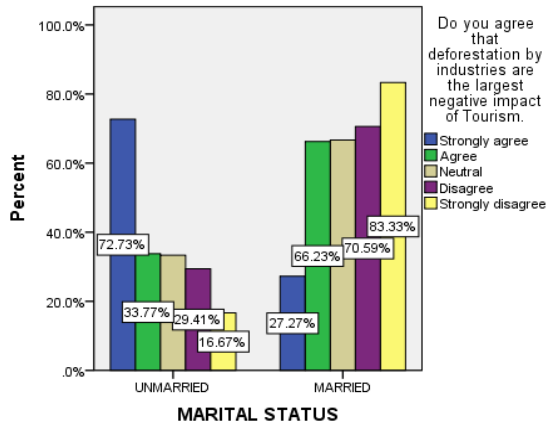
Figure 8



LEGEND:

The above graph is between the gender of the sample population and their responses on whether Eco-tourism and woodlands are protected under the guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism in India.

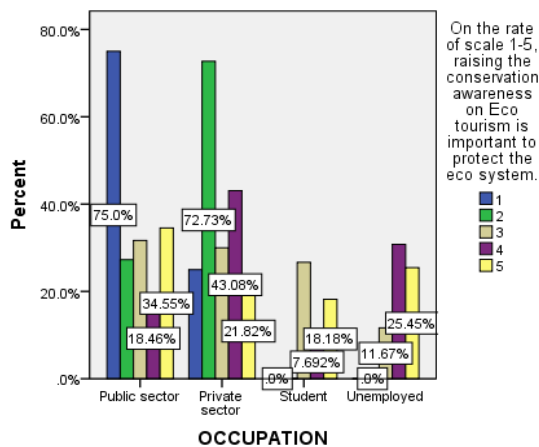
Figure 9



LEGEND:

The above graph is between the Marital status of the sample population and their responses on do you agree that deforestation by industries are the largest negative impacts of tourism.

Figure 10



LEGEND: The above graph is between occupation of sample of population and their responses on rate of scale 1 to 5, raising the conservation awareness on Ecotourism is important to protect the Ecosystem.

V. RESULT:

The figure 1 graph shows that the 18 to 25 years aged respondents have felt strongly agreed at 39.44% whereas 25 to 35 years respondents have felt aggrieved at 38.46 % and 35 to 45 years respondents felt in neutral at 59.26% whereas above 45 years have felt strongly disagreed and 75%. The figure 2 graph shows that Majority of the male

respondents have given 1 as least rating at 75% whereas the female respondents have 2 as rating at 72.73% on the rate scale. The figure 3 shows that unmarried respondents said yes at 60.56% whereas married respondents said no at 67.5% for the statement. The figure 4 graph shows that Highest secondary school respondent have said that strongly agree that 49.15 % where is under graduate respondents and a great at 38.75% and postgraduate filled neutral that 55.56% and no formal education respondents have given strongly disagree at 52.94%. The figure 5 graph shows that the public sector respondents have said increased pollution is at 54.29% and private sector people said growth of industries is the impact at 54.55% and student respondents said all of the above at 18.33% where is the unemployed respondents said growth of industries is the major impact at 22.5%. The figure 6 said that the 18 to 25 years age the respondents have said increased pollution is the impact at 48.57% whereas 25 to 35 years respondents a growth of industries is the impact at 45.45 % where is 35 to 45 years respondent said all of the above and above 45 as respondents have seen all of the above is the impact at 65.83%. The figure 7 graph shows that majority of higher secondary school respondents have given the least rating as one at 87.5% various undergraduate respondents have given 2 as rating at 72.73% and Post graduate respondents have given three as rating on scale at 40% where is the no formal education respondents have given 4 as rating at 26.15 %. The figure 8 graph shows that majority of the male respondent at 71.83% have said yes whereas the female respondent at 61.36% have said no to the above statement. The figure 9 shows that the unmarried respondent at 72.73% house it strongly agree to the statement where is the married respondent at 83.33% have felt it is disagreed to the given statement. The figure 10 graph shows that public sector respondents at 75% given the rating where as private sector respondents have given 2 as rating at 72.73% whereas the student respondent have given 3 as ratings at 7.692% an unemployed respondents have given 4 as rating at 25.45% to the statement.

VI. DISCUSSION:

The figure 1 graph shows that 18 to 25 years and 25 to 35 years respondents have aware about the consequences of deforestation so the people have felt strongly agree that deforestation is the largest impact created by industries to the tourism sector but the 35 to 45 years age respondents and about 45 years it's respondent have felt strongly disagreed it shows that they are not much aware about the consequences of

deforestation. The **figure 2** graph shows that both female and male respondents have given the least rating as 1 & 2. It shows that everyone is aware about tourism and it's important to maintain the ecosystem, thus it is not much needed to raise conservation awareness in this modern society. The **figure 3** shows that majority of unmarried respondents have said yes Woodlands and eco-tourism sector should be protected under the Ministry of tourism guidelines, it shows that people have to know about the importance

of nature resources and it made it available to the future generation also where the married respondents said no because protection given to Woodlands or eco tourism sector is well developing and threat was made by human activities in society and everyone is aware about the eco tourism and ecological balance in the environment. The **figure 4** graph shows that majority of higher secondary school and undergraduate respondents said industrialisation has it negative impact on eco tourism this shows that the rapid growth of urban areas with technologies and industries affects the natural resources and the ecotourism and its environment so they felt strongly agreed and postgraduate respondents have felt neutral this shows that they have not much concerned about the consequences to eco tourism whereas no formal education respondents have Felt strongly disagree that the growth of industrialisation is not only the consequences but also the other factors from the nature side also responsible for the impact on Eco tourism. The **figure 5** graph shows that majority of public sector private sector where is the students and also unemployed respondents are aware about the consequences of industrial growth and pollution is caused by human activities to the environment and it also affects the tourism sector, and this shows that the people are well aware about the major environmental impact of tourism which is caused by the industries and also by human activities. The **figure 6** graph shows that 18 to 25 years and 25 to 35 years are well aware about the causes of environmental impact whereas the 35-45yrs and above 45 years respondent are not well aware about those consequences which are caused by the people.

The **figure 7** graph shows that higher secondary school and undergraduate respondents have given least rating it shows that people felt raising the conservation awareness is not needed because everyone have knowledge about it where is the post graduate and no formal education respondents have given highest rating and it shows that the conservation awareness is very much needed for the society to create the importance to protect about the ecotourism in the environment.

The **figure 8** shows that majority of male respondents said that yes and it shows that ecotourism and woodland should be protected under the guidelines of Ministry of tourism because this ministry was created to protect and create the wealth for the nature and its environment so it should be protected under those guidelines whereas the female respondents felt no there should not be much needed to protected under the Ministry of guidelines, it shows that they are not much aware about the importance of the Woodlands an eco tourism. The **figure 9** graph shows that unmarried respondents have filled strongly agreed because they aware that deforestation by industries nobody is the largest negative impact caused by the human on the tourism because it closely interlinked with the environment and with nature resources so they felt strongly agreed whereas the married respondents said strongly disagree because the deforestation is not only the negative impact whereas the other actions caused by human activities also responsible for the impact on tourism. The **figure 10** graph shows that the majority of public sector and private sector are given the least rating as one and two because everyone is aware about the importance and conservation whereas the student and unemployed respondents said 4 and 5 to create awareness among the people to understand the importance of ecotourism.

LIMITATIONS:

For this research I have taken the direct and online survey and the sample size is very small due to the inconvenience caused by the pandemic, people are not interested in responding directly. So I cannot get the overall opinion of the respondents and their experiences faced by them. I have plotted the graphs and pie charts based on the questionnaire which is answered by the respondents of the sample population.

VII. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION:

Tourism can significantly contribute to environmental protection, conservation and restoration of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources. Because of their attractiveness, pristine sites and natural areas are identified as valuable and the need to keep the attraction alive can lead to creation of national parks and wildlife parks. There is vast potentiality of tourism industry in various parts of the world because it is one of the fastest growing industry when it is compared with other industries which are generating employment and earning large amount of foreign exchange besides giving a fillip to the country's overall economic and social development.

But there is a need of lot more to be done. More emphasis should be given on the concept Ecotourism. Ecotourism needed to be implemented in different parts of the world and if it would happen then it would help immensely in conserving, preserving and sustaining world's natural and cultural environments. Tourism need to be developed in such a way that it accommodates and entertains visitors in a way that is minimally intrusive or destructive to the environment and sustains & supports the native cultures in the locations it is operating in. Moreover, since tourism is a multi-dimensional activity, and basically a service industry, there is utmost importance for both Central and state government as well as those are in private sectors and also actively involved in the endeavour to attain sustainable growth in tourism industry.

Regulatory measures help offset negative impacts; for instance, controls on the number of tourist activities and movement of visitors within protected areas can limit impacts on the ecosystem and help maintain the integrity and vitality of the site. Such limits can also reduce the negative impacts on resources. Limits should be established after an in-depth analysis of the maximum sustainable visitor capacity. This strategy is being used in the Galapagos Islands, where the number of ships allowed to cruise in this remote archipelago is limited, and only designated islands can be visited,

ensuring visitors have little impact on the sensitive environment and animal habitats.

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