

Hunting in Other People's Forest [Some Environment Issues of Tourism]

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ABSTRACT The Cultural and non-material aspects of tourism are central theme to many recent books on tourism. It is true that tourism is not an unmixed blessing to many places. While, some people hold the opinion that tourist destroy the heritage and environment, others advocate that it is tourism that makes people conscious about cultural heritage, geographical environs or need to preserve historic monuments. Most of the damage caused by tourism was because local authorities ignored the principles of planned development. The sociologists and anthropologists demonstrate the damaging effects on societies with a weak fabric of cultural traditions. The phenomenon of environmental impact of tourism is not confined to a single country or region. This is a global issue grouped broadly under three categories: ecological, psychological and demographic. The most threatened spots are small islands and hill stations of the developing world. India has limitless potential but environmental limits are there. Darjeeling is an excellent example of ruthless destruction of natural tourist attractions. Where tourist products are like colour, climate, solitude or religious sanctity indiscriminate hunting of resources are bound to damage the environment. So, integrated perspective planning in must. The paper considers some principles to this direction.