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Impact of Tourism on livelihoods

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Abstract

Wildlife tourism is gaining popularity day by day. With the increase in the number of tourist influx in Protected Areas (PA), new facilities to satisfy their needs are coming in the villages around the PA. Tourism has both negative and positive impacts in these rural areas. To know the impacts of tourism, a study was conducted in two villages namely Khatia and Mocha which are situated near Kanha National Park (KNP). The main aim of study was to identify the change in the lives of those villagers who have sold their land to resort/lodge owners. A survey was conducted of villagers who had sold their land in the last five years. Data was obtained regarding change in land use, use of income obtained from sale, reasons for selling the land, change in livelihood patterns etc. It was found out that the main reasons for selling the land included exasperation due to crop raiding by wild ungulates and the attractive price offered by the resort owners. The land use pattern changed drastically leading to a complete change in landscape from one dominated by agricultural fields to one choked by construction of posh resorts. The use of money realized from sale was majorly done to purchase land holdings in other villages or gypsies to be used for tourism purposes. Wilcoxon Signed Rank test shows that there is a significant increase in the income of villages after the sale although many marginal farmers are working as laborers on the same piece of land they once owned.

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Introduction

The villages Khatia and Mocha come under the buffer zone of KNP. They are located on Mandla Kanha road. The main livelihood source for the residents of Khatia and Mocha are agriculture, tourism (safari drivers and guides) and livestock rearing. They are also dependent on collection of minor forest produce like Mahua, Tendu leaves. According to information collected from EDC, the population of Khatia village is 427, consisting mainly of scheduled tribe families. Mocha has a total of 144 households with 1012 people.

Table 1: Demographic information of Khatia Village

Population breakup	Number
Scheduled Tribe	300
Scheduled Cast	16
Other Backward cast	111
Total	427

Table 2: Demographic information of Mocha Village

Population breakup	Number
Scheduled Tribe	12
Scheduled Cast	357
Other Backward cast	150
General	28
Total	1012

Tourism Impacts

In recent years Kanha Tiger reserve has become a popular destination for wildlife and nature lovers, conservationists and other tourists. There is a constant increase in the number of visitors coming here annually and to satisfy the accommodation needs of tourists, many tourist resorts and lodges have come up in Khatia and Mocha villages. Kanha management has efficiently controlled the number of tourists and tourism related activities inside the park but in buffer zone where the land does not come under their

jurisdiction, construction of resorts have gone up. In this study we tried to assess what impact tourism has had on these two villages. Many researchers have put their different thoughts on tourism and its impacts; Khatik and Nag (2012) say that among the various service industries, tourism in India is the largest and fastest-growing in the country. It has a vast impact on the national economy and plays a major role in other aspects of the country's growth and development, especially the creation of jobs. Briassoulis (1991) mentions that Tourism impacts not only the economy of a region but also its social and cultural structure as well as its environment. The latter are intangible impacts in the sense that they cannot be assessed completely by using monetary yardsticks.

In Mocha and Khatia, many tourist lodges do not have proper solid waste and water treatment mechanism. Tourism influx has also increased the competition for the already scarce resources like water and electricity. Neto (2003) says that without careful land-use planning, for instance, rapid tourism development can intensify competition for land resources with other uses and lead to rising land prices and increased pressure to build on agricultural land. Wells (1997) mentions that Nature tourism has catalyzed local or regional economic development in a few cases, but these have often been accompanied by negative environmental impacts from uncontrolled construction, as well as the abuse and overuse of destinations by inadequately regulated tour operators. Mushrooming of resorts has taken a toll over agriculture done here, since most of the resorts that have been constructed here are on the land which was earlier used for agriculture. These resorts have also constructed fencing along their boundary wall which obstructs movement of animals. In Mocha and Khatia sighting of animals like cheetal, sambhar, jackal, sloth bear, wild hare and other small mammals are frequent. As more and more resorts come up, they not only eat up this space but also obstruct animal movement.

There are other views about tourism put forward by others like Lillieholm and Romney (2000) who say that National Parks create a wide range of benefits for society ranging from protection of environment quality and services to various recreational benefits and revenues realized through Ecotourism. The Forest Department

conducts training sessions for the locals who are working as nature guides and interpreters. Free uniform is also provided to them. The important change that is seen here is increase in number of female Nature guides. The basic criteria to become a Nature guide here is higher secondary education. Working as a Nature guide under forest department ensures more employment days as compared to schemes of panchayat. Marzuki (2011) mentions that tourism in general has become one of the major cultural and economic forces in the world today and is regarded as an important means to benefit local communities.

For local communities, however, a significant socioeconomic factor in tourism development is the proportion of tourism income that can be captured by the local economy. Such income is generated through employment in tourism-related services such as food and lodging, gasoline, local tour guiding, and sale of souvenir and outdoor recreation equipment (Kline, 2001). Other forms of employment that tourism has mainly generated is that of general shops and cyber café. Development of good roads and availability of public transport can also be linked with increased tourist influx in this area. Ashley and Garland (1994) mention that the development of tourism in communal areas and the involvement of local people in tourism can promote several important national objectives.



Fig 1: Image showing the hotels/resort constructed around KNP blocking the corridor between two national parks

(Source: Kanha Tiger Reserve)

Methodology

The main aim of the study was to identify the change in the lives of the villagers who have sold their land to hotel and resort owners. A door to door survey was conducted. The list of the villagers who had sold their land was obtained from Eco Development Committee and Village Patwari. A detailed questionnaire of 28 questions was prepared and interview schedule was conducted with forty villagers. The villagers were mostly asked to show the land that they have sold. We have surveyed all the villagers who have sold their land. Information from 2-3 families was not collected since they had shifted to other distant villages.

Results

Out of 139.27 acres of sold land 127.76 acres had been used for agriculture and the remaining was wasteland. After the sale resort/hotel/lodges were constructed on 107.47 acres (77.16%) of the total land sold and on the remaining land holdings either fencing was done or some temporary construction was made so that it could be sold at higher price or a resort could be constructed later on.

Table 3: Reasons cited by villagers to sell the land

Reason for selling the land	No. of Villagers
Encroachment of the land	5
Tempted by money offered	15
Affected by crop destruction	12
Inadequate irrigation facilities	8

The table above shows the various reasons cited by the people for sale of the land. 6.7 acres of land were sold due to encroachment as it lay between the sold properties and it was difficult for the owner to do agricultural activities like bringing ox for ploughing or laying pipes for irrigation due to the fencing done on boundaries of the field.

Many villagers purchased land in other villages and were benefitted by the decision.

Due to the development of tourism industry, land prices in Khatia and Mocha are much higher than land prices in other villages. As a result, many villagers who bought agricultural land at other villages benefitted as they were able to increase their land holding and also were relieved from the problem of crop raiding by wild ungulates. They were also able to grow more produce because of good irrigation facilities. Other gainers were those who have invested money in tourism related activities such as purchasing safari gypsies and opening their own business like souvenir shops, and general stores.

Change was also observed in the occupation of the people after the sale of their land as shown in the following graph resort.

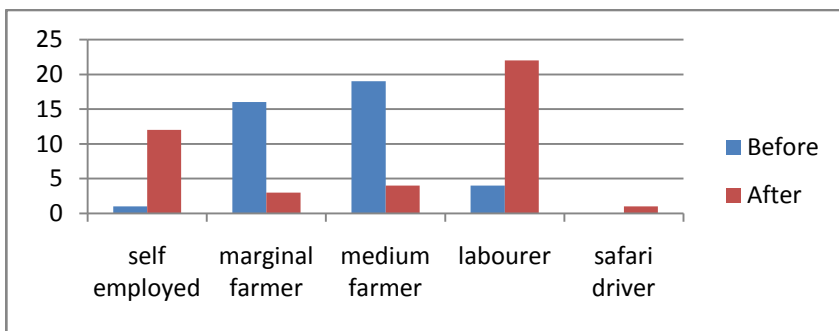


Fig 2 : Occupation of the people before and after sale of land

The number of people doing agriculture has reduced drastically while villagers working as a daily wage labourer have increased from 10% to 55%; most of them who were earlier having their own agricultural landholdings are now working in the resort constructed on the same piece of land.

Change in land use

When resort entrepreneurs purchased land at such a rapid pace the entire landscape of this region has changed. Earlier the entire land of Khatia and Mocha barring some wastelands was being used for agriculture, but in the past 5 years many resorts have come up changing the peaceful rustic landscape of the village into a weird assortment of buildings and shops.

The graph below shows the change in the land use pattern due to the sale of land.

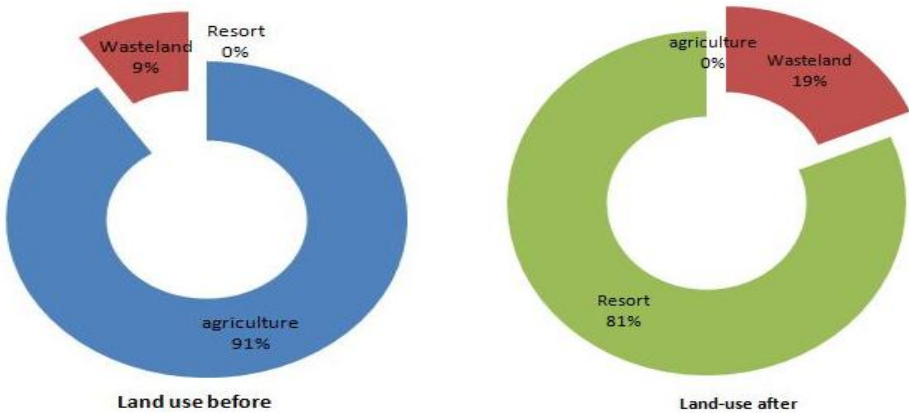


Figure 3 Change in land use due to sale of land

Usage of funds from sale of land

Of the funds realized from the sale of land, maximum funds were used towards purchase of productive assets like fertile land at other villages. An important village in this respect was Chirraidongri as the land there was cheaper, more fertile and not affected by crop raiding due to wild ungulates. Other productive assets include purchase of gypsy used for tourism purpose in Kanha National Park, opening general stores, Souvenir shops, cyber café, etc.

Non productive assets include television, motorcycles and other category includes saving deposits in banks, spending money in marriage of son/daughter, etc.

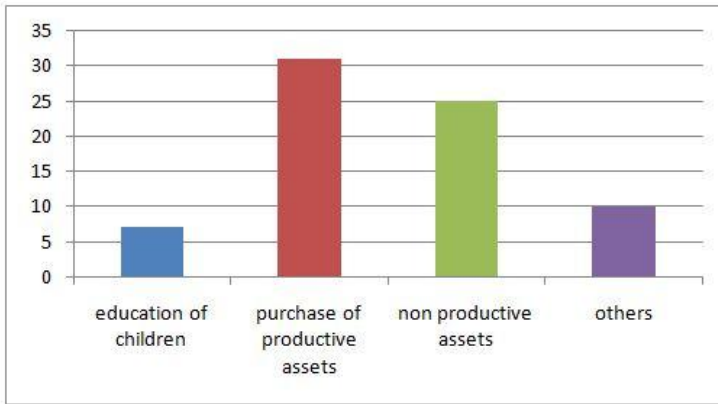


Fig 4: Use of income realised from sale

Wilcoxon signed rank test

This test was carried out on the annual income of villagers before and after selling the land.

Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test

Ranks		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
after - before	Negative Ranks	13 ^a	15.96	207.50
	Positive Ranks	26 ^b	22.02	572.50
	Ties	1 ^c		
	Total	40		
a. after < before				
b. after > before				
c. after = before				

Test Statistics ^b	after - before
Z	-2.547 ^a
Asymp. Sig. (1-tailed)	.005
a. Based on negative ranks.	
b. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test	

Thus we can reasonably conclude that there is significant increase in the income of the villagers after the sale of their land, although many marginal farmers are now working as laborers under Forest Department, EDC and Gram panchayat. When asked, most of the villagers stated that their dependency on tourism industry to earn their livelihood has increased considerably.

Conclusion

Burger (2000) mentions that tourism/recreation can be harnessed as a useful method of securing protection for a wide range of ecosystems. Although there are costs to tourism/recreation, these costs can be mitigated with careful planning and management of both the people and the ecosystems. Tourism activities have generated employment in this area but it also had significant impact on the socioeconomic scenario of village. Tourism can help in conservation only when local community is benefitted by it as Ashley (1995) mentions; much depends on the extent to which earnings (whether wages or shared community income) are distributed across resource users, the link to wildlife perceived. Local residents retain control of funds and enterprises, and are able to develop institutions and skills through their participation in tourism. This will vary with different types of tourism activities and with different implementation strategies. The Government should also promote the involvement of locals to own, manage and profit from natural resource based business.

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