

A CASE STUDY OF ECOTOURISM POTENTIAL IN KALSUBAI PEAK

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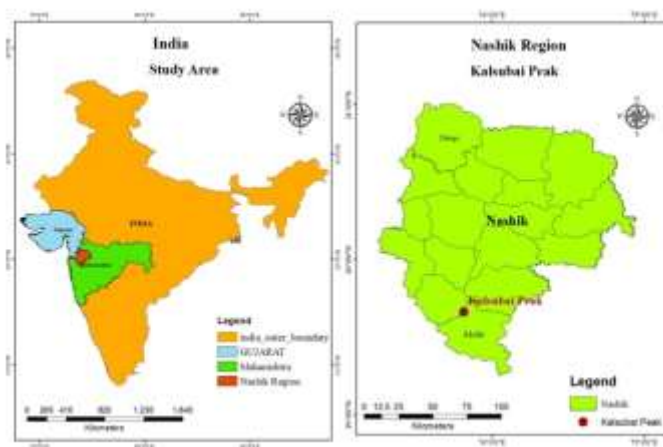
Abstract:

Kalsubai is the highest peak in Maharashtra with altitude of 1646 mts from mean sea level. It is one of the mountains of the Sahyadri Ranges. Kalsubai is situated on the border of Nashik and Ahmednagar district. Thousands of tourists across Maharashtra visits every year to the Kalsubai Peak for the purpose of ecotourism. The visitors of Kalsubai also have the benefit of a beautiful and largest water reservoir i.e. Bhandardara Dam (Arthur Lake) and magnificent natural waterfall Randha Fall on the Pravara River. The scenic beauty of the fall, the adventure of trekking, the facility of boating, the beautiful landscape, floral beauty, biodiversity, a wide variety of wildlife mainly birds attract lakhs of tourists every year. The availability of fish food at Bhandardara Dam is one more factor of attraction of these tourists. The community has an advantage of ecotourism interms of tourism, provision of food, hoteling, accommodation, art & crafts, etc.

A tribal girl named Kalsu was a great lover of forest wondering. She stayed at the top of hill till her dream. Hence, it is named as Kalsubai. Kalsubai is the name of the village at the foot of the hill. The old name was Indore village. The Kalsubai Peak is highest peak in Maharashtra. It is 1646 mts high above sea level. The distance of the hill is 16 km away from Igatpuri, 64 km from Nashik and around 183 km away from Ahmednagar. It is located in Ahmednagar district. There is small shrine at the top of the hill.

The South side of the hill has a pathway. The surrounding villagers climb the hill an every Tuesday. The northern side is covered with bare of trees, a water spring and a natural stone basin.

Location Map of Kasubai Peak



The Kalsubai is the highest peak in Sahyadri, of Western Ghat. The Latitude is 19°36'04'' N and Longitude is 73°42'33'' E. The Waki River, a tributary of Pravara River originates in Kalsubai Peak. The view of Bar village and Bhandardara is sighting points. There is a very good communication of state transport buses and private vehicles. It has the connectivity of railways. Igatpuri is the nearest railway station.

Thousands of trekkers attract this place. The Kalsu Shrine and Hanuman Temple attracts pilgrims every Tuesday and Saturday. A fair arrives during every Navratrai Festival. Several stalls are set during the period. The government has protected Kalsubai under the provision of Sanctuary. The beautiful sites of high altitudes are the main attractions of the ecotourism. The floral beauty of the mountain is another attraction in the post monsoon period. The fauna like butterflies, dragon flies, insects, bees attract the lovers, students and researchers. The view of Bhandardara Dam (Arthur Lake), the umbrella fall and the Randha fall attracts thousands of ecotourists every year.

The winter and summer season is favourable season for the trekkers and ecotourists. The moderate climate is observed in the area. The average temperature ranges between 20⁰c to 18⁰c. There is a KalsubaiHarishchandra Sanctuary

Table 1
Wildlife near Kalsubai

Sr. No	Name of the Animal	Sr. No	Name of the Animal
1	Sambar Dear	10	Meritor Lizard
2	Jackal	11	Porcupine
3	Common Mongoose	12	Chameleon
4	Bonnet Monkey	13	Common Cobra
5	Striped Hyena	14	Common Lcik
6	Black Naped Hare	15	Crow Pheasant
7	Wild Boar	16	Peacock
8	Common Langur	17	Grey Hornbill
9	Hyena	18	Leopard

The nearest ecotourism point from Kalsubai are Bhandardara, Kalsubai, Panjare, UddnvareUmbarda, View point, Ghatghar, Sanrad, Rartanwadi, Harishchandra Gad and Lavhali view point. The beautiful flowers like Lagersteoemias- Reginae, retz The state Flower of Maharashtra are found at Kalsubai. The near Harishchandra fort and Ratan Fort reminds us the regime of king Harishchandra and the Shiv period of Maharashtra.

Analysis Of Questionnaire:

This site have been visited by the researcher and a pilot study is made. The questionnaires have been finalized. Questionnaires have been prepared. The questionnaires have been forwarded to the experts and their suggestions were incorporated during the finalization of questionnaires. 30 open ended questions were asked in the questionnaire for respondents of tourists. The questions are mainly objective type. Some questions were asked to draw satisfaction index of the tourists.

Factor Wise Satisfaction Index:

The level of satisfaction of the tourists has been calculated by analyzing the questionnaires. Four point scaling is used to analyze the factor wise satisfaction index.

The following statistical formula has been used to calculate factor wise satisfaction index of tourists.

$$Sti = \frac{\sum fixi}{\sum fi}$$

Where:

Sti= Satisfaction Index for ith factor

fi= Number of respondents deriving the particular level of Satisfaction of ith factor

Xi= Numerical values of the particular level of satisfaction of the ith factor

The following scaling measures have been adopted to calculate site wise satisfaction index.

Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
1	2	3	4

The 09 factors; facility of transportation, accommodation, drinking water, quality of food, health services, facility of guide, availability of information of site, response of local community and art and craft available have been used and considered to calculate factor wise satisfaction index of the tourists. The responses from the respondents have been collected and the data collected is used to calculate factor wise satisfaction index. This helped to understand the present place of ecotourism in Nashik area. The factor wise satisfaction index of Brahmagiri is as under:

Table No. 5.3
Satisfaction Index of Kalsubai Peak

Factors of Tourism	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Satisfaction Index	Rank
Transport	22	72	198	60	2.53	4
Accommodation	45	96	117	28	2.06	6
Drinking Water	42	182	15	4	1.75	8
Food	56	122	45	28	1.81	7
Health	91	66	39	8	1.47	9
Facility of Guide	20	84	174	76	2.55	3
Information of Site	12	42	273	60	2.78	2
Resp of Local Com	8	30	264	112	2.98	1
Art&Craft available	22	82	219	12	2.41	5

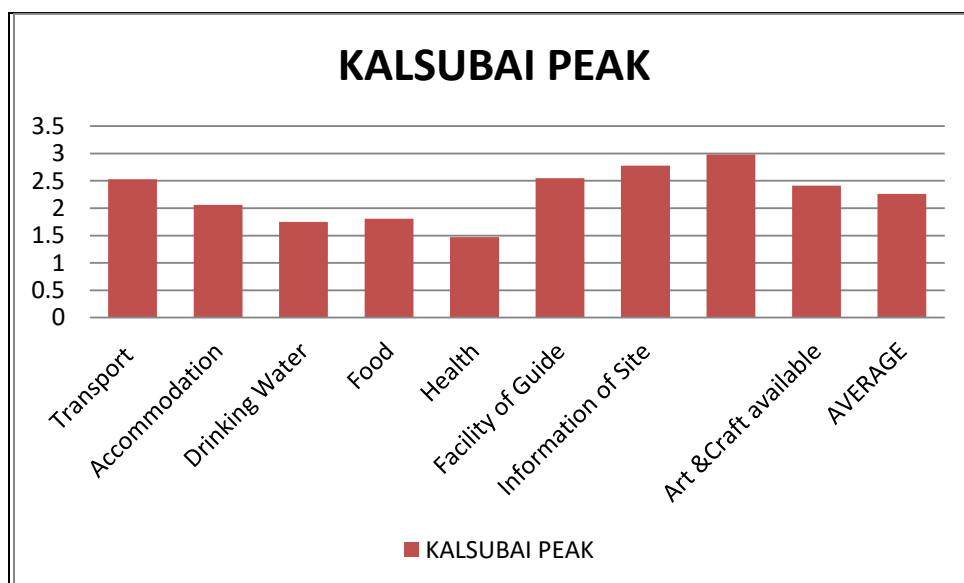
(Source: Data compiled by the researcher during Field Work)

Kalsubai peak is one of the popular sites in the Nashik study area. The respondents of local community ranked at 1st with satisfaction index 2.988, it follows information of site and facility of guide respectively at 2nd and 3rd ranks with satisfaction index 2.78, and 2.55. The satisfaction index of drinking water, food and facility of health is below 2. It is respectively 1.75, 1.81, and 1.47. The satisfaction index of remaining factors is between 2.78 and 2.06.

The policy makers, government and local community have an opportunity to earn a good amount of economy by providing and improving the facilities like transportation at the site, art and craft, food, health and accommodation at the site.

Table No. 2
Factor Wise And Site Wise Satisfaction Index

FACTOR/ SITE	KALSUBAI PEAK
Transport	2.53
Accommodation	2.06
Drinking Water	1.75
Food	1.81
Health	1.47
Facility of Guide	2.55
Information of Site	2.78
Response of Local Community	2.98
Art & Craft available	2.41
AVERAGE	2.26



Factor Wise And Site Wise Satisfaction Index Analysis

- 65.47% tourists are unsatisfactory about the health facility available at Kalsubai. Only 35.53% tourists are satisfactory about this facility.
- The responses of local community to the tourists are cordial. Only 5.76% tourists have shown dissatisfaction about their responses.
- Availability of information of the site stands at 2nd rank. 15.11%, 65.47% and 10.79% tourists have shown their responses as satisfactory, good and excellent.
- Facility of guide stands for 3rd and Transport facility stands on 4th place having 2.55 and 2.53 satisfaction index respectively.

- Drinking water and availability of food at Kalsubai Peak is also not better. They ranks 8th and 7th respectively. 40.29% tourists are not satisfactory about the availability of food. While 30.22% tourists are unsatisfactory about the facility of drinking water.

Observations:

- The place is nearest from Nashik, Ahmednagar and Mumbai-Nashik Highway.
- There are numerous other ecotourist places are observed around the site. The Igatpuri tehsil, nearest one, receives highest rainfall in Nashik District. Monsoon tourism attracts thousands of tourists in Igatpuri.
- There are hotels, motels observed near Igatpuri. Which can be used by the tourists visiting the Kalsubai Peak.
- A rich cultural diversity and cultural programmes of local tribal community interacts with the culture of tourists.

Recommendations:

- The pathway be develop.
- Facility of potable water be provide.
- Toilets, parking sheds, rest rooms, eco lodges, nature houses, tents these options should be provide for tourist.

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