

A STUDY ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MIZORAM STATE

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Abstract

The number of flights into and out of Mizoram has increased over the past decade, demonstrating its significance for tourism in Mizoram. Additionally, the recent availability of inland helicopter service improves the transportation that connects all of the state's districts. Tourism in Mizoram is a rapidly expanding industry that is expected to generate revenue in the years to come. Mizoram has a lot of unexplored destinations that are unknown to national and international tourists. As a result, it is very important to develop tourism with the most recent trends and technology to attract maximum tourists because today's tourists are becoming more and more cautious about the destinations they choose through websites and other print media. The problems and prospects of tourism development in the state of Mizoram are detailed in this research article.

Keywords: Mizoram, Tourism, Problems and Prospects,

Introduction

Mizoram is a young, small state in the Indian Union. It had its undeniable statehood on the twentieth February 1987 as the 23rd province of Indian Association by a Demonstration of Parliament following an International agreement endorsed by the Public authority of India and Mizo Public Front on the 30th June 1986. The state of Mizoram holds a significant place in India due to its extensive international border, its highest literacy rate, and the recent accomplishments of some youth athletes at both national and international sporting events. The beautiful excellence, the verdure, the interesting sociocultural existence of harmony cherishing and happy individuals and the lovely climatic condition is an interest for individuals from outside the state and furthermore the unfamiliar nationals. However, the primary factors preventing outside tourists from visiting the state and the northeast have been the state's poor infrastructure, entry restrictions, and uncomfortable sociopolitical conditions. The situation is gradually getting better, which is good news for the region's growth, especially for Mizoram, which is the most peaceful state in India right now.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Mizoram's rugged topography and location have created an exceptional natural environment. The state arranged in the temporary area of tropical and calm climate is likewise gave with slopes having steep slants, profound valleys, streams, regular lakes, fields and so forth. consequently, diverse ecosystems are created in a relatively small area. It is possible to broadly classify the forests of Mizoram as: Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest in the north, Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest in the south, and Subtropical Pine Forest in the east (mixed with species with broad leaves).

The wildlife of Mizoram has suffered greatly as a result of extensive hunting. Wild animals like tiger, elephant, gaur, wild buffalo, black bear, deer, goral, serrow, wild cats, wild boar, monkeys, and others once flourished in the area. and a wide range of birds, including pheasants, hornbills, and others. However, there is very little wildlife today. Roughly 30% of the all out region of the state has save woods and is heavily influenced by the state timberland division. Additionally, there are reserve forests in three district councils.



Natural Beauty of Mizoram

Literature Review

Dr. Ghanashyam Deka (2019) Adequate regular magnificence, vital area, scope for worldwide exchange, opportunities for experience the travel industry, and ideal circumstances for rustic the travel industry the state Mizoram can be referenced as significant vacationer location in future. Effect of the travel industry in the state economy is still truly irrelevant and modern set up for the improvement is additionally not sufficient. As a result, rather than planning massive industries, the state has a better chance of developing tourism as an alternative revenue stream. Because tourism is regarded as a labor-intensive industry, it may provide locals with employment opportunities to ease the burden of unemployment. It very well may be a decent monetary hotspot for the state government moreover. It wanted to conduct a comprehensive study of all aspects of tourism in order to accomplish all of these goals. A comprehensive study can benefit Mizoram tourism, and it is important to determine its potential and suitability for the state's tourism development. The aim of this paper is to investigate the scenario as a whole using actual observations.

R.Lalrinchhani (2020) Numerous socioeconomic benefits have been attributed to the tourism industry. Because it drives economic growth and creates jobs, it is especially important from an economic standpoint in developing nations. Mizoram is blessed with numerous tourist attractions. This paper aims to highlight the significance of tourism to Mizoram's socioeconomic development and the need for tourism growth in the state.

Dr. Deepti Jain (2021) The purpose of the current study is to investigate "Tourism in Mizoram: Opportunities and Challenges' A total of 54 people were included in the sample. The Google form-based self-made questionnaire was prepared. The findings indicate that approximately 50% of the population is aware of North-East tourist destinations and 70% want to visit them. 24.1% of people say they live in any kind of place, while 22.2 percent said they live in the government house.

Statement Of The Problem

Assam and Meghalaya receive a greater number of domestic and international visitors than any other state in the north eastern region. Few biodiversity hotspots and cultural heritage sites can be found in the region. The whole NE locale, including Sikkim is set apart as perhaps of the most possible area in regard to eco-the travel industry, natural life the travel industry and social the travel industry. Mizoram is a part of the same bustling tourist corridor. With its history and culture, this tiny state is unique. Due to the hospitable nature of the Mizo people and their myths and traditions, this state is also well-known for its peace and tranquility. The state is in the SE Asian

belt, which is full of vibrant color and clan. Despite the state government's declaration of its tourism policies 20 years ago, the state still receives very few tourists annually. Mizoram is one spot ahead of Nagaland when it comes to domestic visitors, but when it comes to foreign visitors, the state is at the bottom of the national ranking table. Numerous additional factors are connected to the growth of tourism. One of these is a peaceful sociopolitical environment, which is necessary for successful tourism development. Taking into account tranquil circumstance, Mizoram is a superior state among the north eastern states absent a difficult situation of turmoil and other. Since 1987, the state has been regarded as a peaceful one and as one of India's most literate. Mizoram's tourism industry is still in its infancy in comparison to that of the nation as a whole. It could be because of its remote location, lack of publicity, accessibility, physical settings, and Inner Line Permit enforcement.

Database and Methodology

Primary and secondary data were used in this study. The researcher gathered primary data by conducting in-person interviews with tourists at various times. Maps and other data, on the other hand, were gathered from a variety of secondary sources. The author's observations and descriptions of employees form the basis of the entire study. As a result, the method is based on empirical evidence.

Study Area

The tropic of Cancer runs through the Southern periphery of Aizawl town at 23 30' N latitude, and Mizoram is located between the latitudes 21 58' N and 24 35' N and the longitudes 92 15' E and 93 29' E. The state spans 21,087 square miles. Kms bounded on the west by Bangladesh and Tripura, on the east and south by Myanmar, and on the north by Assam and Manipur. Because it shares a 630-kilometer international border with Bangladesh and Myanmar, Mizoram is of great strategic importance for India. Mizoram has a mountainous topography with three parallel hill ranges running north to south. Due to the extremely steep slopes of the hills, numerous rivers flow north and south through gorges that are both narrow and deep. The plains in the midst of hills and narrow valleys make up only a small portion. Champhai, on the state's eastern border with Myanmar, is the largest of these plains. It is about 11 kilometers long. and a maximum width of approximately 5 km. Thenzawl and Vanlaiphai are the other major plains. Rice fields have taken over the majority of these plains. On average, the hills are about 900 meters high to the west, 1,500 meters to the east, and 2,000 meters high in places. The Blue Mountains, in the south Chhimtuipui district, are home to Phawngpui, the highest mountain in the world at 2,157 meters. Lengteng (2,141 meters), Sur Tlang (1,967 meters), Lurh Tlang (1,935 meters), and Tan Tlang are the other major peaks.

Mizoram has a lot of rivers, but only a few are big enough to be mentioned. The northern Mizoram rivers eventually meet the Assam plains' Barak river as they move north. In the south of Mizoram, the rivers flow toward the south. In the northern part of the state, the Tlawng or Dhaleswari (185.15 kilometers) are important rivers. Sonai or Tuirial (117.53 kilometers) as well as Tuivawl (72.45 km). The Chhimtuipui, or Kolodyne, drains the southern hills (138.46 kilometers). and the Mat, Trichang, Tiau, and Tuipui rivers that it flows into. The western drainage system is comprised of the Khawthlangtuipui or Karnaphuli (128.08) and its tributaries, Tuichwng, Kau, De, Phairuang, and Tuilianpui. It is fascinating to note that the Kolodyne enters Mizoram from the Haka region of Myanmar and flows northwest until it joins the Mat. After that, it makes a half-circle turn to the south before returning to Myanmar (Arakan). But Kolodyne, every one of the streams are taken care of by storm downpour as it were. They rapidly expand when it rains, and they abruptly decrease when it stops raining. Many rivers dry up in the winter. During the course of the year, only the Tlawng, the Tuirial, and the Khawthlangtuipui are navigable. Vantawngkhawhtha la is approximately The highest waterfall is 250 meters high and is on the Vanva River. The well-known Tamdil, Palakdial, and Rungdil lakes (dil) dot the hillsides. Mizoram's hills are relatively young in geological terms and mostly consist of soft sandstone and slate. The state typically has a clayey loam and broken, angular shale of varying sizes as its soil type. Even though the soil

contains some clay, it has a very low capacity for holding water, making the topsoil extremely dry in the winter. The soil is deeper and more clayey in the south than in the north. The soil in Mizoram is typically acidic in nature due to the continuous washing away of the alkaline soil by rainwater, whereas the soil in the plains is rich alluvial. Mizoram has a pleasant climate that is moderately warm in the summer and not very cold in the winter due to its moderate elevation and relatively heavy rainfall. Excepting the colder time of year ice in certain spots, there is no snowfall on the slopes of the state. During the monsoon season, which lasts from May to September, the temperature hovers between 11 and 21 degrees Celsius in the winter and between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius in the summer. The monsoon has a direct impact on the entire territory. 217.50 cm of rain falls on average. annually in Mizoram.

Problems and Prospectus of Mizoram state tourism

Literarily, the term "tourism" refers to travel and its components. It has, nonetheless, by and by expected another implication. In today's context, the term encompasses all relationships and phenomena resulting from traveling and temporary stays with strangers. "Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside of their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited," states the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). India is a fast-growing Asian nation. India is one of the most popular tourist destinations due to its extensive coverage, diverse culture, linguistic variations, and age-old traditions. Millions of tourists visit it annually because it is a good place to go. One of the most peaceful states in the country, Mizoram is in the north-eastern corner and is home to the friendly Mizo people. Mizoram, along with the other states in the north-eastern region, belongs to the country's backward economies because it is primarily an agricultural state with low state income. There are few small-scale and cottage industries in the state. Due to its remote location and hilly terrain, this state has few opportunities for heavy industries. Industrial growth is also hindered by a lack of raw materials and workers. Agriculture is the second-largest contributor to state income, after the service sector. Since the state's total income is lower, the economy must benefit from additional sources of income. In light of all of these disadvantages, the state government announced its Industrial Policy in March 1993, naming tourism an industry. It was a fair choice for the state with adequate normal magnificence, scenes and lively culture which can be utilized as unrefined substance for the travel industry. Despite the fact that the tourism policy was implemented a long time ago, the state received fewer visitors and ranked last in the rankings. The state's remote location is a major issue, making it a distant destination for domestic tourists. Tourism is also dependent on improved communication and transportation. Mizoram, like other north-eastern states, has a low road density, indicating poor connectivity. Method for transportation is additionally not much great. Maxicab is the sole solid implies that covers entire state, while the transport administrations are generally restricted to the region head quarters that associated with Aizawl. Mizoram is a condition of normal scene alongside slopes, gorges, quick streaming waterways and the occupant who are known as the Highlanders. Few tourist destinations are associated with Mizo myths and legends in fairy tales and folklore. Up until this point vacationer request is concerned, Mizoram is seen as reasonable for country the travel industry, social the travel industry and experience the travel industry. Mizoram is a tribal region with issues that conflict with the rest of the Indian population. The northeastern tribal community is distinct from the main land non-tribal people because of its historical perspective, past political environment, societal behavior, tradition and custom, food supply and structure, religious ideology, political agenda, and racial characteristics. The current book tries to explain everything in detail. Tourism is a dynamic industry based on the relationship between hosts and guests. As a result, it's important to treat guests like valued customers. For this business impressive skill and interest are the two huge angles where Mizoram the travel industry should requirements to perform better. The current era of globalization is one in which people live locally; think worldwide like methodology is genuinely necessary for improvement Mizoram can't stand separated from this thought of globalization. Rather than moderate state strategy the state

should have been somewhat open. It will make it possible for private business owners. The travel industry from a vacation making enjoyable to a benefit making industry will be a change in outlook for a state like Mizoram.

Results and Analysis

The tourism industry has a lot of potential to help the state's economy grow and develop. The state's climate, virgin forests, rolling hills, and valleys are ideal for ecotourism, adventure tourism, cultural and ethnic tourism, and other types of tourism. The benefits have not yet been widely utilized, and the sector has yet to benefit. By utilizing the resources that are at its disposal, developing new tourist infrastructure, promoting rural tourism, focusing on the development of human resources, and promoting fairs and festivals, the State Government's Tourism Department, which serves as the focal point for all policies and programs aimed at the development and promotion of tourism, has been making incessant efforts to promote tourism in the State.

Table : Tourism Facilities – 2020-2021

No. of State Owned Tourist Facilities		No. of Private Hotels	No. of Travel Agents	No. of Tour Operators
Departmentally managed	Outsourced to Private Parties			
42	27	68 (505 beds)	41	8

The Mizoram Registration of Tourist Trade Act 2020: The Act, for the first time, introduces proper regulatory framework for suitable management of tourism sector in the State. Following the Act, a number of policies, rules and guidelines were formulated as follows:

- a. The Mizoram Responsible Tourism Policy 2020
- b. The Mizoram Registration of Tourist Trade Rules 2020
- c. The Mizoram (Aero-sports) Rules 2020
- d. The Mizoram (River Rafting) Rules 2020
- e. Guidelines for Dormitories and Hostels in Mizoram
- f. Guidelines for Homestays in Mizoram
- g. Guidelines for Restaurants
- h. Guidelines for Tour Operators in Mizoram
- i. Guidelines for Ticketing Sales Agent/ Travel Agent in Mizoram
- j. Guidelines for Tour Guides in Mizoram
- k. Guidelines for Caravan Tourism in Mizoram
- l. Guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Providers’ Association in Mizoram
- m. Guidelines for Organizing Festivals Other than Government

Impact of Covid-19

Tourism sector is one of the worst affected economic sectors of the Covid-19 pandemic. Global tourism has come to a standstill and it is unlikely that full recovery of the sector cannot be expected till 2024. In Mizoram, it is estimated that the sector is losing Rs. 3.01 crore every month from March 2020. There is a big question on the

survival of small businesses and tourism units since these units do not have sufficient cash reserves to survive pandemic like Covid19.

Feature of Tourism

The tourism industry is experiencing a paradigm shift, and a new tourism trend is emerging that places an emphasis on environmentally and socially responsible tourism. Additionally, Mizoram has a wealth of attractions for tourists who are interested in wellness, adventure, nature, and culture. There are opportunities to attract cross-border tours from Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand, and other neighboring nations. The North East region of India will be traversed by the Asian Highway, which will travel from Malaysia via Thailand and Bangladesh to Delhi and beyond. This opens potential line exchange among Mizoram and Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Table : Tourist Arrival to Mizoram

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2015-2016	66583	830	67413
2016-2017	67223	987	68210
2017-2018	68679	1155	69834
2018-2019	88122	1644	89766
2019-2020	159534	2143	161677
2020-2021	NA	NA	20567
2021-2022 (till October 2021)	NA	NA	39818

Source: Directorate of Tourism, Govt of Mizoram.

source:<https://tourism.mizoram.gov.in/>

Apart from poor infrastructure and communication facilities, entry formality is a major deterrent. There is also shortage of accommodation. Private entrepreneurs are not coming up for hotel business due to heavy capital investments and very slow or no returns. The state tourism department has created satisfactory tourist facilities with the state and central assistance. However, the tourism has remained very local and increased very marginally.

Conclusion

Like the other states in the Northeast Region, Mizoram faces a variety of challenges, including obstacles to infrastructure and sociopolitical issues. These are beyond a single state's control. It will take at some point to determine these issues, when the travel industry in the district will begin developing. This is envisioned in the Perspective Plan, which aims to use the Tourism Department as a catalyst to increase the state's tourism potential. Mizoram Tourism will serve as the initiator and facilitator of tourism over time, making it a community activity in the state.

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