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Tourism in Latehar district of Jharkhand, India: Potential, Challenges and Opportunities

*Dr. Md Areful Hoque**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, St. Xavier's College, Mahuadanr, Latehar district, Affiliated College under Nilamber Pitamber University (NPU), Medininagar, Jharkhand, India.

ABSTRACT:

Travel and tourism is the largest and fastest growing industry across the world and in our country India. Tourism is an incredible way to showcase Jharkhand rich and magnificent history, culture and diversity. Tourism, literally speaking, is the act of travelling a new place for your pleasure or business with the motives of experiencing different cultures, cuisines, nature and history. The main objectives of this research paper is to highlight the famous tourist place in Latehar district, to examine the positive and negative impacts of tourism, to give valuable suggestion for better development of tourism in the study area. Latehar district of Jharkhand has been selected as the study area which is popularly known as "City of Mahua". The entire study is based on secondary sources of data. The study reveals that natural beauty, geographic locations, cultural and artistic diversity of Latehar district offers enormous opportunities to the local people. The future of tourism in Jharkhand state is very bright and the state has the potential to become a national tourist hub.

Keywords: Tourism, Travels, Waterfall, Forests, Hill Station, Livelihood, Culture, Cuisines, Johar

Introduction:

"The World is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."- Saint Augustine

"Jharkhandi Johar" !!

"Incredible India" and **"Atithidevo Bhava"** the marketing slogan that attracts tourist to India from around the globe. Travel and tourism sector has emerged as the India's largest and fastest growing industry, generating wealth and employment. Now a day's tourism sector in India is substantial and vibrant and the country very fast growing industry. Tourism sector is significantly supported to grow horticultures, handicrafts, agriculture, hotelling and logistic services etc. Tourism in India is now become a **"Sunrise Industry"**. Tourism gives the opportunity for people to understand the culture. India is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Asia continent and International tourists. In the year 2019 it attracted 10.93 million international tourist and this contributed 4.7 percent of India's GDP.

The word Jharkhand is derived from two hindi words, **"Jhar"** means Forest and **"Khand"** means Land. So, this state is also called **"Land of Forest"**. Jharkhand state is located in the eastern part of India on Chotanagpur plateau. The best time to visits of Jharkhand is from October to February month when the climatic conditions are ideal of sightseeing, adventures and outdoor activities. Jharkhand state vast natural and cultural diversity has given it a special place on the India tourism map. Tourists are drawn to Jharkhand of its welcoming customs, diverse way of life, cultural legacy and vibrant fairs, festivals. Tourism sector plays a vital role in promoting socio-economic development by stimulating economic growth, generating employment opportunities, alleviating poverty and fostering sustainable development, especially in rural and remote areas. **Johar** is a tribal word meaning salutation and welcome. Jharkhand ranks 9th in India for domestic tourist arrivals.

Table 1.1 : Top 10 Foreign and Domestic Tourist Visited States of India, 2022

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Visitors (In Millions)
1.	Tamil Nadu	115.33
2.	Uttar Pradesh	109.70
3.	Andhra Pradesh	93.70
4.	Karnataka	81.33
5.	Maharashtra	43.66
6.	Goa	38.57
7.	West Bengal	31.77

8.	Delhi	26.88
9.	Rajasthan	21.45
10.	Kerala	19.97

Source: Ministry of Tourism Report, Government of India, 2022

Literature Review:

The review highlights the distinction areas covered by the many researchers and academicians which may be helpful to understand the issues relating to the present study and it also helps to find out the research gap. The basic sources of literature review of my study areas are- published research papers, articles in the journal of national and international repute, books, Government reports, Research agencies reports etc.

Mahalakshmi Venkateah and Joseph Michej Raj (2016) insisted that travelling and tourism has been an integral part of Indian culture and tradition. Their study reveals that tourism industry plays a major role in any economic development of the country. Tourism sector play a vital role in the way of helping poor countries to provide employment opportunities in an increasing rate. **Subhash T. (2015)** expressed that travel and tourism industry has emerged as one of the largest and fastest growing economic sector. Their study reveals that tourism in India is a sunrise industry, an employment generation, a significant source of foreign exchange of the country. This emerging sector is facing various challenges such as lack of good quality of tourism infrastructure, health and safety of tourists, high toll tax etc. **Naveen Kumar and Binoy (2017)** examined that tourism is the integral part of Indian culture and tradition. Their study reveals that tourism sector has significantly helping to generate foreign exchange, infrastructure development, increasing revenue, FDI etc. Play a key factor role for the development of the nation. **Rajender, Durafshan and Azatullah (2020)** observed that tourism and travel industry is the biggest and most diverse industry in India. Their study reveals that tourism play a significant impact on increasing employment and foreign exchange of the country, boom in domestic industries etc. Tourism sector is considered a dynamic industry with a bright future.

Statement of Problems:

Jharkhand is one of the beautiful state for its mesmerizing natural scenery, landscapes, plateaus, lofty hills, sparkling waterfalls, rich and vibrant tradition, diverse cultures, holy places, dams, lakes, wildlife sanctuary, national park, archeological sites and heritage and lush green forest covered. Travel and tourism in Jharkhand state has grown in leaps and bounds over the years, most of the regions of this state something to splendour and exuberance. Majority of tourist in Latehar district of Jharkhand state are facing many infrastructure related problem like inadequate roads, clean and safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, hotels, telecommunication and mobile network problems, safety and security of tourist, first aid and medicines, cafeteria etc. On the other hands, there is various hidden natural beauty places are found in Latehar district of Jharkhand. So researcher are very much keen interested to taken up this study particularly. The outcomes or findings from this study will be very helpful for administrators, policymakers, economists, sociologists, Researchers, Academicians, Journalists, NGO workers, and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand, Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Tour and Travel agent Association of Jharkhand (TTAAJ), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) as well as the Central Government of India for their various policy making.

Objectives of Study:

1. To highlight the famous tourist places at Latehar district of Jharkhand.
2. To examine the positive and negative impacts of tourism in the study area.
3. To offer some suggestion for the better development of tourism in Latehar district of Jharkhand.

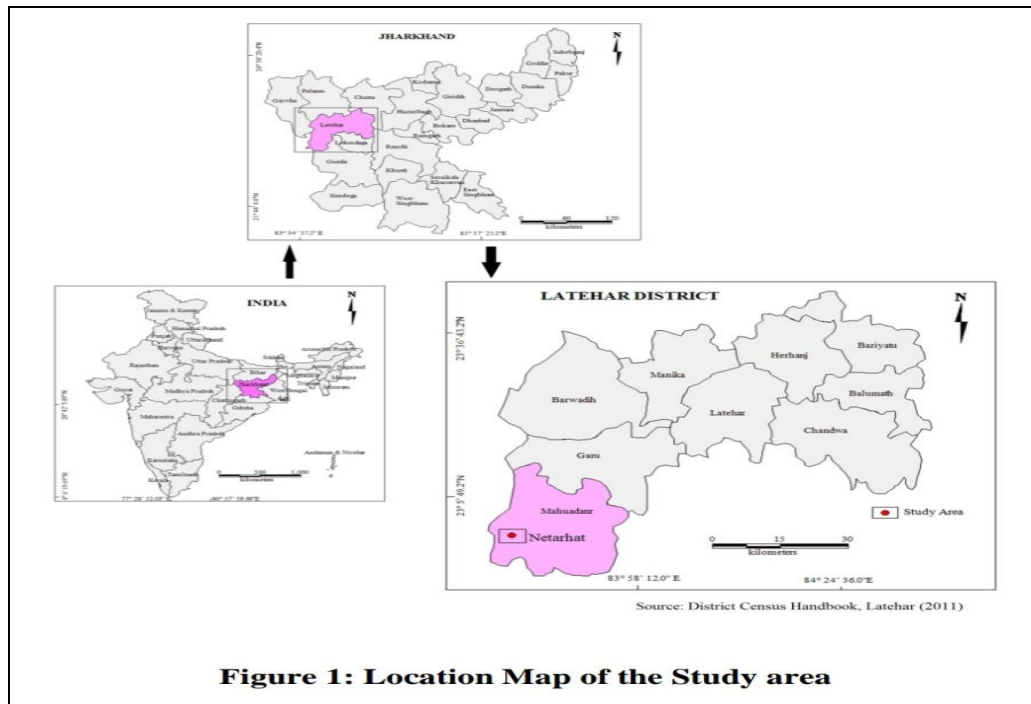
Database and Research Methodology:

The current research work is analytical, descriptive and empirical type of research work. The present study is based on entirely secondary sources of data. The data has collected from newspapers, various research journals, books and various websites.

A Geographical Profile of the Study Area:

Latehar district is situated 23° 44' North Latitude and 84° 31' East Longitude. Latehar district is one of the famous districts in Jharkhand with regard to backward district, natural environment, forest, forest products, minerals deposits and in terms of tourism sector. It is a part of Palamu division. Latehar district is also called as “City of Mahua” (Mahua ki Nagri) in Jharkhand. The total area of the district is 3,652 sq. km. For the administrative purpose the district has been divided into 2 sub-division (Latehar Sadar and Mahuadanr) and further sub-division are divided into 9 Community Development Block (such as Latehar, Chandwa, Balumath, Manika, Brwadih, Garu, Mahuadanr, Bariyatu, Herhanj). There are total 773 villages are situated in this district. Due to most of the part of this is comes under drought condition and home of various tribal communities, this district receives funds from Backward Regions Grant Funds (BRGF). The important rivers of the district are Auranga, Sukari river, Koel

river, Burha river etc.



Result and Analysis:

In Latehar district of Jharkhand there are mainly adventure tourism, Eco tourism, Heritage tourism, Dams and Lakes, religious tourism, spiritual tourism, Art and Culture, Rural Tourism, Folk music and tribal dance are available for the tourist. The best time to visits these place is during the months of October to February month.

1. **Netarhat Hill Station and Forest:** Netarhat is called “**Mussoorie of Jharkhand**” because it is the coldest place of Jharkhand state. It is also called “**Queen of Chotanagpur Plateau**”. It is situated 145 kilo meters from Latehar and 160 kilometers from Ranchi city. Mostly tourist are visited this place for spectacular views of sunrise and sunset, dense lush green forest, Sadni waterfalls, koel view point, Netarhat lakes, Upper Ghaghri falls, pear gardens, peach gardens, Netarhat Residential School, primitives tribal’s culture etc. In the month of November-December most of tourist are visited this place for Tribal Festival and Fair at Netarhat.
2. **Lodh Waterfall / Budha Ghagh Waterfall:** Lodhfall is located on the Burha River, deep in the forest of Chotanagpur Plateau. It is situated 120 Kilometers from Latehar city and 220 Kilometers from Ranchi City. It is the 21st highest waterfall in India. Its total elevation is 143 Meters (469 Feet). It is highest waterfall of Jharkhand state. This Lodh fall is an excellent example of a nick point caused by rejuvenation. The lush green forest areas Mahuadanr wolf sanctuary makes the areas more attractive.
3. **Tattapani:** This place is located at a distance of 08 kilometers from Latehar city. Tattapani is famous for hot spring water coming out by the River of Sukari River. These hot waters came out from different places on the riverbed at Tattapani. Locals and tourist enjoy this hot water by bath which is reach in sulphur minerals and believed to have high medical value and good for skin.
4. **Kechki Sangaam:** This Kechki sangaam is situated at 16 kilometers from Latehar district. The famous auranga river and Koel River meet each other at Kechki sangaam. Now a days it is very famous tourist destination.
5. **Mirchaiya Waterfall:** Mirchaiya fall is located 3 kilometers from Garu block of Latehar district. It is situated within Betla tiger project reserve area. It is one of the safest waterfalls of Jharkhand. The best time to visit this place is during the monsoon season.
6. **Datam Patam Waterfall:** This waterfall is situated at Heranhanj block of Latehar district. It is sourende by there sides of hills. Here God-goddess temple is also situated.

7. **Mandal Dam:** This dam is located on North Koel river under Barwadih block of Latehar district. It is also called kutuck dam. Here the beauty of Koel river is very attractive.
8. **Kanti Waterfall:** Kanti waterfall is situated in Latehar district. This waterfall is located around 23 kilometers east of Althea in Amjharia plateau. There are many sight seeing scene around the waterfalls like picnic spots, park, waterfall and river. This site is very famous for attracting tourists with its amazing landscape and natural beauty.
9. **Sugga Bandh:** Sugga bandh waterfall is located near Baresandh of Mahudabr block of Latehar district. It is situated 75 kilometers from Latehar city. This cascade falls from the height of 80 feet on the rock. It is very popular among tourist and safe to explore the waterfalls. There is also a watchtower nearby to view the valley. The best sightseeing of this place is October to February month.
10. **Lal Matia Dam:** Lal Matia dam is an important tourist spot at Latehar district of Jharkhand. Most of the soil in this area is red. A large number of tourist are visits this place for its natural beauty and peace environment.
11. **Tapa Pahad:** Tapa Hills is located Latehar district of Jharkhand state. It is very popular tourist destination due to its picturesque landscape, natural beauty, spiritually and cool climate.
12. **Indra Falls:** Indra waterfall is situated near Tubed village of Latehar district in the state of Jharkhand. The area is covered by dense forest, mountains and rivers. The best time to visits this place is during monsoon season.
13. **Betla National Park:** Betla National Park is only the national park from Jharkhand state. This park is famous for bison reserves, elephant, tiger, leopards, deer, Nilgai, Jackals, Wild boar etc. Here elephant rides and jungle jeep safaris, Tree House are also available. At this park waterfall, rivers and hot spring are also located.
14. **Magnolia Sunrise and Sunset Point:** Magnolia Sunrise and Sunset point is located at Netarhat hill station. This place attracts tourist to see the sunrise and sunset points.
15. **Palamu Qila:** The Palamu fort is made by Chero kings and a fine example of Mughal architecture. Palamu fort has two forts-the Purana Kila, also known as the old fort and the naya Kila that is also known as Old Fort. This fort is located along the Auranga river near the Palamu Tiger Reserves.
16. **Nagar Temple:** It is located in nagar village of Chandwa, Latehar district of Jharkhand. It is oldest temple in Latehar district at the picturesque and lush green mountains.
17. **Mahuadanr Wolf Reserve:** Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Aksi village of Mahuadanr block Latehar district of Jharkhand for the protection of Indian wolf. It is the only wolf sanctuary in the country. It is a part of Betla National park.
18. **Palamu Tiger Reserve:** Palamu Tiger Reserve is among one of the nine original tiger reserves in India at the inception of Project Tiger and only one in the state of Jharkhand. It is the part of Betla National Park and Palamu wildlife sanctuary.
19. **Sarju Valley:** Sarju valley is located in Garu block of Latehar district in Jharkhand, India. It is place of lush greens forest, calm and peaceful.
20. **Ugratara Temple:** This famous Ugratara temple is located at Latehar district of Jharkhand, well known temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess Ugratara. It attracts significant number of devotees, especially during festivals like Navratri.
21. **Chechari Valley:** Chechari valley is located at mainly surrounded areas of Mahuadanr region Chotanagpur plateau region. It is home various primitives' tribes of Jharkhand. The entire valley area is surrounded by plateau and hills with lush green environment. At this valley Mahua trees, mango trees, Sal, Shesham, Tendu trees are mostly found.

Major Challenges faced by Tourist in Latehar district of Jharkhand:

- Inhospitable climate and weather condition during winter and summer season.
- Poor quality of accommodation provides by hotels, cafeteria and lodges.
- Non availability of all types' healthy and good food for tourist at destination place.

- Poor sanitation condition (Public toilets and washrooms) at tourists places.
- Inadequate and non- availability of tourist guides services at tourists places.
- Problems of personnel safety and security of tourist.
- There is lack of shopping mall facility nearby tourist places.
- Lack of safe and clean drinking water facility.
- Lack of vehicles parking facilities at the tourist places.
- Lack of good hospital in case of emergency related to health issues.

Positive Impacts of Tourism in Latehar district of Jharkhand:

- ❖ Generating employment and livelihood opportunities for local peoples near the tourism places areas.
- ❖ Source of earning of money and income to the local peoples.
- ❖ Preservation, Conservation of national heritage and protection of natural environment
- ❖ Growth and development of basic infrastructure (Roadways, Hotels, banks, Restaurants etc.)
- ❖ Promoting Peace and stability
- ❖ Regional development and planning
- ❖ More focus on rural tourism
- ❖ Promoting local handicrafts products

Negative Impacts of Tourism in Latehar district of Jharkhand:

- ❖ Undesirable social and Cultural change
- ❖ Creating a sense of antipathy
- ❖ Adverse Effects on environment and Ecology
- ❖ Seasonal character of Job
- ❖ Increase in Prices

Suggestion and Policy Implication:

1. Ministry of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand should focus on adventure friendly infrastructure such as better roads services connecting, more transport vehicles for promoting of tourism in Latehar district.
2. Ministry of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand should more emphasis on rural tourism that showcase rural life, art and heritage and its attracts tourist.
3. There should be adequate numbers of tourist guide services, interpreters, police, personnel security and safety at the every tourist places of Latehar district of Jharkhand state.
4. There should good condition, cleanliness of sanitary facilities at every tourist places of Latehar district of Jharkhand state.
5. There should be fairly good amenities, availability of good accommodation and good restroom facilities on travels routes in Latehar district of Jharkhand.

Conclusion:

Tourism has played a very vital role in reviving Jharkhand's art and culture. Tourism holds immense potential for the growth of economy of Jharkhand state. Travel and Tourism is not only a growth engine but also an ample employment generating sector. Tourism is one of the best instruments of economics development in all the way. Travel and tourism bringing Latehar district of Jharkhand on global map of tourism, earning appreciation, recognition and initiates cultural change. The natural beauty, geographic locations, cultural and artistic diversity of Latehar district offers enormous opportunities to the local people. Travel and tourism promotes national integration. Tourism has promoted and benefitted small and local cottage -handicrafts industry. As we all know that tourism contributes a lot of revenue of the state Jharkhand. Last but not the least tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in Jharkhand that has changed the scenario of the state. The tourism in Jharkhand has grown significantly over the years.

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