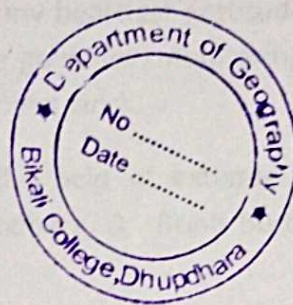


CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the field report entitled "Tourism in Sikkim with special reference to the Socio-economic development" submitted in partial fulfillment of the award of the degree of Master's Degree (PG) in Geography in the academic year 2022-23, is a record of bona fide work carried out by Pranjit Rabha, Roll no: PA-221-095-0003, M.A 2nd semester, Bikali college, Dhupdhara.



Signature of the External Examiner

Princi Gogoi

Submitted to
Assistant professor,
Princi Gogoi

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the field report entitled "Tourism in Sikkim with special reference to the Socio-economic development" submitted in partial fulfillment of the award of the degree of Master's Degree (PG) in Geography in the academic year 2022-23, is a record of bona fide work carried out by KOKIL DAS, Roll no: PA-221-095-0005, M.A 2nd semester, Bikali college, Dhupdhara.



Signature of the External Examiner

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Submitted to
Assistant professor,
Princi Gogoi

BIKALI COLLEGE, DHUPDHARA, GOALPARA, ASSAM

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



Certificate

This is to certify that project report entitled "Impact of Tourism on Local Community (Sikkim)" has been successfully carried out by.....Shantanu Das.....(Name of the student). It is the result of his/her own observation and is permitted to submit in M.Sc 2nd semester Examination of Geography of paper GGY 2104 to be held in 2023.



Date:- 22/06/2023

Princi Gosoi

Teacher in charge
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BIKALI COLLEGE, DHUPDHARA, GOALPARA, ASSAM-

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



Certificate

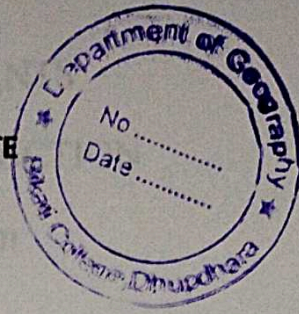
This is to certify that project report entitled "Impact of Tourism on Local Community (Sikkim)" has been successfully carried out by Jitendra Barua.....(Name of the student). It is the result of his/her own observation and is permitted to submit in M.A 2nd semester Examination of Geography of paper GGY 2104 to be held in 2023.

Date:- 22 / 6 / 2023

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Goalpara, Assam

CERTIFICATE



This is to certify that the field report entitled "Tourism in Sikkim with special reference to the Socio-economic development" submitted in partial fulfillment of the award of the degree of Master's Degree (PG) in Geography in the academic year 2022-23, is a record of bona fide work carried out by KANAKLATA DAS, Roll no: PA-221-095-0028, M.A 2nd semester, Bikali college, Dhupdhara.

Signature of the External Examiner

Princi Gogoi

Submitted to

Assistant professor,

Princi Gogoi



This is to certify that the project report "**Culture and Tourism: A Case Study in Sikkim**" has been successfully carried out by **ISMAT PARBIN SULTANA**. It is the result of her own observation and is permitted to submit in **M.A. 2nd semester** examination to be held in 2023.

Princi Gogoi

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CULTURE AND TOURISM: A CASE STUDY IN SIKKIM

YEAR-2023

SUBMITTED TO

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

BIKALI COLLEGE



SUBMITTED BY

MANIKA HAZOWARY

2nd semester, M.A. in Geography

Roll No: PA-221-095-0006

Registration No: 19023080

Manika Hazowary
22/06/2023



**A PROJECT REPORT
ON
CULTURE AND TOURISM: A CASE STUDY IN SIKKIM**

Submitted by

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Class- M.A. 2nd semester

Roll No- PA-221-095-0006

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project report "**Culture and Tourism: A Case Study in Sikkim**" has been successfully carried out by **MANIKA HAZOWARY**. It is the result of her own observation and is permitted to submit in **M.A. 2nd semester** examination to be held in 2023.

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PREFACE

This project is about Culture and Tourism: A Case Study in Sikkim. In this project data and information were collected through field surveys, research papers, government reports, journals etc. in this state and the interpretation has been made in the form of a project report.

The project report has been divided into 5 chapters:

Chapter 1 of the report discusses the introduction of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, objectives, research questions, research methodology, review of literature and limitations of the study.

In the 2nd chapter Background of the study area is discussed, which includes the brief account of Physical settings (location, Physiographic, Climate, Drainage, flora and fauna and Soil) Demographic Settings (population, economy, occupational structure, transportation and communication).

The chapter 3 deals with Tourism in Sikkim which includes historical development of tourism in Sikkim, growth of tourism in Sikkim and touristations of Sikkim.

The 4th chapter studied about the Culture and Tourism in Sikkim which includes historical perspectives of culture in Sikkim, impact of tourism on culture of the local community and social and economic benefits of tourism in Sikkim.

The 5th chapter of this project includes the Summary, finding and conclusion part of the work.

Besides the application of statistical, cartographic and mathematical methods some graphs, location maps and diagrams have also been incorporated in the project report.

In the reference section the list of books, articles, etc. from where certain areas have been derived in preparing the report has been included along with the name of authors.

The photos of different places and objects taken at the time of field surveys have been included in the form of photo plates. At the end of the project report the schedule-cum questionnaire used in surveying has been placed.

All these serial and systematic arrangements have helped me in preparing this project report as a final product otherwise it would have been impossible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset let me express my heartiest thanks to Dr. Bonti Bordoloi, HOD of Geography Department of Bikali College for her contributions to the completion of my project titled "*Culture and Tourism: A Case Study in Sikkim*".

I would like to express my special thanks to my supervisor Miss. Princi Gogoi. Her useful advice and suggestions were really helpful to me during the project's completion. I also sincerely thanks for the time spent proofreading and correcting my many mistakes.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my friends and people of the surveyed area for helping me in collecting primary data and secondary data and for giving me valuable information.

Date:

signature

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INTRODUCTION

Sikkim is a unique blend of different customs, religion and traditions of different communities. Since ancient times, Sikkim has been occupied by three tribes, namely, the Lepchas, the Bhutias and the Nepalese. They continue to form the people's group and culture in Sikkim even today. Recently, people have flocked over from the entire country and many Bengalis, Punjabis and Biharis have settled in to set up travel and construction businesses. A fusion of many cultures hence can be spotted but the state has remained exceptionally friendly and peaceful.

Sikkim is like a beautiful cultural bouquet that is adorned with attractive folk dances, traditions and customs of different tribes and castes. Tourism activities in Sikkim have started after the merger of the state with the Indian Union. The tourism industry in Sikkim is in its infancy stage.

Cultural tourism is a type of tourism activity in which the visitor's essential motivation is to learn, discover, experience and consume the tangible and intangible cultural attractions/ products in a tourism destination. Cultural tourism is movements of persons for essentially cultural motivations such as study tours, travel of festivals and other cultural events, travel to nature etc.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The culture of any place is often depicted through its cuisine, people, religion, language, art and crafts, music and dance. In Sikkim, we will find a perfect blend of all these attributes to make a distinct culture of its own. Not only these, Sikkim embraces a synthesis of various communities along with their practised religions. Sikkim culture has also been imbibed from the neighbouring countries without compromising on its own individuality.

Tourism in Sikkim gained popularity during the last decade with an increasing number of tourists visiting this hilly region for its natural beauty. Till the early 90s, few tourists would visit this landlocked state. Even those who visited hardly went beyond Gangtok, the state capital. During the last two decades, tourism has seen a major boost in the state with close to a million tourists visiting Sikkim every year.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- Help to know about the culture and tourism of Sikkim.
- Help to make predictions about the future scenario.
- Outcome of the study is the new ideas help to establish the relationship between culture and tourism.
- Help to understand the impact of tourism on Sikkim culture.
- Developing tourism as a key sector in Sikkim's economy.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The study has following objectives:

1. To study the culture of Sikkim.
2. To know about the economic development resulting for tourism of sikkim.
3. To analyse the tourism of Sikkim.
4. To identify tourist destinations of Sikkim.
5. To assess how tourism affects the culture of Sikkim.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How the culture of various ethnic groups of Sikkim helps in the development of the Tourism Industry in Sikkim?
2. What are the cultures of Sikkim?
3. What are the tourism destinations of Sikkim?
4. What are the various challenges faced by the tourism industry in Sikkim?
5. How tourism affects Sikkim culture?

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sources of data:-

Data for the research have been collected from both primary and secondary sources and through field visits.

Primary data:

Primary data was collected through field survey and personal observation, focused group interviews.

Secondary data:

Secondary data was collected from the research paper, government's report, journals, research paper has been utilised websites and other relative sources from the internet have.

Methodology:

The data collected through observation and interviews, government's report, journals etc. were analysed descriptively and transformed into a preliminary data sheet. The collected data were classified and tabulated to make them more clear and scientific, so simple tables were derived from the data sheet and various statistical diagrams were prepared.

1.6 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an essential part of any research work. Sikkim has its own natural potential to promote tourism but the culture of Sikkim is aiding for more development of Tourism Industry in Sikkim. There was wide literature found but the literature found on culture and tourism but the literature upon how culture aids to boost Sikkim tourism was not found.

Micheal Minkov and Greet Hofstede (2013), *Cross-Cultural Analysis*: This book is divided into four parts. Part one and part two deals with the theoretical and statistical issues concerning cross-cultural analysis by using Hostede's approach and different research methods now associated with it. Part three consists of presentations of well known large-scale cross-cultural studies. Part four summarises the main conclusion drawn from the presentations.

Jyoti Prakash Tamang and Namrata Thapa (2014), *some non-fermented ethnic foods of Sikkim in India*. This article discusses some of the non-fermented ethnic foods and it has discussed 14 different ethnic cuisines of Sikkim. But in this article it has not discussed other major food items like gundruk, kineema etc. as these foods has occupied a global market and these foods also have a health benefit.

Nancy Jervis (2006), *what is culture?* This article has discussed major important topics like it has focussed upon the great debate, cultural transmission, cultural formation, cultural versus civilization, race and culture religion-ethnicity and culture, definition of culture and multicultural classroom. The author says that culture can be understood as the totality of what a group of people think, how they behave and what they produce that is passed onto future generations, is what binds together as human beings but also separates us into our different communities.

Krishna k. Kamra and Mohinder Chand (2009), *Basics of Tourism: Theory Operation and practice*. The book provides an overview of the tourism industry including discussion of the growth of tourism through ages. This book provides a nuts and bolts introduction of tourism. This book is very suitable for researchers to understand the basic concepts to understand tourism.

Dinesh Das (2012-2013), *Tourism Industry in North-East Indian States: prospects and problems*. In India tourism is one of the important sectors. Tourism in India can be divided into different regions so as North-East India is also one of the richest biographic areas. It has rich cultural and ethnic heritage that can make it a tourist spot.

Some of the problems mentioned by the authors do not fit in the case of Sikkim as Sikkim is far advanced in literacy rate, and there are proper developmental policies by the state government. Henceforth, with this understanding, there has not been clearly researched upon the state of Sikkim.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Since the area of the study was vast so we could not collect the data in a short period of time i.e. two or three days. As a result, various websites, internet services etc. have to be used to collect the information.

CHAPTER-2

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

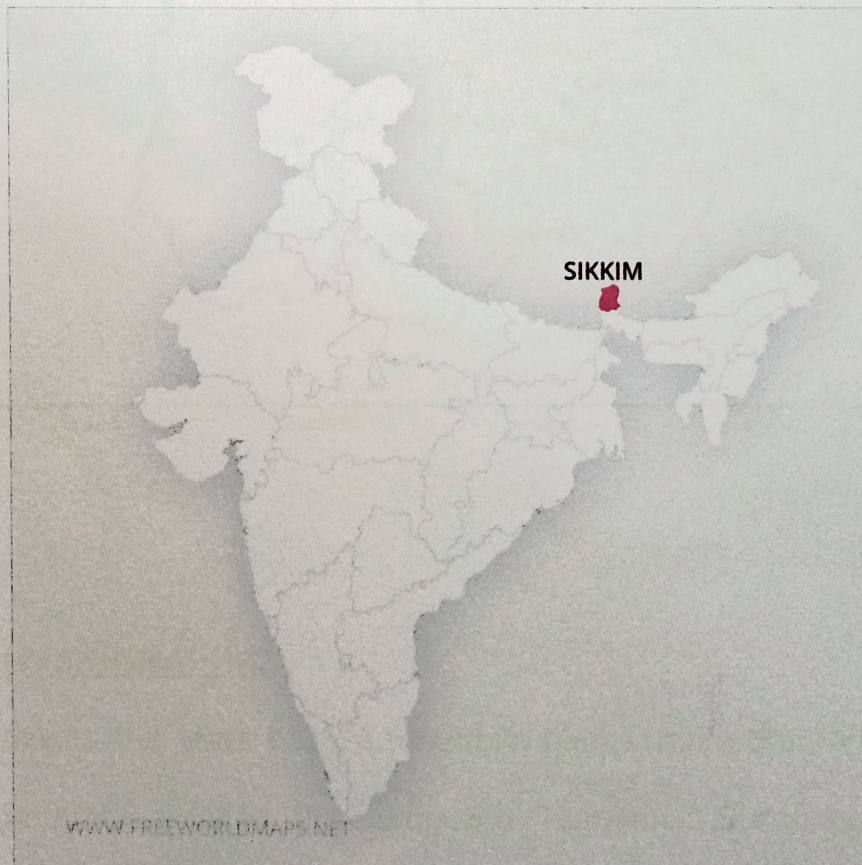
Sikkim, a vibrant cultural tourism destination has been chosen for the present study. The selection was promoted by the unparalleled composite culture, which has been a direct bearing on tourism development. Also, the magnificent art and architectural style that speaks volumes of the rich culture and heritage of Sikkim influenced the selection.

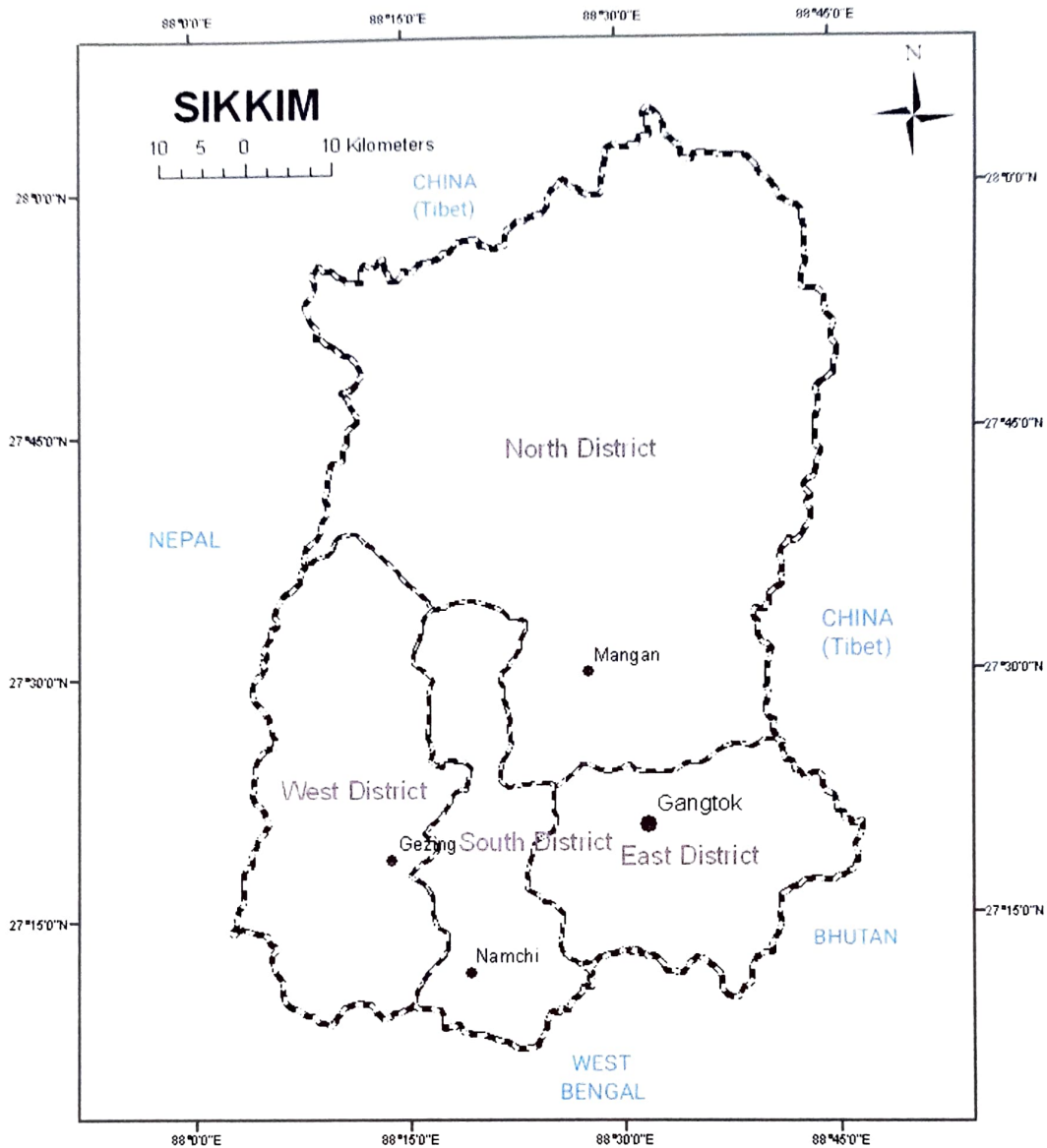
2.1 PHYSICAL SETTINGS

Sikkim is the second smallest state after Goa, but it has many physical features like forest, rivers and mountains around its edges. Most of the mountains above 6100 metres are near the west of the occupied territory, like Mt. Khangchendzonga. Other mountains that are over 6100 metres tall are Kabru, Siniolchu, Rothong, Kokthang, Taking, Kanglakhang, Simvo and Jonsang. On the east side the tallest peak is Paunhri, which is about 6700 metres tall. The other mountains that are a little bit shorter than 6100 metres are Masthonangye, Yabukjakchen, Nursing and Lamaonden. Most of the mountains in Sikkim have never been climbed, because the Sikkimese consider them sacred. They feel that when the mountains are climbed, they will not be holy anymore.

2.1.1 LOCATION

Sandwiched between the kingdom of Nepal in the west and the kingdom of Bhutan in the east lies a small stretch of rugged land of the Indian state known as Sikkim. On its Northern border towers the plateau of Tibet whereas it shares its southern border with West Bengal which is another state of India. Sikkim has a 220 km long border with Tibet, 100 km with Nepal, 30 km with Bhutan and 80 km with West Bengal. On the world map it is the protectorate state lies between $27^{\circ} 00' 46''$ and $28^{\circ} 17' 48''$ North latitude and $88^{\circ} 00' 58''$ to $88^{\circ} 55' 25''$ East longitude.





2.1.2 PHYSIOGRAPHIC

Sikkim, the state has 28 mountain peaks, more than 80 glaciers, 227 high altitude lakes (including the Tsongmo, Gurudongmar and khecheopalri lakes), five major hot springs and more than 100 rivers and

streams. Eight mountain passes connect the state to Tibet, Bhutan. And Nepal. Sikkim is the 22nd state and 2nd smallest state of the Indian Union. The state has a total area of 7096 sq.km . As an important trans-boundary landscape, it shares border with countries like Bhutan represented by Pangolakha range in the east; Tibetan Autonomous Region of China represented by Chola range in the east and trans Himalaya range in the north; and Nepal in the west represented by Singhalila range, however towards the south, Sikkim shares border of ca. 80 km with Darjeeling (district West Bengal) of the Indian Union which is segregated by three rivers State viz., Teesta Chu, Rangit Chu and Rangpo Chu. It stretches approximately 64 km from east to west and 114 km from north to south. The altitude in Sikkim ranges between 220 m asl to 8598 m asl.

Sikkim has many hot springs which are known to be good for health. The most important hot springs are at Phurchachu (Reshi), Yumthang, Borang, Ralang, Taram-chu and yumey samdong. All these hot springs have a lot of sulphur and are near the river banks. The average temperature of the water in these hot springs is 50°C.

2.1.3 CLIMATE

Sikkim's geographical location with its altitudinal variation allows it to have tropical, temperate and alpine climatic conditions within its small area of 7096 kms. Temperature conditions vary from sub-tropical in the

southern lower part to cold desert in the snowy north. It is also the most humid region in the whole range of the Himalayas, because of its proximity to the Bay of Bengal and direct exposure to southern monsoon. Sikkim's climate ranges from sub-tropical in the south to tundra in the north. Most of the inhabited regions of Sikkim experience a temperate climate, with temperatures seldom exceeding 28°C (82° F) in summer. The average annual temperature for most of Sikkim is around 18°C (64° F).

2.1.4 DRAINAGE

The Sikkim basin is drained by the Tista River and its tributaries, such as the Rangit, Lhonak, Talung, and Lachung which have cut deep valleys into the mountains. Originating in the northeast from a glacier near the Tibetan border, the Tista River descends steeply, dropping about 15,700 feet (4800 metres) to Rangpo, on the border with West Bengal, where it has cut gorge through the Darjeeling Ridge (7000-8000 feet) before emerging onto the Indo-Gangetic plain.

2.1.5 FLORA AND FAUNA

Located in a natural spot of the lower Himalayas, Sikkim is one amongst the three ecoregions of India. Sikkim has acquired a small portion in the domain of india, yet the state boasts of a rich variety of plants and animals. In the following about flora and fauna-

FLORA:

Sikkim has approximately 5,000 blossoming plants, 515 extraordinary orchids, 60 primula species, 36 rhododendron species, 11 oak varieties, 23 bamboo varieties, 16 conifer species, 362 types of ferns and ferns' allies, 8 tree ferns and more than 424 medicinal plants. The Rhododendron is acclaimed to be the state tree. Sikkim boasts of a wide range of the species that grows in sub-tropical to alpine regions. In the lower altitudes orchids, figs, Laurel, bananas, sal trees and bamboo are traceable enjoying the subtropical climate. Above 1,500 metres (in temperate regions) oaks, chestnuts, maples, birches, alders and magnolias are found in large numbers. Under alpine affected regions, juniper, pine, firs, cypresses and rhododendrons are quite common that happen to come across between the altitudes of 3,500 to 5,000 m. The official flower of Sikkim is Orchid Dendrobium Nobile.

FAUNA:

The beauty of variety of plants diversity in Sikkim is further enhanced multifold by the availability of wide variety of faunal components, which include 150 mammal species, 552 bird species, 690 butterflies and 1500 moth species, 29 reptile species, 10 amphibian species and over 48 fish species.

Amongst most important and rare animals found in sikkim, the Snow Leopard, Red Panda, Mask deer, barking deer, Himalayan That, Goral,

Blue sheep, Serow, Gazella, Tibetan wolf, Himalayan black bear, clouded leopard, Leopard cat, jungle cat, Himalayan marmot etc. are prominent. Many of these species are listed in the IUCN red data book. About 50 percent of the bird species of the Indian sub-continent (1400 species) are present in Sikkim.

2.1.6 SOIL

Soils of Sikkim have been classified into red loam and red and yellow soils. They are generally dark brown in colour on the surface and reddish in the subsurface. The depth of the soil varies, being deep in the valleys and shallow on the hills. They are- Alluvial soils, Black soils, Red soils, laterite and Lateritic soils, Forest and Mountains soil, Arid and Desert soils, Saline and Alkaline soils, Peaty and Marshy soils.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC SETTINGS

Sikkim is one of the smallest states in India both in terms of population and area. The present population of Sikkim stands at 6.79 Lakhs as compared to last year's figure of 6.72 Lakhs in 2020. According to the Population Census of India, the total population of Sikkim was estimated to be 607,688 in 2011. Located near the Himalayas in India, Sikkim is India's least populated state with just over 670,000 people living here.

2.2.1 POPULATION

The Himalayan state of Sikkim is the least populous state in India. Current population of Sikkim in 2021 is estimated to be 679,366. However the same figure was recorded as 672,905 in 2020 and 665,821 in 2019. With a decent annual growth in its Population, Sikkim is one of the smallest states of India in terms of population. In 2018, its population was estimated to be 658,361. Sikkim witnesses an increase of 1.23% in its population on yearly basis. The state population was estimated to be 651,586 in 2017.

Sex Ratio

The state of Sikkim has a decent sex ratio in India. There are 889 females for every 1000 males in Sikkim going by the latest estimates. The total male population stands at 357,890 while the total number of females is 321,476 in Sikkim (2021). The above figures are provided by the government of Sikkim.

Literacy Rate

Literacy rate in Sikkim stands at 82.2%, which is relatively good in comparison to other states of India. The figure includes 87.3% of males and 76.4% of females. There are a large number of schools and colleges available in Sikkim for the people. Government schools are also available in large numbers as compared with private institutions. The

Government of Sikkim has stated several steps to improve education systems in the state.

2.2.2 ECONOMY

The economy of Sikkim, a state in northeastern India, has a significantly agricultural economy. Although having mountains terrain, Sikkim has managed to sustain its agricultural economy through organic farming. The state of Sikkim was declared as the only 100% organic state in 2016. Sikkim's industrial sector is also mostly agriculture based. Besides agriculture, other large industries include pharmaceuticals, ecotourism and carpet weaving.

In 2021, GDP for Sikkim was 3.68 million INR, Lakhs. GDP of Sikkim increased from 1.23 million INR, Lakhs in 2012 to 3.68 million INR, Lakhs in 2021 growing at an average annual rate of 13.09 %.

2.2.3 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

Sikkim exhibits diverse climatic conditions from tropical moist to temperate and alpine zones. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the inhabitants of the states. The major crops of the state includes rice, maize, tea, soybean, ginger, orange, pears, potato and tomato. It is the top producer and exporter of large cardamoms in the country.

2.2.4 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The state of Sikkim is accessible through both airways and roadways. There is however, no direct transportation service to Sikkim by railways. Being a very hilly region, the communication services of Sikkim are still at a budding stage but undergoing developments with the best efforts from the government.

Sikkim Roadways

The state of Sikkim is connected by national Highway 31A which links Siliguri in the west Bengal to Gangtok in Sikkim. There are bus and truck services run by the Sikkim National Transport. There are also privately run bus, jeep and tourist taxi services throughout Sikkim. The state is connected to Tibet by the Nathu La pass. Regular taxis and cabs are available to make journeys to Sikkim and within Sikkim. The nationalised transport service, private services are also in Sikkim which makes it easier for the tourists and visitors to have a smooth experience here.

Sikkim Railways

There are no railway connections and lines in Sikkim. The nearest railway station is located in Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri. New Jalpaiguri railway station is located 125 kms away from Gangtok and Siliguri is

located 114 kms away. However booking tickets is a trivial affairs via online or the Sikkim Nationalised transport office on all working days.

Sikkim Airways

Though Sikkim does not have any airports because of its tough terrain, there is, however, a helipad in Gangtok which is the only civilian helipad in the state. The closest airport to Sikkim is in Bagdogra near the town of Siliguri in West Bengal. The Bagdogra airport is located about 124 kms from Gangtok. The helicopter services not only are for transport and communication but also for sightseeing purposes.

CHAPTER-3

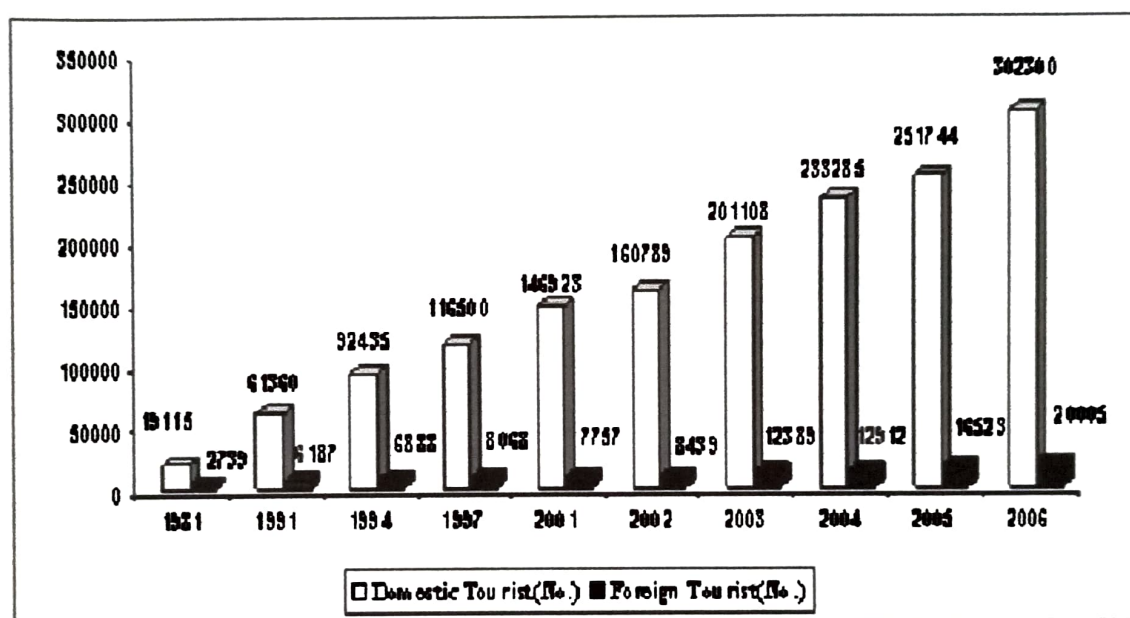
TOURISM IN SIKKIM

3.1 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN SIKKIM

After becoming the 22nd state of India in 1975, Sikkim has maintained a double-digit growth for the last three decades and a vast amount of human capital has also been created. Among the north Eastern states, Sikkim's growth performance has mostly remained satisfactory. Sikkim has also strengthened its place in the national and international tourism map. During 1981 to 2011, the domestic tourist grew at a compound annual rate of 11.87 percent, foreign tourist grew at an annual rate of 6.98 percent and both domestic and foreign tourist grew at 11.50 percent. Expansion of tourism has not only created employment but also given a fillip to other sectors like transport, telecommunication and retail selling and added positive impetus to growth and development of the economy. However growth is pronounced where the government has a direct role. The collective contribution of transport and communication, trade hotels and restaurants and banking and insurance were found to be highest in 1990 to 1991 and thereafter it started declining. The paradox is that the number of tourists in an absolute sense has increased but income added is declining. This implies that average expenditure by a tourist is

declining. A decline in foreign tourists as the percentage of total tourist arrival may also be a reason for the decline in the collective share of transport and communication, trade hotels and banking and insurance to GSDP.

**Figure 1: Inflow of Tourist (Domestic and Foreign) in Sikkim
(1981-2006)**



Source: *Economic Survey 2006-2007, Govt. of Sikkim, p.188.*

The number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, is continuously increasing. Between 1981 and 2006, the compound annual rate of growth for tourists is calculated to be 11.37 percent. For the same period domestic and foreign tourists grew at an annual compound rate of 11.68 per cent and 8.28 per cent respectively. It needs to be mentioned that

between 1997 and 2001, there was an overall slowing down in tourists' arrival, and tourism was mostly domestic in nature. Infact, between 1997 and 2001, the number of foreign tourists decreased and the inflow of foreign tourists registered a negative growth. The growth of domestic tourists had registered an all time low. It can safely be said that from 2001 onwards, tourism, especially tourist inflow, has picked up in Sikkim.

3.2 GROWTH OF TOURISM IN SIKKIM

Tourism in Sikkim gained popularity during the last decade with an increasing number of tourists visiting this hilly region for its natural beauty. Till the early '90s, few tourists would visit this landlocked state. Even those who visited hardly went beyond Gangtok, the state capital. During the last two decades, tourism has seen a major boost in the state with close to a million tourists visiting Sikkim every year.

According to tourism department records, as many as 3.08 lakh domestic travellers visited the hill state of Sikkim between October 2021 and March 2022, with January being the most profitable month for various stakeholders of the sector at 98,456 visitors.

In 2019, the Himalayan state had recorded around 16 lakh tourist arrivals. Sikkim witnessed an increase of almost 90 percent in the arrival of foreign tourists in 2019 compared to the previous year thanks to the

lifting of restrictions on the visit of Bangladeshi nationals to the Himalayan state. According to the data released by the Sikkim tourism department 1,33,388 foreigners visited Sikkim in 2019, which is 62,216 more than the 71,172 tourists who had toured the state in 2018. The number of tourists had come down to about 5.5 lakh in 2012 after the 2011 Sikkim earthquake, from about seven lakh average earlier.

Table 1: Tourists arrival data and annual growth rate of Sikkim

Year	Domestic Tourists	Annual growth	Foreign Tourists	Annual growth
2005	347650	21.26	16518	21.1
2006	421943	21.37	18049	9.26
2007	465204	10.25	17837	1.17
2008	512373	10.13	19154	7.38
2009	615628	20.15	17730	7.43
2010	700011	13.7	20757	17.07
2011	552453	21.07	23945	15.35
2012	558538	1.1	26489	3.1
2013	576749	3.26	31698	19.66

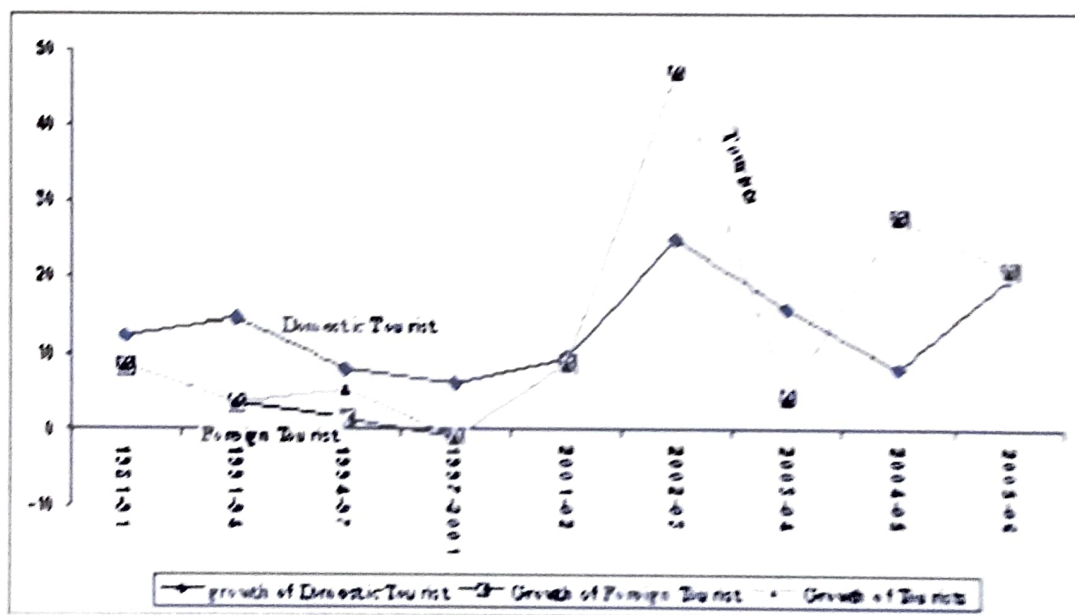
Source:<http://sikkimtourism.gov.in/webforms/General/Departmentstackholders/TouristsArrivalStats.asp>

Tourism industry, the mainstay of Sikkim's economy, has got back on its feet since the lifting of the Covid-19 induced lockdown late last

year, officials said. Almost 75 percent of the local population depends on the tourism industry in Sikkim, directly or indirectly.

The temporary shutdown of the tourism industry had spiked unemployment rate in Sikkim, which stood at 10 per cent when the Covid-19 situation was at its nadir, as per the data provided by the state's Directorate of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Figure 2: Annual Growth of Tourists (Domestic, Foreign and Total) in Sikkim (1981-2006)



Source: Economic Survey 2006-2007, Govt. of Sikkim, p.188

3.3 TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF SIKKIM

Sikkim is one of the most famous tourist destinations in North East India. Its marvellous landscape is dotted with high altitude lakes, rolling green mountains, colourful rhododendron groves, azure rivers, milky waterfalls, beautiful monasteries, and unparalleled views of Mt. Khangchendzonga, the third highest mountain in the world.

The state of Sikkim is divided into 4 districts. This four district capitals are -

1. Gangtok (East Sikkim)
2. Mangan (North Sikkim)
3. Namchi (South Sikkim)
4. Gyalshing (West Sikkim)

The main capital of the state is Gangtok. Each of these districts has something unique to offer to the tourists.

The top tourist attractions in **East Sikkim** are Gangtok, Tsomgo Lake, Baba Mandir, Nathu La Pass and Zuluk. It is beautiful and exciting, with a lot of activities on offer. A sightseeing tour includes Buddhist Monasteries, art and craft centres and cable car rides. White Hall, Close by the White Memorial Hall and just below the Palace Ridge park is the more recent Flower Show Hall. In recent years this show has become quite popular and famous as there are flower exhibitions throughout the year in accordance with the seasons and the flowers in bloom.

North Sikkim is as fascinating as East Sikkim when it comes to tourism. It's also suitable as a family holiday for the numerous sightseeing opportunities involved. We could visit Lachung, a scenic village by the side of River Lachung. Lachung has emerged as a tourist destination with the soaring popularity of Yumthang Valley which is just 25 kms from Lachung. The village, spread out on either side of Lachung Chu, has managed to retain its unique culture and tradition. The Lachung Monastery on the slope opposite to the highway is a focal point of all religious functions of the local inhabitants. Yumthang is famous for being a valley of rhododendron flowers and hot springs.

North Sikkim also receives heavy snowfall during December. This is a good time to visit it to enjoy the snowfall. The temperature often falls below zero. The entire landscape is covered by snow. Everything is white. Just near to Yumthang lies Zero Point, the last destination for civilians before China's border.

West Sikkim has its own treasure of travel attractions waiting to be explored. There is Tourist attractions like Pelling, a small hill town. Its landscape is dotted with Monasteries, lakes and waterfalls. We are offered mesmerising views of Mt. Khangchendzonga.

A Sikkim tour is incomplete without visiting **South Sikkim**. Its surreal beauty ensures that it is included in any Sikkim travel guide. It is home to Namchi, famously known as the cultural and religious hub of

Sikkim. Two famous tourist sites are the 108 feet statue of Lord Shiva and 118 feet statue of Guru Padmasambhava. Sikkim's only tea estate, Temi Tea Garden, is situated here.

CHAPTER-4

CULTURE AND TOURISM IN SIKKIM

4.1 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CULTURE IN SIKKIM

Sikkim, the name of the state originated from the words su him – which means new house. The early inhabitants of this region known as Lepcha, assimilated with the other tribes such as Mon, Chang and Naong. The Bhutias began to enter this area during the 14th century. In the year 1642, the kingdom of Sikkim was created, wherein Phuntsog Namgyal, the first chogyal (spiritual and temporal king), was from the Bhutia community. The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim for a long time till 1975.

During the mid 18 century, there were many territorial wars between Sikkim and both with Nepal and Bhutan. When India got independence in 1947, many political parties were formed in Sikkim. In the year 1950 the Indo-Sikkimese Treaty was signed, wherein it became a protectorate state of India under the rule of Namgyal Dynasty. Palden Thondup Namgyal was the last monarch of the state when it started to lose control over the people of Sikkim. The new political parties formed began to surpass the clergy and the Buddhist monarchy. The royalty of the Namgyal dynasty began to fade, and eventually, the Indian administration took over the state. Sikkim became the official state of India in the year 1975, under the rule of Indira Gandhi.

The state of Sikkim is a classical example of the amalgamation of different traditions, religions and customs of different communities. Since ancient times, the state has been occupied by three major tribes, namely the Bhutias, the Lepchas and the Nepalese. Even though people from other states would have migrated here, the state has still retained its uniqueness.

Culture of Sikkim

The culture and tradition of Sikkim are like colourful bouquets adorned with traditions, folk dances and customs of various tribes. The myriad **cultures of Sikkim** can be reflected in their places of worship, cultural dances and festivals. As per the Sikkimese culture, Nature is considered as God. This is proven by the lush greenery, rivers, forests and mountains of the state.

The main **languages of Sikkim** is Nepali, followed by the Bhutia or Sikkimese and Lepcha. Other languages that are also spoken in this state are Limbu, Majhwar, Tamang, Sherpa and Tibetan.

The food of Sikkim reflects the culture of the state that is a blend of Tibet, India, Bhutan and Nepal. **Sikkim food** generally comprises Sinki and Gundruk Soups, noodles, fermented soybean, traditional cottage cheese, thukpas, fermented rice products and bamboo shoots. The staple food of Sikkim is rice. Today, Sikkim boasts of its own dietary culture that comprises food habits and some special recipes.

The **dress of Sikkim** reflects the social lifestyle culture of the major tribes. All 3 major tribes have different types of costumes. The traditional dress of a Lepcha woman is known as Dumvum. Dumvum is an ankle-length dress that is worn like a saree. Another traditional dress of women is known as Tago. It is a loose-fitted dress worn along with a blouse, headgear and a belt. The traditional attire of Lepcha men is Thokro-dum that includes a shirt, a pyjama, yentha tse and headgear. Generally, the dress of Sikkim people is conducive to the fieldwork. The traditional dress of women and men of the Bhutia tribe is known as Kho or Bakhu. Bakhu is tied at the waist with a silk or a cotton belt.



Dress of Sikkim (Kho Bakhu)

The Sikkimese are highly devout and religions play a major role in Sikkim. Buddhism and Hinduism are the two major **religions of Sikkim**. Perhaps, Buddhism comes into view as the predominant religious practice in Sikkim. Though, Hinduism is the actual religion that is followed by the majority of people.

The cultural heritage of Sikkim is expressed in its traditional **folk dances**. Sikkim is domiciled by many ethnic castes and tribes; each of them has its own interesting folk dances. These folk dances and music have become an inseparable part of Sikkim culture.

4.2 IMPACT OF TOURISM ON CULTURE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Tourism is one of the important services providing industry in Sikkim state. Its rapid growth contributed to the socio-economic development of the region. The increase of tourists' influx resulted in the economic benefit to the regional economy by providing income and employment to the local community people. The predominant Communities are Lepchas, Bhutias and Nepalese. These myriad Cultures have produced a quintessential Sikkimese Culture that encompasses all ways and walks of life, but has also managed to preserve their own identity. Approximately 1.7 lakhs tourists, both domestic and international, visit Pelling each year creating a congestion of life in a peak season resulting

in some prolonged implications on the infrastructure, environment, natural resources, and culture of the state as a whole. The Sikkim Experience in the Eastern Himalayas has discussed the role that tourism can play in the community development of the state. It diversifies the economy by introducing tertiary activities and new infrastructures to areas that are basically rural. It helps develop local expertise in certain professional services, such as guides, interpreters, etc: Existing tertiary sectors like trade and transport receive additional impetus and become more organised. The village of Yuksom in remote West Sikkim amply supports this statement: Since the village is located on a mountaineering route, it stores most of the necessary provisions required by the trekking and mountaineering groups. The local residents have successfully diversified their economy by providing food, fuel (kerosene oil, gas cylinders, etc.), porters and pack animals (yaks), guides and interpreters, camping accessories and minor repair works. The local communities have wrought remarkable changes and improvements in the quality of life by tapping the opportunities offered by tourism.

4.3 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TOURISM IN SIKKIM

Economic Benefits of Tourism

The present study is a pioneer attempt to examine the impact of tourism on economic growth in Sikkim state. Tourism is one of the

important services providing industry in Sikkim state. Its rapid growth contributed to the socio-economic development of the region. The growth of real GDP per capita is used as a measure of economic growth. The statistical test shows that there is a positive correlation between Per Capita GSDP and tourists' influx. There is an enormous increase in tourists' inflows to Sikkim in the last decade, which shows its growth in tourism. The Per Capita GDP is increasing significantly over a period of time along with the expansion of the tourism sector. It has increased from Rs. 17428 (1999-00) to Rs. 29506 (2008-09). Trade, tourism, hotels, transportation, and agriculture have been found as key drivers to GSDP. The estimated average annual growth of real GDP per capita is 6.3 percent. This study shows that the tourists' inflows have a positive impact on the regional economy. It shows the growth of tourism and its contribution to the economy.

Culture together with cultural tourism provides a wide range of benefits for a particular destination. Cultural tourism of a state acts as a catalyst for the development of the host state, because it articulates numerous ways in which a nation or a state can develop itself economically.

- Injects new money into the economy, boosting businesses and tax revenues.

- Creates new jobs, businesses, events and attractions, thus helping diversify the local economy.
- Supports small businesses and enables them to expand.
- Promotes the active preservation and protection of important local resources.
- Builds vital relationships among and within local communities.
- Helps encourage the development and maintenance of new/existing community amenities (INTACH, 2007)

Social Benefits of Tourism:

Cultural tourism provides a wide opportunity for the host state as it inculcates for the promotion of social benefits to the state. Similarly, in Sikkim cultural tourism has provides a numerous benefits

- Helps build social capital
- Promotes preservation of local traditions, customs and culture. UNESCO now recognizes intangible cultural heritage as being as important as buildings. A market for experiences and traditional projects provides the economic support for keeping these skills and traditions alive.
- Promotes positive behaviour.
- Helps improve the community's image and pride.
- Promotes community beautification.

- Builds opportunities for healthy and useful community relationships and partnerships.
- Provides research, education and work-placement opportunities for students
- Creates enjoyable opportunities for both local residents and visitors attracted
- to the cultural arts, history and preservation.
- Boosts local investment in heritage resources and amenities that support tourism services.

CHAPTER-5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY

The above lessons deal with the culture and Tourism of Sikkim. In the Sikkim culture there is a large fusion of different ethnic groups, religions, food, languages, customs etc. The Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepalese are the main ethnic groups in Sikkim. There has been a historic development of tourism in Sikkim. The number of tourists in Sikkim has increased to a great extent now as compared to earlier, because the transport facilities, occupational structure, etc. have evolved. The culture of local communities has been particularly affected by tourism, for example the provision of food, accomodation, and tours for tourists has seen Local communities benefit to a great extent economically and socially. Sikkim has many tourist destinations, some of which are Gangtok, Lachung, Yumthang, Nathu La Pass etc. These places are particularly attractive to Tourists.

5.2 FINDINGS

In the topic "Culture and Tourism: A Case Study in Sikkim", by doing this project, found many positive and negative impacts in the social economic aspects, seen high income as well as low income of the state, due to some climatic conditions, transport and communication is

underdeveloped and its very much essential to improve. During the project work, found such important points like the G.D.P of the state, employment issues, and how socially tourism impacts on the cultural aspects of the state. The problems found are road blocking and tourists getting stuck in between the trip. Again here found some language problems because different communities of people live in the state but majority of them are Nepali people.

Sikkim's tag of being a peaceful state has been one of its key strengths for tourism promotion, and over the years, tourism in the state has grown at a rapid pace. Sikkim conjures an image of greenery amidst tranquillity. It has notably been one of the greenest states in the country with strong policies to maintain the state's green cover, and recently with aspirations of becoming the first fully organic state in India.

Blessed with natural attractions, Sikkim has great potential for developing its tourism around its assets such as its rich biodiversity, natural attractions of mountains, rivers, snows, etc.

The high altitude areas of the state that are ecologically fragile are important habitats as well as crucial in terms of water security. Many of the state's ecologically fragile areas are subjected to large inflow of tourists, which has serious environmental concerns. Vehicular pollution, disturbance to wildlife, garbage accumulation are some of the current major challenges brought about by tourism that needs to be addressed.

Owing to its location and topography, connectivity has always remained a broad challenge for the State that has grappled with bad road conditions for many years. Tourist's feedback on their experience in Sikkim place bad road conditions foremost among their grievances. Poor communication through Internet and mobile connectivity is also an issue that has reflected negatively for Sikkim's tourism.

While all tourism stakeholders strongly stress on the need to generate local employment from tourism, the reality is that a large part of the tourism sector is currently run by people from outside the state, be it hotels, transport sector or travel operators. Capacity of local people has not been adequately strengthened to address the needs of the tourism sector. On the other hand, the willingness of local youths to be involved in this sector and creation of an enabling environment for them is a challenge that needs to be looked at.

5.3 CONCLUSION

Sikkim's beauty is breathtaking and the state's culture, traditions and people are truly wonderful. It's imperative that a long term view be taken rather than a myopic one of letting unplanned tourism activity, growing urbanisation slowly destroy its heritage and fragile ecology.

The roles and responsibility of the state tourism department is increasingly incorporating its functional areas. Coordination, control and

cooperation of the state tourism department are increasing to significantly influence other central/state government agencies. Instead of specified roles and responsibility, policy-interpreted liaison, coordination and control are found. In this era of participatory management, roles and responsibility towards various stakeholders and parties need to be defined, interpreted, up graded and incorporated. Though the roles and responsibilities of the state tourism is found to be positive and apparently proactive, yet there are many hidden and unclear responsibilities. Lack of administrative initiative to delegate more power and authority to the tourism department in proportion to the dependability on tourism, lack of expertise in the state tourism machinery, are the problem areas identified. A powerful disaster management team of the state tourism department, a special cell to draw and implement tourism development projects and financial matters, a cell to formulate tourism laws and deploy tourism police, green police etc., a special team to maintain suitable database and thereby the total quality management on tourism phenomena, a department for the concept development and capacity building research department are found to be the emerging and relatively untapped areas specifying new roles and responsibilities in of the state tourism in Sikkim.

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PHOTO PLATES



A Field Report
On
TOURISM IN SIKKIM
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(SIKKIM)



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23/03/2023

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the field report entitled "Tourism in Sikkim with special reference to the Socio-economic development" submitted in partial fulfillment of the award of the degree of Master's Degree (PG) in Geography in the academic year 2022-23, is a record of bona fide work carried out by KOKIL DAS, Roll no: PA-221-095-0005, M.A 2nd semester, Bikali college, Dhupdhara.

Signature of the External Examiner

Princi Gogoi

Submitted to
Assistant professor,
Princi Gogoi

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At last I beg that I may be excused for the mistakes and errors that might be done by me during the completion of this work.

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Chapter – 1

INTRODUCTION:

Being having a clear idea of what actually is socio-economic study, it is essential to know the meaning of socio-economic aspects separately. Socio is derived from the word society which is nothing but a group of people organized culturally as well as systematically. The first and foremost condition for the development of a society in its economic condition.

Socio-economic study is an important part of geographical education to know about the status of the people of various society under different physical conditions. The sole aim of the socio-economic survey is to know about the socio-economic survey is to know about the socio-economic condition of the people living in a particular area and put forward the suggestions for the steps to be taken in order to store the problems prevailing in that area.

Field survey is an integral part of geographical study and for this purpose, to collect data related to socio-economic conditions of two villages located in North Sikkim, we have surveyed with the help of 3 sets of survey schedule during our trip to Sikkim.

North Sikkim is an important district of Sikkim which is characterized by mountainous terrain. It is a land of undulating topography. This region is preoccupied with sky scarping mountains on one hand and water bodies and deep lakes on the other. During our tour it has been observed that numerous waterfalls are astride in the main road which make the district extremely picturesque. This region falls in the temperate climatic zone but towards the high altitude of this region it turns into Tundra. Tisa river which is also called 'Ganga of Sikkim' flow through this region.

This region is a land of rhododendron, which are abundant in the Alpine and Temperate regions. Besides this, oak, maple, magnolia, silver fir are also grown in this region.

The people are mainly of Nepali descent. Majority of Hinduism are found larger than other religion. Nepali is the most widely spoken language in this district.

The economic impacts of tourism are usually considered to be beneficial for countries and localities. The real controversies lie in tourism's impact on environmental and socio-cultural aspects. This paper tries to analyze that if managed properly, tourism's overall positive effects are able to offset the few negatives in all three respects. The study has taken the state of Sikkim as the sample.

This survey report is an attempt to develop an awareness and insight to socio-economic study of the various social, cultural and economic aspects of the people, residing at Linda and Manga villages. The research on this topic is done so that we may give a light to the problems facing by the people of the state and those positive and the negative aspects of tourism are explained in the project.

Statement of the problem:

The state is completely dependent on tourism. Which can be a disaster if we think of it further. But, the main problem is that the Sikkim state has no strong brand identity. So it is very urgent to create brand names of the Sikkim tourism destinations as soon as possible so that the tourism in the Sikkim state can flourish. So, it has been a great problem in the Sikkim tourism industry.

Tourism often puts pressure on natural resources through over-consumption, often in places where resources are already scarce. Tourism puts enormous stress on local land use, and can lead to soil erosion, increased pollution, natural habitat loss, and more pressure on endangered species.

The short-term negative impacts of tourism on residents' health are related to the density of tourist's arrivals, risk of disease transmission, road accidents, higher crime levels, as well as traffic congestion, crowding, and other stressful factors.

Sociocultural impacts are associated with interactions between people with differing cultural backgrounds, attitudes and behaviors, and relationships to material goods. Environmental impacts can have both direct effects including degradation of habitat, vegetation, air quality, bodies of water, the water table, wildlife, and changes in natural phenomena, and indirect effects, such as increased harvesting of natural resources to supply food, indirect air and water pollution (including from flights, transport and the manufacture of food and souvenirs for tourists).

1.1 Objectives:

The objectives taken to carry out the study are-

- i. To assess the economic impact of Tourism in the state of Sikkim
- ii. To study the perceived impact Tourism related activities on social aspects of the state.
- iii. To determine how tourism shaped socio-economic aspects of the state.
- iv. To State the problems associated with tourism along with its causes and consequence

1.2 Research questions:

- What are the major mediums of socio-economic development?
- What is the impact of tourism in socio-economic development?
- What is the current situation of the state tourism?
- What is the annual income of the local people through tourism?
- What are the negative and positive impacts of development of tourism in sikkim to socio-economically?
- How the infrastructure of the state is developing?
- What are the challenges face by the local communities socio-economically?

- How GDP is related to the tourism industry of Sikkim?
- What are the species found in the state?
- What are the industrial developments of the state and trade international?
- What are the primary source of income of the state?

1.3 Methodology:

In completion of the project work we have taken both methods of data collection such as primary and secondary data which helped us to collect the right information and put it on the project in respectively. Also we have used cartographic techniques to get the final results of the project and give it a proper accuracy shape.

To analysis the growth and development of the tourism industry in the Sikkim and the perception of the host population about sustainable rural tourism development. Both primary and secondary were used, primary data was collected with the help of a survey schedule. The random sampling technique was used for the collection of the data. The secondary data was collected from the tourism department Sikkim, from the government's reports, journals, the research paper has been utilized websites and other relative sources from the internet have been placed here.

1.4 Literature review:

Batabyal, D., Das, D.K. (2022). Socio-economic Development Through Tourism: An Investigative Study for the Himalayan State Sikkim, India. In: Jana, N.C., Singh, A., Singh, R.B. (eds) *Livelihood Enhancement Through Agriculture, Tourism and Health. Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences*. Here explained about the Sikkim contributes around one per cent to the total FDI inflows of the country. Explains The overall performance of the economy of the state during 2018-19 was encouraging.

Maharana I, Rai SC, Sharma E (2000) Environmental economics of the Khangchendzonga National Park in the Sikkim Himalaya, India. In his journal to the references According to Ahmad (2009), the average WTP valuation is the average of the bid responses throughout the price group. Valuation of WTP helps illustrate the need for ecotourism activities, although it is difficult to give them a monetary value (Maharana et al. 2000). The effort would delineate the conservation needs of the conservation area's subject.

Batabyal D (2018) Assessing sustainable tourism and crisis situations: an investigative study of a Himalayan state, Sikkim (India). In: Batabyal D (Eds) *Managing sustainable tourism resources*. In his journal Tourism is an instrument for economic development and employment generation, particularly in remote and backward area. The old and stagnant idea has been changing drastically as tourism either energies through a total long-lasting experience or an essential mean of the present time. On the supply side aspect, it is imperative to provide new avenues for income and employment in the

destination. This article has dealt with the modern socio-economic environment of tourism in the backdrop of its essential developments.

Applying community based tourism development model to Darap and ---Reid"s (2003) has suggested a community based tourism development planning model (figure 1) that can be used for further improvising tourism in the study villages.

Kamra K. K (2001) mentioned that the decisive link of tourism with the local communities has geared up their socio-economic development. Tourism impact in any destination is influenced by a variety of factors such as; the volume of tourist arrivals, the structure of the host economy, types of tourism activity, the difference in the characteristics between the local people and tourists, the fragility of the local environment. Hence, the Social and economic diversity at any destination has led to attracting more tourists with more facilities.

1.5 Significance of the study:

provide a theoretical understanding of tourism, Provides the great understanding of the socio economic development of the sikkim state. It is important to know the pattern of income through the tourism places which the lifestyle of the people depends on the tourists visited the place in the tourist attraction places, Pattern of income for the development of the state Sikkim. It's important to know the cultural impacts and the positive and negative impacts that has been fallen due to extensive growth of tourist industry.

To know the physical setting and demographic setting of sikkim through an research project that has presented and those information are essential to know the accuracy growth of socio-economic development of sikkim.

The infrastructure of the state and the degradation of nature. Since it is a natural touristic place. To know the impacts of the transport and communication development, it's agricultural products, cultural impacts, employment,

1.6 Limitation of the study:

There are mostly limitation of the study of sikkim socio-economic development:-

- (a) There is lack of proper transport like, Railway transport, bus or any other independent transport.
- (b) The aviation sector has been poorly not available since it can become a great place for tourists most frequent choose for destination.
- (c) The linguistic differences of the place has been faced during the study of primary data.
- (d) There is lack on vertical way of communication to the state to reach easily.
- (e) The secondary datas are not being updated.

Chapter : 2

Geographical background of the study area

2.1 Physical settings:

2.1.1 Location:

Sikkim is a small mountainous State in the Eastern Himalayan region in India. It covers an area of 7,096 sq. km, extending approximately 114 km from North to South and 64 km from East to West. The State is situated between 88° 00' 58" and 88° 55' 25" East longitudes and 27° 04' and 28° 07' 48" North latitudes. It is surrounded by vast stretches of Tibetan plateau in North; Chumbi valley & Kingdom of Bhutan in the East; Darjeeling district of West Bengal in South and Kingdom of Nepal in West. With nine sub-divisions & eight towns the State has four districts namely East, West, North and South. The State being a part of inner ranges of mountains of Himalayas has no open valley and no plains but varied elevations ranging from 300 to 8583m above mean sea level consisting of lower hills, middle and higher hills, alpine zones and snow bound land.

The highest elevation of 8534 meters being the top of the mountain Khangchendzonga itself. The Himalayas is our country's pride and is a symbol of value systems. They are in almost every way superlative. They are the highest mountain range on Earth with just about all of the highest mountains in them. They form one of the greatest physical and cultural barriers and they are stupendously beautiful, still relatively unspoilt and full of fascinating human and natural life.

In many cases, the way of life has remained almost totally unchanged by the modern inventions and it is like going back hundreds or even thousands of years. They are today exposed to accelerating environmental and social changes; although change is inevitable and desirable when it improves the living conditions. A comprehensive study on the environmental and social changes in the entire Himalayas may be the need of time to identify and justify the methodology of change, which is consistent with preservation of Himalayan Values, Heritage, Natural resources, Spectacular natural beauty and distinctive culture/ tradition of the area.

2.1.2 Physiography:

Sikkim has a very rugged topography due to which there are very less flat lands. The rivers, mountains are the main physical features that define the boundaries of the state of Sikkim with its neighbors. Besides the rivers and mountains, the lakes, glaciers, passes, hot springs and waterfalls are also found in this region.

Sikkim is a land of the high mountains that seem to touch the heavens and define the paradise of nature. These mountains form a part of the Himalayas, the highest mountain range. The Mount Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world is situated in the Sikkim. This mountain range can be seen from almost any part of Sikkim and border

the Sikkim from the northern, eastern and western side. The two main mountain ranges in Sikkim are the Singilela range on the Western border and the undulating Chola range on the Eastern border. The boundary between Sikkim and Bhutan is defined by the Pangolia Range located in the south eastern part of the state. Other peaks that stand at altitudes of above 20,000 feet are Siniolchu, Pandim, Kabru, Rathong, Kokthang, Talung, Kanglakhang, Simvo and Jonsang. The other imposing mountains that are slightly less than 20,000 feet are Masthonangye, Yabukjakchen, Narsing and Lamaongden. Most of the peaks of Sikkim have remained unscaled as the Sikkimese consider them sacred and feel that they will lose their sanctity if climbed.

The mountain ranges are interspersed with various passes which can be used to cross from one side to another. The two most important passes are the Nathu La and Jelep La pass located on the eastern Chola range at an altitude of about 14,500 feet. The Nathu La pass is also known due to the war between China and India. Nathu La and Jelep La passes also formed a part of the trade route between India and Tibet till 1962. The Bhutan La pass is located at an altitude of about 13,000 feet. The first two pass leads to the Chumbi valley in Tibet and the third pass leads to Bhutan. Another important pass on this range that also leads to the Chumbi valley is the Chola pass which was used by the Chogyals to go to Tibet from Tumlong. Chiwabhangjang is the another important pass located on the west between the Sikkim and Nepal border. From this pass the Nepalese used to attack Sikkim during the last century. The other pass on the west is Kang la.

2.1.3 Drainage:

Glaciers in Sikkim

A glacier is a slow moving river of ice. The glacier flows from high mountain peaks through rocky valleys and carries non-melted snow, rocks and debris that has compacted over many years into a solid, creeping ice stream. According to some people, about thousand years ago the whole of North Sikkim was covered with glaciers. Lachung is situated at the base of an ancient moraine. The most important glaciers in Sikkim are the Zemu Glacier, Rathong Glacier and the Lonak Glacier in North Sikkim. The Zemu glacier is the largest and the most famous glacier of the eastern Himalayas. This glacier is about 26 km in length and is situated in a large U-shaped valley at the base of the Kanchenjunga mountain in the northwestern Sikkim. The Teesta River rises from the snout of this glacier. Various icefalls and waterfalls have been formed at the junction of the tributary glaciers with the Zemu glacier.

Lakes in Sikkim

Sikkim has a rugged terrain but though still some lakes are also found in this area. There are some lakes which are not very large in size. These lakes are both spring fed as well as river fed. They also form the source of many rivers. The Changu Lake is situated on the highway between Gangtok and Nathu-la, about 34 kms from Gangtok. The Bidangcho and

the Menmoicho are the two other lakes which are also found in Sikkim. Khechopari lake is another well known lake that lies on a bifurcation of the route between Gyalshing and Yoksum. Laxmipokari, Lampokari, Majurpokari, Ram and Laxman lake, Cholamu and Green Lake are some of the beautiful lakes which are also found in Sikkim. Gurudogmar lake is the largest and probably the highest lake in Sikkim.

Rivers in Sikkim

The rivers which are found in Sikkim are fed by the snow melting on the mountains and also by the rains that accumulates in the catchment areas during the monsoons. The rivers of Sikkim are perennial and do not dry out even during the winters. Some of these rivers also have a potential of generating thousands of megawatts of electricity. The two main big hydroelectric projects are built on the Rangit and the Teesta rivers. The valleys of the rivers towards the North of Sikkim are wide and concave shaped due to the presence of glaciers millions of years ago, but on moving southwards these valleys transform into deep V-shaped gorges. The rivers are very narrow, steep and full of rocks due to which they are not navigable. During the monsoons these rivers become swollen, swift, muddy and dangerous. The main river found in Sikkim is the Teesta river. When the Teesta river approaches the border between Sikkim and West Bengal it becomes wide and clear of rocks and it is possible to raft across it. The Teesta finally joins the Bramaputra in Bangladesh. The Teesta river flows almost right across the Sikkim. The Teesta river originates from the Cholamu lake where it is hardly a stream. Its major tributary is the Rangeet which originates from the Rathong Glacier and meets it at the border between Sikkim and West Bengal. The Teesta river flows in the North - South direction while its tributaries flows in the South West or South East directions. The river Ramam, a tributary of Rangeet river and Rangpochu, the tributary of Teesta river defines the Southern border between Sikkim and West Bengal. The other smaller tributaries of the Teesta river are Zemuchu, Lachungchu, Talungchu, Bakchachu.

Waterfalls in Sikkim

The verdant green landscape of Sikkim is broken by the waterfalls that leap out of the hillsides in the valley. Most of these waterfalls are perennial, fed by the spring water and snows which melt on the mountains. These waterfalls can be found almost all over the Sikkim but some of the waterfalls are found in the North Sikkim specially on the road between Mangan and Lachung as well as in the Dzongu area.

2.1.4 Climate:

Sikkim's geographical location with its altitudinal variation allows it to have tropical, temperate and alpine climatic conditions within its small area of 7,096 kms. Temperature conditions vary from sub-tropical in the southern lower parts to cold deserts in the snowy north. It is also the most humid region in the whole range of the Himalayas, because of its proximity to the Bay of Bengal and direct exposure to Southern monsoon. Sikkim's climate ranges from sub-tropical in the south to tundra in the north. Most of the inhabited regions of Sikkim experience a temperate climate, with temperatures seldom exceeding 28 °C (82 °F) in summer. The average annual temperature for most of Sikkim is around 18 °C (64 °F).

Winter

January - March

Average daytime temp. : -5 to 7 °C

The winter season is charming and perfect for vacation as the whole area is enveloped in snow. Most areas of the state receive snowfall and get engulfed in the blanket of thick snow, thus luring tourists. During November, even though it does not snow, the temperature is quite apt for sightseeing. Almost all the places remain open for the tourist except for the high altitudes areas. At this time of the year, there are many festivals that are celebrated here such as Mangan music festival, Maghey Sankranti, Lossong, Losar and of course Gutar Cham which gives an opportunity to the visitors to witness the very famous Cham Dance performed by the masked monks in the monasteries. One can feel the festivity everywhere, on the streets, in the market, even in the monasteries. If you are planning to visit Sikkim anytime between November and March, come prepared because while the days are bearably cold, nights experience subzero temperatures.

Snowfall in Sikkim

Sikkim, which lies in the lap of Himalaya's is one of the coldest places in the country. The North Eastern part of India is home to one of the tallest peaks in the world, Kanchenjunga, where the temperature falls as low as -32° C. Sikkim is one of the few states in India to receive regular snowfall. The snow line ranges from 6,100 metres (20,000 ft) in the south of the state to 4,900 metres (16,100 ft) in the north. The tundra-type region in the north is snowbound for four months every year, and the temperature drops below 0 °C (32 °F) almost every night. In north-western Sikkim, the peaks are frozen year-round; because of the high altitude, temperatures in the mountains can drop to as low as -40 °C (-40 °F) in winter. Some people are often confused about the places where they can enjoy the view of snowfall. Places like Nathula, Tsomgolake, Gurudongmar lake, Yumthang, Zero point, Zuluk etc. gets tons of snowfall every year. To be precise region of mostly North and West receives snowfall every year. The best season to experience snowfall would definitely be in winter if one can bear the cold but the snow remains till the end of March in most of the places. However, visiting these places during winter may not be possible due to heavy snowfall and roadblocks which increases the risk to travel to these places cause some serious happenings.

Summer

March - April

Average daytime temp. : 5 to 25 °C

Summers in Sikkim aren't as harsh as everywhere else in India. During this season, the weather remains pleasant, thus, making it the best time to visit Sikkim for certain parts of the state. During this time, one can also enjoy the flower festival. Summer is warm and moderate and is the ideal season for trekking where you can see blooming rhododendrons and orchids all around in this beautiful Himalayan kingdom. Apart from this adventure activity, summer time in Sikkim is ideal for other tourism activities like

Mountaineering, Kayaking, Mountain biking, Canoeing, River rafting and Hang gliding. During summers, one can enjoy the radiant blossoming of rhododendrons and orchids in Sikkim. The best way to catch the view of abundantly blooming rhododendrons is to go on a trek to Rhododendron Valley, which is situated in North Sikkim.

Monsoon

April - December

Average daytime temp. : 4 to 17 °C

Monsoon is everyone's beloved season. It is the time when nature wakes up from its deep sleep and rejuvenates. But the monsoon in Sikkim takes the form of incessant rain during the months from May till September while July be the wettest of all. Around 600-700 mm of rainfall takes place here each month and the temperature lies between 17-22 degree celcius. The waterfalls during this season become exuberant and surely entice the enthusiastic tourists to visit them. Other than this, for the bird watchers, the place turns into a chirpy heaven. One can even spot the rarest species of the birds at this time. If you are in Sikkim in the monsoon months, do not forget to enjoy monsoon flowering in North Sikkim, Changu Lake, Kupup, and Nathu La. Moreover, the low influx of tourists during the monsoon season ensures the availability of accommodation options at much cheaper rates than the peak tourist seasons.

Rainfall in Sikkim

The rainy season is classified into two types in Sikkim i.e. Summer rains and Winter rains. Southern Part of Sikkim sees more of summer rains, whereas Northern part foresees winter rains during August and September. Sikkim becomes a more mesmerizing and beautiful place to visit in monsoon season. The place feels like heaven because of the scenic beauty that enhances all the more at the time of monsoons. One can spot rare species of birds at this time. Try visiting Southern Part of Sikkim at the time of winter rains and Northern part in the months of May and June because of the different time of monsoon in north Sikkim and south. Rainfall is heavy and well distributed during the months from May to early October. July is the wettest month in most of the places. The intensity of rainfall during South-West monsoon season decreases from south to North, while the distribution of winter rainfall is in the opposite order. The highest annual rainfall for the individual station may exceed 5000 mm. and average number of rainy days (days with gangtok rain of 2.5 mm. or more) ranges from 100 at Thangu in north Sikkim to 184 at Gangtok in east Sikkim. But, as the state follows two rainy season's i.e Summer rain and winter rain. It is found that the intensity of rainfall during Summer rain is more in Southern part of Sikkim while during winter rain the intensity shift to north. Thus, this permits the tourists to explore the northern part during May and June while the southern part can be travelled through during August and September, if only you could handle the issues like blocked roads and severe accidents could take place.

2.1.5 Flora And Fauna:

Flora and Fauna in Sikkim

Due to the altitude that varies from sea level to summits that touch the skies, the flora and fauna naturally covers a wide spectrum. Nowhere in the world in such a small area can one find flora and fauna of all varieties - Tropical to the Alpines. Sikkim's botanical and zoological richness is awe-inspiring, boasting of more than 4000 species of plants and 30% of all the birds found in the Indian sub-continent. No wonder Sikkim has been a dream of naturalists. Dr. J. Hooker during the middle of the last century surveyed in the detail the botanical wealth in Sikkim and his findings were embodied in the 'Himalayan.

Flora

A Journal in Sikkim Flora can be basically divided into three zones. The tropical from almost sea level to about 5000 feet, the temperate from 5000 to 11000 feet and the alpine above 11000 feet. Till 10000 feet, there are terraced farmlands in which the rice, maize, barley and millet are grown. Cardamoms, oranges, apples, potatoes and ginger are grown in abundance in the state. The lower altitudes towards the south harbour jungle cats, Mongoose, House sparrows. The jungles in the south, are teeming with plantains, bamboos, tree ferns, walnut, sal and oak. Orchids also abound in areas with moderate altitudes. They are the pride of Sikkim and are about 600 species. They come in a wide variety of colours and sizes

the most popular orchids of Sikkim are Cymbidiums, Vanda, Cattaleya, Hookeriana, Farmeri, Dendrobium Amoenum. The Nobile Orchid has been declared as the State Flower of Sikkim. In the temperate zone, the fauna comprises of Common Langur, Leopard Cat, Red Panda, Musk deer, Himalayan Black Bear and the Flying Squirrel. The flora consist of oak, chestnut, maple, birch, alder, magnolia and silver fir. In the arid cold alpine regions of Sikkim, roam the snow leopard and wild ass. There are about 35 species of Rhododendrons in Sikkim and are found above the height of 10000 feet. The Rhododendron Nivale grows barely a few inches above the ground. When Rhododendron flower between the month of April and May, it is a sight to behold with hillsides becoming shrouded in colour. The variety Rhododendron niveum has been declared as the State Tree of Sikkim. At the treeless altitudes above 14000 feet curious types of flowers in colors of blue, red, violet blossom during summers just a few inches above the ground. The stones and rocks also get color by lichens and mosses in amorphous pattern.

Fauna

The diversity in the plant world is complemented by a similar variety in the animal kingdom. Amongst the mammals of Sikkim are the rare Snow Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Red panda, Musk Deer and Blue Sheep.

Shapi

Shapi is a rare animal that inhabits the alpine region is the Shapi. It was discovered only in 1938 by a German doctor Ernest Schalfer. The Shapi has the size of a mountain goat

and has a long white mane. The Shapi is an endangered animal which is on the verge of becoming extinct.

Yaks

Among the more commonly found animals in the alpine zone are yaks. Yaks belong to the cattle family and can survive only at altitudes above 10000 feet. They survive on alpine shrubs and can go without food for days together. Due to the long and thick hair that grows on its flanks, legs and tail and its thick hide, yaks can comfortably sleep and rest in the snow. Yaks forage on their own and do not require grooming, stabling and care as required by other domesticated animals. Yaks have been domesticated in Sikkim and are used as beasts of burden as well as for their meat and milk which

though produced in small quantities is very thick. Yak milk is extensively used for preparing Churpi which is hardened cheese. The hide and hair is used for making crude canvas, tents, carpets and blankets. Crossbreeds of yaks with cows are known as Dzo and these can survive at lower altitudes.

Species

Over 400 varieties of butterflies and moths adorn the forest with colour and life. Giant Lammergeier Vultures, Bearded Vulture, Eagle, Whistling Thrush, Minivet, Bulbul and Pheasant are some from among the 550 species of birds recorded in Sikkim, some of which have been declared endangered. Some other coloured birds are the emerald dove, fairy blue bird, kingfisher, ashy woodpecker, sultan tit and the emerald cuckoo. Many migratory birds like the Ruddy Shelduck also visit Sikkim. There are also a wide variety of pheasants in various colours. Blood Pheasant is declared as the State Bird of Sikkim. Various types of fishes are also found in the lakes and rivers of Sikkim. There are 45 species of fish in Sikkim which include the trout, salmon and carp. Fishing is allowed with a permit. There are 40 species of reptiles which include various types of lizards, snakes, krait and cobra.

Red Panda

Among the more exotic mammals is the Red Panda which lives mostly on treetops. It is found at altitudes ranging from 6,000 to 12,000 feet. It has been declared as the State Animal of Sikkim. It is about 2 feet in length when full grown and belongs to the racoon family. It feeds mostly on bamboo leaves.

Himalayan Bear

These are found roaming in the temperate forest of Sikkim. They feed on corn, wild plants, honey and can sometime grow to enormous sizes.

Snow Leopard

The snow leopard is an almost mythical animal. It has rarely been sighted and to date, only two field zoologists have succeeded in photographing this elusive animal in its habitat which can vary from 5,000 feet to as high as 18,000 feet.

2.2 Demographi setting:

2.2.1 Population:

Sikkim is one of the smallest states in India both in terms of population and area. The present population of Sikkim stands at 6.79 Lakhs as compared to last year figure of 6.72 Lakhs in 2020. According to Population Census of India, the total population of Sikkim was estimated to be 607,688 in 2011. Located near Himalayas in India, Sikkim is India's least populated state with just over 670,000 people living here. After Goa, Sikkim is the smallest state in India covering a total area of 7,096 km² (2,740 sq mi). Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim with over 12% of its population living here. The Population growth in Sikkim is comparatively descent as compared to other states in India. Literacy rate in Sikkim is estimated at 82% which is relatively good for a hilly state in India. Good education facilities have contributed towards maintaining a better literacy rate in Sikkim. Sikkim has shown major signs of improvement in population census of India.

Population of Sikkim in 2021	679,366
Total Male Population (2021)	357,890
Total Female Population (2021)	321,476
Sex Ratio in Sikkim	889 females per 1,000 males

Population of Sikkim in 2021

The Himalayan state of Sikkim is the least populous state in India. Current Population of Sikkim in 2021 is estimated to be 679,366. However the same figure was recorded as 672,905 in 2020 and 665,821 in 2019. With a descent annual growth in its population, Sikkim is one of the smallest states of India in terms of Population. In 2018, its population was estimated to be 658,361. Sikkim witnesses an increase of 1.23% in its population on yearly basis. The state Population was estimated to be 651,586 in 2017.

Population of Sikkim in 2014

Sikkim's population was estimated to be 629,898 (6.29 Lakhs) in 2014. Population of Sikkim has grown by 12.31% in the last 10 years. According to Population Census of India, Population of Sikkim is increasing at a descent rate as compared to other states in India. The state population was estimated to be 622,483 in 2013. Population growth in Sikkim is descent as compared with other states of India.

Sex Ratio in Sikkim

The state of Sikkim has a descent sex ratio in India. There are 889 females for every 1000 males in Sikkim going by the latest estimates. Also total male population stands at

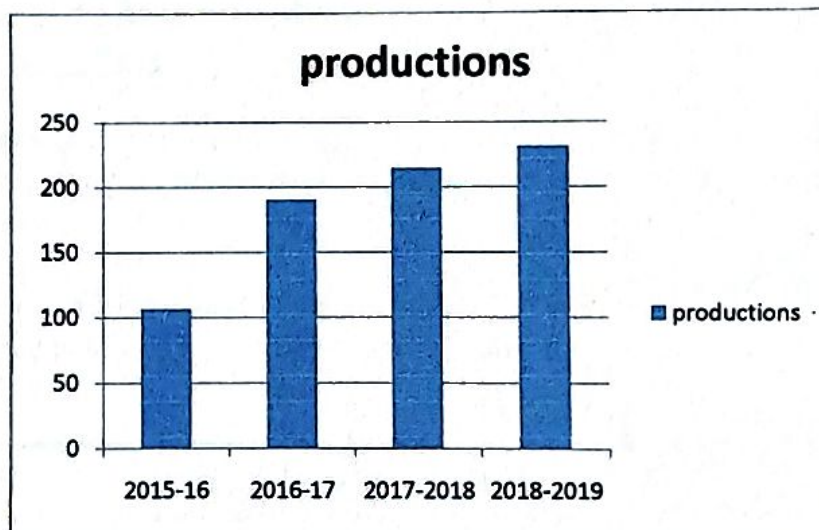
357,890 while total number of females is 321,476 in Sikkim (2021). The above figures are provided by Government of Sikkim.

2.2.2 Economy:

Key sectors for economic growth of the state are:-

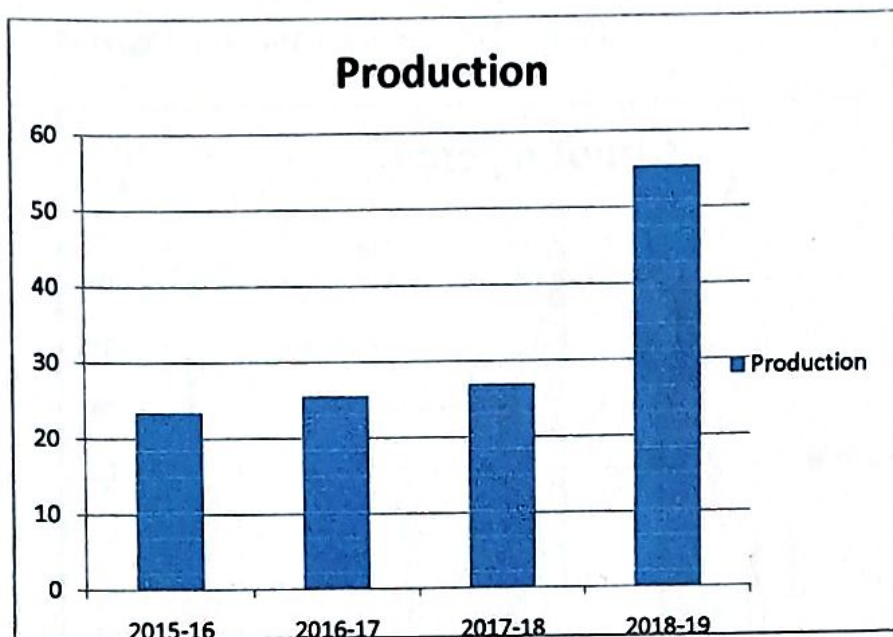
- ❖ Agro and Food Processing and Horticulture
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Floriculture and Sericulture
- ❖ Pharmaceuticals
- ❖ Agro and Food Processing and Horticulture

Production of vegetables (in '000 MT) 2015 - 2019



Agriculture is vital to the progress of Sikkim as more than 64 percent of the population depends on it for their livelihoods. The Sikkim AGRISNET is an internet-based agriculture information center to promote scientific agricultural methods and convert research in to practice in the agricultural sector.

Production of fruits (in '000 MT) 2015-2019



Sikkim has a suitable climate for agricultural and horticultural products. It supports multiple crops; viz., rice, wheat, maize, millet, barley, urad, pea, soyabean, mustard and large cardamom.

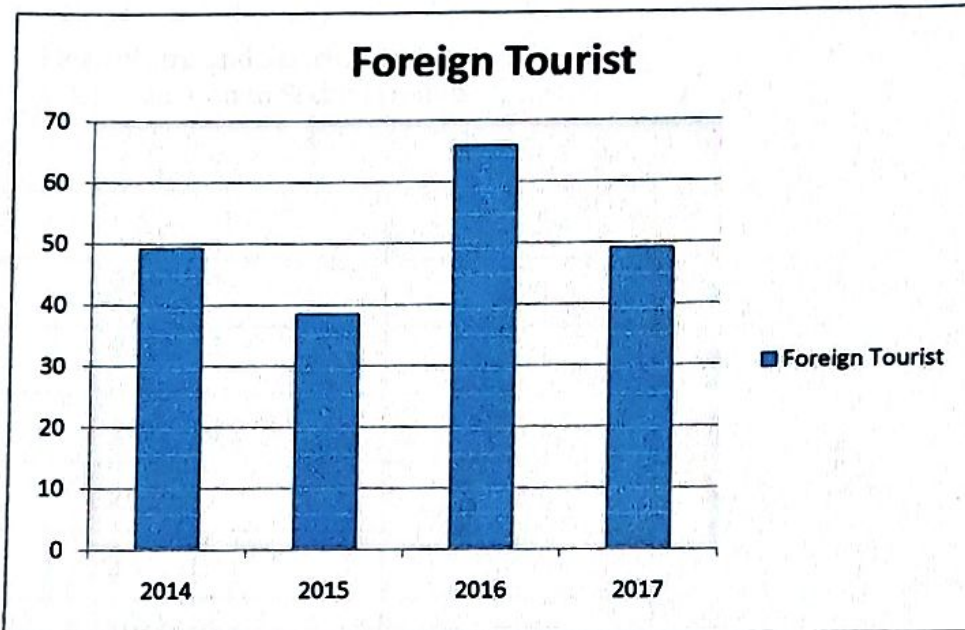
The surveyed land in Sikkim is 109,000 Ha, of which only 9.5 percent is used; this provides a vast untapped potential for development.

Crop	Production -2018-19* ('000 tones)
Fruits	55.45
Vegetables	231.39
Flowers	16.50
Spices	106.27

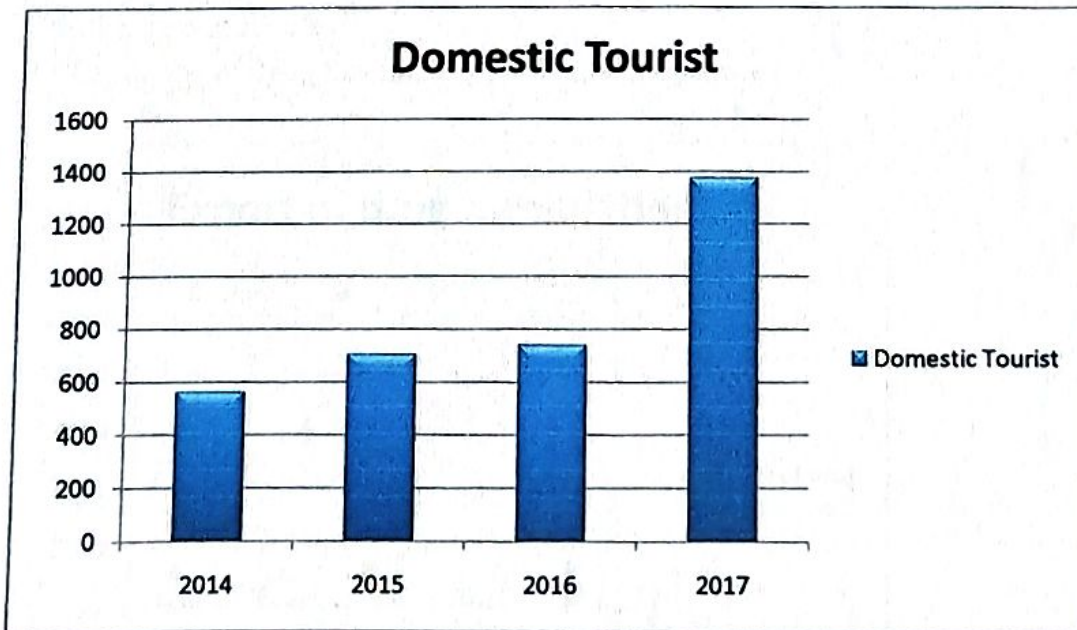
The primary sector contributed around 16.06 percent to Sikkim's GSDP in 2017-18. Agriculture provides livelihood to more than 64 percent of the people of Sikkim either directly or indirectly. Sikkim is the top producer of large cardamom, contributing over 80 percent to India's total production.

❖ Tourism

Foreign tourist arrival in Sikkim (in '000)



An extra ordinary increase in the number of tourists in the state has been witnessed over the past few year sowing to the efforts that the state Government is making for promoting tourism in the state.



Tourist arrival (domestic and foreign tourist) in the state has increased from 99,000 in 1994 to more than 1.4 million in 2017, On January 30, 2019, Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Project at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim. The project was developed in Rs 98.05 crore (US\$ 14.02 million).

Gross state domestic product per capita at current prices in 2021, GDP per capita for Sikkim was 541,544 INR, lakhs. GDP per capita of Sikkim increased from 198,686 INR, lakhs in 2012 to 541,544 INR, lakhs in 2021 growing at an average annual rate of 11.95%.

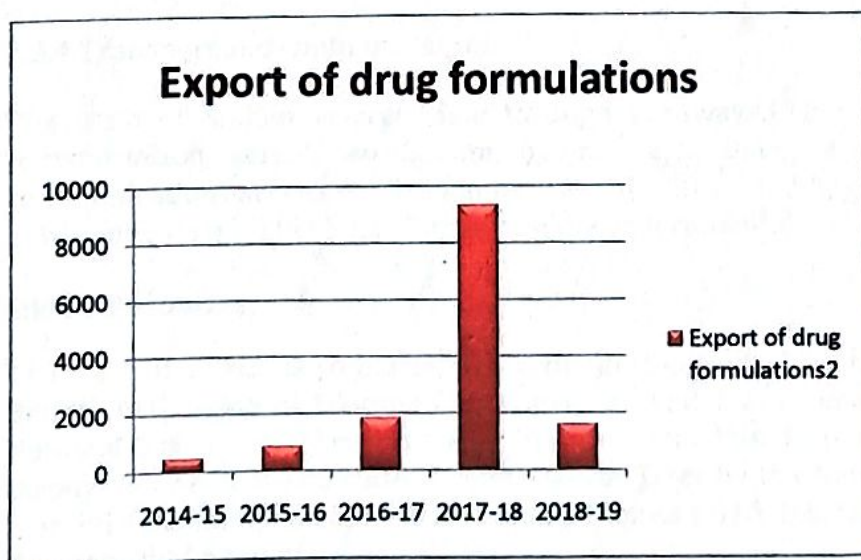
❖ Floriculture and Sericulture Raw silk production in Sikkim (million tones)

Year	production
2013-14	0.20
2014-15	8
2015-16	6
2016-17	9
2017-18	0.001
2018-19	0.4
2019-20 (till December 2019)	1

Mulberry, muga, eri, oak-tussar and silk are cultivated in Sikkim.

❖ Pharmaceuticals

Exporting of Drug formulation for Pharmaceuticals



The exports stood at US \$ 1.59 million during 2018-19.

Cipla is one of the world's largest generic pharmaceutical companies with presence in over 170 countries. It exports raw materials, intermediates, prescription drugs, over the counter (OTC) and veterinary products, among others.

2.2.3 Occupational structure:

Sikkim exhibits diverse climate from tropical moist to temperate and alpine zones. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the inhabitants of the state.

The major crops of the include rice, maize, tea, soyabean, ginger, orange, pears,, potato and tomato. It is the top producer and exporter of large cardamoms in the country. Sikkim is also environmentally responsible state taking major steps to help it develop into a tourism haven.

Sikkim's primary industries include ecotourism, handicrafts, silk reeling and processing, medical plants, floriculture, tea, spices, honey and biotechnology.

In 2020-21, the secondary sector contributed 55.19% to the state's GSVa at current prices. It was followed by the tertiary sector at 34.16% and the primary sector at 10.64%. At a CAGR of 15.45%, the primary sector witnessed the fastest growth among the three sectors between 2011-12 and 2020-21.

As of August 2022, Sikkim had a total installed power generation capacity of 704.72 MW, of which 75.92 MW was under central utilities, 415.11 MW was under state utilities and 213.69 MW was under the private sector. Of the total installed power generation capacity, 11.92 MW was contributed by thermal and 692.80 MW by renewable energy.

The state attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow worth US\$ 6.35 billion between April 2000-September 2020 according to the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

2.2.4 Transport and communication:

The state of Sikkim is accessible through roadways. There is however, no direct transportation service to Sikkim by railways. Being a very hilly region, the communication services of Sikkim are still at a budding stage but undergoing developments with the best efforts from the government.

Sikkim Roadways

The state of Sikkim is connected by National Highway 31A which links Siliguri in West Bengal to Gangtok in Sikkim. There are bus and truck services run by the Sikkim National Transport. There are also privately run bus, jeep and tourist taxi services throughout Sikkim. The state is connected to Tibet by the Nathu La pass. The highway that links Gangtok with Sevoke is National Highway 31A. It is the only highway that runs through Sikkim today.

Sikkim Nationalized Transport

Regular buses, taxis and cabs are available to make journey to Sikkim and within Sikkim. Sikkim Nationalized Transport (S.N.T.) is one of the organized service providers on road in Sikkim. Apart from the nationalized transport service, private services are also in Sikkim which makes it easier for the tourists and visitors to have a smooth experience here. South and west Sikkim can be easily accessed by jeeps and taxis available for hiring purpose in the stands. The best part of the Sikkim tour is that the tourist places are accessible by roads which are motorable roads and need no trekking or mountaineering.

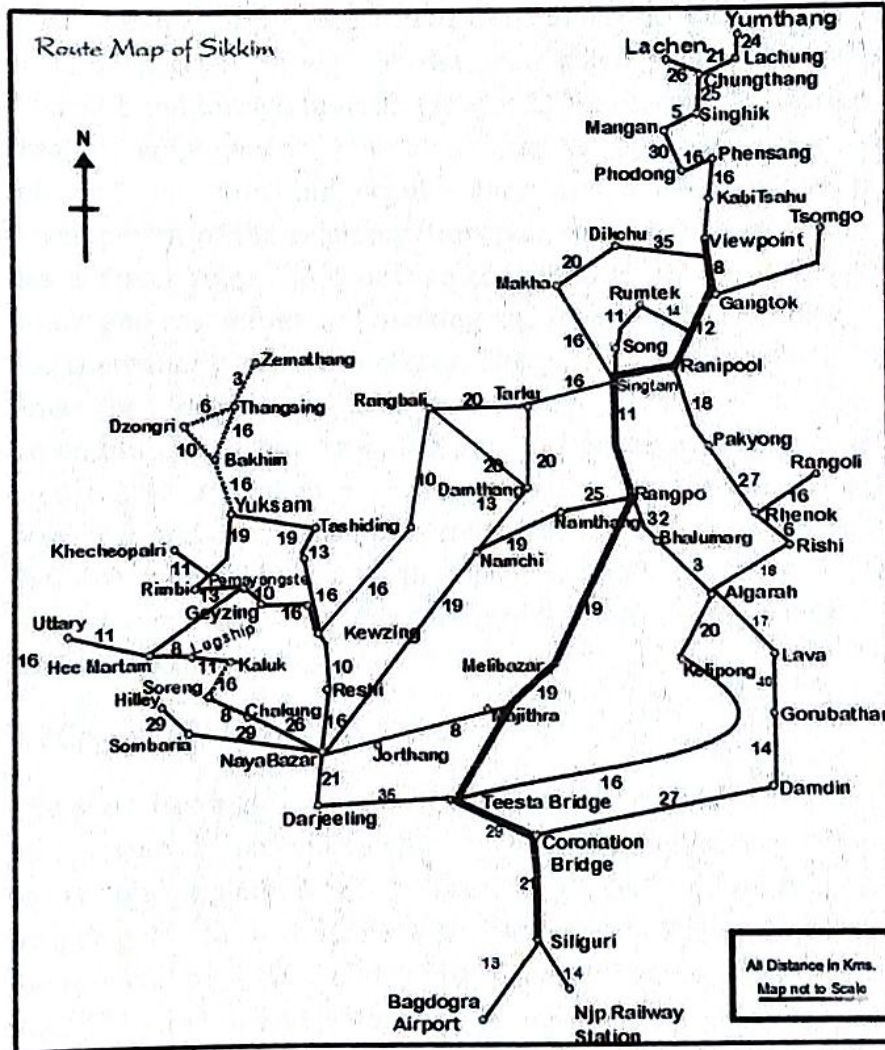


Image: The routes of transport of Sikkim.

Chapter 3

Tourism in sikkim

3.1 Historical development of tourism Sikkim:

After becoming the 22nd state of India in 1975, Sikkim is maintaining a double-digit growth for last three decades and a vast amount of human capital has also been created. Among the North-Eastern states, Sikkim's growth performance has mostly remained satisfactory. Sikkim has also strengthened its place in the national and international tourism map. During 1981 to 2011, the domestic tourist grew at compound annual rate of 11.87 percent, foreign tourist grew at an annual rate of 6.98 per cent and both domestic and foreign tourists grew at 11.50 percent. Expansion of tourism has not only created employment but also give a fillip to other sectors like transport, telecommunication and retail selling and added positive impetus to growth and development of the economy. However, growth is pronounced where the government has a direct role. The collective contribution of transport and communication, trade hotels and restaurant and banking and insurance were found to be highest in 1990-91 and thereafter it started declining. The paradox is that number of tourists in an absolute sense has increased but income added is declining. This implies that average expenditure by a tourist is declining. A Decline in foreign tourist as the percentage of total tourist arrival may also be a reason for the decline in the collective share of transport and communication, trade hotels and restaurant and banking and insurance to GSDP. In view of the saturation of government jobs as well as government-sponsored economic growth, tourism is the most viable option for the State to make it a self-sufficient economy.

3.2 Growth of tourism in Sikkim:

The state has highly increased the tourism industry due to the attraction of natural places which is in trend among the youth and the tourist, they prefer the natural places to visit and explore. Now the travel agencies are coming up with packages and give a proper guide to the tourists and government also encouraging the agencies and helps the agencies to get tied up with the government. Since there is some of transport lacking but still there tourist is frequently increasing daily in rapid basis.

By seeing the increament and developing of the state and rate of employment of state people we get observed that the tourism has been increasing. By interracting the locals during the field work we got to know the local people are given houses by government to run a homestay buisness and employe the people which is very appriciable thing done by a government.

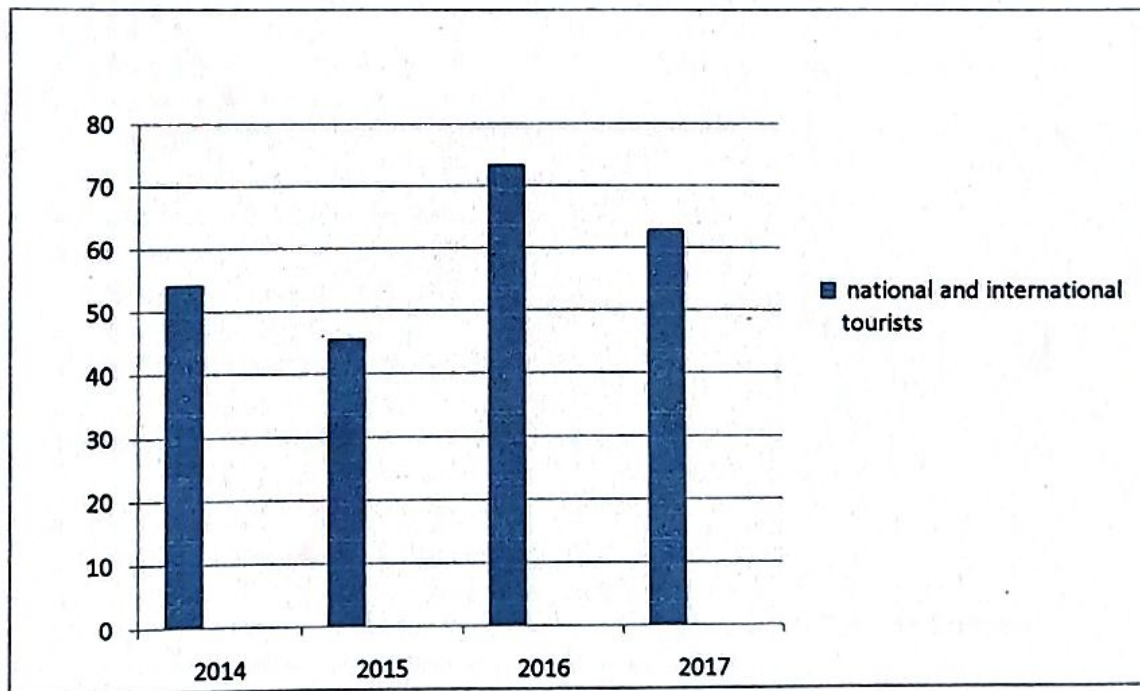
According to tourism department records, as many as 3.08 lakh domestic travellers visited the hill state of Sikkim between October last year and March 2022, with January being the most profitable month for various stakeholders of the sector at 98,456

visitors. In 2019, the Himalayan state had recorded around 16 lakh tourist arrivals, and numbers, this year, too, are expected to rise over the course of the next few months.

Travel agents, after a lull for almost two years, have breathed a sigh of relief. "During the peak season, all hotels, stay homes and lodges were fully occupied. The state witnessed massive revenue generation after a while" Almost 75 per cent of the local population depends on the tourism industry in Sikkim, directly or indirectly. The temporary shutdown of the tourism industry had spiked unemployment rate in Sikkim, which stood at 10 per cent when the Covid-19 situation was at its nadir, as per the data provided by the state's Directorate of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation.

year	Tourist (in percentage)
2014	54.2
2015	45.55
2016	73.41
2017	62.86

Table: National and international tourist increase and decrease.



The percentage of tourist during the year 2014 it was constant which is 54.2 % and it gradually decreased to 45.55% in 2015 which is very surprising, in 2016 it increased very high speed that it reached to 73.41% which is very commendable to the tourism industry of

the state sikkim but in 2017 it decreased due to 62.86% due to the roads collapse and india china border issue, there was a hard of permission to enter the state due to security reasons.

3.3 Emerging tourism destination in Sikkim:

Here is the perfect list of the most famous emerging tourism destinations to visit Sikkim. All the places that one can visit in Sikkim have something hidden for everyone and anyone. These attractions of list of places to visit in Sikkim.

- Tsomgo Lake: Yuksom: Spend Some Time Amidst Nature
- Nathula Pass: The Mesmerizing Spot
- Lachung, Lachen And Yumthang Valley: Explore All Three
- Ravangla: The Quaint Town
- Namchi: Witness Snow-Capped Mountains
- Zuluk: The Beautiful Hamlet
- Teesta River: Relax Amidst Tranquility
- Gangtok: The Capital City
- Pelling: Explore The Lush Forests
- Singalila National Park: Spot Wild Animals
- Phodong Monastery: Meditate And Relax
- Gurudongmar Lake: A Serene Spot
- Gochala: Go For A Trek
- Khangchendzonga National Park: Spot Snow Leopards
- Aritar: Witness Temples And Monasteries
- Do DrulChorten: An Impressive Temple
- Rumtek Monastery: Marvel At The Paintings
- Mangan: Get Mesmerized
- Cholamu: The 14th Highest Lake
- Tendong Hill: Enjoy Splendid Views
- Geyzing: Capital Of West Sikkim
- Biksthang: A Serene Village
- Yangtey: Treat Your Eyes
- Kanchenjunga Base Camp: World's Third Highest Peak
- Singalila: Witness Vibrant Flowers
- Green Lake: A Unique Attraction
- Zero Point: Famous As Yume Samdong
- TsoLhamo Lake: Known For Its Turquoise Blue Waters
- Thangu: Savor Breathtaking Views
- Enchey Monastery: An Architectural Marvel
- Jawaharlal Nehru Botanical Garden: A Great Picnic Spot
- Namgyal Institute Of Tibetology: An Encounter With Tibetan Culture
- Tashiding Monastery: The Oldest Monastery
- Zemu Glacier: For All Adventure Seekers
- Sikkim Himalayan Zoological Park: Go For A Wild Safari
- Ganesh Tok: Dedicated Lord Ganesha
- Hanuman Tok: Seek Blessings
- Bakthang Waterfall: Savor The Riveting View
- Ridge Park: Click Pictures

- Casino Mahjong: Try Your Luck
- Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple: The Mystic Spot
- Banjhakri Falls And Energy Park: For A Fun Outing
- Pemayangtse Monastery: Take A Break And Relax
- Khecheopalri Lake: Enjoy The Clear Waters
- Singshore: The Highest Bridge In Sikkim
- Rabdentse Ruins: Architectural Marvels
- Kanchenjunga Falls: Take A Stroll
- Tsomgo Lake: Famed As Changu Lake

3.4 Challenges of tourism in sikkim:

Tourists gets stranded connects Gangtok with Tsomgo Lake and Nathula, due to heavy snowfall and disrupted road communication. Due to the weather conditions, issuance of passes to tourists for visiting Tsomgo Lake and Nathula pass gets frequently suspended. "Many tourists gets stranded, because of these problems and have to stop issuing passes for limited days.

There are also some several challenges like transport challenges like one vehicle can travel at one time only. Language challenges, food challenges, water challenges and also development of infrastructure is lacking, economically lacking, although it is growing but still in backward.

Chapter 4

Socio-economic aspects of tourism in sikkim

4.1 Impact of tourism in social aspects of sikkim:

Tourism impacts tourist destinations in both positive and negative ways, encompassing social and socio-cultural dimensions aspects. Socio-cultural impacts are associated with interactions between people with differing cultural backgrounds, attitudes and behaviors, and relationships to material goods. Changes often occur in community structure, family relationships, collective traditional life styles, ceremonies and morality. Environmental impacts can be categorized as direct effects including degradation of habitat, vegetation, air quality, bodies of water, the water table, wildlife, and changes in natural phenomena, and indirect effects, such as increased harvesting of natural resources to supply food, indirect air and water pollution including from flights, transport and the manufacture of food and souvenirs for tourists.

Tourism also has positive and negative health outcomes for local people. The short-term negative impacts of tourism on residents' health are related to the density of tourist's arrivals, the risk of disease transmission, road accidents, higher crime levels, as well as traffic congestion, crowding, and other stressful factors. In addition, residents can experience anxiety and depression related to their risk perceptions about mortality rates, food insecurity, contact with infected tourists, etc., which can result in negative mental health outcomes. At the same time, there are positive long-term impacts of tourism on residents' health and well-being outcomes through improving healthcare access positive emotions, novelty, and social interactions. There are many impacts of tourism socially like: Commodification of culture can be seen very often, Demonstration effect on social needed and it is in a small amount of that facility, Community participation in tourism gets effected, Acculturation, Positive socio-cultural impacts, Negative socio-cultural impacts, Illegal activities increase in the society, Tourism fatigue and anti-tourism sentiment movements can be seen in some areas of the tourism place due to negative impact falls in that particular area, Tourism and protection of cultural property gets impacted and need to take some steps, Health impacts due to different people from different region travels and disease are transferred and carried. Cultural divide between locals. With an increase in number of visitors, plastic pollution, local prices, and locals leaving the destination, overtourism creates a cultural divide. In the end, travellers visit because they're looking for a change of scenery and insight in another culture.

The remain community of Sikkim gets effected by accepting foreign culture due to high increase of tourist and gets attracted of others culture. The social aspects are changing people are changing their narrow thinking and finding open spaces from the social ethics that people were following before the development of tourism.

4.2 Challenges face by local communities in promoting tourism:

The challenges face by the local communities in promoting tourism are like They don't have proper source reach to promote about the place they plan to promote, due to lack of proper planning and backward in technology. In promoting the places they face like

social changes among the youth and get attracted to the tourists coming from different places. To reach in vast amount of tourist for promotion need proper funding, which we can say economic strength is essential respectfully. In this social-Media trend era there should also have need of advertisement from an influencer if approached to do promotion but importantly it also need funds to sponsor the influencer. Due to no development of higher income they faces the challenges to promote a local tourist place to attract people to visit the particular spot.

4.3 Role of society in developing tourism in sikkim:

The role of the society in developing tourism are like : Villagers participate in tourism by playing host; offering home stays and arranging participation of tourists in village and tourism activities such as basket weaving, planting rice, milking cows, preparing local food, day hikes to pilgrimage sites, mountain biking and cultural shows etc. Their friendly behaviors and traditional ways add value to the experiences of tourists.

The locals guide the tourist for better experience and also they offer them home stay, hospitality, the local residents of tourism destinations with interactions between tourists and the local residents lying at its heart. Changes that affect individuals' and its surroundings (architecture, arts, customs, rituals etc).

Provides cultural exchange between hosts and guests. Encourages the preservation and celebration of local festivals and cultural events. Facilities and infrastructure developed for tourism can also benefit residents. Encourages the learning of new languages and skills. Encourages civic involvement and pride. Brings in outside dollars to support community facilities and services that otherwise might not be developed.

Society plays the main role in the tourists development of the state by looking at the data presented in the project. The society makes sure to give a comfort zone or comfort environment in terms of the facilities providing to the visitors like hospitality, food, comfortable hotels.

4.4 Impact on tourism in economic development of the state:

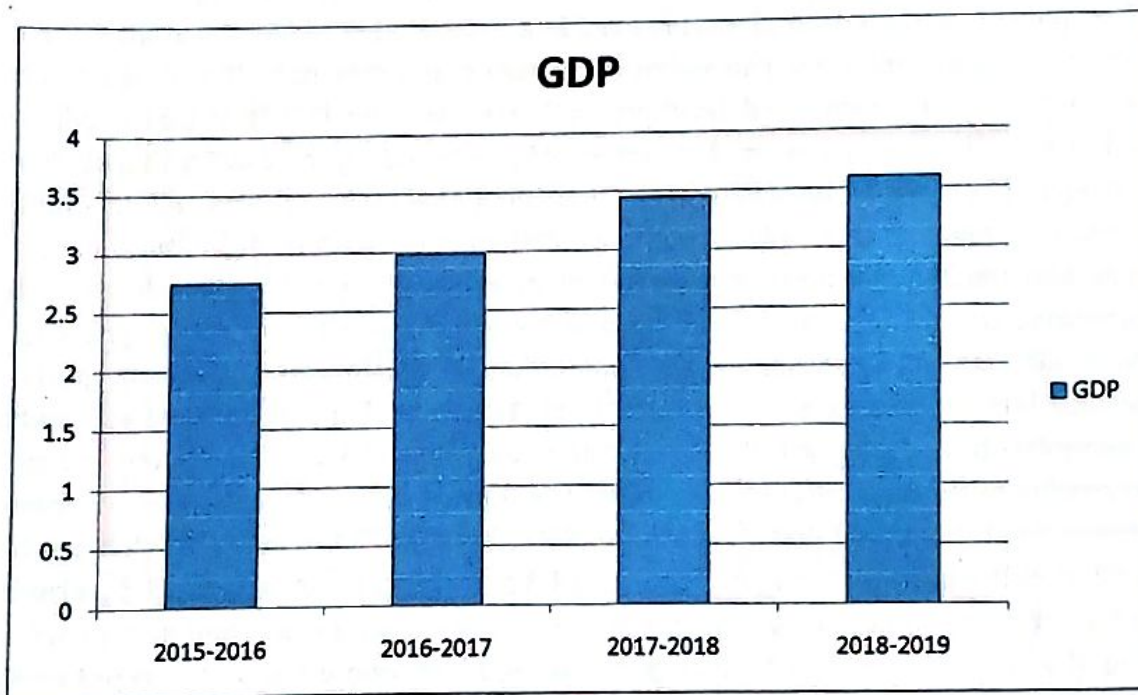
Tourism is one of the important services providing industry in Sikkim state. Its rapid growth contributed in the socio-economic development of the region. The increase of tourists' influx resulted in the economic benefit to the regional economy by providing income and employment to the local community people. This leads to new roads and highways, developed parks, improved public spaces, new airports, and possibly better schools and hospitals. Safe and innovative infrastructures allow for a smooth flow of goods and services. Moreover, local people experience an opportunity for economic and educational growth. Approximately 1.7 lakhs tourists, both domestic and international, visit Pelling each year creating a congestion of life in a peak season resulting into some prolonged implications on the infrastructure, environment, natural resources, and culture of the state as a whole. Sikkim: Revenue Expenditure: Development: Economic

Services: General: Tourism data was reported at 549.840 INR mn in 2023. This records an increase from the previous number of 378.230 INR annum for 2022.

The state runs on mainly tourism, income comes through the whole year, but mostly during the winter season the income is higher than the other seasons, which is quite high and can increase to at higher level, the economy of the state get boost and the infrastructure of the state changes speedy way.

Table: Economic growth of tourism in Sikkim 2015-2019

Year (in million)	GDP
2015-16	2.75
2016-17	2.98
2017-18	3.45
2018-19	3.60



By analyzing the data, growth of Sikkim can be seen in rapidly higher amount, which is quite a good sign for the state in development frequently. In 2015-16 it reached upto 2.75 million as well as in 2016-2017 2.98 Million, 2017-18 it increased upto 3.43 Million, it shows the development of tourism industry is growing years by years and in 2018-19 it increased to 3.60 which is the highest of all the years estimated revenue of the state through tourism industry.

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Suggestions

5.1 Summary:

Here in the summary, A project has been prepared about the socio-economic development of tourism in Sikkim. I have included five chapters in the project work which is in its best respectively. Introduction has been given firstly to know about the project, aim of the project and location of the place that project has been prepared. In chapter 1 we discussed the Objectives to fulfill the project is aimed to make it happen, Research questions are asked to get more knowledge about the current situations of the state and a particular location being visited, Methodology is used to find out some data, Literature review is essentially viewed due to there has need of some secondary data from books and journals, Significance of the study discussed the importance of the project being prepared, Limitation of the study is also discussed in the project because it felt like there is some lacking of data and has a certain limit to find out. In chapter 2 the chapter is described in such a way that a researcher or the reader can catch the points easily, here are the chapter studies "Geographical background of the study area" included: Physical settings: Location, Physiography, Drainage, Climate, Flora and Fauna, Demographic settings: Population, Economy, Occupational structure, Transport and communication. Here explains the Sikkim's situated like altitudes and latitudes and degrees, about the climatic condition in every major seasons, kinds Plants and animals according to the climatic and topographic condition present in Sikkim, Demographic setting: census data are placed to analyse the total population of the state, G.D.P. of the state has been placed and its export and import status and primary and secondary sectors impact and total income has statistically placed and graphed, development of employment of the state, and about the facilities increase and decrease of infrastructure of the state. In chapter 3 "Tourism in sikkim" here included: Historical development of tourism Sikkim, Growth of tourism in Sikkim, Emerging tourism destination in Sikkim, challenges of tourism in sikkim, explained how sikkim is developing in tourism industry from the very first to till now, and the current growth of sikkim tourism, newly tourist places are being discovered and those places names are mentioned in the chapter, problems faced in the industry explained in the project. Here on the last second chapter of the project which is Chapter 4 "Socio-economic aspects of tourism in sikkim" here included: Impact of tourism in social aspects of sikkim, challenges face by local communities in promoting tourism, Role of society in developing tourism in sikkim, Impact on tourism in economic development of the state. How tourism is impacting social status of the state, researched and found the local people are struggling to promote more places for tourist, and society are taking steps to promote the tourism by hiring some government schemes for advertisements and preparing attractional sites for adventurous sports by the locals, the most of the income comes from the tourist and hence it has a great impact of tourism in economic growth. In the last Chapter 5 "Conclusion and Suggestions" the points included: Summary, Findings, Suggestions,

Conclusion has been projected to complete the project writing systematically. In the summary here mentioned the chapters and explained about the chapter in short term, In Findings, the project work, the problems and some solutions, positive and negative impacts are seen and suggested the solutions on them.

5.2 Findings:

Soon coming to the end of the project work about the "Socio-Economic development of tourism in Sikkim" by doing this project, found many positive and negative impacts in the social and economic aspects, seen high income as well as low income of the state, due to some climatic conditions, transport and communication is underdeveloped and its very much essential to improve, and during the project work, found such important points like G.D.P of the state, employment issues, how socially tourism impacting on the cultural aspects of the state. By focussing on the objectives here in this work, found the answers of the research questions in satisfactory manner and understood the questioned answers and as well as to the readers. And the chapters helped to find many important points and made to learn the importance to make a project.

The problems found are road blocking and tourist gets stuck in between the trip, where there is lacking in hotel industries to take vocational plans to visit Sikkim. Again, here found some problems in language problems because of different communities of people live in the state but majority of them are Nepali people.

5.3 Suggestions:

After analyzing and finding the data's of the project and giving it a systematic shape to complete the project work about "Socio-economic development of tourism in Sikkim". The suggestions can be provided to improve the state like:

- The state must raise funds and spend a amount for advertisements to attract tourist.
- The state government should invest in satellite advertisements of the state.
- Develop the transport in high rates.
- Focus in showing the ethics and culture of the state instead of acquiring others culture.
- Total infrastructure should be developed.
- Develop the easy way to reach the destination like aviation industry.
- The data's of the state should make available and updated.
- They should make good use of social media by investing on influencers or celebs for promotion.
- Make a brand ambassador of the state to promote tourism by a famous person.

5.4 Conclusion:

In conclusion, "Tourism in sikkim with special reference to socio-economic development" where Historical development of tourism Sikkim is developing in rapid manner from the early stage, Sikkim is maintaining a double-digit growth for last three decades and a vast amount of human capital has also been created. Growth of tourism in Sikkim is respectively due to the attraction of natural places which is in trend among the youth and the tourist, they preffer the natural places to visit and explore the Emerging tourism destination in Sikkim are Tsomgolake: yuksom: spend some time amidst nature, nathula pass: the mesmerizing spot, lachung, lachen and yumthang valley: explore all three, ravangla: the quaint town are emerging in the state for tourist. And are developing very highly and it is increasingly growing due to the local people coperation and the people faces a lot of challenges of tourism in sikkim due to less and lack of proper infrastructure development of the state.several challenges like transport challenges like one vehicle can travel at one time only. Language challenges, food challenges, water challenges and also development of infrastructure is lacking, economically lacking, although it is growing but still in backward. And now Socio-economic aspects of tourism in sikkim isabout theboth positive and negative ways, encompassing social and socio-cultural dimensions aspects. Socio-cultural impacts are associated with interactions between people with differing cultural backgrounds, attitudes and behaviors, and relationships to material goods. Changes often occur in community structure, family relationships, collective traditional life styles, ceremonies and morality. Impact of tourism in social aspects of sikkim which we learned the society and their ethics are getting exhausted very frequently, challenges face by local communities in promoting tourism due to the lack of proper funding they have and no proper advertisement, Role of society in developing tourism in sikkim is that they guide the tourist and make the tourist to get attracted to the cultures and comfortable environment to the visitors, so that the impression may lead to revisit and vibing to explore more, and lastly that I have learned in this preparation of the project discussing Impact on tourism in economic development of the state how tourism leads the GDP boost and people depended on the industry and their life style gets effected if it goes down.

Photoplates

