

The Impact of Tourism at Chilla Range in Rajaji National Park And it's Pros and cons.

Prof. Sudhir Gaur¹

COER School of Management Roorkee

sudhirgaur.barfani@gmail.com

Dr. Deep Gupta²

Head Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering Roorkee, (COER) Uttarakhand

deepgupta154@gmail.com

Abstract: Uttarakhand is an amazingly diverse, interesting state of India. No other state in the country offers a wider variety of sights, landscapes, cultures, or customs. Uttarakhand offers tourists another considerable attraction namely flora and fauna which could be properly exploited for the welfare of nature and human being as a whole. Uttarakhand diversity has long attracted tourists to the people of India and abroad. The economy of Uttarakhand is mainly dependent upon the tourist i.e. nature lover tourism, adventurism tourism, religious tourism and wild life lover tourism, herbal friendly tourism, spiritual and yoga friendly tourism etc. Haridwar city has been well known in India as well as abroad as a sacred place and has been drawing increasing number of pilgrims / tourists year after year. The pilgrimage season during the festive days has moderate positive impacts on the income of local residents. Shivalik ranges of Himalayas are always a focal point of attraction irrespective of different age group. Spontaneous and perennial flow of holy Ganga, everlasting greenery, small but beautiful attractive peaks which have religious attraction but on the other hand challenged as well as motivated the people who have a little interest in adventure and related activities. The amalgamation of spiritualisms and materialism make unique identity of Haridwar and nearby places. Tourism plays an important role to meet out the basic requirement as well as a major source of livelihood of the people of Haridwar and surrounding areas. Uttarakhand Himalaya with a rich biological diversity and tourism potential, categorizing under international tourism hotspot. In Uttarakhand, world famous Corbett and Rajaji National Parks has strengthened the tourism potential in Shivalik range. Rajaji National Park (RNP) is one of India's major destinations for nature-based tourism, with rich floral and faunal diversity. This paper describes the impact of tourist visit on local people of Haridwar and different departments of state and central governments specially Forest Department which cover up Rajaji National Park and its beautiful range i.e. Chilla.

Introduction:

Haridwar district came into existence on 28 December 1988 as part of Saharanpur Divisional Commissionary, On September 24, 1998 Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the 'Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill', 1998', eventually the Parliament also passed the Indian Federal Legislation - 'Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2000', and thus on 9 November 2000, Haridwar became part of the newly formed Uttarakhand (then Uttaranchal), the 27th state in the Republic of India. (**Industrial Profile of District-Haridwar 2014**).

Haridwar, the most prominent religious and spiritual centre of the state of Uttarakhand is one of the 3 towns of Uttarakhand listed under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). According to the 2011 census Haridwar district has a population of 1,927,029, roughly equal to the nation of Lesotho or the US state of West Virginia. This gives it a ranking of

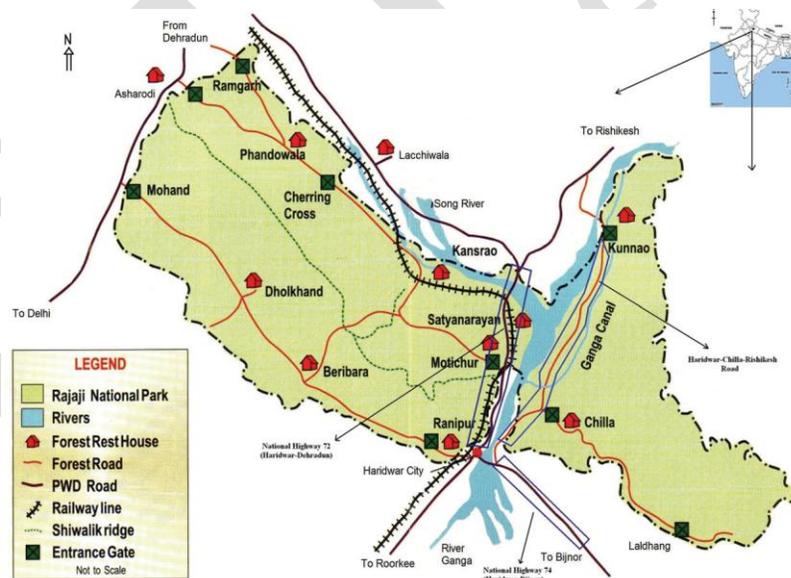
244th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 817 inhabitants per square kilometre (2,120 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 33.16%. Haridwar has a sex ratio of 879 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 74.62 on an annual average, 8 million tourists visit Haridwar. The city requires substantial investment to upgrade, expand and provide new infrastructure to meet the growing demand, rapid pace of urbanization and fast rate of population growth. Although the current rate growth is nearly 16% for decade which is likely to increase until the population stabilizes. Haridwar is a unique city in many respects. Haridwar is situated at an altitude of above 300 meters above sea level. On the left side of the town is Chandi Devi hill on which a temple dedicated to Goddess Chandi is situated; on the right is Mansa Devi temple. Geologically, Shivaliks are separated by the Himalayas by a continuous reverse fault and fall in three main divisions, the upper Shivalik, middle Shivalik and the lower Shivalik. The old city area, which is home to many spiritual societies and *Ashrams*, has little land to grow. On the other hand, industrial development in its neighborhood is likely to attract large number of people to the city (CDP Haridwar 2007). According to Hindu mythology, Haridwar is one of the holiest places on account of the belief that the Gods have left their footprints in Haridwar. The holy city of Haridwar is home to some of the most sacred Hindu rituals and one can always see Hindu pilgrims and devotees from round the globe gather at Haridwar to offer prayers on auspicious occasions, having a dip in the sacred Ganga River. Over the last few decades this holy city has witnessed an increase in developmental activities such as industrialization, communication, road construction and educational activities which has lead to rapid urbanization and created a high demand for basic infrastructures, including electricity, water supply, food availability, transport and sanitary management. All these activities contribute towards increasing the influx of visitors and permanent settlers in the Haridwar city. Haridwar receive heavy influx of pilgrims round the year but during the festive days this number increase about six time than that of the normal days (Sharma et al., 2010).

The tourism industry is one of the major segments of the Indian economy. It is a major contributor to foreign exchange earnings provides employment to millions directly and indirectly and acts as a vehicle for infrastructure development. Recognising the importance of the tourism industry, the Government of India has taken many policy measures such as Tourism Policy 1982, Tourism Plan of Action 1992 and Tourism Policy 1997 (Kanchilal 2005).

For many countries and regions, tourism represents one of the few opportunities for local development, employment and revenue generation. The acceptance of tourism by the local residents, and community participation in tourism projects, serve as social indicators and determine the satisfaction levels of the local population. The marginalized communities living adjacent to the wilderness areas and who depend most on biodiversity for survival have few linkages with tourism activities (MacLellan et al., 2000). It is the rich and the influential from within as well as outside the region who stand to gain most from protected area tourism. Moreover, revenues generated through poorly developed market chains for local goods and services, in most cases, are prone to leakages due to few linkages with the local economy (Walpole & Goodwin, 2000; Torres 2003; Lacher & Nepal, 2010; Sandbrook, 2010). This prevents local people from deriving substantial benefits from tourism activities, often marginalizing them due to minimal financial benefits (Spiteri & Nepal, 2008), miniscule employment (Karanth & DeFries, 2011), and/or increased cost of living (Karanth & Nepal, 2011). This paper focuses on the livelihood linkages associated with tourism in one of the most favoured tourist destinations in north India at Chilla range in the Rajaji National Park.

The study area: The study was conducted at Chilla range in Rajaji National Park (RNP) located in Uttarakhand, India. The Rajaji National Park (RNP, Fig. 1; 29°15' to 30°31' N, 77°52' to 78°22' E, altitude 250–1100 m) in north India was created in 1983 to protect the habitat of the Asian elephant. At present, it is known as the Shivalik Elephant Reserve No. 11. Under forest Department the park has been created by amalgamation of three sanctuaries- Rajaji sanctuary (estd. 1948) Motichur sanctuary (estd. 1964) and Chilla sanctuary (estd. 1977) after the name of renowned statesman and freedom fighter Sri C. Rajgopalachariya - The first and last Governor General of independent India popularly known as "Rajaji". The park is spread over an area of 820.42 sq. km. in three Districts- Dehradun, Haridwar & Pauri Garhwal of Uttaranchal State, India.

The Park has got the largest area representing Shivalik Eco-system. The Shivalik trail is 10 million year old and very rich in fossils. It's fossils faunal remains include about 50 species of elephant, one of them is present today. The majestic **Ganges** flows through the National Park for a distance of 24km, besides the innumerable streams and brooks making it rich and diverse. It offers ample opportunities to nature lovers to enjoy the captivating landscape and wildlife. Rajaji is thickly foliated predominantly by the **Sal Forest** and a number of other forest types which include the Western Gangetic Moist and Northern dry Deciduous and Khair-Sissoo forests. Low Alluvial Savannah Woodlands cover the drier southern margins of the park, in contrast to the Shivalik Chir-Pine on the high reaches of the hills. The park is home to the **Tiger, Leopard, Himalayan Bear, Cheetal, hog deer, barking deer, Sambar deer, wild boar, antelopes such as the Nilgai, Goral, Jackal, Hyena, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Civets, Himalayan Yellow-Throated Marten, Sloth Bears, Pythons, King Cobra, Common Krait, Indian Cobra and the Monitor Lizard** (Industrial profile of district Haridwar, Uttarakhand).



Methods:

Both primary and secondary sources of information were used for the present study. Secondary sources, such as a plan, records and documents of Chilla range in the Rajaji National Park. Group discussions with the key informants from the National Park management staff, villagers and infrastructure owners provided information on flow of resources in economic activities (Kinhill Economics, 1998).

Result and Discussion: This section presents the results of no. of tourist inflow in India and Uttarakhand particularly in Haridwar and Chilla range in Rajaji National park per year.

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in No.	Percentage Change Over Previous Year	Foreign Exchange Earning Rs. In crore	Percentage Change Over Previous Year	Foreign Exchange Earning Rs. In Million US	Percentage Change Over Previous Year
2000	26,49,378	6.7	15,626	20.6	3,460	15.0
2001	25,37,282	(-) 4.2	15,083	(-)3.5	3,198	(-) 7.6
2002	23,84,364	(-)6.0	15,064	(-)0.1	3,103	(-)3.0
2003	27,26,214	14.3	20,729	37.6	4,463	43.8
2004	34,57,477	26.8	27,944	34.8	6,170	38.2
2005	39,18,610	13.3	33,123	18.5	7,493	21.4
2006	44,47,167	13.5	39,025	17.8	8,634	15.2
2007	50,81,504	14.3	44,360	13.7	10,729	24.3
2008	52,82,603	4.0	51,294	15.6	11,832	10.3
2009	51,67,699	(-) 2.2	53,700	4.7	11,136	(-) 5.9
2010	57,75,692	11.8	64,889#	20.8	14,193#	27.5
2011	63,09,222	9.2	77,591#	19.6	16,564#	16.7
2012	65,77,745	4.3	94,487#	21.8	17,737#	7.1
2013	69,67,601	5.9	1,07,671#	14.0	18,445#	4.0

Trends in Tourist Arrivals:

Table 1 Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Foreign Exchange Earnings during the year 2000-2013

Table 1 shows the **Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) from Tourism**. The FEE from tourism in rupee terms during 2013 was Rs.1, 07,671 crore (Provisional) with a growth of 14.0%, as compared to the FEE of R94, 487 crore during 2012 registering a growth of 21.8% over 2011. The FEE from tourism in terms of US dollars during 2013 was US\$ 18.445 billion (Provisional) with a growth of 4.0%, as compared to FEE of US\$ 17.737 billion during 2012 registering a growth of 7.1% over 2011. This table also shows the decreasing trend of tourist since 2008 onwards up to 2009 just because of poor attention of tourist department towards the tourist and

not providing adequate infrastructure to attract the Indian and Foreign tourist. But in 2010 the sudden increase of tourist just because of Kumbh at Haridwar, there after a deterioration shown in the table since 2011 and 2012 again just because of letharginess on the part of tourist department.

In the beginning of 2013 tourist inflow increased upto the may, but after that inflow trend was adversely affected due to the Kedharnath disaster in June 2013 and its repercussion can be seen till now.

Table 2: Indian and Foreign tourist inflow and revenue earned by the forest department at Chilla range in Rajaji National Park (RNP) (Pauri Garhwal).

Year	Indian			Foreign			Revenue Earned by RNP (Rs.) at Chilla range
	Tourist at Haridwar	Tourist at RNP at Chilla range	Percentage wise arrival in RNP at Chilla range	Tourist at Haridwar	Tourist at RNP Chilla range	Percentage wise arrival in RNP at Chilla range	
2009	12049450	16596	0.1377	20067	1892	9.428	18,13,885/-
2010	18837125	12434	0.0660	29555	1893	6.405	31,14,185/-
2011	13454650	13161	0.0978	26722	1751	6.552	39,27,270/-
2012	15231875	17207	0.1129	26875	1643	6.113	46,62,330/-
2013	13960014*	16131	0.0575	25153	1882	7.482	59,06,440/-
2014	12537723*	15644	0.1247	21395*	1026	4.795	41,51,165/-

Note: *Tourist population is forecast by the population forecasting method (Incremental increase method) Source: Chilla Range, Rajaji National Park Forest Department.

The mentioned table (2) shows the inflow trend of the tourist in Haridwar as well as in Chilla range, Indian and Foreigners respectively. In the year 2010 the trend was all of sudden changed and the inflow of the Indian tourist increase more than 56% and 47% of foreign tourist respectively in Haridwar but decreases in Chilla range, the reason was simple because of holly Kumbh. After the 2010 there was sudden decrement in the tourist inflow as compared to year 2010. The congregations of the people are primarily motivated to indulge them self in religious rituals etc. and other attractions were being generally ignored by the people, but there after the trend of tourist of Haridwar and Chilla cope up each other and income from the tourist in Chilla range increased accordingly. This could be clearly seen to see the above data at a glance.

The income of Chilla range has been increased due to the increase of foreign as well as Indian tourist and increased charges of per tourist from the last years i.e. from 2012, but tourist department simultaneously increased the infra-structure and other amenities to the tourist which attract the tourist. However it is also the fact that we are not attract the Indian tourist who visited Haridwar even 1%, which is not a good symptoms for the income of Chilla range and Haridwar also. As in general interaction of 1000 peoples of Haridwar Indian tourist only 10 percent know the whereabouts of Chilla range i.e. Flora and Fauna. It is clear cut indication that tourist

department as well as the local people particularly businessmen and the hotel industry creates the general awareness among the Indian tourist about flora and fauna of Rajaji National Park, especially Chilla range which is just stone throw. It would not only increased the income of Haridwar people during off period in general tourism but also Chilla range could become a focal attraction for a good percentage of Indian as well as foreign tourist. Since the inception of Uttarakhand state in which tourism is one of the most important factor through which the livelihood of the common people can be improved in all the respect but unfortunately (to see the table at a glance) it is clearly indicated that tourism is not yet grown as per expectation though Uttarakhand has a lot of potentiality from the tourism point of view. The decrement of the tourist in the coming year clearly show that the govt. has not provided enough infrastructure for e.g. hotels, roads and proper propaganda so that this beautiful sight could provide an ample opportunity for the nearby people and also fulfill the expectation of the people of Haridwar. It will be also important if tourist attract this Chilla site which is in the foot hills of Himalaya will definitely enhanced income of forest department. Tourism income has been advocated to be the best possible alternate livelihood for forest dependent communities (Nyaupane & Poudel, 2011, Chandola, 2012).

Practical and idealistic approach for eco-friendly tourism code of conduct:

The travel industry defines ecotourism as “purposeful travel that creates an understanding of cultural and natural history, while safeguarding the integrity of the ecosystem and producing economic benefits that encourage conservation. The long-term survival of this special type of travel is inextricably linked to the existence of the natural resources that support it” (Bandy, 1996). The Ministry recognizes following cardinal principles for development of eco-tourism:

- It should involve the local community and lead to the overall economic development of the area.
- it should identify the likely conflicts between use of resources for eco-tourism and the livelihood of local inhabitants and attempt to minimize such conflicts.
- The type and scale of eco-tourism development should be compatible with the environment and socio-cultural characteristics of the local community; and
- It should be planned as a part of the overall area development strategy, guided by an integrated land-use plan while avoiding inter-sectoral conflicts and ensuring sectoral integration associated with commensurate expansion of public services.
- Formation of a society on the lines of the Eco-Tourism Society, which would work independently for the promotion of Safe & Honourable Tourism in India.
- Protection from harassment by the Police etc., when a crime/incident is reported by a stakeholder and extension of cooperation/ support by different segments of tourism industry.

- India Tourist Offices located abroad and Indian Missions to give handouts on Safe & Honourable Tourism to the potential tourists.
- Deployment of Tourist Police at important destinations, where they are yet to be deployed by the State Governments.
- Instead of focal points, they should be designated as Nodal Officers for training, which should take place every six months.
- Encouraging local ownership, capital and value chain additions of local products (Nyaupane & Poudel, 2011) and capacity building (McCool et al., 2012).

Pros and cons of tourisms:

India has a substantial share of this market on account of its rich biological and cultural diversity and heritage and entrepreneurship skills in the tourism industry that have capitalised on ecotourism. Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) have embraced market-based approaches to biodiversity conservation. A strong push for such approaches came from the debate about Biological Diversity and Tourism, which was first initiated in 1999 and led to an extensive discussion about the negative and positive impacts of tourism on biodiversity at the fifth Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention in 2000. Instead, tourism is a demand based concept defined not by its output but by its use.

Industries defined in National Accounts, such as air transport, hotels & restaurants, etc. produce the same output irrespective of whether it is consumed by tourist or non-tourist. While the total output of these industries is captured by the National Accounts, it is only the consumption by tourists that defines the tourism economy, which is not readily available in the National Accounts.

To assess the specific contribution of tourism, the need for a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) thus arises. Tourism provides challenges for communities all around the world. When considering a tourism initiative conjoined with a community often the initial reaction of commentators is to conjure up a mental image of a rural environment in a developing country, a small island state or some other far-flung outpost. For many developing countries the greatest hope for making conservation economically viable--will best be achieved through partnerships.

Most tourism is currently 'self-regulated' which is evident from the poor quality and disregard for local people. The industry practice could be improved through effective collective action, and additional institutional mechanisms to improve performance. Currently, only a small proportion of people living closer to Chilla receive any kind of economic benefits from tourism which is similar to the trends observed in other protected areas (Fiallo and Jacobson, 1995; Mehta and Kellert, 1998).

The use of indigenous cultural and material resources in implementing an eco-resort master plan favors the quality of the tourist experience, the development's marketability, and the fitness and efficiency of its responses to climate and other characteristics of the place. It also provides spiritual support for the local culture and an economic rationale for the continuation of local traditions (Ayala 1996). Ecotourism is undoubtedly big business across the world. When the United Nations Environment Programme with blessings of the World Tourism Organisation (now UNWTO) designated year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, it received vociferous support and sponsorship from the tourism industry and travel associations. Change generated by tourism is multifaceted. Tourism initiatives do possess the potential to bring benefits to communities (Ashley, Roe, & Goodwin, 2001; Mowforth & Munt, 1998; Murphy, 1985).

Negative impacts and adverse change as a result of community benefit tourism can take many forms and manifest themselves through social, economic, environmental and/or political factors (MacLeod, 2004). Fagence (2003) identified a range of potentially negative socio-cultural changes associated with tourism initiatives affecting communities, specifically singling out changes to economic, social and cultural factors at family and community level. Fagence describes the 'demonstration effect' which results in members of the host community/ family units adopting tourists' traits and behaviour including desire for foreign and imported goods, 'cultural prostitution' and the gradual homogenization of the host culture.

In addition, improvements can be made with planned interventions in logistical support such as programmes that encourage involvement of local people in tourist travel and accommodation and the production of local consumable items. Promoting planned tourism activities like wildlife viewing, nature trails, and forest camps in the buffer zones and adjoining forests areas (Spiteri & Nepal, 2008) to attract more tourists to sites where the potential of tourism remains underutilized, could provide additional livelihood options to local communities.

Conclusion: A tourism strategy, whether national or regional, must be realistic about visitor volume and the infrastructure needed to support that volume. It must also be realistic about physical access to cultural or natural attractions. As the number of eco-tourists grows, an emphasis on "contextual access" should replace the emphasis on physical access. This study has revealed mixed patterns in local attitudes towards tourism and conservation, which appear similar to the findings from earlier studies made in other parks. People who benefited from tourism showed a positive attitude and support for tourism development in Chilla range. The management should see this as opportunity to facilitate community participation in tourism. This should begin with measures such as: including tourism as part of the Chilla management plan that gives it legitimacy; allocating part of annual Rajaji national park budget for tourism development; establishing liaisons between private tourist agencies and village forest protection committees; and introducing ecotourism based activities that can generate employment to local youth. This would provide the communities with alternative livelihoods, and can develop their

capacity to manage and sustain their livelihoods through training, educational tours, microcredit schemes and marketing and extension (Mishra et al., 2009).

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