

Hello everyone. Welcome to my session on tourism geography. Today's topic for discussion is 'scope of tourism geography'. I'm Ishani Roy, from Govt College, Pernem going to present the topic on scopes of tourism geography.

Let's see the outline of the topic;

- Concept of tourism
- concept of tourism geography and
- scopes of tourism geography.

The learning outcome will be;

- understanding the concept of tourism and tourism geography.
- identify the geographical elements of tourism
- able to explain the diverse field of tourism geography.

Now first, what is tourism?

Tourism is definitely a geographical event because it involves movement and activities of people across the geographical space. It connects places of origin and places of destination. It obviously involved movement of people because without traveling from one place to another place, tourism is not possible.

The primary element of tourism is traveling. So, as per definition, tourism can be definitely an activity which involves physical, historical, cultural and social characteristics of different places and the relationship between the people and landscapes of that place of destination.

Different types of physical characteristics including landscape, weather, climatic condition, historical and cultural monuments, fairs, festivals as well as social characteristics like festivals, family meetings etc. make people move to other places from their places of origin or where they stay. And in pursuit of these all types of interest people move and it becomes a geographical event.

Now tourism is also known as Geo tourism. Therefore, it can be defined as the study of travel and tourism, but with primarily focusing on the geographical parameters of the places like location where the place is, the distance from the place of origin, the landscapes of that place of destination, climate as well as the cultural aspect. These are constituting the major interest of tourism and because of these aspects people seek to travel and be a tourist.

Physical geography which includes the landscape, climate and flora and fauna of the different places makes the background of tourism. That tourism mainly depends on the physical aspects of the place.

Human geography, like the culture and history of that particular place offers understanding with the local people, and helps to understand the social and economic characteristics of the places. It also encourages the relation between the tourist and the locals.

The National Geographic Society defines Geo tourism as tourism which enhances the geographical character of a place like environment, culture, heritage, people. So tourism is always involved with the old geographical parameter of a place and try to conserve all these characteristics of the place of destination. Therefore, the tourism geography has wide range of scopes within its field, so we can see one by one. What are the diverse scopes of the subject?

First of all it gives or provides a huge knowledge of the tourist places. One person today seeking to travel to one place can get the idea or the knowledge of hundreds of tourist places around him, even within its country or outside the country, which has the most unique landscape and which is more preferred places for traveling. So it also helps to develop new tourist places. So one is studying tourism geography or the student worker can think that what type of places can be tourist places as well as feature existing in those tourist places through the proper study of tourism. It helps the student to develop positive feelings toward history, culture, tradition, flora, fauna of the destination. They will fill that interest to preserve their own culture, history, tradition, and the natural resources. It encourages the small and micro enterprises from the local areas to be involved in tourism for the benefits of the local communities by producing the local products, by offering natural products, which is naturally grown there to the tourists, so in turn it will encourage the locals to create their own small and micro enterprises. It obviously helps to create our interests about a particular places or the persons or the local communities, heritage, culture and they will be able to understand what is the role of tourism in protecting this heritage.

What is the importance of protecting these heritage, culture and the environment of their place? Because their survival is also related with this own culture, heritage and environment. So they will create this type of tourism. They will encourage that type of tourism which is called sustainable tourism so that their own place does not get degraded.

It helps to learn differently and adopt sustainable businesses. Just now, I told you about sustainable tourism so that their own natural habitats and the local area does not get damaged. For example, environmental pollution, water pollution, other all, damages to the heritage structure should not happen here. I have put the picture of the world famous Taj Mahal which should be protected. It is one of the unique heritage of India. But it is going to be degraded day by day because of pollution only.

It also provides knowledge regarding waste management, efficient energy consumption, water treatment and the landscaping. For example, hotels today are encouraging to have their own solar heater, own waste management schemes so that from tourism the waste is created can be treated properly. The place should be kept clean so that tourist does not get discouraged to come back to the place again.

It provides information about various career options, career opportunities in the tourism sector which is related not only to hotels and traveling. A large number of people are involved in the tourism sector by supplying different types of products.

It helps to plan the tourism businesses by analyzing the economic needs and the potential of all the places. What is the natural resource they have? What is the product they can offer to the tourist? So

depending on that, the Community can plan different economic activities. What is the potential they have for the tourism sector that also they can plan, so small businesses can be planned through the study.

At the end, the tourism geography teaches the significance and the urgent need for sustainable tourism, which is most important today. Without sustainable tourism, ecotourism and responsible tourism, tourism is not going to survive. So in turn it will help the local community as well as tourists to conserve their own natural and cultural resources.

So at the conclusion we can say geographical parameters are the fundamental elements of tourism geography. Therefore tourism geography includes so many various aspects within its scope. So one has a lots of chances, scopes to study further and because it covers environment, social as well as economic aspects of tourism, students can gain knowledge from the different field.

For the references, the following books are used and the image sources are already given .  
Thank you all for listening to my presentation.