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Study The Status And Scenario Of Tourism In Champawat During Covid-19

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Abstract

Champawat is an exciting and adventurous getaway as well as a spiritual and religious site of Uttarakhand. The present study was designed to pursue the status and scenario of tourism in Champawat during COVID-19. The primary data have been collected from 50 tourists by using interview method and secondary data was collected from different government sources. It was found from the study that Champawat has an immense tourism potential as the place is receiving a large number of tourism after the Nainital District in Kumaon region every year. But in the year 2019 and 2020the trend of Indian and foreign tourists in Champawat has suddenly decreased due to COVID-19. So now both Government and Local communities would have to contribute together towards to maintains a state of equilibrium between COVID-19 safety norms, environmental awareness, sustainability, and profitability during development.

Keywords: COVID-19, Tourism, Environmental awareness, Scenario, Development

Introduction

Tourism industry refer to all activity related to the short-term movement of people tolocation away from where they usually reside. "Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and from staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business or other purposes" (UNWTO) as sight in (Holden, 2008).It is one of the fastest growing economicsectors. It is major sources of employment not only locally as well as globally. And there isalso a big amount of indirect employment. Tourism is an important source of foreignexchange in India similar to other countries. The foreign exchange earrings from 2016 to2019 grew at a CAGR of 7 percent but dipped in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Uttarakhand is rich in scenic beauty with healthy climate and ample avenues for adventure sports and eco-tourism. River rafting, trekking, rock climbing, camping etc. are emerging as serious tourism businesses. As per CSO data, this sector is a leading contributor to the service sector GDP of the state. This State is also known for sites of cultural and religious significance.Champawat is an exciting and adventurous getaway as well as a spiritual and religious site of Uttarakhand. The sacredness of Champawat was personified in quintessential temples and carvings dating back to the Chand Rule. According to the report of district Champawat(2021) the Champawat district constituted in the year 1997 is situated between 29 degree 5minutes and 29 degree 30 minutes in northern altitude and 79 degree 59 minutes and 80 degree 3minutes at the center of eastern longitude.

COVID-19 is a health and economic crisis on a global scale. The corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which originated in the city Wuhan, China, has quickly spread tovarious countries, with many cases having reported globally. World Heath Origination(WHO) declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency on 30 January 2020 and on thesamedate first positive case of COVID-19 was reported in India in the state Kerala. InUttarakhand first case was reported on 15 march 2020 in Dehradun (Kumar et al., 2020). After that thisspreaded too quickly. Government have introduces a slew of policy measures such astargeted testing and tracing, lockdown measures, upgrading public health facilities andclosure of boundaries and after that vaccination. The measures have very bad impact ontourism industry.

Therefore, the present study was designed to study the Status and Scenario of Tourism in Champawat duringCOVID-19 with the following objectives:

1. To study the socio-demographic profile of the tourists

2. To study the effect of COVID-19 on Tourism industry in Champawat district

Methods and materials

The present study is based on primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data have been collected from 50 tourists by using interview method and secondary data was collected from different government sources, which include the Ministry of Tourism Annual report, Uttarakhand tourism policy (2018) and various journal, and research paper, published and unpublished work.

Results and Discussion

It was found from the Table-1 that majority of the respondents (38%) were belong to the age group of 25 -35 years of Age and they were early adulthood and more interested in visiting tourists places during their vacations. Afterthat 30 percent of the respondents were falling under the category of 15-25 years followed by18 percent respondents from the age group of 35-45 years and only 14 percent respondents were from the age group of more than 45 years of age.

Most of the respondents were male i.e 60 percentage and only 40 percent of the respondents were female. Bansal and Gangotia (2010**)** said that male are very much interested to see the new state Uttarakhand**.**The finding revealed that half of the respondents (50%) were having family size more than 6 members in a family after that (40%) of the respondents were having family size between 4-6 members in a family and 2-4 members in a family reported by only 10 percent of the respondents.

The present studyrevealed that 40 percent of the respondents who visited the state, were having higher education followed by 30 percent respondents were technically qualified, 18 percent were qualified till upper secondary and only 12 percent were having no formal education. Similar findings reported byBansal and Gangotia (2010)and they were concluded that mostly tourists whovisited Uttarakhand state are highly educated and only one fourth of the total tourists are technically qualified.

The occupations of the majority of the respondent were business (24%), followed by and service class 20 percent and only 16 percent were engaged in Agriculture.

The data revealed that 16 percent of the respondent's annual household income was less than 100000 whereas 22 percent reported their annual income in between 100000 to 300000 rupees followed by 28

percent said that their annual income in between 300000 to 500000 rupees and 34 percent had annual income more than 500000 rupees per annum.
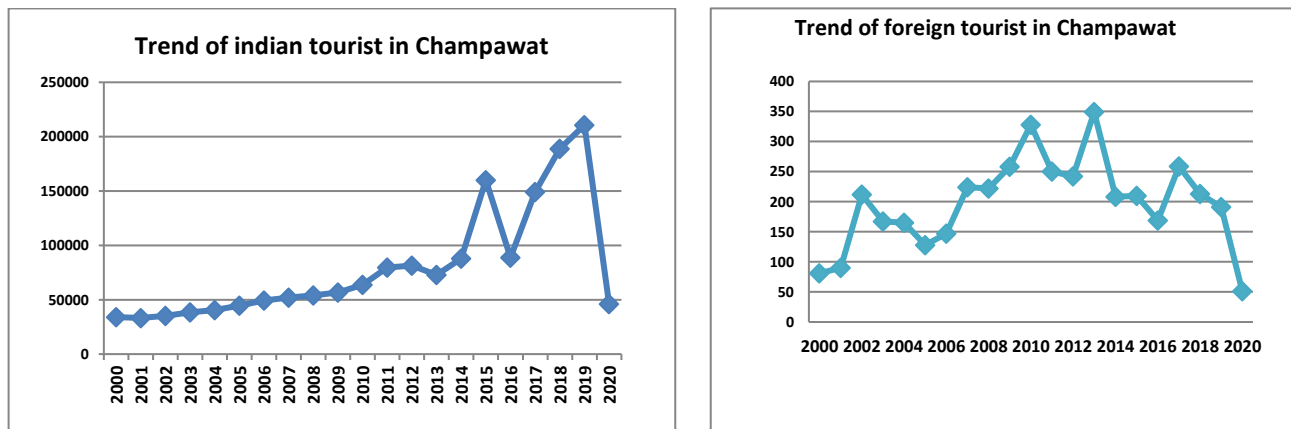
Table-1: Socio-demographic study of the tourists

N=50

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
I. 15-25years	15	30
II. 25-35 years	19	38
III. 35-45years	09	18
IV. >45years	07	14
Gender		
I. Male	30	60
II. Female	20	40
Family Size		
I. 2-4	5	10
II. 4-6	20	40
III. >6	25	50
Occupation		
I. Agriculture	08	16
II. Service	10	20
III. Labour	02	04
Annual income of the family		
I. <100,000/-	08	16
II. 300,000/- 300,000/-	11	22
III. 300,000- 500,000/-	14	28
IV. >500,000/-	17	34

Effect of COVID-19on tourism pattern in Champawat

The following figures 1 and 2 presented the trend of Indian and foreign tourist arrival in Champawat for the years 2000 to 2020. The trend of tourist arrivals shows that in Champawat, the number of both foreign and

Indian tourists has gradually increased but after the year 2019 the number of tourist arrivals declined due to COVID-19. Most destinations were entirely closed in April and May 2020, opening only in some regions slowly for the northern summer. UN WTO projections reflect considerable uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic, in addition to the government response to supporteconomic activity (UN WTO,2021).

Source: District Tourism Development Officer,CHAMPAWAT

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Figure 1& 2: Trend of Indian and foreign tourists in Champawat

Effect of COVID-19 on Livelihood and employment

The data revealed that96 percent of the respondents believed that Covid-19 affected their business whereas 78 percent of the respondents did not received full salary during COVID-19and only 25 percent respondents had been started new business during/after COVID-19. Job insecurity might be one of the main reasons to start new business ventures during pandemic.Most of therespondents i.e. 63percentage said that they have not received any monetary benefits during COVID-19 (Table-2).

Table-2 Perception of tourists about effect of COVID-19 on Livelihood and employment

S.No.	Content	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	Effect of COVID-19 on Business	96	04
2	Received full salary during COVID-19	22	78
3	Started new business during/after COVID-19	25	75
4	Any Monetary benefits received during COVID-19	37	63

Potential of Tourism

From the findings it has been found that the Nainital holds the highest potential for the tourism followed by Champawat , Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Udhamsinghnagar and Almoraas shown in table 3. Joveriya and Mariya (2019) reported that the foreign tourists are visited the state in a good number but it's the domestic tourist that the state witnessed in a quite large number, reason for it might be that it is one of the famous pilgrimage state of India and have a number ofpilgrimage/religious sites offering pilgrimage tourism for the visitors not only thepilgrimage/religious but a paradise for adventure lovers with numerous breathtaking adventurous sites offering different adventurous sports.

Table 3: District-wise name of Tourist place of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18

S. No	District	Number of tourist places	Name of the tourist places
1	Almora	11	Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nanda Devi Temple, Deer park, Govind Vallabh Pant Public Museum, Jogeshwar Temple, Jagannath Temple, Katarmal Sun Temple, Aravat Gufa, Archeological Museum
2	Nainital	30	Corbett Museum, Corbett Waterfall, Naini Lake, Naina Devi Temple, Observatory, Raj Bahwan Golf course, High Altitude Zoo, St. John Church, Khurpatal, Sariyatal, Bhimtal, Naukuchiatal, Ghorakhal Temple, Ghorakhal Tea Garden, Mukteshwar Mahadev Temple
3	Pithoragarh	24	Patal Bhubaneshwar Cave, Narayan Ashram, Askot Sanctuary, Chir Kila Dam, Pithoragarh Fort, Dhwaj Temple, ThalKedar, Panchachuli Base Camp 11.
4	Champawat	28	MeethaReetha Sahib, Baleshwar Temple, EkHathiya Ka Naula, Krateshwar Mahadev Shrine, PatalRudreshwar Cave, Abbott Mount, Pancheshwar, Vanasur Fort, Chaumu Temple
5	Bageshwar	25	Pant Museum, Kumaon Shawl Emporium, Kausani Resort, Baghnath Temple, Chandika Temple, Shikar Temple, Agnikund, Gopeshwar Dham, Trijugi Narayan, Baijnath Temple, Pandusthal
6	Udham Singh Nagar	13	Nanakmatta Sahib Gurudwara, Ataria Temple, Drona Sagar, Chaiti Devi Temple, Govind Ballabh Pant Agricultural University, Nanaksagar Lake

Preferences of the tourist for visiting places

It is clearly been shown from the table (4) that Poornagiri have the highest rank in mostly visited place in Champawatfollowed by ReethaShahib, Devidhura, Puncheshwar and Tea garden.With the gradual easing of

restrictions on movement and the national vaccination drive in full swingacross the country, the Uttarakhand government expects tourist footfalls to gather momentum andreach the pre-COVID-19 levels 2022 onwards.

Table-4: Mostly visited places by tourists in Champawat District

S.No.	Visited places by	RANK
1	Poornagiri	1
2	Reethashahib	2
3	Devidhura	3
4	Puncheshwar	4
5	Tea garden	5

Conclusion:

From the previously mentioned analysis regarding the status and scenario of tourism in the Champawatregion it can be concluded that in the year 2019 and 2020 the trend of Indian and foreign tourists in Champawat has abruptly diminished due to COVID-19. But there is an immense tourism potential as the place is receiving a large number of tourism every year before COVID-19. This can be credited to several countless factors like natural scenic landscape, salubrious climate, historical and archeological sites, cultural and religious sitesare some of the major pull factors. Both the domestic and foreign tourists visits the state in a quite good numbers but the international visitors are confined only to some limited place or district the reason might be that many sites are still untapped there is a need for the government should take a step towards its promotion at international level, developing a detailed master plan assuring a good infrastructure facilities provided to each and every destination as it also plays an important role in making a place attractive, make people aware about benefits of tourism towards local communities development. Both Government and Local communities would need to contribute together towards ensuring that it maintains a state of equilibrium between environmental awareness, sustainability, and profitability during development.

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