

# A Proposal for Eco Tourism Planning of Don Area in Dang District of Gujarat

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**Abstract** - Eco- Tourism may be defined as, “a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well - being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education.” Nowadays, tourism is increasing rapidly and unevenly in the world. Thus an environment or nature gets frequently disturbed. It causes too much harm to environment and to us. As tourism increases pollution level also increases and it affects to us. As its remedial measures, tourism should be planned and developed in that manner; it does not harm the environment. Still people don't understand the importance of nature. On other side, there are so many good places in the world which could not be developed at its peak and remain undeveloped due to lack of co- operation between organization and forest services. So one the purpose of the any tourism should be such as follow:

1. Developed the tourism at its best with less impact on environment.
2. Strengthen the co- operation between local people, organization and institute.
3. Spreading the awareness towards the local people and visitors.

**Key Words:** Eco- tourism, seasonal visitors flow, conditions

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is travel for pleasure or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism can be domestic (within the traveler's own country) or international, and international tourism has both incoming and outgoing implications on a country's balance of payments. The tourism industry, as part of the service sector, has become an important source of income for many regions and even for entire countries. Tourism brings large amounts of income into a local economy in the form of payment for goods and services needed by tourists, accounting as of 2011 for 30% of the world's trade in services, and, as an invisible export, for 6% of overall exports of goods and services.

Ecotourism is catering for tourists wishing to experience the natural environment without damaging it or disturbing its habitats. It means responsible travel to natural areas, conserving the environment, and improving the well-being of the local people. Ecotourism focuses on socially responsible

travel, personal growth, and environmental sustainability. Ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Ecotourism is intended to offer tourists an insight into the impact of human beings on the environment and to foster a greater appreciation of our natural habitats.

## 1.1 Problem Definition

- Many of the world's natural area which could be developed as a tourism, are under threat and undeveloped. Climate change is also one of the major threats for nature conservation. Those areas are being unnoticeable and remain undeveloped and getting affected by various sources.
- Don area is also an example of that area which is being unnoticeable. Don area has all aspects that required developing it as an eco- tourism destination, it has a wonderful nature and atmosphere, but still it is undeveloped.
- So, one of the purpose of the project is to study the existing scenario of the Don area and developed it as an eco- tourism destination of the Gujarat.

## 1.2 Aim

The aim of the project is to develop eco- tourism in Don Area of Dang district with minimum impact on environment.

## 1.3 Objectives

1. To study the existing condition of facilities in Don area.
2. To prepare planning proposal for Don area, considering environment as important factor.
3. To develop Don as an eco- tourism destination of Gujarat.

## 1.4 Justification of Study Area

Eco tourism is the best type of tourism to conserve an environment with visitor's enjoyment. Don hill station has all the aspects which are required for Eco- tourism, still it is undeveloped, thus taking this point in mind the project of developing Don hill station as an eco- tourism spot is taken.

### 1.5 Scope of Work

- This study area is limited to the Don hill station only.
- The study is conducted to identify various measures, gap identification for its proper development.
- There are several types of proposal for ecotourism like, Garden, traditional festival, fair, provides small wildlife sanctuary or animals protection area for visitors to visit it, trekking activities, etc. from which following proposals should be taken in this project:
  1. Traditional fairs & festival
  2. Trekking activities
  3. Sunset point or hill view spot
  4. Tea & snack stall,
  5. Hotel for staying purpose.

## 2. STUDY AREA PROFILE

### 2.1 Don Hill Station Profile

The present investigation is conveyed to anticipating new visitors goal of Don Hill station of Dang Region. Don hill station is situated on a higher point in the Dang forest area of Sahyadri range at an altitude of about 1000 meters, higher than the nearby Saputara. It is located 33 km from Ahwa and 55 km from Saputara. Earlier the hill station was 85 km away but the distance was shortened after the construction of a new road in 2013. Don hill station is situated on 0°42'46.1"N 73°49'5.9"E coordinates.

### 2.2 Don Hill Station Profile

Electricity is one of the chief importance necessities for the economic development of the district. The main source for power supply in the district is Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB). All the inhabited villages are electrified under Jyoti Gram project.

There is no airport in Dang district. Nearest airport from Ahwa is at Surat; which is situated at a distance of 139 km and it is well connected to Delhi, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

The small village has a climate that is consistently pleasant, leaning towards chilly, Throughout the year. This hill station having a population around 1300 tribal, is in its biodiversity and natural relics and has a rich "Dangi" heritage. The hill is set to become the second hill station of Gujarat after Saputara.

**Table -1:** Tentative locations

Sr. No.	From	To	Distance
1	Don Hill Station	Surat	161.7 km
2	Don Hill Station	Vadodara	300.3 km
3	Don Hill Station	Ahmedabad	410.5 km
4	Don Hill Station	Vyara	95.9 km
5	Don Hill Station	Billimora	121.4 km
6	Don Hill Station	Mumbai	271.8 km

### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- Tourists visiting the Don hill station were interviewed by the authority of Don Hill station about from where they come and their purpose to visit such place.
- There are around 21939 tourist visited the Don hill station last year.
- Visitors mostly came to Don hill station during rainy and winter season.

**Table 2:** No. of visitors' month wise

Sr. No.	Month	No. of Visitors
1	January	2385
2	February	1828
3	March	550
4	April	489
5	May	417
6	June	1590
7	July	2850
8	August	2340
9	September	1290
10	October	2560
11	November	3040
12	December	2600
<b>Total</b>	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>21939</b>

Above table contains no. of visitors per month. The number of visitors is still seems less because it is still untouchable and due to pandemic situation the govt. restrict major area of the Don hill station, visitors also avoid to visit this place as they can't take fully enjoyment of the Hill station.

### 3. FUTURE SCOPE OF WORK

- **Dang Darbar - a traditional festival of Don hill station - Dang district**

The most important things to let traditionalism and ritualism of the village alive is to celebrate the traditional festivals in the village every year with everyone who lived there. Thus it is very important to let alive the traditionalism of the village nowadays, because, people started to forgot the traditionalism and the importance of the festivals.

Dangs Darbar is a fair organized during the Holi festival in Dangs district of Gujarat, India. Five old Dang Darbars are given shirpav by the government in Dangs Darbar. At the Dang Darbar, traditionally held in the Dang area, tribal people performed their dances and music and it was celebrated as a festival.

#### • **Trekking Activities at the hill station**

Nowadays, tourism has become increasing day by day as people taking interesting in visit more and more place. There are different types of tourism like ecotourism, religious tourism, academic tourism, etc. and youngsters mostly attracted by eco- tourism, adventurous tourism, etc. thus it is very necessary to develop such natural places as a ecotourism spot and maintain it.

Thus several proposals for trekking activities at the Don hill station are,

1. Wall climbing
2. Cycling
3. Zip liner
4. Rope climbing

Hotel with proper facilities could be provided at the don station for that tourist who wants to stay there for more than a day.

In other proposals proper road facilities should be provided for tourist who came there, proper parking facilities for the visitors, seating facilities should be provided at the Don hill station.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

Tourism has emerged as the largest global industry of 20th century. It has also the potential to create the maximum number of jobs. It helps to earn valuable foreign exchange without the pollution. Tourism Industry is depending upon the geographical, social and cultural factor. Hence it is related to Geography as an important activity of human being.

Tourism can act pivot of vehicle for economic development. Today tourism has been acknowledged as the biggest component of the tertiary sector. It constitutes a major portion in the world trade, and its growth rate is faster than that of the tangible goods. Tourism has become highly organized industry, contributes in the major way to the national income, hence the countries both developed & developing started emphasizing on tourism development. Tourism provides number of job opportunities to the people. It enhances opportunities for millions in the formal as well as in informal sector.

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