

A study of Tourism potentials in Little Andaman Islands of A& N Islands, India.

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Abstract

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Territory is well-known for its beaches and sea water that are free of pollution, as well as its historical sites, which contribute to the region's thriving tourism economy. Generally speaking, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' coastal regions are the primary destinations for tourists, whereas the island arch is experiencing a decline in the number of visitors. It is possible to characterize the Little Andaman Islands as the southernmost portion of the Andaman group of islands. It is well-known for the coastline beaches and natural water falls that are located on the islands, as well as the tribal beauty region, which is off-limits to visitors from outside the area.

Among the numerous hidden locations of interest, there are many places where a tourist can relax in the heart of the forest, take a cool bath in the spring, enjoy the catching of local fish at a village fishing point, and many other things such things. At times of the monsoon season, etc. The objectives of the study have been formulated for the purpose of identifying tourist spots in the islands. These objectives include the following: to list out various hidden spots of the area; to discover different potentials of the selected tourist spots and areas; to discover the problems of potential tourist spots; to make suggestions for the proper implementation of the plans for the places; to contribute to the development of the places; and to explore the possibilities in the islands that are outside of the region. For the purpose of investigating the tourists who are stationed on the island, data is obtained from a variety of sources. For the most part, secondary data is utilized in order to acquire information on a big scale, whereas primary data is utilized to a lesser level.

Introduction

Tourism has become a popular global national and leisure activity today, it is a major source of income for the hosting individuals, local area, and local or regional government agencies of many countries and affects the economy of the source and host countries. Tourism brings in large amounts of income into a local economy in the form of payment for goods and services needed by tourists, according 30% of the world trade of services and 6% of overall exports of goods and services, it also creates opportunities employment in the service sector of the economy associated with tourism. Tourism leads to the explorations of new places in the hidden areas. The growing importance of tourism in recent times all over the world is due to the higher wages and the time made available for the family members.

Tourism in India

Indian tourism explores the great style and variety of Indian culture and changes. The tourism industry of India is economically important and is growing rapidly. The sector is practiced to grow at an average annual rate of 7.9% from 2013 to 2023 this gives India the third rank among countries with the fastest growing tourism industries over the decade.

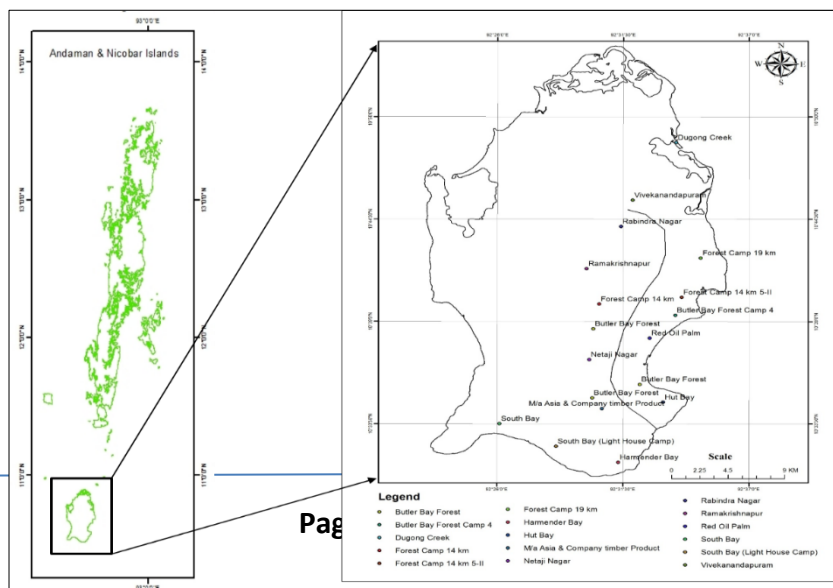
India offers luxury travel to its travelers and tourists. Almost all the cities in India have something to interest tourists. It is a land of hills, mounts, rivers, plateaus, plain, beaches, deltas and deserts.

Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India is famous for its beaches and places of historical importance, and tourism is its primary industry or major source of economy. Tourism is mainly focused on the coastal area of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mainly Indian tourists arrive in the territory in the month of September to March. Foreign tourist arrivals in the islands throughout the year. This small territory is situated on the south eastern part of Bay of Bengal, and the study area is Little Andaman Island is situated further south of South Andaman Island.

Study area

At the southern extremity of the southern group of Andaman Islands, 31 miles away from the Rutland Island, is situated the Little Andaman Island, covering an area of roughly 26/16 miles, and 110 km from capital city Port Blair. This Island, which is more or less completely flat is separated from Rutland Island by what is known as Deccan passage, in which lies Cinque Island, and a few other tiny



ones.

Fig:1. Tourism Location of Little Andaman Island

The study area is geographically lie between 10 and 11 parallels of North latitude and Between 92 to 93 meridians of east longitude. South of little Andaman Island in the treacherous 10 channel.

Objectives

- ❖ The Study has formulated the following objectives.
- ❖ Identification of tourist sport in little Andaman Island
- ❖ To find out different potentials on the selected tourist sports and areas.
- ❖ To find out problems of potentials tourist sport.

Sources of Data

Data is retrieved from various sources to explore the new tourist places which are located in the coastal places and harbor area. Mostly secondary data is used for gaining the information at a large scale and primary data to small extent. Sources are as follows, i.e, review of existing publications, downloading of relevant information from internet.

Methodology

The study has incorporated the following methodology for the completion of the study experimental- the tourist have been asked the question about how they feel to be in Andaman and especially in Little Andaman Islands.

Exploratory: Mostly secondary sources of data have been used i.e., internet different bulletinand govt. and private tourist and brochures etc. The information provided by the different people categories settled in the Island under different government schemes.

Scope

The research study in its complete shapes is expected to be an important resource material for the users more particularly for the researchers interested about Little Andaman and the scholars of tourism related disciplines in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and as well as for Indian tourism expect.

Physical Setup

At the Southern extremity of the Southern group of Andaman Island, 31 miles away from the Rutland Island, is situated little Andaman Island, The Island is more or less completely flat is separated form Rutland by what is known as Deccan passage.

The Little Andaman Island lie between 10° and 11° north latitude and Between 92° to 93° east longitude.

The topography is another important aspect of the physical setup. More attractive features are found in the topography of Little Andaman Island. This Archipelago is largely dominated by undulating regions. Generally the topography of the Islands is divide in three division

1. **Hilly Region**
2. **2. Plain Region**
3. **Coastal Plain region**

Hilly region is largely dominated by hills. The main hills are runs from South to North, OngeTikri (Tikri known as hill, popularly use in local villagers) and Farm Tikri lying North west of the Bay, and other hills is Janta Tikri It is situated in Netaji Nagar, the local inhabited village was developed in 1969 and it is also used for the shelter purpose after the disaster of earthquake and Tsunami 2004, and locally known as Tsunami Shelter.

The second region is plain and it is found between to hilly ranges, they are started form Hutbay harbor to Netaji Nagar settlement area and another one from Ramakrishnapur Village to Vivekanandapur village.

Third region lying broadly in coastal area. The major coastal plains are found along the Eastern coast. Some important sea beaches are Netaji Nagar beach, Kalapattar beach, buttler bay beach, Hutbay beach, Harminder Bay beach.

Table:1. General Information of Little Andaman Island

		Distance by Sea			
		N.Miles	Km		
Port Blair to Hut Bay		66	122		
Hut Bay to Car		84	278		

Nicobar					
Population 2011					
		Male	Female	Total	
		9964	8859	18823	
S.T					
Nicobarese and Onge		802	696	1498	
Area Sq. Km		734.39			
Area Under Present		700.05			
Census Villages		19			
Inhabited		16			
uninhabited		3			
Gram Panchayat		5			
Area Under Cultivation		1361.14 hect.			
Education	Primary School	Middle School	Secondary	Sr. Sec School	
	7	5	2	2	
Fisheries	Fishermen				
	969				
Fish landed (Sea Fish)	803 (Mt.)				
Road Transport	Bus on road	Trip Operated	Passengers		
	15	30197	1036641		
Shipping Services	Boat trip from Port Blair	Passengers	Cargo (Mt.)		
	501	118104	1624.82		
Health Services	Health and Wellness Center	Sub Center	Total Beds		
	7	2	58		
Law and Order	Police Station	Police Station Out Post	Fire Station	Crime Reported	Crime against women
	1	2	2	212	9
Tourism	Hotel without Star category				
	6				

Source: Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Island wise statistics out line 2019-2020

Climate

Climate is one of the important physical aspects to the studies about the region. And moreover when we are selected a research topic which is completely depends on climatic conditions of the region is more interesting. The Island is located in the subtropical region and surrounded by the sea.

So the Island is experiences true maritime climate where variation in the temperature in the year is recorded always in the month of April (i.e., 33 to 34 Celsius) and lowest temperature is recorded always in the month of January and February (i.e., 23 to 24 Celsius). The annual average rainfall is recorded near about 300cm. and the main season of the rain is started from mid of May to mid of September. The unique type of climatic feature has developed a unique type of natural vegetation ion in the Islands.

Moderate climate is the unique characteristics of this Island and is one more favorable conditions to develop the tourism as an integrated economy of the dwellers.

Forest

The natural vegetation of the Island is evergreen tropical forest. The character of vegetation. The character of vegetation is depends on its temperature and annual rainfall interference. Islands near about 90% geographical area is cover under thick natural vegetation with good quality trees like – Chugalum, Peema, Paduk, Tompinetc are important. The forest land support the tribal and indigenous people of the Island. It makes them happy from their livelihood.

Rich of flora and fauna exist in the island from land to sea. These species are the idol attraction for tourist and natural lovers. For seeking greater adventure and excitement, we can be used the sea as adventure fishing.

Historical background of Little Andaman

Historical records reveal that the first contact by modern civilization was made by Earl Kellie transport for procuring water for troops which she was carrying to Rangoon. The subsequent friendly contact with Onge(One of the aboriginal tribe exist in the recent world and settled in isolation Dugong Creek in Little Andaman). The original inhabitant of this island was made in 1885. However it is evidences and understood that there had been several violent and hostile encounters with British Ships and their crews, prior to 1885.

The Indian government has made persistent efforts to improve relations with the Onge. As part of these efforts, a coconut plantation was developed by the department of agricultural in Dugong CreekOnge settlement in 1953. In 1967, a big demographic changes has been recorded when this island was opened for resettlement of mainland Indians and with the setting of a red oil palm plantation by the then forest development corporation and under the flagship programme of local administration.

The total area of this island is around 734.39 km², and out of the total 700.05 km² are under forest cover. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands forest plantation development corporation Ltd has succeeded in establishing oil palm plantation in an around 1600 hectares. The aboriginal tribes of the

islands, Nicobaranes and Duges live in the island separately along with the settlers from east while east partisan (Now Bangladeshi), all the settlements are shown in the map-I.

Geneses of settlements

In 1947, Bengal was portioned into the Indian state of west Bengal and the Pakistani prisoner of East Bengal. East Bengal was later renamed as East Pakistan, which subsequently broke away from the Pakistan to form the independent country of Bangladesh.

1950, it is estimated that a further one million refugees crossed into West Bengal particularly in the aftermath of 1950 Barisal riots.

The major east Bengal refugees settled in the city of Kolkata (Culcutta) and various other towns and rural areas, like Assam valley, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Under the GPs schemes of rehabilitation, Bengali settlers were settled in the different parts of the Andaman group of Islands.

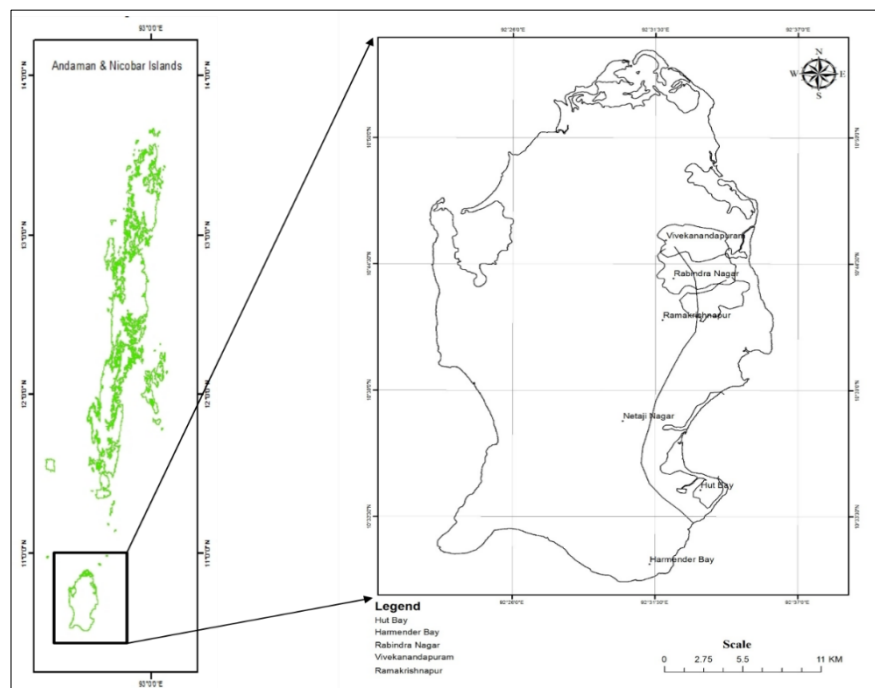


Fig: 2. Village Map of Little Andaman Island

Displaced persons including agriculturists from East Pakistan were readily available for settlement and the idea of colonization of the Islands was emerged. Between the period from 1949 to 1952 and later stages this process was continued up to 1972 and the last group of Bengali settlers arrived as

late as 1975 and settled in different villages of Little Andaman Islands. Actually, the first Bengali settlement was established in the year of 1969 and ended in 1975. In little Andaman each family was allotted 2 hecters paddy land 0-14 hector house site for purpose of agricultural and other one for their residential purpose. All these settlement were develop nearby coastal area along the East coast of the Island (Map-2).

When the first census was taken, the population of the Island was comparatively very less during the census 1961, but in latter stage is has recorded very faster in growth after the proper Bengali settlement in different parts of the Island.

Table:2. Growth rate of population in Little Andaman Island 1961-2011

Census year	Male	Female	Total Population
1961	611	603	1214
1971	4666	3445	8111
1981	7842	5333	13175
1991	8285	5955	14240
2001	9540	7988	17528
2011	9964	8859	18823

Source: District census handbook, census of India, 2011

Details description of the settlements

Hut Bay the harbor is the gateway, of the Little Andaman. The only harbor in the Island, which is well develop with the help of breakwater and the well connected by sea routes with Port Blair and Car Nicobar. Hut Bay is the Key center of the island and located in the South eastern part of the Island. First settlement was development in this part of the Island. A mixed cultural or multicultural feature has been develop among the people of the area. The tribal headquarter and all other important government institutions are develop in Hut Bay. Further it is well connected by metaled road with all

other villages of the region. One helipad ground is also in Hut Bay and the helicopter services run between Port Blair and Hut Bay.

In the cultural structure the settlement is an important factor. Settlement is the visual structure of any region. The settlement pattern of Little Andaman Islands is linear pattern. Most of the settlement are found in the coastal part of the Island. Harminder Bay, Hut Bay, Kali Nagar and Netaji Nagar all are found near the coastal region and other villages like Ramakrishnapur, Vivekanandapur, Ravindra Nagar They are little far from sea coast.

Harminder Bay settlement is a tribal village and Ten percent people belongs to Nicobarese. And it is restricted for local people movement. Nicobares tribe still persist their own cultural heritage and like to maintain their traditional culture.

The aboriginal people, Onge settled in a far isolated area from modern world. Dugong creek, located in the northern tip of the Island and is totally isolated from all other settlement and in a restricted area for other population. Traditionally they are hunters and gatherers, recently they developed a coconut plantation in their area with the help of local administration. According to 2011 census, the total population of Onge was 101.

The semi nomadic Onge have a traditional story that tells of the ground shaking and a great wall of water destroying the land. Talking need of this story, all 96 tribes man of the Onge survived the Tsunami caused by the 2004, 26 December in Sumatra earthquake ad followed by Tsunami by taking shelter in the island.

Table:3. Little Andaman Island: Village wise population growth 1991-2011

(Excluding tribal Population)

Villages	Years		
	1991	2001	2011
Hut Bay	4722	6699	7075
Ravindra Nagar	757	1837	2108
Vevikanandapur	1235	1725	2190
Ramakrishnapur	2324	3671	4248
Netaji Nagar	659	835	1001

Source: Census of India-2017 (Andaman Series)

Agriculture

Agriculture is prime activity of the study area. Majority of the village people are involved in the agricultural activities and sea fishing. Large amount of land is under plantation crops. Also lots of

area under Palm oil cultivation. All the Bengali settlers of the Island are well develop for their coconut and arecanut plantation. And a big economic support comes from farming. On the way of Hut Bay to Rabindra Nagar the last village via other villages, we can observe various types of plantation which is locally known as SupariBagicha which is consist of arecanut, banana, coconut, pepper, nutmeg and the spices etc. Blessed with the natural spring commonly called as “Zharna”. This place is suitable for sightseeing. Two natural dams are also constructed in the area for the meeting the demands of water in summer season.

Fishing

Fishing is one more important economic activity among the people of the Island. Telugu and Bengalis are very fond of fish in their dietary habits. Fisher are operated small boats with motor and catching fishes are in traditional method. Local demand is very high and sold it in local market. Numbers of Telugu people are totally depends on fishing for their livelihood. And it given good economic support among them. There is a scope of commercial fishing in the area, and in coming days we can see the progress in the sector and lot of opportunities for local peoples for the economy. Department of fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar administration has constructed the fisheries substation and ice plant even cold storage in Hut Bay for local fishers.

Economics Activities

Most of the people of Little Andaman Island earn livelihood through agriculture and fishing. Commercial farming of arecanut,coconut and other spices as plantation crops gaining much more economic strength for local settlers of the Island. Fishing is the second order economic activity of the Island. Specially telugu and Bengali people of the Island are engaging their activity in sea fishing. They are using traditionally method of fishing and in naturally operated. Potentiality of economy among the local people.

Depends on coconut plantation, coir and coconut oil extraction industrial units have been establish in recent years. Even there are house hold industrial activities carried out in the study area. They carry out preparing edible oil, sweet, bakery, pickles, vehicle repairing and painting, small boat repairing etc. There are handicraft units mainly engaged in the manufacture of woodcraft and cane craft. The above description and geographical configuration provides a sound footing for the prevalence of tourism in the Island. The description of villages and sites in the Island is expected to through more lights on the merits of the island to become tourism territory.

Detailed description of the tourism sites

Little Andaman is in the southern location of Port Blair city, the only urban center of the territory, has been surrounded by semilash green forest of pockets of settlements with full of plantation crops. The island area has the following beaches and places of potential tourist interest. Tourism is developed for various reasons like to generate economic benefits both domestic and foreign exchange earnings incomes, employment and government revenue to serve as a catalyst for development of

other economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and manufacturing and to help pay for the justify infrastructure that also serves general community and economic needs. Tourism can also justify applying measures for environmental and cultural heritage conservation for which resources otherwise might not be available. Socially, tourism in its best form provides recreational cultural and commercial facilities and services for use both by tourism and also by resident that may not have been developed without tourism.

Hut Bay Beach

The long stretch of golden sandy beaches of Hut Bay begins at Netaji Nagar which is 5 km from Hut Bay harbor and the harbor in the exit point between Little Andaman and Port Blair. The beach shaped like a curved extends up to 22 km. And in between there are some stretches with thick black rock formation known as Kala Pathar.

Kala Pathar Beach

The defining character of the beach is its black rocky lime stone formation without from the land towards the sea. The beach, as such, is not appropriate for swimming. However, blocks of rocks close to the shore form a circle which turn into a 'mini natural swimming pool' filled with sea water during high tide. The place is also an ideal picnic spot with thick green forest background and hut type resting places provided by the local forest department.

Butler Bay Beach

Located 15km from Hut Bay harbor, this beautiful with its spectacular waves in the best surfing point in the island. Surf break is located further down the beach. The beach also suitable for sun bathing and snorkeling. Accommodation facilities hut type resorts are available nearby. Boating through creek near beach is an exciting experiencing.

Netaji Nagar Beach

The beach has one of the most beautiful beaches among Andaman groups. It is located at a distance of 11km from Hut Bay harbor. White sandy beach and green tree line make it an ideal location for sun bathing and picnic.

Chattan Beach

Beach is beautiful with oval shallow pools next to the beach, ideal swimming location persist.

South Bay Light House and Beach

The south Bay Light House is situated at southernmost tip of Little Andaman. The light house is 14km away from Hut Bay and passing through Harmender Bay (Nicobari Settlement). There is only a jungle trail to reach south bay and due to rains it is always filled with mud. It is possible to reach the

Light house in a bike but off sloping jeeps are preferred. The shore line of South Bay is shallow and makes it good for bathing.

Moreover, it is very attractive for its serene beaches and lush green vegetables provides privacy for domestic and international tourist.

The South Bay Light house is a 46mts.high cylindrical tower commissioned in 1986and it is the tallest light house of the Islands. A vacated Onge tribal (aboriginal people) settlement is not far away from the light house.

Wetland Site

The area situated near Farm Tikrey and near Hut Bay hospital and APWD guest house is a large wetland with thousands of water lillies and lotus and an ideal point for bird watching. Migratory birds are spotted during September to February.

White Surf Waterfall

There are two waterfalls, both are in the midst of the evergreen forest. The ‘white surf waterfall’ in 6.5km away from Hut Bay harbor. The other ‘whisper wave waterfall’ is 15km away from the harbor. White surf waterfall is the biggest perennial waterfall known to the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Its great characteristics is long line stone rock stands like a pillar in between it. A very good picnic spot has been developed by the forest department. Well maintained tress, garden and other basic facilities for the tourist have been developed. One of the potential tourist spot in the Island.

Problems of Tourism Development

The basic problem of these places are transport connectivity, lack of advertisement and do not enjoy the patronage of government department of tourism. These places also have problems of quality hotels and restaurants to provide required food items to the tourist. Monitoring of tourist activities is one more drawback of the island. Where as in the sometimes Havelock and Neil Islands are very much attractive for all incoming tourists from mainland India and abroad people. Hence the flow of tourists is very less except some foreign tourists visiting the islands.

Recent COVID-19 pandemic situation is almost shutdown the tourist sector of the whole island territory. It will take time to come up its normal position. Lot needs to be done by the local administration if there places are to be developed as tourist spots.

Recently some positive aspects are indication that GOI and local administration is seriously taking the tourism sector not only for revenue generation but also for creating employment opportunities for local people. It may be said that better facilities and promotion of tourism could have encouraged tourists.

Transport Connectivity

Transport is the main lifeline of an area roads and sea transport are very important in the study area. As the Island Little Andaman located, near about 120km away from headquarter 'Port Blair' and linked by sea route. To improve sea connectivity between Port Blair and Hut bay, administration should encouraged private sector vessels for this route. Helicopter services also be improved and frequency of services may increase. Sea planes services may also be introduce luxury cruise lines has to introduce which is already exist in other routes like Neil and Havelock Islands.

Conclusion

Tourism development provides healthy and better social living. Society developed in this region has a low to medium socio-economic status even through this area has prospects in the field of tourism. The Islands which provides extensive potential for tourism development. Tourism development along the coastal area and open beaches will open various doors for the development land and society. It will certainly enrich environmental conditions of the Hut Bay area, which is the gateway of the Island.

However due to paucity of atheistic action plan tourism development is not yet getting momentum in Little Andaman this destination have enough scope for development tourism and to attain a better position among important tourist destination. The presence of exotic flora and fauna, scenic beauty, culture enhance the importance. Such attributes can provide greater opportunities to draw attention of the strangers visiting this part of the union territory.

In order to optimize the benefits of tourism and present or at least mitigate the problems that may be generated, perfect planning and careful management of tourism are essential. More generally planning for tourism is as important for any type of development in order to achieve goals and not to create any negative attributes.

Development of ecosystem is not an isolated approach and as such retarded growth in other sectors has made a dent on its development. Thus, it is imperative to revive our existing planning of sustainable development in a global oriented way so that eco-tourism becomes an integral part of the development process and obviously that of much needed revenue generation. We should not take up any big project at the cost of damaging fragile ecosystem of the island and this divert the natural course of many flora and fauna that survived in the island ecosystem. In this regard, floriculture and aqua culture can also be encouraged by the local government along with proper thrust to horticulture. Various adventure sports, like scuba diving, para sailing, deep sea snorkeling, adventures fishing etc. can also be encouraged.

Reservation of the island ecosystem it is necessary to involving local people and at the same time making them aware of the importance of their surroundings, providing basic amenities and logistics supports and propagating them to attract domestic and as well as foreign tourists. This will

intimately result in good employment opportunity to local educated people and stopping them from migrating to outer islands.

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