

## **Tourist Attractions in Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary of Kolhapur District (Maharashtra)**

**Shri Padalkar V.V.** Head & Asssstant Professor, Dept. Of History, A.S.C.College Ramanandnagar, Tal.Palus, Dist. Sangli

**Dr.Gatade D.G.** Head & Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, A.S.C.College Ramanandnagar, Tal.Palus, Dist. Sangli

### **Abstract**

In this research paper an attempt is made to investigate tourist attractions. For this purpose Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary is selected as a case study. Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary is located in Kolapur district of Maharashtra. The area of sanctuary, lies between 16<sup>0</sup> 10' to 16<sup>0</sup> 30' north latitude and 73<sup>0</sup> 52' to 74<sup>0</sup> 14' east longitude, in the catchments area of Bhogavati and Dudhganga Rivers. The Present Study Is Entirely Based On Secondary Data And Empirical Knowledge.

### **Introduction**

Today tourism is an important economic activity. In twenty first century tourism is developing as a separate and international industry. Tourism has become a way of paying for nature conservation and increasing the value of the natural resources. Wild life tourism is also an economic activity which if properly managed can give fairly sustainable incentives to the local people. Tourism activity was started in Radhanagari taluka. on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1967. According to tourism act, Maharashtra Government has given a place in "D" ranked to Radhanagari tourism centre. Every region has distinguishable tourist attractions. In Kolhapur district too several natural and religious tourist attractions are found. Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary, which is emerged as a leading tourist destination, has several attractions.

### **Objective**

In this research paper an attempt has been made to investigate the tourist attractions in Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary of Kolhapur district from the view point of tourism development.

### **Study Region**

Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Radhanagari tehsil of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. The area of sanctuary, lies between 16<sup>0</sup> 10' to 16<sup>0</sup> 30' north latitude and 73<sup>0</sup> 52' to 74<sup>0</sup> 14' east longitude, in the catchments area of Bhogavati and Dudhganga rivers. Radhanagari wildlife Sanctuary is situated in greenly ranges of Sahyadri of Western Ghats in Kolhapur district..Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary is situated at about 490 km from Mumbai, 80 km from Kolhapur, 20 km from Phonda and 30 km from Radhanagari .By air the nearest airport is Kolhapur and Belgaum. The State Highway Devgad- Nipani passes through this sanctuary. Tourists from India and abroed visit to sanctuary by Deccan odyssey up to Kolhapur. From Kolhapur Bus service is available to visit sanctuary.

### **Research Methodology**

The present study is entirely based on secondary data and empirical knowledge. The information and data is collected by visiting the wildlife sanctuary through the fieldwork. Few information and data is taken from Government and non-government organization 's

reports. Few books and research journals are also used for collection of data and information.

### **Discussion**

Previously jungle of Radhanagari was specially used as favorite hunting spot by the king of Kolhapur Chhtrapati Shahu Maharaj. In the year 1958 the area of 19.61 sq.km was declared as sanctuary. After that by taking into account the importance of flora and fauna in this area, In 1985 Government of Maharashtra declared the jungles of the catchment areas of ' Laxmi Reservoir ', Radhanagari and Rajarshi Shahu Sagar' Kalamawadi as Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary. This is the first historical sanctuary in Maharashtra. It is included in eighteen hot spot regions of the world. The Biological and Ecological value of the area is of global significance. This sanctuary is famous exclusively for Gaur (Bison).

The geographical area of the sanctuary is classified as reserved forest, protected forests and unclassified forests. The sanctuary is rich in flora and fauna. The forest under sanctuary classified into southern tropical semi evergreen forest southern tropical, moist mixed deciduous forest and west coast tropical evergreen forest The plateau tops in this region are lateritic in origin, Small grasses and stunted vegetation of Syzygium and mandolin are common on such plateaus which are locally known as sadas This sanctuary is also important for to endemic and medicinal plants. It also contains 425 species of plants The main species found in this sanctuary are Jamun, Mango, Anjani, Hirda, Surungi, Ain, Kinjal, Biba, Hana, Behada, Unbar, Assana, Kumbha, Kumkum , Kadipata, Tamalpatri, Shembisal, Amsul, Honey, Neem, Kaju, Khair, Karvand, Narkya, The Shrubs like Bhoma, Shendri, Janagli, Limbu, Pendri and Karvi are the common species in sanctuary.

Sanctuary contains 47 species of Mammals, 59 species of reptiles, 264 species of birds and 66 species of butterflies. Amphibians are generally found in rainy season. All together 20 species from 2 orders, 5 families and 10 genera are listed in the sanctuary. The important animals found in this area are Tiger, Panther, Mouse, Deer, Wild Bear, Sloth Bear, Barking Deer , Sambar and Giant squirrel, But sanctuary is famous for " Indian Gaur (Bison) " In Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary there are several tourist attractions which are visited by number of tourist every year. Significant attractions investigated by researchers are highlighted in the paper

#### **Laxmi Darshan Point:**

The beautiful " Laxmi Reservoir" is seen from this point. The temple constructed by Rajarshi Shahu is near this Laxmi Reservoir. At this point tourist can see and observe the Gaur (bison). Margajache pani is another attraction at this point. The crocodiles are main attraction at this point. Hence this point is also known as Margajache pani where water is available even in summer season

#### **Vaghache Pani :**

This place is Situated on plateau of sanctuary and made from Besalt Rocks. The reservoir constructed by Rajarshi Shahu is also on this plateau. The watch tower and manora is near this reservoir. At this place tourist can observe tiger, Panther, Mouse, deer, Wild Bear, etc. At this point tourist can see Radhanagari Darshan Point, Sambar kund, Konkan darshan and Vengurla Harbour sea view. Tiger come here frequently for drinking water; hence this place is known as Vaghache Pani.

#### **Konkan Darshan Point –:**

Sunset is seen from this point. This sunset point is very similar to Bombay sunset point of Mahabaleshwar hill station of Satara district. The beautiful nature of

Konkan the Shivgad Fort , Phonda Ghat, Malavans Sea view and Gagangad etc. are seen from this point..

**Sambar Kund :**

This point is rich in Karvi, Ghaneri, Rametha , Kumkum , Kadipata, Tamalpatri, Shembisal, Amsul, Honey etc. It is known as “ Dry fruit of Konkan”. Sambars come here frequently for drinking water. Hence this spot is also known as Sambar Kund.

**Mahadev Temple:**

The Mahadev temple is built, by Rajarish Chh. Shahu, near the treservoir . Many pilgrims visit to this temple every year. Mahadev temple is on the way of Manora near Kittan Nala. Tourist can watch from this point Laxmi Darshan Point. Vaghache Pani, Sambar Kund, Konkan Darshan etc

**Ugvai Temple:**

Ugvai temple is approximatlely 1.5 km to the south of Digipur village and located at the top of hill. This place is rich in natural wealth. From this place Phonda-ghat, Sahyadri ranges and Radhanagari area are seen in opposite direction of each other. Large number of monkeys is observed near cold-water lake at this place.

**Kalamwadi Mini Vrundavan Garden:**

Garden like the Vrundavan Garden of Mysore is constructed 3 km away from Radhanagari on 46800 sq. metres at Kalamawadi. The facilities like swings, mercury lamps, swimming tank, and different plants of coloured flowers, Medicinal plants, etc are created; Thousands of tourists visit to this garden every year. During period of 1 Jan 2007 to 30 Dec. 2007, about 38096 adults and 18393 children visited to this garden. And from this revenue of Rs. 4,72,925 has Gained to Tourism department.

**Dudhganga Dam and Hydroelectric Power Station :**

This dam is constructed in Radhanagari sanctuary near Aasangaon village. This dam is also known as Rajarshi Shahu Sagar Reservoir. Water storage capacity of this reservoir is 28 T.M.C. Hydroelectric power station is built at the base of this dam. Since its establishment sixty-nine millions of unit is generated. Per year 12 MegaWatts of electricity is generated. through hydroelectric power station . The area of this dam is rich in natural wealth. This dam is 10 km away from Radhanagari Dam and 8 km from Kalamwadi nodal point. Bus facilities are available up to dam. The tourists visit to dam and hydroelectric power station.

**Radhanagari Dam and Hydroelectric Power Station:**

Radhanagari dam is historical place which is constructed by Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj at Fejiwade . This dam is also known as Laxmi Reservoir. Water storage capacity of this dam is 7 T.M.C. This is earthen dam. On the western side of this dam thick jungle is exist. Large number of tourists visits to dam and hydroelectric power station.

Radhanagari Hydroelectric Power station is the first hydroelectric power station in Maharashtra. It is built at the base of the dam. Actual electricity generated since 1952 by this power station was 4.8-mega watt.

**Rautwadi Waterfall:**

This waterfall is located near Rautwadi village. This area is rich in natural vegetation; large number of birds is observed in this area.

**Ramanwadi Waterfall:**

This waterfall is 5 metres in height and located near Ramanwadi village. Large number of tourists visits to this place especially in rainy season. This area is also rich in natural vegetation and thick jungle.

**Shivgad Fort:**

The Shivgad Fort, built by Shilaha King Second Bhoj, is another main attraction of tourists. Shiv temple is very near to this fort. Hence this fort is popularly known as Shivgad. This fort is 95 km away from Kolhapur city and located at the height of 728 metres above the mean sea level. Shape of Shivgad is as like rectangle.. Shivgad Ghat is near to this fort. But the tourists do not know the information of this fort. The water management and art on this fort are main attractions of Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary. There are several ranges having height between 760m to 950 metres. Savarai hill is the highest point in this area. The hill tops are known as Sodas which are occupied by grass land with variety of grasses There are several sodas like Shivgad, Zunzuchepani, Savarai sada , Hadakyche sada , Konkan Darshan Kada etc These sodas are main attraction to tourists. The plateaus are very poor in shrubby and tree vegetarian but rich in herbaceous flora. More than 300 species of different grasses are observed on these plateaus. In the recent more than 50 species of plants have been recorded which are new for botanical science. Every year on an average of about 15000 tourists visits the sanctuary .

**Table 1**

**Tourists Visited and Revenue collection at Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary**

Year	91-92	93-94	96-97	98-99	2000-01	2005-06
Tourist	2039	5645	13819	14834	17557	14833
Revenue	3474	11147	24670	21290	26034	25000

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Table 1 reveals tourist visited to the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary. Numer of tourists was increased from 2039 in1991-92 to 17557in 2000-2001. While revenue was increased from Rs.3474/- in1991-92 to Rs.26034/- in 2000-2001.

In Radhanagari wildlife Santuary Ugavai Devi to Phonda Ghat, Dajipur forest house to vaghache pani , Phonda Ghat Point to Shivgad fort, Thakyacha sada to Zunzuche pani , Zunzuche pani to Hadkyachi sada , Pamasati watch tower to Savrai sada, Vaghache pani to Laxmi Darshan ,Vasnoli to Kalamwadi temple, Laxmi Darshan to Jalvache pani etc are favorable for tracking. By visiting dense forest near Kalamwadi. Motor launch, Safari tourist can experiences thrilling. Tracking is more common in sanctuary. Gaganbavada ,Padmasati Barbet & reverse -18 km, Gaganbavada - watch tower- Dajipur -25 km, Vasnoli – Kalamwadi Temple- Chafodi – 20 km, Padali - Karvade - Digus – Dajipur- 22 km. etc. routs are also favorable for tracking .

Accommodation facilities are available in Dajipur, Radhanagari, Kalamawadi and at Tulsi dam. These are managed by M.S.E.B., M.T.D.C., Irrigation and Forest Departments. The sanctuary is open for tourist from October to May. Before visiting the sanctuary prior permission of Forest Department must be taken. In sanctuary core zone is strictly for wildlife habitat, the protected zone is kept for various treatments in the form of the project to develop wildlife, reserve zone will be kept for the feared free migration and tourist zone will be allotted for the tourism development.

Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary comes under observation of Dajipur and Radhanagari forest offices. The management and administration of this area comes under the control of the conservator of forests (WL) Borivali & the administration and management of this sanctuary comes under the conservator of forests (WL) Kolhapur division.

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Some religious places are also main attractions of tourists. It includes Vittalai Devi and Durgamanwad. Large number of the tourists from Maharashtra and Karnataka visit to these places. Sarjerao Chhatri from valave, Ganesh Temple from Turmbe and Birdev Yatra from Rashivade are main destinations of religious tourism.

At Chakreshwarwadi, Tapsa used by Shaiva Kapalik Sect for Upasana is found in this area. The Sculptures found in this area are equivalent to the sculptures found in Ajanta Ellora. The streams of hot water are found here. Hence, this place is developing as a tourist place.

Two observation towers at Vaghachepani and Savrai sada and eight small observation watch towers at Sambarkund , Shelap, Inderganj ,Pathar, Nidankhan , Bhandne, Umbrache pani , Sawarde and Kalamawadi were constructed for observing and seeing animas Hid

Two Days Camps are arranged in summer and Christmas holiday. In this camp 80 students are allowed

### **Conclusion**

Radhanagari taluka is developing as tourist centers. Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary is the main destination to the tourists due to many attractions and historical places. Number of tourists visited to the wildlife sanctuary is increasing day by day. Hence there is urgent need to develop Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary as truism centre by Government.on the basis of eco -tourism

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