



Short Communication

Age, gender wise analysis of Kaigal and Gidugu in Chittoor district with particular reference to nature tourism

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Abstract

Tourism is one of the most important forces shaping our world. It's the basic nature of human beings to travel and explore different areas as part of their leisure time. Nature tourism is that which conserves the ecosystem and it directly impact the welfare of local people. In nature tourism there are so many gains as we know the species which are confined to that area whether its flora or fauna will be protected as part of this tourism. As keeping in mind about the importance of nature tourism, we had studied Kaigal and Gidugu which are located in V. Kota mandal of Chittoor district giving a glimpse of its beautiful waterfalls. This study is based on field observation. The study had about observing and personally interviewing 100 randomly visited tourists to Kaigal and Gidugu (50 tourists in Kaigal and 50 tourists in Gidugu). In our observation we found there is much to improve the roads and infrastructure in these nature tourist places.

Keywords: Age, Gender, Kaigal, Gidugu, Nature tourism.

Introduction

Nature tourism can also be synonymously known as ecotourism or environmental tourism, which can be defined as to spend their leisure time in view of the enjoyment of nature. Nature tourism is a fast expanding sector of the tourism^{1,2}. Nature tourism is that which gives the tourist a brief landscape of its ecosystem, making them attached to nature and feel inner peace. Mostly the nature tourism spots are located in almost in forest which comes under protected areas^{3,4} having potential to attract large numbers of tourists all over the world^{5,6}. Nature tourism could act as an effective tool in both conservation and management of the protected areas. It can also bring potential socio-economic benefits, such as funds for conservation which improves overall area and employment for local people^{7,8}. Many countries promote nature tourism in order to help them achieve their objective for both nature conservation and socio-economic development, and for many countries, nature tourism is also considered as a key component for income³. Nature tourism is a way to watch delicate, undisturbed natural areas of which are intact with environment. Contributions in nature tourism will be helping to conserve parts of nature and wildlife, where tourists have the opportunity to witness magnificent, once in a life time nature scenes up close and personal. The natural environment is a spot where it provides many activities like educating people with close to nature, adventurous tourism, hill trekking etc. Nature tourism is a delicate intricacy between the species and their niche, as if the tourists come to that area there will be some damage to this intricacy. On the other hand it has also adverse effects which potentially have negative influence on natural resources, affecting the niche and all the species within them⁹

and loss of biodiversity¹⁰. As the flow of tourists to the destination place increases, their usage of plastic utensils which further pollute the environment would directly affect the species within them. Further the studies should be conducted to find a way as without negatively affecting the environment and guest satisfaction¹¹. Nature tourism has become very popular in India, as both tourists and travel agents have realized the benefits of nature tourism in India. Nature tourism directly or indirectly provides employment and income opportunities for the local communities with also increasing awareness towards conservation of their natural and cultural assets among locals. In this scenario we had selected two potential nature tourism areas like Kaigal and Gidugu in Chittoor district and analysed them through field observation.

Methodology

The study is based on field study with personal interview. The researcher collected information from the tourists who visited selected nature tourist spots through personal interview method. Data was collected during December 2020. The present study had about 100 selected subjects (tourists) randomly who visited to Kaigal and Gidugu, 50 tourists from each place.

Results and discussion

The results were tabulated and graphs were obtained for the collected data as below. In Figure-1 the data shows the tourists visited below 10 years are 1%, from 11 to 20 years are 32%, from 21 to 30 years are 41%, from 31 to 40 years are 18%, 41 to 50 years are 8%, from 51 to 70 years and above are none.

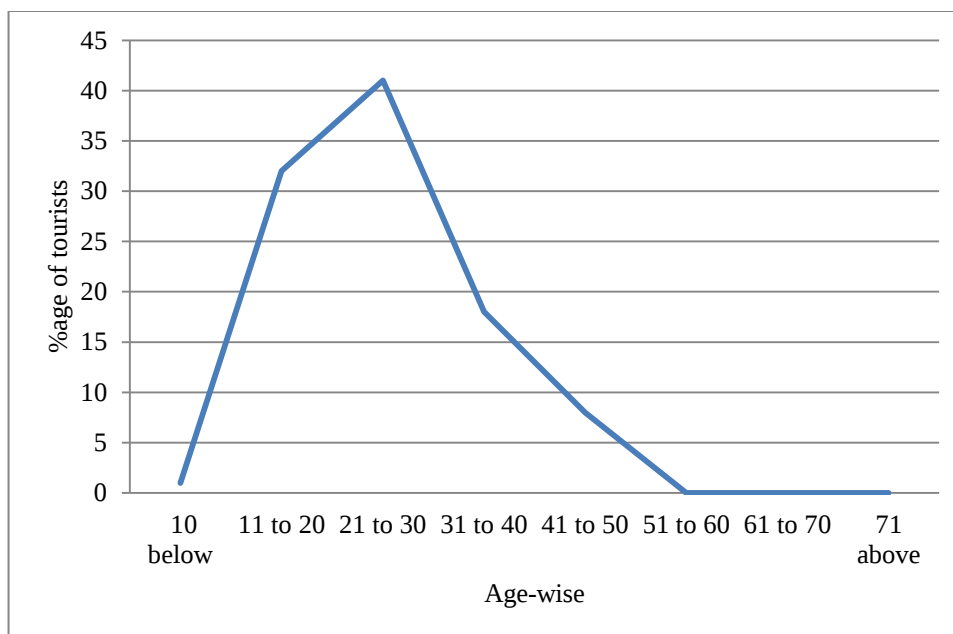


Figure-1: Age wise Tourists visited to Kaigal and Gidugu.

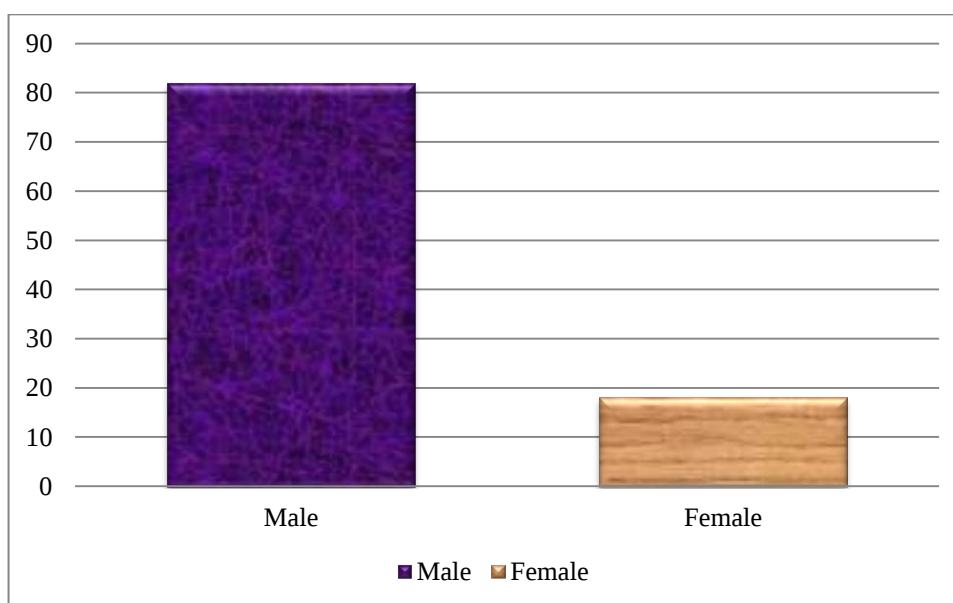


Figure-2: Gender wise Tourists visited to Kaigal and Gidugu.

The data shows male visitors are about 82% and female tourists are about 18%.

Discussion: Tourism basically is travelling of people from one place to another. It brings attention for necessary to improve infrastructure to that destination spot and also increases services for the tourists. Tourism is accumulation of several activities regarding socio-economic development. Tourism sector in general have the potentiality to stimulate growth of employment in Hotels, Transport etc. with such capacities of tourism, nature tourism is one of the worthy tourism with ability to conserve our nature.

In these tourism studies, the nature tourism offers new insights, as the 'naturalness' of tourism and also offers leisure time with the majestic landscapes coped to economic activities¹². The public and government policies need to be developed for improving these natural tourist spots. These policy networks should be increased and also can enhance tourism development by implying public private partnerships¹³. As the policies on tourism are coming up they need to consider environmental factors, society and culture^{14,15} of the local people, which in turn boost the tourism. In such a way we discussed about two waterfalls which are in chittoor district.

Kaigal Water Falls is popularly known to locals as Dumukuralla waterfalls, because of its sound resembling the fall of stones from its fall. Kaigal waterfall is situated in between Kasturinagar and Ragavulapalli which is a part of Baireddipalli – V. Kota road located in Palamner - Kuppam Highway. On the way to reach Kaigal waterfalls around 1k.m. before reaching destination there is a forest check post where the vehicles are stopped and the tourists should go by walk. There is also another way from Mulbagal (Karnataka). The Kaigal waterfall is one of the two streams in Koundinya wild life sanctuary, other stream is Koundinya stream. There is a sacred temple of Lord Siva where the stone steps were builded. The waterfall here is perennial falling from the height of 40 feet from a big rock. The pond here is naturally beautiful as the water passing through the ecosystem there attracting tourists to seek peace. As the monsoon season approaches the force of the waterfalls increases making it more added beauty and majestic. There are many associated natural ponds in the forest below the waterfall in the forest, making convenient for the wild life to thrive.

Gidugu waterfalls are also known as “Gidugili”. Gidugu is located in V. Kota mandal, Chittoor district. Gidugu waterfalls are the highest in terms of water and height of waterfalls when compared with Kaigal. It is not well recognized as it is far from the main bus routes. The waterfalls in Gidugu are also perennial falls irrespective of seasons where as in monsoon seasons it's so elegant and attract many tourists locally. If it may properly advertised it may attract large number of tourists to this

destination spot. There is a belief that taking bath in this waterfall will cure diseases. Due to presence of this water, a worth of 2 crore project for lift irrigation has been proposed from government.

There are no basic facilities to tourists at this place. The tourists should get their necessary things from Yerrinagapalli, Yellakallu and V. Kota. Compared to both the waterfalls Kaigal is known to people than Gidugu, which is remote. In the present study the data was collected from the randomly selected 100 tourists who visited Kaigal and Gidugu. Among 100 selected tourists, majority are from 21 years to 30 years followed by 11 to 20 years and then 31 to 40 years. The enthusiastic people are much interested to find out the area and are really interested to find new places and to spend their time with nature to relax. Another problem is the tourists who visited to these two waterfalls are from nearby places only. This indicates that these nature tourist spots are not clearly advertised. The age of tourists showed that majority of the tourists visited to Kaigal and Gidugu are male tourists, this may be because the road is not clear to the spot and also some facilities like toilets and food are not available in that nature tourist places. These two are the most beautiful and majestic waterfalls which ultimately gives good relief to the tourist and also peacefulness. They can be easily become the major nature tourist destination spots if the roads and infrastructure is developed in these areas. Basically the road should be improved and the public transport needs to be improved in these connecting towns.

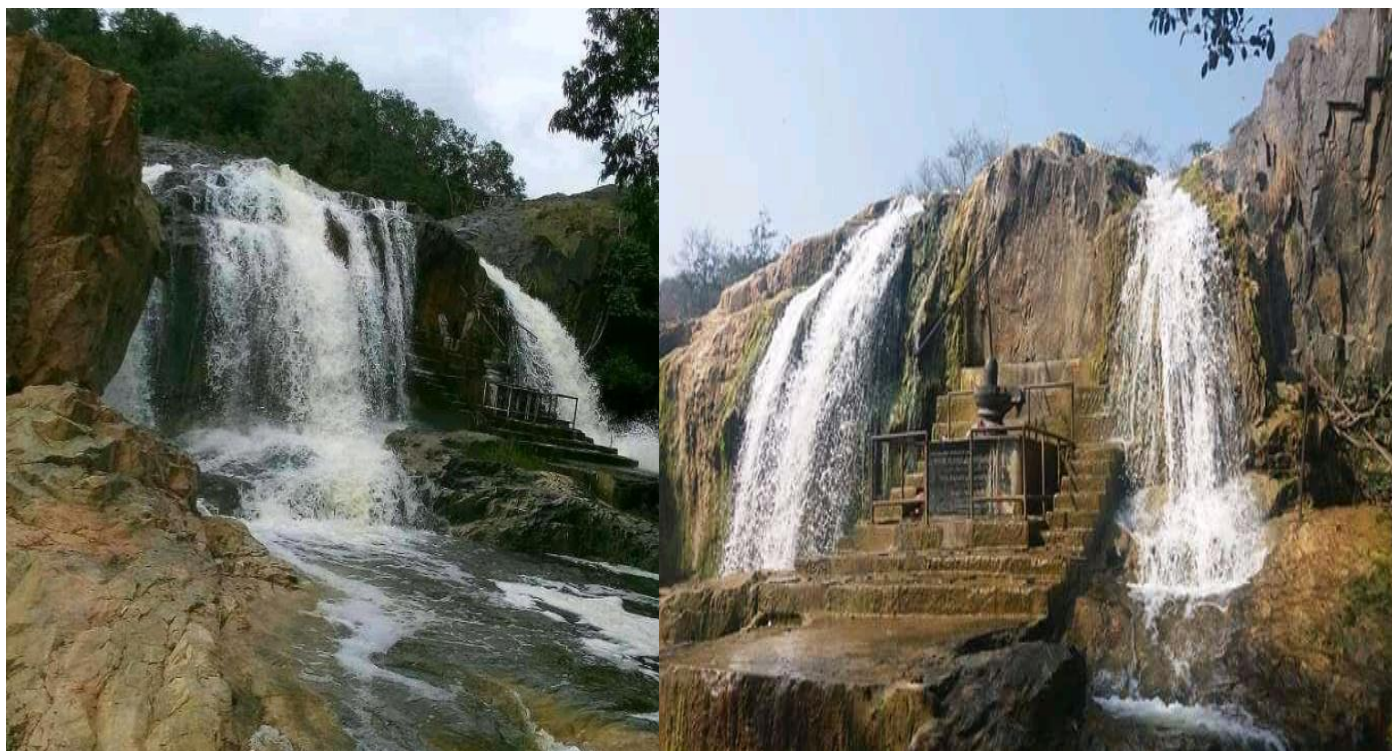


Figure-3: Kaigal Water Falls.



Figure-4: Gidugu Water Falls.

Conclusion

The majority of the tourists are below 30 years among both male and female tourists and gender wise there are more male tourists visited to Kaigal and Gidugu supporting that the tourists who visited are enthusiastic and young people who seeks a fun for travelling. This also indicates that females and age old people are somewhat reluctant to visit suggesting that roads and infrastructure need to be developed to attract as large number of people. This also may contribute to socio-cultural and economic background and also the enthusiasm for holidays and recreation. There should be a bus route connecting main road to the destination point of tourist place of Kaigal and Gidugu.

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