

A Sustainable Approach to Waste Management in Tourist Destinations: A Model for Developing Locations

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Abstract

In the realm of tourist destinations, effective waste management stands as an indispensable necessity. This study endeavours to explore high-performing tourism destinations in waste management within Kerala and Tamil Nadu, conducting a comprehensive investigation for this purpose. Employing a mixed methodology approach, the researcher conducted surveys, interviews with relevant authorities, and structured observations across six tourist destinations from both states. The findings indicated that tourists visiting destinations possess a commendable level of awareness regarding waste management. However, the efficacy of strategies implemented by destinations significantly influences the extent of this awareness generation. Furthermore, hygiene and cleanliness emerged as pivotal factors for the success of the tourism industry.

Keywords: Solid Waste Management, Sustainable Tourism, Waste Management Model

Introduction

Solid waste accumulation presents an escalating challenge in contemporary society. The proliferation of waste materials is no longer confined solely to urban centres but also extends to rural regions. The World Bank has established the global waste generation rate at 1.2 billion tons per annum, with a per capita waste production ranging from 1 kg to 1.5 kg (Hoornweg & Bhada-Tata 2012). In India, an annual production of 60 million tons of waste is reported, of which 43 million tons are collected, with only 11.9 million tons directed towards treatment facilities. The incomplete attainment of treatment status is attributed to the intermingling of organic and inorganic waste streams (Lahiry 2018). Along with this, it can be said that tourist destinations are notorious for the waste accumulation.

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