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COVID-19: A Critical Appraisal on Tourism and Hospitality Sector in India

Akhilesh Singh*

Abstract

The COVID-19 or Corona Virus Disease 2019 belongs to the family of Corona Viruses. It was first identified in the Wuhan city of China in December 2019. COVID-19 strained and enforced the governments of all affected Nations to shut down everything. Accordingly, from March to April most of the countries and its citizens observed complete lockdown. It had affected even production houses too. It is assumed that tourism is the first affected, most affected and the industry that will recover in last, therefore, among all affected sectors, it is believed that tourism is the worst affected industries of the world. In India, first COVID-19 case was reported on 30th January 2020. Every year, the peak season for international tourists fall in the months between October to March, therefore, the COVID-19 had affected the Indian tourism industry from February to March of the year 2020 and it is expected that the crisis will similarly impact the service industry in upcoming peak season too. During these two months, it spoiled both the inbound and outbound tourism industry of the country and later in summers destroyed domestic season too. During summers all Indian tourist destinations were closed. Few tourist attractions were opened in the last part of the June month but attracted a very few numbers of tourists. For this paper, a piece of literature has been selected from various journals, edited books, newspapers, reports, official websites of different Government and Non-Government organizations. It aims to understand the views and analysis of different professionals, academicians and scholars about the COVID-19 impacts on Tourism and Hospitality Industry. The study revealed that the pandemic has affected a lot to the industry and now special packages need to be declared by the responsible authorities.

Keywords: COVID-19, Tourism, Hospitality, Challenges, Tourist

Introduction

The COVID-19 or Corona Virus Disease 2019 belongs to the family of Corona Viruses. It was first identified in the Wuhan city of China in December 2019. In the early days, China suppressed the matter from the rest part of the world but after its swift spread and when the condition became unrestrained, it unveiled the situation with other nations of the world. The virus continued to wander from one country to another and therefore, on 30th January, WHO declared the crisis as the Public Health Emergency of International Concern and later Pandemic on 11th March 2020. COVID-19 strained and enforced the governments of all affected Nations to shut down everything. Accordingly, from March to April 2020 most of the countries and its citizens observed complete lockdown. It had affected even production houses too. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare till 23rd September 2020 total 55,62,663 COVID-19 cases were noted by India including 88,935 deaths. Maharashtra is the most affected states of India with 12,24,380 total confirmed cases. Mumbai is the extremely affected cities of India and also a port that receives the second greatest number of international tourists. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal are among the top 10 states that receive the maximum number of Foreign Tourists are also in the list of top 10 most affected states of India. It is assumed that the Tourism is the first affected, most affected and the industry that will recover in last, therefore, among all affected sectors, it is believed that tourism is the worst

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