EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1. TITLE OF THE PROJECT: SAGARESHWAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AS A TOURIST CENTRE: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:
   1. To study the Sagareshwar wild life sanctuary with geographical point of view.
   2. To find the hidden potentials of the Sagareshwar sanctuary.
   3. To study socio-economic situation of the tourist.
   4. To suggest a comprehensive planning for the development.

3. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS:
   The efforts have been made to make geographical study of Sagareshwar Wild Life Sanctuary as a Tourist Centre. This study is based on field work personal observation in person and secondary data. The finding and observations found in this study are summarized as below:

   The Sagareshwar wildlife sanctuary is located on 17°08’ North Latitude and 74°22’ East Longitude. This sanctuary is situated on the boundaries of three tahsils in Sangli district e.g. Walva, Palus and Kadegaon and it covers near about 10.87 km² forest areas. This is an elevated land mass in surrounding areas. It is also known as Sagroba hill. The unique feature of this sanctuary is a man-made sanctuary in India. At the beginning, the area of this sanctuary is a barren land. Numbers of trees were planted with the help of local people. Late. Mr. D.M. Mohite ‘Vrikshmitra’ contributed a lot for creation of Sagareshwar sanctuary. On 16th September 1985, Government of Maharashtra has been declared as a wildlife sanctuary. After that, on 1st March 2013 Government of Maharashtra has been renamed it as ‘Yashvantrao Chavan Sagareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary’. Now it is very rich in flora and fauna.

   The climate of this area is semi arid type. This man made sanctuary is home land for varieties of floras and faunas. Southern dry mixed deciduous & Southern thorn types of forest are found here. The hilly slopes are covered with grass. Major animals found in this sanctuary are Sambar, Blackbucks, Wild Boar, Deer, Peacocks, Cheetal etc. There are no major carnivorous species like tiger and panther in the sanctuary. However, small carnivorous species like Hyena, Fox and porcupine found. Quite a large number of insects, birds and reptiles are also found in this sanctuary.
Sagareshwar sanctuary is an easily accessible region in consideration of transport facility available. It is just 20 km away from Islampur, 45 km from Sangli. Takari railway station is only 4 km away from it.

There are so many natural spots which attracts the tourist. It includes Children park, Ranshul point, Kirloskar point, Mahangund point, Fetha Udvi point, Chhatri bungalow etc. There are also several religious places of tourist interest in and around the Sagareshwar sanctuary which one can visit and explore. Religious places include an ancient temple such as Sagareshwar temple, Lingeshwar temple, Kamalbhairav temple, Parshvanath temple etc. Most of the tourists are visited frequently to these places with religious mind.

Hiking and trekking is almost a culture and hobby among outdoorsmen. Sagareshwar is ideal for anyone interested in a rewarding one day adventure.

The significance of Sagareshwar is its richness in biodiversity. The grasses on hilly terrain, pastures, creepers, bushes, orchids, and fungi’s are found here. The variety of birds, animals and uncountable forms of insects are also found here. The beautiful green hills and valleys, forest, water bodies, wild animals, birds, butterflies and pleasant weather have become important attractions for the eco-tourists. So, the Sagareshwar sanctuary has very high ecotourism potential centre.

The analysis of tourists was examined and assessed the behavioural characteristics of the tourists and other related aspects in the present study. It is found that highest percentage of tourists visited to Sagareshwar belong to Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara and Ratnagiri districts. The percentage of male tourists is maximum compare to the female tourist. On the other hand, the maximum number of tourists are found unmarried. The age group of tourist visited at Sagareshwar was studied. It is found that the age group of 18 to 35 years old is more who come to visit Sagareshwar.

The educational status of the tourists has been studied. It is observed that the tourist regarding secondary school and graduate category are found maximum number. The occupational structure of the tourist who visit to Sagareshwar is studied and it is observed that the higher percentage of tourist is related to different type of services accounted 31.68 per cent. The economic status of the tourist is studied to understand the financial position. It reveals that the tourist of middle income group visit to Sagareshwar in large number and high income group less in numbers. It is found that the tourists travelling by private vehicle and motor cycle are
more in number. The main reason behind that there are State Transport Buses frequencies is very low. The study of accompanying members of tourists is made to understand the tourist nature relationship and it is found that the maximum number of tourist having 41.32 per cent came to Sagareshwar with their friends. The purpose of tourist to visit Sagareshwar sanctuary is studied to understand the characteristics of the tourist centre. It is observed that the maximum number of tourists come to visit Sagareshwar sanctuary for enjoying the Nature observation. That is the strengthen component of this tourist place.

4. SUGGESTIONS:

1. The frequency of State Transport Buses is very low at the Sagareshwar sanctuary. Therefore, State Transport Buses should be provided in more number.
2. To see the beauty of sanctuary ‘Jeep’ or ‘Mini-Bus’ facility should be started by the forest department.
3. Parking facility should be created at different tourist points in the sanctuary.
4. It is needed to develop Youth hostels, Cottages, Bamboo Kuti, Dharmashala, Hotels, and Restaurant at Sagareshwar sanctuary or near to it.
5. The trained ‘Tourist Guides’ should be provided for tourist.
6. ‘Nature Information Centre’ should be introduced at sanctuary.
7. From place to place ‘Watching Towers’ should be erected to see the movement of wild animals and to see the natural beauty of the surrounding area.
8. Facilities like drinking water, telephone, banking, health, shopping, horse riding etc. should be developed.
9. The department of tourism, Govt. of Maharashtra should take initiative to wide publicity to develop Sagareshwar wildlife sanctuary as a tourist centre.

The present research work is an attempt to made study of Sagareshwar wildlife sanctuary as a tourist centre. This geographical study would be a guideline to the development of tourism activity in Sangli district.

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