

Prospect of Rural Tourism in Manipur : To Preserve and Conserve the Ecology for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Rural tourism is a mixture of many tourism like farm or agricultural tourism, cultural tourism and adventure tourism. However a typical type of rural tourism is that showcasing the rural life style including art, culture and heritage at rural locations, which will benefit the local community economically and socially as well as enabling interaction between the tourists and locals for a far more enriching tourism experience.(Sampson,2016).Sustainable living is fundamentally the application of sustainability to lifestyle choice and decision. Sustainability itself is expressed as meeting the present ecological, societal and economical needs without compromise for future generations. The present study defines the factors of technologies in infrastructure and agriculture as the most common examples of the practice of sustainable development in rural tourism. The paper attempts to highlight the present scenario of rural tourism in Manipur while identifying the various problems and issues and strategies to be adopted. With tourism industry fast developing even in India, it is pertinent to note how far tourism is being benefiting the masses particularly the rural community. The various Integrated Rural Development programme (IRDP) for sustainable development seems to be half cooked without uniformity particularly to the rural farmers. This needs some serious study. Manipur is one of the most backward States in the entire North East Region having as many as 36 ethnic groups whose livelihood mainly depends on agricultural activities. Therefore agricultural tourism in its explicit terms of infrastructure in Ukhrul would enable the rural farmers to sustain their economic lifestyle without dismantling the natural resources and habitats.

Keywords: Rural Tourism, Sustainability, Infrastructure, Issues. Manipur.

Introduction

Due to globalisation and climate change many local economies are to be adjusted in order to enhance their socio-economic viability there in where it lays. As a matter of matter fact these forces are delivering both the nature and the rural landscape of its valuable uses (Butler, etal, 1998) and has to approach with new ideas of leisure and recreation for tourism development in rural areas specifically of course, till now there is no concrete definitions as to what rural tourism actually means since the criteria used to define rural tourism differs from country to countries. However, generally rural tourism refers to the rural settings, its lifestyle, rural culture, and peaceful natural environments and surroundings based on traditional lifestyle associated with

hunting, adventure, historical cultural tourism etc in a typical rural settings as villages, agricultural activities etc. (agri-tourism) as many as 'Land of villages' majority of the population comprising 85% of the population still depends on agriculture as their main source of livelihood(Wikipedia). Therefore, the development of tourism in rural areas would not be simply meeting the tourists demand with local products but a matter of grave concern of evaluating local suitability and acceptability. Today many farmers are looking beyond traditional farming to generate income through various forms of direct / indirect farm marketing. Various integrated rural development programme (IRDP) for sustainable development still seems a distant dream without systematic

process particularly to the rural farmers which needs serious consideration.

Rural Tourism can be a viable economic component in rural community development as it creates an alternatives source of income from the non- agricultural sector for rural dwellers and can contribute to the revival of local folks art and handicrafts. Rural tourism must considered like a complexes plurality of multi-faced activities in rural areas and improving the quality of life for local inhabitants.(Sampson,2016). The North Eastern Region (NER) having as many as 200 ethnic groups,(yumnam,2012) Manipur is one of the most backward states in the entire North Eastern states having 36 ethnic groups living collectively depending on agriculture/cultivation for their sustenance. Agri-tourism in its explicit terms of infrastructure would enable the rural farmers to sustain their economic lifestyle without dismantling the natural resources and habits.

Objectives :

1. To highlights the prospects of rural tourism in Manipur.
2. To examine issues and challenges of rural tourism
3. To suggest measures for sustainable development.

Methodology

The research methodology involved both primary(field research) and secondary data(desk research) for in depth understanding of the concept of rural tourism in Manipur. Due to a limited time constraint the paper has been concentrated to a particular project of Loktak Lake and few rural tourism prospects of Ukhrul district in Manipur.

Definitions of Rural Tourism

The word rural tourism has been subject to many debates in the academic platform without having definite meaning as different forms of rural tourism have developed in different regions and thus is hard to defined the basic characteristics of rural tourism that are common to all the countries(Wikipedia). However, it can be generally defined as a wider area dominated by natural/farmed/forested environments where specific, natural economic and social- cultural

features such as traditions, local cooperation, trust and reciprocity are harmoniously embedded that can create a unique tourist product in a predominantly small scale, nature friendly, ethno-cultured, in order words 'sustainable'. Which is commonly a consumer activity guided by demand driven by the visitors and their needs and motivation of attracting people to the villages with the pure image of rurality.The rurality of simple village lifestyle and perfect integration of man in his natural environment.

Thus importance of rural tourism depends as part of tourism market depends on one's country's recreation/tourism resources, infrastructure, image, market access and other tourism products available within the local community itself. Therefore, in rural tourism, the multiplier effect is often an important factor that can impact the rural areas where entire rural lifestyle is mainly concerned about for its unique attraction. Rural tourism can includes:-

Agri-Tourism

For enhancing farmers to diversify their activities while enhancing the value of their products farming helps reconcile farming interests and environmental protection through integrated land management where farmers play a key role, looking for genuine rural atmosphere where they can share a quality time learning traditional skills ,crafts with their host. The tourist can expect a homely accommodations in the villages away from the bustling busy schedule of modern/urban lives. He can enjoy the homemade foods and drinks which may be quite healthier than the processed foods and drinks and can sometimes even label specific market of local produce to the tourists.

Eco-Tourism

Tourists visits rural areas for the purpose of bird and animal watching and learning about flora and fauna. Many rural tourist destinations are fragile in ecological, social and cultural sense where its development requires very specific approach that could help remain sustainable in the long run (Wikipedia)

Rural Tourism Prospects in Manipur

Rural tourism in Manipur is not yet enlarge to a great extend but it has the potential to promote

to a large areas in terms of Agri-tourism particularly as majority of the people still depends on Agriculture despite the fact that the world tourism has now been focusing on digital tourism. Therefore in Manipur Agriculture is not just a mere business but is still the true culture of Manipur. It has all the natural characteristic feature of rural tourism with 22,327 km with a total population of 28.56 lakhs with rural population of 1,736,236 as against 834,154 of the urban population as per Manipur 2011 census is one of the eight states of North east India.

Manipur is surrounded by 9 districts out of which 5 districts are concentrated in the hills mostly tribals and Christians and the remaining 4 district belongs in the valley mostly Meiteis. However, Manipur is a land of diversity having co-existence since time immemorial that attracts further niche rural tourism experience. Often known as 'Switzerland of the East' anywhere you visit is a tourist attraction. The rural locations are of unique settings with scenic views of natural surroundings.

Manipur is a land of ethnic diversity surrounded on all sides by hills and mountains, its capital city located at Imphal. The natural beauty of Loktak Lake in Moirang and the serene natural beauty of Shirui hills with its picturesque view of unique state flower Shirui-lily as been taken for the present study as particular rural tourism prospects in Manipur along with its rich cultural festivals of the state such as the Sangai Festival, Shirui-lily festival, Lui-Ngai-Ni, Kut festival, Ningol chakkouba etc besides several other numerous cultural festivals of the state.

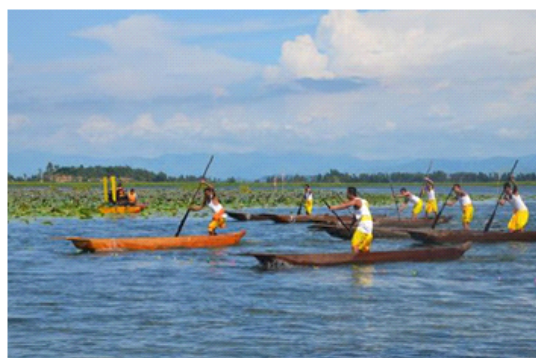
The Loktak Lake

This Lake is situated at Moirang in Bishnupur district some 48 km from Imphal city is mostly inhabited by the Thanga villagers, is the largest fresh water lake in India famous for its floating biomass or floating Phumdis which is the only floating lake in the world famous for its distinct picturesque view and habitats of the Phum dwellers as their source of livelihood specially in the ancient times this lake plays a very important role in the economy of Manipur specially the Meiteis who are the majority inhabiting the state. It also serves as hydro power generation, irrigation and drinking water supply. The rural fisherman living in the surrounding

areas and on the Phumdis are also known as 'Phumsangs' (Manipur tourism,2016) around 55 rural and urban hamlets having a total population of 10,000(Wikipedia). Lokak Lake thus plays an important role in the economy of Manipur. Sendra tourist home attached with a cafeteria is a sought after tourist spot. A day spent at Loktak Lake is a lifetime memory. Few home-stay accommodations have been constructed for the convenience of the tourists/visitors under the Classic Group of Hotel Management Ltd.



Floating restaurant on the phumdis



Boating in the Loktak lake

Shirui Hills in Ukhrul District

Ukhrul is the highest hill station in Manipur and is located at 83 km to the East of Imphal city the capital of the state and is inhabited by the Tangkhul Naga tribe, a colourful warrior tribe as it is known. The Tangkhuls are known for their simplicity, hard working and hospitality. It is also one of the oldest major tribe of Manipur. Shirui hills is an interesting places of tourist destination.

Agriculture is the main occupation here as their sole livelihood mainly Jhum cultivation and terrace cultivation besides other subsidiary occupation such as fishing, hunting, poultry, piggery, horticulture, pisciculture, carpentry, handloom etc. Ukhrul hill dwellers are famous for their indigenous home brewed rice beer and plum wine traditional processed by conventional style. This is a must to be experience by tourists. Food cuisines are quite traditional in style and fascinating with distinct flavour and mouth simmering. Women are quite hospitable in nature that adds to their tourist attraction in general.



Shirui Hills



Adventure tourism at shirui hills

However this district is particularly famous for its destined natural God given unique flower called Shirui-lily recognised as state flower in 1989 by the state government of Manipur. Ukhrul known for its peculiar type of land lily called 'Shirui lily' grows on the Shirui hills of Shirui village at a height of 8,500 ft, (Tayengjam, 2015:22) from the sea levels. This only unique flower in the world was discovered by Frank Kingdom Ward from U.K. way back in 1946. During its

full bloom season starting from May-June the hills is flocked with visitors both domestic and international. Interestingly the oldest insurgent outfit of NSCN Gen. Secy Th. Muivah belongs to this district who is currently into deep dialogue with the Govt. of India since 1997. One can hold a night at Ukhrul headquarter and proceed to the Shirui hills the next day which is only 12 km drive or can travel directly from Imphal to the destination a distance of 95 km. Every year in the month of May the Shirui-lily festival is observe with all fun fairs and rituals, a remix of both traditional and modern. It is the biggest event of tourist attraction.



Shirui-lily in its full bloom

Shirui-lily/*Lilium Mackliniae* pale pink in colour is found in upper reaches of Shirui hills range in Ukhrul district of Manipur, India at an elevation of 1,730 - 2,950 metres above sea level (Wikipedia) was declared as state flower in 1989. It is today considered as endangered species. The flower was named after Jean Mackliniae, the wife of Dr. Frank Kingdom Ward who spotted the flower in 1946 while collecting botanical specimen for the New

York Botanical Society and won the prestigious Merit prize at the Royal horticultural society show in London in 1948. The scenic view of the hill range covered with lilies makes it a wonderful picture perfect location. This is a must visit tourist destination in Ukhrul district. Manipur tourism acknowledge the importance of shirui lily as the state flower and even declared state festivals in 2017 by the Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh and thus forming the event as a part of the Manipur tourism to develop and implement sustainable and responsible tourism in the state.

Folk Culture as rural tourism products:

It refers to lifestyle of a culture historically handed down through oral tradition, demonstrate old ways, over novelty and relates to a sense of community (Sampson, 2016). Some of the examples of folk culture includes as:

- *Sangai festival.*
- *Lui-Ngai-Ni festival.*
- *Kut festival*
- *Christmas.*
- *Shirui-lily Festival*

Sangai Festival

This is the most popular cultural festival of state Manipur. It is the grandest festival of the state to promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination. Every year it is celebrated from 21st to 30th November. This Sangai festival is named after the state animal 'Sangai', the brow antlered deer found only in Manipur, with the name of tourism festival since 2010 this has been renamed as Sangai festival to stage the uniqueness of the shy, gentle brow-antlered deer popularly known as sangai deer, the state animal of Manipur. The festival showcases tourism potentials of Manipur in field of arts, culture, handloom, handicraft, indigenous sports, cuisine, music and adventure sports of the state. The main focus area of this festival is to reflect Manipur's proud cultural heritage and love for art which is inherent amongst various tribe inhabiting the state. Various traditional folk dances of the various ethnic groups and various indigenous sports are showcased at the festival participated by not only the people of Manipur but in the recent years, many states of India and even foreign countries like Myanmar and Thailand too participated in

the events/ festivals exchanging platforms of culture, arts and handicraft.



Inaugural function of sangai festival 2017

During the Sangai festival, Manipur film festivals is also organised jointly by MSFDS and film forum Manipur as part of Manipur Sangai festival. Movies and short films by local directors are screened, this has helped to improve, promote Manipur film industry both at the national as well as international level. Local handloom of various designs are on showcased that can be bought by visitors. Various cultural dance of the various ethnic groups are performed by various tribes inhabiting the state, even natives sports like yubi-lakpa (played with greased coconut), Thangta, wrestling are also showcased. Various indigenous cuisines are showcase that can be enjoyed with a minimum prices, it starts in 21st.Nov. and last till 31st of November. Sangai festival is all about unity in diversity and a true religion of Manipur's saga. Besides there are numerous festival events like the ningol chakouba, mera houchongba in which, the married women are invited by the

brothers and gave a grand feast and gifts. Mera houchongba is the time to showcase the bond between the hill brothers and valley brothers, exchanging with gifts and rekindles their past friendship and ties in solidarity and events. So many fairs and festivals are celebrated every year.

Lui-Ngai-Ni festival

This is the only Naga festival observed as an official events of the state. This festival primarily belongs to Tangkhul Naga tribe who by nature are sincere, hard working, fun-loving and hospitable. The state Govt. now declared 'Luingaini' as one of the state festival and declare official holiday on 15th Feb. of every calendar year. This festival is celebrated to mark the seed sowing time of the farmers. On this day they would specially ask the blessing of God for a bountiful harvest, makes merry-making by showcasing the rich culture of the people in the form of folk dance, folk song and varieties of indigenous sports like cock-fighting, wrestling, bamboo pole climbing etc and served an indigenous home brewed rice beer, having its own sweet delicacy. No other food are served except a big portion of mithun meat were usually served in the midst of all its fun fair. All the people are adorned and clad in rich beautiful traditional attires rich in colours and hues.

Lui-Ngai-Ni is the seed sowing festival celebrated by the Naga tribes of Manipur India. The festival herald the seed sowing and wakes the start of year of Nagas and declare state holiday in 1988. During this festivals various cultural exchange programme and activities were showcased that mark the beginning of the yearly activities of the biggest festivals of the Nagas. There are about forty odd tribes that constitutes the Naga society, out of which 20 are found in the state. Among many social groups and communities that constitutes the great diversity of India. Nagas are one of them. In fact the phenomenal diversity within the Naga community itself adds colours to the collective diversity in India, like many North East India, Nagas have rich culture.

In the older days, rich man among the Nagas is one who has plenty of grains to last him and his family for a year and be able to spare some for others too whenever needs arise. It is in this context that the festival of seed sowing assured the greatest importance over all other festivals

celebrated by the Nagas. During this event/festivals, the Gods of crops is invoked to shower his blessings on the sowed of their cultivation so that it bears a bumper harvest for the general well being of the people is ensured.

Therefore, the blessings of the Almighty is beseech with expressions through dances, songs and rituals. It is this cultural continuity that we use some of the most delightful dances, songs and other customary rituals every year in Lui-Ngai-Ni. It is a modern form however of the aged old festival of springs, coined as late as 1987(Manipur Tourism,2017). And the ministry of tourism govt. of India has also listed the festival of Lui-Ngai-Ni as one of the tourist festival of India. To rekindle their past glorious traditions and values for their posterity, perhaps the re-enactment and promotion of their dances, songs, values and rituals through celebration of Lui-Ngai-Ni in to-days context could be in order. The rich Naga culture thus form a part of the great culture heritage of the country.



Cultural dance troupe by Tangkhul & Kabui Naga

Christmas:

Christmas in Manipur is not only celebrated

within Christian communities but every one in Manipur indulge in the jingle bell season with all fun fair and is one of the best Manipur festivals. People organise get together, decorate houses, put up Christmas trees, bake cakes, cooked delicacies of Christmas and exchange gifts among friends and the santa clause gave away gifts to the children. There is midnight masses in the churches on the 24th and 25th of December.

Kut festivals

Celebrated by the kuki -chin- mizo and evolved as a celebration of peace, harmony, communal ties and friendship. It is meant actually to celebrate the generous food stock of the year by offering thanks to God for the bountiful produce by singing, dancing and merry-making. A beauty pageant is organised to add more colors to the days event on 1st Nov.(Source:<http://traveltriangle.com>blg>Manipur.>) retrieved 20th Oct. 2018.

Shirui-lily Festivals:

From the year 2012 due to some young enthusiastic villagers and well wishers from Ukhrul most significantly under the recognition and support of Shri D.S. Poonia, IAS, Chief secretary Manipur, shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Principal secretary Works and Transport GoM, and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IAS, Principal secretary Principal secretary Tourism Govt. of Manipur, Shirui village observed the first District Level Celebration of the much neglected state flower under the theme- 'Finding Shirui-lily' and there after it was renamed as 'Shirui-lily Festival' and since then this festival has been celebrating every year. Fortunately it was a laudable moment when the present chief minister of the Manipur state Shri N.Biren Singh paid his first visit to Ukhrul in 2017 during the festivals and declared Shirui-lily festival as state level festivals from district level.(Shimray,2017). For all these tireless endeavours from our respected bureaucrats and politicians we could revived the endangered species of Shirui hills the abode of 'Shirui-lily'..



Opening ceremony of Shirui lily festival 2017

How to Preserve/Conserve the Ecology for Sustainable Development

Issues & Challenges

We are living in a society where everyday we use and experience new ideas, new thoughts, both constructive and destructive in the midst of the booming industrial sector and more practically in a land lock hills of Manipur. We are beginning to see new initiatives being undertaken by the various state holders for ushering in many developmental works for the rural farmers. Rural tourism explicitly in terms of Agri-tourism and its infrastructure has an important role to play to sustainable development in the rural areas.

The recent initiatives of the India govt. programme of 'go to village' projects is being successfully undertaken in the state, under the initiative of CM Shri N.Biren Singh and his team, best efforts are being undertaken for building better relationship and understanding by looking into the grievances of the people in the rural areas. However, much has been done yet still more needs to be done for its sustainability in the region.

Lesson Learnt:

It was a moments pleasure for all the denizens of the people of Ukhrul district in 2017 when the Hon'ble chief minister declared Shirui festival as a state festival so that all the people can visit the state's unique flower Shiru- lily on top of the peak of Shirui village. All kinds of cultural

traditions in terms of dance troupe, folk songs and other entertainments were showcased that mesmerised the whole crowd clad in their own traditional attires with vibrant colours of different community. For the first time, under the initiatives of the local MLA Shri K. Alfred a group band *Steelheart* from Norway United States and *Queensryche* from Belluve, Washington, United states was invited to performed for the first time in Ukhrul district., a live performance concert' that enthralled the crowd with enthusiasm and enjoyment with no power eruption, was live telecast from satellite throughout the festivals which was celebrated for four consecutive days. What was perceive as impossible in the past could now be materialise through rural tourism. As the world has now become a big global village only through tourism.

All these are the efforts of Rural Tourism Board in Manipur. But unfortunately due to poor connectivity of road, transport, many visitors opines having their sole worn out, the next day. One interesting event was the visitor from Thailand who happens to see all the paper, plastic and waste being thrown around by the visitors carelessly on the tourist site/ spots, picked up one by one that leaves the onlookers/ other visitors to bow their heads to think twice. The volunteers of the festivals had a rough and hard times cleaning all the debris after the festivals. We need to imbibe the culture of maintaining the ecology and environment from degradation and pollution for its sustainability. The culture of rural tourism should be made to understand to the rural farmers in terms of better relativity and not just taking advantage of the festival with exorbitant high prices of all the indigenous local products. Even home-stay accommodation was not sufficient enough to accommodate all the tourists/ visitors and at the same time prices were too costly so that many of the visitors had to leave for Imphal even at past midnight. Everything has to be within the affordable reach of the guest and the host altogether for its sustainable development.

Rural tourism brings closer ties between the urban and rural community. When tourists visit any rural village in Manipur, more particularly in Ukhrul, the villages/ locals are much happier to entertain the guest without any commercial motives. Women are known for their hospitality

and simplicity this adds as a feather cap to their local tourism products. There is no shadow of doubts that tourism is an important sector in the world that can bring towards positives change in the society. International tourists worldwide have grown from 25 million in 1950 to nearly 1.3 billion today (Baruah, 2018), with an estimated revenues earned by the destination around the world having grown from 2 billion US dollars in 1950 to 1260 billion in 2015. (Baruah, 2018). Despite challenges of global economic crisis, natural disaster, speeding over the whole region, the tourism sector has flourish uninterrupted.

Observance of world Tourism Day

The world tourism day 27th Sept. World wide was observed to address global challenges outlined in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. As the UN secretary general on his message has rightly said that the wide reach of tourism into many sectors, from infrastructure and energy to transport and sanitation impact on job creation, make it vital contributor to the 2030 agenda for sustainable Development, bringing people together. The challenge is therefore to continue harnessing this power for good while safe guarding against the risk. In this new digital transformation living an increasingly connected and interdependent world in matters relating to transforming our behaviour, encouraging innovation, the world today needs new tools, new capacities and ways of new thinking.

The UN across the nations are designing innovative projects, initiations and partnership. This will help provides opportunities improves inclusiveness, local community improvement and efficient resource management within the wider sustainable development agenda. While digital transforming is all about providing benefits to all, tourism contributes to this global commitment. There can be new initiatives and new start ups that would enhance rural tourism sectors govt. and all state holders must work well to improve tourism in the region and particularly in Ukhrul district for sustaining the quality of rural life.

The Loktake livelihood Mission:

This mission has been launched under the initiative of the hon'ble chief minister Shri N. Biren Singh for protecting the largest fresh water lake of NE India and provide employment

opportunities to fish farmers and youth of the state for ensuring self sufficiency in procuring fish within the state instead of buying from outside. While emphasising the use of organic and vermi compost during farming in order to benefits the fish farmers in two ways i.e. cost effective and healthy living..The minister stressed on result oriented by working at grass root level and encouraged the village SHGs for the preparation of organic fertilizers and vermicompost. In fact this is one kind of project for mitigating illness prevalent in the state.

However, In the past years in the name of rural tourism some ministers took up the Loktak project by displacing the phumdis dwellers whose livelihood depends on fishing at the Lake without giving proper alternative arrangements for their livelihood leading to mass protest by the farmers in the name of rural tourism development by few vested bureaucrats and politicians for their own personal gains. It is hopeful that such kind of chaos and discontentment would not be the problem in this present launching of Loktak livelihood Mission for the general welfare. Proper policy plan should be adhered so that the traditional livelihood practices of Phumdis dwellers are not disturbed.

Indo-German Financial Corporation Project (IGFCP/KFY)

Another interesting project being launch recently in Manipur was the Indo-German Financial Corporation Project on community-Based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resources Conservation in Manipur under the Community Forestry and Water Conservation Society (CF & WCS) Forest Department, Government of Manipur. It is hopeful that this will regenerate 21,800 hectares of degraded forest.(sangai,2018)..When fully implemented this can generate huge volume of livelihood activities and even improve wildlife habitat and generate employment opportunities to the local community. Community based forest management projects have been started at local levels by providing alternative livelihood to those farmers affected whose income were dependent on jhum cultivation..So far the govt. had declare 92 sq.km hectares as Community Reserves in two district of Manipur i.e. Senapati and Tamenglong. Mention may be made here that due to the

construction of *Mapithel Multi-purpose Dam Project* in Ukhrul District, whose livelihood mainly depends on agriculture, around eight villages on the catchment areas of the Dam have been displaced besides large areas of terrace field and forests have been totally submerge under water which might be approximately 200 ft deep as told by the local villager. While much has been compensated still the local villagers are demanding for their fair share. If proper policy plan are taken up with better understanding on the basis of win-win between the Govt. and the local people this particular place can become a Rural Tourism Hub in the near future. Soil and moisture conservation measures, rejuvenating wildlife habitats and bio-diversity and creating livelihood activities should be properly implemented in the midst of adverse affect of climate change worldwide. No human can survive without agriculture as this is the nature oriented phenomenon. In the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, the rich diversity of earthly creature gives humanity a glimpse of the beauty and glory of God. But if human greed is leading to over-pollution that is depleting natural resources and climate to change leading natural resources and environmental degradation, the deleterious impact on an individual group or population is a cause for concern but even more requires corrective measures to rescue God's creation from destruction.(Bunii,2018). Reducing and redressing the adverse affect of climate change needs to be tackled even at the grass root levels for a far more enriching Rural Tourism experience for no man is an island. With better road connectivity in the hills particularly, setting up of rural tourism research centre to further mobilise could prove effective. Since majority of the people in the hills are Christian church leaders can play a key role in harnessing rural tourism prospects in the right perspective with transparency. Workshop, seminars and thread bare discussions can be held frequently at the local level.

Conclusion

Manipur is a land of festivals and merriment and mirth all year round.. A land of vibrant festivals hardly a month passes by without celebration of festivals in this hilly town showing the rich culture and togetherness of the people of Manipur. If you are someone who wish to replace the rich culture heritage of this hill district, the experience of the

rural lifestyle, you must visit Manipur during on these festivals. Affordable and modern accommodation are easily available in Imphal and the hill district with the best fit of your wallet, places and location that you to visits. We therefore need not only tools but new capacities an thinking, improve inclusiveness, local communities empowerment and efficient resource management providing benefits to all within the wider sustainable development agenda. Government and all other stake holders must work well to improve tourism in the region by taking up new initiatives and new start ups policy for enhancing rural tourism prospects for sustainable development.

The paper conclude with the statement of a climate activist and atmospheric scientist Kathrine Hayhoe as – “ If I say that I respect God ,that I love God, and that God has given us this incredible life-giving planet, then if I strip every resource at the expense of my poor sisters and brothers – one in six of whom dies because of pollution related issues, who are suffering and dying today- then I am not somebody who takes the Bible seriously. She further says- “What kind of love is it when someone gives you such an amazing gift and you leave it in a smoking ruin” .

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