

CHAPTER - IV

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Findings of the Study

From the study conducted and data analyzed the following findings could be enumerated:

1. Around 63% of the respondents fall in the age group between 40-60 while, 23% of the respondents fall in the age group of 18-30. It can be said that youth population is less in compared to senior and aged population of the village.
2. Female population accounts to around 57% of the village in comparison to male which accounts around 47% of the village.
3. The education levels of the villagers are mostly limited to matriculation. From the survey it is identified that villagers of the age group between 40 to 60 mostly have completed matriculation and few have also completed their under graduate degree. However, the youth age group which is 18-30 is found to be reluctant in pursuing higher studies after Class XII examination which is not a good sign. Youth may be inspired to take up vocational eco-tourism as a career.
4. From the study it was also found that the females of the village are the ones who are interested and have completed their under graduate level however, no male respondent was identified who have pursued their studies after class XII. It can be understood from the above fact that female population is mostly educated in this village which is good sign. However, the fact that the male population is lagging behind in this respect is a matter of concern.
5. It is also learnt from the study that the respondents of the study area belong to ST Caste as they belong to the Rabha community. It is also witnessed that most of the village people live in a nuclear family structure having 2 to 5 members at the most.
6. 85% of the respondents' primary source of income is agriculture. However, only 13% of the respondents are found to be involved in daily wage earning.
7. It is also found that 92% of the respondents have BPL or Below Poverty Line Cards or Ration Cards. However almost 100% of the respondents possess basic documents such as

Voter ID. It is also learnt from the survey that 66% of the respondents do not have Aadhar Card.

8. Around 62% and 58% of the respondents are of the view that proper water facility and toilet facility are not made available to them by the Government. 84% of the respondents agree to have electricity facility provided by the Government. For regular water supply villagers use the waterfall which they have connected through pipes and store water in big wells at their houses.
9. As majority of the population are found to be engaged in agricultural activities for their source of income, it is found that around 54% of the land is hilly and the produce over which they earn their livelihood is mostly natural.
10. It is found that around 60% of the villagers possess Pakka houses.
11. It is that among the villagers surveyed, around 93% and 52% of the respondents are engaged in agricultural activities mostly growing different crops, vegetables etc., However only 19%, 7%, 21% and 13% of the respondents' are engaged in fruits, fish, poultry and food processing activities respectively.
12. It is found that 96% of the respondents sell their product in nearby markets which are mostly daily or weekly markets whereas only 4% of the respondents visit town to sell their produce.
13. It is found that 57% of the villagers are registered as a member of local SHGs . People are not aware of the functions and scope of SHGs.
14. It is found that out of the various alternatives of employment available, 21% of the respondents are of the view that during Picnic Season the villagers earns extra income and engage themselves in different occupations especially Boating, Sight Seeing, Trekking Guide, etc. Around 14% of the respondents are engaged as labourers in different agricultural activities and around 11% of the respondents are of the view that the Hotel/Restaurant/ Resort business does provide employment opportunities mostly for cooking staff, cleaner, helper, etc which directly creates employment opportunities for the locals.

4.2 Suggestions of the Study

After a thorough study of the various aspects of the Rani Khamar village in the Rabha Hasong area and its prospect in the eco-tourism, the following suggestions could be forwarded:

1. Ranikhamar is a beautiful place on the lap of nature which is endowed with a rich geo-diversity and bio-diversity. People at large are unaware to this richness and have led a life of simplicity and hand to mouth approach. Education is a major factor which can usher in required changes and it is seen that women folk of the village are relatively better educated which is again a positive sign. Vocational training and sensitization programmes on the significance of geo-diversity, bio-diversity and eco-tourism can facilitate the desired changes. Ranikhamar has many things for the untapped market to see and appreciate. This approach can be mutually beneficial.
2. It was also learnt from the study that the village do not have proper medical facilities or hospitals and neither have they had any under graduate colleges. Unavailability of these two basic institutions has forced them to be isolated from modern facilities of medical science and education. Thus, a hospital or primary dispensary clinic and an undergraduate college should be set up in the village or its vicinity by the Government.
3. Villagers consider agriculture to be their only source of livelihood, and it is observed that most of the land where agriculture is conducted is hilly. The people should be provided with different techniques of plantation and agriculture which would help them to use the fertile land all round the year so that enough revenue could be generated to uplift their socio-economic condition.
4. Most of the female population are associated and registered with Self Help Groups, but due to lack of proper orientation of the concept of SHG and JLG, villagers are unable to avail the facilities of such groups. Such orientation programme should be conducted to aware the villagers especially women about the role they can play in the upliftment of their socio-economic status.
5. Villagers often take their local produce to the nearby markets for selling, through which they attempt to run their families. But to sustain the agricultural activities properly in the future and to produce in large quantities, proper guidance and training should be imparted to villagers.
6. Diversification of different products and marketing strategy of the same is very much necessary. Social media may also be utilised as promotional tool.
7. The transportation facility to and from the village is very limited. No state bus service is available. Thus, villagers have to come to Chandubi or ahead to get any public transport. Only private trekkers, auto vans are available for communication which charge hefty amount of fares. Thus, Government should look into this matter and start bus service to and from the village which would be of great relief to the village commuters.

8. Though, the entire village is naturally vibrant and there is plenty of scope for eco-tourism as mentioned earlier, only one restaurant cum dhaba exist which even closes down after 5pm. It is suggested to the State authority to develop electricity, water and transportation facilities so that tourists from distant places could reach the village and explore its natural beauty.
9. With the development of restaurant/dhaba and above facilities locals will be able to engage in different occupations which would help them in creating self-employment and developing their economic status at the most. The water way connecting Chandubi Lake and Ranikhamar may be exploited for geo-tourism.
10. Last but not the least, Ranikhamar has huge prospect of geotourism and eco-toursim like Meghalaya, Sikkim, Rajasthan etc. and the same needs to be exploited.

Conclusion

The project “Prospect of Eco-Tourism in the Rani Khamar Village of the Rabha Hasong Zone” has highlighted the various scopes and opportunities which can be explored and capitalized for earning revenues in the village. The study explored all the areas which could be considered as hotspots for geo-tourism and eco-tourism and also helped throwing an insight into the socio-economic condition of the villagers. Though, it is true that the village is naturally rich and beautiful and has potential to attract lots of tourists, it should also be remembered that without basic facilities no spot can ever be considered as eco-tourism spots. Basic facilities such as electricity, water, toilet and transportation are the key issues where the village has faced acute shortage or no facility at all.

Youth population accounts the second highest population in the village but lack of education and educational institutions in the village have created hindrances in providing them higher studies. Medical facilities should be developed at the earliest so that village people could get atleast primary treatment in case of any accident. Sensitisation programme on Geo-diversity, Bio-diversity and Eco-tourism need to be carried out along with vocational training to utilise the natural produce of the village. The villagers need to be sensitised about this richness and potential towards economic development. A market needs to be created. Social media handles can contribute a lot in creating a market for Ranikhamar and its produce. Home stay concept as seen in Meghalaya, Rajasthan and other state of the country may be implemented in Ranikhamar.

Many biodegradable products can be marketed like different crafts items produced from Bamboo for decorative items, kitchen appliance, furniture, wall hanging, memento, water bottle, various disposable items can be produced from banana leaves, betel nut leaves (dhakua) etc.

There is a prospect of water way from Ranikhamar to Chandubi Lake which can be developed for the purpose of river boating, river rafting as a strong potential for adventure tourism.

State and Local Authorities should understand the potential of **ecotourism** and **geotourism** in the village and help to uplift it but not without a sensitised population.

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