

Tourism and Its Prospects in Giridih, Jharkhand

R K Archana Sada Suman Tudu¹ and Dr. Rabindranath Sarma*²

ABSTRACT

Giridih is one district among the 24 of the Jharkhand state. It is situated between the districts of Jamtara, Bokaro, Koderma, Hazariabgh and Dhanbad. Initially it was the part of Hazaribagh district. It was formed on 6th December 1972. The state of Jharkhand has enormous tourism potential. This study aims to explore the perspectives surrounding tourism and its potential in Jharkhand's Giridih district. Parasnath is a pilgrimage site attracts people from all over the world and Khandoli Dam and Usri falls are the other appealing tourist spots situated in the district. Through this paper the researcher has tried to provide some informative insights and exposures on the subject.

KEY WORDS

Giridih, Tourism, Parasnath, Khandoli Dam, Usri falls

INTRODUCTION

The Jharkhand state is full of cultural and tourist heritage. Giridih is the district situated in the northeast of the state. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is home to the city. Hill locks and thick forest flora cover the entire area. A number of long-established tribal communities consider the area home. Giridih is situated on the Central and Lower Plateaus and is encircled by thick forest. The area is thickly forested, particularly in the teak and sal forests. Additional species that are often encountered include Simul, Bamboo, Palas, Mahua, Kusum, Asan Piar, Kend, and Bhelwa. Giridih is traversed by the Barakar and Sakri Rivers, which make significant contributions to the region's biodiversity. Giridih has the highest calibre coal mines and is a mineral-rich area. The mineral-rich area has a high mica availability as well. The area is surrounded by beautiful scenery and provides tourists with a variety of sightseeing opportunities. There are many beautiful, unusual natural locations scattered throughout the area (District Giridih, Government of Jharkhand, n.d.). The area is also the centre of a number of shrines that witness a yearly arrival of pilgrims. The popular sites to visit in the city are Sri Sammata Shikharji famously called Parasnath Hills, Usri falls and Khandoli Dam

DISCUSSION

Jharkhand could grow to be a highly popular travel destination with so many attractions. Actually, the state offers something for every type of traveller, from eco-tourism to pilgrimages (Pathak, 2009). The potential of tourism is a complex subject that includes elements related to the economy, society, culture, and environment. The tourism industry possesses the capacity to yield substantial financial gains for locations by means of expenses incurred in lodging, dining, travel, amusement, and retail. It generates employment possibilities in a number of industries, including retail, hotel, transportation, and tour guiding.

GIRIDIH

The history of Giridih is intertwined with Hazaribagh as its parent district, and Chotanagpur, often referred to as "Jharkhand" (meaning woodland territory), which was apparently outside the purview of direct Hindu impact in prehistoric India. It is generally accepted that in very early times it was covered with impassable hills and forests, to which numerous non-Aryan tribes retired at various points in time, refusing to submit to the constantly advancing Aryan. These non-Aryan tribes had no king, despite the fact that this tract was connected to several regions of India. Throughout the many years that Hindus have ruled India, Chotanagpur, comprising the Giridih area, seems to have remained unaffected, notwithstanding the possibility that foreign invaders occasionally succeeded in establishing a fictitious state of dominion over it. Jarasandh, the renowned Rajgriha emperor during the Mahabharat era, may have likewise maintained a laidback level of control over the region. In a same vein, Mahapadma Nand Ugrasen of Magadh, who conquered the whole nation up to Odisha, may have also acquired considerable influence over Jharkhand. Yes, it is claimed that the forest states acknowledged Magadh's sovereignty throughout Ashoka's reign (273-232 B.C.), which may support the theory that Chotanagpur was a part of the "Mauryan" and Magadhan empires at least during Ashoka's great era (District Census Handbook Giridih, 2011).

Corresponding Author: Dr. Rabindranath Sarma

1. Research Scholar, Department of Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand

E-mail: rkarchana854@gmail.com, Contact No: 9798730643

2. Associate Professor, Department of Tribal Studies, Central University of Jharkhand

Email: rabindranath.sarma@cuja.ac.in, Contact No: 7549198583

Giridih is ranked fourth in terms of land with 4,962 sq.kms and third in terms of population 24,45,474 in the state of Jharkhand according to the census of 2011. It is the tenth most populous district in the state with 493 people per square kilometre, compared to 414 throughout the state. Against the state's 949 sex ratio, Giridih comes in at number 17 with 944. Furthermore, the region is home to several shrines that welcome pilgrims on a yearly basis. The most popular attractions are Usri Falls, Khandoli Dam, and Parasnath Hills.

Parasnath

Parasnath is the tallest hill in Jharkhand with a height of 4480 feet. One of the most significant and hallowed sites in Jain culture is the Parasnath Temple. It is said by the Jain tradition that out of 24 Tirthankars 23 of them (including Parsavnatha) obtained salvation here (Prasad, 2014).



Image Source: <https://www.hellotravel.com/india/parasnath-temple>

One of the nation's religious hotspots is thought to be the hill of Parasnath. That was allegedly nearly two millennia ago. Because 20 out of the 24 Tirthankaras reached nirvana here through samadhi, or meditative concentration, the site is also known as Sammed Sikhar or Sammet Shikhar, the "peak of concentration." The footprints of ten Ganadhars and twenty-four Tirthankaras who visited the hills can be found in Tonks at Shikharji (Government of Jharkhand, n.d.). Jain devotees travel from all over the world to Parasnath, which is located about 45 km from the industrial township of Dhanbad. The intriguing thing is that it's a great destination for leisure travel as well. The chair of the renowned Jain Tirthankar at the summit of the Parasnath hills, a collection of hillocks that draw large numbers of hikers and thrill-seekers, is Parshwa Nath, home to the temples of all the Jain Tirthankars. Families find the location to be very appealing as well. Therefore, the location is popular for both ordinary enjoyment and heavenly tranquilly (Pathak, 2009).

Khandoli Dam

Khandoli Dam is an extremely lovely and picturesque, famous picnic, spot surrounded by lovely hills 8kms. North of Giridih railway station (Prasad, 2014). Khandoli Dam, situated in Giridih district of Jharkhand, has immense potential to be developed as a tourist destination. Beautiful views of the water reservoir surrounded by hills and verdant surroundings may be seen from the dam. Activities such as boating, kayaking, and other water sports are available in the reservoir. Enhancing the tourist experience can be achieved by creating the necessary infrastructure and guaranteeing safety measures. Creating picnic areas with amenities such as benches, shelters, and restrooms can draw in families and groups for leisure activities like grilling out and lounging. Trekking, rock climbing, and rappelling are great adventure sports that may be done on the mountainous landscape surrounding here. These heart-pounding events would draw in adventure seekers. It is imperative to enhance road accessibility, parking arrangements, and lodging choices in the neighbourhood of Khandoli Dam to bolster tourism development and guarantee the well-being of tourists. By concentrating on these elements and collaborating with nearby communities, governmental organisations, and tourism stakeholders, this Dam has the potential to become a well-liked tourist attraction.

Usri falls

A lovely waterfall and famous picnic spot named Usri falls is situated about 13kms. East Giridih town. It is renowned for its pristine natural beauty, providing breathtaking vistas of tumbling water amidst an abundance of vegetation. By highlighting its visual qualities, one can draw in photographers, painters, and nature enthusiasts. Adventurous tourists can experience additional thrill by exploring chances for activities such as cliff diving, river rafting, and swimming, contingent on the water flow.

Besides Parasnath, Khandoli Dam and Usri falls Madhuban is a village in the district having famous temple believed to be more than 2000 years old. The Somosharan temple and Bhomiyaji Asthan are incredibly beautiful places of attraction.



Image Source: <https://in.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images>

TOURISM POTENTIAL

The social environment of religious practice plays a major role in the religious variety of India, with social structure and personal goals serving as important influences (Shinde, 2015). The prospects of tourism can vary depending on various factors such as global economic conditions, geopolitical stability, technological advancements, environmental concerns, and shifting consumer preferences. Tourism often thrives in periods of economic prosperity when people have more disposable income to spend on travel and leisure activities. Therefore, countries with growing economies have better prospects for tourism. By making travel more accessible, convenient, and interesting, technological breakthroughs like social media marketing, virtual reality tours, mobile apps for trip planning, and online booking platforms can greatly improve the prospects for the tourism business. Investing in infrastructure, such as lodging options, transit systems, and tourism destinations, is essential to drawing tourists and enhancing their overall experience. Destinations that regularly enhance their infrastructure tend to have higher tourism chances. The expansion of tourism depends on political stability and security. Tourist numbers typically fall in areas afflicted by violence, terrorism, or political turmoil, whereas those in serene situations tend to draw larger numbers of visitors. As people's awareness of environmental issues has grown, there has been a shift in the travel industry towards sustainable practices. Eco-aware tourists are likely to be drawn to destinations that value environmental preservation and encourage responsible tourism, which will improve those destinations' long-term prospects.

The tourism sector is undergoing changes due to the preferences of Millennials and travellers, who prioritise unique experiences, adventurous travel, and cultural immersion above traditional mass tourism. Travel destinations that can accommodate these changing desires will reap the rewards. By upsetting travel habits and making people prioritise safety and hygiene, calamities like pandemics, natural disasters, or health-related crises can have a major negative influence on tourism prospects. Recoveries happen faster in destinations that efficiently control health risks and alert guests about safety precautions.

The future of tourism is influenced by government activities such as marketing campaigns, the easing of visa requirements, and financial incentives for tourism growth. The tourism industry can flourish if the government takes proactive measures to encourage it.

Overall, despite a number of obstacles, such as shifting consumer habits and global crises, the tourism sector is still strong and active with enormous growth potential, especially in areas that place a high priority on sustainability, innovation, and visitor happiness.

CONCLUSION

Giridih is one of the developing cities for trade and business nowadays. One of the most promising tourism destinations, according to the government, is Giridih. The city has become one of the main cities in the state of Jharkhand due to its rapid urban expansion and modernization. The Giridih district boasts a wealth of cultural legacy. Encouraging the neighbouring historical landmarks, temples, and traditional villages might draw in tourists who have a passion for the past. Preserving the area's natural beauty and ecological balance requires the implementation of sustainable tourist practices and the promotion of eco-friendly activities it can be one of the most adorable and appealing tourism destination of the state. By offering chances for entrepreneurship, cultural preservation, and community development, tourism may strengthen local communities. Community-based tourism initiatives enable locals to actively engage in and reap the benefits of tourism.

REFERENCES

1. (2011). *District Census Handbook Giridih*.
2. *District Giridih, Government of Jharkhand*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://giridih.nic.in/about-district/>
3. *Government of Jharkhand*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://giridih.nic.in/history/>
4. Pathak, S. S. (2009). Tourism in Jharkhand- An Evaluative Study. *Jharkhand Journal of Social Development*.
5. Prasad, D. K. (2014). *Tourism in Jharkhand*. New Delhi: Rajesh Publications.
6. Shinde, K. (2015). Religious tourism and religious tolerance: Insights from pilgrimage sites from India. *Tourism Review*.
7. HYPERLINK "<https://www.hellotravel.com/india/parasnath-temple>" <https://www.hellotravel.com/india/parasnath-temple>
8. <https://in.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images>