

POHARADEVI - A STUDY IN PILGRIMAGE TOURISM CENTRE IN MAHARASHTRA

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Poharadevi is one of the important and well known pilgrimage of Maharashtra particularly worshiped and devoted by Banjara Samaj. It is a wholly and pious place for Banjara community. The people belong to Banjara tribe come in crowd of thousands and takes all places of India to worship deily of Poharadevi. The present research paper depicts the important of Poharadevi as a one of the pilgrimages of Banjara community in India.

Poharadevi a holy village in a Maharashtra, has been emerged out as pilgrimage center. Since it is associated with 'Sevabhaya' and 'Jagdamba devi' Temple a diety worshiped by the millions of people from all over the state and outside the state as well.

During the last one decades Poharadevi has witnessed remarkable changes in population number occupational structure, business structure etc. Geography is mainly related to the study of cause-effect-relationship of various phenomena in the context of space and time. The present study aims at analyzing various aspects of Poharadevi pilgrimage center.

Following Hindu calendar one major fairs have been held in a year in Poharadevi, of which Ramnavmi fair (held in march). The remaining three fairs are also characterized by the visit of thousand devotees. More than Two lakes people used to visit Poharadevi annually.

STUDY AREA

For the Research essay Poharadevi, the religious hill station has been selected Vashim Dist. Is situated in Maharashtra state at east region. Poharadevi is situated in Vashim District at Manora Taluka the latitude 20°8'15" west zone wide and 77°37'30" longitude. The total Geographical field of this village is about 550 het. And the year of 2001, the population and this village is 4726. And the total houses are 675 and there is a religion school for the lodging of pilgrims. The temple of Jagadambadevi is built in the middle of the village by the monumental temple of the Saint Sevalal Maharaj. The fair is arranged on the occasion of the Ramnavami in Chaitra Shukla Paksha. This fair is helled for seven days continuously. The number of the pilgrims comes to this fair from the different states and districts.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

A Geographical study is based on field work. This is also true with pilgrimage phenomena for this a good knowledge of religious background, behavioral pattern of pilgrims and the language (for Interview) is necessary for the present study. The required data has been collected from primary and secondary sources.

1. Questionnaire was prepared and filled up by pilgrims and the residents of Poharadevi.
2. Secondary data was collected from available published and unpublished materials.
3. Cartographic Techniques are used wherever possible.

The collected information is finally tabulated analyzed and conclusions have drawn.

OBJECTIVE

The major objective of the study is to make Geographical evaluation of Poharadevi as pilgrimage center. However, following are the specific objective of the study.

1. To examine the influence of pilgrimage on structure and function of Poharadevi.
2. To Asses the Importance of pilgrimage in the economy of the religious village.
3. To study the role of village devotees in the development of the village.
4. To study the worship method of pilgrims at Poharadevi.
5. To study the transport exchange and lodging exchange and its return facilities.
6. To study the pilgrims in view of social and Geographically importance's

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS IN POHARADEVI

- 1) Gudipadawa : The new year begins
[Chaitra Shukla Pratipada)
- 2) Shri Ramnavami : Birth day the 'Rama'
[Chaitra Shukla Navami)
- 3) Ghatastapana : The memory monument setup of Jagadamba

Devi The worship of Jagadambadevi [Ashiwn shudha Pratipada]

In this spaitual religious tourist the festhival of Gudi padwa is celebrated since the first day of marathi month till the seventh day from morning to evening at six o' clock the ritual worship is completed with the praying song that is called kakada 'Arati' And many ritual songs and Kirtan have been performed till. The Ramanavami Festival many devotees are present in this programme of the Ram Navami Fair festival.

Saint Sevalal Maharj died in Chaitra Shukla Chaudas . In this chaitra month the fair is arranged on the occusion of the Ramnavami . To this the Ram navami fair thousands of pilgrims come from different states. On this fair the Dindi (group of rituals singers) comes . Through the Dindi the people sing the

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spiritual sons of saint sevalal maharaj. The duotees sing and memorise the name of saint Sevalal Maharaj and they spend three night in this programme without any rest that is called 'Jagaran'. The worship of the God is completed of morning on six oclock daily. The Jagadamba is worrshipted with Kapur Arti (With sented). the Goas are sacrificed to please the Goddess Gagadamba devi and Shamaki Mata after the next day of the Ram navami. In Ashwin (September – Oct.) month on the occussion of Ghattstapana . The Goddess is worshiped to setup in the Ghat pot. And on the dashara (Vijaydashmi) The ravana is fired ritually. The 'Bhandra (mell programme) is arranged on the last day that is called samapati. The Arati of Jagadamba devi is done daily at six a.m. And at six p.m.

It is regarded that Sevalal Maharaj was born on 15th feb, 1739. This day is (Clebrated the birth anniuersary of Sevalal Maharaj i.e. called Jayanti of Sevalal Maharaj, on this Jaiyanti seven miss girls enter in the temple of sevalal and tie the cradles they sing the songs on the name of Sevalal Maharaj and worship him.

For this fair, the pilgrims come from the different part of Maharashtra state and neighboring state of Andra Pradesh, Karnatak, Goa etc.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PILGRIMS

The study of spatial distribution of pilgrims helps to understand the nature of how many pilgrims come from various parts of the country to Poharadevi. Following table shown in 2007 from different part of India.



VIEWS OF PLIGRIMS REGARDING FACILITIES:

In this study an attempt has been made to understand various facilities like accommodation, transportation, Darshan facility, food and drinking water, shopping, behavior of the local people with the pilgrims. Personal safety and general view about poharadevi. The pilgrim's opinion about these facilities were noted in the year 2007. These were classified as excellent good satisfactory and unsatisfactory and noted in percentage.

In Poharadevi there is no good lodging facilities about 8% people say it is a good lodging facilities and about 2% pilgrims restyle to live here and 69% percentage show dish owing and lodging facilities only one Dharmashala is available in Poharadevi, so pilgrim live in this male however about 69% people on the open ground outside the village. They half according to their time probate they live about three day. It shows that there is free accommodation and other facilities. But these facilities can not provides to the pilgrims some where for light and drinking water provides to the pilgrims and somewhere it mill not facilities in it pilgrims both level in Dharmashalas and open ground slove their own problem on their own level and complete their basic urgent needs.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENEDATION

The present given different types of the facilities to the pilgrims are so important. Though poharadevi has become the main transport religious village, here is lock of the railway route. The buses of M.S.R.T. are not available as per timetable in the festival duration. And it is necessary to build the railway route at poharadev.

To lodge in poharadevi, we have only one Dharmashala that is why the lodging problem is increasing per pilgrims. As per my knowledge, the following lodging facilities should be given to the pilgrims.

* To increase the numbers of Dharmashala by the side of Sevalal Maharaj's temple and Jagadambadevi's temple.

* The hotels, Lodges should be available in large number.

• The temporary living fascilities should be available at Umari which is 3 km. Pr from poharadivi.

The local religious trust should be paid the attention on the market of the devotional goods and daily needs items that whether the shopkeepers sell the goods in proper prices or not.

The pilgrims are satisfied with existing facilities provided at transportation darshan facility opinion about the village food and drinking water facilities. Shopping facilities and about the personal safety the pilgrims seem to be satisfactory.

Table
IMPORTANT FAIR IN POHARADEVI

Sr. No.	Name of fair	Duration of Fair	Month	Attendance by people
1.	Gudi Padwa	1	Marh-april (Chaitra shdha Pratipada)	5 hundred
2.	Ram Navami	7	March-April (Chaitra navami)	3 Lakh
3.	Sevabhaya Janti	1	Feb-March (Chaitra)	20 hundred

TABLE
STATE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PILGRIMS.

Sr. No.	State	Actual Number of Contact	Percentage
1.	Maharashtra	233	57
2.	Karnataka	41	10
3.	Andhara Pradesh	109	27
4.	Madha Pradesh	17	04
5.	Goa and Other	10	02
	Total	410	100%

Source : completed by author

VIEW OF PILGRIMS REGARDING FACILITIES (March – 2007)

Table

Sr.	Categories Behaviour	Excellent Percentage	Good Percentage	Satisfactory Percentage	Unsatisfactory Percentage
1.	Accommodation Facilities.	00	8	23	69
2.	Transport Facilities	38	51	9	2
3.	Darshan Facilities	5	18	62	15
4.	Opinion about Village	15	32	48	5
5.	Food & Drinking Water facilities	4	24	70	2
6.	Behaviour of citizen	4	32	57	7
7.	Shopping facilities	7	76	12	5
8.	Personal safety	20	68	10	2

Source : Completed by Aurthor

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