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## Study of Ecotourism Development in Radhanagari Tehsil of Kolhapur District (Maharashtra)

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### **Abstract:**

*Today, Tourism is one of the key sectors generating revenue and employment. Ecotourism is about uniting conservation, communities and sustainable travel. Kolhapur District being rich in heritage, culture and scenic beauties makes it one of the most preferred tourist destinations. This paper studies the concept of ecotourism and its various attractive places in Radhanagari Tehsil.*

**Keywords:** Ecotourism, Tourism, Radhanagari

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

The global phenomena of tourism is characterised by its size and complexity as an economic sector. Sustainable principles must be used in the strategic planning stage of the tourism development process in order for it to succeed over the long run. to promote the most effective methods for developing sustainable tourism An extremely successful method for preventing or mitigating the negative effects brought on by tourists is voluntary initiative and standards of behaviour.

In the 1990s, tourism received increasing attention especially in developing countries as it is has potential for generating income while creating incentives for conservation. It is argued that tourism allows for the use of areas, which are otherwise of low values, such as remote beaches, but perfectly meet the demands of the growing travel industry (WWF, 1995) In India, for instance, there has been a large increase in international tourism in the last few years. In the year 2002, there has

been a 14.6 % increase in international tourist arrivals along with 22.4% growth in foreign exchange and most of this increase is due to India's system of National Parks and variety of biodiversity present in these parks. Nature based tourism a sub-sector of tourism can be an important channel for redistributing resources from countries who demand higher nature based vacation to developing countries, which comprise mega biodiversity regions and protected parks (Gosling, 1999). This is because overwhelming majorities of species are located in developing countries. But these Developing Countries face more serious problems like rapid population growth, debts, over-exploitation of Wildlife resources, agricultural expansion, deforestation etc. which result in the loss of valuable, biodiversity and degradation of national parks. Industrialized countries on the other hand are characterized by high amt increasing demands for nature-based vacations, with protected areas representing first-rate attraction (WWF, 1995). Tourism could therefore be a means of redistributing economic, resources, mitigating the Socio-economic situation both at local and national scale and contributing to biodiversity conservation.

### **1.1 Concept of Eco- Tourism:**

The term "ecotourism" has been defined in a number of ways. The International Society for Ecotourism (1991) "A responsible tourism in natural environment which preserves it and participates to the wellbeing of local populations"

It can be described as, per the World Conservation Union (1996), "the visit of natural environments remained relatively intact with a allow negative impact including a Socio-economical implication for the local populations which is at the same time active & beneficial."

### **1.2 Importance of the Study:**

The rich forest areas and biological diversities have been relentlessly divested to erect concrete walls. The continues denuding of forest reserves as led to Global warming and green house effects, If the Have to solve these cover then the only solution is "Ecotourism"

Radhanagari is the one of the Tehsil of Kolhapur, which is located near hills of western Ghat. It is having lots of potential to become the important ecotourist place In Radhanagari nature is god's endowment. This tahasil having lots of spots which could be developed and conserved Rautwadi waterfall, Radhanagari Dam, Kalamawadi Dam, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary are some of the important places. But this tehsil is also having lots of problem like deforestation, over-exploitation of wild resources, illegal hunting, Rapid population growth, loss of biodiversity, Agricultural expansion, and unemployment so by this project wok we have tried to suggest the permanent solution for these problems.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To examine the key issues involved in the development of Eco-tourism in Radhanagari

Tahasil in Kolhapur District.

2. To identify potential rural areas in Kolhapur districts for the development of rural tourism
3. To suggest recommendations and develop a suitable business model for Eco- Tourism focusing on tourism development agencies

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION-**

For the present Paper the data has been collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected from the selected respondents by preparing self-prepared structured questionnaire. Total 100 respondents have been selected by using Simple Random Sampling Method. Primary data was collected by visiting the eco tourist places of Radhanagari Tahasil as well photographs has been taken for the further observation. The collected data has analyzed by using Microsoft excel.

### **4.0 TOURIST ATTRACTION PLACE IN RADHANAGARI:**

Previously, Shrimant Rajarshri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, the king of Kolhapur, chose the jungle of Radhanagari as his preferred hunting location. 19.61 square kilometres were designated as a sanctuary in 1958. After that, the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary was established by the Maharashtra government in 1985 after taking into account the significance of the local flora and fauna. The sanctuary is located in the catchment areas of the Laxmi Reservoir, Radhanagari, and Rajarshri Shahu Sagar's Kalamawadi. This is Maharashtra's first historical sanctuary. It is present in 18 hotspot regions around the world. the importance of biological and ecological value on a global scale. This refuge is only known for its Gaur fame (Bison).

The sanctuary's geographic area is divided into protected, restricted, and unclassified forests. Both plant and animal life abound in the refuge. The sanctuary's woodland is divided into three types: west coast tropical evergreen forest, wet mixed deciduous forest, and southern tropical semi-evergreen forest. The tops of the plateaus in this area are lateritic in origin. Small grasses and stunted *Syzygium* and mandolin flora are typical on such plateaus, which are known locally as *sadas*. The indigenous and therapeutic plants are very significant to this refuge. 425 various plants species can be found there.

Sanctuary is habitat to 66 species of butterflies, 264 species of birds, 59 species of reptiles, and 47 species of mammals. Typically, the rainy season is when amphibians are found. The sanctuary has a total of 20 species from 2 orders, 5 families, and 10 genera. Tiger, Panther, Mouse, Deer, Sambar, and Giant Squirrel are significant creatures present in this region, but the sanctuary is best known for its "Indian Gaur (Bison)" There are many tourist attractions in the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary that receive a lot of visitors each year. The Paper highlights important attractions that researchers looked into.

❖ **Laxmi Darshan Point:**

One could see the gorgeous "Laxmi Reservoir" here from. This Laxmi Reservoir is next to the temple built by Rajarshri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. Tourists can now view and study the Gaur (Bison). At this Point, Margajache Pani is another draw. At this moment, the biggest draw is the crocodiles. Thus, Margajache Pani, where water is available year-round, is another name for this location.

❖ **Vaghache Pani:**

This site, formed of Be salt Rocks, is located on a plateau of refuge. On this hilltop is also the reservoir that Rajarshri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj built. This reservoir is next to the manora and guard tower. Tourists can see tigers, panthers, mice, deer, wild bears, etc. here. Tourists can observe the sea from Vengurla Harbour, Sambar Kund, Konkani Darshan, and Radhanagari Darshan Point at this location. Because the tigers visit this location for water, it is known as Veghache Pani.

❖ **Konkan Darshan Point:**

From here, you can watch the sunset. This sunset position is remarkably comparable to the Bombay sunset point at Mahabaleshwar, a hill station in Satara district. From here, one may observe the stunning Konkani landscape, including the Shivgad Fort, Phoda Ghat, Malavans Sea View, and Gagangad, among others.

❖ **Sambar Kund:**

Karvi, Ghaneri, Rametha, Kumkum, Kadipata, Tamalpatri, Shembisal, Amsul, Honey, etc. are abundant at this location. It is referred to as "Konkani Dry Fruit." Sambars frequently come here to get water to drink. This place is also known as Sambar Kund for this reason.

❖ **Mahadev Temple:**

Rajarshri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj developed the Mahadev temple near the water reservoir. Each year, a large number of pilgrims visit this temple. Near Kittan Nala, on the way to Manora, is the Mahadev Temple. Visitors can observe from Laxmi Darshan Point. Sambar Kund, Konkani Darshan, Vaghache Pani, etc.

❖ **Ugavai Temple:**

About 1.5 kilometres south of the village of Dajipur, on top of a hill, sits the Ugavai Temple. This area has abundant natural resources. From here, one may observe the Radhanagari region, the Sahyadris ranges, and Phonda-Ghat in opposite directions. At this location, a large number of monkeys are seen close to Cold Water Lake.

❖ **Kalamawadi Dam & Mini Vrundavan Garden:**

The 46800 sq. m garden similar to the Vrundavan Garden of Mysore is built 3 km away from

Radhanagari at Kalamawadi. Thousands of tourists visit this park each year; amenities including swings, mercury lamps, a swimming pool, various colored flower plants, medicinal herbs, etc. are developed.

❖ **Dudhaganga Dam and Hydroelectric Power Station:**

This dam was built in the Radhanagari sanctuary, close to the community of Aasangon. Another name for this dam is Rajarshri Shahu Sagar Reservoir. This reservoir has a 28 TMC water storage capacity. At the base of this dam is a hydroelectric power plant. Sixty-nine million pieces have been produced since it was founded. Electricity production totals 12 Megawatts annually. The use of hydroelectric power plants. The region around this dam is abundant in natural beauty. Radhanagari Dam is 10 km away, while Kalamwadi Nodal Point is 8 km from this dam. Up to the dam, there are bus amenities. Tourists go to the hydroelectric power plant and dam.

❖ **Radhanagari Dam and Hydroelectric Power Station:**

In Fejiwade, Rajarshri Shahu Maharaj constructed the Radhanagari Dam, an iconic structure. Another name for this dam is the Laxmi Reservoir. The dam has a 7 TMC water storage capacity. It is composed of earth, this dam. The western side of the dam is covered in a thick rainforest. The hydroelectric power plant and the dam are popular tourist destinations.

The Radhanagari facility is the earliest hydroelectric power plant in Maharashtra. It is located at the base of the dam. In actuality, this power plant in 1952 generated 4.8 megawatts of electricity.

❖ **Rautwadi Waterfall:**

This waterfall is nearby to the village of Rautwadi. The natural greenery in this area is abundant, and there are several birds to be seen.

❖ **Ramanwadi Waterfall:**

This waterfall, which is 5 metres high and is close to the village of Ramanwadi, is located nearby. Many tourists come here, especially during the rainy season. There is abundant natural flora and a dense rainforest in this location.

❖ **Shivagad Fort:**

Another major tourist attraction is the Shivagad Fort, which was constructed by Shilahar King Second Bhoj. In close proximity to this fort is the Shiv temple. So, Shivagad is the name given to this fort in popular culture. Located at a height of 728 metres above mean sea level, this fort is 95 kilometres from Kolhapur City. Shivagad's sharpness is rectangular in shape. It's close to the Shivagad Ghat. However, visitors are ignorant of this fort's history.

## 5.0 DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

According to filled questionnaire from tourist place of Radhanagari Tehsil the result are following.

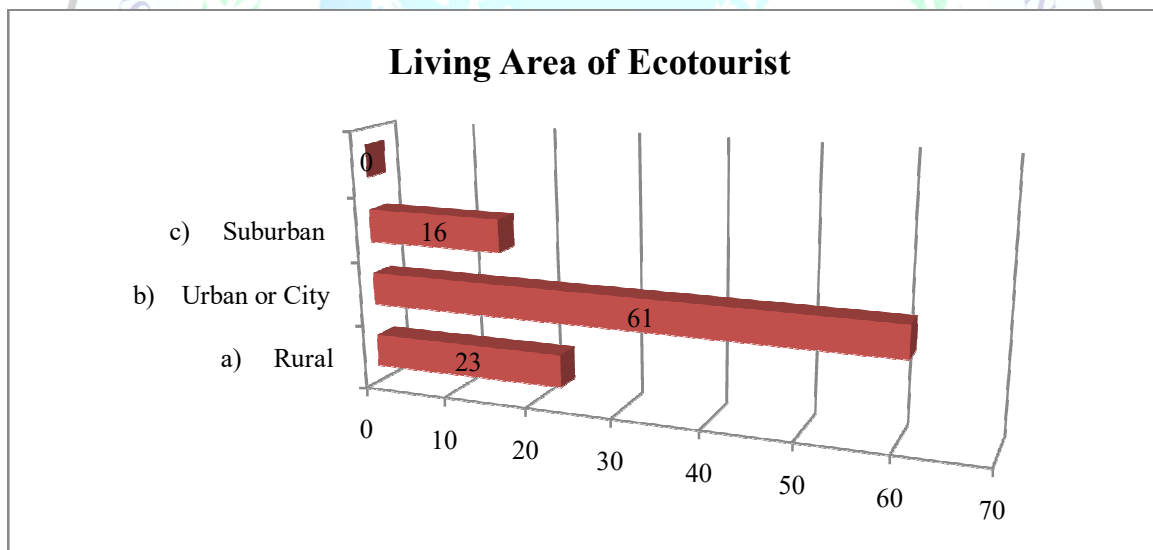
### 5.1 Living Area of Tourists:

**Table 5.1**  
**Living area wise tourist's distribution**

Area	Frequency	Area wise (%)
a) Rural	23	23
b) Urban or City	61	61
c) Suburban	16	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The table no.5.1 indicates that the information about living area wise distribution.

**Graph 5.1**



When we analyzed living area of Tourists we find that most of the tourists have arethere urban or city. This is about 61% Urban or city area as tourists. Were 23% is rural area and Suburban tourists were as 16%.

### 5.2 Ecotourism and Nature Opportunities:

With ecotourism, communities, sustainable travel, and conservation are all combined. Careers in ecotourism offer a variety of benefits, including the chance to positively impact local wildlife, habitats, and communities; the adventure and excitement of travel; the chance to forge deep global connections; and perhaps even the chance to learn more about employability opportunities in the region.

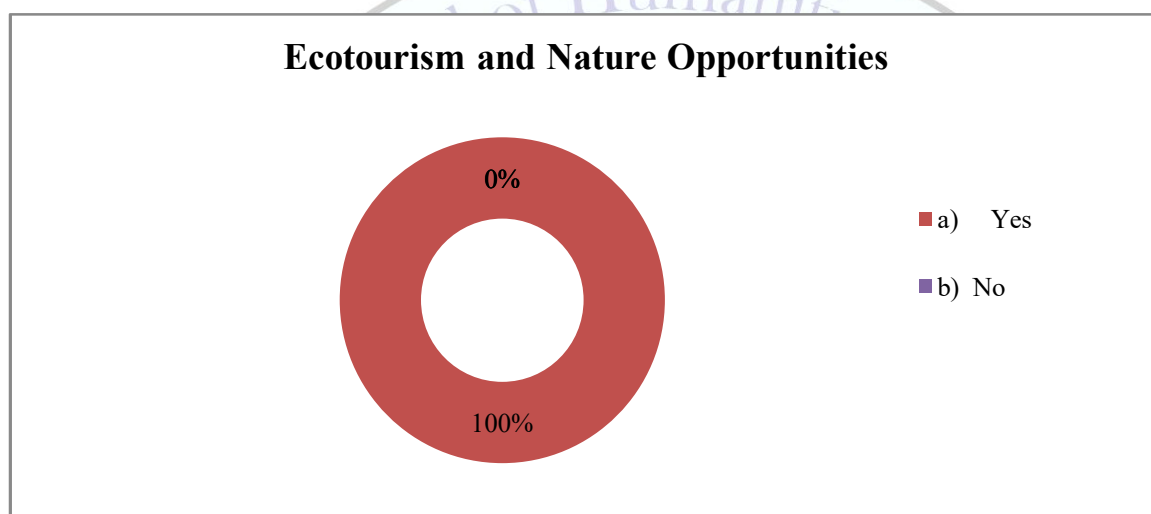
**Table 5.2**

**Growing number wise Ecotourism and Nature opportunities distribution**

Type	Frequency	(%)
a) Yes	100	100
b) No	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table No. 5.2 indicates that the Ecotourism and Nature Opportunities within the Radhanagari

**Graph 5.2**



Above table showing 100 % tourists respondent agree.

**5.3 Services Available (easily):**

To determine how often visitors use the many facilities that Radhanagari has made accessible to them. The surveys aimed to obtain the respondents' opinions on the availability of accommodations, food, travel guides, souvenir sales, health care, transportation, and other services.

**Table 5.3**

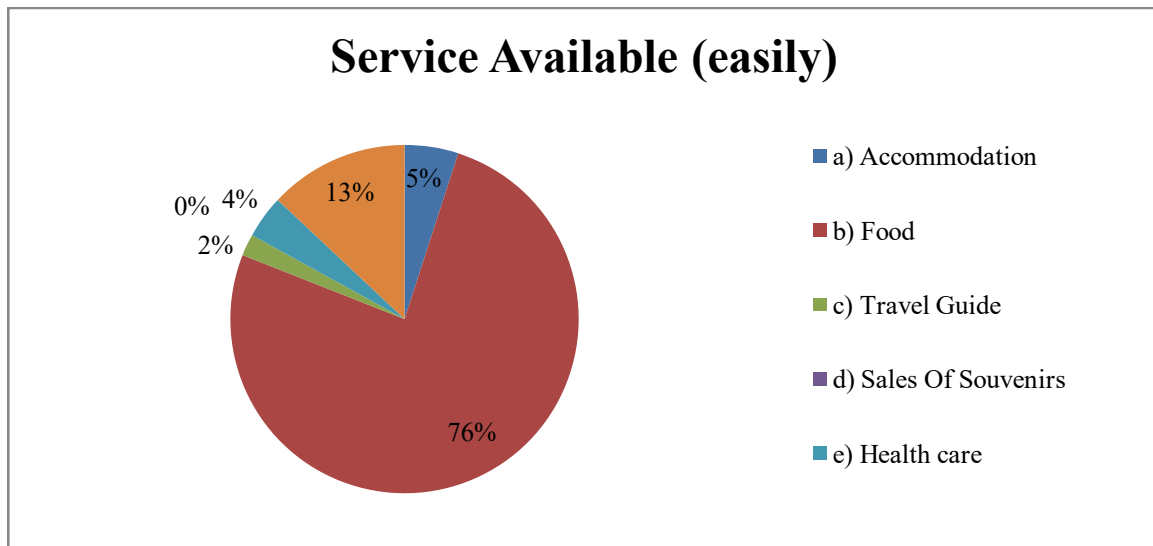
**Services availability wise Tourists distribution**

Service	Frequency	Service (%)
a) Accommodation	5	5
b) Food	76	76
c) Travel Guide	2	2
d) Sales of Souvenirs	0	0
e) Health Care	4	4
f) Transportation and rental vehicles	13	13

g) Others	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table no. 5.3 shows that the information about kind of services easily available.

**Graph 5.3**



In this table in Radhanagari tehsil following services are easily available. Food, accommodation, transportation, and rental vehicles, Health care, travel guides and remaining sales and other services.

#### 5.4 About Place (Source of first come):

In tourism, the source of knowledge about a location is crucial. Tourists may be directed to a specific location by an information source's credibility and persuasiveness. Out of the various sources or information, the respondents' opinions were gathered and presented in order to determine the primary source of information to visit a specific location.

**Table No. 5.4**

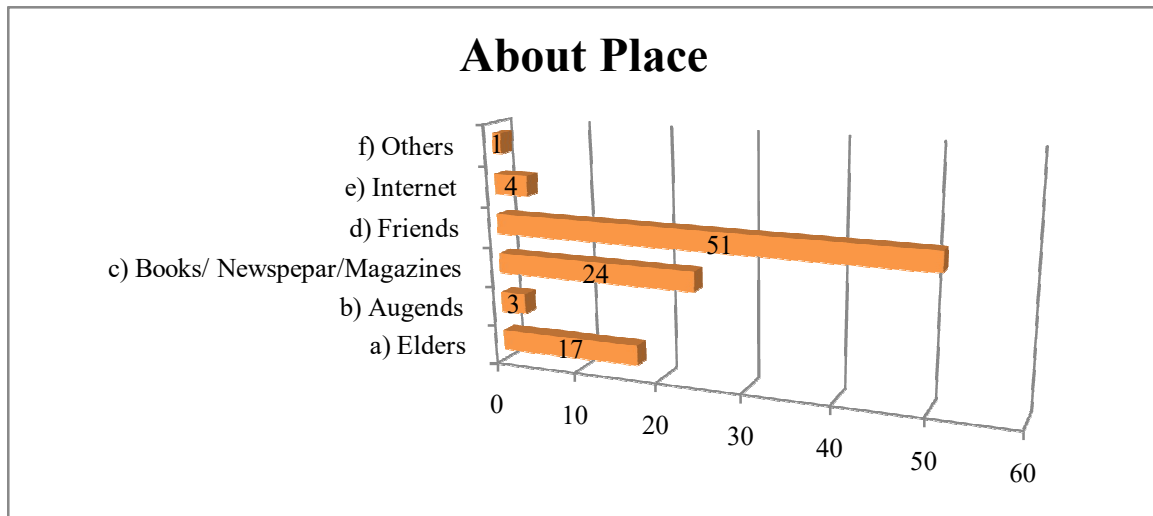
**Source wise Tourists distribution**

Source	Frequency	Source of Information (%)
a) Elders	17	17
b) Augends	3	3
c) Books/ Newspaper / Magazines	24	24
d) Friends	51	51
e) Internet	4	4
f) Others	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



Table No. 5.4 indicates that the source information about this Place.

**Graph 5.4**



Above table shows 51 % respondents agreed that they got information from friends, 24% respondents say they got information from Books/ Newspaper/ Magazines. 17 % respondents say they got information Elders. Then 4% respondents they got information from by Internet and 3 % respondent agreed they got information augends monitors and very less respondent that is meaning 1% respondent agree they got information other source.

### 5.5 Most Attractive Aspects

Most attractive aspects of tourists are also important bases of ecotourism segmenting

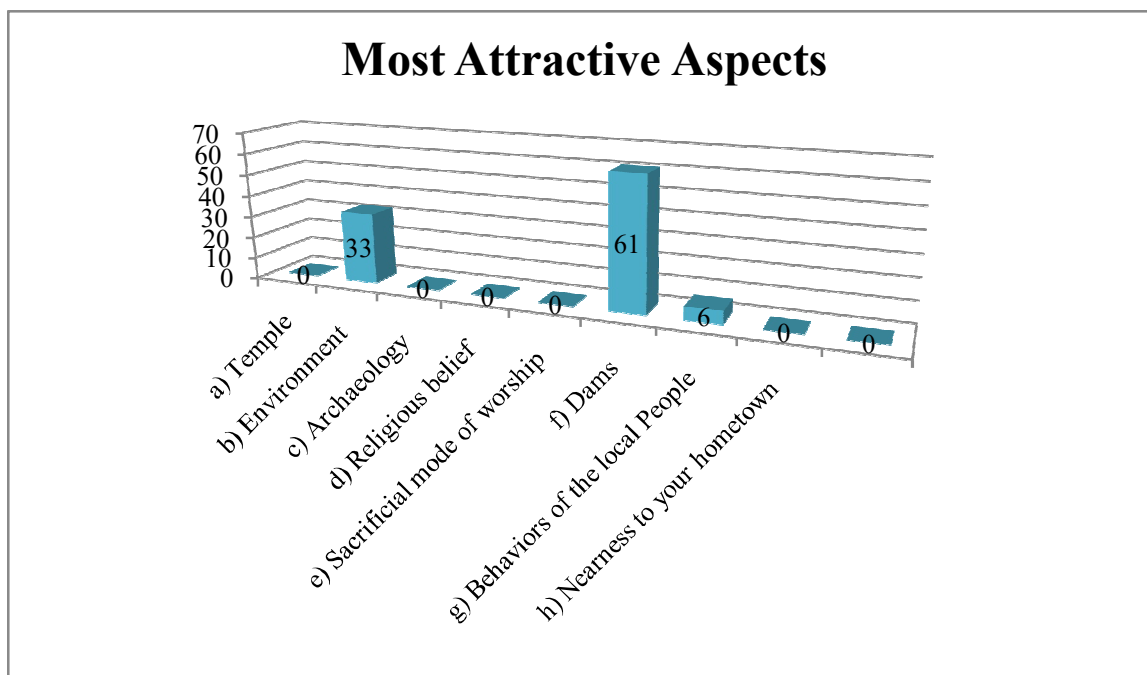
**Table 5.5**

**Most Attractive aspects wise distribution**

Aspects	Frequency	Percentage
a) Temple	-	-
b) Environment	33	33
c) Archaeology	-	-
d) Religious belief	-	-
e) Sacrificial mode of worship	-	-
f) Dams	61	61
g) Behaviors of the local People	6	6
h) Nearness to your hometown	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table no. 5.5 indicates that the information about attractive aspects.

Graph 5.5



Above table shows top level 61 % tourist respondents the most attractive aspects are dams. 33% tourist they attractive aspects for Environment and very less respondents that is 6 % attractive aspects are Behaviors of the local People.

#### 6.0 FINDINGS:

1. Eco tourists living in urban and Sub-Urban areas mostly visit in Radhanagari tehsil. (5.1)
2. 100 % Ecotourist response is agree about ecotourism and Nature Opportunities within the Radhanagari.(5.2)
3. It was the observed that the Food items in Radhanagari tehsil attract a large number of eco tourists. (5.3)
4. Through Friends, half the people gave information about the tourist spot in Radhanagari tehsil. (5.4)
5. The Dam and Environment in Radhanagari tehsil attracts a large number of Ecotourists. (5.5)

#### 7.0 SUGGESTIONS:

In this study, tourist attractions and tourism potential are evaluated from the perspective of regional development in Radhanagari Tehsil. The study is focused on evaluating the tourist attractions, and it includes research on possible tourist attractions as well as religious, historical, and centre studies. There are some limitations that develop, and solutions are recommended:

1. In these all-village citizens and tourists, one committee should be appointed for the promotion of ecotourism, in which one administrator (Ministry of Tourism and Forest, Government of Maharashtra) and a few locals with NGO should be appointed.

2. They should receive training to function correctly as tour guides, hosts of tourists, and tour operators.
3. The tourist data analysis reveals that there is lack of population of the Radhanagari region. Therefore it is suggested that the wide publicity through various media should be made vigorously to attract Eco-tourist from Maharashtra.
4. They should make aware about conservation and management of the forest area.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION:

As tourism destinations, Radhanagari Tehsil is growing. Due to its numerous attractions and historical sites, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary is a popular tourist destination. Daily increases in the number of visitors to the wildlife refuge. There is now a pressing need for the government to establish Radhanagari and Dajipur wildlife refuges as the foundation for ecotourism.

Community-based tourism is a new specialization that focuses primarily on local economic growth and complete local engagement in tourism-related activities. The information is provided here for the benefit of the local resources. This is applicable to India's forests, particularly those in the Himalayan and Western Ghat regions. Due of this, an effort has been made to utilise Radhanagari tehsil to enhance ecotourism.

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