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## IMPACT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF MANSAR LAKE

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### ABSTRACT

*Mansar Lake is a religious tourism site located in Samba District. It is one of fresh water lake. It is a famous religious tourism destination of Jammu Region. Increasing tourism posing a serious threat to the environment. The flow of effluents, garbage, and solid wastage in Mansar Lake is a cause of concern for Environmentalists. Mansar Lake which is spread over 59 hectares. The Local resident of the area said that its space is sinking day by day. The present study pertains to highlights the impact of religious tourism in the environment of Mansar Lake and also suggests various measures to be taken for the conservation of holy Shrine Lake Mansar Lake.*

**KEYWORDS:** Environment, Destination, Conservation, Tourism, etc.

### INTRODUCTION

Lakes are a body of relatively still fresh or salt water of large size, localized in a basin that is surrounded by Land. Lakes are inland and not part of the Ocean and therefore are different from lagoons, and are larger and deeper than ponds. The word Lake comes from Middle English Lake (“Lake, Pond, waterway”), from old English Lacu (“pond, pool, stream”), Also related are the English words Leak and Leach.

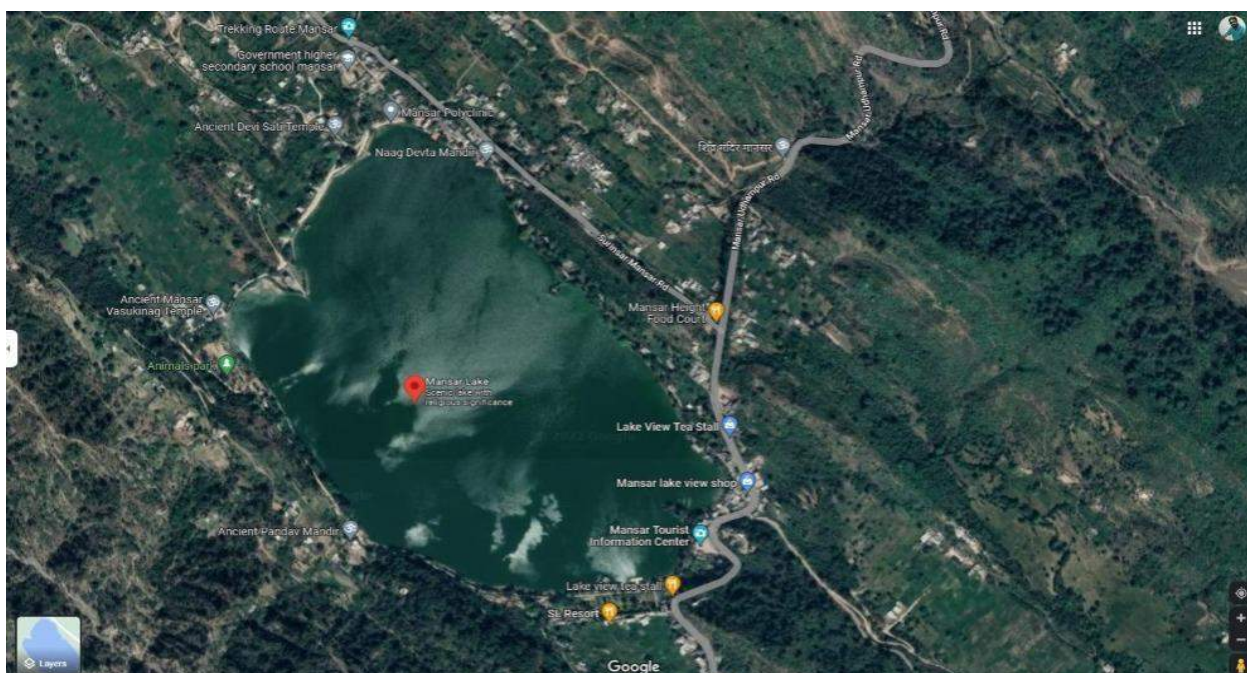
Natural Lakes, which flourish on the earth, were created by tectonic, volcanic, glacial, or other phenomena. The Pleistocene glaciations are far the most significant of the Lake producing processes. In more modern times, however, man has formed numerous impoundments and reservoirs for a variety of purposes. A reservoir is defined as an impoundment with a mean annual minimum pool of 202 ha (500a). Lakes are multifaceted ecosystems with many species of animals and plants interact with each other and their atmosphere. Every lake is a unique body of water, reflecting many of the description of the water shed and the climate, as well as the shape and volume of the lake basin. Water chemistry, Physical Characteristics, and biological Community in lakes vary seasonally, as well as by water depth, throughout the year, External factors such as sunshine, wind, air temperature and water inflows combine with the inner forces such as evaporation rates, currents, nutrient release from sediments, nutrient uptake

by algae, and plant-animal interactions to produce an intricate web of relationships. Man's dependence and association with the lake has been started since the creation of civilization, the growing world population and over exploitation of lake recourses demand for human habitation and permanent change of landscape could be recognized as the inherited problems during the past few decade (Sarma and Saikia,2008) due to anthropogenic by the tourist. People use these lakes for various purpose like irrigation, washing of clothes, bathing animals and boating (Kumari and Lal,2008). Therefore, appropriate measures should be adopted to conserve and preserve the religious lake Mansar as important natural recourses.

Mansar lake is a religious tourism site located in Udhampur District. It is one of fresh water Lake. It is a famous religious tourist destination of Jammu region. Increasing tourism posing a serious threat to the environment. The flow of effluents, garbage, and solid wastage in Mansar Lake is a cause of concern for Environmentalists. Mansar Lake which spread over 59 hectares. The Local resident of the area said that its space is sinking day by day. The present study pertains to highlights the impact of religious tourism on the environment and also suggests various measures to be taken for conservation of holy shrine lake Mansar.

## STUDY AREA

Mansar Lake in Udhampur District is situated 62 Kms from winter capital Jammu and 36 Kms from Udhampur. An area of 59 hectares covered by religious Lake. Mansar Lake is between  $32.6961^{\circ}\text{N}$ ,  $75.1468^{\circ}\text{E}$  and Elevation of 666 meters above mean sea level in Shivalik terrain. The maximum depth of the Lake is 38.25 meters. Sheshnag is located on the eastern bank of the Lake. Two ancient temples of Umapati Mahadev and Narasimha, and a temple of Durga is also Located in the close vicinity of Lake.



**Fig.1: Location of the study Area**

**OBJECTIVES**

- To Study the Evolution of Mansar Lake.
- To Study the impact of religious tourism in the Environment of Mansar Lake.

**METHODOLOGY**

Methodology in general is a guide line system for solving a problem with specific components such as phases, tasks, methods, techniques and scientific tools. In order of fulfill the above objectives following methodology has been charted out: -

**SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION**

The present paper is based on primary and secondary source of data. There after a Primary Survey was conducted to gauge the People’s Perception regarding the impact of tourism in the Environment of Mansar Lake. The total number of the household in Mansar Lake village is 173, out of which 86 household were surveyed. Questioner was divided into socio-economic and environmental aspects; the question was framed related to the impact of tourism on Mansar Lake environment. The respondents were of various age groups occupations and education back ground.

Following are the quantitative techniques were used to study the different aspects of study:

**Average:** The average was calculated by the following formula:

$$\bar{x} = \sum X/N$$

Where  $\bar{x}$ = Mean of Average X = Sum of all Values.

**1 PEOPLE PERCEPTION ABOUT THE IMPACT OF TOURISM IN MANSAR LAKE TABLE:1**

**Socio-Economic Status of People residing in Mansar Village.**

Questions	Options	Response in (%)
1) Native State	Jammu and Kashmir	80
	Migrant	10
	Any other Specify	10
2) Religion	Hindu	76
	Muslim	24
	Christian	Nil
	Sikh	Nil
3) Educational Status	Literate	70
	Illiterate	30
	10 <sup>th</sup> pass	10
	12 <sup>th</sup> Pass	10
4) Type of Tourist	Religious Tourist	60

	Other	40
5)Occupation	Farming	30
	Labourer	60
	Army	4
	Any other specify	6

**TABLE 2**

**General Awareness of Mansar Village residents with special reference to the Lake**

Questions	Options	Response in (%)
Do You Know the Benefits of Lake?	Yes	10
	No	90
Do You know what is pollution?	Yes	10
	No	92
Do You Know the effects of Pollution ?	Yes	10
	No	92
4) Do You apply Fertilizers and Pesticides in your filed? If so, in what doses?	a) yes, more than required	90
	B )yes, less than required	Nil
	c) No	Nil.
	d) Sometimes as required	10

**TABLE 3**

**Perception of Respondents regarding impact of religious tourism in the environment of Mansar Lake.**

Questions	Options	Response in (%)
1) Significance of Mansar Lake	Recreation site	40
	Religious Site	60
	Any other Specify	Nil
2) Positive effects of Mansar Lake	Good recreation site	70
	Good irrigation	10
3) Where do local people throw their waste material?	Good economy	20
	In the Filed	30
	Dumping	68

	In the Lake	2
4) Where tourists throw waste material?	Dumping site	20
	Dust Bins	30
	On the path/nearby	50
5) Which type wastage cause more pollution in Lake?	Plastic	80
	Solid	10
	Waste Food	10
6) Proper maintenance of parks in the vicinity of Lake	Yes	10
	No	70
7) Is there outlet drainage system?	Yes	90
	No	10
8) Which type of pollution is observed?	a)Air Pollution	10
	b)Noise Pollution	20
	c) Water Pollution	70
9) Is there any Proper Place for preparation of food?	Yes	20
	No	80
10) Why the Tourists throw waste material around the Lake?	a)Lack of Knowledge	20
	b)Laziness	40
	c) Not any strict rule	40
11) Whether the Mansar Lake area has shrunken expanded since the course of time ?	a)Expanded	Nil
	b)Shrunken	80
	c) Don't Know	20

**RESULT**

1) **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT: -:-** The Mansar Village has population of 963 of which 500 are males while 463 are females as per population census 2011. Literacy rate of Manser village was 72.13%. Majority of the people engaged in work activity (60%) as Labourer, farming (30%), other (10%). Majority of the Locals are Hindu(76%)(Table 1)

2) **ENVIRONMENT ASPECT: -**

**General Awareness: -** It was seen that locals were ignorant about Lake and their benefits (90%), they have no Idea about pollution (92%) and its effects (92%) as result of which they apply fertilizers and pesticides in their Field with more than prescribed limits in the fields(90%)(Table2)

**PERCEPTION OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT MANSAR LAKE**

For residents of Mansar village, Mansar Lake meant a dumping site(68%) and plastic type wastage cause more pollution in lake(80%).There is no any proper place for preparation of food for tourist and the people throw waste material around the Lake.The Local resident of the area said that its space is sinking day by day (80%)(Table 3)

## DISCUSSION

On the basis of the results obtained by the questionnaire based survey conducted from the fellow residents of Mansar village, it is quite clear that most of the inhabitants around the study site are from economically poor section. Their main Occupation is agriculture. It was also observed during the study that people were totally blank towards the concept of Lake, their benefits, Pollution and its effects. It was also seen that the fertilizers and and pesticides so applied were more than the required dose resulting into significant impact on the Lake ecology.

## CONCLUSION

The information generated from this study gives us a clear picture depicting the threats of anthropogenic pressure on the Mansar Lake. It can be seen that the locals and tourists are totally ignorant about the result of their activities on or around the respective lake. The flow of effluents, garbage and plastic wastage in Mansar Lake is a cause of concern environmentalists. Looking at the various threats being faced by Mansar Lake, we must adopt certain ways for its conservation and management.

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