

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT: Tourism is unique and dynamic a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that involves the movement of people away from their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes (*Glossary of Tourism Terms* | UNWTO, n.d.). According to Smith (1989), tourism encompasses not only travel but also the interactions between visitors and host communities, as well as the environmental and cultural impacts of tourism. The primary aim of the study is to understand the impact of tourism on the economy, environment, as well as the development of tourist spots by the government. This study examines three main tourist spots in Taki: Kumar Pukur, Soidpur, and Manshingha Road. Kumar Pukur is known for Rajbari Ghat, a popular tourist spot during winter, and is the gateway to other tourist spots. Visitors come to Kumar Pukur for picnics and Durga Bisarjana, a ritual for Durga Puja. Soidpur is famous for its Mangrove Forest, but there are no hotels or lodges. An eco-tourism park at Manshingha Road attracts tourists, with a government guesthouse.

KEYWORDS: Eco-tourism, Sustainability, Ethnography, Tourist and tourist spot, Tourism

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that involves the movement of people outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes (*Glossary of Tourism Terms* | UNWTO, n.d.). According to Smith (1989), tourism encompasses not only travel but also the interactions between visitors and host communities, as well as the environmental and cultural impacts of tourism.

The beginning of tourism research in anthropology can be traced back to the 1970s. The Annals of Tourism Research (ATR) was established in 1973, serving as the official journal of the Society for the Advancement of Tourism Industry (G. L. Burns, 2004). The main themes of tourism studies in anthropology include comparing different phenomena in various locations to identify similarities and differences, studying tourism with a holistic approach that takes into account economic, environmental, and social factors simultaneously, and conducting a deeper level of analysis to understand the causes of tourism (P. Burns, 1999). According to Leiper (1981), tourism is an open system comprising five elements: a dynamic human element, a generating region, a transit region, a destination region, and the tourist industry. On the other hand, Mathieson & Wall (1982), there are three elements in tourism, which are: dynamic elements- traveling to a selected destination, static elements- staying at the destination, and a consequential element- direct or indirect effect of tourism on social, physical, and economic aspects.

Ecotourism is a form of sustainable tourism in which tourists travel to their destinations, drawn by the natural heritage (Mathieson & Wall, 1982). In 1965, Hetzer introduced the term “ecotourism” to describe the complex relationship between tourists, the environment, and culture. Also talked about four pillars of ecotourism, which are **minimizing environmental impacts, respecting host culture, maximizing benefits to local people, and maximizing tourist satisfaction** (Higham, 2007). Hector Ceballos-Lascurain first defined the term in the 1980s as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people” (Ballantyne & Packer, 2013). However, the development of ecotourism can be either a “Hard” or “Soft” manifestation. In the case of hard variants, a small group of people visit a remote environment for a long period of time, and usually, they undertake activities that fulfill mental and physical demands. On the other hand, soft ecotourism involves a short trip by a large number of people, and they are involved in unchallenging activities. In this case, comfort is important, so they demand high-level facilities (Smith et al., 2010).

The concept of **sustainability** in tourism as a policy perspective was introduced in the Brundtland Report, 1987. This report was focused on the limitations of using natural sources and also focused on a better future for mankind. However, over time, the concept

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

of sustainability has been re-interpreted, which has focused on three dimensions: economy, environment, and society. In other words, sustainability indicates careful and thoughtful use of natural resources for the well-being of present and future generations (Kuhlman & Farrington, 2010). Hence, sustainable tourism means balancing the social, environmental, and economic aspects of tourism by ensuring the benefits of tourism for guests as well as the host community (Butler, 1999; *Sustainable Tourism* | Department of Economic and Social Affairs, n.d.).

The development of the municipal towns of Taki dates back to the late 1800s. The zamindari system majorly influenced the settlements located along the Ichhamati River, which runs along the India-Bangladesh border. Due to the historical background and the unique ecology, which involves an ecosystem featuring the golpata forest, locally known as the mini-Sundarbans, this area attracts visitors throughout the year as it represents the northern edge of the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (Das, 2019). The region offers various prospects for tourism, employment opportunities.

This study is focused on the socio-economic relationship between different stakeholders developed around tourism in the study area. Besides, the study also aims to observe the impact of tourism on the local community and, most importantly, how sustainability has been maintained by the people and the government.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The local community plays an important role in the development of sustainable tourism. An ethnographic case study was conducted by Russell (2007) in Greece, Lithuania, and Romania. This article presents a typology of ecotourism, sustainable tourism, and responsible tourism models that help distinguish "practice" from "good practice," based on research conducted in three European wetlands of marginal economic status in Greece, Lithuania, and Romania. A study conducted by Ryan et al. (2012) in Ras Al Khor, Dubai, UAE was based on the role of a directed gaze in an urban eco-tourism setting. In this study, data have been collected from open-ended questions asked of the visitors. John Urry's concept of the "Romantic Gaze" has been applied to describe the visitors' experience. According to the author, the gaze is "mediatized" and "constructed" because it's facilitated by viewing points and directed towards a landscape which is shaped by the intervention of humans. To shed light on the complexities of developing sustainability through alternative tourism, Prince & Ioannides (2017) conducted a study in Sólheimar, Iceland. This study was based on Focused ethnographic research, and it tries to establish that those behind the management of volunteers, students, and other guests struggle to coordinate these groups in a manner that balances economic goals as well as environmental and social equity due to limited human resources and strategic knowledge. In order to identify qualities of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, as an eco-tourist destination Lopez (2018) has done an ethnographic study and concluded that the study area has satisfactory recreational facilities and is well-known for its climate and culture. The author concluded that ecotourism in this area has a positive socio-economic impact, but also acknowledges its negative effects on both the socio-economy and environment. Small businesses have always been important for the development of tourism. To identify the business support required by small businesses in order to participate in the eco-tourism sector Litheko, (2021) studied in Mahikeng, South Africa. In this study, the participants were selected using a judgmental sampling method, and data were collected from them using an in-depth face-to-face interview. This study shows that there are several problems for small businesses that are hindrances to participating in the eco-tourism sector, for example, the impact of the coronavirus, lack of government policies, lack of knowledge of eco-tourism activities, and so on. The government and its policies have major impacts on tourism development. A study conducted by Sajib et al. (2022) in Bangladesh was focused on identifying the mechanism of policies related to tourism development that overlook the local ecocultural management practice for sustainability. The study was based on a systematic literature review, and it found that the use of natural resources by local people, as well as relations between conservation and tourism, are the main focus of the policies. The government is trying to promote conservation by linking tourism policies to it and blaming local people for collecting natural resources.

To critically analyze some initiatives taken by different agencies to promote eco-tourism in tribal areas in Orissa, India, Mohanty (2007) conducted an ethnographic study. This study concludes that the tribal people are never consulted while designing or implementing such eco-tourism projects for tribal development. Rather, the increasing number of tourists to the tribal area has affected their ecosystem and culture. However, Goodwin & Chaudhary (2017) focused on studying the dimensions and directions of Eco-Tourism in India in general and Andhra Pradesh, including its sustainability. This empirical study concludes that ecotourism has several benefits, such as economic, ecological, and local community benefits. Investment, Infrastructure, Integration, and Involvement enhance its economic and ecological viability. A systematic review-based study has been done by Hameed & Khalid (2018), which aims to analyse the impact of ecotourism in the light of sustainable development. This study shows that Ecotourism helps local people while protecting the environment and culture. India is a popular travel destination because of its abundant natural and cultural history, which includes national parks, temples, the Himalayas, and more. One of its most important ecotourism resources is its protected and varied ecosystems. Pandya et al. (2023) discussed land use dynamics, specifically land use change, sales, and entrepreneurship in the Corbett Tiger Reserve, India, due to ecotourism. He concluded that due to tourism, many outsiders purchased hotel land in the study area. Besides, agriculturists are using their lands to develop their tourism entrepreneurship. This change has also affected cultural factors in the area. Dangaura (2025) focused on the relationship between borderland tribes, their literature, socioeconomic lifestyle, and the development of ecotourism in the Tharu-inhabited region, India-Nepal border. This study

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

is based on secondary data analysis and a qualitative approach. This study focuses on the common cultural heritage of the Tharu-inhabited region of the India-Nepal border, which is important for sustainable development through eco-tourism. It also focuses on the support from the government, as well as the NGOs.

In his study, Dinda (2006) aims to understand the role of Ecotourism for the protection of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve and the conservation of the natural diversity of Sundarban, West Bengal, India. This study examines tourism infrastructure, including roads, healthcare, and security, to support tourists as well as the local population, laying the groundwork for sustainable tourism. This study also shows that ecotourism has generated a variety of local employment opportunities in hotels, restaurants, transportation, and guiding, which promotes sustainable development within the community. On the other hand, in 2022, Dinda conducted a study in the same area to analyze the balance between tourism, nature preservation, and community needs. This research concludes that even though ecotourism generates revenue, outsiders take advantage rather than the local people. However, due to tourism, alternative sources of income have been made available, which reduced the dependency on the reserve, and visitor understanding of the limitations helps to reduce adverse effects. To preserve the environment and strengthen the local economy, this research recommends more involvement of local people and the government. Mondal (2024) has done another study in Sunderban, West Bengal, India, to investigate the governance policies that support or do not favor the protection of the milieu and ecosystem. This study is based on both qualitative and quantitative methods. This research focuses on different ethnic communities in the Sundarbans and their involvement in ecological preservation. It also throws light on the challenges such as agriculture, lack of land, and natural disasters. The result shows how over-tourism, corruption, and lack of governance affect sustainable development. Paul & Ganguly (2021) conducted their study in Baranti, Purulia, West Bengal, to understand the impact ecotourism project in the study area on employment, housing, assets, and skill development of the local people, besides, it also attempts to identify the cultural impact of the project. The study concludes that Ecotourism in the study area holds significant potential for sustainable economic development if it is adapted to the local conditions. It is essential to focus on protecting the environment, enhancing awareness, and properly involving local communities.

Research Gap

After reviewing several international and national literatures, it has been found that very few discussions have been done that show the relationships between different stakeholders which is developed around the tourism of *Taki*. There is very little ethnographic research that has been done in the study area, which talks about the impacts of tourism and its sustainability issues in emic and etic perspectives.

Aim and Objectives

The prime aim of the study is to understand the impact of tourism on the economy, environment, and the development of tourist spots by the government.

Objectives of the present study are:

1. To observe the pattern of tourism milieu of the studied area, along with the variegated relations around it by the tourists and allied stakeholders.
2. To shed light on the economic aspects of tourism in the studied area.
3. To view the impacts of tourism as observed from the emic and an etic perspective, and the sustainable issues.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach: Ethnographic approach

Research design: Qualitative

Type of data: Mainly empirical as well as contextual (Primary) data

Sampling method: The **purposive sampling** method has been applied to select the research participants for the present study. This is a non-probability sampling method; in this method, participants have been selected based on the judgment of the researcher. The sample size was not predetermined, and data were collected until it reached the saturation level. In the present study, data were collected from various sources, including 75 tourists, 15 local people who were not directly involved in tourism, 10 conveyance providers, 6 hotel or lodge owners, 15 shopkeepers, and 7 picnic organizers, as needed to achieve the objectives. The study was conducted from November 2019 to January 2020, as these months are considered the tourist season, according to the local people.

Method of data collection

Primary data have been collected using methods such as intensive (semi-structured) Interviews, Direct Observation, and case studies. Besides these, some data have also been collected from secondary sources like **books and journals, internet documents, and administrative records.**

The Area of Observation

This study has been conducted in *Taki*, West Bengal, India. *Taki* is located at 22.59° N 88.92° E. Total area 12.96 km. square. It has an average elevation of 5m *Ichhamati* River. As per the 2011 Census of India, Taki had a total population of 38,263, of which

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

19,562 (51%) were males and 18,701 (49%) were females. The population below 6 years was 3,419. The total number of literates in Taki was 28,939 (*Taki Municipality*, n.d.).

Taki is well-known for its tourism spots in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. There are three tourist spots in *Taki* those are *Kumar Pukur* (the main picnic spot), *Manshingha Road* (an Ecotourism Park and *Soidpur* (the Forest of *Golpara*, locally called “Mini Sundarban”). *Kumar Pukur* is famous for the riverside view of the *Ichhamati* River, *Manshingha Road* is famous for the Eco Tourism Park, and *Mini Sundarban* is famous for the mangrove forest. All three spots have been observed to have a complete understanding of the tourism domain of the study area.

Historical Background of the Tourist Spots

The word **Taki** came from a Bengali word **Tyank**, which means, curved bank of a river. *Taki* is situated on the bank of the river *Ichhamati*, which is the reason for such name. A brief history of *Taki* that may attract tourists is described below:

Tourists often come to **Taki** to see the bungalows and other architecture built by Zamindars. The Zamindars of **Taki** belong to the **Kayasta** lineage of **Kanouj**, who came to Bengal once upon a time and established the **Kulin Samaj** in Bengal. One of the ancestors of this **Kayasta** lineage was **Bhabanidas**, who was the first Zamindar of *Taki*.

Zamindar **Bhabanidas** had four children- **Chandisaran**, **Raghunandan**, **Krishnadas**, and **Rukminikanta**. They built their four different Bungalows, though there is no remaining evidence of these now.

Krishnadas had five children- **Raghunath**, **Ratnswar**, **Kaliswar**, **Radhakanta**, and **Kesabdas**. Son of **Raghunath** was **Ramnath**, who was known as **Bara Roychoudhary**. **Madhusudan** was the son of **Raneswar**, and his lineage was known as **Madhur Bansa**. **Ramdeb** was the son of **Kaliswar**. His lineage was known as **Munshi Bansa** later. Zamindars of this lineage are the most popular in *Taki*.

The then Head of the Mughal Army was **Manshingha**. He attacked the then King of Bengal, **Pratapaditya**. The path of **Taki** by which he went to **Jessore** to fight is now called **Manshingha Road**. He won this fight and brought the **Jessorewari** statue (**Kali Devi** statue) with him. It is now worshiped in **Rajasthan**.

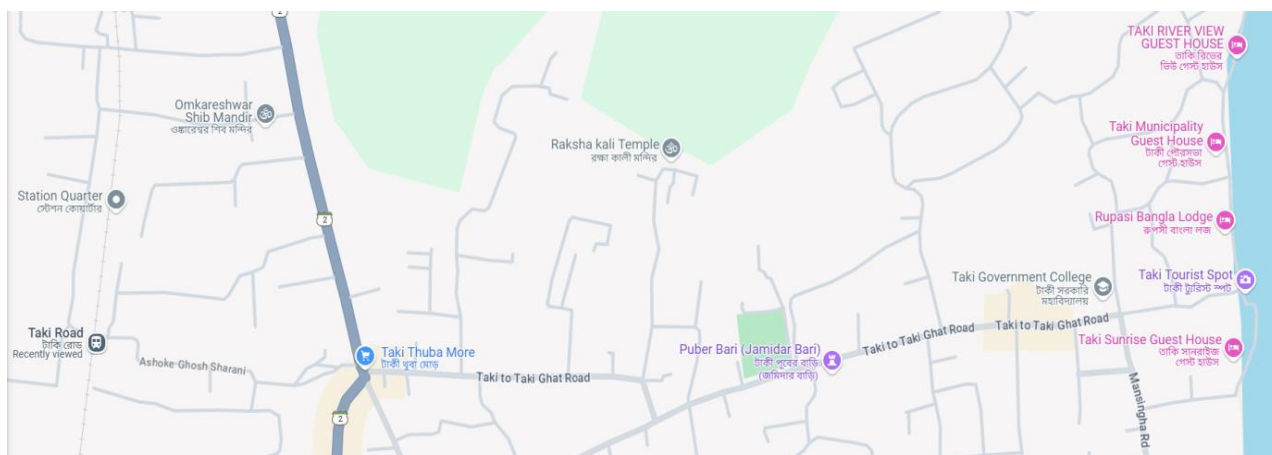
Zamindar **Ramdeb** had four children- **Ramsankar**, **Ramsantosh**, **Brindaban**, and **Rataneswar**. The bungalow of **Rataneswar** is known as **Uttarer Bari**. **Ramsantosh** had four children- **Dayaram**, **Shyamsundar**, **Ramkanta**, and **Gobindadas**. **Dayaram**'s Bungalow is known as **Puber Bari**, **Shyamsundar**'s Bungalow is known as **Paschimer Bari**, **Ramkanta**'s Bungalow is known as **Dakshiner Bari**, and **Gobindadas**' Bungalow is known as **Aatchala**. Ex-Army General **Sankar Roychoudhary** belongs to this lineage.

Zamindar **Ramkanta** came to Kolkata. **Warren Hastings** gave him the Title of **Munshi**. **Ramkanta** built a bungalow at **Baranagar** on the bank of the Ganga. **Kalinath Munshi**, probably the most famous Zamindar of **Taki**, was the grandson of **Ramkanta**. **Kalinath Munshi** contributed to abolish the **Satidaha pratha**. He built a school in *Taki* named *Taki Academy* in 1832. That was the first English Medium School in the village of Bengal. He built a road to Barasat from *Taki*. **Harendranath Choudhary**, who belongs to the lineage of **Paschim Bari**, built a health center in *Taki* in 1837. Later, it was undertaken by the **Taki** municipality. He also built the **Ramkrishna Mission** and a school. Present *Taki* Guest House was renovated from **Uttarer Bari**.

On 1st April, 1869, **Taki** Municipality was established. This was the end of the Zamindari rule in **Taki**. In spite of belonging to a Municipal area, historians like W.W. Hunter and L.S.S. O'Malley mentioned **Taki** as a village area.

The tourist spots in Taki: A Brief Outline

1. Kumar Pukur: This spot is popular for Sir Kalinath Munsir Ghat, also known as Rajbarir Ghat. Kalinath Munsir was a Zamindar of *Taki*, and his bungalow has been reconstructed and turned into a museum. This location is almost 2.2 km from the *Taki* Road railway station, where tourists typically use a Toto or van to reach the site, though some prefer personal transport. It is situated on the bank of the *Ichhamati* River. Several historical buildings, constructed by the Zamindars of *Taki*, can be found in *Kumar Pukur*, including the *Jora Kali Mandir* and the *Roychoudhury Mandir*. This area serves as the central hub for the tourism industry in *Taki*. The riverbank is concreted and adorned with LED lights, and benches are available for people to rest and enjoy the beauty of the river. This arrangement is managed by the Municipality. Being close to the border of India and Bangladesh, several B.S.F. towers and camps are also visible. The spot is especially popular for picnics, which are spread over more than 1 km and feature a variety of locations. Rental prices for these spots vary according to their size and can range from Rs. 3,000 to 6,000.



Map 1: Showing the location of Taki Road railway station and the main tourist spot

[Source: Google Maps]

(https://www.google.com/maps/@22.5863839,88.9235883,16.25z?authuser=0&entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDYwMi4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)

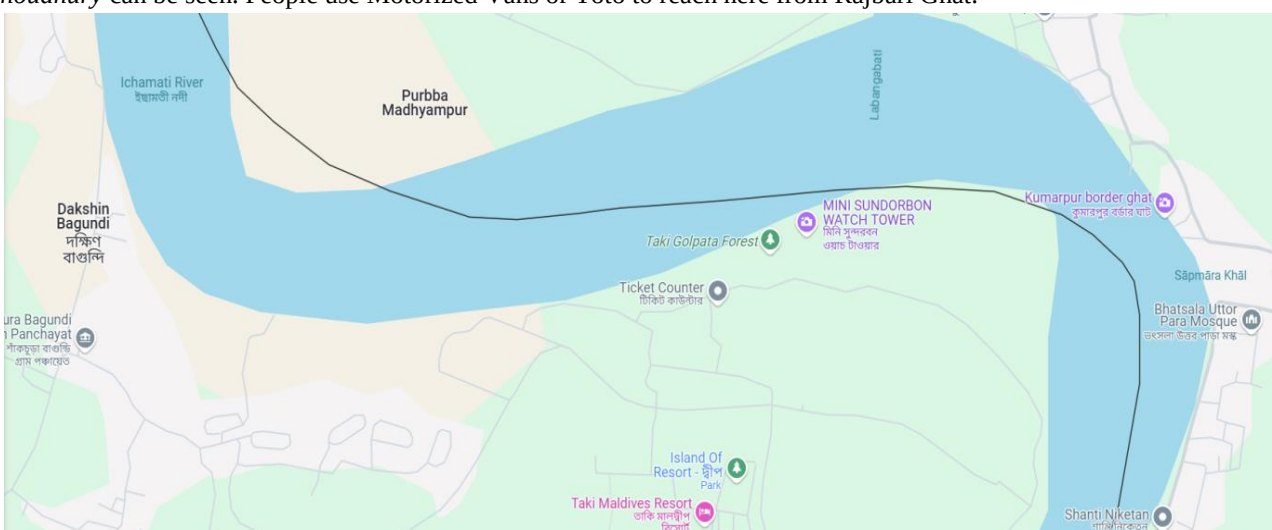
A watchtower, established by the municipality and available for lease for one year, offers views of both the *Ichhamati* River and Bangladesh. Numerous shops (permanent, temporary, and mobile) as well as hotels and lodges (both government and private) are present in the area. Van, auto, and Toto stands can be found nearby, providing tourists with transportation to this site and other nearby attractions. Given its status as a primary picnic spot, many dustbins are available for waste disposal. Two ferries operate at *Kumar Pukur*, established by the Municipality and leased for one year. The following locations can be visited by boat: P.H.E. Banglow, Soidpur B.O.P., Nagapoint, Golpata Forest, Machhranga Dwip, and the House of General Sankar Roychoudhury, among others.

This place is the center of the Taki tourism industry. Visitors come to this place first and then visit other places. For this, most of the guesthouses and shops are located in this place.

2. Soidpur: Almost 5 km from Rajbari Ghat. The main tourist attraction of this spot is the Mangrove Forest. This spot is also known as *Golpata Gangal* locally. The area is maintained by the Municipality. Small shops (both permanent and temporary) can be seen in the spot.

There is a B.S.F. check post on the way to the *Golpata Forest*. Visitors must carry their identity proof. B.S.F. keeps the identity proof before entering, and it is returned after leaving. As the place is situated near the border of India-Bangladesh visitors must carry their identity proof.

On the way from Rajbari Ghat to *Golpata Forest*, the house of *Sankar Roychoudhury* and a Temple made by the ancestors of *Sankar Roychoudhury* can be seen. People use Motorized Vans or Toto to reach here from Rajbari Ghat.



Map 2: Showing the location of the Golpata Forest area

[Source: Google

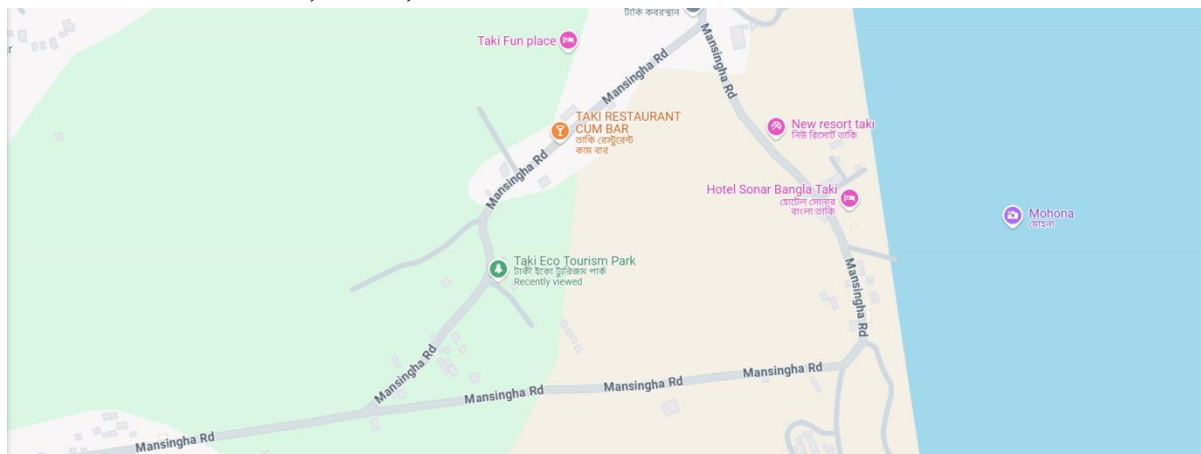
Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/@22.6172786,88.9448385,15.75z?authuser=0&entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDYwMi4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)]

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

Visitors spend some hours here as a hotel or lodge is located at this place. Taki Municipality is planning to build a Deer Park here.

3. Mansingha road- There is an ecotourism park situated is the place. Almost 2.5 km from Rajbari Ghat. Visitors use a Van or a Toto from *Rajbari Ghat* to reach here. The following rules can be seen in the park:

- Smoking or consumption of alcohol is prohibited.
- Plastic is banned.
- Visitors must use the dustbins.
- Visitors must not harm trees, animals, or birds.



Map 3: Showing the location of Taki Eco-Tourism Park

[Source: Google Maps]

(https://www.google.com/maps/@22.5756197,88.9305601,17.5z?authuser=0&entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDYwMi4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)]

There is also a hotel or lodge established by the Municipality in the park. This Hotel or lodge is given for lease. In this park, people can enjoy boating. Visitors enjoy watching captive birds, animals.

Contextual Observations and Discussion

Tourism attraction of the studied area

The tourists' main attractions of the study area are discussed below:

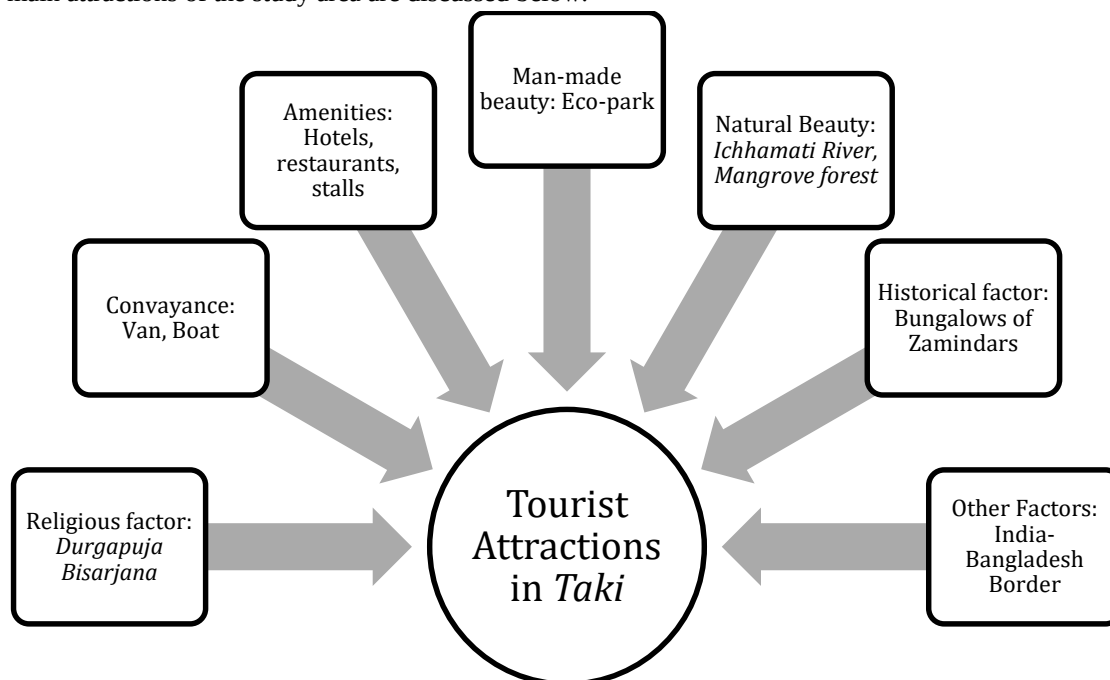


Diagram 1: Showing tourism attractions of the studied area

[Source: Prepared by the authors]

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

Natural beauty: The Beauty of nature always plays a major role in tourism attractions. Moreover, the *Ichhamati* River itself is a point of interest to visitors as they enjoy their sail in the river. There are two ferries at *Kumar Pukur*. Both were established by the Taki municipality. And a few people are running the boat ride business by taking a lease for one year on a tender basis from the Municipality of Taki, and a certain amount of revenue is being deposited into the Municipality. Another tourist place in Taki is the *Golpata Forest*. People love to have a walk in the mangrove forest. This forest is maintained by the Taki Municipality. Earnings from the spot are funded to the Taki Municipality.

Amenities: Picnic on the bank of *Ichhamati* attracts most of the tourists. The spots are spread over 1 km. at Rajbari Ghat. Most visitors come to Taki for a picnic.

Accessibility (Conveyance): There is easy access to conveyance for the rich Taki and visit the tourist spots. One can come to Taki by train or by road, and there are Toto stands beside the rail station and near Rajbari Ghat to visit the spots.

Accommodations (Guesthouses): There are many guesthouses at *Kumar Pukur*. Tourists can stay there comfortably.

Man-made beauty: Man-made beauty is another element of tourism attractions. People also visit the Ecotourism Park at Mansingha Road. In this park, people can enjoy boating. Visitors enjoy watching captive birds, animals. There is a Guesthouse inside the park.

Historical factors: People may enjoy visiting Taki to visit historical places. *Puber Bari*, *Rajbari*, *Roychoudhury Durgamandir*, *Jora Kalimandir*, etc, are some historical architectures. There are built by the Zamindars of Taki.

Religious factor: On the day of Durga Puja, Bisarjana people come to participate in the ritual of *Bisarjana* in the river, and some people see the ritual being performed on the river. Hindus as well as people of the Muslim community join this ritual. People of India and Bangladesh do this ritual side by side.

Other factors: The *Ichhamati* River plays the role of a natural partition between India and Bangladesh in Taki. This attracts the visitors the most. To see Bangladesh so closely is the reason for their excitement. There is a Watch Tower for a better view of Bangladesh. It is established by the Taki municipality.

Besides, Shooting of some films like *Bisarjan*, *Aat-ta aater Bongaon Local* and *Goynar Baksho*, was conducted in Taki. Visitors often like to visit those shooting places also.

The variegated domains of relation in tourism of the studied area:

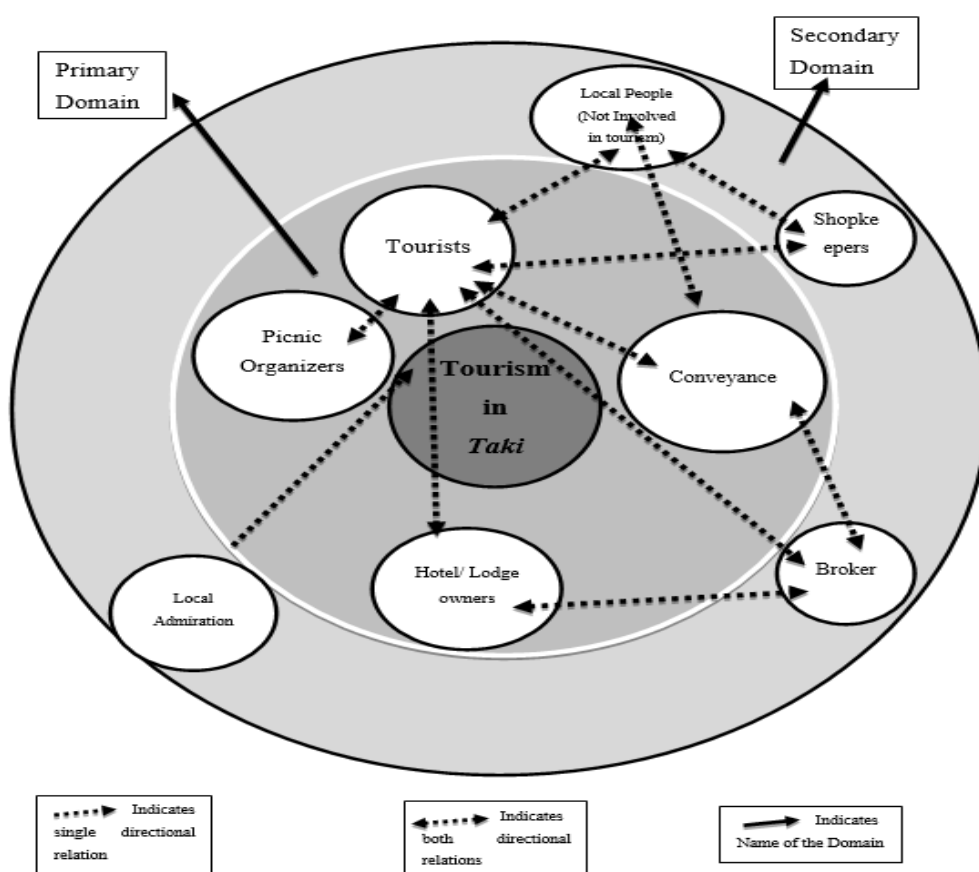


Diagram 2: Showing the variegated domains of relation in tourism of the studied area
[Source: Prepared by the authors]

As per the above diagram, Primary Domain refers to the stakeholders that are directly related to Tourism in the studied area; on the other hand, Secondary Domain refers to those stakeholders that are not directly involved but have interactions with the primary stakeholders. The diagram also shows how different stakeholders are interrelated with each other.

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

Tourists:

Tourists always play a major role in every tourist spot. Taki is not an exception. Tourists come here for different purposes of visit, at different times of the year, and spend different periods. Firstly, some tourists visit from the Middle of November to the Middle of February for a picnic. They generally come from surrounding villages and cities, Kolkata, and cities around Kolkata. They visit Rajbari Ghat. Secondly, some visit in the Middle of October, on the day of **Durgapuja Bisarjana**. They come from villages and cities near Taki. They visit Rajbari Ghat. Thirdly, some tourists come to spend their weekends, not at a specific time of the year. Most of the tourists are from Kolkata and cities near Kolkata. Tourists from other states or countries are rare. Students from Taki Government College, which is situated 240 Meters away from the main picnic spot, also come to pass their time on the riverbank. People who spend weekends in Taki stay in hotels or lodges (government and private). The visitors who come for a picnic purpose, generally from local villages, do not book a Hotel or lodge or lodges, but those who are from other regions often book a hotel or lodge. The most visited place in Taki is the Golpata Forest at *Soidpore*. Most tourists visit in December and January.

Table 1: Showing different aspects of visitors

Purpose of visit	Time of visit (Approx.)	Duration of stay (Approx.)	Come mostly from	Visiting place	Remarks
Spending a holiday or a Weekend, and picnic	Mostly in winter	1 or 2 days	Kolkata and cities near Kolkata	<i>Rajbari Ghat, Golpata forest, Eco-tourism park, and other places</i>	Tourists stay in hotels at <i>Kumar Pukur</i>
Picnic only	November to February	8 to 12 hours	Surrounding areas of <i>Taki</i> , Kolkata, and cities near Kolkata	<i>Rajbari Ghat</i>	Most tourists come from <i>Taki</i> and the surrounding areas for this purpose
Visiting historical places	Non-specific time	3 to 5 hours	Kolkata and cities near Kolkata	<i>Kumar Pukur, Soidpur</i>	Historical places include Historical buildings, bungalows
Spending a little time	Non-specific time	1 to 3 hours	Students from <i>Taki Gov. College</i> and people from surrounding villages	<i>Rajbari Ghat</i>	
<i>Bisarjana</i>	In the day of <i>Durgapuja Bisarjana</i>	4 to 5 hours	Surrounding villages	<i>Rajbari Ghat</i>	

Case Study 1:

According to my informant (F, Age-25), they came to Taki for a picnic. This was a group of 58 people. They brought a pet dog with them. They came from Howrah. My informant and other visitors stayed at the Taking Municipal Guesthouse. They booked a total of 10 rooms. The rent of the rooms was Rs. 100 per head. They used the rooms to take some rest after the long journey, not to stay at night. They came to Taki by bus. All arrangements are done by Taki Municipal Guesthouse. Snacks are given during the bus journey. The guesthouse also arranged the picnic spot, sound system, cook, and utensils. Visitors had their lunch at Taki. They gave Rs. 550 per head, excluding room rent. When my informant was asked how they came to know about the place, she said, **“I came to know about this picnic spot from the *Sukhi Grihakon* magazine. Then I told other members about this place and they also agreed. Then I got the phone number of the guesthouse from the magazine, and we booked this picnic spot 3 months before.”** Every member of this team came to Taki for the first time. They had a great weekend. When my informant was asked why they decided to come to Taki, she replied, **“We thought *Taki* would be preferable for spending a day vacation with family and friends. It is the nearest spot for a picnic on the bank of *Ichhamati* from our hometown. So, we selected *Taki*”.** My informant also said that she wants to visit this place again. In her words, **“I want to visit *Taki* again. It’s a nice place for a short holiday”.**

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

As per government rules, they did not cross the limit of the sound of loudspeakers. They dumped all the waste in the dustbin provided by the Municipality.

Case study 2:

My informant (M, Age-26) came from Basirhat to spend some time in Taki. He stayed for 2 hours. He came with his friend. He comes 2 or 3 days a week. Spending some time close to nature is great for him. He came to Rajbari Ghat. But according to him, *Golpata Jangal* is the best place to visit in Taki. He said, **“Though we came here to spend time in Rajbari Ghat, however, in my opinion, Golpata Jangal is the best place one can visit in Taki.”** My informant often likes to have tea or some snacks when he comes to this place. When he was asked what makes Taki different from other spots, he replied, **“The river bank is peaceful and it is great to spend time with friends. Besides, this is the nearest place from his home to see Mangrove”**. My informant came here riding his motorbike. The distance is just 13 km from his home. He also likes the cleanliness of this place. He stated, **“This area is not dirty, to be honest, really clean. I must say the municipality has done a great job. They have provided many dustbins, see.”**

Case Study 3:

My informant (Age-30, Sex-M) came to Taki from Naihati and stayed at *Kumar Pukur*. He came with his family of a total of 5 members. He came to know about Taki from a Facebook group named Weekend Tour. According to him, **“This is the best place to spend weekends. The distance to this place is relatively short, so we came. We will stay here one day and one night at the Taki municipal guesthouse.”** He booked their rooms two months before. Rent was Rs. 600 per room. My informant used public transport to reach Taki. He stated, **“From Taki Road railway station, we took Toto to reach the guesthouse. For the side scene, we reserved another Toto. The Toto driver took Rs. 500 from us.”** He was impressed by the cleanliness of this place. He added, **“We traveled to Soidpur B.O.P, Forest of Golpata, House of General Sankar Roychoudhury... I liked the Forest of Golpata the most. We also traveled on the boat from Rajbari Ghat and had a great experience.”** He said, **“This place is much cleaner than other tourist spots. Wastes are maintained carefully.”**

Local People:

The tourism industry leaves its effects on the local people of the surrounding areas. This may bring changes to social-cultural or economic aspects and other aspects.

Tourists' spots in Taki are surrounded by small villages. Villagers belong to the Hindu and Muslim communities. Most of the families are living in these villages for two or more generations. The economy of the villagers largely depends on tourists. Economic growth in those seasons when the most tourists come is noticeable. Interactions other than economic between tourists and local people are limited. Civic Volunteers are engaged to prevent violence, if created by tourists. Local people do not feel any problem as the sound of the loudspeakers used by tourists is limited by the Municipality.

Case Study 4:

My informant (M, Age-56) is a local person from *Kumar Pukur*. It is the main tourist spot in Taki and a popular picnic spot. My informant has a small grocery shop just behind a picnic spot at *Kumar Pukur*, attached to his house. He started to run this shop 17 years ago. It is now renovated. In the picnic season, income from the shop is Rs. 200-500 per day, but in the "off season," income is Rs. 100 per day. The informant also said, **“Tourists play a major role in my business. However, this income is seasonal... Besides this business, I also sell vegetables in Basirhat Bazar, especially in the off-season.”** He lives with his wife and son, who work in a custom office which is in *Belegkata*. My informant has been living in *Kumar Pukur* since his grandfather's generation. According to my informant sound from the loudspeakers that is used by visitors who come for a picnic purpose does not cause a problem for them. The municipality limited the volume. Visitors do not have permission to use loudspeakers after 5 pm. He stated, **“Villagers do not face any violations caused by visitors. Civic Volunteers take care of this...”** When he was asked about waste management, he replied, **“Tourists must put waste in the dustbins provided by the municipality. This is the rule from the Municipality. Throwing waste into the river is prohibited... Civic Volunteers take care of this matter.”** He also talked about the conflict between hosts and guests. He said, **“Conflict with the tourists is really very unusual. You cannot do anything wrong in front of civic volunteers, right? Besides, as Taki is situated near the Indian and Bangladesh Border, BSF also has a role to control any violations or activities that are harmful... I think People are afraid of doing such things.”**

Case Study 5:

My informant (M, Age- 66) lives near *Rajbari Ghat*. He is a Jaggery seller. His father came to this village from Bangladesh when he was 12. His father was a day labourer. He lives in this village with his son, daughter-in-law, and a grandson. His grandson sells ice cream in the picnic season at *Rajbari Ghat*. His son drives a van. According to my informant sound from the loudspeakers that is used by Visitors who come for picnic purposes does not cause a problem for them because the Municipality has limited the volume of the speakers. Tourists play a major role in his family income. According to, tourists cannot commit violence because the civic volunteers are active in watching these facts. There is a police help center near the watch tower at *Rajbari Ghat*. So, local people do not have to worry about violence. Every guesthouse and picnic spot has its municipality-provided dustbins. A cleaning team comes every day to collect waste. So, the area is clean. My informant and his family do not face any problems with tourists.

Case Study 6:

My informant (F, Age-37) lives near Rajbari Ghat. She has lived here for 17 years with her in-laws. She resides with her two daughters and her father-in-law. Her husband passed away a few years ago. Her elder daughter is in the ninth grade at Taki Girls' High School and is 14 years old. Her younger daughter is in the fifth grade at the same school and is 10 years old. She operates a shop from her home, selling jaggery, ghee, and honey to tourists. When asked whether her family faces any issues living in a tourist area, she replied, **"Sometimes it is difficult for my daughters to concentrate on their studies as the visitors who come here for a picnic play songs very loudly. Though there is a limitation on the sound of loudspeakers indicated by the municipality but still this is a problem, especially for a student... I think civic volunteers should not ignore this... Some visitors wander drunkenly in the picnic season. Though no problem is faced for this reason. Over the last five years, civic volunteers have taken care of the fact... There is a Police Help Center near Rajbari Ghat where locals as well as tourists can discuss their problems."**

Conveyance:

People use Motorized vans or Toto to reach the tourist spots from Taki Railway Station and the surrounding areas. A picnic group with a large number of people uses mini-buses or buses to reach rich picnic spots. For visiting side-scenes, there are Van pullers, Toto drivers, and Boat sailors. They are all local people. And they have satisfactory income from these occupations. Visitors often offer some extra money, being pleased, which pushes their income. Many people are attached to this occupation from generation to generation. There is a clear difference between the transportation price for local people and visitors. In the case of visitors, the price is much higher. In the "off seasons," Van pullers and Toto drivers change their route. Boat sailors shift their occupations to fishing. People who visit in a private car do not use this transport generally.

There is a clear difference in the fare of conveyance seen among local people and tourists. Tourists have to pay a higher amount for travelling the same distance as local people.

Case Study7:

My informant (M, Age- 26) is a van puller. His fixed route is Taki Road railway station to *Rajbari Ghat*. Almost 5 years he has been in this occupation. He said, **"I pulled the van without a motor for 4 years. Since last year, I have installed a motor in his van."** His father was also a van puller on this route. His grandfather was a day labourer. In the picnic season, a large number of people go to *Rajbari Ghat* from the railway station. As a result, there is an income growth seen in this season. Other than this, people often reserve his van to go for a side scene. In this season, his income is approximately 1000-1200 per day. But in other seasons it is half.

Case Study8:

My informant (M, Age-45) is involved in the occupation of fishing as a primary occupation. In his words, **"I have been involved in this occupation since a very young age... I also sail a boat for tourists' recreation in the winter season, I mean, November to February, particularly... My grandfather and father were also fishermen, though they did not use their boat for tourists' recreation."** The fare of his boat varies from Rs. 150 to 300, depending on the number of people. According to my informant, he earns about Rs. 10000 per month from his secondary occupation. He has a son who quit his studies after secondary school. His son works in a factory.

As many people use personal transports like bikes, cars, and some people book buses or mini-buses to reach *Rajbari Ghat* picnic spot, there is a need to park those. People having land near the picnic spot started perking business. They are to pay for parking on their land. Rent is fixed according to the size. One can park for a day for the same rent.

Shopkeepers:

A large number of permanent shops are seen at the picnic spot of Rajbari Ghat. These are built by Taki Municipality and given to the local shopkeepers free of cost. No rent is taken by the government. Temporary shops are seen in the picnic season. People run temporary shops either as their secondary occupation or move to another place in: off season." Permanent shop includes a gift shop, a toy shop, a fast-food shop, a tea shop, a handloom, and a handicraft shop etc. And the season-based shop includes Coconut, Beetle leaf, Jaggery, honey, Chat, Mehendi, ghee, etc. Some people make the arrangements for the visitors who come for a picnic and make their profit. This is a highly season-based economy. A free training to make handicrafts is given to women of local villages to sell their products to tourists by the government. The temporary stalls are run by women and children as well and men.

Shops in the other two spots are much fewer in number, as this is the most visited place in *Taki*. Though small permanent and temporary shops can be seen near the *Golpata forest*.

Case Study 9:

My informant (F, Age- 14) had a Beetle shop in front of the *Taki* Municipal Guesthouse. This is a temporary shop. She is a student of class 8 of Taki Girls' High School. In her words, **"I have been doing this for the last six years besides my studies... I run this stall only in the picnic season and on the day of Durgapuja Bisarjana... In these seasons, I earn about Rs. 200 per day, but on 25th December and 31st January, it is more than double."** Her father drives a motorized van in the tourist spots. Her mother helps her in this business as she is a student, and she has to focus on her studies as well. Her grandfather is a night guard at Taki High School.

Case Study 10:

My informant (F, Age-27) is a local person of *Kumar Pukur*. Her house is near *Rajbari Ghat*. She sells Ghee, Jaggery, and honey. She has run this business from her home for 5 years. Only in December and January does she run her business. Income from these two months is about Rs. 10000. There is no specific price of her products for tourists, local people and tourists can buy at the same price.

Case Study 11:

My informant (F, Age-57) has a shop at *Kumar Pukur*. Besides my informant, 4 more members are running the shop for equal profit, all are female. My informant lives near Taki, Kundu para. Another shareholder, whose age is 40, lives at Taki, *Trimona*. The age of the third shareholder is 51, and they live near the *Taki Allahabad bank*. The fourth shareholder, whose age is 72, lives in Station para, and the fifth shareholder, Age 37, lives in *Soidpur* or *Sodepore*. They learnt to make handicrafts from the municipality free of cost. The name of the project was *Swanirbhar Gasthi*. The shop is provided by the municipality without cost, even they do not have to pay rent for the shop to the municipality. On asking about the profitability of the business, she replied, **"Nowadays, our business is not running well even in the picnic season... I think the number of tourists has been reduced nowadays, so we started to export products to Kolkata... We often go to fairs to sell these products in Kolkata. There is no stall charge at the fairs for us. The municipality also gives contacts to sell products."** According to my informant, the total investment to start this business was Rs. 200000, which was divided between the members equally. Profit in "off season" is Rs. 1000 a month from this shop as they have to visit fairs in Kolkata time to time. Profit in picnic season in a month is Rs. 15000; however, two years earlier it was Rs. 25000.

Case Study No. 12:

My informant (Age- 29, Sex- M) runs a gift shop near *Rajbari Ghat*. He has run this permanent shop for 8-9 years. He started his business on a small scale before this shop. The municipality gave him the shop for no cost. He does not pay any rent for this to the municipality either. The income from this shop is higher in the picnic season. His father was related to the same business; later, my informant made this business bigger. He also sets up a temporary shop at fairs held near Taki, *Chhoto Jirakpur*, *Basirhat*, and *Katakhal* are the main places where fairs are held. According to my informant, **"During a 10-day fair, the profit is about Rs. 5000. In the picnic season, earnings are near Rs. 25000, and in the "off season," it is Rs. 15000 from my permanent shop."** He has two children: a boy whose age is one and a half years and a girl whose age is 5 years. Now his father runs a restaurant near *Rajbari Ghat*. Two employees work in it- A chef and a helper of the chef. The chef gets Rs. 350 per day, and his helper gets Rs. 100 per day working in this restaurant. Income from this restaurant is Rs. 25000 to 30000 in the picnic season. In other seasons, income is around Rs. 15000.

Hotel or lodges:

There are Government as well as private hotels or lodges at *Kumar Pukur*. Tourists come to this place first and then visit other places. Most of the visitors come in the winter season. Hotels or lodges often do the arrangements for a picnic. These hotels or lodges need a number of employees. Most of the people who work in this Hotel or lodges are from local villages. This generates employment in local villages.

Case study 13:

The name of the guest house is *Taki Municipal Guesthouse*. This guesthouse was established by the Taki Municipality in 1990. This is situated at *Kumar Pukur* ward no.4. This is the main picnic spot. Room rent is relatively less here. Ground floor Backside room rent is Rs. 400, Ground floor Riverside room rent is Rs. 500, First and Second floor Riverside rent is Rs. 600, and with air-conditioner rent is 800. They arrange breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Income goes to Taki Municipality. Sukumar Biswas was in charge. Visitors have to book rooms 90 days earlier. Booking by phone call is possible. They may do a money order. Check-in time is 11 am and check-out time is 10 am. The guest has to show their identity proof. Unmarried couples are not allowed here. Regularly, wastes are collected by the municipality cleaning team and dumped on *Mnashingha Road*. Many employees are working in this guesthouse. The manager of the Guesthouse (M, Age-27) said, **"We have a chef, a helper of the chef, a utensils cleaner, a hotel cleaner, and waiters to serve the food."**

Brokers:

Sometimes it is difficult for visitors to find vacant hotels or lodges. Some people play the role of middleman between tourists and Hotel or lodge owners. They are paid from both sides. This is their secondary occupation as Toto drivers; local shopkeepers play the role of brokers, generally.

Picnic Organizers:

The visitors who come for a picnic need a lot of arrangements. Such arrangements include, picnic spot, loudspeakers, a chef, utensils, and ingredients. Sometimes it is difficult to arrange these for visitors. Picnic organizers help them by arranging according to visitors' needs. It is a secondary occupation as the occupation is season-based. Generally, owners of picnic spots make the arrangements for picnics. Sometimes, Hotel or lodge owners and shopkeepers play the role of picnic organizers.

Case study 14:

My informant (M, Age-30) has his land in the *Kumar Pukur* area. He gave his land to visitors who came for a picnic for rent. The name of his picnic spot is *Ichhamatir* Dhare Picnic Spot. He started this business this season. He is hopeful for this business. The rate of this picnic spot is 1500-2500, depending on the size of the picnic group. He does not make other arrangements for the picnic. My informant said, **“My father has a glossary shop near the railway station. Besides this business, he wants to start a business related to tourism. He wants to focus on tourism-related businesses because, without investing much time, one can make relatively more profit. I also want to build a guesthouse beside my picnic spot.”**

Case study 15:

My informant (M, Age-30) has a business to provide utensils to the visitors who come to Taki for a picnic. The name of his shop is Shanti Decorators. He has been running this business for seven years. His father has a tea stall beside Taki Railway Station. Besides providing utensils, he also gives loudspeakers to the visitors for rent. There is a clear growth in income seen in the picnic season. Rent of his utensils for a day is Rs. 1500-2000/- from each picnic group, depending on the number of utensils they want. The rent of the sound system he provides is Rs. 1000/- for a day. Not only to the people who want utensils or a sound system for picnic purposes, but also, he provides this to the local ceremonies. In a picnic, he earns near about 25,000/- per month, but in the "offseason," his income is Rs. 50,000/- approximately.

The role of Administration: The Taki Municipality:

The government plays a great role in tourist spots in many aspects. Political conditions affect the tourism industry. It is very important to have government support for the tourism industry. Some developmental aspects in tourist areas of Taki undertaken by the municipality are as follows:

The present Chairperson of Taki Municipality is Somnath Mukherjee. Taki Municipality has made the bank of the *Ichhamati* River concrete, and it is decorated with LED lights. People having a shop on the bank of *Ichhamati* had to face problems during the monsoon season as there was a risk of the bank breaking down. The municipality solved the problem by giving them new shops free of cost. There are government hotels or lodges, and guesthouses near Rajbari Ghat. The government established a watch tower for a better view of Bangladesh. Two ferries of Rajbari Ghat have been built by the government. A free training to make handicrafts is given to women of local villages to sell their products to tourists by the government. The forest of Golpata at *Soidpur* is preserved by the government. The municipality is also concerned about the environment. Some dustbins are provided to store the waste after every picnic program. A garbage cleaning team is engaged to collect the garbage every day in the picnic season and dump it in the Waste Management Center of Taki Municipality at *Mansingha Road*. It was established on 19th August 2007. Throwing plastics or any other waste into the river is prohibited. Civic Volunteers empower the prohibition. Sound pollution is another problem in the picnic season. Municipality brings control over sound pollution also. High-volume loudspeakers are not allowed to be used for the recreation of tourists. Taki Municipality limited volume of speakers. Tourists cannot use loudspeakers after 5 pm. At *Sir Kalinath Munsii Ghat*, the Bungalow of *Sir Kalinath Munsii* is now turned into a museum. A government ecotourism park can be seen at *Mansingha Road*.

The municipality is going to establish a Floating Hotel or lodge on *Ichhamati*, which may attract more tourists. The government is also aiming to provide more LED lights in the future. The government has planned to make a Deer Park at the Golpata forest. Many historical bindings are found in Taki, which are made by Jamindars of Taki. There is no attempt to preserve historical buildings by the government.

The economic aspects: Some observations

The tourism industry in Taki plays a major role in the economic development of the local community. Many residents operate both permanent and temporary shops in the *Kumar Pukur* area, which is the primary picnic spot. Consequently, economic growth during the picnic season is evident. The municipality provided permanent shops in the government-built marketplace to those who had previously operated shops there. These shops include toy and gift stores, restaurants, tea stalls, and fast-food outlets. Additionally, handloom and handicraft shops are also present in this area. However, some temporary shops only appear during the tourist season, including toy stalls, coconut stalls, betel leaf stalls, and stalls selling jaggery, honey, chaat, *mehendi*, and ghee. Moreover, some families sell ghee, jaggery, and honey directly from their homes. Since *Kumar Pukur* is the main picnic spot, landowners in the area rent their land to tourists for picnic purposes, providing an important source of income. Some locals also rent out loudspeakers and utensils to tourists visiting for picnics. Additionally, some individuals work as picnic organizers, handling all the arrangements for tourists, so they do not have to separately rent a picnic spot, utensils, or other essentials.

Among the tourist spots, most of the hotels and lodges are found in the *Kumar Pukur* area, which includes private as well as Government Hotels and Lodges. However, Government Hotels are not run by the Government itself, the Government gives its hotels and lodges to lease. To run smoothly, hotels and lodges need several employees, so the local people work in hotels, lodges, and restaurants, which play an important role in generating employment in the village. After being trained in making handicrafts from a government organization, a group of women runs a handicraft shop in *Kumar Pukur*, and it is worth mentioning that their shop is also provided by the Government.

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

In *Soidpur*, some permanent and temporary shops are also found, but in much smaller numbers than in *Kumar Pukur*. However, there are no Hotels or lodges in this area.

There is an ecotourism park in *Manshingha Road*, which is built, maintained, and run by the Government, and its income goes to the Municipality fund. There is a restaurant inside the park, which also contributes to generating employment.

In every tourist spot in *Taki*, local people are involved with tourism irrespective of age and gender, especially the involvement of women and children is noticeable in food stalls.

Issues of sustainable tourism: *Emic* and *Etic* views

According to residents and municipality employees, several dustbins are provided by the municipality for disposing of waste, especially during the picnic season, when a large amount of waste is generated. A cleaning team collects the waste daily and transports it to the waste control facility on *Manshingha Road*. The municipality does not prohibit dumping waste into the river, which suggests an attempt to protect the river from water pollution and maintain its natural beauty. The municipality bans playing loudspeakers at high volume, and tourists are not allowed to use loudspeakers after 5 pm to control noise pollution. In the ecotourism park on *Manshingha Road*, the municipality has implemented several rules, including a prohibition on drinking alcohol or smoking, a ban on plastic, a requirement for visitors to use dustbins, and a mandate to avoid harming any trees, animals, or birds. The *Golpata* forest in *Soidpur* is preserved and well-maintained by the municipality. In addition to environmental sustainability, the government also addresses the concerns of residents and tourists. There is a Police Help Center near *Rajbari Ghat* where locals and visitors can report any issues they encounter, whether social or environmental. Civic volunteers from the government are actively involved in enforcing the rules set by the municipality.

During investigation in the tourist spots, it has been observed that the number of dustbins is not enough in the picnic area, for this reason, the tourists often dump their waste in the corner of the picnic spots, and the waste cleaning team usually does not collect this waste, as a result the owners of the picnic spots dump the waste in open area. In some cases, tourists throw waste into the river, which is against the rules of the Municipality. Though this type of incident is not very usual but it occurs due to an insufficient number of Civic Volunteers. Besides, it is hard to find any Police or Civic volunteers in the Police Help Centre to complain to.

General Observations and Concluding Remarks

The study shows the variegated domains of relation in tourism of the studied area. The study classifies the domain of tourism into the Primary and Secondary Domains. In the primary domain, stakeholders like Tourists, Picnic organizers, Conveyance, Hotel, and lodge owners are there, as they are directly connected to tourism. However, in the Secondary Domain, stakeholders who are not directly connected to tourism have been included, for example, local people who are not involved in tourism, local shopkeepers, brokers, and local administrations. A two-directional relation can be seen with the tourists and all other stakeholders except the local administration. The local administration has its impact on the entire tourism in *Taki* and not vis-à-vis, hence it is the only unidirectional relation among the stakeholders. However, besides having a connection with tourists, local people also have a two-directional connection with local shopkeepers and local conveyance, and brokers are connected with conveyance and hotel and lodge owners.

The tourism industry in *Taki* plays a major role in the economic development of the local community. Stakeholders like Picnic organizers, Conveyance, Hotel, and lodge owners, local shopkeepers, and brokers are directly economically impacted by the tourists. Consequently, economic growth during the picnic season is evident. A similar study done by Lopez (2018) concludes that ecotourism in the study area has a positive socio-economic impact, but also acknowledges its negative effects on both the socio-economy and the environment. Besides, Goodwin & Chaudhary (2017), Hameed & Khalid (2018) also show economic, ecological benefits due to the development of eco-tourism. On the other hand, Dinda (2022) concludes that even though ecotourism generates revenue, outsiders take advantage rather than the local people, but this case is not found in the present study.

A study done by Prince & Ioannides (2017) showed how limited human resources can negatively impact environmental sustainability due to tourism; a similar observation can also be seen in the present study. In spite of taking steps taken by the *Taki* municipality, a lack of civic volunteers is observed in the study area. In contrast to the study of Sajib et al. (2022), where it was found that the government is trying to promote conservation by linking tourism policies to it, however, in *Taki*, specific rules for tourism sustainability, for example, controlling noise pollution, waste management, safety of tourists, and local people have been found. Paul & Ganguly (2021) in their study found that involvement of local people has a positive impact on sustainability; similar results can be seen in the present study, which shows the positive impact of involvement of civic volunteers.

This study has been done in three main tourist spots in *Taki*, those are *Kumar Pukur*, *Soidpur*, and *Manshingha Road*. *Kumar Pukur* is well known for *Rajbari Ghat*, visitor comes here mainly for picnic purposes in the winter season, and this is the most popular tourist spot in *Taki*. In most cases, tourists come to this place first and then take an e-Riksha or *Toto* from *Rajbari Ghat* to reach *Soidpur* and *Manshingha Road*; in other words, *Rajbari Ghat* is the Gateway to the other two tourist spots. Due to a great number of footfall of tourists, most of the shops and other facilities that mainly serve the tourists can be found here. *Durga Bisarjana*, which is one of the most important rituals for *Durga Puja*, is another important reason to visit *Rajbari Ghat*. However, in that case, visitors come from the surrounding villages. *Soidpur* is famous for its Mangrove Forest, which is well maintained by the Municipality;

Eco-Tourism- Issues, Impacts and Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study in Taki, West Bengal, India

however, there are no hotels or lodges to stay at, only small shops are found. The Government has built an eco-tourism park at *Manshingha Road* to attract tourists. There is a government guesthouse in this park, which is another attraction for the tourists. Besides, some visitors also come to *Taki* to visit historical places like historical buildings, *Banglows*.

Being the most visited site, most of the shops can be seen in *Kumar Pukur*; however, temporary shops are seen only in the picnic season and during *Durgapuja Bisarjana*. Women and children run temporary shops, naturally, this is not their primary occupation. Hotels and restaurants generate employment opportunities for the local people. It is difficult for visitors to find guesthouses during the picnic season, so local people, mostly *Toto* drivers, play the role of middleman and get commissions from guesthouses, and sometimes they are paid from both sides.

For sightseeing, there are *Toto* drivers and Boat sailors; they are all locals. They get satisfactory income in the picnic season; however, in the offseason, some *Toto* drivers change their service routes due to a low number of passengers, and boat sailors engage them in fishing. Sometimes, it becomes very difficult to arrange all the necessary items for a picnic. To solve this problem, they take help from the picnic organizers. Picnic organizers are local people, and this generates satisfactory season-based secondary income for them.

To maintain environmental sustainability, the municipality has provided several dustbins to dumb waste, and a cleaning team comes to collect the waste and sends those to the waste control facility at *Manshingha Road*. Tourists are prohibited by the municipality from throwing waste into the river. Besides, the prohibition on playing loudspeakers beyond the limit and playing speakers after 5 pm not only helps to reduce noise pollution but also is important for local people living near *Rajbari Ghat* to live peacefully. The forest of *Golpata* in *Soidpur* is preserved by the municipality.

The *Taki* municipality took several initiatives for tourist attractions; however, they have some plans as well, those installing more LED lights near *Rajbari Ghat*. A floating hotel on *Ichhamati* and a deer park near *Golpata Forest*.

Despite several initiatives by the municipality for maintaining environmental sustainability, there are not enough dustbins at *Rajbari Ghat*, so the visitors often dump their waste at the corner of the picnic spots. Besides, the waste collection team does not collect those wastes. As a result, the owners of the picnic spots have to burn the waste, which affects environmental sustainability negatively. On the other hand, some visitors throw trash into the river, though the number of such visitors is less.

As per the study, to maintain sustainability, the government should provide more dustbins at *Rajbari Ghat*, and the cleaning team should collect waste from the entire area. More civic volunteers should be assigned, especially at *Rajbari Ghat* and to the police help centre. The municipality should also make a rule for every permanent and temporary shop to have its own dustbins. Finally, the municipality should make the shop owners, the residents, and the visitors aware of the sustainability of the tourist spots.

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