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Abstract: relief from the hustle bustle and rushing life of the metros and cities. The temperature at Netarhat tends to be lesser and the atmosphere remains cool throughout the year. Tourists come to Netarhat to see the nature at its best. Amazing landscape of the hill has attracted a number of tourists including the British over the years. Some of the popular attractions of Netarhat are as follows: Sunrise view, Upper Ghaghri water Falls, Lower Ghaghri water Falls, Koyal River View, Magnolia Point, etc. The historical data for the study have been collected from secondary sources. So far as primary data are concerned, it is collected through cross section interaction through discussion and interviews with domestic tourists, foreign tourists and entrepreneurs of the study area. The primary data have been collected during the period from November to April in 2011. The data was collected both on vegetation as well as on ecotourism activities being held at each selected spots. Questionnaires were prepared for analysis of human activity with respect to tourism and effect on vegetation due to tourism. Pertaining to the ecotourism activity being held at a different spots, the parameters like identification of off season for each selected spot, person visiting on spots during the peak season and off season, infrastructure available at each spot like motarable road, hotel, canteen etc., nature of stay at each spot, activities done by tourist at each spots like camping, tracking, birthday celebration, anniversary celebration etc., facilities available at ii each sport like boarding, lodging, etc., and financial turn out at each spot during season were collected. For study of biodiversity of the study area, the study areas was surveyed and collected the data through quadrate using stratified random sampling. All individuals of each plant species in each quadrate was counted and recorded. The parameters like listing of different tree species, number of trees present of each species, measurement of diameter, measurement of tree height, basal area and total volume was collected and systematically analyzed. From the numerical data obtained, the quantitative characters such as frequency, density, abundance, relative frequency, relative density, relative dominance and important value index were calculated on the basis of respective formula. Five ecotourism spots have been identified at Netarhat plateau. Out of which, Sunrise View, Lower Ghaghri and Mongolia Point are mainly hilly but some part of them area plain in nature whereas Upper Ghaghri and Koyal View River was hilly. The Sunrise View and Mongolia Point (Sunset View) are the most popular spot at Netarhat plateau among male, female and children. Mostly they stayed there for 2 to 3 days but in some cases they may stay more than 3 days. Tourists stayed at Sunrise View point mainly due to availability of hotel, lodges, etc. Other facilities such shop, restaurant, etc are found at Sunrise View point. At Netarhat, ecotourism spot have very limited number of hotels/lodges. Most of the tourists were visited for recreation purpose. Beside that tourist were also visit for birth day party, marriage anniversaries, bone fire, tracking, camping, etc. At Sunrise View point, maximum activities were seen whereas other point has limited activities. To measure the effect of ecotourism on plant biodiversity, entire study area has been thoroughly surveyed to identify the tree species including shrubs and grasses present iii there. Total number of tree species, shrubs and grasses were 23, 12, and 9 respectively. Almost all tree species were present at all the study sites. Total number of trees present in the study site was varied from site to site and also from species to species. Total trees present in the sample area were 2879, out of which Shorea robusta was found maximum (223 trees) followed by Pinus roxburgii (188 trees) and least was Zizyphus xylopyra (90 trees). Maximum height among the tree species was recorded for Shorea robusta (21.22 m) followed by Pinus roxburghii (20.24 m) whereas minimum height was recorded for Lagerostroemia parviflora (13.56 m). Maximum basal area was observed for Pinus roxburghii followed by Shorea robusta which was 2.02 sq.m and 1.99 sq.m respectively, whereas minimum basal area was obtained for Dalbergia sissoo which was 0.17 sq.m. Maximum volume was observed for Shorea robusta (42.13 cu.m) followed by Pinus roxburghii (40.96 cu.m) whereas minimum volume was obtained for Dalbergia sissoo which was 2.43 cu.m. Maximum Important Value Index among the tree species was recorded for Shorea robusta (28.26) followed by Pinus roxburgii (24.19) whereas minimum Important Value Index was recorded for Adina cordifolia (9.13).

Description: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ECOTOURISM SPOTS OF NETARHAT PLATEAU

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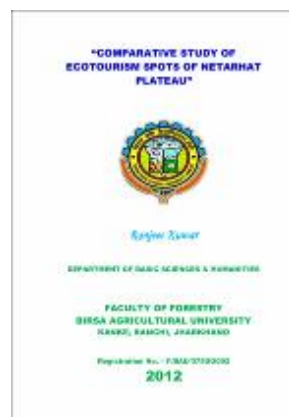
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