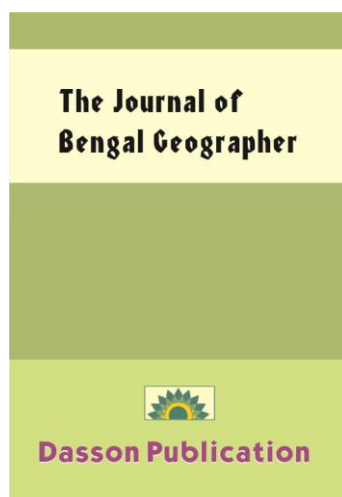


The Journal of Bengal Geographer



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Tourism efficiency in Khunti district of Jharkhand

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Abstract

According to Hunziker and Krapf "Tourism is the sum total of the phenomena and relationship arising from the travel and stay of non-residents in so far as it does not lead to permanent residence and is not connected to any earning activity." Now a day the tourism has emerged as one of the world's largest industries which are not only providing pleasure and enjoyment to the tourists but it provides job opportunities to millions of people. On the other hand, tourism also plays a great role for the development of a zone for the country. It may also create national integration and various kinds of cultural landscapes within the country.

Jharkhand is the 28th state of the India and the district of Khunti has been carved out as a new district on 12th September in 2007 from the district of Ranchi, the study region is a part of Chotanagpur plateau in general and especially Ranchi planation surface in particular. The district of Khunti is blessed with the natural beauty of its vast and varied relief and its natural resources. It is a region of unevenness land consisting of a succession of plateau, hills, hillocks, and valleys which are drained by several perennial and non-perennial rivers, viz., Tajna, Kanchi, South-Koel, and Karo etc. A number of waterfalls is found in different parts of the study region. The study area is covered by the dense forest with various types of trees. The climatic conditions are so attractive for the tourists. Here, cool and calm climate is suitable for good health. On the other hand, the district of Khunti has a rich cultural heritage. The area is dominated by different tribal and non-tribal communities are also live together. From the view point of tribal culture, the study area is centre for foreigners and research scholars. Different communities who speak different languages and they celebrates different festivals together throughout the year show the great symbol of unity.

Key words : 1.Natural beauty, 2.Cool climate, 3.Tribal races, 4.Lack of development, 5. Needs Planning and development, 6.Economical benefit, etc.

Introduction

According to the World Tourism Organisation, tourism is "traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment or not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purpose." Tourism is an industry and it generates a lot of employment opportunities. It also plays a great role for the sustainable development of a place or region. Tourism gives impulse to national income and to keep the national integration. Tourism forms a claim for accommodation, transportation, drinking, eating and others services of hospitality for individual or group travelling away from local residence or area. Tourism also encourage to local people to develop their handicrafts through which they can earn a lot of money.

The district of Khunti is a part of Ranchi plateau as well as Chotanagpur plateau which consists marvelous natural scene with ancient beauty. Khunti is a spectacular place with different waterfalls, cascades, a number of river source points and confluence points, dense forest with various trees, cool and calm climates on one hand and different tribes such as Munda, Oraon, Kharia, Ashurs, etc, and different culture are found which attract to people on the other hand.

The tourism department of Jharkhand state has taken a well step to enlarge its network of various facilities and activities for the tourism development. The state government also encourages private sectors to make investment for tourism development and has enhanced the economic activities of the state. The state government has realized the importance of tourism and its benefits due to increasing number of visitors in the state every year.

Location of the study area

The district of Khunti of Jharkhand state is a southern part of the Ranchi plateau which is located in between 22° 30' north to 23° 17' north latitudes and 84° 55' east to 85° 40' east longitudes.

Ranchi district lies to the north of this district and the southern, eastern, western and southern-western sides are bordered by the Ranchi, Gumla, Paschim Singbhum, and Simdega districts of Jharkhand states respectively. The district of Khunti consists one sub-division, namely, Khunti and six Community Development Blocks, viz., Khunti, Arki, Karra, Torpa, Murhu and Rania. (Fig. No-1)

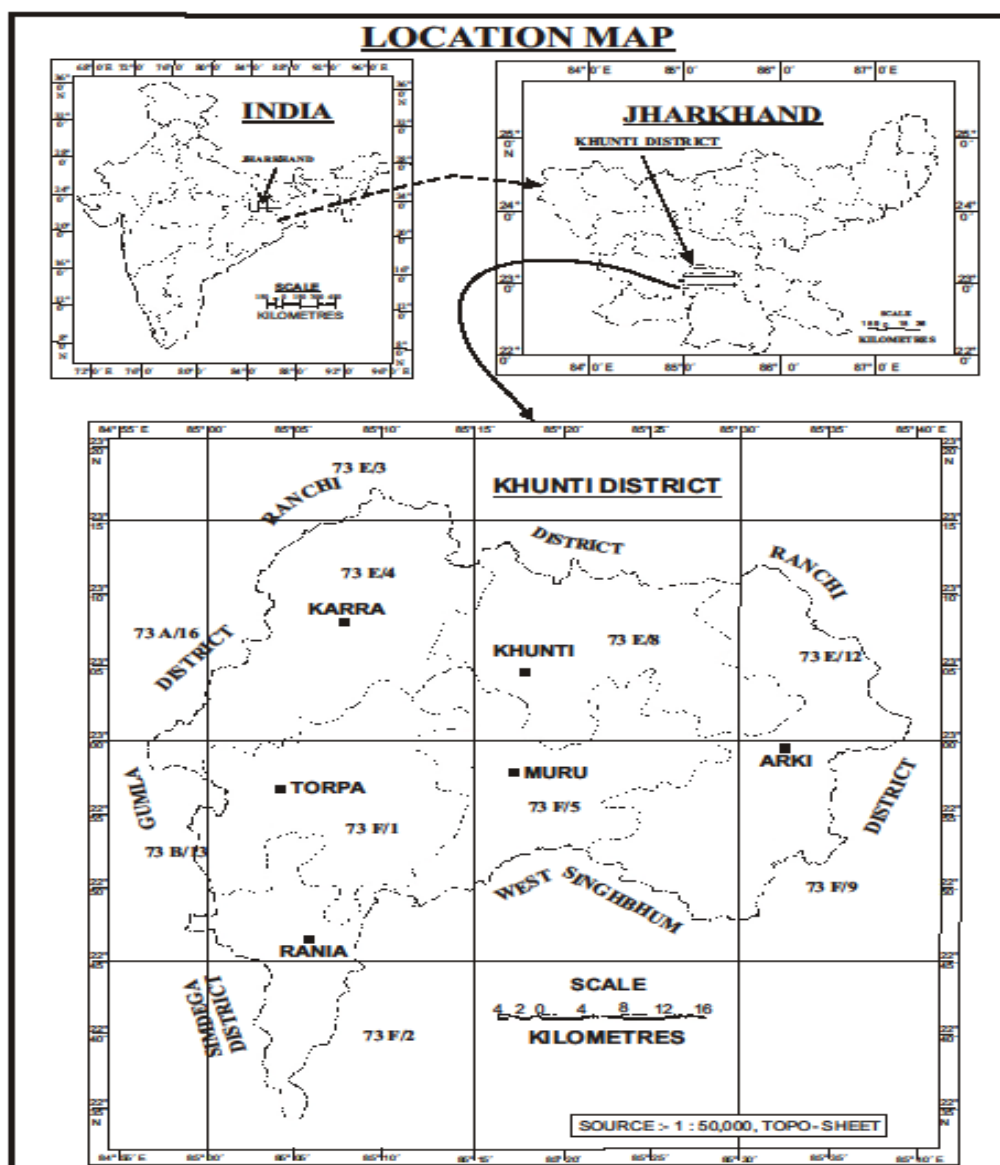


Fig. 1

Objectives of the Study area:

The main objectives of the present study are as following:-

1. To give clear picture about tourist destinations of Khunti district.
2. To show the potentiality of tourism of the district.
3. To identify the major problems of the tourism in the district.
4. To explain the impact of strategies for the tourism development of the district.
5. To analyse the suggestions for importance of the tourism sector of the district.
6. To examine the role of government and private sector in the development of tourism industry in the district.
7. To create employment opportunities for the local people.

Methodology

Tourism is, no doubt a very fast growing industry. At present, its study has become very technical. Methods applied and techniques used have become sophisticated. Books and publications have been consulted. Important tourist places have been visited. Data, information's have been collected and analyzed. Photographs have been taken in support of realities. So, the study is purely based on primary data collected from tourists, hotels, police station by personal interview. Secondary data are also collected from published sources, Tourism departments, etc.

Significance of the Tourism

Tourism has two important significances. Firstly in a country where employment is a problem, it provides employment and sources of income to the people in various forms and fields and it increases the circulation of money. Secondly, it is an important foreign exchange earner and solution to the balance of payments.

Attractive Tourist spots of Khunti District

From the view point of Natural Beauty: - The district of Khunti is a southern part of the Chotanagpur plateau and being a part of Chotanagpur plateau. Khunti district is playing a great role for attracting a large number of tourists from all corners of the world because of its physical and cultural characteristics. The wonderful natural beauty, cool and calm climate and different tribal people are the main factors of the attraction. The district of Khunti is a land of varied relief, where a number of waterfalls are located in several parts of the district. Here dense forest with principal trees Sal, Mahua and other trees are famous for another beauty of the district. The district of Khunti is drained by several rivers & streams which show scenic beauty of the region. The district consists various tribal & non-tribal people. Their culture, style of living being different from others, attracts the tourists to come here in all seasons. Now, discussions have been made here of different tourist places of Khunti district.

Amreshwardham

Amreshwardham also known as Angrabdi temple. This temple was renamed by Shankaracharya Swami Saraswati. It is situated in calm and peaceful atmosphere. This complex bearing the income of Lord Shiva, Ganesh, Ram, Sita and Hanuman. The Angrabdi temple is located about 45 Km. from Ranchi city and 5 km near Khunti town on the National High way No- 33. It is a very beautiful place to visit for spiritual enrichment and also for natural sceneries. Many tourist and devotees comes during the month of Savaan, (July to August).

Birsa deer park

This Park is situated only 23 Km. away from Ranchi city and is surrounding by beautiful garden and laid pathways. It is mainly located at Kalamati village of Khunti district and it covered an area of about 23 hectores with different trees, such as Sal, Sagoon, Peepal, Mahua, etc. Three watch towers have been constructed from where the tourists may see the natural view and wild animals of the park. A children park also has developed here which is very attractive for children.

Dasam fall

It is the most important waterfall of the Khunti district which is situated on the Kanchi River. The water of Dasam falling from 144 feet height in to the foot of hills and this place is covered by the dense forest. It is located 40 km away from Ranchi city and it is well connected by a branch road of NH-33. Tourists come from August to February months to visit this place to see the natural beauty.

Pheruagagh fall

Pheruagagh is another waterfall of Khunti district located on the Karo river of Torpa block. The height of this fall is about 22 m. Tourist do not visit, this place during rainy season because of unmetalled roads and rest of the months the roads become motor able.

Panchgagh fall

The Panchgagh fall is located in Murhu block of the Khunti district. It is only 5 Km from Khunti town on the way of Khunti-Chaibasa road. Five falls get originated from high altitude and falling at this place as panchgagh waterfall. Panchghagh is one of the very beautiful picnic spots and it is surrounded by the forest and atmosphere of this place is very cool and calm.

Hirni falls

Hirni is one of the most fascinating waterfalls of the Khunti district. The Ramgara River travels 12 km. through dense forest and plunges down in a broad torrent. The cracks, crevices etc. across the hill ridges and tall trees that obstruct the general course of the river have split it into a number of miniature rivulets that restlessly meander their way down. The Hirni water fall is situated only 70 kms away from Ranchi and it is only about 22 km. from Panchgagh waterfalls. A restaurant and car shed has been constructed from last few years. Lodging facility is now available here. The tourists are come to visit this place during September to February, when the scene becomes very attractive with green vegetation, calm and shining atmosphere.

Attractive Climatic Condition

Climate is a natural phenomena and it is a dominant factor which attracts the tourists or people. The district of Khunti is lying within the tropical zone and enjoys a cool and bracing climate owing to its height altitude from the mean sea level. In the district, the Tropic of Cancer passes about 13' far north from the district. Due to its high altitude the district also prevented from the effects of hot winds in summer season. During summer season the whole district becomes an area of intense low pressure that attracts rain bearing moist winds from the neighboring Bay of Bengal. For the resultant, the district remains frequently visited by cyclones. The climate of the Khunti is characterized by well distributed seasonal rainfall. The district is having four seasons, such as:-

- (I) **Summer Season:** It starts from the end of February and continues up to the month of May. During this period the highest temperature has been recorded in the month of May, i.e.; 37.9°C.
- (II) **South-West Monsoon Season:** This season starts from June and continues up to September.
- (III) **Post Monsoon Season:** The post monsoon season starts from October and it continue up to November.
- (IV) **Winter Season:** This season is begins from the month of December and extends up to the first week of February. During this period lowest temperature has been recorded 9.9° centigrade.

The annual average temperature of the district is about 24.63°C and annual average rainfall is about 92 mm.

Festivals and culture:

The district of Khunti has its own culture and it is the home of different tribals such as Oraon, Munda, Ashuras, Santhal etc. and they lives with harmony and unity. Due to home of various tribes, it may be seen many local festivals and culture. The tribes celebrate different festivals which are given as under:-

1. **Sarhul**

Sarhul is the main festivals and they wait for it throughout the year. The word 'Sarhul' means worships of the Sal tree, which is believed as the abode of Goddess Sarna who protects the village from all types of natural calamities and disasters.

2. **Karma**

Karma is another festival of the tribals. On the day of this festival devotees keep fast of complete 24 hours. The cultural performances are set to keeping a branch of Sal tree in the middle of an open ground.

3. **Sohrai**

It is popular and much awaited festival of the tribal people of the district. This festival is associated with the domestic animals and they washed and worshipped the animals for performances of bull fights. This festival is celebrated during the month of November and at the time of Diwali.

4. **Holi**

Holi is a Hindu's festival and local Hindu people celebrate it during the month of February-March. The people of the district are celebrating the Holi with great charm and they greet each other with various colour.

5. **Diwali**

Diwali is most popular and enjoy full festival of the dwellers of Khunti. Actually the Diwali is celebrated in the month of October-November and it is the festival of "lightning". During this festival people decorate their houses with various colour of light. At the same time the tribal people also celebrate the festival of Badna (Kali Puja). During this period the tribal and non-tribal people both celebrate the festival and they enjoy with harmony and unity.

6. **Ram navami**

Hindu people of the district celebrate it with the whole country. Ramnavami is celebrated as the birth day of Lord Rama and people keep fasting and they sing & chant the name of Lord Rama. In this day local people also celebrate flag competition with performance of traditional weapons. Except above mentioned festivals the people of local area also celebrate many other festivals throughout the year, such as Chhat puja, Dussara, Basant Panchmi, Edil-ul-fitar, Maharam, etc...

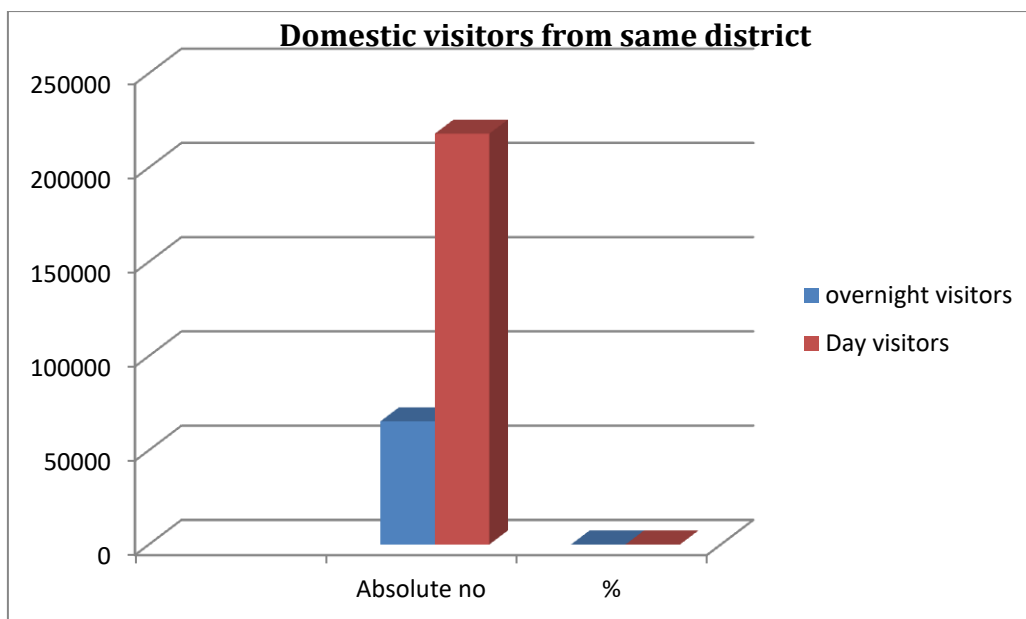
It should be mentioned here that the Khunti is a tribal dominated district and they celebrate different dances, viz., Jadur Susun dance, Karam Susun dance, etc., and basically the people are known these as Adibasi dance.

Tourist Flow

Different tourist spots or places are visited by large number of domestic visitors than the foreign visitors.

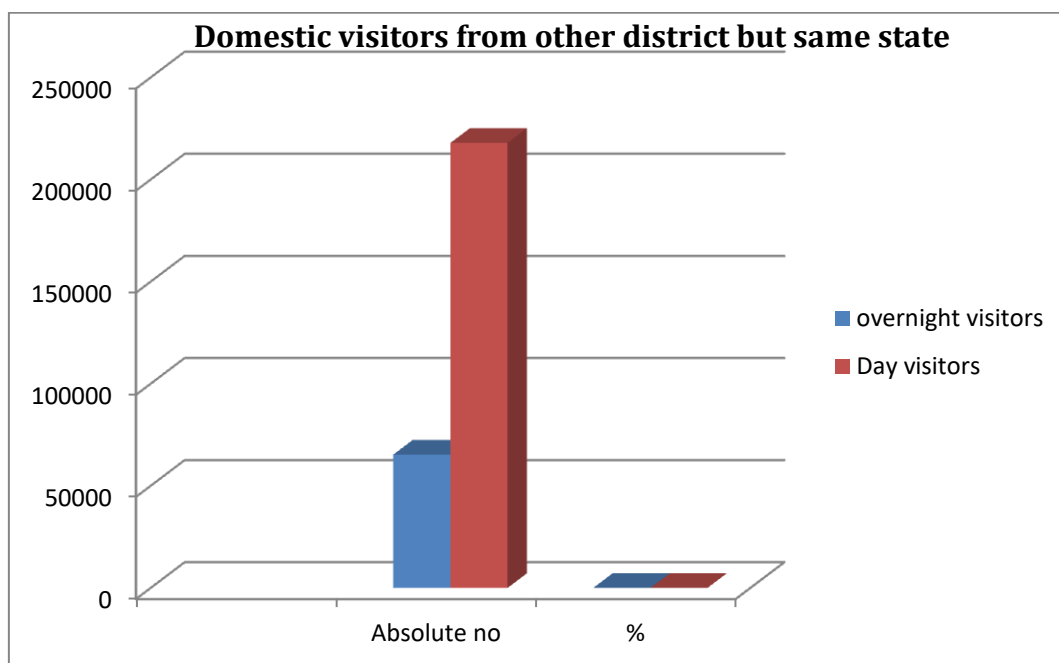
Domestic visitors from same district

Domestic visitors	Absolute number	%
Overnight visitors	65328	1.1
Day visitors	217957	2.4



Domestic visitors from other district but same state

Domestic visitors	Absolute Number	%
Overnight visitors	9895	0.44
Day visitors	10104	0.42



Visitors of different Months in Khunti District (Year-2013)

Months	No. of guest checked in		Total No. of bed night spent	
	Indian	Foreign	Indian	Foreign
January	54198	-	-	-
February	56198	-	-	-
March	25020	-	-	-
April	27522	-	13485	-
May	30024	-	14111	-
June	27925	-	18934	-
July	25289	-	16705	-
August	18073	-	14071	-
September	17721	-	12972	-
October	15633	-	12309	-
November	14392	-	10084	-
December	14465	-	10220	-

Visitors of different Months in Khunti District (Year-2014)

Months	No. of guest checked in		Total No. of bed night spent	
	Indian	Foreign	Indian	Foreign
January	52244	-	-	-
February	53459	-	1083	-
March	28837	-	1409	-
April	28218	-	17469	-
May	30873	-	14468	-
June	28631	-	19469	-
July	25439	-	14139	-
August	15189	-	12417	-
September	15832	-	17127	-
October	14116	-	9469	-
November	20207	-	13450	-
December	17339	-	10610	-

Source: - Deputy Sectary, Dept. of Tourism, Jharkhand, (Ranchi).

Lack of Tourism Development

The tourism industry of the Khunti district faces many problems which are the main causes of less development or low development of the region, and these problems are as follows:-

- (i) The first and major problem is the transport problem. In the district only two or three tourist spots are connected by roads mainly by NH-33 and other places are not connected by it. On the other hand, only road transport is available but mode of transport is insufficient.
- (ii) Lack of information about the different tourist places, different tribals and their culture.
- (iii) Inadequate infrastructure, i.e., banking, restaurant, mobile network, drinking water, sanitation, etc.,
- (iv) Lack of electric power or light supply.
- (v) Lack of wide level publicity and advertisement of the tourist spots regularly.

- (vi) Investment of capital is insufficient or very low.
- (vii) Irregular management of the tourist places.
- (viii) Unskilled labour and absent of trained guide.
- (ix) Local people are not interest to promote the tourism.
- (x) Negligence of Government or tourism development department.
- (xi) Due to seasonal based industry local people are forced to migrate outside region, etc.

Some suggestive plan for establish the district as a good tourist Centre

- First of all the tourism department of the state government should think about the role of the district, in the tourism industry. In the state, the government needs to identify the tourism complex for ensuring the sustainable development.
- The state government should promote to other private sectors to participate and investment for the tourism development.
- To prepare a master plan for integrated development of different places for tourism importance in the district.
- The tourism department of Jharkhand may take a step to set up a statistics centre sector which could provide tourism related data.
- The Khunti town is connected only by road transport, so government may take a plan for railway connection with Khunti.
- The tourist needs basic facilities such as restaurant, food, banking, drinking water, sanitation, etc., which are not available in every tourist spot except one or two, so government should provide these facilities.
- It is necessary to generate the employment opportunity to local people.
- It is required managing the tourist places regularly for better management it is needed to fix the trained persons with fixed salary.
- Tourist depends on tour operator, travel agent and guide which are not available in every spot, so government should provide trained operator and guide.
- It is necessary to encourage the local people with giving a chance to economical benefit and understand them that they can earn lot of money from tourism development
- Government should take a step to safe and promote the different tribal's and their culture by providing their necessary facilities.
- To protect and promote the rich and different kinds of handicrafts of the local people, so as to conserve and preserve the cultural heritage.
- Government should provide security, marketing availability, etc., to the tourists.

Economical Benefit

In our Country the tourism industry is one of the major foreign exchange earners and it is the highest employment generator. The district of Khunti is economically backward and most of the people are engaged in primary occupation, so the tourism industry of the district can provide a lot of job opportunity directly and indirectly. Through this industry, people can earn a lot of money. As for example, the local people can earn money by driving. People can get money from hotels, restaurants, parking areas, water supply, etc. On the other hand, people also should sell their hand made products, food crops, etc., this area widely shared with economy. So, there may be a great economic benefit in tourism industry.

Another Spots which may be attractive for tourist

- (1) **Kanchi Chunaghati Confluence** This place may be a tourist spot, due to its natural beauty on one hand and well connected by the Ranchi-Khunti road on other hand. Here, Chunaghati Nala

has met with Kanchi River and its northern direction is surrounded by hills with the green forest. So, it may be attractive for the tourist.

- (II) **Kulda** It is a village of Torpa Block which is only few km from Torpa town. In this place Chhata River meets to Karo River with an angular shape land and it is covered by dense forest. If the Govt. will want to develop it as a tourist spot, it may be attractive for tourist. It is also well connected by Torpa-Khunti road.
- (III) **Dinatoli Phatka natural spot** This place may be developed as one of the tourist spots. Because this place is situated at the confluence point of three rivers. From north side the Papraserang Nadi, from north-east direction Banai Nadi, and from eastern side the Phulibari Nadi, they met to the Karo River where several hills are located occupied by thick forest. It is about 15 kms away from the Pherewaghagh waterfalls which is linked with Torpa town.

Conclusion

The district of Khunti is enriched with natural beauty, comfortable climate and culture. Different tourist places have been located here and there is great probability of some other places which may be developed as a tourist spots. The development of tourism industry is very low in the district. If the Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation (JTDC) and the Government of Jharkhand would adopt the above mentioned action and plans, the tourism industry might be developed very rapidly. Although JTDC and state government has taken different scheme to improve the tourism but progress is negligible. It is also found that many private sectors have come to invest money for tourism development in the district. On the other hand, the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has invited the persons from engineering department of India to develop the tourism industry of the state.

We know that there are a number of barriers for tourism development in the state especially in the district Khunti but there are some possibilities of the development which can be started after removing the barriers. We have a firm belief and hope that the state government and JTDC can be overcome to develop tourism industry in future in the state.

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