



## ECONOMIC VALUATION OF ECO-TOURISM IN VAN VIHAR NATIONAL PARK

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**Abstract:** Ecotourism focuses on preserving natural environment and wildlife, providing educational and recreational opportunities for visitors. The different types of tourism, is focused on responsible travel to natural areas. Eco-tourism plays an important role as revenue generation for the local authority & to state/ central government.

Van Vihar National Park is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the most popular ecotourism destinations in the country, attracting over 1 million visitors annually. The park is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including tigers, leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, and over 200 species of birds. Ecotourism activities at Van Vihar National Park include jeep safaris, nature walks, and boat rides. Visitors can also learn about the park's wildlife and conservation efforts at the interpretation centre.

Van Vihar in 1983, notified as "National Park" & governed under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Van Vihar, is the only place in Central India, 'rescue Centre harbours' number of lions from the circuses, sloth bears & other abandoned / distressed animals like tigers, panthers, beers are rescued from the wild. Van Vihar Park consists of many rare & endangered species & others varieties of animals e.g. Tiger, Snakes Asiatic Lion, Narasingha, Jackals, wild boars, black bucks, kingfisher, painted stocks.

The objective of this paper is to assess benefits of ecotourism for national parks and local communities. Secondly, to find out how the ecotourism revenue can create a stable source of income for park. Lastly to study the economic benefits of ecotourism, including spending on lodging, food, and transportation.

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In this study two method of economic valuation have been used a) Travel cost method and b) Tourism Expenditure Method. Travel Cost Method is based on the Assumption of the value of a recreational site is reflected in the amount of money that people are willing to spend to travel to and visit the site. e.g. cost of transportation, lodging, food, and other expenses

Both primary and secondary data was collected through structured questionnaire and interviewed 25 respondents after pretesting of questionnaire. The key informants were the tourists, entering in the national park. After data collection, data compilation and tabulation work were done on computer. Simple statistical techniques were also used in the interpretation of data.

The Tourism Expenditure Method was based on the assumption that economic value of ecotourism is equal to the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of visitor spending. This method provides a more complete picture of the economic value of ecotourism than other methods, such as the travel cost method, which only takes into account the direct economic impacts of visitor spending.

After analysis of data, the study suggests based on the tourist response that more Animals, Especially Tigers should have kept in the national park. The information sharing will create an awareness level about the animals. For creating new infrastructure and fencing near by the upper lake will avoid the risk of incidents. It is recommended that more investment is required for maintenance of the animal and park. The economic valuation differs due to change in Park policy, entry fee, and expenditure elasticity is governed by the income elasticity of individuals.

**Keywords:** TCM, WTP, elasticity, investment

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India, home to more than 100 national parks and animal sanctuaries, contributing to its rich and varied natural heritage. A diverse range of plants and animals, including numerous endangered and threatened species, can be found in these protected regions.

National parks are essential to the growth of ecotourism, an industry that is expanding in India. The following are some advantages that ecotourism can provide to national parks:

1. Producing income to help with conservation initiatives
2. Spreading the awareness in the society about the importance of conservation
3. Attracting tourists' attention to India's distinctive natural heritage

#### 4. Creating jobs and other economic opportunities for local communities

Effective ecotourism initiatives have been developed and implemented in several Indian national parks. For example, Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand has experienced a significant increase in visitors recently, mostly as a result of its ecotourism programs. The park offers a range of ecotourism activities, including guided nature walks, safaris, and birdwatching trips. It has also constructed a number of eco-lodges and tourist facilities. Additionally, Corbett National Park collaborates with nearby communities to develop and manage ecotourism activities. Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan is another example of an Indian national park that has effectively incorporated ecotourism. Renowned for its tiger population, Ranthambore draws tourists from all over the world. The park offers a range of ecotourism activities, including vehicle safaris and nature walks. It has also constructed a number of eco-lodges and tourist facilities.

Additionally, Ranthambore National Park collaborates with neighbourhood groups to plan and oversee ecotourism projects.

In India, the ecotourism industry is expanding, and national parks are essential to its growth. National parks can gain a lot from ecotourism, including financial support for conservation initiatives, increased public awareness of the value of conservation, information for tourists about India's distinctive natural heritage, and the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities for nearby communities.

### **1.1. Importance of Ecotourism & other kinds of tourism**

- Ecotourism is an approach of travel that emphasizes protecting the environment, supporting locals' wellbeing, and taking responsible trips to natural places (Epler Wood, 1996). With annual global earnings expected to surpass 10,000 crore rupees, it is a quickly expanding segment of the tourist business.
- Butcher (2007), mentioned the role of ecotourism in bringing about sustainable development in the developing world for nearby towns, ecotourism can have a major positive economic impact. Spending on lodging, food and drink, transportation, and extracurricular activities like nature hikes, bird viewing, and safari trips is usual for tourists visiting ecotourism sites. By spending this money, employment and local businesses can be supported.

- Ecotourism can produce a variety of indirect economic benefits in addition to the direct ones. For instance, ecotourism can contribute to the promotion of regional heritage and culture as well as increase public understanding of the value of conservation.

Van Vihar National Park (VNP) is a popular ecotourism destination located in the heart of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India (Biswal Ashok, Singh Divya, Kumar Himanshu & Guided by Singh S.P(2017)): Economic Valuation of van Vihar National Park, Bhopal. The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including tigers, leopards, sloth bears, and over 200 species of birds. VNP attracts over a million visitors each year, generating significant economic benefits for the local community.

## 1.2. Kinds of Tourism

- **Ecotourism:** The tourism focuses on responsible travel that minimizes its impact on the environment. Ecotourists often visit natural areas such as national parks, rainforests, and wildlife sanctuaries.
- **Adventure tourism:** The tourism focuses on explore new places, often i.e. challenging or remote environments. Popular adventure tourism activities include hiking, camping, trekking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, and skydiving.
- **Cultural tourism:** The tourism focuses on visiting historical sites, museums, art galleries, and other cultural attractions. Cultural tourism can be a great way to learn about different cultures and traditions.
- **Nature tourism:** The tourism focuses on traveling locations to live in harmony with the natural world; it does not involve creating jobs for the local population i.e., traveling to natural places to see them and enjoy them.

## 1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study, conducted with the help of **Van Vihar Authorities**, is to **quantify the economic benefits arrived from the ecotourism in Van Vihar National Park**. The information obtained can be helpful to make informed decision about the allocation & the management of resource & service i.e. new visitor facilities or improved management practices. There are several techniques that economic valuation studies can be utilized to calculate the financial benefits of ecotourism. To find out how much ecotourists spend on various services and activities, one popular method is to conduct surveys

with them. The overall economic impact of ecotourism in the area can then be estimated using the survey's data & questionnaire.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objective of economic valuation of ecotourism in van Vihar national park is to assess the value of ecotourism to the local economy, economic efficiency of ecotourism management in the park & developing a sustainable ecotourism management plan for the park.

- To Determine the total economic impact of ecotourism in Van Vihar National Park and the surrounding communities, including direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts.
- Assess the economic efficiency of ecotourism management in Van Vihar National Park.
- Provide information that can be used to justify investments in ecotourism infrastructure and services.
- Support the development of sustainable ecotourism management plans for Van Vihar National Park.
- Illustrated how ecotourism contributes to the long-term sustainability of parks and their conservation initiatives.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The methodology used for the study on the economic evaluation of ecotourism in Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal involve use of both primary & secondary analysis. The primary analysis was conducted through survey on the tourist visiting the van Vihar Park, while secondary analysis was done through review of existing annual reports, publications & the data records maintained by the van Vihar authorities.

### **3.1. Primary Analysis**

The survey was conducted among group of tourists including the information about their occupation, annual income, total distance travelled by the visitor, number of times visited the park, travel expenses incurred by the visitor. The survey also includes information about number of days' visitor are planning to stay in Bhopal, the aesthetic beauty & environmental quality of the van Vihar Park, impacts of ecotourism on the income of local & environment.

Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal  
Course of Independent Study (Compulsory)  
Title - ECONOMIC VALUATION OF ECO-TOURISM OF VAN VIHAR NATIONAL PARK

Questionnaire

Date - 25/07/2023 Name of Eco-tourism spot - Van Vihar Bhopal  
Name of Respondent - Jyoti Singh Age - 35 Sex - Male  
Residence - Dhanbad Bihar

Q.1 Education Qualification

Intermediate	Yes	No
Graduate	Yes	No
Post Graduate	Yes	No

Q.2 Occupation

Private Employee	Yes	No
Govt Employee	Yes	No
Business	Yes	No

Q.3 What is the annual income of the family  
10 Lakh

Q.4 The total family members who have come for the visit  
8

Q.5 Number of children in the family who have come for the visit  
2

Q.6 Location of visitor home - how far they travelled to the site  
800 - 900 Km

Q.14 What are the experiences you have in Van Vihar Park, both positive & negative, if negative gave suggestion to overcome?

Positive  
- More Just on Maintenance  
- More Amount on Food Items to Animals

Q.15 Which features of Van Vihar you like the most & gave reason to it  
Beauty, Nature

Q.16 What are the impacts of Ecotourism on the following items

Items	Positive / Negative
Income of local people	Positive
Environment	Positive
Ecosystem	Positive

*Singh*

Figure 1: Survey of the tourist in Park

### 3.2. Secondary Analysis

The secondary analysis involved review of the annual reports of the park, government publication on ecotourism etc with special focus of ecotourism in van Vihar Park. The analysis helps to identify various economic benefits, challenges & sustainable management of ecotourism related to van Vihar national park & provide relevant context for the primary survey of the tourists.

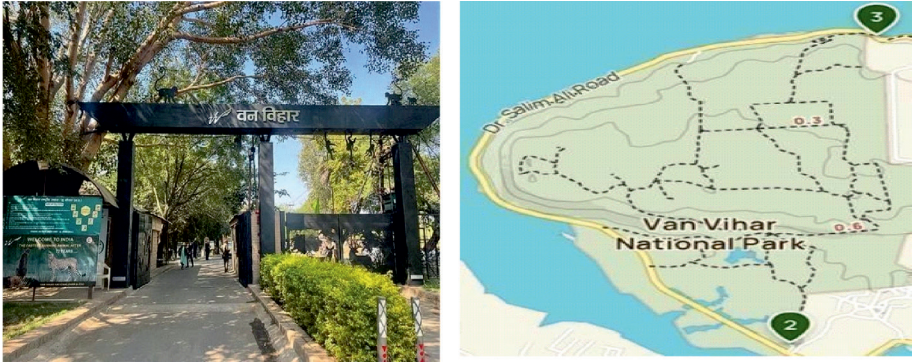
Methodologies related with Ecotourism: The main methodologies used & relevant to ecotourism are:

#### 1. Travel Cost Method 2. Tourism Expenditure Method

### 4. STUDY AREA

- Van Vihar National Park, a renowned eco-tourism destination located in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh,
- India. Established in 1979, it spans across an area of approximately 4.45 square kilometres and managed by the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh. Van Vihar in 1983, notified as “National Park” & governed under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- Van Vihar National Park is known for its unique concept of being a “no captive” zoo. Unlike traditional zoos, animals here are not kept in cages but are allowed to roam freely in their natural habitat. The park provides a safe





**Figure 2: Location of Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal**

and secure environment for various species of animals, making it an ideal place for wildlife enthusiasts, nature lovers, and eco-tourists. The park is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including tigers, lions, leopards, deer, bears, crocodiles, and numerous species of birds. Van Vihar, only place in Central India, ‘**rescue Centre harbours**’ number of lions from the circuses, sloth bears & other abandoned / distressed animals like tigers, panthers, bears are rescued from the wild.

- Visitors to Van Vihar National Park can explore the park through guided safaris and nature walks. The park offers a serene and picturesque setting, with dense forests, tranquil lakes, and beautiful landscapes. It provides an opportunity for visitors to observe and appreciate wildlife in its natural habitat while promoting conservation and environmental awareness.

Apart from wildlife viewing, Van Vihar National Park also offers other attractions and amenities for visitors. There is a nature interpretation centre that provides information about the park’s flora and fauna, along with educational exhibits. The park also has a cafeteria and picnic spots where visitors can relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. As an eco-tourism destination, Van Vihar National Park focuses on sustainable practices and environmental conservation. The park management emphasizes the importance of preserving biodiversity, protecting natural resources, and promoting responsible tourism.

They aim to create awareness about wildlife conservation and the significance of maintaining ecological balance.

## 5. ANALYSIS

**Travel Cost Method** – The travel cost method was used to evaluate the recreational values of the site such as national park, wildlife sanctuaries etc. &

the willingness of the tourists to spend amount of money to travel & visit the site (Singh S.P, Kumar Pankaj, Mishra Miloni, Saha Kumar Mukesh (2018): Economic Valuation of Sair Sapata, Bhopal. Me & My Earth Journal Pg No: 27 Year; 2, Issue -6 Bhopal, January – March 2018.

It includes the cost of transportation, lodging, foods & various other expenses. The method includes estimating the consumer’s surplus from demand curve derived from travel cost & other socio – economic data.

The Parameter involved in the method are:

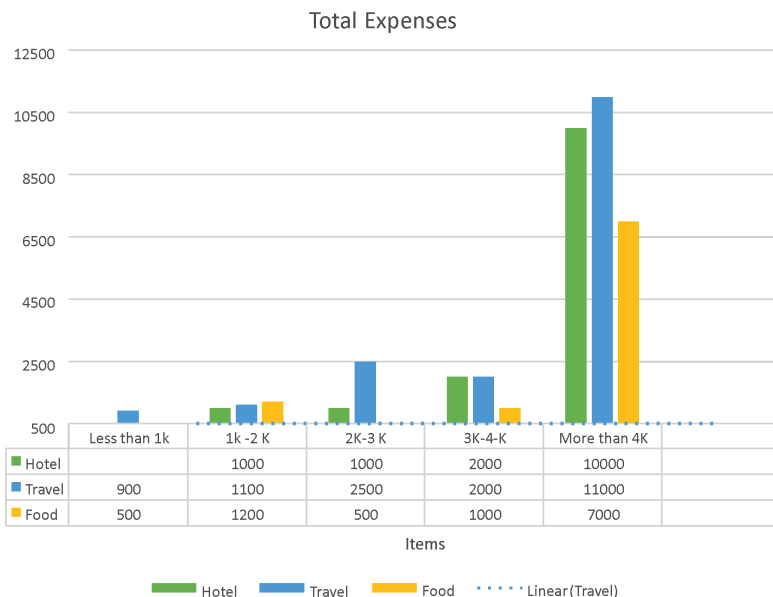
1. Location of the visitor home - total distance travelled by visitor
2. Number of times the visitor had visited the site in past / current year or season
3. The total amount of time spent at the site
4. Travel expenses incurred by visitor
5. Willingness to pay (WTP) for Entrance fee by the individuals at the Van Vihar Park  $WTP(I) = f(Y, S, C, L, T)$

Y= Income

S= Socio economic variables C= travel cost

L= Length of stay

T= Times of visit at Van Vihar national park



**Figure 3: Total Expenses incurred on various items**



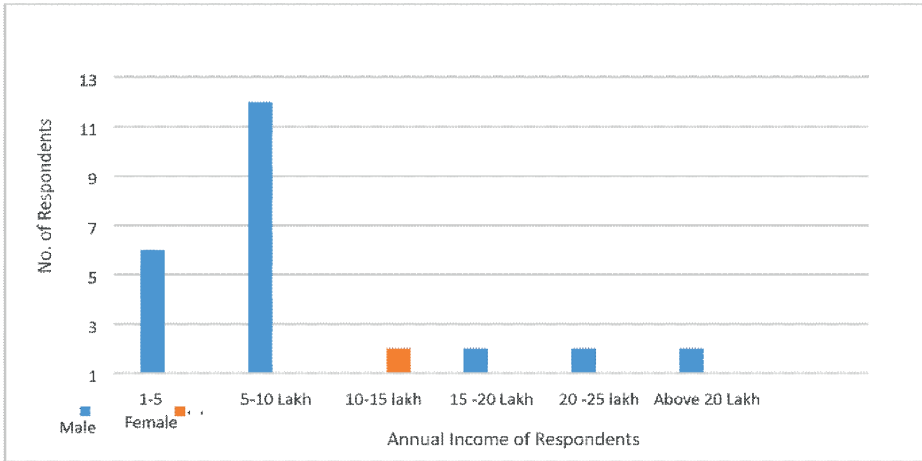
The table mentioned above shows the distribution of expenses for a trip to Bhopal city. The total expenses are divided into three categories: hotel, travel, and food. The first category is hotel, which is the most expensive. The second category is travel, which is the least expensive. The third category is food, which is the second least expensive. The most expensive category, hotel, accounts for 35% of the total expenses. The least expensive category, travel, accounts for 10% of the total expenses. The second least expensive category, food, accounts for 20% of the total expenses.

According to the table, hotel accommodations account for the majority of expenditures. One possible explanation for this could be because the trip is going to a well-known tourist spot with expensive hotels. Because travel expenses are very low, the data also indicates that the trip is not very long. Lastly, given that food expenses are very low, the data indicates that the breaks is not particularly focused on eating. Overall, the data shows that the trip is a relatively expensive one, with most of the money being spent on hotel accommodations. The trip is not very long and is not very focused on food.

The Analysis is further explained into various headings of expense:

- **Hotel expenses:** A number of factors, including the popularity of the tourist location, the season, and the type of hotel accommodation chosen, could lead to the high hotel expenses. For instance, hotel rates are typically higher during peak travel seasons and in popular tourist locations. Also, luxury hotels are more expensive than inexpensive hotels.
- **Travel expenses:** The low travel expenses could be due to a number of factors, such as the length of the trip, the mode of transportation used, and the distance travelled. For example, shorter trips and trips that involve less travel (e.g., staying in one place for the entire trip) will have lower travel expenses. Additionally, traveling by trains will typically be cheaper than traveling by car.
- **Food expenses:** A number of factors could be contributing to the low food expenses, including the type of food consumed, the frequency of meals out, and the cost of food in the visiting place; For E.g., Eating Street food will usually be less expensive than dining at restaurants; additionally, food prices are generally lower in non -tourist destination.

The particular cause for the low travel, meal & high accommodations depend upon the particular duration & distance travelled by different group of visitors.



**Figure 4: Annual Income of the Respondents**

### Annual Income of Respondents

<i>Income</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1-5 lakh	6	
5-10 Lakh	12	1
10-15 lakh		2
15-20 Lakh	2	
20-25 lakh	2	
Above 20 Lakh	2	

The table shows the annual income of respondents in India, by age and gender. The average annual income for all respondents is INR 500,000. Men have a slightly higher average annual income than women (INR 510,000 vs INR 490,000).

The table also shows that income varies with age. The highest average annual income is for respondents aged 45-54 (INR 600,000). The lowest average annual income is for respondents aged 18-24 (INR 300,000).

This could be due to a number of factors, such as:

- **Education:** Younger responders are more likely to be enrolled in school or to have graduated recently, which implies that they may be paid less and have less work experience
- **Experience:** The likelihood of older respondents having more job experience and possibly having been promoted to higher-paying positions is higher.

- **Industry:** Entry-level jobs in lower-paying industries may be more common among younger responders. The likelihood that older respondents have advanced to more senior roles in higher paying industries may be higher.

It is also important to note that the table shows the average annual income for each age group and gender.

This means that there will be a range of incomes within each group. For example, some respondents aged 45-54 may earn less than INR 600,000 per year, while others may earn more. Overall, the table shows that income in India varies with age and gender. Men have a slightly higher average annual income than women, and this can be with income increases with age. This could be due to a number of factors, such as education, experience, and industry.

The table above shows that **tourist income elasticity** is **greater than one** for all age groups, indicating that tourism is **a luxury good for all age groups** in India i.e., as tourist income increases, the demand for tourism increases at a faster rate. The table also shows that **price elasticity of tourism** demand is **less than one** for all age groups, indicating that tourism is an **inelastic good for all age groups** in India i.e. as the price of tourism services increases, the demand for tourism decreases at a slower rate.

In other words, tourists in India are willing to spend more money on tourism as their income increases, and they are not as sensitive to changes in the price of tourism services. This could be due to a number of factors, such as the increasing disposable income of tourists in India, the growing middle class in India, and the increasing popularity of tourism as a leisure activity in India. For example, some tourists aged 45-54 may be more sensitive to changes in the price of tourism services than others.

**3.4. Tourism Expenditure Method** – The tourism expenditure method provides a more complete picture of the economic value of ecotourism than other methods, such as the travel cost method, which only takes into account the direct economic impacts of visitor spending. The method does not include capture

Willingness to pay of the visitor & calculates the average tourism expenditure. The method includes different parameters:

1. Accommodation
2. Food & Transport Expenditure
3. Entry Fees

The tourist often eats at the **Wild café restaurant**, present inside the van Vihar national park & the income generated from the tourist are given below done through primary Analysis:

<i>Year 2022-23</i>	<i>Income Generated</i>
January	4,20,000
February	3,90,000
March	4,00,000
April	3,60,000
May	3,50,000
June	5,00,000
July	5,00,000
August	4,50,000
September	4,00,000
October	4,40,000
November	4,80,000
December	4,90,000
Total Income generated	51, 80,000

The Income generated by the Wild Life Restaurant depends upon the footfall of the tourist in particular month & season i.e. peak season & low season in particular annual year. The tourist mostly comes in the monsoon & winter season in year (June- December) & the income generated during monsoon season reaches to rupees 5 lakh per month.

The Wild café restaurant had 3-year lease period & the expense includes are: Rent 2,80,000/ year, Electricity 1,00,000 / year. The

Employment Income per month of restaurant is rupees 1,50,000. The highest income was generated in June and December, both of which had an income of INR 5,00,000. The lowest income was generated in April, with an income of INR 3,60,000. The income generated in each month fluctuates, but there is a general upward trend from January to December. The table shows that the business is growing and generating more income over time. In the Peak season the Average footfall of the tourist is 4,000 & in the low season the average footfall of the tourist is 2800.

The tourist can enjoy the beauty of the nature while having their lunch in the Wild Café Restaurant, view from the restaurant is beautiful & charming for the tourist.

The Most order items in Wild Café Restaurant are:

1. Veg Cheese Sandwich
2. Hakka Noodles
3. Masala Dosa
4. Pineapple Juice
5. Mosambi Juice



Figure 5: Menu of the wild café restaurant

#### 4. INCOME OF VAN VIHAR NATIONAL PARK

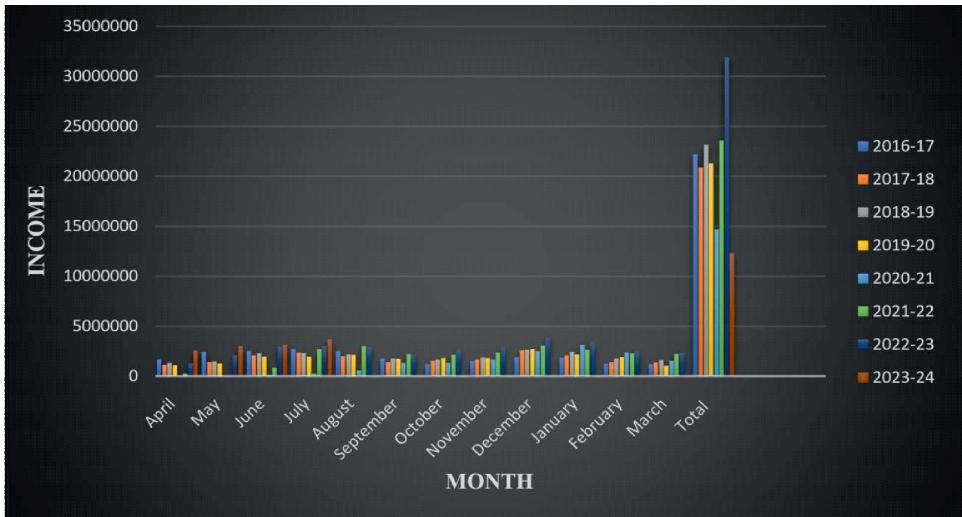


Figure 6: Income generated from Ecotourism (Source: Van Vihar Park)

The table shows the data presented from the financial years 2016-17 to 2023-24. The table shows the total income generated in Van Vihar National Park has increased steadily over the past seven years, from INR 22,193,924 in 2016-17 to INR 51,855,290 in 2022-23. This represents an increase of over 140% over the seven-year period.

The largest source of income for Van Vihar National Park is tourism. In 2022-23, tourism accounted for INR 42,985,000 of the total income generated. This is followed by revenue from the offerings of products by Van

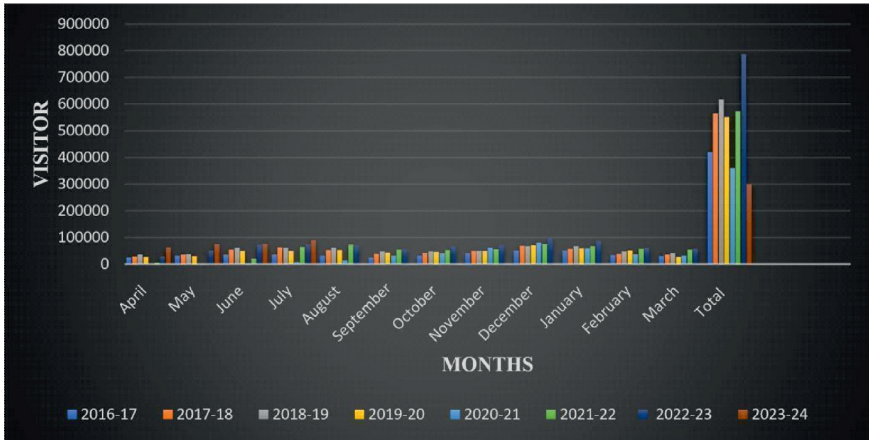
Vihar Park (INR 5,031,300) i.e., Safari and revenue from other sources (INR 3,783,700) i.e. Video camera, Morning walk, Cycling etc.

#### key findings from the table

- Total income generated in Van Vihar National Park has increased steadily over the past seven years, from INR 21,241,465 in 2016-17 to INR 51,800,000 in 2022-23.
- The largest source of income for Van Vihar National Park is tourism, which accounted for INR 42,985,000 of the total income generated in 2022-23.
- The increase in income generated by Van Vihar National Park is likely due to a number of factors, including an increase in the number of tourists visiting the park, an increase in the price of park entry fees etc.



- The increased income generated by Van Vihar National Park is a positive development, as it will allow further investment in infrastructure and facilities, and to carry out important conservation and maintenance.
- Total No. of visitor in Van Vihar National Park Details of Visitor in Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal



**Figure 7: Total Number of Tourist Visiting Park in different annual Year (Source: Van Vihar Park)**

The table shows the distribution of visitors in the Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal. The data is presented for the financial years 2016-17 to 2022-24.

The total number of visitors to the park has increased steadily over the past seven years, from 419,641 in 2016-17 to 785,860 in 2022-23. This represents an increase of over 64% over the seven-year period.

The largest number of visitors to the park are domestic tourists, accounting for 785,860 of the total number of visitors in 2022-23. This is followed by foreign tourists (75,695) and students (2,200).

### key findings from the table

The total number of visitors to Van Vihar National Park has increased steadily over the past seven years, from 419,641 in 2016-17 to 785,695 in 2022-23.

The largest number of visitors to the park are domestic tourists, accounting for 623,107 of the total number of visitors in 2022-23.

The increase in the number of visitors to Van Vihar National Park is likely due to a number of factors, including the park's unique biodiversity, scenic beauty, and educational and recreational facilities.

The increase in the number of visitors to Van Vihar National Park is a positive development, as it helps to raise awareness about the park's importance and the need for its conservation. It also generates revenue for the park, which can be used to improve its infrastructure and facilities.

Apart from the Annual tourist records maintenance of the tourist visiting the van Vihar national park, the Van Vihar authorities also maintain the daily records of the tourist visiting the park. In the image mentioned below, it talks about the records maintenance on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

### **Impact on the local Area**

The Van Vihar provides a positive impact on the local area i.e., tea shops & other eateries present near the van Vihar Park have seen a positive increase in their income during year. The tea shop present near van Vihar Park, have daily income of rupees 500 from tourist i.e., monthly income of 15,000 rupees. During peak season they served 250 cups of tea of 6 rupees each & 70 cups of tea served daily to the tourist. The main items ordered are:

Tea, Cold drink, Patties & etc. The average tourist visits the stall are 70 & during peak season they are 250 tourists.

## **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION**

### **Conclusion**

In Conclusion, the study on economic evaluation of ecotourism helps to assess the income generation for the park from the tourist, through various means i.e., entry fees of the visitor, other tourism related activities. The income generated can be used to improve the infrastructure & facilities provided to the animals, and carry out the important conservation & maintenance activities. The Ecotourism supports local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops & businesses get benefit from the increased number of visitors to the park. It also helps to improve the lives of people living in communities around the park. For example, ecotourism provides opportunities for local people to earn income, and develop their businesses. Sustainable development of ecotourism helps to encourage local people to protect their natural resources & develop business i.e., compatible with conservation.

The study found that the economic benefits of ecotourism in Van Vihar National Park are significant. In 2019, ecotourists spent an estimated amount 2 crore rupees on park entrance fees, transportation, food and beverage. This

spending generated a total economic impact of 7-8 Crore rupees, including direct, indirect, and induced effects. The study also found that ecotourism has a number of positive impacts on the local community.

Additionally, ecotourism has helped to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and has provided financial resources for conservation efforts. The study concludes that ecotourism is a valuable asset to Van Vihar National Park and the surrounding communities. It provides both economic and environmental benefits.

The study suggests that the park authorities keep up their promotion of ecotourism and keep creating new ecotourism goods and services. Van Vihar National Park is in excellent position to benefit from the constantly expanding ecotourism sector. The park's many distinctive features include its central Bhopal location, its wide range of species, and its dedication to environmental preservation. Van Vihar National Park is able to produce income for the park and the neighbours by promoting ecotourism and creating new ecotourism goods and services.

### **Recommendation**

- Based on the conclusion and analysis of primary and secondary data some of the important suggestions have been provided from the tourist point of view.
- Increase the number of animals, particularly tigers, in the park.
- Disseminate more information and raise awareness about animals.
- Construct additional fencing along the riverside, especially in areas where young children are likely to be present.
- Invest more resources in maintenance and provide more food for the animals.
- Enhancement of water access for tourists.

### ***Acknowledgement***

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