



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
Impact Factor: 5.2  
IJAR 2015; 1(8): 263-266  
www.allresearchjournal.com  
Received: 11-05-2015  
Accepted: 15-06-2015

**Swarup Saha**  
Research Scholar, Department  
of Geography, Visva-Bharati,  
Santiniketan

**Dr. Gopal Chandra Debnath**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Geography,  
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

## Temporal Dimensions of Tourism: A Study on Sikkim Himalaya

**Swarup Saha, Gopal Chandra Debnath**

### Abstract

Tourism is the most popular form of recreations. Tourism has become one of the fastest growing industries and an economic and social phenomenon of major importance. Tourism today is a larger giant in terms of employment, investment, output and value. Sikkim is a landlocked Indian state located in the Eastern Himalaya. For such area, tourism is one of the ways to enhance economic development. This article analyses the temporal dimension of tourist influx in Sikkim, both the domestic tourist and foreign tourist. The seasonal variation of tourist flow in terms of peak influx period and off-season also examine in this paper.

**Keywords:** *Temporal Dimension of Tourism, Domestic Tourist Arrival, Foreign Tourist Arrival.*

### 1. Introduction

Tourism industry is experiencing tremendous expansion over the years as results of its inclusion into the national economic plan of develop and developing economies of the world. In the very beginning, travel has held “a fascination for the adventurer” and helped the extension of human habitat. People go away for leisure travels in order to get rid of their monotonous daily life such leisure travels often get the status of “tourism”.

### 2. Study Area

Sikkim is a small hilly state in the Eastern Himalaya. This tiny Himalayan state is widely acclaimed for its spectacular terrain, snowy mountains, luxuriant forests with exotic flora and fauna, sacred lakes, pristine glaciers, cascading waterfalls, holy cave, medicinal hot springs, roaring rivers and gentle streams.

**Correspondence:**  
**Swarup Saha**  
Research Scholar, Department  
of Geography, Visva-Bharati,  
Santiniketan



**Map:** Location of Sikkim in India



**Map:** Administrative Map of Sikkim

### 3. Objectives

- To assess the temporal dimension of tourist.
- To study the tourist flow pattern.
- To examine the variation between Domestic Tourist and Foreign Tourist flow.
- To analyse the peak tourist influx period and off-season.

### 4. Data Base and Methodology

This study is based on Secondary data. Data have been collected from Sikkim tourism department and other Web sites. Data compilation and evaluation are done for analyzing and illustration purpose.

### 5. Temporal Dimensions of Tourism

#### 5.1 Seasonal Flow Pattern of Tourist

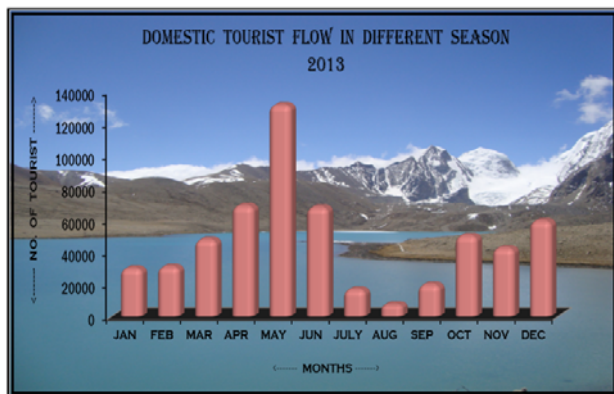


Fig: Domestic Tourist Flow in Different Seasons

MONTH	DOMESTIC TOURISTS
JAN	30,292
FEB	31,278
MAR	48,102
APR	69,054
MAY	1,31,804
JUN	68,205
JULY	17,161
AUG	7,713
SEP	20,115
OCT	50,461
NOV	42,836
DEC	59,728

Source: Department of Tourism; Sikkim.

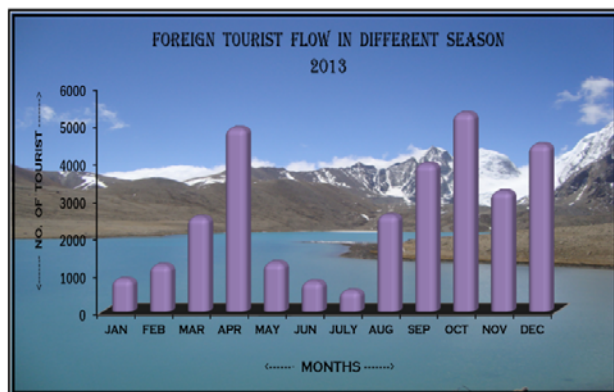


Fig: Foreign Tourist Flow in Different Seasons

MONTH	FOREIGN TOURISTS
JAN	873
FEB	1,247
MAR	2,524
APR	4,895
MAY	1,312
JUN	804
JULY	563
AUG	2,579
SEP	3,942
OCT	5,292
NOV	3,210
DEC	4,457

Source: Department of Tourism; Sikkim.

The above diagram shows the month wise domestic and foreign flow of tourists in the year 2013. It is clear that number of domestic tourists is much greater than foreign tourists. Tourist’s influx is more in the summer season that is in months April-June, because of the cold mountainous climate of Sikkim. And in rainy season (July-August) number of tourists is less because of cloudy and rainy season. So it is clear that there is seasonality in tourists flow. The number of foreign tourists has to increase and tourism has to make a year round activity for further development of this area.

#### 5.2 Temporal Development in Terms of Tourist Flow

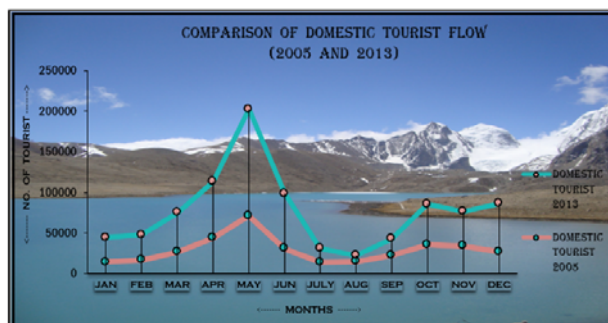


Fig: Comparison of Domestic Tourist Flow 2005 And 2013

MONTH	DOMESTIC TOURISTS 2005	DOMESTIC TOURISTS 2013
JAN	14245	30292
FEB	16100	31278
MAR	26100	48102
APR	43702	69054
MAY	70744	131804
JUN	30480	68205
JULY	13760	17161
AUG	14382	7713
SEP	22738	20115
OCT	35396	50461
NOV	33480	42836
DEC	26523	59728

Source: Department of Tourism; Sikkim.

The above polygraph is showing the comparison of domestic tourists flow in 2005 and 2013. It is quite clear that number of tourists is increasing through the passage of time. Within eight years the number of tourists flow has increased two to three times. Here, it is clear that number of tourist flow is maximum in summer season, and less in rainy season. Because in rainy season cloudy and the wet weather condition increases the chances of landslide, create the problem of communication.

### 5.3 Temporal Change in Domestic Tourist Flow

MONTH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
JAN	14245	17887	22286	24035	30395	40160	42314	28560	30292
FEB	16100	18550	23465	26098	35883	48420	50652	29642	31278
MAR	26100	41593	47465	51018	55965	60560	62438	45231	48102
APR	43702	61084	70684	76539	85669	87172	89238	65341	69054
MAY	70744	80052	86448	99625	108778	116641	124323	120212	131804
JUN	30480	32912	34025	35172	63905	68236	69784	65673	68205
JULY	13760	17268	19462	22010	26992	27021	29540	18628	17161
AUG	14382	20628	21428	22628	35826	37180	38964	35294	7713
SEP	22738	25028	25295	26910	41285	53624	13943	12678	20115
OCT	35396	39834	43218	49456	44865	59582	9682	42390	50461
NOV	33480	35899	38215	43018	43720	48764	8326	39602	42836
DEC	26523	31208	33213	35864	42345	52651	13249	55287	59728

Source: Department of Tourism; Sikkim.

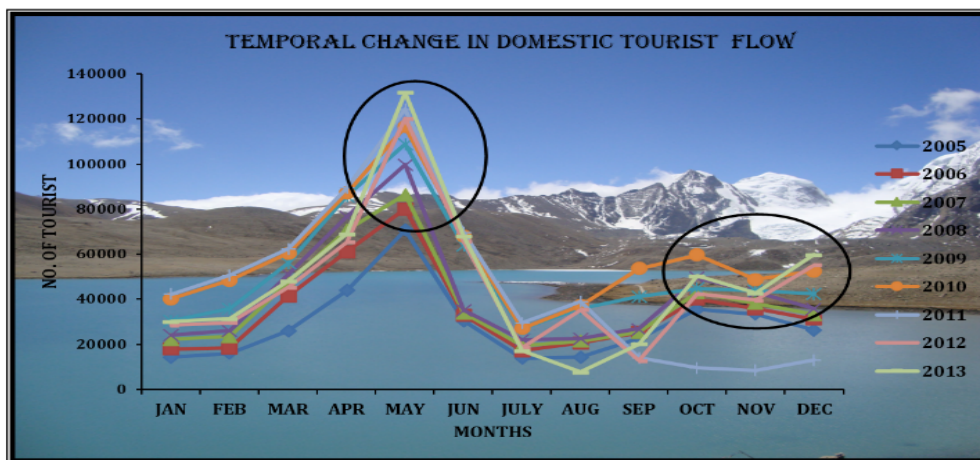


Fig: Temporal change in Domestic Tourist Flow

### 5.4 Temporal Change in Foreign Tourist Flow

MONTH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
JAN	721	789	866	910	696	984	1436	1904	873
FEB	1082	1262	1286	1106	1053	1320	1065	2406	1247
MAR	2280	1981	2225	2406	2184	2605	2423	3199	2524
APR	2198	3124	2386	2411	2544	3036	2615	3939	4895
MAY	1351	1445	1058	1857	1335	1593	2875	2058	1312
JUN	611	488	631	393	429	830	643	1152	804
JULY	372	471	549	453	646	680	553	1282	563
AUG	625	741	811	864	846	979	873	1048	2579
SEP	991	1372	1230	1330	1275	1678	1415	1432	3942
OCT	3053	2961	3106	3386	2925	2780	4286	4486	5292
NOV	2313	2198	2471	2867	2406	2410	3323	2300	3210
DEC	921	1217	1218	1171	1391	1862	2438	1283	4457

Source: Department of Tourism; Sikkim.

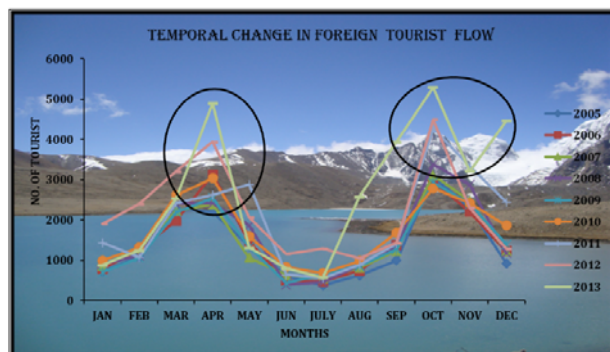


Fig: Temporal change in Foreign Tourist Flow



A View of old M.G Marg in Gangtok



Recent Development of M.G Marg

**Temporal Development of Market Area in State Capital  
Gangtok**

**Coordinates:** Lat.- 27°19'44"N Long.- 88°36'44"E

### 6. Summary and Conclusion

This study identifies that the number of tourists is increasing through the passage of time. It is clear that number of domestic tourist is much greater than foreign tourists. Tourist influx is more in the summer season that is in the months of April-May-June, because of the cold mountainous climate of Sikkim. And in rainy season (July-August-September) number of tourist is less because in rainy season cloudy and the wet weather condition increases the chances of landslide, create the problem of communication. Foreign tourist influx is also high in the winter season (October-November-December), because a number of come to Sikkim for trekking purpose in this season. However, there is already a very good position of Sikkim in tourism development; some sorts of infrastructural development will further widen the scope of tourism in this state. Some government and non-government organization as well as the local communities has an important role for the development of tourism and overall economic development of the state.

### 7. References

1. Ashworth GJ. 'Products, places and promotion: destination images in the analysis of the tourism industry'. In Sinclair, M.T. and Stabler, M.J. (eds), 1991.
2. Ballabh A. Fundamentals of Travel and Tourism. Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi, 1993.
3. Burkart AJ, Melik S, Tourism: Past, Present and Future. William Heinemann Ltd, London, 1974.
4. Cohen E. 'Impact of Tourism on the Physical Environment', Annals of Tourism Research, 1978, 5(2).
5. Farrel BH, Mac Lellan RW. (eds.) 'Tourism and Physical Environment', Special Issue, Annals of Tourism Research, 1987, 14.
6. Govt. of Sikkim Sikkim: A Statistical Profile 2002, Directorates of Economics and Statistics, Gangtok, 2003.
7. Govt. of Sikkim Sikkim: The Hidden Paradise, Department of Tourism, Gangtok, 2004.
8. Govt. of Sikkim, Dept. of Tourism Tourism Master Plan of Sikkim 1997-2011, Volume-V (A Digest), Tata Economic Consultancy Services, New Delhi, 1998.
9. Hall CM, Stephen J. Page The Geography of Tourism and Recreation: Environment, Place and Space, Second Edition, Routledge, London, 2001.
10. Holden A. Environment and Tourism, Routledge,

London, 2000.

11. Hunter C, Green H. Tourism and the Environment: A Sustainable Relationship. London: Routledge, 1995.
12. Jayapalan N. An Introduction to Tourism. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, Delhi, 1984.
13. Lama MP *et al.* Sikkim Study Series: Geography and Environment, Dept. of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, 2004.
14. Mitchell LS, Peter E. Murphy 'Geography and Tourism', Annals of Tourism Research, 1991, 18.
15. Paul DB. A Perspective Paper on Tourism Development of Tourism. Government of Kerala, 1991.
16. Risley HH. The Gazetteer of Sikkim, Reprinted in 1995, Low Price Publications, Delhi, 1928.
17. Smith RV, Mitchell LS. Geography and tourism: a review of selected literature'. In Cooper, C.P. (ed.), 1990.
18. Theobald W. (ed) Global Tourism: The Next Decade, Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 1994.
19. <http://www.sikkim.gov.in>
20. <http://www.sikkiminfo.net>