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Title of the thesis : Contribution of Tourism to Indian Economy

An Input-Output Analysis

Findings:

Tourism is an increasingly popular global activity. Besides being world's largest export earner, it contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment of an economy. Its strong linkage with other economic sectors of the economy enhances its overall impact. In Indian context, while the basic tourism statistics are readily available, there lies a void with respect to quantification of this overall impact. The present study attempts to fill this void and estimates the contribution of tourism to GDP. Further, it analyses its inter-linkages with the other sectors of the economy.

The study validates the significance of tourism sector in terms of its contribution to economy' total GDP and its strong backward linkages with many other sectors, particularly services sector. Given the significance of tourism sector in terms of its contribution to economy' total GDP and its strong backward linkages with many other sectors, particularly services sector, it is important for policy makers to focus on the sector. The increased investment in the development of this sector would not only enhance the tourism activity but would favourably impact the growth in other sectors too. The forward linkages with

some sectors suggest its sensitivity to the changes in other sectors' production. Also the tax revenue collected through the tourism activity contributes significantly to the government earnings, benefiting the nation even more.

Given this, it is important for policy makers to focus on the sector. The increased investment in the development of this sector would not only enhance the tourism activity but would favourably impact the growth in other sectors and would enhance the households' incomes.