

208. A Holistic Approach to Preserve Sustainability of Haleji Lake by Using Eco-Tourism Theory

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Abstract

Haleji is one of the unique lake in Pakistan which is situated few Kilometres away from the Keenjhar lake in Thatta District. One of the special features of lake is that it is Heaven for the migratory birds that used to migrate during winters from their origin and return in summer. The lake has been devastated by hunting, inadequate water supply and lack of government policies to protect the sanctuary and to provide breeding ground to all the species. Lots of unplanned efforts were made to save the wildlife sanctuary, but all efforts went in vain. Instead the local tourists have created another additional fuss around the lake. In order to protect the lake and the ecology of the lake special efforts are required, therefore, the paper aims to protect the lake through eco-tourism. Extensive tourism in this kind of delicate areas without any planning can destabilize the decorum of natural framework and locality. The accumulation of visitors to these sensitive areas can intimate tremendous natural corruption which leads to the pollution of air, water and land and at last the harm just returns back to user. Thus, the methodology for research involved detailed surveys and interviews with the management, local public and few active visitors. Also detailed interviews with architects and experts were conducted and case studies on water related recreational resorts were brought forward. The implementation of eco-tourism concept in proposed recreational resort will be beneficial to overcome the problems that the lake is facing regarding the Sustainability of lake and Ecology of wildlife.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since the day world is created it is facing many problems such as social, political, environmental, and cultural and many more. Resolving these issues has just nailed human life. Many international, national, local and private bodies are working to find the best solution as it could be. One major problem that shouldn't be neglected is the multiple growth of world population with enormous changes in technology. Technology is a great way to stay entertained, but it is disconnecting people today; as people are more frustrated, confused in many fatigues and are continuously experiencing depressions day by day by getting loneliness.

Water is considered the most important element for a living being. It has ability to deal the creatures, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually it can heal the worldly creatures. Animals, humans, birds all need water to live and relax their selves. Keeping this point of view beaches, hills lakeside parks, play a great role to entertain not only physically but spiritually.

Pakistan with the population more than 191 million has few recreational spots (resorts) to meet with its continued growth. It is also that the resorts and places that are supposed to deal physically and spiritually are also lacking with facilities and accommodations.

Sindh with the plain and hills and having hot and dry climatic regions to some of its plains and also the presence of lakes providing fresh drinking water is also lacking with basic facilities to be provided for the visitors.

Makli being the ancient city of Sindh having the largest necropolises and also having the connection directly to the capital of Sindh Karachi has a lake namely HALEJI. It is renowned for the wildlife sanctuary that has been corrupted and humiliated by visitors & haunTERS under the mismanaged system. Haleji was one of the largest bird sanctuaries for the migratory birds which used to pass their winter on

the shore of the lake. But due to the negligence of authority and being mismanaged it has lost its identity. People nowadays even don't know the name of the sanctuary, which once was, being praised and honored as "PARADISE FOR BIRDS LOVER".

2. Literature Review

2.1. Ecotourism

Eco tourism is an act that involves local communities living around the areas of tourist attraction and conservation of such type of areas and the surrounding natural environment. Local people come to acknowledge nature and preserve it for their own particular advantage. Along these lines this battles the issue of human, wild life struggle; minimize instances of illegal killings of wild animals and demolitions of the natural environment. Eco-tourism is also an efficient instrument to achieve sustainable growth. Ecotourism is likewise a term used to explain responsible travel to areas where natural, cultural or historical resources are managed and are preserved to enhance the prosperity of the neighbourhood or local community through accrued benefits. (*TIES, 1990*)

2.2. Ecotourism and Pakistan

Pakistan with the population more than 191 million has few recreational spots (resorts) to meet with its continued growth. It is also that the recreational places that are supposed to deal physically and spiritually are also lacking with basic facilities, accommodations and security. Pakistan has incredible potential for ecotourism, with common assets that incorporate mountains and valleys, lakes and waterways, deserts, shorelines and wide differing qualities of greenery. The nation additionally has a rich social legacy, and the neighbourhood individuals are well disposed and inviting. Because of the delicate political circumstance as of late, be that as it may, global travellers are discouraged from going to Pakistan; with the goal that ecotourism is just growing gradually. (*Ecotourism-Pakistan*)

2.3. Ecotourism and Architecture

Architecture can be utilized as a device as a part of agreement with nature to slow down the negative frameworks enlivening the pace of environmental change. It can be adjusted to address our issues, formed around us, our traditions, and our lives. All things considered, construction modeling is made to safe house, ensure and solace us. Furthermore, it can oblige a program that conveys wage to ruin groups and help raise their way of life. It is believed that architecture can improve the environmental, social, economic and cultural issues that the world is facing nowadays. If the legal bodies are attached with architectures that it can change the direction as changes occurs, life can improve. However, eco-tourism is directly related to the involvement of local communities, conservation of land and natural environment and sustainability. When they both are coupled many major changes takes place. It is observed from the review that architecture in eco-tourism while designing can be observed by landscaping. A good and proper landscape design will lead to the eco-tourism architecture.

2.4. An overview of the Haleji Lake

Haleji is located near Makli (Thatta) being the ancient city of Sindh having the largest necropolises which is a main tourist attraction and a world's heritage site. People gather here almost every season due to the presence of the tombs of saints. Even the tourist pay visits. Haleji was one of the largest bird sanctuaries for the migratory birds which used to pass their winter on the shore of the lake. But due to the negligence of authority and being mismanaged it has lost its identity. People nowadays even don't know the name of the sanctuary, which once was, being praised and honored as "Paradise for Birds Lover".

Haleji lake is situated on the way from keenjhar lake that is the also a source to supply fresh drinking water to karachi. It is obvious that the excess of water in the keenjhar lake is the reason of existence of haleji. The fresh water at the lake is the reason for inviting the migratory birds during the winter season. The plants and flowers that grow within the lake is the meal for variety of Siberian birds. The fresh Lake water is also responsible for the growth of fish and wild sea creatures that is also responsible for the hospitality of the migratory birds to Sindh.

The Haleji Lake is quickly transformed into a pool of stagnant saline water, seriously undermining the environment of the area and the entire territory. The burnt trunks of a large number of surrounding trees,

the large portions of the lake choked with aquatic grass and weeds, the ongoing digging for a sewerage drain, the daytime boat fishing along with open cattle grazing in the dry sections of the lake make one wonder what is actually 'protected' at the so-called wildlife sanctuary. (*newspakistan.pk*)

Water that is being supplied to Karachi for drinking as “fresh drinking water” is via Keenjhar Lake passing through Haleji. Keenjhar is the second largest river of fresh water that supplies fresh drinking water to Karachi. It makes route from haleji to Karachi but for past twelve years as Karachi was being victimize from drinking water than overall water lacking in the city they somehow make shortcuts to save Karachi. As shown in fig (a). Now, as Karachi being saved from starving water the other impact arose. Among them the highlighted area was haleji, the lake which ones were used as means between two cities was being totally neglected as a result the water which was supposed to run starts collecting in the lake, the stagnant water was then being attacked bacterial which makes the grass which was supposed to grow naturally was somehow stopped, that badly results the wildlife sanctuary. The guest that visits the lake during winter season lost their ways. And the sanctuary, which was supposed to raise with the passage of time it, stops over there. The contaminated water makes the lake polluted that ultimately results in the detritions. As shown in fig(b) The disconnection of route is mainly due to Karachi as they have to feed Karachi first .now as days passed the haleji starts losing its identity or it can be said as it was losing its name that is “Birds Sanctuary”. The lake is not getting the required amount of water and the management is also not paying the attention that is required to the lake which ultimate’s results in the lake. Now if the water is now somehow treated in a manner that fresh water may again pass by the lake and do not stop at one place the lake may retain its original value.

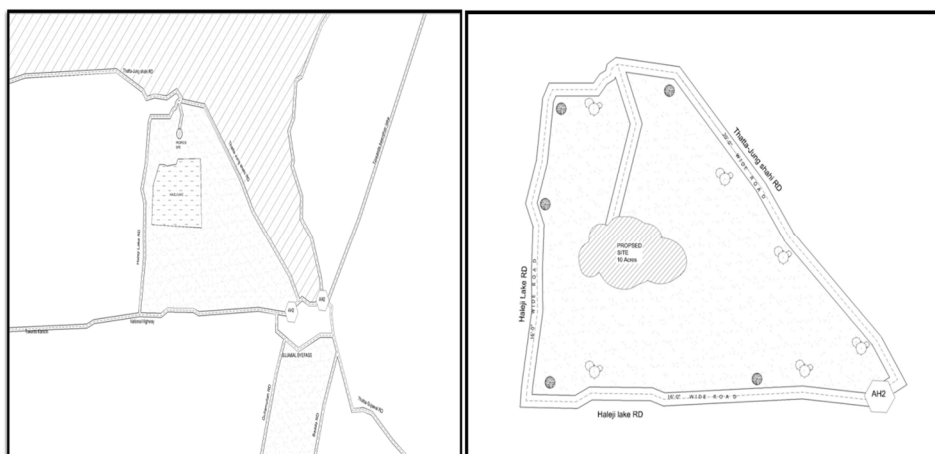


Figure: (a)

Figure: (b)

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the paper involved detailed interviews with the officials and the local public, site visit and site survey. It involved three steps in constructing the methodology.

Firstly, the study area is discussed. Target area is the Haleji Lake in Pakistan. The proposed site for the resort project is located on the bank of Haleji, facing the scenic view, and has easy access from all over Karachi and Thatta. The site faces the lake on the south, while the remaining three sides are surrounded by naturally beautiful area having easy access from three main roads. The site for proposed project covers an area of 10 acres. Lake itself is 4.282 km in length, 4.282 km in width and has 250m depth.

Secondly, the literature was discussed considering the resort design, ecotourism, types of ecotourism, ecology, wildlife, sustainable development etc. With the help of this step, a proper hypothetical form was set for argumentation basis.

Thirdly, data was collected through surveys and available literature and then the data was reviewed for analysis. The survey was one on one interview on site by the researcher which included the local public, the architects, the officials working on site, the agencies involved in Haleji improvement plan.

Based on the findings of this study, some positive and practical policy implications will be suggested keeping in view the culture of Haleji promoting ecotourism and sustainable development.

4. Conclusion

Architecture has great impact on social and cultural societies, so if it is coupled with eco-tourism not only the sustainability is improved but the tourism industry will also enjoy their position. It can be done by adopting many techniques, but making in a way that nature is not disturbed. The design of the building is highly affected on its circumstances so as on the social and cultural behavior of the habitats it is recommended to design and construct buildings keeping the localities of site in mind. This will not only lead in successful design and help in achieving goals, but also the environment is greatly prized.

Eco-tourism covers and provides the best solutions to the problems that the world today is facing. The ecological impact on any region will highly be affected on the human lives as well as on other creatures. To overcome this, criminal disgrace must be minimized by the presence of any governmental or local body

Eco-tourism will lead in the completion of a building or a recreational spot that will survive for the betterment of the environment. Taking it as ethic it will change the way of thinking towards the environment with the major factor of tourism and making it practical, it will lead into adoption of latest technology with great care and knowledge to reach the ultimate goal of sustainability in many aspects.

The success of every resort is influenced by the following seven factors:

- Good Location
- Attractive appearance (Aesthetic appeal of the structure)
- Good landscape
- Quick and pleasant services
- Cleanliness
- Maintenance
- Quality of food

Graphically, it can be shown as:

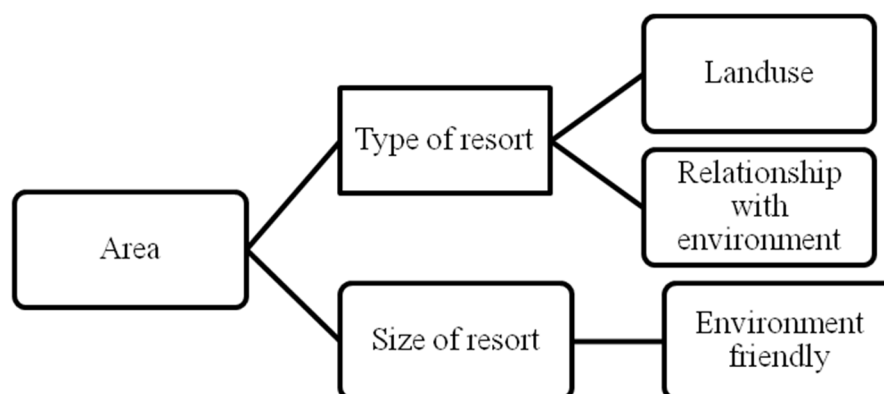


Figure: (c)

Keeping all this in view and the aim of the research it is proposed that the resort will be a recreational resort; however, it will also fulfil the demand of eco-tourism. The power of designing in any project should be so strong that it fulfils all the criteria. The designing of a recreational resort on the proposed site will be beneficial for habitats and also the wild, windy creatures that have lost their breeding space. The consideration of lake as basic element will lead to design an eco-resort that is supposed to get back the beauty of lake that one is lost.

Eco-tourism ethics in the designing of recreational resort will be helpful to maintain the sustainability. The thought is to make the environment friendly design for the end users and migratory birds. Making design environment friendly will lead to reunite the migratory birds with humans and lake and live in their route that once was lost. The resort will not only serve for the recreation of the tourist, but the local habitats will also get to work out and maintain their income for betterment.

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