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“A STUDY OF DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS BY THE DEVOTEES OF JYOTIRLINGA TEMPLES: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MARATHWADA REGION “

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ABSTRACT

In India 80 percent people follow Hinduism. Since time immemorial, the Hindu culture gives much importance to religious rituals, prayers, moksha etc. Lord Shiva is considered as Gods god. God is referred by 108 different names and has many followers. As per the ancient religious texts, there are 12 sacred places called Jyotirlinga temples of lord Shiva. In India, every year Innumerable devotees, Pilgrims visit the jyotirlinga temples, every year. on the special occasions, such as Kumbh Mela, Shraavanmas, Mahashivratri Majority of the devotees and pilgrims visits Jyotirlinga Temple. The administration is confronting with several difficulties like, the overcrowding of the devotees, their stay, cleanliness, food etc. The administration is taking



painstaking efforts to provide the above mentioned facilities, through different schemes.

KEYWORDS: administration, Research Methodology, mentioned facilities.

INTRODUCTION:

Devotees have to face lot problems. Though temple administration provider and employs a lot policies regarding facilities devotees, yet new faced and fresh problems crop up every now and then.

OBJECTIVES:

To study the facilities provided by the trust to the devotees. To study

the difficulties and problems faced by the devotees.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

by looking at the nature of the topic and its scope, the methodology of study is mainly based on primary and secondary data. The study covers a period of one year ie 2013 to 2015.

There are 3 Jyotirlinga Temples viz . Nagnath (A u n d h a) , Grhushneshwar (Allora), and Vaidanath (Parli) in Marathwada Region. All these Jyotirlinga Temples are selected for the study. The details of sample selection are as follows;

SELECTION OF SAMPLE FOR STUDY:

Sr.	Name of Jyotirlinga	Devotee
1	Nagnath	50
2	Grhushneshwar	50
3	Vaidanath	50
	Total	150

Till today Jyotirlinga temples are studied under history, mythology and only by historical perspectives. A good temple administration plays vital role in development of tourism, which is helpful for economic stability to the city. This study covers the administrative management of the temples. This research is very useful for the giving such a better facility to the devotee and to solve the problem which faced by the devotee.

A lot of study and research has been done on these temples, from historical and religious point of view. This research will assist and aid to study the various facilities and schemes, the problems, difficulties and discomfort faced by devotees, visitors and locals. Eventually, it will lead to minimize the above

mentioned problems and make this temple and temple premises ever glorified, and a worth visiting place.

But, it is found and observed that, the administrative efforts and measures often fail to cater the needs of devotees. Currently, there is a scarcity of basic facilities to the devotees. Consequently, the devotees, civilians, businessmen etc. have developed a negative attitude towards administration. Even, it is heard that there. The carelessness, irresponsibility towards and discomfort of visitors is increasing day by day. So, there is a great and acute need of transparency in the administration, so as to make the attitude of peoples, positive, towards, administration and Trust.

A list of Jyotirlinga Temples in India

1. Somnath Jyotirlinga in Saurashtra (Gujrat)
2. Mallikarjun Jyotirlinga in Srisailem (Andrapradesh)
3. Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain (Madhyapradesh)
4. Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga in Maleswara (Madhyapradesh.)
5. Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga in Parli, Beed (Maharashtra)
6. Nagnath Jyotirlinga in Aundha, Aundha Hingoli (Maharashtra)
7. Kedareswar Jyotirlinga in Kedarnath (Uttarakhand)
8. Tryambakeswar Jyotirlinga in Nasik (Maharashtra)
9. Rameshwar Jyotirlinga in Rameshwaram (Tamilnadu)
10. Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga in Pune (Maharashtra)
11. Visweswar Jyotirlinga in Varanasi (Uttarpradesh.)
12. Grishneswar Jyotirlinga in Aurangabad (Maharashtra).

In all there are 12 Jyotirlinga in India. Out of there 12 Jyotirlinga, 05 are located in Maharashtra. 03 are located in Marathwada region, Out of the aforementioned 05 Jyotirlinga

Jyotirlinga Temples in Marathwada

1. Nagnath (Aundha, Distt. Hingoli):

Aundha Nagnath is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India. Among the 12 Jyotirlingas, 5 are located in Maharashtra. Aundha Nagnath is considered to be the first Jyotirlinga, where Shiva is worshipped. The Aundha Nagnath has Hemadpanthi style of architecture, spreading for over 60,000 sq ft area. The most unique part of this temple is that the idol of Nandi is not present in front of the shrine of Mahadeva. A separate Nandikeshwara temple is built beside the main temple. The main temple is surrounded with 12 Jyotirlingas by all four sides. In all, there are 108 Lord Shiva temples and 68 shrines of Shiva in the premises of Aundha Nagnath.

2. Grishneshwara (Distt. Aurangabad)

Grishneshwara temple is located very near to the Ellora caves. One among the 12 Jyotirlingas, the Grishneshwar is 11 km away from Daulatabad, distt Aurangabad. The Grishneshwar temple was constructed by Ahilyabai Holkar. It is said that a woman named Kusuma worshipped the Shivalinga everyday by immersing it in a water tank. Envious of her piousness, her husband's ex-wife murdered her son. Mourning with pain, Kusuma continued worshipping the Shivalinga. When she dipped the Linga in then Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of Jyotirlinga Grishneshwar.

3. Vaidnath (Parli Dist. Beed):

Parli Vaidyanath Temple (130 kms from Nanded) is considered one of the 12 Jyotirlinga Temples (claim contested by Baidyanath Temple of Deoghar in Jharkhand). It anyway remains one of the most significant Shiva temples in Maharashtra. The visit of Parli could be completed in a day, from Aurangabad (200 kms - one way) or enroute from Aurangabad / Ahmadnagar to Nanded or as a part of Maharashtra Jyotirlinga Circuit Itinerary.

ADMINISTRATION OF JYOTIRLINGA TEMPLES:-

The trust is structured as per the Mumbai public trust act 1950. The regional office of the charitable commissioners is at Aurangabad. The commissioners appoint the trustees, as per the rules the maximum limit of

members is eleven. The Tahsildar acts as an ex-officio chairman for the trust. One of the members is appointed as a secretary of the trust whose tenure is of five years. The secretary looks after the administration of the Temple with the consent of president. It is obligatory on the part of the trust to arrange the meeting once in three months. The Quorum for meeting is of seven members. The president implements the expenses & developmental plans, approved by the trust. The trust is the authorized caretaker and responsible for the valuable and property of the temple. The joint account of the president and the secretary is to be open in the nationalized bank & its audit is done every year.

The donations of the devotees, loans, sell of property & governments Grants etc. are the income resources of the trust for the proper functioning of the trust. The advisory Board is established; whose president is local MLA. The right of the worshippers is reserved as per the customs. The devotees, pilgrims, Temple and the basic facilities for the pilgrims is the joint responsibility of the trust and administration.

PRIMARY DATA ANALYSIS:

A mix of quantitative and qualitative tools has been development for the rapid appraisal. In the analysis and interpretation of data, simple statistical tools / techniques like, percentages, averages.

Facts collected from devotees: category wise ten questions were selected.

Sr no	Questions	Positive response	Negative response	Other
01	Are you satisfied with the facilities provided by administration	65	75	10
02	Are you satisfied about security system	44	81	25
03	Are you satisfied about cleanliness of the temple and premises	55	85	10
04	Are you satisfied regarding the hospitality of the staff of the temple	72	65	13
05	Are you satisfied regarding lodging and boarding facility	48	79	23
06	Are you satisfied about market in the premises of temple	96	42	12
07	Are you satisfied regarding prasadlaya	53	79	18
08	Are you satisfied about parking system	108	23	19
09	Are you satisfied about the behavior approach of the administrators	71	64	15
10	Are you satisfied regarding sign boards , advertisements, & media	60	79	11

ANALYSIS / DESCRIPTION

- 1] Regarding facilities are provided by the administration; of the jyotirlinga temples 43.33% devotees were satisfied.
- 2] 29.33% devotees were satisfied and 54% devotees were unsatisfied 3] regarding the security providing by the administration
- 3] 36% devotees were satisfied and 56.66% devotees were unsatisfied regarding the cleanliness of the temple and premises
- 4] 48% devotees were satisfied and 43.33% devotees were unsatisfied regarding the hospitality shown by the staff of the temple
- 5] 32% devotees were satisfied and 52.66 % devotees were unsatisfied regarding the lodging and boarding facility provided by the administration
- 6] 64 % devotees were satisfied and 28% were unsatisfied about market
- 7] 35.33 % devotees were satisfied regarding prasadlaya and 52.66 % devotees were not satisfied with the same
- 8] 72 % devotees were satisfied regarding parking and 15.33 % devotees were unsatisfied

- 9] 47.33 % devotees were satisfied about the behavior approach of the administrators and 42.66 % devotees were not satisfied with the same
 10] 40 % devotees were satisfied with the sign boards, advertisements, & media whereas and 52 .66 % devotees were not satisfied

Following conclusions are drawn from personal survey, observation done at all the three Jyotirlingas

- 1] The temple administration is taking every effort to provide the essential facilities to the devotees but is unable to satisfy the needs of increasing number of visitor and their expectations
- 2] It is obligatory on the part of administration to take stringent action against of dirt. Devotees also has to take care of maintaining the cleanliness of temple and temple premises
- 3] The lodging and boarding facility at all the three Jyotirlingas is not proper. Whatever the facilities is there is not optimum so the devotees search for private lodging as per their budget allows. In the season, even devotees prefer suitable open space for shatter.
- 4] There is no permanent solution as far as security and prasadalaya of temple is concerned. It could be called as good but definitely not the best one.
- 5] Devotees / visitor are quite satisfied regarding the parking and market facilities according to them
- 6] Devotees are also satisfied regarding the hospitality and nature of the temple administration and security guards
- 7] It is recommended to upgrade the facilities like ATM, drinking water, water closet and notice boards.

Eventually, following are the recommendations of the study

- 1] Facilities with quality as quality facilities is a must
- 2] Notice boards hoardings should be placed and fixed at the proper place
- 3] Administration should focus on and over water management, security and cleanness.
- 4] There must be transparency regarding the donations of every kind abhishek, pooja , mahapooja etc
- 5] Administration should developed the temple premises as a model one
- 6] Temple administration should conduct certain programmers which will awaken the duties of devotees towards of devotees towards temples.

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