

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 58384

Title: Evaluation of known and unknown tourist destinations along the Lower Sankh River Corridor in the Simdega district, Jharkhand.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: **ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

The manuscript presents a field-based assessment of tourism potential along the Lower Sankh River corridor in Simdega District, Jharkhand, using a multi-criteria evaluation framework. The study highlights six tourism destinations and evaluates them based on scenic attractiveness, accessibility, recreational opportunities, tourism infrastructure, environmental quality, and safety and management. The topic is relevant to sustainable tourism planning, ecotourism development, and regional economic growth.

The manuscript is generally well organized and includes valuable field observations and photographs. However, the study requires significant improvement in methodological rigor, statistical validation, scientific discussion, and presentation before it is suitable for publication. Therefore, **minor revision** is recommended.

Minor Comments

1. Novelty should be more clearly established

Although the study focuses on relatively unexplored tourism destinations, the manuscript should explicitly explain:

- the research gap addressed,
- how this assessment differs from previous tourism resource evaluations,
- the scientific contribution of the proposed evaluation framework.

2. Tourism assessment methodology requires stronger justification

The six evaluation criteria are appropriate, but the scoring procedure remains subjective.

The authors should explain:

- why equal weights were assigned,
- whether experts validated the scoring,
- whether multiple evaluators participated,
- inter-observer reliability,

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- justification for the five-point scoring scale.

3. Statistical analysis is insufficient

The manuscript only reports tourism scores.

Consider including:

- descriptive statistics,
- sensitivity analysis,
- weighting analysis,
- correlation among criteria,
- validation of the assessment model.

These analyses would strengthen the scientific reliability of the ranking.

4. GIS and spatial analysis should be expanded

Although GPS mapping is mentioned, the manuscript lacks detailed spatial analysis.

Include:

- GIS-based tourism potential maps,
- location maps with coordinates,
- accessibility analysis,
- land-use information,
- spatial distribution of tourism resources.

5. Sustainability assessment requires greater depth

The manuscript briefly discusses sustainable tourism.

The Discussion should further address:

- carrying capacity,
- biodiversity conservation,
- waste management,
- climate resilience,
- environmental impact assessment,
- long-term monitoring.

6. Socioeconomic aspects should be strengthened

Tourism development is discussed mainly from an infrastructure perspective.

The manuscript should evaluate:

- employment opportunities,
- local income generation,
- indigenous community participation,
- gender inclusion,
- potential socioeconomic challenges.

7. Policy implications

The recommendations are useful but should include:

- tourism governance,
- public-private partnerships,
- funding mechanisms,
- conservation policies,
- integration with Jharkhand Tourism development plans.

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Minor Comments

Abstract

- Clearly mention the assessment methodology.
- Briefly indicate the significance of the findings.
- Avoid listing numerical scores without interpretation.

Keywords

Consider including:

- Ecotourism
- Sustainable tourism
- GIS
- Nature-based tourism
- River tourism
- Tourism planning

Introduction

The introduction is informative but contains repetitive statements regarding sustainable tourism.

It can be condensed while emphasizing the study's objectives.

Materials and Methods

Please provide additional details regarding:

- sampling strategy,
- frequency of field visits,
- observer consistency,
- GPS accuracy,
- ethical considerations for interviews with local communities.

Figures

The photographs effectively illustrate the study sites.

However:

- improve image resolution,
- standardize captions,
- include map references,
- add scale bars or directional indicators where appropriate.

Table

The tourism assessment table is useful.

Consider:

- including weighted scores,
- confidence levels,
- ranking justification,
- graphical visualization (radar chart or bar graph).

Discussion

Expand comparisons with:

- similar river tourism studies,
- ecotourism assessments,

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- sustainable destination management models,
- Indian and international case studies.

Language

The manuscript requires professional English editing. Several issues include:

- grammatical errors,
- inconsistent spacing,
- awkward sentence construction,
- punctuation problems,
- inconsistent capitalization.

References

Please verify:

- citation formatting,
- consistency of journal styles,
- DOI formatting,
- reference capitalization,
- completeness of publication details.

Strengths

- Relevant topic with regional significance.
- Original field-based assessment.
- Comprehensive description of tourism destinations.
- Useful photographic documentation.
- Practical recommendations for sustainable tourism development.
- Good potential for supporting regional tourism planning.

Weaknesses

- Subjective scoring methodology.
- Limited statistical validation.
- Insufficient GIS and spatial analysis.
- Discussion lacks critical evaluation.
- Socioeconomic analysis is limited.
- Language and formatting require improvement.

Recommendation

Minor Revision