

# Role of Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum in Cultural and Heritage Tourism

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**Abstract:** *The museum and cultural heritage tourism are complement each other. The museum keeps the history alive. Hazarduari Palace Museum of Murshidabad is carrying our past incidents, culture etc. Murshidabad is rich in cultural heritage component. Hazarduari Palace museum is the most important heritage not only Murshidabad, also in India. Every year, many tourists come here from other state and also foreign countries. In this paper, I mainly want to show the significant of Hazarduari Palace Museum in heritage tourism, for this, questionnairesurvey, interview method and observation method have taken.*

**Keywords:** Museum, Heritage, Culture, Tourism

## 1. Introduction

Heritage is the expression of some valuable things that are created by man or nature. Heritage helps us to identify our existence. It has been identified, that continued from more than hundreds of years. Recently, the importance of cultural heritage is gradually increasing. Cultural means anything which is created by man. Culture has been loosely defined as behaviour as observed through social relations and material artefacts. Cultural heritage means man made architecture, handicrafts, drama, song, festivals, rituals, tradition, food habits, dress code that have been started more than hundreds of years ago and till now it has been continued actively in our society. So, in cultural tourism, cultural heritagetourism is very much important. Murshidabad, a district is made for cultural heritage tourism destiny because of its heritage building, tomb, architecture etc. Once upon a time, this was the capital of Bangla. Historically and culturally Murshidabad was very famous. So, tourist has come to see the heritage building and also know the significant of these area. This paper mainly highlights on the popular cultural heritage structure that is Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum and its impacts on cultural and heritage tourism.

## 2. Objectives

The main objectives of this study are-

- 1) Find out the main cultural heritage components of Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum
- 2) Find out the tourist carrying capacity
- 3) Main problems of Hazarduari Palace Museum
- 4) Govt. initiatives to develop this area as cultural heritage centre

## 3. Methodology

As the study concentrates on the possibilities of tourism development in Lalbagh region, Survey method has been adopted in the study to collect the primary data. Documentation of survey results in Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum by response of 100 tourists, 10 industry representation, and of policy makers collected through after the field work.

The secondary data is to be collected from the public sources like-District gazette, Journals, Books, Thesis, Magazine, Newspaper, Literature etc.

**Study area:** Lalbagh is the subdivision of Murshidabad district. It is the capital of cultural heritage. Historical significance and many tangible cultural heritages carry its past. Lalbagh is one of the most important cultural heritage tourism destination of West Bengal. The main destination of tourist in Lalbagh region is Hazarduari Palace Museum

**Heritage tourism:** Travelling to experience the places and activities that authentically represents the stories and people of the past and present. It includes historic and cultural resources. It occupies a significant proportion of the cultural spectrum.

**Cultural heritage tourism:** It can help keep traditions alive. It is the backbone of tourism industry. According to WTO, cultural tourism will be one of the five key tourism market segments in the future. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage may be an avenue through which the conscious tourist starts to grasp a basic understanding of the past and or living culture, which has adapted to and influenced the environment the visitor is trying to make intelligible. Tourism +Culture + Heritage = Sustainable Tourism.

**Museum:** International Council of Museum-ICOM (2007) defines 'a museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to public which acquires conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.' (article 2, Para-1). The museum collection statement should be these sections; they are-

- 1) Title page
- 2) Table of content
- 3) Executive summary of the collection
- 4) Brief summary of the collection
- 5) Declaring of the purposes of the section
- 6) Major interpretative themes, topic, time period of the collection, like cultural group represented, geographical boundaries, notable people, historic events et

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**Tourist attraction in Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum:** Murshidabad is a land with a rich and varied history. Many different ruler's dynasties and empires have fought over and controlled different parts during its eventful history. The various rulers and dynasties left behind their legacy in the form of grand monuments and building in different historical places in Murshidabad. The various monument including palaces, tombs, victory pillars tell glorious stories.

**Hazarduari Palace Museum:** The famous Hazarduari Palace is Located at Lalbagh in Murshidabad, distance from Kolkata is 219 km. The total area of this palace is 41 acres. This beautiful palace was built in the Greek style. The palace has eight galleries and 114 rooms. Thousand doors are existing, but only 900 are real. The building is in rectangular shape with three-storeyed and stands on the east banks of the Bhagirathi river. This historical palace was built during the reign of Nawab Nazim Humayun in 1829 - 1837 A.D. The founder or the main architect of this building was famous McLeod Duncan. Many rare books and manuscripts are protected in library house of Hazarduari Palace. The museum's collection of antiquities includes-

Nawab's weapons, oil paintings of Dutch, French and Italian artists, marble statues, metal objects, ceramic, valuable copies of Koran, Wooden furniture, costly jewellery. Stucco statues, rare books, old maps, manuscripts, land revenue records, palanquin, mostly belonging to eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The enclosure where the palace is situated is known as Kila Nizamat or Nizamat Kila. Beside this palace has the Nizamat Imam Bara, Wasif Manzil, the Bachhawali Tope, Murshidabad Clock Tower, Madina Mosque. The gap between the Bhagirathi's banks and the palace is just 40 feet (12 m). For visit of tourist, there are two floor open only. In the ground floor, there are toshakhana, record rooms and also the Armoury. The first floor is luxurious, where has the durbar hall, banqueting hall, sitting rooms, billiard room and also a drawing room. The second floor, which has a library, unique and rare art collection, different records, lot of equipment. But visitors cannot go into the library.

**Carrying capacity of Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum:** Physical carrying capacity: This is the maximum number of visitors that can physically sustain an actual tourist area.

$$PCC = A/RV \times Rf$$

A= Accessible area for tourist visit

RV=Area require for a person

Rf=Rotation factor (No. of visit/ day)

Generally, every person requires 1.25 sq. surface area and people, in this area can visit not more than 25. At least 5mt. distance require between two group inside the museum.

**Effective Real Carrying Capacity:** When PCC is corrected with some local factors and management facility, then it is called ERCC.

To investigate the different causes which affect the carrying capacity of Hazarduari palace museum heritage site. The tourist psychological behaviours judge by three point Likert

Scale. This scale is based on three common options of every question. The options are –a. Agree b. Neither agree nor disagree c. Disagree.

The questionnaire has been carried out 100 visitors in the month of December to January, 2019. On the basis of psychological perception of tourist, some results are given below-the Hazarduari palace is mainly affected by-

- 1) Poor Road Condition
- 2) Unplanned Urban Structure
- 3) Bad Accommodation Facility
- 4) Scarcity of appropriate drinking water facility
- 5) Bad condition of parking facility
- 6) Poor attention in river bank side for beautification.
- 7) Improper waste management
- 8) Scarcity of trained tourist guide
- 9) Prostitution in hotel
- 10) Traffic jam in town
- 11) No Proper planning of local tour package
- 12) Problem of Sudden Raid in Hotel, as for this domestic tourist does not want to Stay at Night
- 13) Scarcity of well decorated hotel and restaurant
- 14) There is no Plan to Sight-Seeing along the Bhagirathi River
- 15) There is no three or four-star hotel facility for special guest or foreign tourist in Murshidabad Town.

#### Scope of Hazarduari Palace Museum

I, personally, observe the present status of Hazarduari Palace Museum and then issues which establish, they are discussed below-

The main scope of Hazarduari Palace Museum-

- Development of legislation, policies, and Strategies-This is now under ASI, after taking they can clean the entire museum, the areasurveillance under CCTV, camera or mobile phones are not allowed in the museum. They destruct the old pillar or room and also change the original used room of Nawab's and give new name. Sometimes, local conscious people protest for this. Because they know that heritage building does not change.
- Research and documentation of object-The agency try to finding new things, some private agencies help them. Seventy percent of total things are documented; but some have no real information.
- Gallery and exhibition Planning-This is the only museum of Murshidabad district where historical materials keep protected properly; but there, I think, many planning should be executed.
- Periodic maintenance of Objects-Due to shortage of funding, periodic maintenance is executed after 1 year or more time.
- Developing museum Publication-This is not noticeable.
- The curator who responsible for the collection, education, public relation, and community engagement program etc.-The ASI organizes some programs, but responses are very poor. They try to increase the different collection.
- The statement review committee by the experts like archaeologists, scientists, naturalist, historian, archivist and resource management staff. – They are present but not very active.

- It is then approved by the concerned authority like director general/director/secretary/super-intend- Sometimes or not, there has a causality
- A comprehensive collection plan- Not satisfactory.
- It specially defines the types of objects a unit collects and why it does so-70 to 75 percent defines properly.
- It describes what the collection includes what to add, what not to add and what may need to be removed from the collection- The collections, which are there exist; some are seen in this way.
- So, all are related with scope of the historically important Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

The accessible area inside the palace is about 8415 sq.mt.(excluding 2<sup>nd</sup> floor). The visiting hours for visitor is 9AM to 5PM. Rotation factor for the Hazarduari Palace=Visiting Hours/Average time require (approximately about 90 minutes). By this formulae, the rotation factors for the Hazarduari palace is 5.333. Therefore, the maximum no. of visitors per day is  $PCC=8415/1.25$  multiplier with  $5.333=35902$  visitors/day. Every week, in Friday, the museum remains closed. So, the peak month in December-January the monthly Physical Carrying Capacity(PCC) is  $(26 \times 35902) 933452$  visitors/month. As per the survey, the total domestic tourist in December month, 2011 was 680077 and foreign tourist was 691. Now, in December, 2018 the total domestic tourist was 112085 and total foreign tourist was 809. (Source: Asstt. Superintending Archaeologist, Hazarduari Palace Museum, Archaeological Survey of India; Murshidabad, West Bengal).

As, Murshidabad town and Hazarduari Palace are very much interrelated with each other. Administrators of Murshidabad should take proper action to remove upper listed problem and also make proper infrastructures for further development of cultural heritage tourism which is their resources of economic development.

Also central agency (ASI) who has handled the museum infrastructure; should increase the funding for development to digitized. Many years, second floor is closed of the palace where has Nizamat Library and valuable things.

#### 5. Conclusion

According to survey, it is said that Murshidabad Hazarduari Palace Museum is only museum in Murshidabad district; which protects many culturally important elements that are the resource of cultural and heritage tourism. Every year many tourists from different places come here and enjoy it. So, ASI and also Central govt. should take appropriate management to take care of the beautiful museum for Sustainable Cultural Heritage Tourism. Also, local municipality should take responsibilities to clean the area and of course, local govt. tries to increase the consciousness about the importance of heritage and tourism.

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