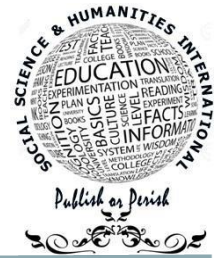


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### Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihood Sources of Women of Bhitarkanika National Park of Odisha

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#### ABSTRACT

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Ecotourism is a form of tourism that focuses on visiting natural areas in order to protect the environment and empower local communities. In an ideal world, communities will receive financial benefits while also receiving environmental education. As a result, societies would be better equipped to manage their natural resources. The main objective of development of Eco tourism is to develop better understanding of environment management, foster economic growth through creating vast potential for employment and revenue generation. It provides viable means to derive a sustained source of livelihood for the local communities especially women through mobilizing the local resources. As far as eco-tourism is concerned, the women community plays a significant role as promoters and facilitators for growth and development of Ecotourism industry. Besides men, women play an important role in preserving the natural assets of the community. They are more or less involved in attracting the tourists from far off places by providing necessary care and services to them. The present study decides on making an in-depth analysis of ecotourism as a viable means for local women for sustained livelihood and how far they have been benefited out of this ecotourism system and how far they are involved to protect these resources for future generations without much exploitation and degradation of natural resources of the community.