

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE TRENDS AND SPATIAL PATTERN OF
TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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ABSTRACT

The importance of tourism can be understood from the aver that it is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Himachal Pradesh is a mountainous state which has very limited sustainable prospects for development keeping in view its rugged topography and fragile ecosystem. Tourism is an important contributor in the Gross Domestic Product of Himachal Pradesh which is about seven percent. Therefore, the impact of Covid-19 on the economy of Himachal Pradesh is much grave. Hence, the present study, using the location quotient method has tried to understand the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism of Himachal Pradesh. For this, firstly, the data of tourists' arrival has been collected from the official site of tourism of Himachal Pradesh from 2008 to 2023. Years 2008 to 2019 has been taken as pre-covid years and 2020 to 2023 as post covid years. For analysing the trend and spatial pattern of tourists in different districts of Himachal Pradesh before the arrival of Covid-19, an average has been tabulated from 2008 to 2019 while the data of years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 has been used as such. Then, using the location quotient method, maps has been prepared to interpret the impact of Covid-19 on tourism of the state spatially. The trends have been explored using line graphs for different months of the year pre and post Covid-19. The study finds that the Covid-19 has hit the tourism industry very hard in 2020 and it has somewhat recovered and still recovering from its effect. The move towards more sustainable forms of tourism will help in strengthening the tourism industry of Himachal Pradesh.

KEYWORDS: *Tourism, Spatial Pattern, Trends, Covid-19, Himachal Pradesh, Location Quotient.*

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