

Chapter 7

Sustainable Tourism Perspective in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Case Study of Heritage Sites in Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to make a meaningful contribution to both the academic dialogue and the practical comprehension of how the Sustainable Development Goals can be utilised as a catalyst for profound change within the distinct socio-cultural and environmental context of Uttarakhand. Three heritage sites have been discussed in this context: Natural (Nanda Devi National Park), Built (Kedarnath), and Riverscape (Har ki pauri). The study discovers significant insights that will resonate with policymakers, practitioners, and communities all around the world by conducting an exhaustive study of the complexities of sustainable development in this particular region.

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INTRODUCTION

The idea of sustainable development has recently emerged as a potentially useful strategy for attaining a harmonious cohabitation between the progression of humanity and the responsible management of the environment, with the end goal of benefiting both the current generation and those to come in the foreseeable future. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an all-encompassing worldwide framework that envisions a future in which economic prosperity, social equity, and ecological conservation are intertwined. These goals are at the center of the dramatic shift that is taking place. Despite their universal nature as a roadmap for nations around the world, the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is inextricably tied to its contextual implementation and applicability at regional and local levels.

The Indian state of Uttarakhand is distinguished for the vast socio-cultural diversity that it possesses as well as its picture-perfect landscapes. However, the fact that the operations of development and conservation are being carried out in this region simultaneously creates a unique and difficult situation. This northern state is encircled by the gorgeous Himalayan highlands, and it serves as an excellent example of the delicate balance that must be struck between the need of human populations and the protection of the natural environment in their surrounds. In view of the engagement of the international community with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential to have a solid understanding of the complex interaction that exists between these goals and the one-of-a-kind circumstances, opportunities, and challenges that Uttarakhand faces.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the state of Uttarakhand have a convoluted and multifaceted relationship, which the purpose of this research study is to analyse. The purpose of this research is to investigate the interrelationships between economic growth, social justice, and environmental resiliency, with a particular emphasis on gaining an understanding of how the global aims of the Sustainable Development aims (SDGs) correspond with the regional setting of Uttarakhand. Specifically, the research will look at how the SDGs can be achieved in the state of Uttarakhand. As we investigate the many facets of sustainable development, our primary purpose is to pinpoint the strategies, activities, and perspectives that have the potential to accelerate Uttarakhand's population towards a future that is both more equitable and environmentally sound.

The primary objective of this research project is to conduct an in-depth investigation on the essential components of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they correspond to the particular characteristics of Uttarakhand. The first part of the study is dedicated to providing a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic and environmental conditions that exist within the state, with an emphasis on the state's most significant characteristics, challenges, and aspirations. Following this, the current study will investigate the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the state's top developmental goals, shedding light on the interconnections that exist between global aspirations and local prerequisites. In addition, the current policies, activities, and collaborations that serve as examples of Uttarakhand's dedication to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be subjected to a critical analysis during the course of this study. In addition to this, the study investigates potential paths, developments, and collaborations that can make it easier to achieve sustainable advancement within the region.

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