

Tourism Development Problems Present at Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan

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Abstract: This paper deals with the tourism development problems present at Kot Diji fort and mound of Diji Khairpur, Sindh. To know what are the problem in these both sites interviews were conducted through open-ended questions. Eleven interviews done for survey. The interviews done via snowball sampling method. The data was collected and analyzed through content analysis. It was gathered that there are number of development problems at Kot Diji fort and mound of Diji Khairpur like administrations problem, physical service, services, encroachment and self-sufficiency kind of issues. Respondents gave various suggestion for the problems present at Kot Diji fort and mound of Diji Khairpur, Sindh. The tourism authority must take action for the problem at both ancient sites.

Keywords

Tourism, Development of tourism, Kot Diji fort, Mound of Diji, Khairpur tourism, issues in tourism

1. Introduction

Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji Khairpur, Sindh are ancient archeological sites in Kot Diji city, district Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan. Mir Murad Ali Khan Talpur in Kot Diji city constructed Kot Diji fort also named Ahmedabad fort Khairpur in 18th century, district Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan. The fort is located at the distance of 40 km from Khairpur city. The fort is clearly visible from the old national highway Khairpur [1]. It has 30 feet high walls all around the fort. It had towers whose height is 50 feet high. The fort itself is sites on 110 feet hill high above the ground [2]. The fort has 3 levels. On level one, there is well, tuck shop, sitting area, restrooms for tourists. On level number two, there is a huge room for soldiers in ancient days. on level number three there is a water reservoir, different cannon towers, prison, security rooms, king's residency and a parade ground [3]. Now Kot Diji fort is a heritage site and is currently under the Government of Pakistan [4]. The site of Kot Diji is a mound with is also known as "Diji ji Takri" in local language. This site is a part of pre-Indus valley civilization. This site was built in 3300

BCE. The archeological site has two parts one is the citadel area and the other is on the ground, which is still buried under the ground of Kot Diji city [5]. Pottery was the evidence which shows that the culture of this site is changed from the era of Moen-jo-daro and Amri [6].

2. Qualitative research methodology:

Qualitative data gathering technique is used wherever non-numerical figures is required. In qualitative research there are mainly open-ended queries, these queries are not specific questions, which are being asked only in the interview, but interviewer can ask about various things at the time that is the cause it is named as open-ended research. This kind of research collects the data in depth. In qualitative research quota sampling is used mainly, here uncontrolled quota sampling is used because the researcher decided that from whom interviews should take. The quota sampling is time saving and it creates the research easier. This a non-probability research technique as researcher selects individuals according to their experience and knowledge.

2.1. Data collection:

Data was collected through eleven interviews from archeology, tourism and engineering fields. The data was collected via physical surveys and interviews.

2.1.1. Physical survey:

Various physical surveys were prepared at both locations Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji. In those studies, structural and semi-structural observation conducted about these two sites.

2.1.2. Interviews:

Many interview conducted for data collection method. Some interviews conducted via archeologists of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, some conducted via

civil engineers, and some conducted via experts working in the Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji some interviews

collected from guides working there. Here is the list of designation and numbers of interviews.

2.2. Sampling Technique

The sampling technique, which is used in this research, is snowball-sampling technique. Because at the time of data collection one respondent was recommending the second respondent and the second respondent recommended the third respondents in this way the chain continues up to 11 interviews.

2.3. Data analysis:

The data, which gathered from interviews, was analyzed by content analysis.

3. Research Findings and Results

The following table indicates that what kind issues and their sub-issues are there, how many persons respond to it and what suggestion did they give.

Table - 2: Table of Suggestions of the issues

Main issues	Sub-issues	Respo ndents	Suggestions
Adminis tration	Office	8	There isn't any proper administration office for the fort neither inside the fort nor outside, there must an office fort the fort
	Shortage of employees	9	Fort and mound have shortage of employees, there aren't enough guides, guards and sweepers
	No proper funds	9	There is not any proper fund given to

Table - 1: List of Interviews

S.no	No: of interviews	Designation
01	4	Archology Department, SALU Khaipur
02	2	Civil Engineers, WAPDA
03	4	Kot Diji Fort
04	1	Khazana Resource Centre
Total no: of Interviews		11

			the fort and mound, there should be 50,000 fund given to the fort every month as there is not any ticketing system in the fort.
	Entry Fees	10	There isn't any entrance fees in the fort and mound, if there will be a a ticketing system than it will create a good revenue which can be used for the betterment of these both sites
Security	CCTV cameras	8	There should cameras inside the fort and mound which records the activities of the fort and mound, so there must be a proper CCTV cameras located in the

			fort.
	Security checking	8	There should be a proper security checking like walk-through gates and baggage scanners
Physical Services	Parking space	7	The fort and mound should have a proper parking space so that the people do not park their vehicles in front of the sites' gates.
	electricity	8	There should be electricity in the fort and mound so if people want to visit these sites in late hours everything should be visible to them.
	Shop inside the fort	7	There is a tuck shop at ground level of the fort, the fort's land is a heritage property it is not good to place a tuck shop inside a heritage building.
	Internet service	8	The fort should have internet and Wi-Fi system.
	Restaurants/Cafes	10	There aren't any good

			restaurants in the city there, so there must be and it will also increase the employment opportunities for the locals
	Sign Boards	7	There is not any kind of signboard outside the fort, which indicate about location of the fort.
	Guide	9	There must be enough tourists guide in the fort and mound to brief about the history if these sites
	Hotels/guest houses	9	There should be hotel service too in the city near these two sites so people who are from other cities can stay there.
Accessibility	Encroachment	9	The fort has given 150 feet area around the fort so the shops, house and streets these all are constructed on encroachment
	Road Condition	8	The road condition is not so good. first it is very narrow, second it is not

			appealing due to encroachment
Self-sufficient	Entry Fees	9	If there will be entrance fees for both sites it will create a good revenue for the fort and mound.
	Parking Fees	9	If there will be parking fees for both sites it will create a good revenue for the fort and mound.
	Shops for cultural Goods	7	There must be a shop for cultural good, which are being produced in Khairpur region.

This table shows what the main issues are, sub-issues regarding the development of Kot Diji fort and mound of Diji Khairpur. This table also shows how many people responded on every issue in addition what kind of suggestions/solutions they have provided for the development for both sites.

4. Conclusion

Kot Diji fort and mound of Diji are located at Kot Diji, Khairpur district Sindh. The fort is approximately 220 years old fort [2]. Whereas Mound of Diji is an pre-Harappa site built in 2500BCE [1]. Number of tourists visit these sites daily. Eleven interviews were conducted to research about the issues in Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji to see what is the perception of people those are related to archology, engineering and tourism department. Respondents gave different suggestion regarding the issues of these both sites. There are the issues in administration department of the fort and mound. Security services at both sites are not given. Physical services are even not provided to the tourists. There are issues in accessing the fort and mound. The fort and mound are not even self-sufficient. Hence, the issues of the Kot Diji fort and Mound of Diji should be solved in proper ways.

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