

HISTORICAL HERITAGE MONUMENTS - FROM PROTECTION TO PRESERVATION

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Received: 17 May 2019

Accepted: 25 May 2019

Published: 31 May 2019

ABSTRACT

Promotion and preservation of historical monuments of historic, traditional, archeological, artistic and cultural heritage centers for the present as well as future generations need to be carried forward joint with active participation and cooperation of not only all sections of society within a Nation - State but also all over the world as whole. These are the main objectives of the article.

KEYWORDS: *Monument, Preservation, Protection, Structure, Architectural, Landmarks, Civilization etc*

INTRODUCTION

Monuments are the historical buildings or structures famous for their architectural, religious, and cultural heritage. They are unique, durable and famous symbols of hoary past. We gather lot of historical, political and architectural information from monuments. They can be of various types, For example – church, temples, mosques, memorials, buildings, landmarks, pillars, edicts, fountains, graves stones, monoliths, mounds, palaces, statues, war memorials, towers, tombs, etc.

Monuments remind us of our heritage and also about the history which happened before we were born and promotes the respect for those who lived in different times and different societies. They are like a treasure for a nation and symbol of pride of their civilization. They help us to appreciate our past and the level of development, knowledge and thoughts. In a way, they provide life to our past. They provide a lot of historical data as important sources and evidences of history and they enhance tourism. Historic sites from the recent past can come in all shapes and sizes. Pleased to know that, so far UNESCO identified 40 places as Heritage centers in India.

A historical monuments is a rich sources of History, it gives us a sense of wonder and makes us curious to know more about the past connected with it. The study of monument helps the students construct History through observation. The activity generates interest in historical buildings and develops observation skills.

It is important to conserve, preserve & protect buildings from: Pollution Poor and irresponsible civic sense of local citizens, visitors scratching, spitting and writing on monuments Water seepage from farming, irrigation Civil wars, terrorist attacks & vandalism

How to Preserve Monuments

Natural weathering, Awareness campaign to educate community Adopt monuments Strict Government action & plan to save monuments, setting up of Archaeological Departments, collecting, generation of funds & donation for their renovation Chemical treatments of Monuments & restoration Taxes/donations to preserve monuments, monument fees and other

related funds from citizens and tourists, Volunteering for their conservation, Meetings, surveys, reports, heritage clubs should be set up by schools, educational institutes to make students and youth aware to save monuments.

Devising proper Legal framework to preserve monuments at national and global level. Strict implementation of laws to save monuments. Save from pollution, Keeping factories and other polluters away. Control mobs, acts of vandalism, terrorists attacking monuments, Corporate, Multinational corporations should take responsibility to conserve monuments.

International bodies like UNESCO have taken important initiatives to preserve them. Our team is quite inspired by UNESCO's efforts. "UNESCO has a world heritage mission which encourages international cooperation in the conservation of our world's cultural and natural heritage, countries are required to nominate their heritage sites. It encourages participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage.

- A volunteer group. Gather fellow residents who care about preserving your community's recent past places. Working together, you can research and nominate buildings for landmark designation; become your community's advocate for the recent past and Modern design; create a website and maintain a discussion board; and host tours and other special events (see the next tips).
- Offer tours. Tours are a tried-and-true method for building a community's appreciation for its historic resources and significant architecture. Put together a bus tour that takes guests past Modern structures throughout the neighborhood. Create a self-guided driving tour accompanied by a booklet that visitors and residents can continue to use. Or set up docent-led tours of noteworthy buildings from the recent past.
- Host special events. Special events encourage those interested in mid-century architecture to connect with like-minded people. These can include fundraising events; special exhibits (complete with opening night parties) that feature the architecture and modern heritage of your community; or a lecture series that features local historians, architects, or professors to speaking about the area's modern architecture.
- Submit a nomination to an endangered places list. When a site is threatened by demolition, alteration, or neglect, nominate it to a local organization's endangered list. This is an excellent way to generate publicity, raise awareness of threatened Modern and recent past places, and explain to a broader audience why these types of places are significant and worthy of protection.

Conduct community workshops. Workshops and seminars can be useful ways to educate specific audiences about buildings and cultural sites from the recent past. These classes can help teach participants the basics of historic preservation, give them an overview of the history of post-war architecture, offer tips on how to identify threats or problems, find appropriate replacement materials to keep mid-century homes looking true to their original architecture, and more. Contact a local preservation group for help or partnership opportunities.

- Educate those involved in the decision-making process. It is equally important to educate state and municipal historic preservation officers, local planning agency staff, and preservation commission members about the importance of mid-century resources. Contact these groups and encourage them to attend local training programs.

STRATEGIES FOR THE PRESERVATION

Cooperation with UNESCO

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is working on projects related to several themes. India too could launch such local projects which would directly or indirectly help in the preservation of historical monuments.

International Cultural Identity Card for free Entry

India could be part of the initiative to foster an International Cultural Identity Card to allow free entry of its nationals and foreigners to historical monuments. This would foster tourism, cultural appropriation, research and revenue.

Dissemination of Information

Dissemination of Information could be achieved through suitable usage of secondary sources of data like brochures, pamphlets, magazines, e-content, exhibitions, travel guides, directories, annual reports etc.

Government Initiatives

The Government has to play an important role through its policies and legislative measures. India has a large number of monuments and heritage sites spread across the country. Only a small fraction of these are protected under various statutes of Central and State Governments. Most of them still remain unprotected. As a part of legislative measures, the Ministry of Culture in the Government of India is also in the process of setting up a National Commission for Heritage Sites through an Act of Parliament. These measures will go a long way in preserving and conserving the unprotected monuments and sites in the country.

Public – Private Partnership

We should create a public-Private partnership with the corporate and private organizations in raising resources for jointly promoting and preserving our heritage.

Preservation of Manual and Documentation Centre

Creation and Preservation of manual are more important for various categories of historical monuments. Setting up of documentation center, which collect an extensive body of documentation concerning all aspects of the preservation of monuments.

Inter-Disciplinary Approach

Preservation of monuments cannot be restricted to a particular field of study. It calls for an integrated approach like Civil Engineering, Archaeology, History, Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Economics etc.

Growth of Amenities

India is well-known for neglect of providing amenities surrounding its historical monuments. There is a scant regard for ecological preservations as well. Basic facilities need to be provided to tourists and specialists to appreciate and conserve such monuments.

Stimulation of Civil Society Interest

It is necessary to create a partnership with the civil society and local communities in heritage preservation so that they develop a stake and sense of belonging. Education and awareness generation are some of the powerful tools for creating such stakes and partnerships. The Ministry of Culture is in the process of launching a Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Program, with an objective to reach schools, colleges and universities and inculcate among the younger generation a deeper understanding and awareness about the Nation's culture and heritage.

Prevent Defacing of Monuments

Lack of proper education and awareness amongst citizens has led to large-scale defacement of monuments. It is indeed appreciable that television commercials have been implemented but that is only a drop in the ocean.

Scientific Investigation

Preservation and conservation should be followed on the basis of scientific investigation ensuring that expertise is backed by a professional approach and documentation.

Exploration of Monuments with Modern Technology

Modern technology encompasses geo-technical engineering. Geotechnical engineering includes investigating existing subsurface conditions and materials; determining their physical / mechanical and chemical properties that are relevant to the project considered, assessing risks posed by site conditions; designing earthworks and structure foundations; and monitoring site conditions, earthwork and foundation construction.

Setting up Institutes of Art and Culture

There is a need for capacity building in the sector of management of heritage and cultural resources to obviate the serious dearth of expertise and manpower in this area. The Ministry of Culture has proposed, as part of its XI Plan, to set up a Centre for Management of Cultural Resources. There are also suggestions to set up a network of Indian Institute of Art and Culture.

International Organization for Monuments

There has been a desire for the constitution of an International Organization for Monuments of which, when formed, India can be an active member and contributor. Such an organization could streamline certain aspects of preservation policy which would serve as a standard norm. Additional policies could be built based on local phenomena.

LINKING HERITAGE TOURISM TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There are no basic conflicts between heritage preservation and economic development. In fact, contrary to general belief, heritage is not a burden but a valuable resource and asset. The asset can be utilized by following an appropriate policy of preservation and promotion so as to contribute to poverty reduction, employment generation and environmental regeneration. Whereas in the case of heritage in relation to tourism it covers buildings, areas, dance, food, dress, events, values, lifestyles and handicrafts.

Cultural heritage tourism is important for various reasons; it has a **positive economic and social impact**, it establishes and reinforces identity, it helps preserve the cultural heritage, with culture as an instrument, it facilitates harmony and understanding among people, it supports culture and helps renew tourism. The role of heritage in postmodern tourism is examined, particularly built heritage, which is at the heart of cultural tourism. Tourism is an important management issue at both natural and cultural World Heritage sites. Tourism has bloomed as a major economic element of the world market and has become one of the largest industries in the world, since World War II.

Interpretation of cultural heritage is an integral aspect of both visitor experience and conservation of heritage. Interpretation needs to widen its debate to incorporate more experiential components. Hence, If we fail to preserve Historical Heritage Monuments

There will be a huge loss to the government, interpersonal relations, and also unable to know the traditional attire, aesthetic in nature, will be lose by our future generation.

Following Threat Factors to Negligence of Cultural Heritage Sites and Monuments

Table 1

S. No.	Factors	Impact (Deterioration) on Tourism Infrastructure
1.	Ritual, Spiritual Religious, Festival and Performances	Polluting the Environment, Water bodies and the Surroundings
2.	Society Values on Heritage	Conflicting Values, Expansion and Addition to Current use
3.	Indigenous Activities	Loss of Traditional Knowledge, Values and practice linked to heritage
4.	Local Community	Changes in Livelihood, local population and Community, migration to or from the site
5.	Climatic Changes	Storm, Tornados, Hurricanes, Tsunami
6.	People Harmony	Building Community support and develop interpersonal relationship
7.	Growth of National Income	Sustainable livelihood, increase of vendors inside and outside site, which directly and indirectly increase our national income.
8.	Institutional and Management	Visitors Survey, Water sampling, Financial surveys

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