

Impact of Water Body for Pilgrim Cities in India

Vishnu Kumar Pahariya^{1*}, Anjali S. Patil²

¹Student, Department of Architecture & Planning, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, India

²Associate Professor, Department of Architecture & Planning, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, India

*Corresponding author: vishnupahariya@gmail.com

Abstract: The mythological place India is blessed with the sacred streams, little and enormous water bodies. It is likewise a home of numerous exceptional holy people, strict and spiritual leaders. Significant pilgrims in India are Haridwar, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Prayagraj, Char dhams, Dwarka, Puri, Rameswaram and Badrinath, twelve Jyotirlingas, Chitrakoot, Varanasi, Ayodhya, etc. are on the bank of sacred waterways. These pioneer cities and their sacred spots pull in a mass of explorers and pilgrims from different parts of the nation and around the world. Because of their devotion, there is a huge increment in floating and urban populace. These pilgrims' explorers during journeys every year which has a high potential to impact the urban condition in these blessed destinations. In pilgrimage, impacts are influenced by festival and are limited over time and space such as "Chhath Pooja" in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal, Kumbha and Ardh Kumbhs various parts of India etc. are associated directly with water bodies. Urban preservation is very important in the case of pilgrim cities because of their mythological values. These pilgrim cities determine, it is not just in their place of worship but in their temple, church etc., but a built heritage related and in the layout and design of the cities, some pilgrim cities are designed on the design principles of Vedic Principles. The regional setting in which the cities are placed and their relationship with water bodies and other heritage features. This paper identifies the issues and challenges in the core of pilgrim cities, which is water surrounding place of worship associated with different rituals which reflect new gravities on the urbanization. It is based on literature study and case study approach.

Keywords: Impact of water body, Pilgrim cities, Urban preservation, Urbanization.

1. Introduction

Greek philosopher Plato said: "A city is place where man had a common life for a noble end".

While a river streams, it carries many human activities and their habitation. All over the world river valleys have been cradles of civilization because all the major civilizations - Egypt on the Nile, Mesopotamia on the Tigris and Euphrates, Mohenjodaro and Harappa on the Indus flourished along the river banks. Due to their importance to human civilization, rivers have been held sacred and worshipped in India since time immemorial. The riverfront development has played a key role in the life of the many cities. Like veins and arteries, rivers and canals are channels of connection and communication. In India pilgrim places are associated with water and its use in their every

worship.

2. Conceptual Terms

A. Pilgrimage

The term pilgrim now commonly denotes a religious journey. Now-a-days use of the terms pilgrim and tourist, recognizing the former as a religious traveller and the latter as a vacationer, is a culturally constructed polarity that covers the motives of the travellers search.

B. Difference between Tourist and pilgrim

A "tourist" is a person who travels or visits a place for pleasure but pilgrim a person who journeys (yatras), specifically a long distance, to some holy place as an act of religious devotion.

C. Religious Tourism

The concept of religious tourism has arisen alongside changes that have occurred in modern society regarding patterns of behavior and attitudes towards religion.

3. Role of Water in Urban Planning

Basic necessity of human and its settlement is being is food, shelter and clothing these necessity is directly associated with water, world History of human settlements says that every civilization was along the river and its tributaries. The river Ganga has its own importance with its own right. Sometimes the "land and river" both respected as "MOTHER" in spiritual way. For land it's called as "MATRUBHUMI".

Following are the major role of water in urban context.

- Played a major role in sustaining the city itself.
- Provide water, support natural processes – like flood prevention and provide habitats for plants and animals.
- Provides economic growth through water transportation systems etc.

4. Advantage of Water in Pilgrim City

A. Socio cultural connects communities:

Water connects every pilgrim. In pilgrimage, impacts are influenced by festival and are limited over time and space such

as “chhath pooja” in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal, Prayagraj, Nashik and Ujjain Kumbha and Ardh kumbhs various parts of India etc. are associated directly with water bodies.

B. Socioeconomic importance of the pilgrim city

The religious institutions, holy sites are often surrounded by religiously orientated businesses and facilities, such as souvenir shops, travel agencies, hotels and even hospitals, providing employment for the host community.

C. Research importance

It provides research opportunities for majorly stockholders of city developer such as urban planners, architects, engineers, researchers of various fields, and various other institutions.

D. Heritage importance

Every Pilgrim city has its unique tangible and intangible heritage values which create memorable impact of every visitor. Non profitable Institutions like INTACH (The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), ASI (Architectural survey of India) have major role for conservation of heritage of pilgrim cities.

E. Environmental importance

Naturally water body provides not only provides thermal comforts but also minimize urban heat islands Helps increments in natural vegetation.

- Located in the Indo-Gangetic Plains of North India, the land is very fertile because low level floods in the Ganges continually replenish the soil.
- It is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited by human since 800 BCE and the ancient city in India.
- Hindu legend has it that Varanasi is the centre of the universe, the first city created by the gods on Earth, and it is certainly true that it was already an old city when Rome was created.

Table 1
Annual tourist visits during 2002-2005

Year (Jan to Dec.)		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (Till march '06)
Varansi	Domestic	25,88,178	27,01,716	28,09,422	30,49,980	9,69,909
	Foreign	98,765	1,08,017	1,41,328	1,43,993	44,000
	Total	26,86,943	28,09,733	29,50,750	31,93,973	10,13,909
Sarnath	Domestic	4,39,099	4,45,334	5,04,833	5,72,650	1,51,250
	Foreign	1,47,173	1,72,872	1,99,413	2,01,725	49,102
	Total	5,86,272	6,18,206	7,04,246	7,74,375	2,00,352
Total	Domestic	30,27,277	31,47,050	33,14,255	36,22,630	11,21,159
	Foreign	2,45,938	2,80,889	3,40,741	3,45,718	93,102
	Total	32,73,215	34,27,939	36,54,996	39,68,348	12,14,261

Source: Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Department Corporation, 2006

Following fig. 2 and 3 shows development taken place along water body for pilgrim city Varanasi.

5. Case Study of Varanasi

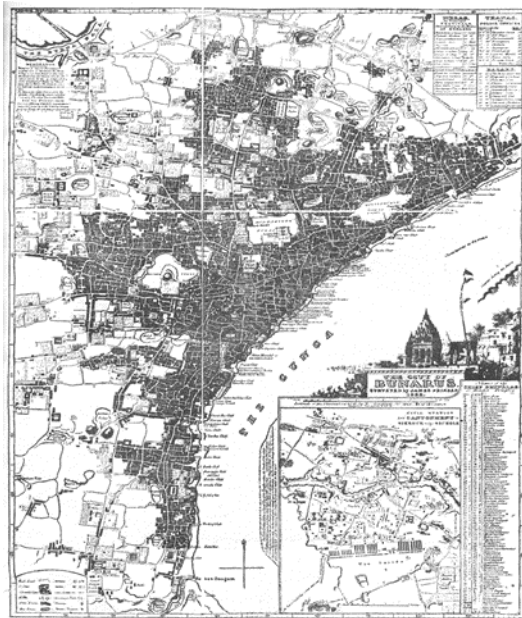


Fig. 1. Map of Varnashi city along river ganga

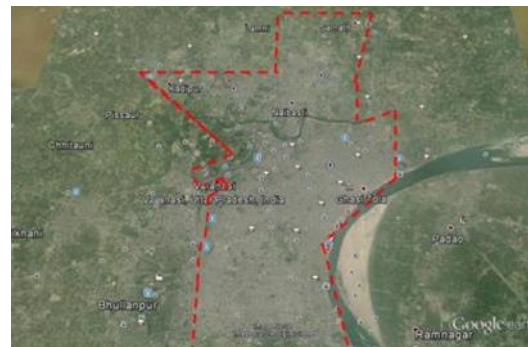


Fig. 2. Old settlements along river



Fig. 3. Infrastructure development along river ganga

- Varanasi (Benares) or Kashi, is a city on the banks of the river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi is located between the Ganges streams with two rivers: The Varuna and the Assi stream.

A. Influence due to pilgrim

The following table represents category-wise number of units, capital investment and employment of major industries in Varanasi. (Fig. 4 and Table 2) Floating population not only

generates economy but it's also increase employment and job opportunities.

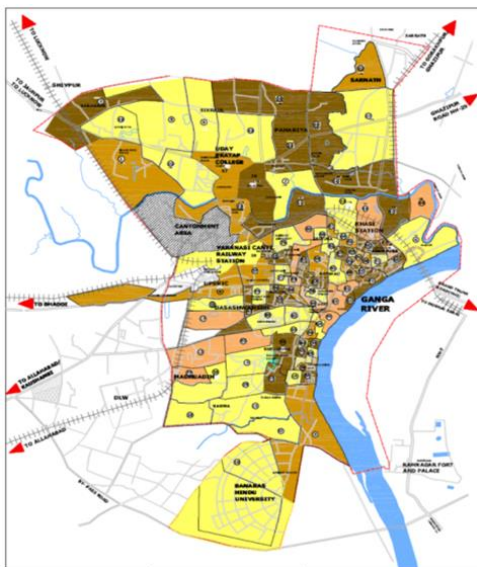


Fig. 4. Industrial development in varanashi

Table 2
 Industries which are dependent on pilgrims

S.NO	TYPE OF INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF UNITS	INVESTMENT (LAKH RS.)	EMPLOYMENT
1	Agro-based	141	14.10	706
2	Cotton Textile	515	50.61	2576
3	Wooden, silk and artificial thread-based clothes	813	80.40	4076
4	Jute and jute-based	25	0.25	100
5	Readymade garments & embroidery	480	48.035	2401
6	Wood/wooden-based furniture	485	40.85	2426
7	Paper and paper products	40	20.80	201
8	Leather-based	25	10.20	126
9	Chemical/Chemical-based	430	30.10	2151
10	Rubber, Plastic & petro- based	60	25.15	301
11	Mineral-based	310	20.20	1551
12	Metal-based (Steel Fab.)	415	30.15	2076
13	Engineering units	510	40.10	2551
14	Electrical machinery and transport equipment	90	5.20	451
15	Repairing & servicing	978	128.21	5073

Table 3
 List of festivals which is dependent on the water

Festivals	Venue	Period of Occurrence
Paush Poonima	Ghats	January
Makar Sankranti	Ghats	January
Mauni Amavasya	Ghats	January/February
Magh Poonima	Ghats/Ravidas Mandir	February
Ganga Water Rally	Ghats	February
Dhrupad Mela	Tulsighat	March
Mahashivaratri	Ghats & temples	March
Navratra (Chaitra)	Ghats / Temples	April
Ram Navami	Tulsi Manas Mandir & Ghats	April
Sankat Mochan Festival	Sankat Mochan Mandir	April
Buddha Poonima	Sarnath	May
Ganga Dussehra	Ghats	June
Ramlila, Ramnagar	Ramnagar	September-October
Dhanush Yagya	Ramnagar	September
Ram Vivah	Ramnagar	September
Nakkataiya	Ramnagar	September
Pitra Visarjan	Ghats	September
Navaratra(Ashwin)	Ghats & Temples	October
Vijaya Dashmi / Dussehra	Ramnagar D.L.W Vidyapeeth	October

Source – UP Tourism Department, Varanasi and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

6. Risk Involved for Pilgrim City

- Rapid air, land and water pollution due to floating population.
- Huge variation in infrastructure demand due to large floating population.
- Major dependence of city on religious tourism for economic activity.
- Requiems of Variable service infrastructure facility like STP, roads, public amenities etc.



Fig. 5. Major pilgrim cities which are along water pilgrimage rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation drive (Prasad)

7. Conclusion and Way Forward

Conservation of pilgrim city is very important issue along with water bodies and its resources as foot of floating population is increasing rapidly as we have limited natural resources. We have to follow some solutions. These are following.

1. Increment of temporary infrastructure like ghaats, peepa bridges, asthi visarjan spots and their service corridors.
2. Increment of river tourism as ferry been started between prayagraj to varanashi in 2019 kumbh of prayagraj.
3. Increment of temporary tents, pandaals, public toilet, hospitals, shops, police stations, CCTV camera points with integrated command and control center.
4. Holistic approach with state and central's policy making and their implementation.
5. Following fig. 6 is shows, how we have to use the culture of water bodies as sustainable development in pilgrim cities.

Water bodies in pilgrim cities are our heritage, we have to practice for its conservation. We also called our river ganga as "maa ganga".

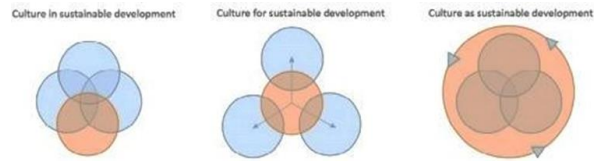


Fig. 6. Integration of culture in sustainable development

References

- [1] <http://www.itpi.org.in/journals>
- [2] CDP of varanshi.
- [3] S. Vijayanand, "Socio-economic impacts in pilgrimage tourism."
- [4] Year wise Tourist Statistics,
<http://www.uptourism.gov.in/pages/top/about-up-tourism/year-wise-tourist-statistics>