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CONTENTS

Sr.			
No.		No.	
1.	DETERMINANTS OF REAL ESTATE MARKETING: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON SELECTED REAL	1	
	ESTATE MARKETERS IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA		
	DR. GETIE ANDUALEM IMIRU		
2.	A STUDY ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TEA GROWERS WITH PARTICULAR	7	
	REFERENCE TO NILGIRIS DISTRICT (TN) IN INDIA DR. G. KAVITHA & M. JAMUNA RANI		
3.	A STUDY ON THE CHALLENGE FOR ARTISANS OF CONCH SHELL INDUSTRY IN WEST	11	
J .	BENGAL		
	ANAMITRA PAUL & SEBAK KUMAR JANA		
4.	A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY ON EMERGENCE OF PRIVATE LABEL BRANDS IN INDIAN	15	
••	ORGANIZED RETAIL		
	AJAY SINGH & DR. NRIPENDRA SINGH		
5.	MUTUAL FUNDS IN INDIA-RECENT ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	20	
	M.NAGABHASKAR & M.RAMU		
6.	GREEN MARKETING AND THEIR IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT: A STUDY	23	
	SUSHEELA RATHEE & AMIT RATHEE		
7.	ASSESSING QUALITY OF WEBSITES THROUGH OBSERVATION	28	
	DR. HEERA BARPUJARY		
8.	ANALYSIS ON THE CASH MANAGEMENT OF NEPA LIMITED	34	
	DR. ADARSH ARORA	20	
9.	DESTINATION BRANDING AS A MARKETING TOOL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A	39	
	COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN INDIA & SPAIN SWATI SHARMA & MAHESH UNIYAL		
10.	FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ITS' INFLUENCING FACTORS: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF INDIAN	43	
10.	INVESTORS	43	
	DR. BIDYUT JYOTI BHATTACHARJEE		
11.	STUDYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING	47	
	THROUGH THE TWO PERSPECTIVES OF BALANCE SHEET AND CASH FLOW STATEMENT IN		
	FIRMS ACCEPTED IN STOCK EXCHANGE TEHRAN (IRAN)		
	NASRIN DADASHI & EBRAHIM CHEIRANI		
12 .	POVERTY: TROUBLESOME THE PROBLEM & OVERCOME (AN INDIAN CONTEXT)	53	
	DR. MANOJ KUMAR SHARMA & SUTHAR AAVANTI ASHOK		
13 .	ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS TOWARDS HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOR: A STUDY ON WELDING	57	
	WORKSHOPS AT SYLHET CITY IN BANGLADESH		
	A.K.M. SOHEL HABIB NOWROZ & KOWSER JANNAT		
14 .	MODEL OF INTEGRATION OF SPIRITUALITY TOWARDS THE WORK BEHAVIOUR AND	62	
	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS MEDIATING VARIABLE: AN APPROACH OF STRUCTURAL		
	EQUATION MODELING (SEM)		
16	ACHMAD CHOERUDIN MACROECONOMIC VARIABLES AND STOCK PRICES: A STUDY OF COLOMBO STOCK	71	
15 .	EXCHANGE (CSE) IN SRI LANKA	/1	
	P.ELANGKUMARAN & J.N.JENITTA		
		75	
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER		

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

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DESTINATION BRANDING AS A MARKETING TOOL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN INDIA & SPAIN

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ABSTRACT

Globally, Travel & tourism industry is one of the largest and flourishing industry accounting for USD 6 trillion and contributing 9 % to GDP (as per UNWTO). The developed nations like U.K., U.S, Germany, Switzerland, Spain etc. are the major beneficiaries of this trade. But with the burgeoning of developing nations in travel & tourism industry, the competition began and the concept of Branding a country as a powerful marketing tool initiated. Destination branding is a process of differentiating one's country with another's by obtaining competitiveness and upper edge. To add, in year 2004 WTTC also started ranking the countries and managing the competitiveness index of destinations on various factors. The purpose of this research paper is to assess India's tourism branding campaign 'Incredible India' by conducting a detailed analysis of difference between the promoted image and the perceived image of India as an incredible destination along with the perceptions about the slogan and further the comparison between Spain's marketing campaign 'Smile, you are in Spain'. The focus of the paper is on studying the attributes contributing to image of both the destinations. The results found are hypothetically tested by several parametric & non- parametric tests (chi-square, Anova, paired T- test etc.) and was analyzed with the help of SPSS. Further, the reliability of the results was assessed through Cronbach's alpha (α).

KFYWORDS

Branding, competitiveness, image, differentiation, marketing campaign.

1. INTRODUCTION

ravel & tourism is the ever fastest growing industry in the economy at the global level with magnificent contribution to GDP and employment in both direct and indirect ways. In 2012 its contribution is almost 9% towards GDP and 245 million jobs were created worldwide which is really remarkable. Tourism sector is estimated to flourish more between 2010 and 2020 by having annual growth of 4.4% in real terms (WTTC, 2010).

Tourism is an integral sector of the economy and contributes in a larger extent towards the destination image. Moreover, due to globalization, ever increasing competition between the destinations and high end use of information and technology has put forward the challenge of marketing the country to its tourists. Destinations nowadays have to reach to the emotional needs of the tourists for choosing a destination rather than focusing only on marketing of their destination. They have to reach the level of destination branding by having a distinct identity of the country with unique attributes within the destination.

The increasing competition in the tourism industry and the global economic situation has made countries aware of the importance of destination branding to differentiate themselves from competitors (Baloglu & Mangaloglu, 2001).

Branding of destinations has taken an upliftment in the last decade but still this field is lacking research. It is almost 47 years back when the concept of destination image was raised and discussed but the actual implementation of this concept has begun recently.

The branding of a destination is a challenging activity which affects the tourists decision making process but ultimately tourists choice of destination depends on the perception of the tourists Therefore, destination image is a fundamental part of the motivation to travel; a critical element in the selection process, irrespective of whether or not it is based on stereotypes or reality (Cai, 2002).

Existing Induced Induc .. MODE FIG. 1: MODEL OF DESTINATION BRANDING (Source Cai 2002) Brand Element Mix Secondary Component ssociations Marketing Affective Brand Communi-Component Identity cations noinisoquio J. B. str. soginion Marketing Positioning & Sainonisoq Brand Image Building

2. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

Considering the importance of branding this research paper would like to contribute towards the existing literature on this subject.

- a.) To understand the effectiveness of Incredible India marketing campaign.
- b.) To analyze what image is actually promoted through the campaign.
- c.) To assess whether the slogan and logo are correctly perceived by the tourists.
- d.) To analyze if the perceived image is the same promoted image as done by Ministry of tourism, Govt. of India.
- e.) To understand the comparative analysis between the marketing strategies of both the countries taken as a case study.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

In today's scenario Destination image is one of the majorly researched and discussed concepts in the study of tourism (Echtner & Ritchie 2003, Pan & Li 2011). A destination brand 'is the sum of perceptions that someone has about a place (whether based on experience, hearsay or prejudice), which influence his attitude towards that destination at an emotional level; exists in the eyes of the beholder. It has to be credible and real, it cannot be manufactured (Handbook on Tourism Destination Branding, 2009). Image has been defined in a number of ways: as a person's set of beliefs, opinions and impressions about an object, a consideration of all information gained from different channels or a mental connotation the person has about something beyond physical perception (Aksoy & Kiyci, 2011). According to Pearce (1998) "...image is one of those terms that will not go away a term with vague and shifting meaning..." – a commonly cited definition is: "...the sum of beliefs, ideas and impressions that a people have of a place" (Kotler, Haider, & Rein, 1993). Lopes discuss how a destination with a strong image is more easily differentiated from its competitors, and that tourists are more likely to consider and select destinations with stronger and more positive images (Lopes, 2011). Ultimately researchers agree that destination image is a valuable concept with regard to tourist destination selection process (Baloglu & McCleary, 1999; Beerli & Martin, 2004). Several studies (Bosque & Martin, 2008; Bosque et al., 2009; Gali & Donaire, 2005; Selby & Morgan, 1996; Tasci & Gartner, 2007) indicates that destination image is an important factor that influences the consumer behavior during the pre-visit (decision-making process of destination choice), during the visit (antecedent of satisfaction), and post-visit (recommendation and intention to revisit). Thus, the process of image formation starts before the decision, but it can be changed during the visit, as well as after the return. It has been argued that tourists' pe

the attraction elements such as scenery, facilities, activities, and cultures of a destination provide the motivations necessary to induce an individual to visit a determined place. It was also mentioned in the literature that Destination image can be measured and assessed. Destination image is multidimensional and comprises both symbolic and tangible features (Echtner and Ritchie 1993). This is why destination image is such an important part of a destination brand. When Ekinci (2003,) states that "A destination that forms a clear identity in tourists' minds can be easily branded" he means that organic image is quite powerful in this regard, further branding of the destination may be easy but creating a positive image and information to be portrayed by the destination (Aksoy & Kiyci, 2011) requires smart use of communication techniques and product development to build a personality for a tourist destination (Lopes, 2011; Ekinci, 2003). There are various elements which contribute towards the formation of destination image such as Age, income, education, socio-psychological motivations etc. which leads to cognitive or affective evaluation by the tourists and ultimately contributes to the overall image of the destination. The below mentioned figure 2 is an elaborative explanation given by Beerli & Martin.

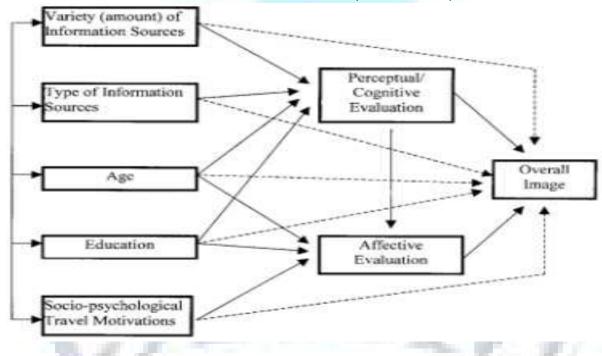


FIG. 2: ELEMENTS FORMING DESTINATION IMAGE (Beerli & Martin 2004)

4. DESTINATION BRANDING IN INDIA

As there was tough competition for India to sustain its tourism viability. There was the need for India to change its traditional marketing approach to one that is more competitive and can reach to its tourists in return of their demand from the tourism product. It was so essential for India to have positive global image and brand to mark its position in Country's competitive Index. Then the tourism ministry with the help of Ogilvy & Mather (India) (O&M) created a new campaign to increase the tourist inflows into the country. The "Incredible India" campaign was launched in 2002. And that was the moment for Indian tourism industry which has changed the perception of tourists while contributing to the overall positive image of India at global level. Under this Incredible India umbrella other marketing efforts like "Atithi Devo Bhava" were also initiated which has altogether made India an incredible destination. Slogans and logos are fundamental for the communication and enhancement of the brand image and brand equity (Henderson, 2007). Thus Slogans and logos made for Indian tourism marketing were so apt and reached to the heart of tourists as the slogan linked India with its cultural diversity.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research work is based on the inductive approach that is firstly the data is collected and then generalization to theory is done after analyzing the data. (Saunders et al., 2007). To analyze the perceived image from the tourists questionnaires are designed and for the projected image the promotional campaign

videos are analyzed in detail in form of content analysis. Limitation of the research design used for this research work could be the sample. Sample size was determined as 100 but still keeping in mind non-response 150 questionnaires are circulated. Out of which 120 are answered.

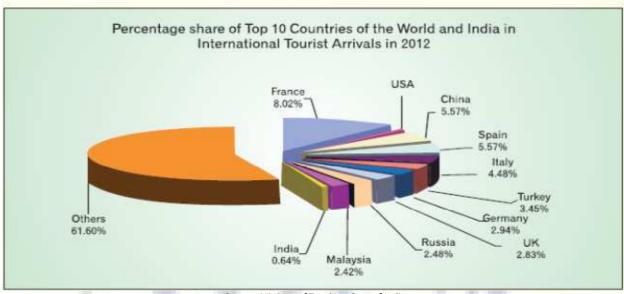
6. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

The below mentioned Fig 3 & fig 4 reflects the India's travel & tourism industry contribution towards GDP in 2012 & India's rank at global level in travel & tourism respectively.

FIG. 3 (Source: Economic Impact 2013 India, World Tourism & Travel Council)

Fravel & Tourism's Total Contribution to GDP		2012 % share	
24	Cambodia	25.8	
39	Thailand	16.7	
44	Malaysia	15.6	
	World Average	14.1	
89	Vietnam	9.4	
92	China	9.3	
94	Sri Lanka	9.1	
97	Indonesia	8.9	
121	Pakistan	7.0	
128	India	6.6	
169	Bangladesh	4.3	

FIG 4: INDIA'S RANK AT GLOBAL LEVEL



Source: Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India

a.) The promoted image is analyzed focusing on the promotional video of the campaign, using content analysis and other quantitative and qualitative methods.



- b.) The Analysis of the fit between the slogan marketed and perceptions about the identity (logo and slogan) The major finding of this research work is that our slogan "Incredible India" does not address a unique theme as it is not specific in the terms like what India is majoring in. After the analysis the result is that 58% of the respondents thought that the logo suggests culture, only 24% associated it with mountains, sun and water and 12% associate the logo with adventure.
- c.) For measuring the perceived image the data was gathered with the help of questionnaires with open and closed questions from almost 120 individuals between the ages of 20 and 45. The average age of the respondents is 33.02 years, 51 being men and 49 women.30% were Europeans, 20% from US, 5% from Africa, rest from South East Asia.
- d.) Comparison between India's "Incredible India" Campaign & Spain's Marketing Campaign "Smile when you are in Spain". As per the Handbook on Tourism destination Branding Spain has the best branding campaign and they initiated this process in 1930's. Spain has covered all the communication media, their logo designing, their tag line all are up to the mark. The campaign wants to highlight, through a smile featured in all the posters, the hospitality and warmth of the Spanish, and the relaxed rhythm of life that tourists can enjoy in Spain. It promoted a lifestyle, the Spanish culture and richness of the cultural diversity (Turespana, 2011). The major difference between both the tourism marketing efforts is that India lacks in that positive global image which Spain without any pain is enjoying. Another challenge already discussed is that our campaign lacks specificity it is quite general in nature as we say we have everything for everyone. But this is wrong as now days the tourist is very specific in choosing his holiday destination and it should have that one click appeal.
- e.) Demographic profile of the Respondents n=100

Gender	Percentage	Chi square Test	Significance
Male	51%		
Female	49%	1.244	.265
Age 20-45 years	Avg. age 33.02 years	72.674	.000
Education level			
High school or less	19.27%	9.624	.022
Diploma	20.00%		
College-level graduation	54.18%		
Graduate or higher	6.55%		

f.) The Cronbach's alpha result is .8

7. CONCLUSION

While India has been gaining acknowledgement as an attractive tourism destination, there is a lack of research on its destination image that plays an important role to influence tourists' decision making to visit India. No such study has been conducted so far which can provide us with the exact information like how the Incredible India campaign has done internationally. More importantly, tourism development depends strongly on the degree of congruency between the projected and perceived image. Therefore the analysis of fit between perceived image and projected image is need of the hour. By exploring the perception of international tourists toward India as a tourism destination, we can ascertain that foreign tourists seem very sensitive to safety & security, hygiene, development of the nation as a tourist destination before they finalize the destination to be visited. Unfortunately, these crucial factors have not been paid that much attention by the tourism industry. The results of this research will help destination developers and government to be aware of the structure of destination image and to assess the major destination image elements so as to take decision on building a strong the tourism destination image of India globally.

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