

Tourism Infrastructure: A Study On Basic Tourism Infrastructure In Kodagu

Shrikala K.K

Lecturer

field marshal K.M.cariapp college madikeri

Abstract - The natural landscape of Kodagu district nestling in the Western Ghats has come in for praise from tourists, but not its infrastructure. Facilities such as good road connectivity, power supply, availability of water, will certainly make Kodagu-God's own Paradise- a place to visit and remember perennially. The Tourism Department has woken up to the tourism promotion issue very late. Or, one can say that nothing much was done to develop tourism in the right earnest for many reasons, for many years. Not enough funds to take up tourism-related activities, and failure to sustain the developed infrastructure due to excess rainfall, have plagued the district. This study mainly concentrate on existing basic infrastructure components of tourism in Kodagu(Accommodation, Transport, Attractions and other)and tourist response on infrastructure development.

Introduction:

Coorg is a beautiful place for tourist seeking natural picturesque spots and exciting treks. Tourist can travel to Coorg anytime round the year. Located on the Western Ghats, this hill station is spread over an area of 4,102 sq km. With wooded slopes, attractive villages and the natural scenery, Coorg has an excellent combination for the travellers. Tourism infrastructure plays a great role in attracting tourist for the destination.

Definition:

Tourism infrastructure is a range of devices and institutions constituting material and organizational basis for tourism development. It comprises four basic elements: accommodation facilities, food and beverage facilities, accompanying facilities and communication facilities. [Pantsuit A.,2007].

Methodology:

- Primary data- collected through questionnaire. Sample size 30.
- Secondary Data: Books, Websites and records.

Limitations:

- Due to time constraints it was not possible to include more sample size.
- Only basic existing infrastructure components are considered for the study.
- Whatever information collected is considered for the analysis and interpretation.

Objectives of the study:

- To identify and study the basic infrastructure components in tourism.
- To study weaknesses in tourism infrastructure.
- To find the reasons for lack of infrastructure development in tourism.
- To know the tourist opinion about infrastructure development.

Importance of development of tourism infrastructure:

Infrastructure is the basic physical and organisational structure needed for the operation of a society or enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide a framework supporting an entire structure of development. Infrastructure is an important term for judging a country or region's development.

Components of tourism infrastructure:

The infrastructure for tourism thus includes basic infrastructure components like transport, accommodation, electricity and water supply, shopping facilities. Planning for sustainable development of Tourism Infrastructure, therefore, involves the integrated development of basic infrastructure and amenities along with all the tourism facilities in a balanced manner.

The basic requirements for the development of Tourism Infrastructure are –

1. Modes of Transport- airways, roadways and railways and access thereto
2. Accommodation
3. Utilities-power, water facility, etc
4. Maintenance and management of built heritage/tourist attractions

I. Tourist accommodation:

The need for accommodation in different classes of hotels suiting the varying requirements of tourists is no less an important part of tourism infrastructure. Accommodation facilities in the host country have become such an important part of tourist industry that it is now known as hotel industry by itself. Best possible room and restaurant services are in great demand for allure the tourists.

It is estimated that there are around 32 hotels and 126 restaurants in Kodagu. There is a requirement for increasing tourism accommodation facilities at major tourism destinations in Kodagu. The Department of tourism has been making efforts to promote the development of home stays at tourism destinations such as hill stations to meet the requirement for accommodation. In the addition the state government has also been developing and operating facilities at different tourism destinations.

Tourist accommodation:

1. Hotels and lodges
2. Resorts
3. Home stays
4. Cottages
5. Tented accommodation

II. Transportation

A transport system acts as a bridge between places of tourist origin and destination. It opens out a region by providing an access to its tourist places. In its absence, the resource potential for tourism i.e. attractions and amenities, can't be of any benefit. We cannot talk of the planning of tourism in an area without organising its transport system. The system consists of a network of routes or means of transport and the modes of transport.

To reach Kodagu many transport facilities are available:

- **By Air-** Getting to Coorg by air transport is also quite convenient since there are three cities that are located nearby, i.e., Mysore, Mangalore and Bangalore. Mysore is located at a distance of 105 km from Coorg, airport in Mangalore is at a distance of 135 km from Coorg and the Bangalore airport is located at a distance of 260 km from Coorg.
- **By Rail-** Mysore railway station is the nearest railway station to Coorg. There are trains from all the major Indian cities to Mysore.
- **By Road-** There is a well-laid-out network of roads connecting the city with important cities in Karnataka. Cities like Mysore (120 km), Hassan (115 km), Mangalore (136 km) and Bangalore (256 km) are linked by roadways with Coorg.

Tourist transport –

1. Mini-buses, jeeps, elephants, etc. for wild life viewing.
2. Cruise boats, ferry launchers, etc. for water transport.
3. Tourist coaches in selected circuits.
4. Buses- Buses ply in some parts of the town. Due to the steep slopes buses cannot be found in many areas of the town.
5. Taxi- Cabs can be hired in the town itself. They usually charge around Rs.1600 per day. Local jeeps are the best option to travel around the various plantations. Jeeps are the ideal vehicles for steep slopes and they are relatively cheaper. They usually cost around Rs 500 for day trips to the local sites

III. Tourist attractions

Shopping in Coorg

Shopping in Coorg is not the focus of activity. This is a land of unspoilt natural beauty. You would not find swanky shopping malls, rising structures in glass and concrete and raucous buyers in Coorg. It is not a typical shopping destination. But for some, returning from a tour without buying some souvenir for near and dear ones, is just impossible. Coorg has some good news for shop for the local produce here.

- Cardamom, pepper, honey, orange, coffee.

Tour Guides

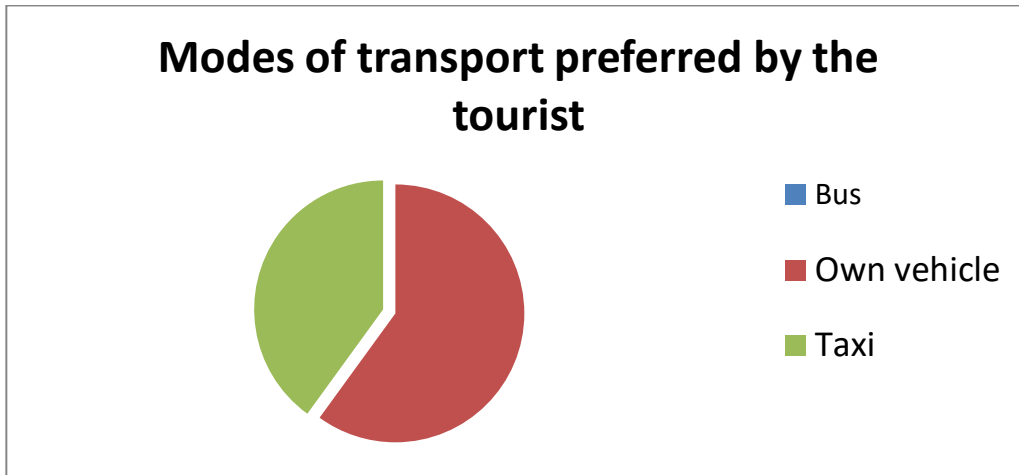
At the lowest local level, tour guidance is the basic unit for promotion of the whole programme of tourism. A good tour guide is expected to talk about the relevant local traditions, culture, folk lore, performing arts, festivals and fairs for making the narration into an appealing story for the tourists. The facts about the tourist sight must be told clearly in the introduction. He or she will better be speaking to the tourists in their language or the language they understand. In Kodagu most of the destinations we find tour guides to guide the tourist.

IV. Other components:

1. Water and power supply
2. Telecommunication
3. hospitality

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table 1:

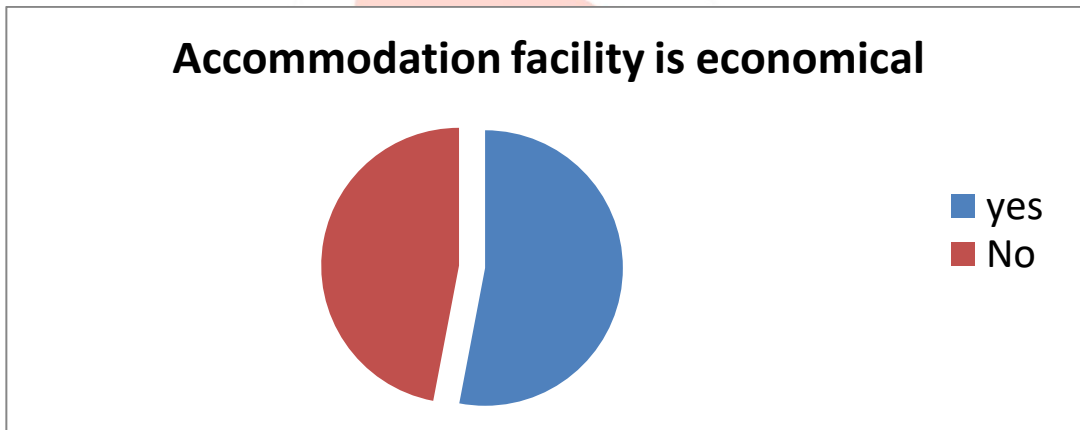


Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Bus	0	0
2.	Own vehicle	60	60%
3.	Taxi	40	40%

Interpretation:

The above table shows that zero 60% of respondents are like to visit tourist place with their own vehicle. Remaining 40% like to hire taxi for this purpose.

Table 2:

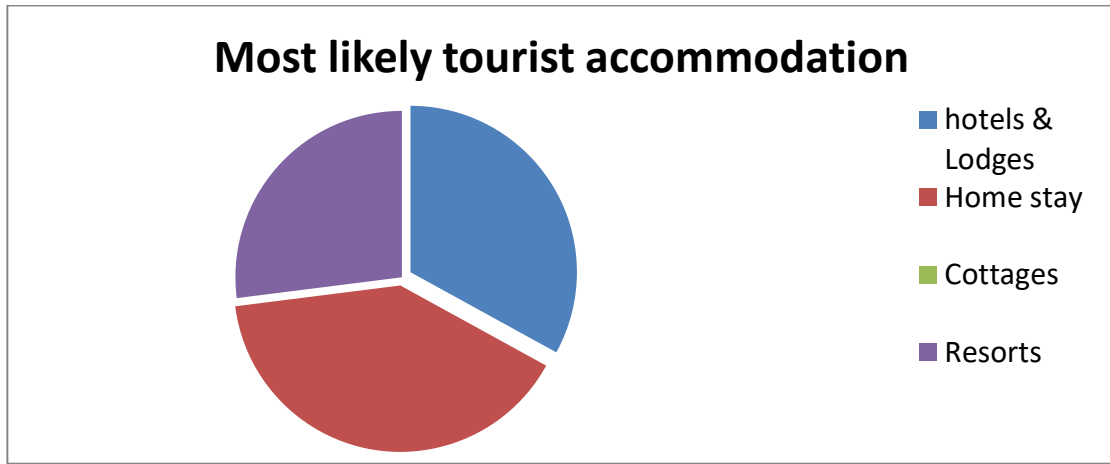


Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	53	53%
2.	No	47	47%

Interpretation:

The above table shows that 53% of the respondents believe that accommodation in Coorg is economical, but 47% of the respondents disagree this.

Table 3:

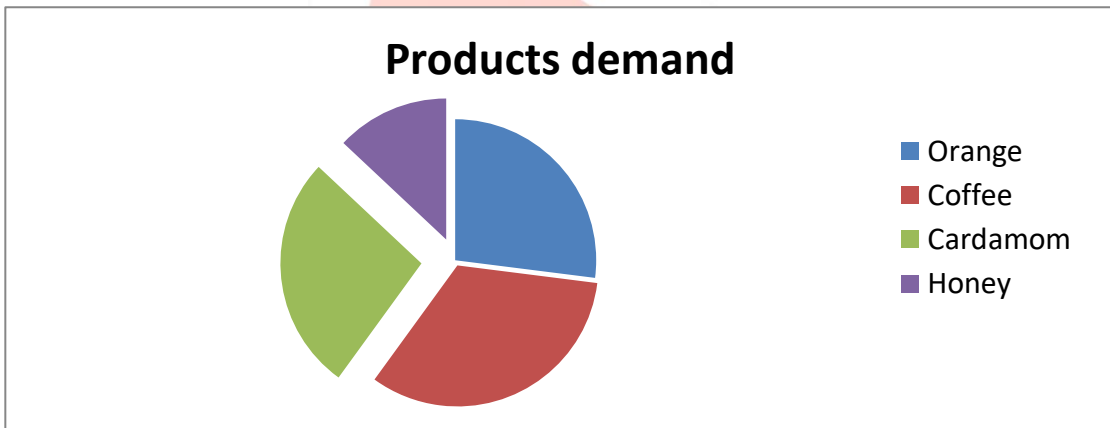


Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Hotel& Lodges	33	33%
2.	Home stay	40	40%
3.	Cottages	00	00
4.	Resorts	27	27%

Interpretation:

Most of the tourist say 40% like to accommodate in home stays. 33% to hotels and lodges and remaining prefer resorts for accommodation.

Table 4:

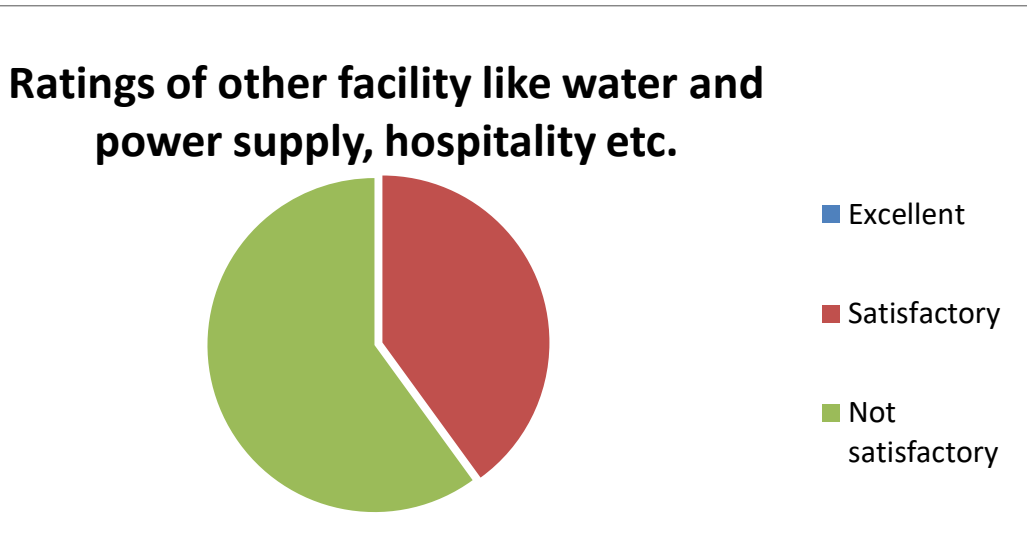


Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Orange	27	27%
2.	Coffee	33	33%
3.	Cardamom	27	27%
4.	Honey	13	13%

Interpretation:

Above table shows that there is good demand for Coorg product. 27% of the respondents like to buy oranges, 33% coffee, 27% go for cardamom and 13% are like to buy honey.

Table 5:

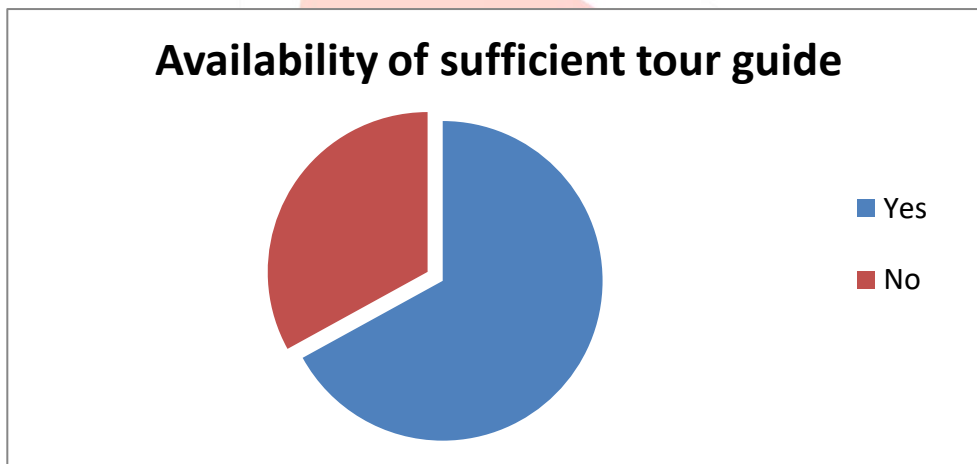


Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Excellent	00	0
2.	Satisfactory	40	40%
3.	Not satisfactory	60	60%

Interpretation:

Other utilities are interpreted 40% satisfactory and remaining not satisfied.

Table 6:



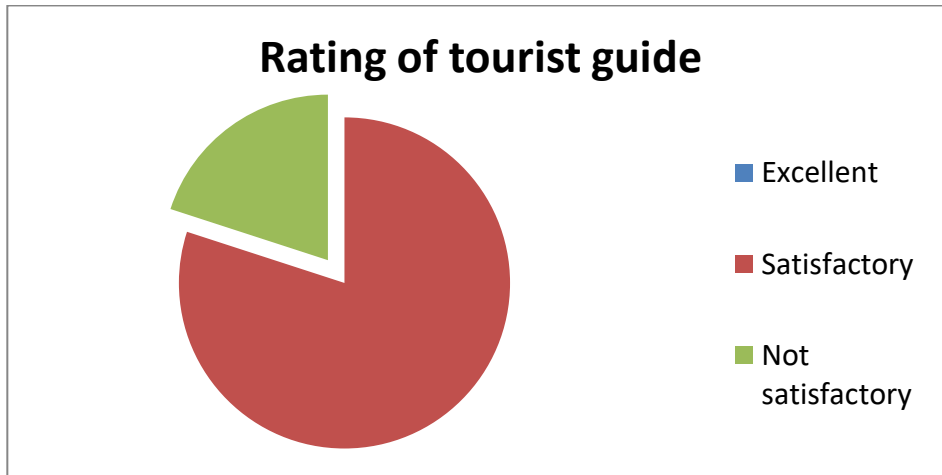
Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	67	67%
2.	No	33	33%

Interpretation:

67% of the respondent says that sufficient number of Tourist is available.

33% respondents says that they don't find sufficient guide.

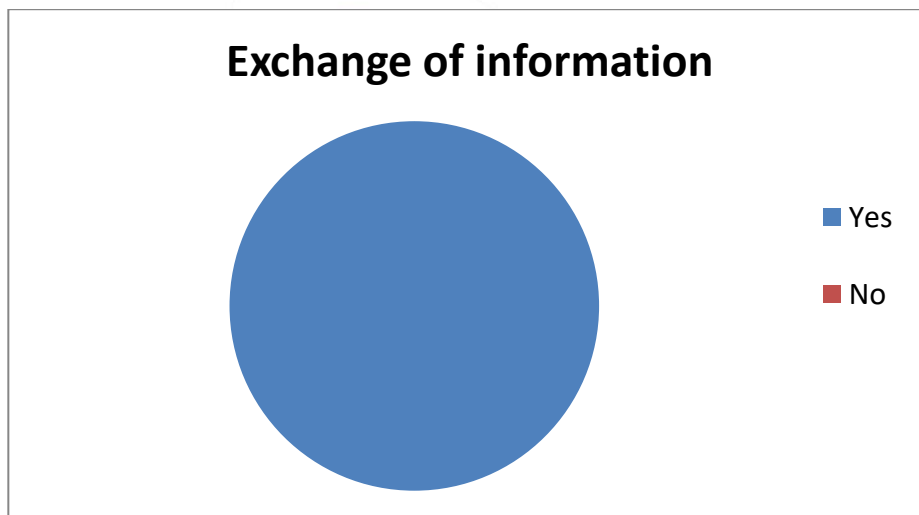
Table 7:



Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Excellent	00	0
2.	Satisfactory	80	80%
3.	Not satisfactory	20	20%

Interpretation: 80% of the respondent happy with the service of tour guide and remaining is not satisfied.

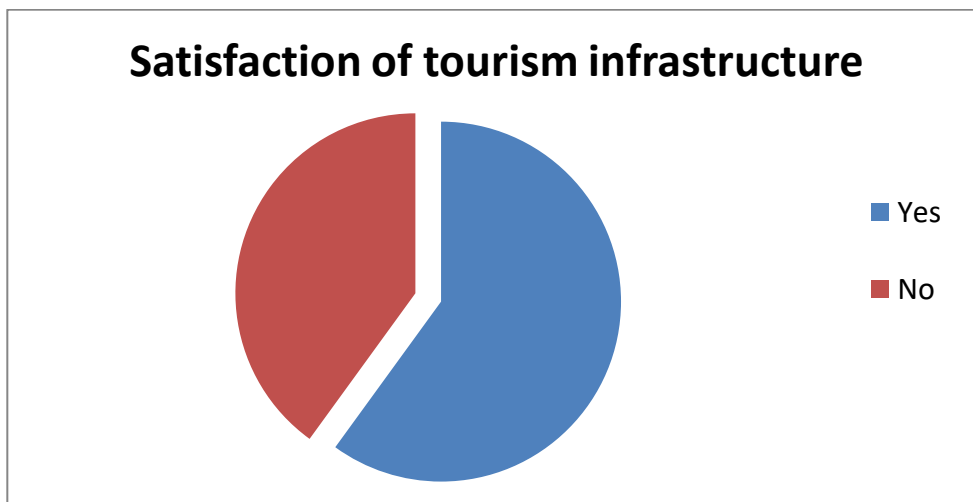
Table 8:



Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	100	100%
2.	No	00	00%

Interpretation: 100% of the respondent satisfied with the information given by the tour guide.

Table 9:



Sl. No	Factors	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
--------	---------	--------------------	------------

1.	Yes	60	60%
2.	No	40	40%

Interpretation: The above table shows that 60% of the respondents are satisfied with the availability of infrastructure and 40% given different opinion on unsatisfactory.

Weaknesses in tourism infrastructure:

- Lack of tourism infrastructure at many of the tourism destinations including public conveniences, drinking water facilities, parking, food & beverages etc.
- Lack of quality wayside amenities and public conveniences on the way to some of the
- tourism destinations
- State of approach roads to some of the tourism destinations is an issue for tourists visiting the tourism destinations in terms of maintenance and carriage way.
- Cleanliness and waste management is an issue in some of the destinations
- Need to provide adequate safety measures such as lifeguards in some river places.
- Lack of quality accommodation facilities near the tourism destinations.

Reasons for lack of development of tourism infrastructure:

From the study, it is revealed the following reasons for lack of infrastructure.

- No sufficient funds.
- Lack of imitativeness.
- No much importance is given to tourism even though it is one of the sources of revenue.
- State Government not ready to give up responsibility to private sector.

Findings and Suggestions

1. In the study found that tourist find many option of accommodation according to their income level. But every tourist place accommodation facility are not provided.
2. Transport facility is not well developed here. No sufficient number of buses for certain tourist places. So most of the tourist prefers their own vehicle for travel. State government should increase the number of buses in such a place where we have more demand viz, Bhagamandala
3. Other facilities like water, hospitality are not good enough to meet the requirements of tourist.
4. There is lots of reasons for the lack of development of infrastructure in tourism. To overcome this, state government and department of tourism should collectively work hard for the development.
5. The Department of tourism and State government should take initiative steps to develop infrastructure in those destinations, where we have lack of infrastructure and for maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Conclusion

Tourism is one of the main source of revenue to the state government .It is state government responsibility to develop basic infrastructure in tourist place. Most of the basic infrastructure facilities are not developed up to the mark of tourist expectation. But some of the basic facilities are provided by the Department of tourism and state government just to develop tourism in Kodagu and to attract tourist. All means of transport and accommodations are available, but most of the roads are spoiled so it takes much time to reach the destinations. Those roads are rebuild so that without any difficulties tourist can reach their destinations happily. State government should keep certain percentage of tourism revenue for the development of its infrastructure.

QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME:AGE:

INCOME:SEX:

1. Which means of transport would you prefer to visit tourist place?
a) Bus b) Own vehicle c) taxi
2. Accommodation facility in Coorg are economical?
a) Yes b) no
3. During your visit where do you like to accommodate?
a) Hotels & lodges b)home stays c) cottages d) Resort
4. Are you familiar with the Coorg product. If yes which one would you like to buy?
a) Orange b) coffee c) cardamom d) honey
5. How you will rate the other facility like water and electricity supply, hospitality in Kodagu ?
a) Excellent b) satisfactory c) not satisfactory

6. Whether you find sufficient number tour guide in tourist place?
a) Yes b) no
7. How you will rate the tour guide?
a) Excellent b) satisfactory c) not satisfactory
8. Whether tour guide is good enough to exchange the information?
a) Yes b) no
9. Are you satisfied with the infrastructure facility?
a) Yes b) no
If No, what is the reason for lack of infrastructure?

