

**A STUDY ON DEVOTEES' OPINION TOWARDS SERVICES AND PROBLEMS
ENCOUNTERED AT RELIGIOUS SPOTS IN KUMBAKONAM TOWN**

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Abstract:

Religion has long been a driving force behind journeys, and it is often regarded as the oldest inspiration for travel. Thousands of people travel each year to major pilgrimage sites around the world, both ancient and modern. India has had contact with almost all of the world's major religions, and despite Hinduism's current dominance, other religions such as Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity have affected a significant portion of the population. The aim of the study is to analyze the view of devotees towards the services offered and the problems faced by them in the religious places of Kumbakonam town. The study found out that available transport facilities are Easy accessible of Public Transport, Road Facility, Convenience of Transport Information System etc., and the available accommodation facilities are Non - Season Offer, Safety / Security and Availability of Medical Facility. The major problems faced by the devotees in the religious places are No proper information centre, Trouble in getting Darshan tickets, Non-availability of medical facilities, Product price is too high in the religious place, Too much of crowd on special occasions.

Keywords: Religious Spots, Devotees Problems, Services Offered, Kumbakonam, Devotees Opinion

1. Introduction:

Religious tourism, also known as spiritual tourism, has played a major role in the world. Tourists visiting holy places and religious centers are those who leave their home country for a span of not more than six months to visit holy places and religious centers. Religious tourism encompasses practices relating to the provision of facilities and meeting the needs of visitors visiting holy sites and religious centers outside of their normal surroundings. People were able to learn about other religious traditions as a result of the income and technology brought to countries that are designed in the field of tourism. The idea of religious tourism has been used as a pilgrimage for devotees of different religious traditions for many years. The recent development of tourism has given new life to the definition of religious tourism, which is described as a form of tourism that seeks out all religious destinations regardless of the visitors' faith. As a result, religious tourism benefits the country as a whole, regardless of religious context. Kumbakonam is a charming temple town in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur District, known for its ancient Hindu places of worship. Pilgrims and visitors who want to see India's most important temples should come here without hesitation. The Kumba Mahamaham, which takes place every 12 years, is also well-known in the holy town. Pilgrims travel from all over the world to bathe in the Mahamaham, which is said to cleanse the soul of all sins committed during one's lifetime.

2. Need for Study:

This religious harmony, as well as the availability of a wide range of religious faiths with well-known religious centers, is seen as a fantastic opportunity for tourism's wonderful unifying phenomenon. There is plenty of tourism going on in Kumbakonam, as well as a variety of religious