

Exploration of the Open Road with Motor Bike: A Study on Experiences of Young Travelers on Long Distance Journey from Chennai

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Abstract: Chennai is the coastal city of Tamil Nadu and the capital as well. There are many universities that are growing in Chennai with the availability of education and the provision of jobs. Students who join universities are from different parts of Tamil Nadu. Traveling to their hometown on weekends is becoming a challenge as the city is heavily populated. Thus, young travelers preferred to travel on their motorbikes. This gives an opportunity to travel long distances using a motorbike. The aim of the study is to identify young travelers and their interest in traveling long distances on knowing the traveling destinations. Secondly, this article focused on factors to be considered by young travelers during the journey. The Majority of the travelers must know the safety measures during long-distance travel. This study provides information about the necessary factors to be considered during travel.

Keywords: Bike riding, Long Distance Journey, Young Travelers, Road Journey.

Introduction. Long-distance motorcycling involves riding bikes over extensive distances, whether for competition or leisure. One of the objectives of long-distance riding is to test one's stamina while traveling on a motorcycle, often spanning multiple countries. Informal types of long-distance riding are generally considered a form of motorcycle touring, occasionally as part of a structured rally. Competitive long-distance motorcycle riding focuses on taking part in endurance events, with a common goal of covering 1,000 miles in one day. Endurance riders may participate in events known as rallies, which come in various formats, differing in length (ranging from 8 hours to 11 days), type of riding style, and road conditions. Some rallies have been described as "advanced scavenger hunts," requiring participants to locate certain sites (for example, locations from "Little House on the Prairie"), complete specific tasks (such as taking a Polaroid photo of a giant baseball bat, noting the time, date, and mileage), among other challenges during the rally. The most prestigious of all endurance rallies is the Iron Butt Rally (IBR). This event occurs over eleven days, typically in late August of odd-numbered years, and is organized by the Iron Butt Association. In its early days, this was a niche event with only a handful of participants. However, in recent years, as long-distance riding has gained popularity, the event has become so oversubscribed that the IBA has instituted a cap of 125 riders. Entry is determined by lottery and the judgment of the rally organizers. The fundamental idea is to complete a loop around the contiguous States, with potential alternative route into city and towns.

Literature Review

The increasing popularity of adventure motorcycling in India has garnered interest from both academics and industry professionals. This section analyzes four significant articles that investigate different aspects of how adventure motorcycling influences tourism in India. This offers an in-depth examination of adventure tourism in India, emphasizing the growing appeal of adventure motorcycling. The research highlights economic advantages, including job creation and income generation, and emphasizes the potential for rural development through adventure tourism. The author points out obstacles like insufficient infrastructure and safety issues, proposing that both government efforts and private investments are crucial for maintaining growth in this sector. The article also considers the impact of media and marketing in promoting adventure tourism, highlighting social media's considerable role in drawing young enthusiasts to remote locations [1]. It is asserted that adventure motorcycling significantly enhances local economies, particularly in rural and remote areas. Findings suggest that motorcyclists contribute to these economies by spending on lodging, meals, and local attractions, thereby supporting small

businesses and creating job opportunities. Their presence often leads to improvements in infrastructure, such as better road conditions and emergency services, benefitting both tourists and local inhabitants. A investigates the sustainability factors related to adventure motorcycling in India. The research examines the environmental effects of rising motorcycle tourism, including pollution and disruption of habitats, and recommends strategies to alleviate these impacts. Singh stresses the need for sustainable practices, such as eco-friendly accommodations and effective waste management, to protect natural landscapes. The article also highlights the significance of community engagement in promoting sustainable tourism and the potential for educational initiatives to raise awareness among both tourists and locals regarding the importance of environmental preservation. The Study emphasize the cultural interactions made possible by adventure motorcycling. The article looks at how motorcyclists, through their travels, connect with local communities and engage with various cultures and traditions. This cultural exchange nurtures mutual understanding and appreciation between visitors and residents. The researchers discuss specific case studies where motorcyclists have participated in local festivals, contributed to community projects, and shared their travel experiences via blogs and social media. The study proposes that such interactions can enrich the cultural aspects of tourism and provide travelers with unique, authentic experiences. The primary body responsible for tourism development and promotion in India is the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry operates under the guidance of the Union Minister of Tourism and is assisted by State ministers [2]. The Secretary serves as the administrative leader for the Ministry, while the Director General manages the execution of various initiatives and the creation of policies to support tourism activities. The Ministry has a strong network of offices, including 20 domestic and 8 international offices, all functioning under public sector oversight and complete government authority (Ministry of Tourism, 2023). The Ministry of Tourism is essential in coordinating nationwide efforts, encouraging private sector participation, and formulating effective marketing strategies. It prioritizes the training of skilled personnel, seeks international partnerships, and promotes Indian tourism on a global scale. Through these initiatives, the Ministry aims to foster growth and prosperity within the tourism sector. The Ministry categorizes "Adventure tourism" as a product under the umbrella of "Niche Tourism." This classification is based on meeting the specific demands and preferences of distinct customers and audiences. Adventure tourism generally involves smaller groups with specialized interests, requiring customized products and services to cater to their unique needs. By classifying adventure tourism as a niche product, the Ministry can more effectively address this segment's needs and develop focused strategies to encourage and support adventure-related activities throughout India [3].

Establishing for Long distance travel by Motor Bike

Before you set out on a long-distance motorcycle trip, it's essential to start your preparations several months in advance of the actual departure. Below are the key factors to address before your journey. Physical and mental fitness: A crucial aspect of long-distance motorcycle riding is endurance; you need to be capable of riding for 8-10 hours each day in various conditions. To boost your endurance, it's beneficial to engage in cardiovascular exercises such as cycling, jump rope, swimming, and jogging. This will enhance both your physical fitness and endurance. Plan your route and duration: Create a comprehensive plan for your entire trip. Start by determining how many days you intend to spend traveling, then thoroughly research the geography of the area you plan to explore. Collect information about the terrain, road conditions, weather forecasts, lodging options, roadside assistance, local laws, and any necessary permits. Prepare your motorcycle: The state of your bike is a critical element in long-distance motorcycle touring. Once you have settled on the duration and route for your journey, the next step is ensuring that your motorcycle is in good running order and hasn't been left parked for an extended period. Determining the right motorcycle for long-distance touring is a common inquiry for bikers embarking on such journeys. However, there isn't a definitive answer, as it largely relies on personal preferences. Some riders prefer the BMW 1200GS or the Triumph Tiger 800, while others manage long trips on a 110cc bike [4]. The key difference among motorcycles lies in how they are maintained and how they are ridden. Regardless of the motorcycle you choose, it's crucial to ensure it is well-maintained and not an outdated model, as you might find yourself in trouble if spare parts are unavailable in remote areas, potentially disrupting your trip. Familiarizing yourself with your motorcycle is essential: an avid rider typically knows their bike better than their closest

companions. Before embarking on long-distance adventures, it's important to thoroughly understand your motorcycle and its current state. Consider how it performs on extended rides, during rainy weather, and identify any known issues that could arise. By recognizing these aspects, you can determine the necessary maintenance for your motorcycle and communicate effectively with your mechanic. For instance, if your motorcycle struggles in the rain, it may indicate an issue with the carburetor or electrical components due to water buildup. Similarly, if the bike tends to overheat on long journeys, that could signify an impending engine overheating problem that requires immediate attention [5].

Bike service:

After evaluating your bike, select a mechanic who has in-depth knowledge of specific models. Some mechanics specialize in bikes ranging from 150cc to 250cc; others may focus solely on Royal Enfields, while some are experts in Super Bikes. Provide your mechanic with a comprehensive history of your bike, including its model, scheduled maintenance, issues encountered in various seasons, and experiences from different rides. Additionally, make sure to inform your mechanic that you plan to take your bike on a long-distance trip.

Acquire knowledge about repairs

Once your bike is in for service, take the opportunity to sit with your mechanic and learn essential repairs such as changing clutch cables, replacing throttle cables, checking and maintaining spark plugs, performing basic electrical work, repairing punctures, and cleaning and maintaining the chain. This will help boost your confidence and equip you with the skills to manage basic breakdowns during your travels. Parts to carry for Long Distance Motorcycle Travel: After your bike is thoroughly serviced, ride it for at least 4-5 days before embarking on your journey. This will allow you to assess how your machine performs after the service. Additionally, purchase the following spare parts and take them with you on your trip [6].

Fundamental things to Keep for Motorcycle trips

After conducting extensive research and gathering years of practical experience in long-distance journeys, we have compiled a list of essential items to pack for your Motorcycle adventure as follows: Clothing – pack a riding jacket, riding pants (if your knee guards are of lesser quality), winter gloves for riding, a balaclava or face mask, thermal wear, socks, sturdy high-ankle boots or economical gumboots, winter hoodies, jeans, T-shirts, and finally, waterproof jackets or rain gear. Accessories: Sunscreen lotion with SPF 50 or higher, sunglasses, a skull cap, warm gloves, and woollen socks for nighttime use [7]. Daily use items: Face cream, lip balm (keep this handy in your pocket), petroleum jelly, cold cream (from brands like Himalaya or Nivea), toothbrush, toothpaste, liquid soap, toilet paper, shampoo, towel, deodorant, and waste bin liners for disposing of any trash. Snacks, It's vital to carry some light snacks or food items such as dried fruits, chocolates, energy bars, and water bottles. Medicines, Custom first aid kits, Diamox, Disprin, and basic medications for fever, stomach issues, vomiting, etc. Electronics, Phone charger, power bank, spare batteries for your camera, memory cards, and multipurpose plug outlets. Important documents, Driving license, vehicle registration book, valid insurance, passport, voter ID.

Luggage system with Aluminum Top Case or saddlebags, etc.

Once your motorcycle is prepared and all necessary work for your long-distance journey is completed, a crucial aspect is selecting the luggage system. This can include panniers, Ladakh carriers, saddlebags, or a custom setup based on your motorcycle. Opting for hard case panniers is preferable to saddlebags, as you will be traveling long distances and require something robust that can withstand challenging terrains if necessary. Additionally, install a mobile holder with a charger or a GPS holder with a charger, and don't forget to carry a tank bag for essential items such as your wallet, lighter, motorcycle documents, insurance, driving license, GoPro or action camera, wet wipes, etc. Start before sunrise and finish before sunset. After you have completed all your pre-tour arrangements, you'll be both mentally and physically prepared to embark on one of the most incredible journeys of your life [8]. When you set out on your dream trip, always remember to begin your ride early in the morning

and conclude it before sunset. Aim to wake up around 6 am, organize your gear, eat a light breakfast, carry water bottles, saddle up, and hit the road. The rationale behind starting early is that during the morning, your mind will be clearer and more focused, along with having a surplus of energy, allowing you to cover 30-40% of your day's journey by 10-11 am. Also, make sure to finish your ride before it gets dark, as riding solo after sunset is not advisable. You'll need to determine how far you can travel and the number of breaks you can take, along with having a contingency plan for any breakdowns or unexpected incidents throughout the day's ride. Always consult with locals regarding the day's route. Despite thorough planning of the route, preparation, and other key factors, keep in mind that local residents possess more knowledge than online maps or apps. Before commencing your journey, have a brief conversation with locals about the day's travel, road conditions, mechanics if needed, accommodations, dining options, and other relevant information. It's wise to fill up your tank in the morning before starting your ride, and keep track of the distance you will cover as well as the fuel efficiency of your motorcycle. It's particularly important to be aware of fuel station locations in the areas you will traverse, and if possible, carry extra fuel in a jerry can. Ensure you have ample water and light snacks. Staying hydrated is crucial during long-distance motorcycle trips; make sure to drink adequate water. Consider using a hydration pack or keeping small water bottles in your tank bag to stay refreshed during extended riding sessions. Bring along small snacks such as trail mix or protein bars for when hunger strikes on the road (or purchase them as you travel). Plastic bags can be a cost-effective way to keep your items organized and dry. Use a permanent marker to label the bag's contents and include the weight for proper weight distribution on your motorcycle [9].

Plan efficient breaks during long-distance motorcycle trips.

Many individuals tend to treat fuel stops, lunch breaks, coffee breaks, and general stretching as separate events. When you're traveling, it's advisable to schedule breaks that allow you to accomplish all these activities in one location. Motorway service areas are ideal for making time-sensitive stops. Prioritize refueling, eating/drinking, using the restroom, and stretching your legs while minimizing the time spent off the bike. Bonus tip: Avoid extending your breaks too long [10]. The longer you're away from the bike, the more reluctant you may feel about getting back on!

To cover distance effectively, maintain a steady speed that aligns with your comfort level. There's no need to accelerate excessively, as doing so can put you in a precarious situation. Riding at a slower, consistent pace enables you to travel the greatest distance in a day while also allowing you to appreciate the stunning scenery along the way [11]. Choosing the right ride partner is crucial for long-distance motorcycle travel. When riding solo, you have the freedom to make decisions alone; however, riding in a group requires consideration for your fellow riders. If you pick the wrong companion, your entire journey can become stressful. So, be particularly mindful in your selection. Long-distance motorcycle touring demands ample preparation, concentration, commitment, and caution, which means attention to detail is essential. Beyond that, motorcycle touring is one of the best ways to discover a country, offering a sense of joy, freedom, and the opportunity to engage with diverse cultures and people on a personal level [12].

Conclusion

Based on the research process and the findings that young travelers travel in groups to long distances using their motorbikes to various destinations in Tamilnadu, we emphasize the elements that can enhance understanding of motorcycle touring and its participants and the motorcycle young riders. To begin with, we point out the methodological choice one derived from a broader view of motivations for motorcycle touring, and two others based on various research. one focusing on motivations related to adventure tourism and the other on traveling to their destinations using motorbikes. This study proved to be strong and productive. This study facilitated the evaluation of relationships among the five motivational factors identified in adventure tourism and ecotourism, which might be beneficial for future research, particularly concerning the segmentation, positioning, and targeting of routes or destinations. This research could help in the development of new areas aimed at particular audiences based on motivational profiles that identify structural relationships between motivations and the two types of travelers explained. In this context, it is emphasized that motorcycle tourists appreciate the experience

of the route as much as the destination, aligning with the principles of adventure and ecotourism. Similar to adventure tourism, satisfaction in motorcycle riding is derived not only from the destination and its attractions but also from the journey itself. Hence, for motorcycle tourists, the ride can be perceived as a dynamic destination. This study confirmed the existence of motivations and their significant contributions, both to motorcycle touring overall.

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