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‘UNVEILING TOURISTS’ DARK FASCINATION: A NARRATIVE INQUIRY

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Abstract: The surge in the tourism industry has massively attracted tourists to India on a large scale to the places of dark tourism. Dark tourism is a niche within the tourism industry nowadays that concentrates on visiting places connected to sorrow, tragedy, or death. The darkest eras of human history, effects of war or disaster, impacted communities, dark incidents of infamous crimes, the popularity of social media, and stories of human history behind tragedies have all contributed to the rise in popularity of this type of tourism in recent years. The surge is not only because of the external and mysterious stories and reasons associated with the site it also involves certain internal human factors associated with human behavior and psyche. The paper aimed to study those internal factors like behavioral intention, motivation, and triggers that instill the urge among tourists to visit a destination of dark tourism. Research has tried to focus on the experiences of the tourists and the transition they observe in their feelings and emotions before, after, and during the tour. For serving this purpose narrative inquiry will be performed based on the interviews of those tourists that have visited a site of dark tourism. The results have justified that the tour is initiated as a result of curiosity, past human experiences, some emotional triggers, or a feeling of thrill. Findings have also stated that the emotions and feelings of the tourists can change a lot from curiosity to acceptance towards the negative energies, from thrill to the satisfaction of completing the tour, and much more.

Index Terms – Dark Tourism, Behavior intention, Motivation, Triggers, Emotions, and Feelings

I. INTRODUCTION

In the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean, an enigmatic mission was set in motion in June 2023, marking a fateful and daring expedition to explore the haunting vestiges of history. A Canadian research submersible, christened the Titan, embarked on a journey towards the unfathomable depths, descending into the watery grave of the RMS Titanic. The mission, organized by OceanGate Expeditions, aimed to uncover the secrets within the tragic wreckage of the Titanic, an iconic ship that sank in 1912. The expedition drew attention for its audacity in exploring history's haunting vestiges. Tragically, the expedition took an unforeseen turn when the Titan, specially designed by OceanGate, vanished into the depths during its Titanic exploration. This unexpected disappearance triggered a widespread search and rescue effort by the US Coast Guard, shocking the maritime community.

The mission's twist of fate transformed it into more than a quest for exploration, giving it an unforeseen dimension often associated with "dark tourism". The story is a mix of daring exploration, mystery, and an unexpected turn of events, emphasizing the allure of historical relics and the unforeseen risks associated with deep-sea expeditions.

This instills the need to understand the word tour; it's originated from a Latin word tornus, which means "a tool for making a circle". Travelling for the sole purpose of leisure and pleasure for a minimum of twenty-four hours and a maximum of six months from one's customary place of residence to another, with the intention of returning, is known as tourism. The UNWTO defines tourism as a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that involves individuals travelling for leisure or business to nations or locations outside of their normal surroundings. Their activities, some of which entail spending money on travel, are related to tourism. Travelling can evoke a range of emotions depending on the destination. While some places can improve one's quality of life, make them happier, and make them feel good about themselves, other places can cause emotional upheaval, sadness, and heavy sentiments.

A visitor is impacted in one way or another by each of these trips. A person's quality of life can be improved by going to places that bring them joy and happiness. These visits also improve satisfaction, promote relaxation and wellbeing, foster social interaction, and have a good effect on the individual. This type of healthy and good tourism enhances wellbeing of the tourist as they contribute in stress reduction, mental health benefits, physical health improvement, fostering relationships, contribute in personal growth, self-discovery, and provides relaxation to the tourist. This leads to the concept of tourism wellbeing which focuses on the mental health, physical health, emotional wellbeing, social relations, and cultural enrichment of the tourists.

There's also the other side of tourism that provide some negative experiences to tourists as the sites of dark tourism impact the tourists emotional and psychological wellbeing, provides unique learning, pave way to reflection on history and their own thoughts, may evoke feelings of contemplation and empathy, adding onto a mix of positive and negative impacts on the tourists (Lewis, et.al., 2021). This is beauty and mystery of dark tourism sites. As there is a growing demand for new, non-commercial tourism destinations in a world where travel is becoming more and more popular among all age groups. That's where the dark tourism niche industry finds its appeal for people seeking out adventures far removed from mainstream safe and sound travel. According to Seaton (1996), "travel to a location wholly, or partially, motivated by the desire for actual or symbolic encounters with death" is what is meant to be understood when one refers to "dark tourism" or "thanatourism." The ancient Greek term "Thanatos" implies "death" when translated into English. The definition of "Thanatos," according to Gerard Corsane, is "the personification of death, more specifically violent death."

"The phenomenon which encompasses the presentation and consumption (by visitors) of real and commodified death and disaster sites" is how Foley and Lennon defined it in 2002. According to Merriam-Webster (n.d.), the definition of "dark" or "darkness" is the absence of light, the presence of evil, devastation, and sadness. According to Seaton, there exist five potential categories of nighttime travel activities: to see death enacted in public; to see death enacted again; visiting the locations of individual or collective fatalities; to view images that symbolize death; visiting memorials or locations of incarceration. There has been various sites for the interests of tourists in the world that attracts them and make them curious. To mention a few in the world are Concentration camp Auschwitz, Poland; Chernobyl, Ukraine; Volcano Creeks in Pompeii, Italy; Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Japan and more such sites. There have been some sites for the same in India as well that has a great tourist footfall across the globe, to mention a few are Bhangarh Fort, Rajasthan; Jomblang Cave, Goa; Dumas Beach, Surat; Roopkund Lake, Uttarakhand; Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Island, and more.

This instills with a curiosity of knowing why there's so much tourist fall at the destination of dark tourism. So, tourists visits these places as a result of educational or historical interests, to enhance cultural understanding, for emotional connection, for remembrance, to get into personal reflection or contemplation, for morbid curiosity, and widely as a result of heard stories, and social media influences (Molderez & Perera, 2022). All this has resulted in a paradigm shift in the footfall of the tourists from serene destinations to the destinations of dark tourism. The shift is visible because tourists have started to explore the authentic or meaningful experiences, undergoing high curiosity for haunted places, interest in history, and influence of pop culture or media (Sampson, 2019). Various other reasons for this shift is changes in travel motivations from pleasure to thrill, psychological fascinations of the tourists, and for the cultural enrichment and experiences (Cakar, 2020).

These types of tour impacts the tourists in varied ways ranging from the experiences on a continuum from positive to negative depending upon the factors which are tourists who visit dark tourism sites are capable of developing positive emotions, strong geopolitical disposition, and empathy (Chang, 2017). The ones who visit these sites are curious, interested, and intrigued by dark experiences with paranormal activity, resulting in travel choices made for themselves based on personal beliefs and preferences, with minimal outside influence from others. However, it's important to note that dark tourism is a controversial form of tourism that raises ethical concerns (Lewis, et.al, 2021). While some view it as a way to pay respect to the victims of tragedy and learn from history, others see it as exploitative and disrespectful (Cakar, 2020).

Therefore, it's essential to approach dark tourism with sensitivity and respect for the victims and their families. Adding onto this there could be some negative impacts for the where tourists who visit dark tourism sites may experience rumination on sadness, self-hatred, hostility, and psychological vulnerability (Magano, et.al., 2022). In addition, inappropriate behavior such as photographing people in moments of sorrow or treating them as museum exhibits can also be a disadvantage of dark tourism (Friedman, 2023). The most common criticism of dark tourism is that it exploits human suffering. Operators can exploit these sites to make money or simply to provide entertainment, which disrespects the victims of the event. This type of behavior may be unethical and can cause psychological harm to both the tourists and the local communities. It's important to approach dark tourism with sensitivity and respect for the victims and their families. Tourists should be mindful of the ethical implications of visiting such sites and avoid tourism sites being run purely for profit rather than to educate.

This well defines the association of dark tourism sites or destinations with the psychological attributes. All these things provide a well connection of these sites with the behavioral intention, motivations, feelings, thoughts, emotions, and other psychological attributes.

2 Significance of the Study

"Once upon a time in the mystical lands of Rajasthan, nestled within the Alwar region of India, lay the enigmatic Bhangarh Fort. This fortress was no ordinary relic of history; it held within its ancient walls a tapestry woven with eerie folklore and strange tales that whispered of curses and inexplicable occurrences. Legends drifted through the air, weaving a web of mystery around the fort. It became renowned as a peculiar destination, drawing curious souls fascinated by the paranormal and intrigued by the unknown. Yet, despite its spine-tingling associations, the Bhangarh Fort stood as a testament to history and architectural brilliance. The fort, thus, became a place where history and the paranormal converged, enticing all who dared to delve into its mysterious and haunting allure. This notorious dark tourism destination has gained fame for its spine-chilling ties to curses and paranormal activity, drawing adventurers and thrill-seekers from across the globe."

This fascinated me to a great extent and developed a strong interest in these historical events and locations. This curiosity within me encouraged the need to investigate the reasons behind many visitors to these destinations. This gave me an idea to research on this topic where I could draw a line connecting two disparate sets to determine the psychological characteristics that play a part in dark tourism. This has also made me enthusiastic to explore the motives behind the tours at dark tourism destinations. Tour on these destinations are not merely for the pleasure or quality time but it also dwell into the depths of history, curiosity, and various aspects of tourists psyche. So, as tourists even after having negative experiences and emotional fluctuations they still want to continue it and explore more. Therefore, I wanted to concentrate on the large research gap and want to work in a direction to cater my curiosity.

"Visiting sites of tragedy isn't just about history; it's a journey into the human psyche, where curiosity, empathy, and a search for understanding intersect."

II. DATA AND SOURCES OF DATA

2.1 International Scenario

There have been various places of dark tourism that interests the tourists. Various researches have been done in a way that focuses on studying the profile, practices, motivations, and wellbeing of tourists who carry out dark tourism. Studies have shown that women and participants with higher levels of education are more knowledgeable about dark tourism; individuals who are aware of dark tourism have visited more Holocaust museums, places of natural and human tragedy, concentration camps, and prisons; they also exhibit greater curiosity, a need to learn and comprehend, and a need to see macabre things (Magano, Fariz-Brea, & Leite, 2022). The majority of research also shows that darker behaviors are linked

to ruminating on feelings of melancholy, self-loathing, animosity, and psychological vulnerability. Study has also indicated that participants who were aware of dark tourism beforehand did not exhibit higher levels of wellbeing (Negro & Chang, 2014). It's interesting to note that individuals who visit graveyards had higher scores for antagonism and tourist wellbeing than participants who do not. The majority of tourists find the history or destination fascinating, since it teaches them about the past through the important strategic role that the location had during the specific event. (Hohenhaus, 2019). Travelers are attracted to and intrigued by mysterious encounters with the paranormal; as a result, they make their own travel decisions based mostly on their own preferences and beliefs, with little external influence, adding onto this media do play a major role depicting push and pull theory (Gaya, 2013). Dark experience was found to have the greatest influence on attitudes and subjective norms among the dark tourism constructs examined (Lewis, Schrier, & Xu, 2021). There are a variety of reasons why people travel, including education, ethics, politics, philosophy, agony, and amazement (O'Brien, 2017, Reid, 2016).

2.2 Indian Scenario

There have been various researches in the Indian context but they're only limited to the definition of the dark tourism and the information of sites. But when there's a need to assess the psychological attributes related to dark tourism, the review is very limited. In this line some researchers have studied about the changing perception of travelers for Indian tourism on dark tourism. In this line they found that the existence, acceptance, and promotion of dark locations in India are the main concerns and they shed light on how travellers' perceptions are evolving, showing a striking change from regular vacationing to travelling to explore the allure of tragedy and death (Soni & Hussain, 2020). Many of the researches and articles have stated a lot of famous destinations of dark tourism that depicts the above stories; which are, Bhangarh Fort in Rajasthan; Kuldhara in Rajasthan; Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar; Dumas Beach in Gujarat; Three Kings Church in Goa; Skeleton Lake in Uttarakhand; Shaniwar Wada in Pune; Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and more (Sumanth & Narendar, 2022; Gupta, 2023). It has also been found that the behaviour, affective, and cognitive components are positively and significantly correlated. According to study, place attachment completely influences the relationship between motivation and satisfaction which in combination impacts the dark tourism visit (Dandotiya & Aggarwal, 2021).

Review have found that there's some study on dark tourism and some of the psychological attributes but there's no such good researches or quality researches available in the Indian context. Most of the researches that are there in the Indian scenario mostly cover the description of the dark tourism along with the destinations, accessibility and more.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The authors emphasized that their proposition is made for a quantitative model of research. As a result, some changes have been made for the research that is being presented. Qualitative narrative inquiry methods have taken the role of statistical approaches in this study since the primary objective was to investigate unknown occurrences. Therefore, rather than testable hypotheses, research questions and a qualitative analytic method have been used.

3.1 Research Objectives:

- ✓ Explore the emotional, mental, and social impacts of dark tourism.
- ✓ Uncover tourists' dark fascination through narrative inquiry.

3.2 Interview Questions:

- ✓ To find out the motivators for the dark tourism.
- ✓ To figure out the behavior intentions among the tourists of dark tourism.
- ✓ To find to the emotion and mood fluctuations among the dark tourists.

3.3 Sample and Data Collection:

A semi-structured interview was administered to 10 tourists who visited various dark sites. The tourists were within the age range of 18-40 years who explored various destinations of dark tourism within India exploring from Bhangarh fort, Leh-Ladhak, Kuldhara, Cellular Jail, Putul Bari, South Park Cementary, and more. They've visited these places in last 5-7 years. The interview aimed to uncover motivators for dark tourism, behavioral intentions, and emotional/mood fluctuations among dark tourists.

3.4 Narrative Inquiry Process:

Employed narrative inquiry on interview transcripts to identify narratives, themes, and sub-themes. Commendable narratives and themes were those revealing crucial nuances about the impact of dark tourism on emotions, mental states, and social interactions.

3.5 Limitations of the Methodology:

Small Sample Size: The study acknowledged a limitation due to a small sample size of 10 tourists, potentially limiting the generalizability of findings.

Selection Bias: The participants were chosen from different tourist sites, introducing selection bias and potentially influencing the homogeneity of experiences.

In-Depth Literature Review: A thorough review of existing literature was conducted to enhance understanding and contextualize findings. Special attention was given to past studies elucidating the dark fascination of tourists in various contexts.

On the basis of in-depth narrative analysis the researcher came up with four themes: Feelings, Impact, Triggers, and Motive. These themes highlight the experience of tourist towards dark tourism.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Data of tourists along with themes

Tourist-1

Gender: Female
years

Age: 25

A tourist went to Bhangarh five or six years ago with friends. She went there out of curiosity, and since she studied history, she was delighted to see the palace. Her goal was to investigate any paranormal activity that might present. According to her account, she experienced significant emotional shifts both before and after the tour. After the tour is over, the curiosity has given way to fear.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Excited, happiness, weird & fear	"All of us got scared while we encountered with a lot of bats there." "I felt weird there." "I was very happy about the tour as I'll spend good time with friends." "I ran to go there because I had seen a lot of documentaries."
Impact	Negative	"I started feeling scared."
Triggers	Friends, Documentaries, History	"Being a student of history these places fascinates me." "I have watched a lot of documentaries." "I went with my friends."
Motive	It was to explore the paranormal activity	"Wanted to explore the place as well." "I wanted to see whether paranormal activities exists or not."

Tourist-2

Gender: Male

Age: 38 years

A few years ago, tourists travelled to Leh-Ladhak and saw the Rang Mahal in the Nahargarh Fort as well. He traveled to the locations due to the stories he had heard, which excited him. Even after many tourists visited the locations, he felt empty despite not feeling anything. Upon finishing the tour, he experienced a feeling of accomplishment. He felt a sense of accomplishment and exhilaration throughout the entire tour.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Emptiness, excited, sense of achievement	"I like to visit to the places like this" "So many people used to come to that place every day and even after that there was a lot of emptiness at that place."
Impact	Positive	"After doing the tour, I felt a feeling of achievement that I had completed the tour."
Triggers	Cases, stories, and travel	"I went to travel, so when we came across this place on the way, we visited that too." "I've studied and gone through a lot of cases about various haunted places." "I've heard a lot of stories"
Motive	It was to visit the places as a result of stories	"I had heard about an old case." "The place came on a way and we went to visit the place."

Tourist-3

Gender: Female
years

Age: 21

Last year, tourists came to Bhangarh Fort. Along with having fun with her cousins, she went to the palace to investigate and determine whether or not these things actually exist. At first, she was intrigued by the location, but she was also afraid. Following the tour, she began to believe in the existence of negative energy and began to accept the unpleasant experiences from the past, which she had before denied. Overall, the excitement and discovery gave way to acceptance of the energies and fear.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Excitement, Fear, Unsafe, Frightened	"We all got frightened when the voice intensified and the number of voices increased and we started to <u>ran</u> away." "On hearing the sound of the male, we'll felt the place to be unsafe." "I was excited and worried that something might happen to someone."
Impact	Negative	"We were scared."
Triggers	Fun	"We all went there stubbornly so that we could enjoy."
Motive	It was for fun, excitement and wanted to explore	"We went there for fun and to enjoy the trip." "The aim was to explore whether these negative energies exist or not."

Tourist-4

Gender: Male

Age: 20 years

Five years ago, tourists went to Bhangarh Fort. He went there to check for the presence of bad energy. He was intrigued by the tales and had a strong understanding of the area's past, which encouraged him to explore. In addition to being terrified, he was interested in the tour. After finishing the tour and returning home without incident, he felt satisfied.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Fear, curiosity, satisfaction	"I also have this thought to see whether there is negative energy or not." "Afraid of what will happen or that something will go wrong" "Once I'm done with the tour it provides a sense of satisfaction that I'll be able to complete that without any mishappening."
Impact	Positive	"I always feel satisfied on the completion of tour. After coming there I get peace"
Triggers	You tube videos, stories from people	"A lot of videos on the experiences of the people who have visited the place are there." "I've heard a lot about the stories and mishappenings of the place from people."
Motive	It was for excitement and exploration	"I wanted to see if all this is there or not" "The thought of visiting there gave me thrill and excitement."

Tourist-5

Gender: Female

Age: 24 years

Tourist visited to Jallianwala Bagh, Putual Bari, and South Park Cemetery few years back. She visited these places as a result of curiosity that got entangled from stories by people, magazines and adding to which visiting the historic places is close to her heart. Her journey of the tours has been full of curiosity, heaviness, and emotionally draining. Revisiting the memories of these tours still hampers her.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Heaviness, fear, tearful, emotionally draining	"All this affected me a lot emotionally." "I got reconnected while listening to all incidents that made me teary." "I don't want to encounter witch."
Impact	Negative	"I felt heaviness in those places, even after coming home."
Triggers	Stories on magazines, cartoon shows, news articles, heard from people	"I have read many magazines and articles." "I've also seen the place in the cartoons." "I have heard from many people about that place."
Motive	It was to experience the feelings	"I wanted to experience the feeling at that place, as I have heard from so many people. I wanted to know that something like this happens/exists there or not."

Tourist-6

Gender: Male

Age: 27 years

Tourist visited to Qutub Shahi Tomb last year. He was excited for the visit but after the tour he felt worried and some physical issues. He got there just for spending some good time with colleague but ended up getting worried even on hearing about the place.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Excitement, worried, fear	“When I went to the place I was excited.” “The thought of the place makes me worried.” “Whenever I heard of this place, I gets scared.”
Impact	Negative	“I got headaches and recurrent thoughts.”
Triggers	Chill	“The place was close to my home, so I got there to chill with my colleague.”
Motive	It was for fun	“I just went there for fun and to chill.”

Tourist-7

Gender: Male

Age: 23 years

Tourist visited to Kuldhara few years back. He visited there with his family just for spending some leisure time with them and got fascinated by the stories of the place. He felt scared and worried during the tour and even after the tour at times the thought of the place gave him different vibes. This tour gave him negative vibes and he experienced a shift in his feelings from excitement to emptiness.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Feared, weird, empty, alone	“I felt emptiness and feeling of being alone after listening to the stories and seeing that place.” “I felt scared being at that place.” “The place was bit different.”
Impact	Negative	“Sometimes when I think about the visit, it gives me chilly vibes.”
Triggers	Stories from people	“We had heard many stories from the cab driver on the way, about what the king had done, and about the curse.”
Motive	It was just to enjoy with family and also to explore about the place.	“I went there with my family so that we could roam around and enjoy.” “We went there to figure out and explore the place.”

Tourist-8

Gender: Female

Age: 21 years

Tourist visited to Kuldhara few years back. She was excited about the place on hearing the stories from people and she also poses an interest in exploring historical places. She do felt nervous and fearful while exploring the place as a result of the stories she had heard but at the end she didn't find it much haunted.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Excitement, Nervousness, fearful	“We were excited to go there because we had heard about that place.” “There was nervousness because the place was haunted.”
Impact	Neutral	“We didn't felt much.”
Triggers	Stories by people	“Hotel manager and staff have told us about the story of the place.”
Motive	It was to explore the place.	“We wanted to see what kind of place it is.”

Tourist-9

Gender: Female

Age: 22 years

Tourist visited to Cellular Jail this year. She visited there with family to have fun. She was curious about the history and wanted to explore and know the place. After the completion of the tour she felt proud and patriotic about the history and the place.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Curious, proud, patriotism, happy	"It made me proud while going through the place." "It instills the thought within me like let's do something for the country." "I felt happy on visiting there." "I was curious to know the place."
Impact	Positive	"I liked the place and would like to visit the place again."
Triggers	Heard from people, read in history	"I've heard a lot about it from the people." "Have also read about this in the history."
Motive	It was to explore the place and see what's there	"I was curious to get into the place and explore it."

Tourist-10

Gender: Male

Age: 25 years

Tourist visited to Shaniwar Wada this year. He went there to explore as he has heard a lot about the place but didn't felt that it was haunted. According to him it was hyped a lot by the people as there was nothing haunted and specific.

Themes	Sub-themes	Narratives
Feelings	Excited, disappointed	"It was heard a lot that the place is haunted, so we visited there with a lot of excitement." "I felt quite disappointed because there was nothing like that, there was just a garden."
Impact	Neutral	"Nothing was there on the place."
Triggers	Stories by people	"I had heard a lot from people that the voices of people are there which is unnatural."
Motive	It was to explore	"I have heard a lot about that place that it's haunted. So that is why we went there to explore the destination."

Major themes, Sub-themes, and Narratives

Theme: Feelings

Sub-theme	Narratives
Excited (Happy/ Curiosity)	"I ran to go there because I had seen a lot of documentaries." (Tourist 1) "I like to visit to the places like this" (Tourist 2) "I was excited and worried that something might happen to someone." (Tourist 3) "When I went to the place I was excited." (Tourist 6) "We were excited to go there because we had heard about that place." (Tourist 8) "It was heard a lot that the place is haunted, so we visited there with a lot of excitement." (Tourist 10) "I was very happy about the tour as I'll spend good time with friends." (Tourist 1) "I felt happy on visiting there." (Tourist 9) "I also have this thought to see whether there is negative energy or not." (Tourist 4) "I was curious to know the place." (Tourist 9)
Vulnerable (Weird/ Unsafe/Worried/Disappointed)	"I felt weird there." (Tourist 1) "The place was bit different." (Tourist 7) "On hearing the sound of the male, we'll felt the place to be unsafe." (Tourist 3) "The thought of the place makes me worried." (Tourist 6) "I felt quite disappointed because there was nothing like that, there was just a garden." (Tourist 10)
Fear (Frightened/ Nervousness)	"All of us got scared while we encountered with a lot of bats there." (Tourist 1) "I was quite scared." (Tourist 3) "Afraid of what will happen or that something will go wrong" (Tourist 4) "I don't want to encounter witch." (Tourist 5) "Whenever I heard of this place, I gets scared." (Tourist 6) "I felt scared being at that place." (Tourist 7) "We felt scary on entering the place." (Tourist 8) "We all got frightened when the voice intensified and the number of voices increased and we started to ran away." (Tourist 3) "There was nervousness because the place was haunted." (Tourist 8)
Sadness (tearful/emptiness/emotionally draining/ heaviness/Alone)	"So many people used to come to that place every day and even after that there was a lot of emptiness at that place." (Tourist 2) "I felt emptiness and feeling of being alone after listening to the stories and seeing that place." (Tourist 7) "I got reconnected while listening to all incidents that made me teary." (Tourist 5) "All this affected me a lot emotionally." (Tourist 5) "Feeling was not great when I heard stories from guide." (Tourist 5)
Satisfaction (Proud/Patriotic)	"Once I'm done with the tour it provides a sense of satisfaction that I'll be able to complete that without any mishappening." (Tourist 4) "It made me proud while going through the place." (Tourist 9) "It instills the thought within me like let's do something for the country." (Tourist 9)

Theme: Impact

Sub theme	Narratives
Positive	"After doing the tour, I felt a feeling of achievement that I had completed the tour." (Tourist 2) "I always feel satisfied on the completion of tour. After coming there I get peace" (Tourist 4) "I liked the place and would like to visit the place again." (Tourist 9)
Negative	"I started feeling scared." (Tourist 1) "We were scared." (Tourist 3) "I felt heaviness in those places, even after coming home." (Tourist 5) "I got headaches and recurrent thoughts." (Tourist 6) "Sometimes when I think about the visit, it gives me chilly vibes." (Tourist 7)
Neutral	"We didn't felt much." (Tourist 8) "Nothing was there on the place." (Tourist 10)

Theme: Triggers

Sub-theme	Narratives
Fun (Friends/Chill/Travel)	"I went with my friends." (Tourist 1) "We all went there stubbornly so that we could enjoy." (Tourist 3) "The place was close to my home, so I got there to chill with my colleague." (Tourist 6) "I went to travel, so when we came across this place on the way, we visited that too." (Tourist 2)
Source of information (Documentaries/ History/ Cases/ YT Videos)	"I have watched a lot of documentaries." (Tourist 1) "Being a student of history these places fascinates me." (Tourist 1) "Have also read about this in the history." (Tourist 9) "I've studied and gone through a lot of cases about various haunted places." (Tourist 2) "A lot of videos on the experiences of the people who have visited the place are there." (Tourist 4)
Stories (by people/ News articles/Magazines/Cartoons)	"I've heard a lot about the stories and mishappenings of the place from people." (Tourist 4) "I have heard from many people about that place." (Tourist 5) "We had heard many stories from the cab driver on the way, about what the king had done, and about the curse." (Tourist 7) "Hotel manager and staff have told us about the story of the place." (Tourist 8) "I've heard a lot about it from the people." (Tourist 9) "I had heard a lot from people that the voices of people are there which is unnatural." (Tourist 10) "I have read many magazines and articles." (Tourist 5) "I've also seen the place in the cartoons." (Tourist 5) "I've heard a lot of stories" (Tourist 2)

Theme: Motives

Sub-theme	Narratives
Explore paranormal activity (Experience)	“I wanted to see whether paranormal activities exists or not.” (<i>Tourist 1</i>) “I had heard about an old case.” (<i>Tourist 2</i>) “The aim was to explore whether these negative energies exist or not.” (<i>Tourist 3</i>) “I wanted to experience the feeling at that place, as I have heard from so many people. I wanted to know that something like this happens/exists there or not.” (<i>Tourist 5</i>)
Explore (Visit) the place	“Wanted to explore the place as well.” (<i>Tourist 1</i>) “I wanted to see if all this is there or not” (<i>Tourist 4</i>) “We went there to figure out and explore the place.” (<i>Tourist 7</i>) “We wanted to see what kind of place it is.” (<i>Tourist 8</i>) “I was curious to get into the place and explore it.” (<i>Tourist 9</i>) “I have heard a lot about that place that it’s haunted. So that is why we went there to explore the destination.” (<i>Tourist 10</i>) “The place came on a way and we went to visit the place.” (<i>Tourist 2</i>)
Fun (excitement/enjoy)	“We went there for fun and to enjoy the trip.” (<i>Tourist 3</i>) “I just went there for fun and to chill.” (<i>Tourist 6</i>) “I was very excited.” (<i>Tourist 3</i>) “The thought of visiting there gave me thrill and excitement.” (<i>Tourist 4</i>) “I went there with my family so that we could roam around and enjoy.” (<i>Tourist 7</i>)

Discussions

The paper explores the psychological attributes that contribute in tourist’s footfall on dark tourism destinations. Research has been carried forward by taking up some interviews using narrative inquiry. The themes from the narratives were extracted after which sub-themes were also drawn out. As it’s known that dark tourism is a form of tourism which means visiting to the places associated with some tragedy, macabre, or some negative events. This type of tour posses a lot of emotional changes and effects the tourists to an extent. After going through these things and experiencing some negative energy at times, tourists still continue to explore these places. In this the various areas were explored that are feelings, impact, triggers, and motive regarding the dark tourism. These areas were explored and it was found that tourists experience a range of feelings.

Feelings and its narratives associated with dark tourism

Feelings are an amazing, self-contained experience. As these are evaluative, subjective, and unaffected by the ideas, emotions, or images that evoke them. The destinations for dark tourism create a lot of emotional shifts, extending from joy to sorrow, susceptibility to excitement, anxiety to contentment, and more. Through the interviews it has been found that a number of tourists go through the feeling of excitement (“I ran to go there because I had seen a lot of documentaries.”(*Tourist 1*); “I like to visit to the places like this”. (*Tourist 2*) “I was excited and worried that something might happen to someone.” (*Tourist 3*); “When I went to the place I was excited.” (*Tourist 6*)) including a number of emotions encompassing happiness (“I was very happy about the tour as I’ll spend good time with friends.” (*Tourist 1*) ; “I felt happy on visiting there.” (*Tourist 9*)) and curiosity (“I was curious to know the place.” (*Tourist 9*)). The feelings are not only related to the positive side of the tour but the feeling of vulnerability also persists as some travelers experiences a range of emotions like feeling weird (“I felt weird there.” (*Tourist 1*); “The place was bit different.” (*Tourist 7*)), unsafe (“On hearing the sound of the male, we’ll felt the place to be unsafe.” (*Tourist 3*)), worried (“The thought of the place makes me worried.” (*Tourist 6*)) or disappointed (“I felt quite disappointed because there was nothing like that, there was just a garden.” (*Tourist 10*)) at varied levels and phase of the tour. With the gradual elevation of the tour tourists do undergo from the experiences of fear (“I don’t want to encounter witch.” (*Tourist 5*); “Whenever I heard of this place, I gets scared.” (*Tourist 6*)) ranging from frightened (“All of us got scared while we encountered with a lot of bats there.” (*Tourist 1*) “I was quite scared.” (*Tourist 3*)) to nervousness (“There was nervousness because the place was

haunted.” (*Tourist 8*)). This type of feelings persist and at times tourists also undergo from a variety of sad emotions depicting emptiness (“So many people used to come to that place every day and even after that there was a lot of emptiness at that place.” (*Tourist 2*);), emotional draining (“All this affected me a lot emotionally.” (*Tourist 5*)), heaviness (“Feeling was not great when I heard stories from guide.” (*Tourist 5*)), alone feeling (“I felt emptiness and feeling of being alone after listening to the stories and seeing that place.” (*Tourist 7*)), and teary state (“I got reconnected while listening to all incidents that made me teary.” (*Tourist 5*)). Contrary to this quite a few tourists also encounter the feeling of satisfaction (“Once I’m done with the tour it provides a sense of satisfaction that I’ll be able to complete that without any mishappening.” (*Tourist 4*)) with a sense of patriotism (“It instills the thought within me like let’s do something for the country.” (*Tourist 9*)) and proudest achievement (“It made me proud while going through the place.” (*Tourist 9*)) depending upon the destination.

The feelings of the tourists can vary to a great extent depending upon the situation. As stated it can range from overly positive to negative. The experience of these destinations can result in unpleasant emotional feelings including anxiety, despair, disgust, rage, and more (Nawijn & Fricke, 2015; Forsdick et al., 2019). The destination doesn’t only evoke changes in feelings, it does have some impact on the tourists.

Impact and its narratives associated with dark tourism

The destinations can have the impact in three basic ways as per the data by the participants. It can be either positive (“After doing the tour, I felt a feeling of achievement that I had completed the tour.” (*Tourist 2*); “I always feel satisfied on the completion of tour. After coming there I get peace” (*Tourist 4*); “I liked the place and would like to visit the place again.” (*Tourist 9*)), negative (“I started feeling scared.” (*Tourist 1*); “We were scared.” (*Tourist 3*); “I felt heaviness in those places, even after coming home.” (*Tourist 5*); “I got headaches and recurrent thoughts.” (*Tourist 6*); “Sometimes when I think about the visit, it gives me chilly vibes.” (*Tourist 7*)), or neutral (“We didn’t feel much.” (*Tourist 8*); “Nothing was there on the place.” (*Tourist 10*)). The impact can be a result of certain changes in the experience one has undergone. A positive impact can enhance the tourists’ outlook towards the destinations and can enhance their experience whereas the negative experience’s intensity can moderately affect the other person’s outlook and belief about the places whereas the neutral impact can make the tourists disinterested about the destinations at times (Grebenar, 2018). The impacts are associated with the triggers that contribute in instilling the motivation for the tour.

Triggers and its narratives associated with dark tourism

The triggers for the dark tourism could be ranging to a great extent from cartoons to magazines, from heard stories to having fun with loved ones. Major triggers for the motivation of the dark tourism as per the tourists are fun (“We all went there stubbornly so that we could enjoy.” (*Tourist 3*); “The place was close to my home, so I got there to chill with my colleague.” (*Tourist 6*)) which comprises spending good time with friends or family (“I went with my friends.” (*Tourist 1*)) and by travelling (“I went to travel, so when we came across this place on the way, we visited that too.” (*Tourist 2*)). One of the other sources through which tourists get triggered was the sources of information provided by articles or documentaries (“I have watched a lot of documentaries.” (*Tourist 1*)), YouTube videos (“A lot of videos on the experiences of the people who have visited the place are there.” (*Tourist 4*)), Study of history, and case studies (“Being a student of history these places fascinate me.” (*Tourist 1*); “Have also read about this in the history.” (*Tourist 9*); “I’ve studied and gone through a lot of cases about various haunted places.” (*Tourist 2*)). Adding on to these stories by people (“I’ve heard a lot about the stories and mishappenings of the place from people.” (*Tourist 4*); “I have heard from many people about that place.” (*Tourist 5*)), news or magazines (“I have read many magazines and articles.” (*Tourist 5*)), and from cartoons (“I’ve also seen the place in the cartoons.” (*Tourist 5*)) at times triggers the tourists and people to visit or explore the various places. The triggers have the capacity to motivate the tourists for initiating the dark tourism.

Motivation and its narratives associated with dark tourism

As motivation is the engine that propels human behavior and provides a mechanism that starts, directs, and sustains goal-oriented behaviors which holds the capacity to kick start a journey of dark tourism that has been instilled by the triggers one has been exposed with. The major motives of the dark tourism tourists are entangled as an exploration of the paranormal activities (“The aim was to explore whether these negative energies exist or not.” (*Tourist 3*); “I wanted to see whether paranormal activities exist or not.” (*Tourist 1*)), at times either with the purpose of experiencing the feeling for the same (“I wanted to experience the feeling at that place, as I have heard from so many people. I wanted to know that something like this happens/exists there or not.” (*Tourist 5*)). Narratives have also directed that the motive can be to

explore the place (“Wanted to explore the place as well.” (Tourist 1); “I wanted to see if all this is there or not” (Tourist 4); “We went there to figure out and explore the place.” (Tourist 7); “We wanted to see what kind of place it is.” (Tourist 8); “I was curious to get into the place and explore it.” (Tourist 9); “I have heard a lot about that place that it’s haunted. So that is why we went there to explore the destination.” (Tourist 10)), and gain fun (“I just went there for fun and to chill.” (Tourist 6)) at the destination encompassing the excitement of the tourist (“I was very excited.” (Tourist 3); “The thought of visiting there gave me thrill and excitement.” (Tourist 4)) and to enjoy (“I went there with my family so that we could roam around and enjoy.” (Tourist 7)). These motives provide an insight that one could go to extents to fulfill their drives that are inclined with their triggers.

All of these provide a view that tourists are excited about the dark tourism destinations. As they find it exciting and think of it as a real destination that could explored more.

Conclusion

The research aimed at figuring out the narratives that contribute in assessing the feelings, impact, triggers, and motives of the tourists who have gone for the dark tourism destination. The interviews have been taken up by the people for collecting the narratives from which the themes have been extracted. The themes have suggested that there’s a wide range of feelings that the individuals go through that do posses a lot of impact on the tourists during and after the tour. Narratives have also suggested that there could be some triggers associated for the tour which can contribute in instilling some motives among the tourists for the tours. The research delved into the emotional, mental, and social dimensions of dark tourism through a narrative inquiry approach. Despite methodological limitations, the study sought to capture significant patterns in tourists' responses. An extensive literature review complemented the findings, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the dark fascination experienced by tourists visiting different dark sites.

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