

Adventure Tourism By Trekking : Destination Pune Forts

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Abstract

The main aim of this research is to find out the potential use of forts for trekking. Pune forts are the historical symbol for the Maharashtra. There are various types of forts situated in every location of Pune. Most of the forts are built-up on Mountains. Forts are built up in such a way that it attracts the people to come again and again for visit. The researcher has selected tourist as a target group to carry out this research and local community people. The researcher summoned up this research by gathering the data about types of clientele who frequently visit the forts. The respondents are mainly classified as per age, gender, income level, leisure time, likes and dislikes of them. People prefer to visit forts as per seasons also. There is number of tourist who wanted to visit forts for trekking but due to lack of facility i.e. , accessibility, transportation, food, technology, guide facility, parking facility, shops for purchasing trekking equipment and accessories in emergency, they avoid to visit forts for trekking. No proper safety and security at the place of forts. No emergency services are available nearby forts. However tourists visit forts again and again to various forts for trekking in Pune. Most of the information collected through trekking clubs of Pune. This research paper would help to all the students, teachers, scholars and the Government.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pune is considered the cultural capital of Maharashtra. Pune, a sprawling city in the Indian state of Maharashtra, was once the base of the Peshwas (prime ministers) of the Maratha Empire. It's known for the grand Aga Khan Palace, built in 1892 and now a memorial to

Mahatma Gandhi, whose ashes are preserved in the garden. The 8th-century Pataleshwar Cave Temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva.

Pune is famous for many-a-thing ranging from local cuisine, warm-hearted people, solid education platform, and a vibrant cosmopolitan culture. This first capital of the Maratha Empire makes for a brilliant base to explore some of the finest outdoor trails in India too. The city even now takes pride in presenting many forts tucked away at locations that attract ardent trekkers to not just relive the history of the powerful Marathas and Peshwas, but also a chance to absorb the wonderful natural environment. Pune is not only popular for its heritage close to the city but also there are amazing getaways for adventure enthusiasts and trekkers.

2. NEED OF THE STUDY

Today's generations are more attracted towards trekking to mountains. They always seek for new challenges for adventure. The need of this research is to know the awareness about forts for trekking. Tourist and people are known the forts tourism or not. This type of research helps to spread and collect the importance of forts for trekking. Fort is one of the categories of tourism, which can be used for trekking also. This study is basically carried out for getting information and views of tourist about forts for trekking.

3. DEFINITIONS

- i.) **Fort:** A strong or fortified place occupied by troops and usually surrounded by walls, ditches, and other defensive works; a fortress; fortification. Any permanent army post. (Formerly) a trading post.
- ii.) **Trek:** To travel or migrate, especially slowly or with difficulty. a journey or trip, especially one involving difficulty or hardship
- iii.) **Adventure:** An exciting or very unusual experience, participation in exciting undertakings or enterprises, the spirit of adventure, a bold, usually risky undertaking; hazardous action of uncertain outcome, a commercial or financial speculation of any kind; venture.

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Scope of the study is to consider the maximum use of isolated forts to come in the category of trekking forts. To increase the flow of mass tourist who can frequently visit forts for trekking. The researcher will focus on searching the information and solutions on the better use of forts for trekking, which would be cost effectiveness and environmental sustainability, for the forts management process.

5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- **Dilip Merala (2016)** Trekking and summer might not go hand in hand for those who think of it as a monsoon or winter activity. It is understandable. Not everyone likes to risk getting sun burnt, exhausted, or dehydrated. However, with some basic levels of physical fitness and endurance against the hot Indian summer, there

are some incredible trekking trails in Maharashtra that you can try on your days off. Here are 5 easy treks for trekkers who are not bothered by heat and sweat. Rajmachi Fort, Lohgad Fort, Tikona Fort, Ratangad Fort, **Vikatgad Fort**, Torna Fort.

- **Karan Chawda (2016)** as per the author, Kavnai Fort is a hidden beauty in Nashik waiting to be explored! With a commanding view of the surrounding villages and also a lake on top, it's a well-rounded trek that can satisfy your thirst for weekend travel! *Karan Chawda* chose this trek as his 50th trek in the Sahyadris and he decided to begin documenting his treks as well! So here it is – the Kavnai Fort Trek. Document a lot more trails in the coming years.
- **Aashish Chawla (2012)** Aashish is a wandering soul who loves to travel deep and offbeat, trying to connect with rivers, mountains, wilderness, people and cultures. He loves trekking and lands up on some Sahyadri trail almost every weekend. Writing and meeting new people always excites him to no end. He emphasize on forts for trekking. He believes that forts are also a good destination for trekking.
- **Ruzbeh Billimoria (2003)** author had gone for a trekking to the prabalgad fort in Panvel region. In this trekking she had observed various sides of the forts with various types of stones used for fort. Different signs are used to go towards the fort. Again there are so many rock cut caves also available for the tourist as a bonus with trekking. She observed that the trekking on Prabalgad fort is a bit steep. There are various rocky walls which are straight in nature. It's very difficult to climb easily.

6. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- I. To study the potential use of Pune forts as a trekking destination.
- II. To find the type of clientele who visit forts for trekking.
- III. To analyse the likes and dislikes of tourist for trekking towards the forts.
- IV. To explore the ways to increase the significance of forts as a trekking destination.

7. HYPOTHESIS

- 01- Pune forts are not popular for a trekking destination
H1 – Pune forts are popular for a trekking destination
02 – Pune forts are not good for trekking.
H2 – Pune forts are good for trekking.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

I. Sampling Frame

For this study the researcher would be collecting the information from various tourists who frequently visit forts for trekking. He would also gather the data from various trekking clubs of Pune, who regularly organise trips of trekking on forts of Pune Region.

II. Sources of Data

- **Primary data** shall be collected from the universe mentioned above. For the purpose of interviews samples representing the various renowned Clubs of trekking in Pune region. Tourists are the nerve part tourism industry. Maximum data shall be collected from the tourists who frequently visit the forts for trekking.
- **Secondary data** shall be collected from published/unpublished literature on Forts management practices in the tourism industry, latest references available from the journals, newspapers, research publications and magazines, and other relevant sources like internet.

III. **Public Relations:**

This study would also help to create a public relation with various types of tourist, who regularly visit the forts of Pune Region. There are various types of patrons who like to visit the forts on various reasons. This study process would also develop a relationship for awareness of history and preservation of forts among the tourist. People would come to know more about forts as a tourist destination for trekking in details as well as its importance in tourism industry.

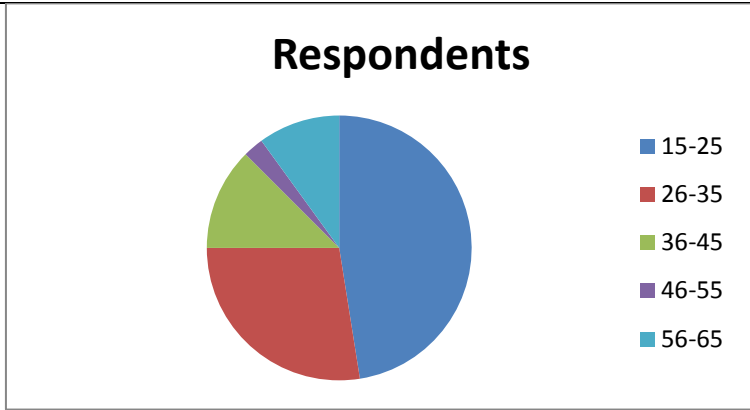
9. OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher has observed that respondents are more aware about the forts and trekking. He came to know about the various problems and challenges which face the tourist and people for going on forts. People are having different views and suggestions for the forts as adventure tourism. As per the discussion with various types of clientele from the age of 15 to 55 different types of thoughts came out. As per the information collected by the people, male ratio is higher than the female ratio. Single people are more interested than married for trekking. Students and salaried people are more into trekking now a days. Most of the people are spending their vacation and leisure time by travelling and trekking to mountains and forts.as per the data collected by the researcher. Most of the respondents have said that they are known about various forts in and around Pune. Respondents are known for most of the forts in and around Pune. Maximum people said forts are all season destination for trekking.as per the research researcher come to know that the accommodation provided for the trekker is good nearby forts. According to the respondents safety and security are provided well near forts. People felt that availability of healthy food is one of the aspects to attract the trekkers to fort. Most of the respondents are said that guide facility is available at forts. Respondents are not satisfied for the emergency medical services provided at the forts for trekkers. People are not agree that shops for all emergency equipment and accessories of trekking are available for trekkers at the forts. People shoed the interest saying that the frequency of local as well as other transport is good for trekkers nearby forts. Maximum respondents think that the forts are the best destination for trekking.

10. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

A) Age Group?

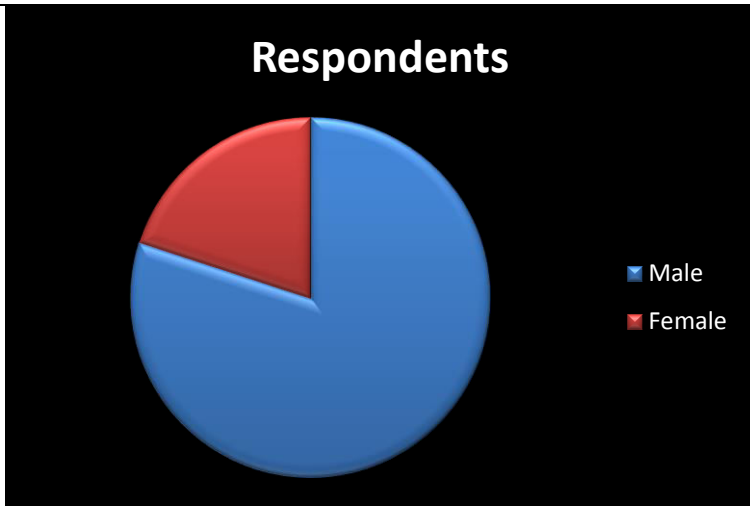
Age	Respondents
15-25	19
26-35	11
36-45	5
46-55	1
56-65	4



Interpretation:-
 As per the findings for the respondents as per age maximum people are varies above 18 years old. Who prefer to go for trekking as compared with maximum age holders.

B) Gender

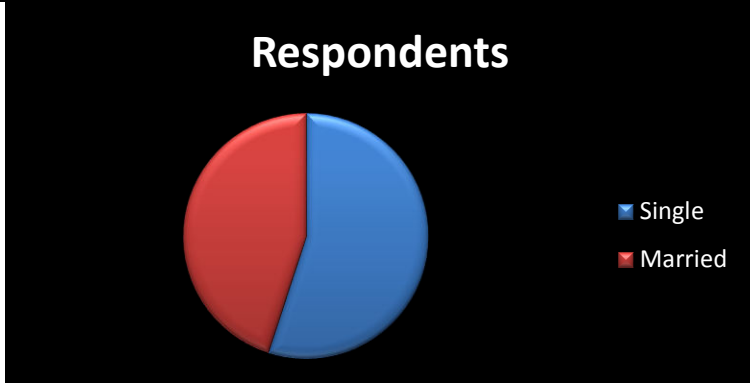
Gender	Respondents
Male	32
Female	8



Interpretation: - As per the interpretation of the tourist and visitors for the trekking male count is higher than the women.

C) Marital Status

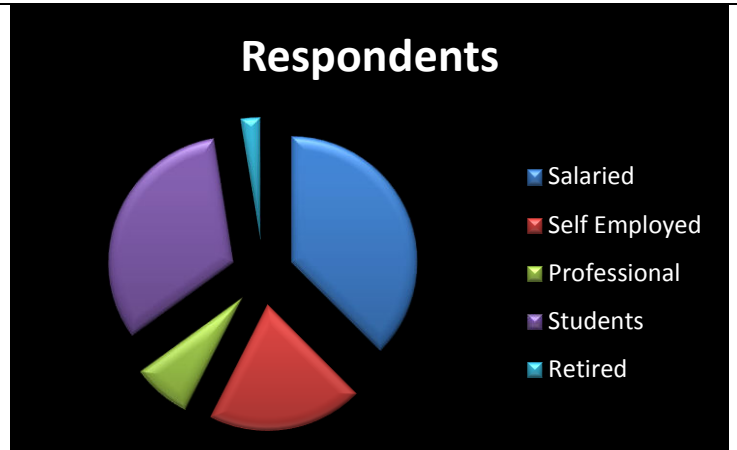
Marital Status	Respondents
Single	22
Married	18



Interpretation:-
 Single tourist/visitors are more interested for visiting forts for trekking.

Q.1) What is your occupation?

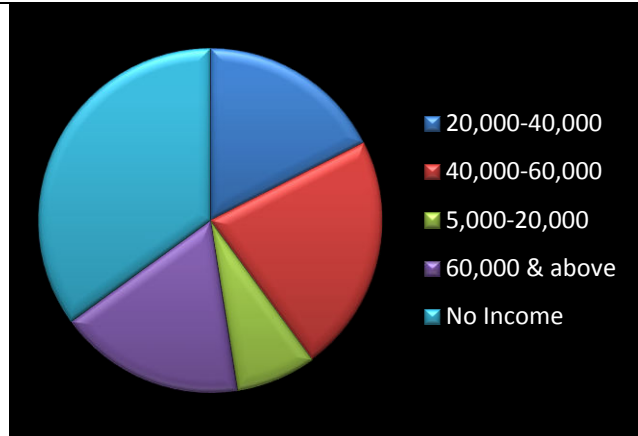
Occupation	Respondents
Salaried	15
Self Employed	8
Professional	3
Students	13
Retired	1



Interpretation:- As per the survey by the researcher salaried and students are more into trekking than other occupational people.

Q.2) What is your income level?

Income Level	Respondents
20,000-40,000	7
40,000-60,000	9
5,000-20,000	3
60,000 & above	7
No Income	14

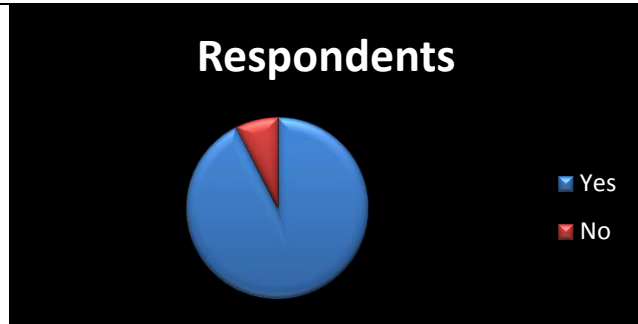


Interpretation:-

Maximum people/tourist are not having any income source but still they prefer to go for trekking

Q.3) Do you get any vacation/leisure time?

Vacation/Leisure	Respondents
Yes	37
No	3

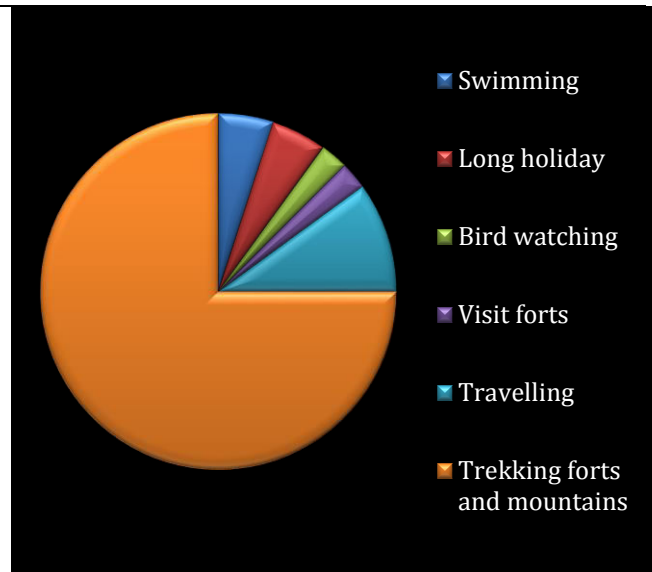


Interpretation:-

As per the interpretation of the data maximum people/tourist are getting vacation and leisure time.

Q.4) How do you spend your vacation/holiday?

Vacation/Holiday	Respondents
Swimming	2
Long holiday	2
Bird watching	1
Visit forts	1
Travelling	4
Trekking forts and mountains	30

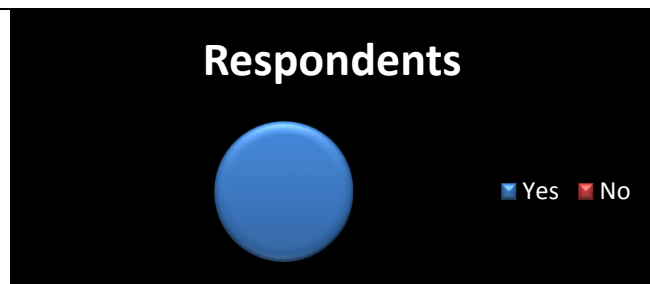


Interpretation:

Most of the people/tourist spends their time by visiting forts and mountains for trekking.

Q.5) Are you aware about trekking?

Aware about trekking	Respondents
Yes	40
No	0

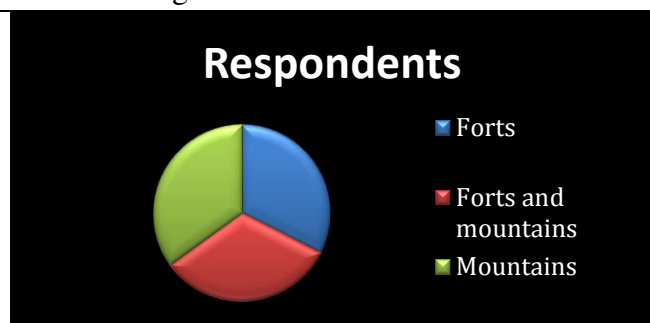


Interpretation:

All the tourist/people are aware about fort trekking

Q.6) Given a choice, which place you prefer for trekking?

Place to prefer	Respondents
Forts	13
Forts and mountains	13
Mountains	14

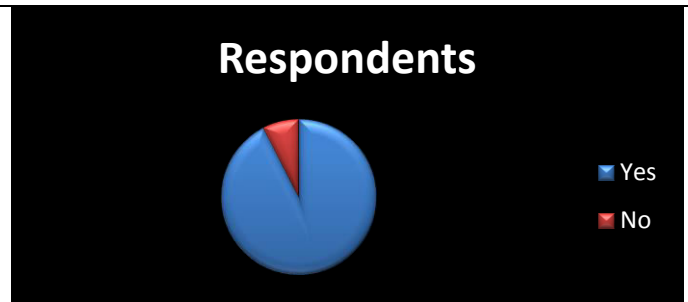


Interpretation:

Forts and mountains are the most preferable spots for trekking as per the data received.

Q.7) Are you aware of the forts for trekking in and around Pune?

Aware about forts	Respondents
Yes	37
No	3

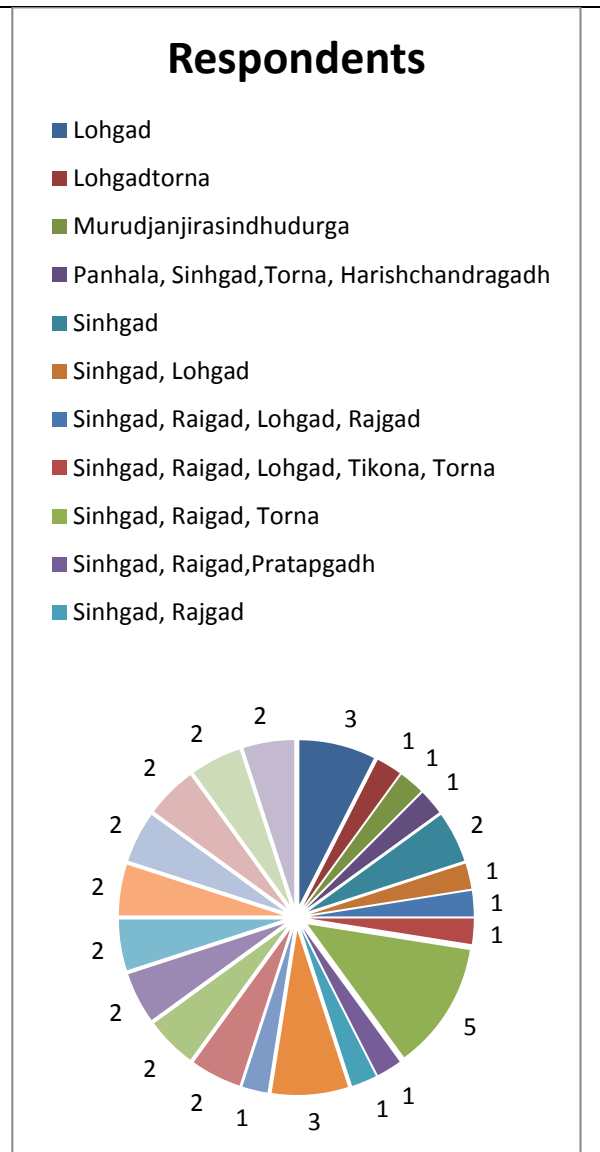


Interpretation:

People and tourist are more aware about forts trekking in and around Pune.

Q.8) Which forts?

Forts	Respondents
Lohgad	3
Lohgadorna	1
Murudjanjirasindhudurga	1
Panhala, Sinhgad,Torna, Harishchandragadh	1
Sinhgad	2
Sinhgad, Lohgad	1
Sinhgad, Raigad, Lohgad, Rajgad	1
Sinhgad, Raigad, Lohgad, Tikona, Torna	1
Sinhgad, Raigad, Torna	5
Sinhgad, Raigad,Pratapgad	1
Sinhgad, Rajgad	1
Sinhgad, Rajgad, Torna	3
Sinhgad, Ramchandra fort	1
Sinhgad, Torna	2
Sinhgad, Lohgad	2
Sinhgad, Raigad, Lohgad, Rajgad	2
Sinhgad, Raigad, Lohgad, Tikona, Torna	2
Sinhgad ,Raigad ,Torna ,lohgad	2
Sinhgad ,shivneri, ajinkyatara fort	2
Sinhgad ,shivneri, fort ,torna	2
sinhgadh ,tikona,lohgad,purandar,rajgad	2
Vishalgadh, Raigad,Rajmachi	2

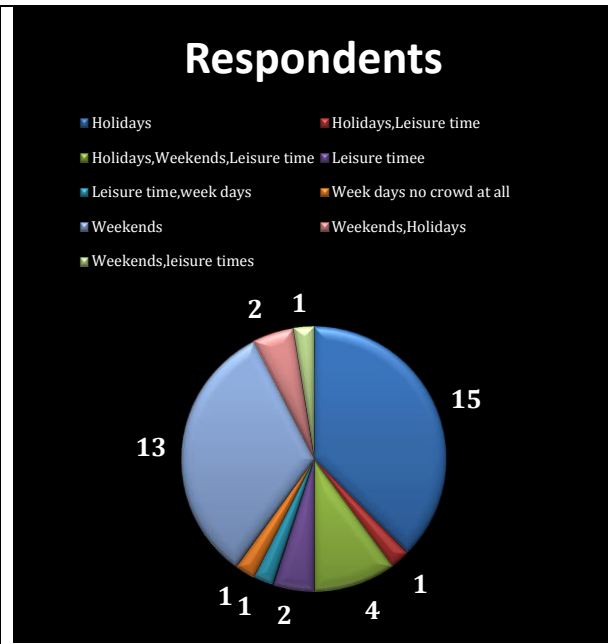


Interpretation :

Maximum people showed equal interest and emphasize on all the forts, as per the data.

Q.9) What time will you allot for trekking to fort?

Time for Trekking	Respondents
Holidays	15
Holidays,Leisure time	1
Holidays,Weekends ,Leisure time	4
Leisure timee	2
Leisure time,week days	1
Week days no crowd at all	1
Weekends	13
Weekends,Holidays	2
Weekends,leisure times	1

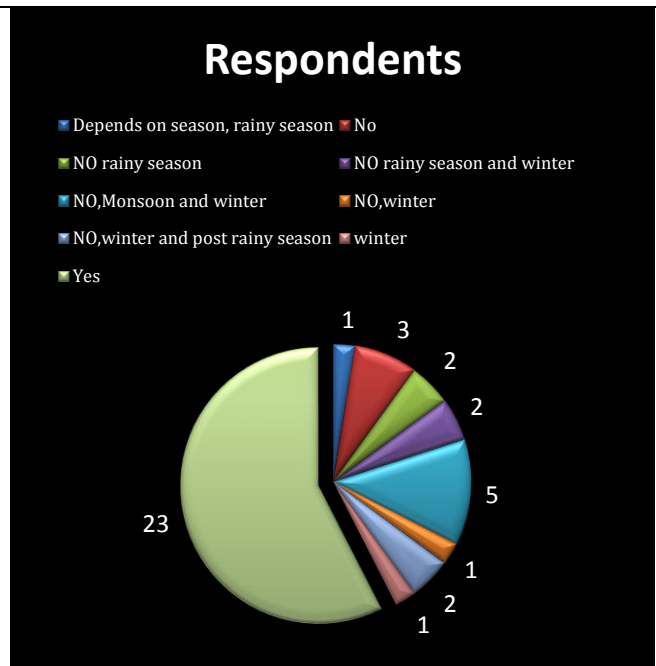


Interpretation:

Holidays and leisure time are the two factors which are responsible for trekking.

Q.10) Do you consider fort as all season destinations for trekking? If no, which season do you think is most suitable for trekking to fort?

All season destination	Respondents
Depends on season, rainy season	1
No	3
NO rainy season	2
NO rainy season and winter	2
NO,Monsoon and winter	5
NO,winter	1
NO,winter and post rainy season	2
winter	1
Yes	23

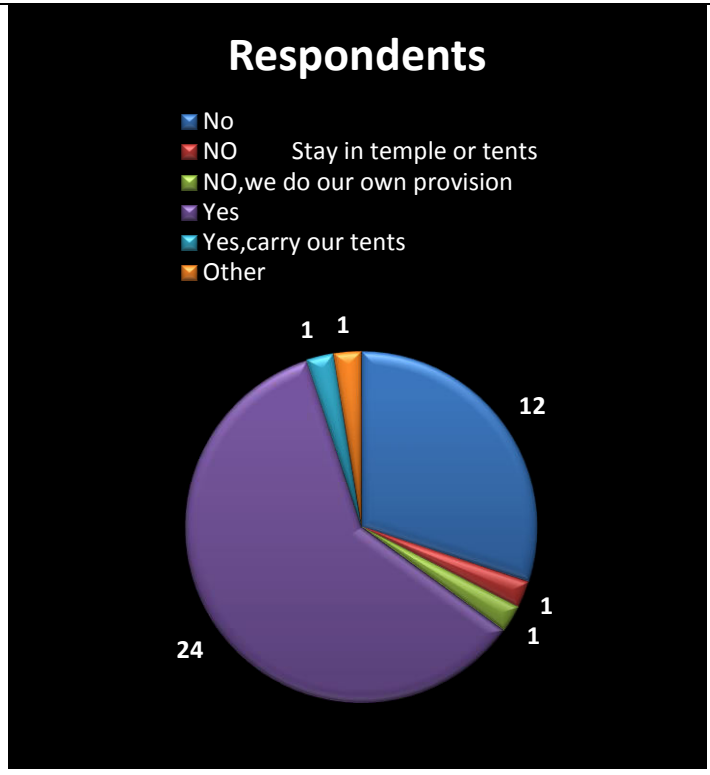


Interpretation :

Most of the people/tourist is agree for forts are all season destinations for trekking and monsoon and winter are the best season for trekking.

Q.11) Are you satisfied for the accommodation provided for trekkers nearby forts? If no

Satisfaction for accommodation	Respondents
No	12
NO Stay in temple or tents	1
NO,we do our own provision	1
Yes	24
Yes,carry our tents	1
Other	1

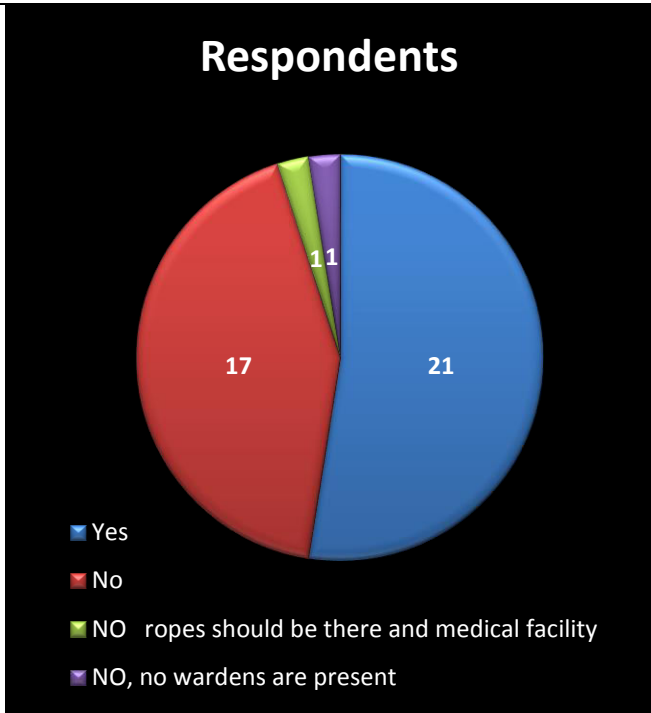


Interpretation :

Maximum respondents said that accommodation is provided for trekkers nearby forts

Q.12) Do you feel that the safety and security is good at the fort for trekkers? If no

Safety and Security	Respondents
Yes	21
No	17
NO ropes should be there and medical facility	1
NO, no wardens are present	1

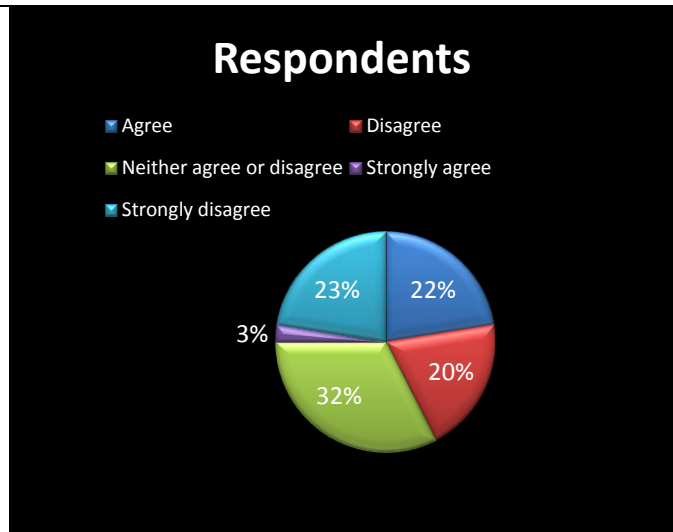


Interpretation :

Maximum respondents emphasize on safety and security is good at the fort for trekkers

Q.13) Do you agree that parking facility is good at the forts?

Parking Facility	Respondents
Agree	9
Disagree	8
Neither agree or disagree	13
Strongly agree	1
Strongly disagree	9

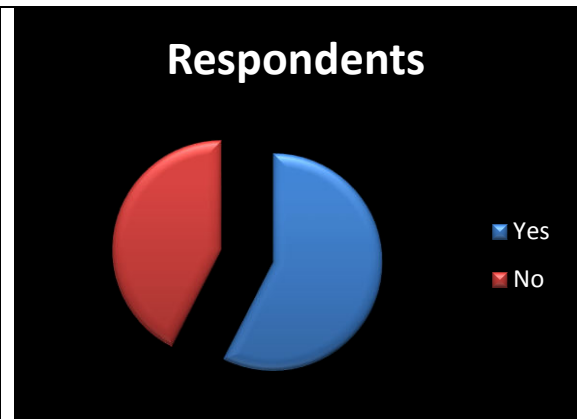


Interpretation :

32% people are neither agreed or disagree for the parking facility at the fort.

Q.14) Do you feel that availability of healthy food is one of the aspect to attract the trekkers to fort?

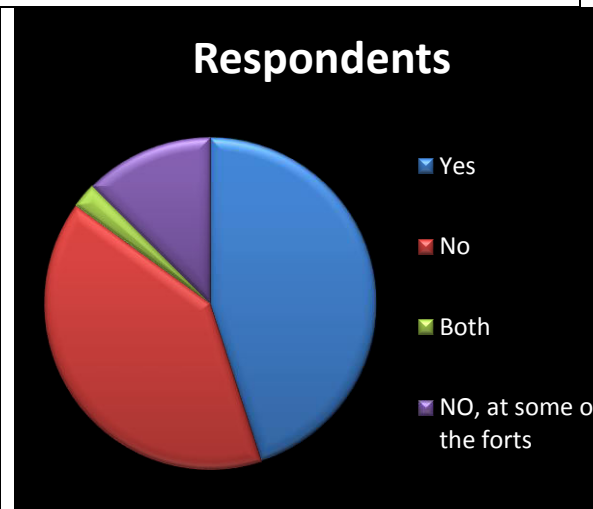
Availability of healthy food	Respondents
Yes	23
No	17



Interpretation: More no. Of respondents felt that availability of healthy food is one of the aspects to attract the trekkers to fort.

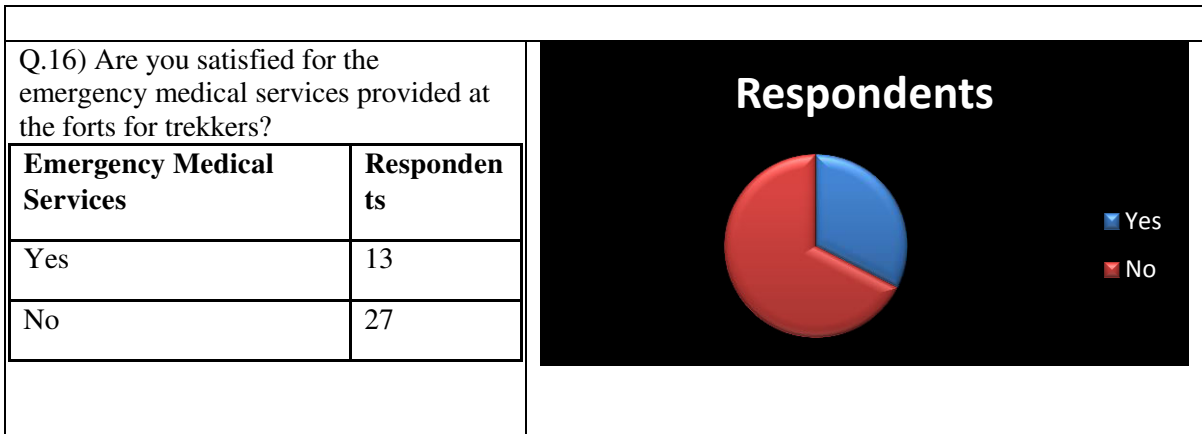
Q.15) Do you agree that guide facility is available for trekkers at the forts?

Guide Facility	Respondents
Yes	18
No	16
Both	1
NO, at some of the forts	5

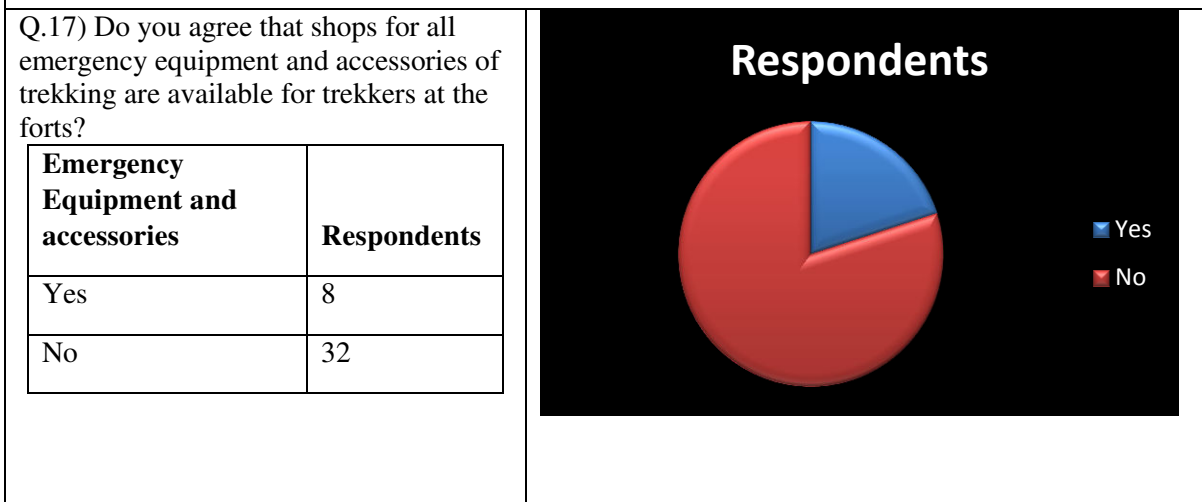


Interpretation :

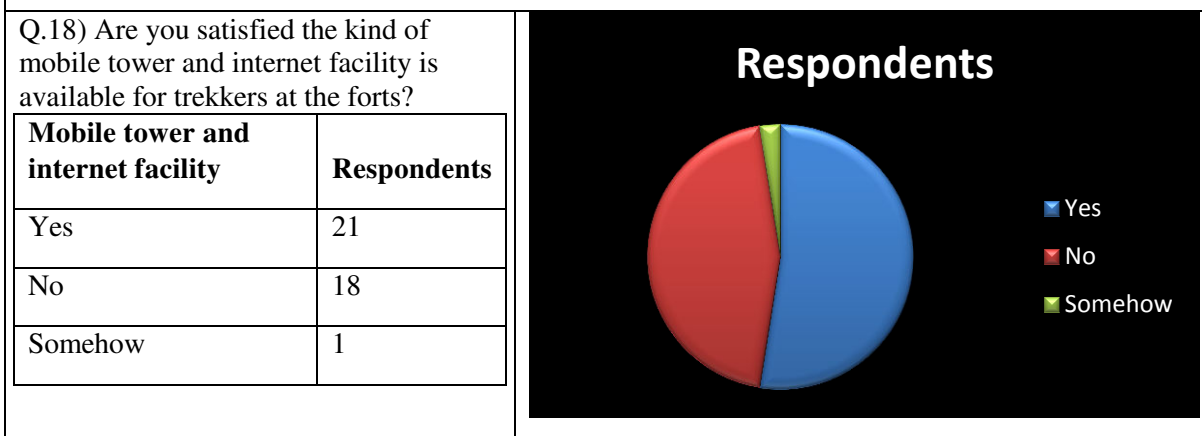
Respondents are agreed for guide facility is available for trekkers at the forts in more nos.



Interpretation :
 Most of the respondents are not satisfied for the emergency medical services provided at the forts for trekkers



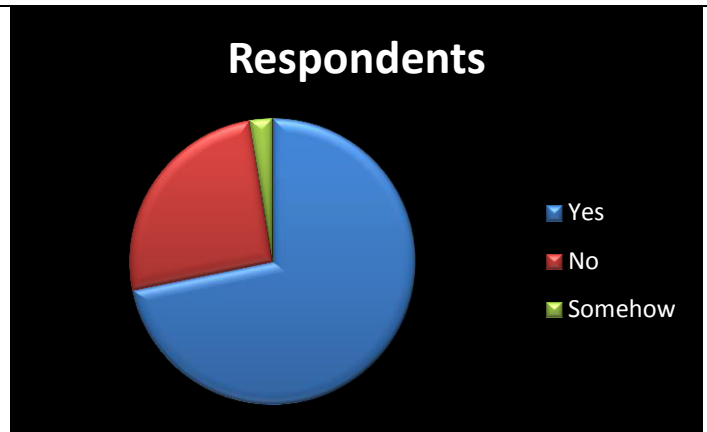
Interpretation :
 Respondents are not agreeing for the emergency equipment and accessories of trekking for trekkers at the forts.



Interpretation :
 Researcher can say that maximum no. respondents are satisfied for the mobile tower and internet facility is available for trekkers at the forts.

Q.19) Do you agree that the frequency of local as well as other transport is good for trekkers nearby forts?

Frequency of local transport	Respondents
Yes	28
No	10
Somehow	1

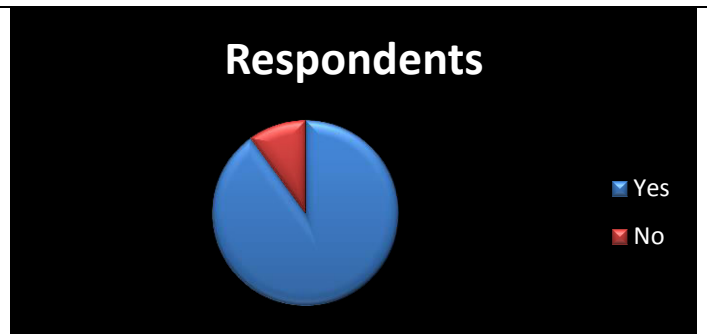


Interpretation :

Maximum respondents are agreed for the frequency of local as well as other transport is good for trekkers nearby forts,

Q.20) Do you think that the forts are the best destination for trekking?

Forts best destination for trekking	Respondents
Yes	36
No	4



Interpretation :

Almost every all respondents think that forts are the best destination for trekking

10. RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

As per the study carried out by the researcher, the main aspects which is most important i.e. preservation of forts. As a researcher I would suggest that the government should take the precautionary steps for preserving the forts for adventure tourism. There are various challenges face by the tourist, and local people near to forts. Emergency medical service should be provided; proper safety and security should be made available for the tourist and local people who are living near forts. Transportation and accommodation facility should make available for the tourists.

11. CONCLUSION

As per the feedback collected by the respondents, maximum no. of respondents who are varies from 15-25 age group are more interested to go for trekking as compared the least group is 46-55. As per the information collected by the people, male ratio is higher than the female ratio. Single people are more interested than married for trekking. Students and salaried people are more into trekking now a days. Those who are not earning money but still interested in trekking as compared to other earning people. Tourist usually goes for trekking who are having vacation and leisure time with them. Most of the people are

spending their vacation and leisure time by travelling and trekking to mountains and forts. as per the data collected by the researcher. He comes to know that maximum people are aware about trekking. Equal emphasize has been given to trekking to forts and mountains by the respondents. Most of the respondents have said that they are known about various forts in and around Pune. Respondents are known for most of the forts in and around Pune. Respondents said that weekends and holidays are good for visiting forts for trekking. Maximum people said forts are all season destination for trekking. as per the research researcher come to know that the accommodation provided for the trekker is good nearby forts. According to the respondents safety and security are provided well near forts. Maximum people convinced that they are neither agree or disagree for parking facility. People felt that availability of healthy food is one of the aspects to attract the trekkers to fort. Most of the respondents are said that guide facility is available at forts. Respondents are not satisfied for the emergency medical services provided at the forts for trekkers. People are not agreeing that shops for all emergency equipment and accessories of trekking are available for trekkers at the forts. Respondents are not satisfied the kind of mobile tower and internet facility is available for trekkers at the forts. People showed the interest saying that the frequency of local as well as other transport is good for trekkers nearby forts. Maximum respondents think that the forts are the best destination for trekking.

12. LIMITATION

- i.) The study is limited to the Pune Region.
- ii.) The study is restricted to study the use of hill forts as a trekking destination in Pune Region

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