A Technical Feasibility of Establishing a Ski Resort

(Study Area: Garrin Mountain located in Gamasiyab region of Hamedan Province)

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Abstract

Tourism studies show that tourism has a lot of economic and social impacts. Tourism has various forms which includes winter tourism. Skiing tourism as a form of winter tourism absorbs many tourists annually. The most important prerequisite for developing this sport is the proper environment. Provided that appropriate areas are identified and also the winter sport centers are constructed, skiing tourism is capable of attracting domestic and foreign tourists, job creation and filling leisure time as well. To call some other economic advantages of skiing tourism, it is worth mentioning export income, villagers’ out-migration prevention as the result of rural job opportunities, infrastructure investment, improvement in standard and quality of living, building a recreational place for people, increase in government revenue and so forth.

Having high and snowy mountains, Iran is among the countries, which has a boundless potential of receiving tourists in large numbers to this enlivening sport. Accordingly, the identification of areas suitable for a ski resort construction is necessary. Garrin Mount, being part of Zagros Mountain Range, is located in the west of Iran in three provinces of Lorestan, Hamedan and Kermanshah. Part of this mountain which is the border between the two provinces of Hamadan and Lorestan seems suitable for establishing a ski resort. The current study is about to investigate the possibility of nesting a ski resort in Garrin Mountain located in Gamasiyab region.

In the present study, by considering and evaluating the technical components as well as environmental conditions of Garrin Mount in Gamasiyab region and also by investigating their compliance with the standard technical components of resort construction, the capability of the desired area for this purpose can be proven. Moreover, in this research, the TCI method is adopted to calculate the “comfort climate” of the region.

Findings indicate that Garrin Mount, in terms of technical feasibility components, is perfectly suited for a ski resort and has all the necessary standards in terms of environmental conditions, climate, facilities and the potential for infrastructure construction to build a ski resort. In other words, although the region is quite virgin, it boasts of natural and man-made amenities such as water provided by local springs and streams, access roads, airport, accessibility to main cities, hospitals and clinics, police station and so on. In addition, it is absolutely suitable to develop required facilities like electricity, gas, telephone, drainage, emergency power supply, sewage and solid waste disposal.

Regarding the obtained results, by evaluating the potentials in creation of specific attractions in the area or in the vicinity of the Garrin Ski Resort, a larger market of tourists can be drawn to the resort. Thus, this mountain with its high capacities can turn into a unique potential attraction for absorbing foreign and domestic tourists. However, it requires a proper planning for tourism.

Keywords: winter tourism, sport tourism, ski tourism, TCI method, feasibility study