

The Role of National Parks in Ecotourism-A Case of Peak District National Park¹

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism activities which are varied as an alternative to coastal tourism aim to achieve sustainability and save nature. National parks which basically concentrate on saving nature and serving it to the visitors are environments for ecotourism activities. In this research, Peak District National Park was investigated to find why it has been in the foreground for more than half a century with its ecotourism activities while preserving its rich nature, history and culture. It was also investigated how these preserved areas contribute to the ecotourism activities. This research is supposed to contribute to the understanding national parks about how the resources can be used while protecting and how they serve for the public. In this research, case study model as a qualitative method was used. The data was collected in the literature review including national parks' history and functions and also the recreational sports. The website of the national park was examined. In this study, it is seen that historical, geographical and cultural elements are basically effective in the ecotourism of a national park. Also, when all the activities are run properly, the park would keep nature safe and serve for people in the long run sustainably.

Key Words: Ecotourism, National Parks, Peak District National Park, England

Jel Code/Kodu: L83

Ekoturizmde Milli Parkların Rolü-Peak District Ulusal Parkı Örneği

ÖZET

Kitle turizmine alternatif olarak görülen ekoturizm faaliyetleri, sürdürülebilirliği sağlamayı ve doğayı korumayı amaçlamaktadır. Temelde doğayı korumaya ve ziyaretçilere hizmet etmeye odaklanan milli parklar ise, ekoturizm faaliyetleri için uygun ortamlar olarak görülebilmektedirler. Bu araştırma Peak District Milli Parkı'nın, zengin doğasını, tarihini ve kültürünü korurken, ekoturizm faaliyetleriyle yarım asrı aşkın süredir nasıl ön planda olduğunu bulmak amacıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir. Ayrıca korunan alanların da bu faaliyetlere sağladığı katkılar da araştırılmıştır. Bu araştırmanın, milli parklarda kaynakların korunurken ekoturizmde nasıl kullanılabilecekleri ve halka nasıl hizmet sağlayabilecekleri konusunda literatüre katkı sağlaması beklenmektedir. Araştırmada nitel bir araştırma yöntemi olarak durum çalışması modeli kullanılmıştır. Milli parkların genel tarihi ve işlevleri ve ayrıca rekreasyonel sporları da içeren bir literatür çalışması yapılarak veriler toplanmıştır. Milli parkın internet sitesi, kitapçık ve broşürleri incelenmiştir. Yapılan bu araştırmada, bir milli parkın ekoturizm faaliyetlerinde temelde tarihi, coğrafi ve kültürel unsurların etkili olduğu görülmektedir. Ayrıca, bu faaliyetlerin doğayı ve kaynakları koruyarak yürütülmesinin, parkın korunmasını ve parkın uzun vadede sürdürülebilir bir şekilde insanlara hizmet vermesini sağladığı sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ekoturizm, Milli Parklar, Peak District Milli Parkı, İngiltere

Referans/Citation: Dinç, A. & Yılmaz, F. (2020). The Role of National Parks in Ecotourism-A Case of Peak District National Park, Bangladesh, *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Issues*, Vol. 2, No.2, 190-202.

¹ This article was presented orally at The Conference on Managing Tourism Across Continents, held between 02-04 September 2020.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Long before *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* classified national parks in the protected areas category and defined them as large areas having unique species and ecosystems, in 1832 some perceivable cases had already been faced in America. The first idea of national park must have possibly took root, when in 1832 artist George Catlin travelled to South Dakota. He was in the home of Indian people to paint that fascinating scenery. However, he was terrified to see the Indians who massacre the animal tongues for whiskey. When he came back, he stated that massacre should be stopped and also added that wilderness should be protected. That was possibly the first call for a national park. However that was neglected until US government got the idea of preservation of nature with the establishment of Yosemite State Park in 1864 and Yellowstone National Park in 1872 (Eagels & McCool, 2002: 3-12). Nevertheless, these parks didn't aim to protect the local people or culture and wilderness but only the natural resources such as waterfall, geysers or hot springs. Before New World contemplated the national park and suggested boundaries to protect the nature in 19th century, these areas had been nature worships for the people in the Far East with the religious doctrines of Taoism, Shintoizm etc. But none of them were included in a national park border (Nash, 1970: 730-731). Establishing Yellowstone National Park was the leading one for the other countries and Canada was the first one. By the end of the century, the countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico established national parks (United States Council On Environmental Quality, 1972: 331).

It is clear that before the protection of wilderness emerged in the world, some parts of the vast lands were exploited and there were not much wildland to protect. England was an old nation and when it got the movement of national park, it was already having trouble with protecting its nature. When the first national park Peak District was established in 1961, nearly 25 thousand people were living in those areas. That is why houses, towns and villages are included in the national park borders (United States Council On Environmental Quality, 1972: 733).

In time, national parks combined some aims other than ecological ones. Those are the socioeconomic goals of tourism while implementing the sustainability (Puhakka & Saarinen, 2013). That turned the national parks into a part of tourism industry attracting tourists. Soon after the national parks emerged in countries, some sectors appreciated that a profitable element as visiting a place means 'a way of the goods sale and services'. In addition to the business and sales, parks were the places which are used for sports and outdoor activities (Eagels & McCool, 2002: 11). In this respect, nearly a hundred years later when the Peak District National Park was established, lots of countries had already got the idea of national parks. England was in need of protecting the resources and wilderness and that made England include local people within the borders of the national parks to keep them safe. That possibly enabled the park to make profit as a part of ecotourism sector easily and so ecotourism activities could be run faster and wider.

This study uses case study model as a qualitative research method to search the qualifications and ecotourism management of a national park- Peak District. In this study, we can understand what the consequences of protecting practices of a national park in the long run are. This study aims to answer some questions, 'Do and how the natural resources, wilderness, culture etc. have a role in the ecotourism of national parks?', 'Does protecting the lands for a long time within 'national park' term really succeed?', 'If it does, how do they serve to public as an ecotourism land?'.

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Ecotourism

Although there is not an exact world-wide definition for ecotourism, it is generally the type of tourism which places the nature, history and the well-being of local people to forefront in the area. 'Eco-' represents the touristic activities which are not included in an urban area. UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation) describes ecotourism as 'nature based tourism'. The tourists are basically motivated to observe and appreciate the nature and the culture in these natural lands. The touristic activities are served especially for small groups by local people. The activities are aimed to reduce the negative effects of tourism. Ecotourism is 'sustainable tourism', as it promotes the conservation of natural resources, creates awareness among the local people and visitors and enables the local communities have income (UNWTO, 2002).

When the mass tourism had more and more negative impacts on nature, some alternative types of tourism emerged to minimize these effects such as ecotourism, responsible tourism, environmentally-friendly tourism, green tourism, sustainable tourism etc. No matter what the name is, they all have similar components.

With the increasing population, there happened an increasing usage of natural resources with mining, logging or agriculture and they needed to be protected. When tourism is managed properly in these protected areas, both the natural resources are kept safe and the impacts of tourism are minimized. The visitors are supposed to behave within the scope of ecotourism, not according to their motivation. However, if the ecotourism conversationists or managers in these areas don't be careful about the nature, environment or socio-economic features, there could be pollution and nature destruction will appear (Goodwin, 1996).

2.2. National park

National parks which are classified in the protected areas category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are defined as large areas offering visitors some opportunities in education, science, entertainment and spiritual areas, as well as their unique species and ecosystems. One of the other purposes of national parks, whose primary purpose is to protect the environmental characteristics of the areas and to support the educational and entertainment needs of the visitors is to make economic contributions to the local people through tourism. (IUCN, 2011)

According to the IUCN terminology table of national parks and protected areas, definitions are categorized from Category I to VI. In Category I (Strict Nature Reserve/ Wilderness Area), the protected lands are mostly based ecologically, however when we go down the list, they have more human impact. National parks are categorized in Category II and they have a population of visitors. Also, the national parks in the UK included in Category V (Protected Landscape/Seascape), as they have more human impact and activities such as farming, housing or touristic services (Eagels & McCool, 2002: 18-19).

3. METHOD

3.1. Research objective

That the purpose of the establishing a national park and the similarity in the definition of ecotourism emphasizes the role and importance of national parks in ecotourism. That made us to study an important and essential national park and find how much it has improved in time in terms of ecotourism and if it

has succeeded in protection of nature and culture. Peak District National Park which is the first national park of the country, has been carrying out ecotourism activities for more than half a century. 2014 STEAM reports show that 8.75 million visitors came to see the park and attended the activities in a year. It is seen that these activities are built on the national park's natural, historical and cultural values. This research was conducted to investigate the prominent features of the Peak District National Park in terms of the contributions to tourism. To do this, it was important to find what prominent conditions or problems caused that area to be the first national park in the UK. Nevertheless, the implementations of protecting the park must have been important in ecotourism process as it focuses on nature, environment and culture. In this research, ecotourism activities were also studied to find about how they became varied depending on park qualities subsequently. In addition, it is aimed to examine if there are negative impacts of these features on ecotourism of the region.

3.2. Importance of research

While protecting the nature, national parks aim to offer the visitors opportunities in the fields of education, science and entertainment, while also providing income to the local people. In this respect, national parks coincide with the activities of ecotourism that are based on nature protection and sustainability. They aim to increase the economic income of the local people. This similarity of definition and purpose draws attention to the importance of national parks in ecotourism. In line with this similarity of definition and purpose, Peak District National Park which has operated for more than half a century and has a high number of visitors through the rich tourism diversity and activities, has been examined. Another point about the importance of research is understanding the success of the national park after it was established in pursuit of the exploitation of these areas.

3.3. Material and methods

In this study, case study model as a qualitative research method was used to study the role of national parks in ecotourism. Peak District National Park was chosen as a case model among the other national parks because of the fact that it is a good example of some respects. Being the oldest national park, the population of visitor a year are some of the remarkable ones. In this respect the history of this national park was investigated in literature. In the beginning, to understand the the meaning and general history of 'national park', the definitions and stories were searched both in literature and the categorization of some institutes such as IUCN and UNWTO. However, in literature it seems that there are few studies about the ecotourism activities in Peak District National Park. Literature review was helpful to get the definitions or history of the ecotourism activities and some general information of Peak District National Park. By dint of the detailed instructions and information in some technological pages of national park, it was easy to get more meaningful studies, as well. Positively, the booklets of the recreational activities in the national park also include informative parts and maps. We have to say that, using technological platforms as a research material in the process contributed to this study in some respects in conclusion. It made us to conclude about the importance of technological promotion of a national park in terms of tourism.

4. FINDINGS

The United Kingdom which is located in the north of the Europe is a kingdom island consisting of 4 countries and England is the most important. These lands were inhabited by various prehistoric civilizations. One of whom built Stonehenge which is considered as one of the most important stone

monuments of the world. They were also invaded by states or communities such as Romans and Anglo-Saxons after Christ (White, 2004: 12-25). The First Elizabeth Period (when economic, social and cultural changes took place) and also The Victorian Period (when the country started to rise with mass production and railway construction during the Industrial Revolution) are the prominent periods of the country. (White, 2004: 129)

Gulf Stream, which is effective in the temperature climate of northern Europe, has also affected the UK to have a mild and wet climate (Palter, 2015:113) and the country's vegetation has been shaped accordingly. In various periods of history, artists and literati have been affected by this vegetation and geographical structure of the country and have led some literary movements in history. Namely, William Shakespeare who is the well-known English poet and writer of world literature mentioned about these lands in his play named Richard III as "This precious stone in the silver sea ..." (White, 2004:1).

UK National Parks



Figure 1. National Parks Map of The UK

Source: www.nationalparks.gov.uk

The national parks are formed by villages, towns and farms. The livelihood of people living in these parks is based on agriculture, animal husbandry and some handicrafts. However, while these local people earn their livelihood by farming, fishing, forestry, mining, handcraft, they have started to leave their professions with the trend towards tourism in recent years (Who Looks After National Parks, 2018).

United Kingdom national parks, which recorded a total of 73 million visitors (STEAM) per year in 2009, are mostly visited in the southern regions with high populations or in and around London. The effects of the practices which were implemented in the first formation of national parks in the UK have a role in the number of visitors. In other words, it is seen that the number of visitors is concentrated in the parks which are close to densely populated areas. During this period, John Gordon Dower, secretary of the Standing Committee on National Parks, reported that at least one nearby national park was to be close to large residential areas that are populous and to be easy to access. In this respect, Peak District which was founded as the first national park of the UK in 1951, stands out among other parks with its proximity to large settlements and the ease of accessibility. In addition, 93% of the visitors reach the parks by their own private cars and the other 7% reach by public transportation such as buses and trains. So, it can be thought that the reason for this is that the national parks are close to large settlements (Tourism, 2018).

With *The National Parks and Access to The Countryside Act* which was enacted in 1949 and aimed at regulating the UK national parks, the objectives of national parks were determined in general. According to this law, it is primarily aimed to protect natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage in parks of England to ensure that the characteristics and importance of national parks are understood by the local

people and public. Also, it aimed to prioritize the economic and social welfare of local people in the parks (The Aims and Purposes of National Parks, 2018). However, although these articles are aimed at preserving the values at the park boundaries and ensuring the welfare of the local people, they have been met with anxiety by some local communities. For example, local residents and authorities in Northumberland National Park have objected, fearing the stringent conservation practices to be implemented in the park and the possible heavy flow of tourists to the area. Accordingly, when Northumberland National Park was founded in 1956, the boundaries of the park were concentrated on the highlands far from the city center and also some natural beauty settlements were deliberately excluded. Generally, in Northumberland National Park where natural beauties are not included within the park boundaries, it is seen that areas with more geological or cultural heritage are included (About Us, 2020).

Apart from the problems which were confronted in the founding process of national parks, there are also negativities in the process of tourism activities. However, it is noteworthy that the people who are sensitive to the problems and seek solutions are mostly local people. For example, in Loch Lomond National Park, campers and visitors coming to the region harm to the environment and it is not allowed to camp in the region. Motor vehicles in the park are forbidden to enter these roads as 4x4 vehicles disturb the hikers, cyclists and horse-driving visitors and they cause erosion in the area. The zip wire line was planned with the idea that would provide job opportunities and visitors. However, the project was cancelled as it would spoil the nature and peace (Hot Topics, 2018).

Location and geographical features of the area- Peak District National Park

The national park which is located in the northern part of England is in the east of the city of Manchester, south of the city of Leeds and north of Birmingham. Covering a total area of 1437 km², the highest point of the national park is the Kinder Scout Point at an altitude of 636 meters. The park doesn't have a seafront. The total area of 10 national parks in England cover 9.3 % of the country.

Peak District National Park stands out with its proximity to residential areas and its easy accessibility. The park which is rich in some values such as geographical structures, local architecture and cultural elements was founded as England's first national park in 1951.

According to the 2014 STEAM reports, the number of people living within the borders of the national park is 37,905 people. It has 469 scheduled ancient monuments, 109 conservation areas, 8.75 million visitors and 11.75 overnight stays in a year. Visitors spend 541 million pounds annually (Facts and Figures, 2018).

In the UK's national parks, distinctive characteristic values such as geographical structures, endemic bird or plant species are used as symbols of the parks. As the symbol of Peak District National Park, millstones which play a decisive role in its cultural and historical heritage and among the protected values are used (Special Qualities In Peak District, 2018). The millstones whose first production dates back to the 13th century have been used by local people for centuries to grind grains such as oats, barley and rye in the region. Today, apart from the stones found in the borders of the national park, symbolic counterparts are used as symbolic indicators at the main entrance points of the park (The Peak District Millstone, 2020).

Ecotourism activities in The National Park

Factors such as the geographical feature, vegetation and historical values of the park played a determining role in the tourism activities in these areas. Although there are many different ecotourism

activities in the park, the most prominent ones are; hiking, cycling, horse-riding, rock climbing, fell-running, caving, camping, stargazing. Also, some water sports such as windsurfing, sailing and canoeing are popular. In addition to these tourism activities, some traditional and local sports such as *fell running* which is the traditional and local sport in Britain are also in the foreground in the park. Abseiling and some air sports are also popular ones in the park.

Hiking, cycling and horse riding

The trails and routes are used for hiking, cycling or for some other sports. These ways are at the center of tourism as they need the visitors to get activated in nature (Ward Perkins. D. & others, 2020). Hiking areas or trails are one of the best ecotourism areas as they are away from crowds, in the forests, on top of the mounts, near the beaches, lakes, historical land. Visitors can also find wildlife, they are dog friendly activities, as well (Romano, 2007).

In the national park, there have been some important trails. European Long Distance Path, *Trans Pennine Trail* is one of the Europe's longest walking routes and passes through Peak District National Park. This valley path which is used for salt and coal transportation also goes through the old villages and towns. The path that continues along an old train track and rows of ponds is also used for some activities such as cycling and horse riding in certain parts (Trans Pennine Trail, 2020). Another hiking trail in the national park which gets attention with its hiking routes in the country is *Derwent Valley Road*. Considered as the first examples of modern factory system, the cotton mills which belongs to the 18-19th centuries are in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This part of the path including these historical sites and some other natural areas is located within the borders of the national park (UNESCO World Heritage Center-Derwent Valley Mills, 2020). Peak District Boundary Walk surrounding the borderline around national park was determined as a 320 km long route and divided into 20 tracks. It is also observed in the park that activities which are prominent and frequently encountered in other national parks of England have been made available to disabled and elderly people. Some parts of the hiking trails in the national park are designed to be accessible to disabled, elderly and families with children (Friends of The Peak Society, 2020).

Rock climbing

Rock climbing has been demanded as a recreational activity especially for 30-35 years (Sheel A.W., 2004). Although people had been possibly climbing rocks for thousand years, it has been a sport for the last hundred years. It was the time when the British climbers trained before they went to the Alps at the beginning of 19th century. Now people find many reasons to climb on the rocks. Some find it thrilling, some love the challenge or being competitive or only enjoy being outdoor (Oxlade, 2004).

Peak District National Park, which has rocky terrain suitable for climbing, is known for having the most suitable areas for the activity in Europe. Many world famous climbers live in or around the park. In these areas which are easily accessible by public transportation, suitable space and equipments are provided for visitors of all levels and ages who want to do rock climbing (Climbing, 2020).

Fell running

Fell running is mainly a running race that is tougher and the runners compete on fells, mountains or rugged terrains like boulders or heather lands and bogs (Shevels, 2010). In addition to hiking and rock climbing, traditionally British sport fell running which has adopted to difficult nature and weather conditions, followed by uncertain, old routes and paths is another important tourism activity in Peak

District National Park. This activity is seen extensively in national parks such as Lake District and Yorkshire Dales, as well. It is sometimes carried out by including traditional celebrations and events of some towns and villages as well as organizations.

Well dressing festival

Before the Christianity appeared in Britain, people used to dress the wells and springs with flowers for powerful spirits. Rituals and dances were performed for them. When they met Christianity, they continued to dress the wells but for thanksgiving for God. In Peak District, a festival and carnival is celebrated while dressing the wells (Gogerty, 2019).

The well dressing festival has been celebrated in more than 60 settlements in the park for centuries. The wells are decorated with materials such as flower petals, stones and coffee beans. The festival is one of the organizations where fell running is organised (Fell Running, 2020).



Photo 1. A Dressed Well in The National Park

Source: derbyshire-peakdistrict.co.uk

Camping

Camping is a favoured recreational ecotourism activity as people want to stay away from the city crowds and be in nature (Salk et al., 2018) Wild camping is another term of camping which needs lots of equipments in the campers backpack. Wild camping areas are the large outdoor areas other than the designated campgrounds (Rantala & Varley, 2019). It is obvious that camping in the national park has an important place in the ecotourism activities of the park. While it is possible to camp only in places designated as camping areas, *wild camping* is not allowed in Peak District National Park Authority areas, but in areas of private owners (Camping, 2020).

Caving

After caving tourism gained popularity with a generated community in the USA in the middle of the 20th century, it became famous with the safe equipments more (Kumar, 2014). Peak District National Park has numerous caves which are also suitable for caving. In these areas, as in the rock climbing centers in the park, equipment is provided by businesses for athletes and visitors. The only cave in the UK possessing Blue John stone is located in the Peak District National Park. And the British Caving Library which has an archive of the country's caving resources is in this national park (Caving, 2020)

Stargazing

Stargazing which is also known celestial tourism or astronomy tourism is a sustainable ecotourism activity which the visitors observe the dark night skies free from air pollution (Shattuck & Cornucopia, 2001). The UK national parks also have a large number of stargazing areas due to their large land and areas

away from this city light and pollution. Among the UK national parks, some of them have stargazing areas which are awarded as the *International Sky Reserve* or *Dark Sky Discovery Site* (Dark Skies, 2018). Peak District National Park has only a few areas suitable for stargazing. The proximity of the park to large residential areas has caused the park areas to be affected by intense air and light pollution that occurred in the last century. Despite this, the park authority continues to work on specifying areas for stargazing and ensuring the international recognition of these areas. Also several designated observation areas consist of areas that are easily accessible and suitable for daytime activities and some of them are on walking routes. In these areas, there are interpretation panels which are set up to help visitors to discover.



Photo 2. An Interpretation Panel in The National Park

Source: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Abseiling

In Rubens' (1999) '*broad and narrow adventures*' classification when compared with broad adventures, narrow activities last shorter and they are more adrenaline-filled. In this category, bungee-jumping and abseiling are thrilling and short term narrow adventure sports. Abseiling is simply a climbing sport (Tomlinson et al, 2005). However adventurers climb down a mountain or bridge in contrast to rock climbing. This activity which is carried out in designated areas in the national park and by taking necessary security measures is mostly carried out in Derbyshire region such as Millersdale Viaduct (Abseiling, 2020).

Water sports (windsurfing, sailing and canoeing)

Windsurfing also known as *board sailing* is one of the most popular recreational water activities, especially lately (Dunkelman et al., 1994). Sailing was possibly practiced by the noble Dutch people first in the 17th century formally (Johnson, 1989). Since then, sailing has become a very popular recreational sport activity. Especially in UK, every year a half million people are involved in that sport in small reservoirs or open seas (Spurway et al., 2007).

In the national park, in addition to the sports such as hiking, fell running, cycling, horse riding and rock climbing, water sports such as windsurfing, sailing and canoeing are also performed in the ponds and rivers in the national park. Canal boat trips are organised on the canals in the national park, and the nature and wildlife of the region are observed during these trips (Water Sports, 2020).

Air sports

In the UK around 150.000 thousand people attend the air sports such as gliding, parachuting, hang gliding or some other ones. One third of these adventurers are the regular members of these sport activities (Elson et al., 1989). Among the air sports, the ones such as gliding, paragliding and hang gliding are performed in the national park. They are sportive activities that are carried out from high and

hilly areas to lower points and preferred by adrenaline lovers. There are training schools and courses for these events. To watch these events, the area where many tourists visit can be reached by public transportation (Air Sports, 2020).

5. CONCLUSION

Ecotourism in a national park enables the visitors to get experienced and educated about the park's nature and environment. Lately, national parks have some new recreational activities such as hang-glider, rock climbing etc. And they make the visitors get in touch with the local culture (Eagels & McCool, 2002: 44-67).

It is obvious that the historical and geographical features of Peak District National Park, which is an exemplary study to understand the role of national parks in ecotourism with its local architectural and cultural elements are the basis of these activities. The millstones belonging to the local culture of the region and the settlements with the first modern factory system examples in history, are historical features that are effective in the ecotourism of the national park. It could be said that the earliest national parks would have more visitors as they include lots of historical settlements and they got the national park statue before the other ones (Henrickson & Johnson, 2013)

In addition, ecotourism activities such as hiking, rock climbing, fell running, caving, stargazing, abseiling and some air and water sports are shaped by the geographical characteristics. Especially combining the walking routes with areas where water sports, stargazing or historical and cultural values are available increases the use of these areas. It also enables different ecotourism activities to be carried out at the same time.

Also, the fact that the tourism areas which are arranged for the use of disabled, elderly and families with children has increased the accessibility of the park. Peak District National Park which is located close to the city centers has provided visitors with easier access to the park. However this situation also caused stargazing activities which are carried out in other national parks intensely to be limited in this national park due to the air and light pollution. Because, pollution problems appear as these areas are close to the large residential areas, although dark sky activities concentrate on sustainability (Brown, 2018).

Since the national park was established to protect the wilderness or nature and culture in that area, that is succeeded with the help of the right park management rules and practices. That also affected the recreational ecotourism activities. However, it is seen that protecting practices have nothing to do with stargazing activities. Also, in order to increase the accessibility of stargazing, it is seen that these areas are designated close to walking routes and other public transportation lines. Local and traditional sports such as fell running are supported by various local activities or organisations and so the continuity is ensured. With the purpose of protecting the park, wild camping is only permitted on private property land and so the park is controlled.

With all these results, it can be seen that Peak District National Park takes the advantage of its characteristics effectively in ecotourism activities. Its proximity to city centers, in particular, ensures that it has a high number of visitors and at the same time it has prevented some activities to be done by causing air and light pollution. However, the number of visitors is tried to be increased by supporting these sports with different sports and activities.

The effectiveness of tourism is basically about supporting and advertising of the areas' qualifications such as economical, natural or cultural. There should be also guidance for tourist behaviours (Saxena,

2006) It is obvious that technological accessibility has a place in ensuring the recognition of the national park. Visitors of the national park are given detailed information about the park's history, national park authority and various opportunities such as ecotourism activities and they are guided in planning their visits.

In this study a few limitations were faced as ecotourism activities in the park should have been more accurate especially in numbers and land sizes. That could be more understandable about how large these activities are. Field research in those areas would be more precise about getting more visual data or interviews with the staff or visitors. However in this research, written resources in literature, national park booklets or some other technological sources can also enable the research get enough data to understand the activities of the national park. According to all those findings, it shows that other countries having national parks can use various ways to include the parks in ecotourism while protecting the areas within the park boundaries. Facilitating the park's accessibility by public transportation will increase the number of visitors to the national park. In addition, making ecotourism activities suitable for the elderly, disabled and families with children will facilitate the access of all the public. When transportation is difficult or there are situations that prevent the full applicability of the activity, these activities should be supported with different ecotourism activities and should be made to attract more visitors. In order to increase the recognition of the park technological facilities should be increased and also promotions and explanations should be presented on these platforms where visitors can get detailed information about the national park and increase their interest.

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