

**Status and causes for the change in the concentration of
natural marine wealth – Coral Reefs**

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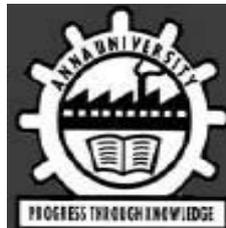
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ABSTRACT

Coral reefs are under water structures and natural marine wealth which is present in more than 100 countries. In many ways its useful - protects the seashore from natural ocean disaster, home to one third of all fishes, and generates revenue by tourism. The reefs are at risk by the changing climate, legal and illegal extractions by the human beings. In India, more than 25% of the corals are dead, 20% are in risky stage and 25% are in the threatened stage. Corals are extracted by four ways-Marine-based pollution, Overexploitation, Coastal development and Inland pollution and Erosion. The present study valuates the concentration of corals and the reasons for these getting depleted by both natural and man made activities. The present work also provides suggestions and recommendations for the protection of the natural marine wealth –corals in our country perspective based on the policies and regulations being formulated in other countries. In the present dissertation work, we have developed an economic valuation method for the coral reef associated tourism for the two islands in Indian Ocean - Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep. The coral reef associated tourism generates revenue by not only from the tourist visit but also by the accommodation, recreation of the tourists in the locations where reefs are concentrated.