



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Trends and Patterns of Temporal Tourism Growth in Gilgit Baltistan Region, Pakistan**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research based study deals the growth trends of tourism in Gilgit Baltistan temporally for the first two decades of the current century. Gilgit Baltistan is globally known for tourism activities because of peculiar mountainous landscape. Secondary data in terms of tourists' inflow is taken from the Ministry of tourism Gilgit Baltistan and trend pattern is observed for the given period. The temporal arrival of domestic tourists during 2000 to 2020 perked up from thousands to millions in the study area. Domestic tourists with 1.39 million in the year 2019 are the highest influx during the study period. The arrival of local tourists which was less than international tourists in the very beginning of study period has now much improved. The local tourists dominated the total arrival of tourists in the region now. Gilgit division hosted the highest number of domestic tourists during the mentioned years followed by Baltistan division. Seasonally, the month of summer is the main tourism season in the region. Winter is most daunting season in term of tourists' arrival in the region. The number of international tourist's arrival is in thousands in the study area. The highest arrival of foreign tourists is 10829 in 2019. The percentage of international tourists in Gilgit Baltistan out of total foreign tourists' arrival in Pakistan remained less than one for many years during 2000 to 2020. The trend of domestic tourists' influx remained increasing and upward while that of international tourists was decreasing and downward during the study duration. The study period overall witnessed growth of tourism in term of tourists' influx in the region.

**KEYWORDS** Domestic Tourists, International Arrival, Temporal Influx, Tourism

**Introduction**

The arrival of tourists at a tourist destination or resort other than the local community, including both the foreigners and tourists from other administrative units of the country during a month, season, cultural or sports event and festivals determine the temporal tourists' inflow (Choi & Sirakaya-Turk, 2011; Liu et al., 2019). The temporal inflow of the tourists in an area or a country is statistically recorded by the concern departments according to different perspectives including "place of origin, purpose of visit, duration of stay and other information for mostly the foreign tourists and for the domestic tourists too in some regions (Terrier, 2006; Nunkoo, 2016).

Among the core domestic as well as foreign tourist destinations, north most areas of Pakistan (Gilgit Baltistan) has a unique recognition with rich culture, matchless handicraft, distinctive local food, beautified nature, highest mountains and largest glaciers following glaciers of Polar region (Arshad et al., 2018; Nigar, 2018; Arif et al., 2019). In this region tourism uplifts the economy by providing opportunities of employment and source of income generation to the local community and the region is getting national and international level fame (Israr et al., 2010; Khan, 2017). In Gilgit Baltistan region tourism sector is considered as a latent factor for economic growth of the region because tourism is a major economic contributor of the region (Fazlur-Rahman et al., 2013).

A large number of tourists including both national and international visit this region every year (Baloch, 2007; Rasul & Manandhar, 2009). As far as tourists' influx is concerned, a reasonable number of the domestic and foreign tourists in Pakistan visit Gilgit Baltistan region for different purposes of tourism activities especially for adventure tourism and expedition (Abbas et al., 2015). Due to this high influx of tourists both positive as well as negative potential effects are overall prevailing there, especially on the local peripheral communities and environment (Ahmed & Anwar, 2016; Saqib et al., 2019).

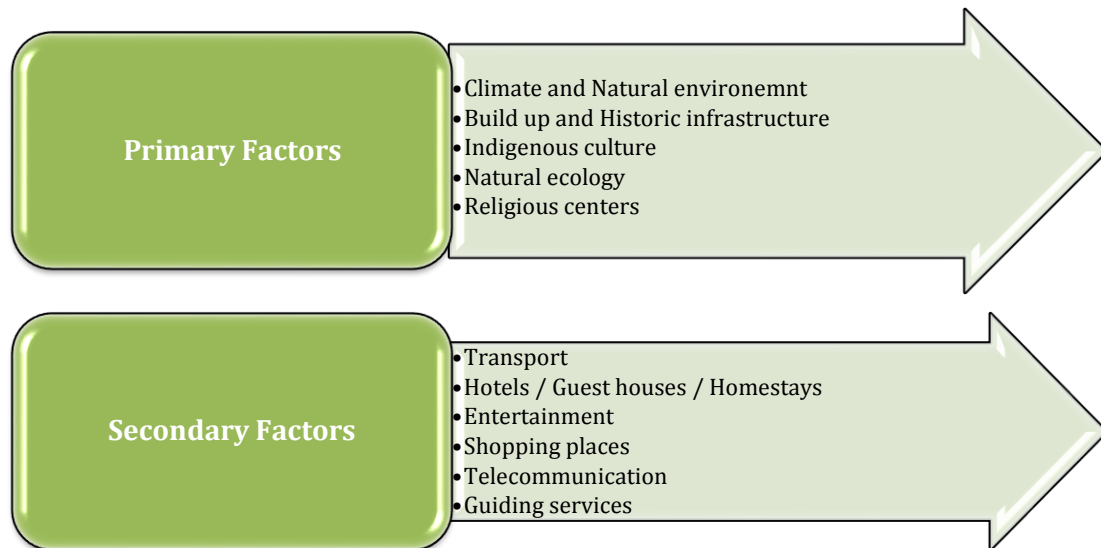
### **Literature Review**

Due to its role in boosting the global economy, the tourism industry is quickly growing and increasing throughout the world. It is clear and apparent how positively the tourism industry contributes to the growth of national economies all around the world. The influx of tourists from around the world benefits a nation in a variety of ways, including by generating job possibilities for young people (Manzoor et al., 2019). The provision of transportation services, including public transportation and unique private services, lodging, entertainment, and leisure activities, as well as chances for shopping, particularly for regionally produced goods and food, are all included in tourism (Hwang & Lee, 2019).

The engagement of several stakeholders and the connection of numerous linked businesses shaped tourism activities as a "complex social system." This system is disclosed through; the communities that are close to a tourist attraction site are known as hosting communities. Individuals, groups, and families who visit these locations are known as tourists. Tour operators run the tours they organize, Hospitality managers "facilitate in accommodation and food" for the visitors (McCabe, 2005; Uran & Juvan, 2010).

The tourists' inflow at a tourist destination helps in determining the capacity of tourism activities and its advancement because tourists are the main source and actual strength of this industry (Yorucu, 2016). The inflow of tourists is categorized in two types: "domestic tourist inflow" for the tourists who visit within country and "international tourists' inflow" for the tourists who visit from another country. The domestic tourists generally dominate the inflow throughout the world but the inflow of international tourists is also common. Through economical perspectives, the inflow of both types of tourists is significant (Zoltan & Mckercher, 2015; Baig & Hussain, 2020).

As tourism contributes in socio-economic stratification of the communities by providing opportunities of employment, income generation and infrastructural development (Chiu, 2021), likewise there are also many factors which share in "growth and expansion" of tourism activities. Many components are there which have key role in strengthening the contributing factors as; a place known as historical site, peculiar building, mountainous track, a beach or something else (Ramesh & Muralidhar, 2019; Lin et al., 2020). These factors determine the importance of a locality in tourism perspectives that either a locality has the capability to be called a tourist destination or not (Khadaroo & Seetana, 2007). According to Duyen & Thoa (2021), the factors which positively facilitate in expansion of tourism activities and its growth can be classified as primary and secondary factors.



**Methods and Materials**

**Study Area**

The study area for the current research is the north most region of Pakistan, Gilgit Baltistan. “Its absolute location is 32° 10' 0" to 37° 20' 0" N latitude and 72° 40' 0" to 80° 50' 0" E longitude” (Figure 1). It shares national border with AJK “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” to the South, KPK “Khyber Pakhtunkha” province to the West. The international border comprises Afghanistan “Wakhan Corridor” to the North West, China “Xinjiang region” to the North and North East and IOK “Indian occupied Kashmir” to the South East.

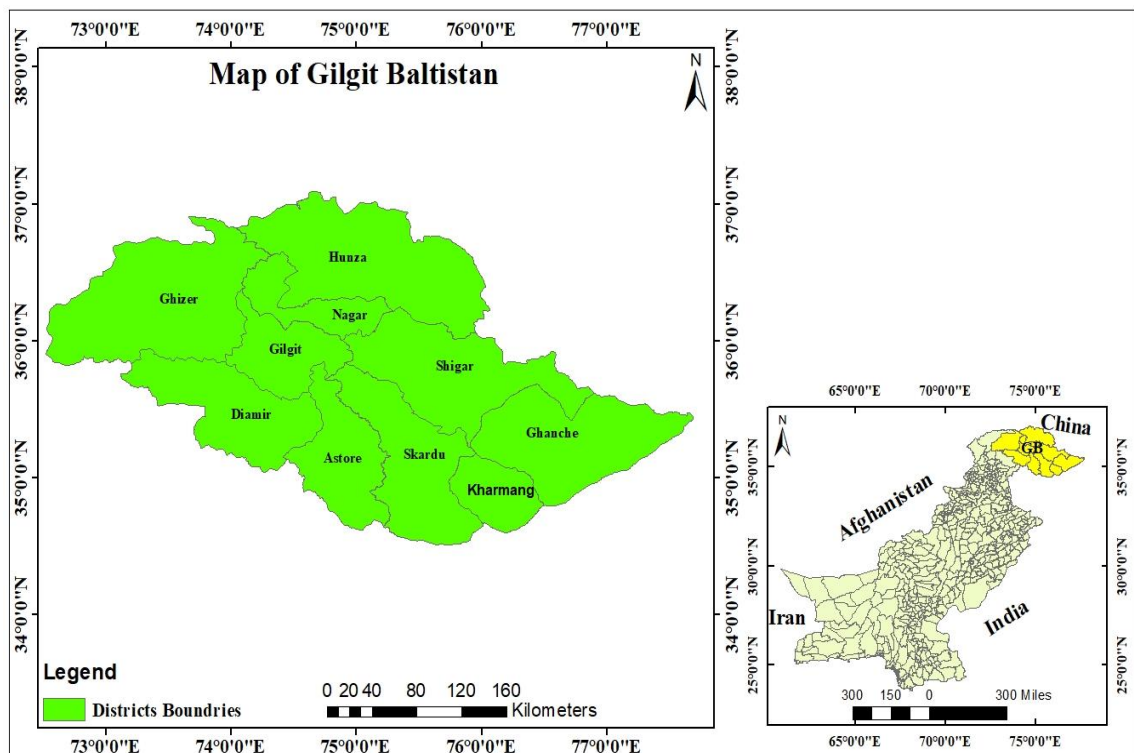


Fig. 1 Location of Gilgit Baltistan

**Data Collection and Analysis**

This research is based on quantitative research approach. The secondary data in terms of tourists’ inflow towards Gilgit Baltistan spatially and temporally are taken. A study

period is defined first of all, for acquisition of the required data which covers recent two decades; 2000 to 2020. The inflow of tourists including both the domestic and international tourists during the study period towards the study area is gained from; "Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports GB", Tourism Secretariat GB, Tourism Directorate GB and Police Department GB (the arrival of tourists is registered at different check posts of Police). The secondary data is collected for all the three administrative divisions of the study area; Gilgit, Baltistan and Diamer. The reports of World Bank with the data of international tourists' arrival in Pakistan are also accessed to compare the temporal international arrival in Pakistan and its share towards Gilgit Baltistan during the specified time period. Trend analysis is also determined for the statistical data of tourists through trend line and analytical research approach is employed to discuss the outcomes of statistical results. Excel Worksheet is used to apply trend analysis and Arc GIS is used for mapping of study area.

## **Results and Analyses**

### **Temporal inflow of Domestic and International Tourists**

The arrival of "local and international tourists" determines the growth and development of tourism. The economical activities related to tourism also depend on tourists' inflow. The increase in temporal arrival of tourists shows the capability of the area to attract the tourists inside and outside the country. In GB region, the arrival of tourists; both the locals and foreigners are frequent. The summer season is considered tourism season in the region as majority of the tourists visit this region in summer. The local tourists from different part of country travel towards GB to spend few days or weeks of their summer vacation. The foreigners mainly visit this region in summer for trekking and expedition on mountainous trekking routes and to expedite the eight thousanders.

### **Temporal arrival of local tourists in GB during 2000 - 2010**

The percentage of local tourists among the total number of arrivals in a year is also analyzed in the table. Total arrival in the table shows the overall number of tourists including both the "domestic and international tourists". According to the statistics of below table, the arrival of local tourists was in thousands. 8976 tourists from different region of Pakistan visited Gilgit Baltistan in 2000. The percentage of only 47% out of total arrival of tourists shows that the arrival of local tourists was little bit less than international tourists. In 2001, the temporal increase is obvious in local tourists as the number reaches to 15685 and percentage out of total tourists also improves with 64%. The statistics of 2002 according to the table shows the lowest arrival of domestic tourists during last two decades as only 2000 tourists arrived in GB. The percentage out of total number of tourists which is 40% is also the lowest during 2000 to 2020. The temporal arrival of tourist starts increasing from 2003 as 5051 local tourists visits the region in 2003 and the percentage of local tourists also starts enhancing this year. In 2004 - 05 the arrival of local tourists reaches 9191 and 9944 respectively (Table 1).

In 2006, the temporal arrival of domestic tourists increases thrice than the last year, as 33218 tourists visit GB this year and the percentage out of total arrival shows 88% of local tourists. The year 2007 witness reduction of almost ten thousand tourists, as only 23770 locals reach in the study area with 77% including international tourists. In 2008 more than thirty thousand tourists as compare to the last year reach in GB. The exact figure for this year is 54040 with 88% among total arrival. In 2009 this statistic increases a bit as 54602 tourists visit GB while the percentage remains same. The last year of first decade of this century host 45300 domestic tourists in Gilgit Baltistan, the overall percentage decreases 3% this year as it reaches 85% (Table 1).

### Temporal arrival of local tourists in GB during 2011 - 2020

The first year of second decade of this century entertained 61233 domestic tourists in the study area with 92% of total number of tourists including international tourists. In 2012, the arrival of tourists abruptly decreases as only 28893 locals visit GB region with the percentage of 87% among total arrivals. The abrupt reduction in tourists' arrival this year is because of sectarian attacks on passengers in Chilas area of Diamer district. In the beginning of 2012, tens of passengers belonging to Gilgit and Baltistan division were killed in Diamer on sectarian basis. The tension prevailed for the whole year due to this incident (Table 1).

The tourism activities in GB again perk up in 2013, as 51914 domestic tourists reach in the region. This figure contributes 92% among total arrivals. The domestic arrival also remains higher than fifty thousand in the year 2014 with 50304 tourists and the total arrival percentage improves 1% than the last. The year 2015, observe the temporal arrival of local tourists in record figures as 200651 individuals arrive in GB as tourists. The overall percentage also touches 98%, which is highest than ever. In 2016, the figure shows the temporal arrival more than double than the last year. The number of domestic arrival is recorded 439685 this year and comparison to the international tourists reveals that among the tourists 99% of the tourists are locals. In the very next year, more than three lac tourists as compare to the last year's figure visit GB region while the total arrival percentage remains same. In year 2018, the domestic arrival reaches the maximum for the study period as more than one million tourists moved to Gilgit Baltistan with the figure of 1391628 and no change in percentage of total arrival as the percentage is already touching 99%. In 2019 the region once again hosts more than one million tourists from different regions of Pakistan. The COVID - 19 pandemic causes major disruption in arrival of local tourists due to ban on inter provincial travelling. The reduction of approximately four lac local tourists is faced by the region. Only 633246 tourists reach GB this year (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**Temporal inflow of local Tourists in Gilgit Baltistan 2000 - 2020**

S. No.	Year	Local Tourists	Total Arrival	% of locals
01	2000	8976	19058	47%
02	2001	15685	24393	64%
03	2002	2000	4941	40%
04	2003	5051	8052	62%
05	2004	9191	12705	72%
06	2005	9944	14938	66%
07	2006	33218	37482	88%
08	2007	23770	30820	77%
09	2008	54040	61090	88%
10	2009	54602	62330	88%
11	2010	45300	53028	85%
12	2011	61233	66475	92%
13	2012	28893	33217	87%
14	2013	51914	56415	92%
15	2014	50304	53746	93%
16	2015	200651	204733	98%
17	2016	439685	444458	99%
18	2017	781224	787436	99%
19	2018	1391628	1400655	99%
20	2019	1023023	1033852	99%
21	2020	633246	634344	99.8%

Source: (Tourism Department Gilgit Baltistan, 2020)

### **Trend analysis of domestic tourists' temporal arrival**

Trend analysis shows the increasing or decreasing pattern of quantitative data therefore it is used to observe the pattern of temporal inflow of domestic tourists. The variability and consistency among the data of temporal arrival and the upward and downward trend is also easy to view through graphical illustration. The steepness of trend line is also helpful to understand the nature of abrupt decline or increase in the data and the steepness is obvious in the given data below.

The domestic arrival of tourists in Gilgit Baltistan reasonably increased. The increasing and upward trend of domestic tourists is apparent. In the beginning years, the increase in temporal arrival is not perceptible. The upward trend starts from 2005 and keeps on increasing. The overall trend shows the upward increase of approximately 0.7 million. From 2000 to 2014, the arrival of local tourists is less than 1 lac. The arrival prevails between 0.2 million to 0.7 million for 2015 to 2017. In the year 2018, the arrival reaches the peak and approximately touches 1.4 million tourists. For the year 2019, although the number of arrival decreases but still shows more than one million.

### **Spatial Distribution of local tourists in GB 2014 – 2020**

The spatial distribution of domestic tourists in Gilgit Baltistan presents an insight of district wise dealing of domestic tourists for different years. Keeping in mind, the authenticity of data, the spatial distribution is tabulated for seven years, 2014 to 2020.

#### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Gilgit**

District Gilgit hosts 26712 domestic tourists in 2014 while this number increases two times in 2015 and it reaches to 79291. The temporal arrival of tourists in Gilgit crosses one lac as 181271 tourists arrived in 2016 and more than double as compare to the previous year. In 2017, the statistics show reduction of approximately 20000 tourists as the total number for this year is 162855. The year 2018 hosts the maximum number of local tourists in Gilgit district with 457315 tourists. This is highest ever recorded number in Gilgit. In 2019, the domestic tourists' arrival once again remains in six digits but it decreases little bit than the last year (Table 2).

#### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Skardu**

District Skardu is headquarter of Baltistan division and the tourists to other districts of Baltistan division also have to reach Skardu to go towards the final destination. Skardu is considered the centre of all economic and administrative activities including tourism in the division. In 2014, 16049 domestic tourists reach in Skardu to visit their desired destinations. This number increases more than double in 2015 with 38855 local tourists. In 2016, Skardu hosts 47789 domestic tourists in the district with the enhancement of 8934 tourists than previous the year. In 2017, temporal arrival of local tourists in Skardu reaches to the highest recorded figures as 303086 tourists arrive in Skardu this year. In 2018, the arrival of domestic tourists abruptly declines and reaches to 33325. The number of domestic tourists in 2019 increases as compare to the last year. 102756 domestic tourists visit Skardu in 2019. In 2020, COVID – 19 broadly affects the tourism sector due to ban on travelling that's why only 15486 domestic tourists reach Skardu for tourism activities (Table 2).

#### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Diamer**

Diamer district is the administrative centre of Diamer division in GB. This district is known as gateway of Gilgit Baltistan as it shares border with KPK province and the travelers from different region of Pakistan first enter in Diamer to reach GB. Only 2427 local tourists visit Diamer district in 2014. In 2015, a minor increase is observed in the domestic arrival as 3614 tourists visit the district. The temporal arrival increases in 2016 and reaches to the highest recorded level with 103409 local tourists. In 2017, the number of domestic tourists

in the district shows 84454 tourists, which is less than the previous year. In the next year, the domestic arrival reaches to 91091 tourists. The year 2019 hosts 45846 local tourists in Diamer district (Table 2).

### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Ghizer**

District Ghizer is one of the four districts of Gilgit division. This district shares its border with Chitral valley of KPK province. The arrival of tourists is less in Ghizer as compare to other districts. The temporal arrival of domestic tourists remains less than six thousands as per the study period and accessed data. 3334 and 2536 domestic tourists arrive respectively in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, only 3093 local tourists visit the district which increases to 5817 in 2017. In 2018, Ghizer hosts 5755 domestic tourists in the district while this figure further reduces in 2019 with 4390 local tourists from different regions of the country (Table 2).

### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Ganche**

Ganche is one of the main districts of Baltistan division. It shares its border with India and Khaplu is the administrative headquarter of the district. The historical architecture in terms of fort and mosque is famous here. The temporal arrival of domestic tourists discloses that 1118 locals arrive in the district in 2014. The number of arrival further increase to 13001 local tourists in 2015. In 2016, 17910 domestic tourists reach in Ganche for tourism activity which is the highest number of tourists ever recorded. In 2017, 6731 local arrival is observed in the district. The year 2018 observes 7590 local tourists while the figures show 9360 domestic tourists in 2019 (Table 2).

### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Astore**

Astore district is one of the two districts of Diamer division. Astore is famous for lush green mountainous valleys. The Sheosar Lake in Deosai plains of Astore district is known world widely. The data of temporal arrival of domestic tourists in the district reveals that only 104 tourists arrive in 2014. The year 2015 observes 3553 locals as tourists in Astore while this number further increase in 2016 with 5667 local tourists. In year 2017, 22933 local tourists from different regions of the country reach Astore. The domestic arrival is recorded highest in 2018 with 45774 domestic tourists and this number declines in 2019 as only 18679 local tourists visit the district (Table 2).

### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Hunza**

Hunza is a district in Gilgit division of GB region. Hunza as a valley is a famous tourists' destination within and outside the country. Beside the mountainous landscape, the Altit and Baltit forts of Hunza and Ataabad Lake attracts reasonable number of tourists. The temporal arrival of domestic tourists in Hunza districts unveils that 14610 locals reach in 2014. This number increase approximately three times in 2015, as 59484 domestic tourists arrive here. In 2016, the arrival of local tourists reaches to 80592. The district hosts 175000 domestic tourists in 2017. The year 2018 observes further enhancement in temporal arrival as the highest number of tourists is listed with 430000 local tourists. In the year 2019, the arrival of domestic tourists reaches to 309812 in Hunza district (Table 2).

### **Spatial Distribution of Local Tourists in District Nagar**

Nagar is a district of Gilgit division administratively in Gilgit Baltistan. It was formerly administered under Hunza district. Due to part of Hunza district, the data of temporal arrival of tourists before 2017 is not available. The data of domestic arrival for the year 2017 shows that 12448 local tourists arrive in the district. With the enhancement of 8330 tourists, the number of domestic arrival becomes 20778 in 2018. The district hosts 55861 local tourists in 2019 from the four provinces and other territories of Pakistan (Table 2).

**Table 2**  
**District wise Distribution of Domestic Tourists in Gilgit Baltistan**

Sr.	District	Temporal inflow of Domestic Tourists 2014 - 2020						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	<b>Gilgit</b>	26712	79291	181271	162855	457315	455319	-
2	<b>Skardu</b>	16049	38855	47789	301086	33325	102756	15486
3	<b>Diamer</b>	2427	3614	103409	84454	91091	45846	-
4	<b>Ghizer</b>	3334	2536	3093	5817	5755	4390	-
5	<b>Ganche</b>	1118	13001	17910	6731	7590	9360	-
6	<b>Astore</b>	104	3552	5667	22933	45774	18679	-
7	<b>Hunza</b>	14610	59484	80592	175000	430000	309812	-
8	<b>Nagar</b>	-	-	-	12448	20778	55861	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>64354</b>	<b>200333</b>	<b>439731</b>	<b>781224</b>	<b>1391628</b>	<b>1023023</b>	<b>633246</b>

Source: (Tourism Department GB, 2020)

### Month Wise Temporal Distribution of Domestic Tourists in GB

The month wise distribution of local tourists in Gilgit Baltistan is helpful to be aware of season based tourism. This distribution further informs about the months with highest tourists arrival in the region and also the months in which the tourism activities declines due to decrease in tourists' inflow. The weather and season play vital role in determination of increase or decrease in domestic arrivals. Summer season is known as tourism season in GB region as the weather becomes pleasant. The temperature also remains low as compare to other regions of Pakistan. This is why the domestic tourists direct towards the region.

### Month Wise Temporal Distribution of Domestic Tourists during 2007 - 2011

According to the figure the highest number of domestic tourists towards Gilgit Baltistan; the study area arrives in June. In all the five years from 2007 to 2011, the month of June illustrates the peak point. Except 2007, other four years; 2008 to 2011, the months of August and September is following June to receive the higher number of domestic tourists. The month of September is second in the year 2007. The figure further reveals that the enhancement in temporal arrival of local tourists starts in March and declines in the month of October to onward. January and February are the two months where the arrival of domestic tourists turns down to minimum in Gilgit Baltistan. Comparison of the months of spring season; March and April with the months of winter season; November and December; the data discloses that the number of domestic tourists' monthly arrival is bit higher in spring season (Figure 3).

### Month Wise Temporal Distribution Of Domestic Tourists during 2012 - 2016

The statistical data acquired from the concerned authority is demonstrated through line graph in excel sheet. The arrival of tourists is shown with the interval of 500 numbers in vertical axis while all the twelve months of the year is placed in horizontal axis. The year 2012 and 2013 show that the arrival of domestic tourists is highest in July whereas the number of local tourists reaches to maximum number in June for the next three years; 2014 - 2016 consecutively. The month of June is following July regarding domestic tourists' arrival in 2012 and 2013 while the month of June is followed by July for the same purpose during 2014 to 2016. The comparison of August and September to specify the third month with the high number of domestic tourists reveals that, during this study period higher number of tourists arrives in September than August. January and February are the two months with lowest arrival of local tourists. The arrival upwards from the month of March and declines from October according to the given data (Figure 3).

Seasonal categorization shows that summer season is once again the best season in terms of domestic tourists' arrival in GB. The next better season regarding local tourists' arrival in the study area is autumn season. Spring season is better than winter season



according to the data of temporal arrival of tourists' month wise. But in the overall categorization, spring season is third in number. The arrival of Pakistani tourists is lowest in winter season as the arrivals are in initial hundreds. The severe climatic conditions in winter season, fall of temperature in double figure below the freezing point and frequent snow fall are the reasons behind the lowest number of arrival in winter season.

### Temporal arrival of international tourists in GB during 2000 - 2010

The percentage of international tourists among total tourists is also specified. Total arrival is the collective data of all the tourists including local tourists, foreigner, trekkers and expedition parties.

A total of 10082 foreigners visit GB in 2000 as tourists. This year witness higher arrival of international tourists than the locals as 53% of the total tourists represents the foreigners. In 2001 the number reduces to 8708 and the percentage also decline with 36% out of total tourists. The local tourists dominate in numbers this year. Only 2941 foreign tourists reach the study area in 2002 for different tourism activities but the percentage out of total arrivals show the highest for the duration of study with 60%. The international tourists dominate this year because the arrival of locals remains less. The prevailing sectarian uncertainty in the region is the main reason behind this declination. In the year 2003, GB hosts 3001 foreigners as tourist in the region with 38% out of total tourists' arrival. 3514, 4994 and 4264 international tourists reach in GB in the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. The overall percentage also remains less. 7050 foreigners visit the region in both the year 2007 and 2008. The total percentage differs in both years as 23% of total tourists represent international tourists in 2007 while only 12% of the non local tourists cover the total arrivals. For the years 2009 and 2010, the temporal arrival of international tourists is also same with the recorded number of 7728. The overall percentage is 12% for both years. The reduction in the percentage of foreign tourists is due to enhancement in arrival of local tourists in the region (Table 2).

### Temporal influx of international tourists in GB during 2011 - 2020

In 2011, 5242 foreign tourists visit GB out of total arrival of 66475. The percentage shows 08% percent out of total arrivals. The number of international arrivals reaches to 4324 in the year 2012 with 13% of overall tourists. The next year 2013 observes little increase of 4501 with increase in overall percentage. In the year 2014, 3442 foreigners reach as tourists in the region with one percent decrease in overall percentage. The year 2015 records 4082 tourists as foreigners whereas the total arrival's share declines to only 02%. In 2016, 4773 international tourists visit the region with 1% of overall share. The percentage out of total tourists remains the same for next three years while the temporal arrival is different. 6212 and 9027 international tourists arrive in the year 2017 and 2018 respectively. The year 2019 records the highest influx of international tourists in GB with 10829 individuals. This increase abruptly decrease in 2020 due to COVID - 19 and only 1098 foreign tourists reach the region with 0.2% of overall tourists (Table 2).

**Table 3**  
**Temporal inflow of international Tourists in Gilgit Baltistan 2000 - 2020**

Sr.	Year	International Tourists	Total Arrival	% of Foreigners
01	2000	10082	19058	53%
02	2001	8708	24393	36%
03	2002	2941	4941	60%
04	2003	3001	8052	38%
05	2004	3514	12705	28%
06	2005	4994	14938	34%
07	2006	4264	37482	12%
08	2007	7050	30820	23%

09	2008	7050	61090	12%
10	2009	7728	62330	12%
11	2010	7728	53028	15%
12	2011	5242	66475	08%
13	2012	4324	33217	13%
14	2013	4501	56415	08%
15	2014	3442	53746	07%
16	2015	4082	204733	02%
17	2016	4773	444458	01%
18	2017	6212	787436	01%
19	2018	9027	1400655	01%
20	2019	10829	1033852	01%
21	2020	1098	634344	0.2%

Source: (Tourism Department Gilgit Baltistan, 2020)

The trend line is also drawn to analyze the upward or downward trend of international arrivals. First of all the line graph shows major difference in the data as there is sharp declination in 2002. The major difference is also obvious in the arrival of international tourists in 2019 and 2020. In 2019, the line is touching the maximum extend while the same is touching the lowest number in 2020. The arrival of foreign tourists is not stagnant in the region according to the acquired data. The frequent ups and downs are apparent in temporal arrival (Figure 5).

The trend line discloses that the trend of international tourists' arrival in GB is decreasing and downward. The arrival of foreigners declines in initial years and takes 18 years to reach the same peak. The downward trend starts with the reduction of approximately six thousands tourists and till 2012 it remains between five to six thousand differences. The trend line's steepness is not gentle, which shows that although the trend of international tourists' arrival is downward but the decreasing is not high in numbers (Figure 5).

### **Arrival of international tourists in Pakistan and share of Gilgit Baltistan**

This specified study is helpful in comparison of international tourists' temporal inflow data in Pakistan and GB. It is not necessary that all the foreign tourists who visit Pakistan also visit Gilgit Baltistan. Out of millions of arrival in Pakistan only thousands of international tourists arrive in GB. The arrival of international tourists in Pakistan is very high than their arrival in GB region. The tabulated data shows that the international arrival in Pakistan during 2000 to 2010 prevails among 0.5 million to 0.9 million while in the same duration the arrival of foreigners in GB persists among 2941 to 10082 in numbers. The percentage of international tourists in GB reveals that the highest share is 1.8% and the lowest share for this duration is 0.4% (Table 3).

The temporal arrival of international tourists increases more during 2011 to 2020 in Pakistan. For four years the influx reaches to 1.16 million to 3.5 millions. The number remains in same range as previous in the study area. For the whole duration from 2011 to 2020, the percentage share of GB shows 0.3% to 0.4% arrivals. The lowest overall arrival in Pakistan during this duration is 0.53 million. The year wise difference of international tourists' column unwraps that the difference is frequent in both increasing and decreasing pattern in the region. To make the foreigners' arrival in GB consistent and increasing, there is direly need of planning by the stakeholders (Table 3).

**Table 4**  
**Total Arrival of foreigners in Pakistan and percentage in GB 2000 - 2020**

Year	Foreigners in Pakistan	International Tourists in GB	Year wise Difference in GB	Percentage of International Tourists in GB
2000	557000	10082	-	1.8%
2001	500000	8708	-1374	1.7%
2002	498000	2941	-5767	0.5%
2003	501000	3001	-60	0.5%
2004	648000	3514	+513	0.5%
2005	798000	4994	+1480	0.6%
2006	898000	4264	-730	0.4%
2007	840000	7050	+2786	0.8%
2008	823000	7050	No change	0.8%
2009	855000	7728	+678	0.9%
2010	907000	7728	No change	0.8%
2011	1161000	5242	-2486	0.4%
2012	966000	4324	-918	0.4%
2013	565212	4501	+177	0.8%
2014	530000	3442	-1059	0.6%
2015	563400	4082	+640	0.7%
2016	965498	4773	+691	0.5%
2017	1750000	6212	+1439	0.3%
2018	1900035	9027	+2815	0.4%
2019	3500000	10829	+1802	0.3%
2020	-	1098	-9731	-

Source: (World Bank, 2020 for International tourists' inflow in Pakistan and Tourism Department GB, 2020 for international tourists in GB)

Temporal arrival of local tourists in Gilgit Baltistan during 2000 to 2010 remained in thousands. The number of local tourists during the early years of this decade was less than international tourists. The year 2010 hosts maximum number of domestic tourists with 54602 arrivals. The percentage of local tourists among total arrivals during the same period including international tourists varied from 40% to 88%. The study duration of 2010 to 2020 revealed that 2018 was a remarkable year in term of local tourists' influx towards Gilgit Baltistan. 1.39 million of domestic tourists visited the region this year. This number is highest ever recorded number for domestic influx. The percentage of local tourists varied from 87% to 99.8% during this period. Domestic tourists dominated the total arrival through the duration. The trend of local tourists' arrival showed upward and increasing trend during 2000 to 2020.

The spatial distribution of local tourists' district wise during 2014 - 2020 disclosed that Gilgit district hosted maximum number of domestic tourists. The minimum number of local tourists in Gilgit district was 26712 while the maximum number of tourists was 457315. Hunza district followed Gilgit district to host the domestic tourists. The highest influx of local tourists in the district recorded 430000 while the lowest arrival was 14610. District Skardu of Baltistan region witnessed highest number of domestic tourists after Gilgit and Hunza. The influx of domestic tourists towards district Ghizer remained lowest in the given time period. The number of arrival in Ghizer varied from 2536 (lowest) to 5817 (highest).

The seasonal hierarchy in term of domestic tourist's arrival in Gilgit Baltistan region illustrated that summer season is considered tourism season in the region. The autumn season hosts local tourists less than summer. The spring season is third among the seasons in accordance with domestic influx. The winter season is a daunting season regarding

domestic arrival of tourists towards the region. June is the main month in Gilgit Baltistan region where the arrival of local tourists reaches to climax. The months of July and August follow the month of June in hosting the domestic tourists.

### **Conclusion**

The data of international tourists in Gilgit Baltistan during 2000 to 2020 unveiled that the influx of international tourists towards the region is in thousands. Only two times the number crossed ten thousand figures. First in 2000 and second in the year 2019 foreigners visited GB reached 10082 and 10829. During the study period, the international tourists dominated the total temporal arrival including local tourists. In the year 2000, the foreigners were higher in number with 53% and the year 2002 also hosted more international tourists as compare to the local tourists. The foreign tourists in 2002 dominated with 60%. Rest of all the year during the duration of 2000 to 2020, the influx of international tourists remained less than that of locals. Due to high influx of local tourists in the recent years, the percentage of foreign tourist now remained around 1%. The trend pattern of international tourists towards Gilgit Baltistan is down ward and decreasing according to the data for the mentioned period.

The comparison of international tourists in Gilgit Baltistan with the total international arrival in Pakistan exposed that the percentage of foreign tourists in the region out of total foreign tourists' temporal arrival in Pakistan is very low. The highest percentage of in GB was 1.8% in the year 2000. From 2002 to 2020 this percentage just remained under one percent. The share of Gilgit Baltistan out of total arrival of international tourists in Pakistan varied 0.3% (lowest) to 0.9% highest throughout the study period except the years 2000 and 2001.

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