

The Evolution and Development of Travel, Travel Blogs

R. Ganesh*

Abstract

Over time, there have been substantial advances in the development of travel and the ways in which memories and experiences can be preserved. Jorn Barger initially used the term “weblog” on December 17, 1997. Peter Merholz introduced the acronym “blog” by amusingly combining the words “web” and “log” on his blog. By developing the “Blogger” platform, Pyra Labs' Evan Williams helped to popularize the term even further. Despite a sluggish beginning, blogging took off, especially in the late 1990s when blogging software became available. This study explores the historical background of Muthuswami Dikshitar, one of the three founders of Carnatic music, who was born in Tiruvarur, Tamil Nadu, India, on March 24, 1775. Even though he is best recognized for his musical talents, Dikshitar lived during a time when travel blogs were beginning to take off. His works, which elaborately portray Hindu gods, temples, and musical genres, provide a background for the rise of travelogues in his era. This essay aims to investigate the similarities between the emergence of travel blogging and the artistic environment of Muthuswami Dikshitar's time, emphasizing the relationship that existed between trip writing and cultural expression at that time.

Keywords: Travel blogs, special interest tourism, tourism history, ancient travel, Graeco-Roman world

INTRODUCTION

As I sit and type at my laptop, my heart beats faster and I see photos of travelers walking through the most inhospitable places to places no one has ever passed through. Interestingly, the term “travel” is closely linked to another word of French origin called “Travail,” which means “painful illness or serious illness,” even though the origin of the word has been lost to history”. What is interesting is that these two words seem to be derived from the name of the Roman torture device “Tripalium [1]”.

No matter where the word “travel” came from, it is undeniable that the want to travel and the act of traveling are ingrained in human DNA. Ancient humans had to search for more food. Slowly, succumbing to an unknown emotion (what we now call curiosity), it began its journey, first with small steps, then with giant leaps, causing some exodus of humanity. Without this curiosity, life on Earth would not be as prevalent as it is now and humans would be restricted to a small portion of the planet. Traveling is a transformative experience that brings a sea change in the way we think and see the world and our environment. These changes may seem almost invisible, but they happen all the time.

Travel has evolved and changed people [2].

History has always interested me. Thanks to a lot of history studies in school, there is one person whose name is always etched in my memory; a man named Xuanzang was a monk who died in 602 AD. China is where he was born. He traveled to India to further his education in Buddhism since he was curious about it.

He was not permitted to travel overseas at that time in order to prevent being returned back.

*Author for Correspondence

R. Ganesh
E-mail: 20134rg@gmail.com

Msc. Pharmacognasy, MMS Marketing, Ex-Assistant
Marketing Officer, Marketing Department, SPPU University,
Pune, Maharashtra, India

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Xuanzang began an unknown journey that lasted for miles, with no signs of life. He endured many hardships and spent his life across deserts and mountains. He traveled through Central Asia, including the Tashkent and Samarkand region, and reached India by following the Silk Road. Before going back to China, he traveled around India for 17 years. He describes the experiences, observations, cultures, traditions, places he visited, etc. of the people he met at that time. It's crucial to maintain a trip journal. This book is called "Journey to the West" or "Tang Dynasty Documents". Western region [3].

Therefore, the first travelers began to record their journeys in writing. Travel is mentioned in the Rig Veda as early as 1500 BC. There are beautiful sayings extolling the benefits of travel.

Those who don't go won't be happy.

This is what we heard. The best people in this world are sinners... So run away! ... Sitting on it brings good luck, sitting on it also brings good luck. When he wakes up, he wakes up; when he sleeps he sleeps; When it moves, it moves. So go! -

Man's need drives him to learn about the world he lives in over time. People began to travel to trade, explore and conquer. But one of the earliest records of the trip and its enjoyments is Petrarch's "Ascent of Mont Ventoux," written in 1336. This is the account of his mountain climbing. And climb to the 1912 meter high peak. He categorically said that he climbed the mountain just to see the view, and allegorically compared mountain climbing to his own righteousness [4].

Travelers have kept journey journals throughout history, which have been published once they have completed writing their experiences. Greek explorer and geographer Pausanias penned a letter titled "The Greek" at the beginning of the second century AD that detailed his personal experiences and observations of Greece. Goethe visited numerous Italian cities during the 18th century, including Verona, Venice, Bologna, Rome, Naples, Sicily, and more. His Travels in Italy was published in 1816. More recently, Che Guevara's "Motorcycle Diaries" is a good example of travel.

Many great writers have written works of art and placed their stories in beautiful places. You can check out our article about it [here](#)-Open World Book.

The Coming of the Internet and Social Media Age

Links.net, started in 1994 by Justin Hall, a student at Swarthmore College, is thought to be the first blog. He simply refers to it as his home page because the term "blog" hasn't been used yet. Jorn Barger, the owner of Robot Wisdom, came up with the phrase "web blog" later in 1997. In 1998, Johnathan Dube published his first blog on his new traditional website. Later, in 1999, programmer Peter Merholz changed the word "webblog" to "blog". The most popular early blogging platforms were LiveJournal and now Blogger [5].

The introduction of the Internet has reduced global size and opened up access to knowledge in previously unheard-of ways. With the internet wave, another movement exploded across the world. We now call it social media power. Suddenly, travelers can share their experiences with friends through travel blogs. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more make it possible for anyone with the desire and passion to write to see their work. Thus, travel diaries and travel memoirs evolved into the travel blogs we know today. Today's travel diaries, also known as travel blogs, are not limited to words but can describe the journey through images or videos alone. Instagram, YouTube and other forums allow these accounts to thrive and tell wordless stories [6].

2000s: This was the growth period of blogging. Early on, political blogs were the most well-liked kind. By 2001, blogging had become so popular that blogging tips and advice emerged. The Huffington Post and many other popular blogs got their start in the early 2000s. The wildly popular

WordPress was created in 2003. Additionally, AdSense advertising has begun, enabling bloggers to begin earning money.

Home Blogs: By the mid-2000s, blogging was very popular. Research conducted in January 2005 found that 32 million Americans read blogs. News organizations like CNN also began collaborating with blogs and bloggers. The number of blogs continues to grow, and almost every major media outlet and company now has at least one blog. Today blogs and podcasts have entered the blogosphere.

Blogs have grown in popularity over the years and are not going away anytime soon.. We urge you to create a blog right now if you don't already have one! Episode

Who was the first to start blogging in India? Amit Agarwal is often considered one of the pioneers and early bloggers in India. He began “Digital Inspiration” as a blog in 2004 and is well-known for his knowledge of technology and blogging [7].

Prior to this, it can be said that Muthuswami Dikshitar was the father of bloggers. On the advice of the village zamindar, Muthuswamy relocated to the town of Manali, which is close to Madras (now Chennai). The brothers Diksital to the Zamindar Fort St George. He was with his family. They were first exposed to violin and Western orchestral music in St. George. Later, [8] Muthuswami was taken under the wing of a sadhu by the name of Chidambaranatha Yogi, who then traveled to Benares (now Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh). There he learned yoga, meditation, mysticism, and music. Additionally, he was exposed to Hindustani classical music, particularly in the Dhrupad style, which some experts believe had an influence on his subsequent compositions. Following the demise of Chidambaranatha Yogi, Dikshitar relocated to Tiruttani, a town close to Tirupati, to the south of Benares.

He then went on pilgrimage, visited temples at Kanchi, Tiruvannamalai, Chidambaram, Tirupati and Kalahasti, Srirangam and composed music before returning to Tiruvarur.

Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar was a pilgrim almost all his life. He visited many temples and sang songs in praise of them and the gods worshiped there. He is very religious but has no affiliation with any religion. He composed beautiful songs praising many gods and goddesses. About 74 of these temples are described in his kriti; Nearly 150 gods and goddesses are mentioned in it. His greatest criticism is praise of Mother Nature (176), followed by criticism of Shiva (131). Diksital is the only major writer who has sung the praises of Chaturmuka Brahma [9].

METHODOLOGY

Using a qualitative methodology, this study examines the development of travel and travel blogs, highlighting similarities between trip narratives from the past and current blogging activities. A review of historical writings, travel journals, and books chronicling early travel experiences—such as those by Xuanzang, Petrarch, Pausanias, and Goethe—are all part of the technique. To give a thorough grasp of the topic, current research on the history of travel and the rise of travel blogging is also looked at. Additionally, the study examines Muthuswami Dikshitar's contributions to culture and the arts, focusing on his trips and compositions, in order to make links between his experiences and the contemporary phenomena of travel blogging. The study intends to illustrate how travel shapes cultural expression and promotes cross-cultural exchange by analyzing Dikshitar's life and works.

DISCUSSION

This study explores the similarities between the modern practice of travel blogging and the historical setting of travel narratives in its discussion part. It looks at how early explorers like Petrarch and Xuanzang wrote down their trip experiences, setting the stage for today's travelogues. These early accounts recorded geographical findings as well as offered insights into the customs, cultural practices, and social dynamics of the day.

This study's discussion section explores the similarities between travel blogging as a modern practice and the historical setting of travel narratives. It examines how early travelers, such as Petrarch and Xuanzang, chronicled their travels in writing and set the stage for the modern travelogue. In addition to recording geographic findings, these early accounts shed light on the customs, cultural practices, and social dynamics of the day.

By drawing comparisons between the life and works of Muthuswami Dikshitar, the conversation highlights the fundamental connection between travel and cultural expression. Travel and artistic expression come together beautifully in Dikshitar's compositions honoring temples, goddesses, and natural landscapes, which are inspired by his numerous trips around India. His songs, which combine musical compositions and literary descriptions to capture the essence of his travels, serve as early examples of travel narratives [10].

The conversation also looks at how social media sites have changed the travel blogging scene by allowing writers to include multimedia content like images and videos in their stories. It highlights how crucial digital platforms are for promoting cross-cultural communication and a feeling of global interconnectedness among bloggers and tourists alike.

In general, the conversation highlights the universal human need to discover, record, and disseminate travel experiences—whether via conventional travel narratives or more contemporary digital platforms like travel blogs. It draws attention to how travel may have a profoundly positive impact on people's viewpoints, awareness of different cultures, and ability to build meaningful connections between generations and across boundaries.

CONCLUSION

Travel and cultural expression are fundamental to Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar's life path, which is characterized by pilgrimages and musical inquiry. His works serve as everlasting narratives of his travels and experiences, beautifully depicting temples, deities, and the varied landscapes of India. Poetically speaking, Dikshitar is the founder of travel blogging since his poetic descriptions encapsulate the spirit of his travels in a way that is similar to contemporary travelogues. The progression from conventional trip journals to modern travel blogs reflects the enduring human inclination to discover and communicate experiences. Social media platforms have made it easier for people from different backgrounds to share travel experiences and engage in meaningful discourse and cross-cultural exchange in the current digital era. It is clear when we consider the history of travel and travel blogging that discovering new places—both real and virtual—is a life-changing event that widens our horizons and improves our quality of life. In the same way that the songs of Muthuswami Dikshitar have remained popular with listeners for decades, the tales told by modern travel bloggers will encourage upcoming generations to set out on their own journeys, establishing bonds and cultivating a more profound understanding of the rich diversity of our planet.

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