

Disguised Force behind Israeli Jew's travel to India - Their closed knitted community's instinct

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: In the present paper our focus is to discuss Jews, Israeli Jews and their natural instinct that prompts them to visit India. Since majority of Israeli Nationals are Jews, we will also take the liberty to discuss Israeli's (and not necessarily Israeli Jews) attraction towards India and its one single reason to get magnetized to India. Majority of Jews these days are Jews by birth only and not by virtue. Their religious instinct is no more predominating. Their religious practices are more of family & social customary in nature than call from the inner soul and thus Judaism remains just a lifestyle at the best. Judaism practice and participate prevails because they have been taught and experienced from childhood and honestly they do not believe in core values of Judaism. Also Jews are from many different nations and thus they have different religions degree of belief from: some hard core Orthodox to Jews who do not even care for the religious books and Synagogue visits. Israelis becoming more modern day by day, they all have developed independent thoughts and ideologies. And so they tend to prefer more reliance on promotional channels rather than the family opinion and thought process even when it comes to choosing a travel destination. They prefer going to a travel agent, and getting more hooked up with the magazines, newspaper ads and road shows.

Design/Methodology/Approach: To find out disguised force behind Israeli Jew's travel to India secondary data has been used. The paper is conceptual in nature.

Findings: Paper found that that Israel is still a "compact nation" with more family and religious values, carry the same age old hard core ideology and preferred sentimental value for India, possess back-to-roots feeling & community oriented mentality and Israeli tourists feel more at ease travelling to India than most of the countries that are on their travel destination list.

Originality/Value: The paper uses Secondary data available from different authentic sources. Both past and recent data has been used. The paper has considered demography of Israel.

Paper Type: Case Based Study

KEYWORDS: Jews | Holocaust | Backpackers | Druze | Kosher Food | Israeli Tourist | Judaism | Shabbat Night

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Introduction:

Israel has close to 75% of Jews, and rest are Muslims, Christians, Druze and other religious communities. Israel is the only single country in the world which has majority of Jews population and so it is very aptly called a Jewish country. There is no other country in the world which is officially declared a Jew state. When we talk about Jews, Israel comes to our mind automatically. Our focus today is to discuss Jews, Israeli Jews and their natural instinct that prompts them to visit India. Since majority of Israeli Nationals are Jews, we will also take the liberty to discuss Israeli's (and not necessarily Israeli Jews) attraction towards India and its one single reason to get magnetized to India. There are many countries in the world which have Jew population and countries like US have almost same number of Jews but it forms only as minimum as 1.75% of the total population, so it is in serious minority. Technically speaking Israel is the only Jew officially declared country. There are other European countries which have significant population but the numbers are quite less and also the ratio is much lesser than other prevailing religions in those countries. So Jews community does not stand as significantly as is the case of Israel. Judaism or Jews to Israel is so directly related that any Jew born anywhere in the world gets the citizenship of Israel automatically. The second reason why we connote Jews with Israelis and is almost synonymous, is due to Israel's being a compact small nation and most of the Jews are living together in the same vicinity as cohesive community, whereas in US the Jews are scattered in different states of country and US being a huge nation, this small number is like a negligible dot on the nations map. Thirdly the "Jewness" of US nationals is much dilute in potency than in Jews of Israel. Israeli Jews are prominent in nature, religion and profile; whereas US Jews never even declare that they are Jews, during their trips to overseas countries. Their nationality is much more important than their religion as a traveller, whereas Israeli Jews or even Israelis attach a great importance to their religious profile, even during their tours, and in fact we all assume that if they are from Israel they are Jews.

Table 1: Religious makeup, 2019

| Group | Population | % |
|---------------|------------|-------|
| Jews | 6,697,000 | 74.2% |
| Muslims | 1,605,700 | 17.8% |
| Christians | 180,400 | 2.0% |
| Druze | 143,000 | 1.6% |
| Other/unknown | 394,900 | 4.4% |

Jews is a race who has suffered enormously, if we check their long history. Holocaust and anti-Semitism have taken a huge toll on their lives and race. There are various reasons as to why holocaust took place or why there is a general anti-Semitism feeling against Jews in European nations and many of its neighbouring countries. But it is point to be noted that this made them a close-community-country and have played a major role in keeping them united- a rock solid state. A great feeling of bond has developed since centuries. To fight the enemies in different forms, across the globe, they have come together as one. They have been sharing knowledge, power, opinion etc. among themselves and started trusting each other so strongly that one listens to all and all pays attention to what one says and acts accordingly. There seems to be an atmosphere in Israel, where everyone seems to be talking to everyone. They are open and not jealous to each other. The seniors want the betterment as a community than one self and also wants all of them to experience the same delight, upliftment and prosperity, what they did in their own times and life. This exclusive virtue makes them share the knowledge, wisdom and experience, what they did while they were away to India or at least what they have heard about India. Unlike US where people are likely to keep it to themselves as their personal experience and do not want to share or get into the risk of conveying others which they may not like it, or they have completely different experience all together, and one gets into being proved wrong. Moreover it is such a big country and Jews are such small in number (1.75% of the total US population) that it really does not matter what Jews think for non Jews. Also American Jews are not attached to Indian Jews or Jewish sites of India. It is the Jews, who were, at one time around 35000 in number, who went back to Israel after the formation of the State of Israel in 1948, as it was declared a Jewish state. None of them went to US. Since US is so big, word of mouth does not work there and nor do they have back- to- roots feeling.

Backpackers and regular Israeli tourists: It is true that India has a very special place in Israeli Jews heart. Once they finish off their compulsory military training (2 years for females and 3 years for males), the first thing that they do, is plan their overseas trip for 2 weeks to 2 months or even longer in few cases, and lifelong in some extreme cases. Out of these around 40,000 Israelis rush to India each year. The young backpacker tourists save money earned through monthly stipend during their military training tenure from USD 1500 to 2500, depending upon their length of service, or they also tend to earn some good money after the training through part time and full time jobs in Israel, in case they wish to spend more time overseas and need more money. You can find them working at restaurants, McDonald outlets, providing services on freelance basis trying to earn bigger amounts in short term. They are on an average between the ages of 20 to 24 years getting ready to move out of the country. This has been going on since 1970s. Around 30% of them take

to Central and South America, depending upon the climate and interesting events, sports or festival happening there. Around 60% of them leave for what it's popularly called "Hammus Road/route" in India and South East Asia. Rest move to Australia, Africa and New Zealand. Those who take to India aim at enjoying a relaxed tour and some for spirituality of it. Most of them come for a long trip from one to six months and some of them interestingly settle down at few remote villages of Himachal, south India and other Israeli-atmosphere oriented places. It is said the rich culture, accessibility and low cost pulls them to India as does South America which is equally popular with them. The image of India is a place to rest and a place for Yoga. Many Israelis even marry locals and settles in India itself. Some come here to experience more authentic, more romantic and more isolated experience and prefers Islands of Andaman's. The other category is regular tourists from Israel : Jews and non Jews : Orthodox, traditional and seculars, the retired and pensioner Israelis, the older generation, who, over the years have heard so much from their parents, known circle that they too, plan to prefer India as their immediate destination for family vacations. They are mostly family men.

Media do play a role in encouraging them to take trips to certain countries but since India is on their priority list, a friendly- country, they have developed a desire to go to India so passionately. However it is ultimately the feeling of oneness and a community decision that influences them to visit a country. If one person goes to a certain country/ destination, most of their networking person's repeats, if one take a certain route; all does the same by natural instinct. It does not mean to say that it is heard mentality, but on the contrary, it is the community decisive order syndrome and like-mindedness that pulls them to India. It is also their roots, which pull them to India.

Who are Israeli Jews: Let us first try to understand who Israeli Jews are: Jews, the followers of Judaism, who live in Israel as citizen of Israel, are known as Israeli-Jews. Jews live all over the world but mainly (more than 80% in two countries, Israel and America, and off course, Israel being a major Jew-dominating country with 75% Jews accommodating here. Although Jews live in various other countries as well but the numbers are quite insignificant, in comparison to what Israel or US has.

Jews of Israel/global Jews can be divided into 2 main categories:

- A – On the basis of Judaism practice, culture and belief (Degree of religiousness)
- B – On the basis of the place of Origin or ethnicity

Since we are talking about Israeli Jews, Category B, is less in consideration or not very relevant, since they are living outside Israel and do not become a part of our discussion or research. But to understand Israeli Jews, we need to clearly

know who non-Israeli Jews are. To understand the behaviour pattern of Jews we need to understand both A and B types of Jews, present globally.

Category A : Degree of religiousness : Israeli Jews can be subdivided into largely 4 categories : Ultra-Orthodox, religious, traditional and secular. The original Hebrew words for these classes of Jews are Haredi, **Dati**, **Masorti** and **Hiloni** consequently. On surface these different sub groups of Jews may look the same but besides difference in religious thinking, their lifestyle and traditions also vary to a large extent. **Haredim (Ultra Orthodox)** means trembling or God-fearing. These people keep themselves aloof from the rest of the Jews. For them religion is very important in their lives. Almost 96% of Haredims believes the same. They have very few friends outside their own subgroup and also they do not believe in getting married in any of the subgroups like Dati, Masorti or Hiloni. They usually wear very traditional dresses including large black Kippas and women wearing head and face covers. They attend all educational and religious ceremonies. **Datims** : This group is as religious as Haredims and 9 out of 10 in both the groups believe completely in God. And all those who were surveyed from both the groups confirmed that they do not travel by car, bus, train etc. during Shabbat as per Jewish law written in Torah, the Hebrew bible. However they are like modern orthodox Jews. They are more likely to be a part of the military training than Haredims, who refuse to take military training since it comes on their way to practice religion as mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. They do part take in politics. **Masortims** : This is most diverse group. They normally opt for a middle path and are generally in between the two groups of Orthodox and secular. Around 51% of them say religion is not very important whereas 32% say it is really important and 16% of them say not important at all. Generally speaking rest of the 3 groups have strong opinion on either side whereas Masortims carry lukewarm opinion about public life and religion. **Hilonim** : They are the largest group in Jews. They comprise around 50% of the total Jews. Out of that around 18% only believe in God and rest 40% do not believe in God. They believe that religion should not be in between daily life and so they oppose the completely shutting of public transport and other "religious inconveniences" that are practiced during Shabbat. Around 59% believe that they are first Israelites and then Jews.

Figure 1: Percentage of Israeli adults

% of Israeli adults who identify as ...

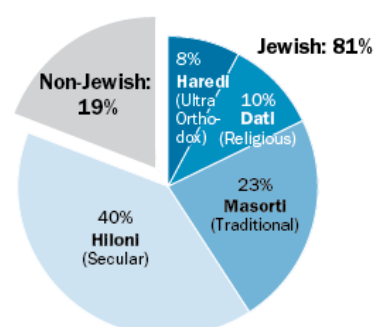
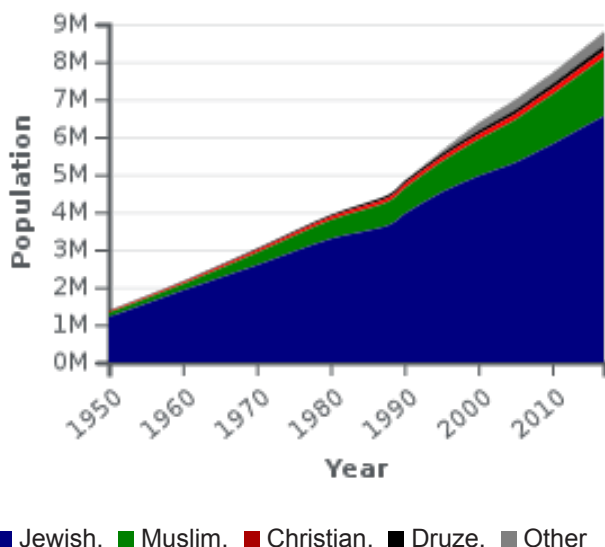


Figure 2: Religion in Israel



Category B : From Ethnicity point of view: However Global Jews can be put in different categories : **Askenazi Jews, Sheperdic Jews and Mizrahi Jews** : Jews from Germany and Eastern Europe are known as **Askenazims**. In America they are known as black hats or Bagel, Yiddish. People from Spain, Iberian Peninsula and Spanish Diaspora are known as **Sephardic Jews**. They enjoined golden era for 200 years with Christians and Muslims during 8th century but by 15 century they were expelled from Spain and Portugal but they brought unique culture with them along with Ladino language. Jews who came from Iran, Iraq, and Jews who came from Iran, Iraq, Yemen and Morocco are known as **Mizrahi Jews**.

Why it is important to mention that Israel and Israeli Jews are product of the community circumstances: **Why we term Israel as a closed knitted community: Let's also review Jews historical characteristics as per their history to trace their community traits as below:**

The Israelis Jews follow and practice more religion than other Jews of the world. 65% of the Jews light the candle on Shabbat night, 68% of them prepare and make Kiddush (Blessings recited over wine to sanctify Shabbat) and 80% of the them participate in the family traditional meal on Friday night but without much heed to the religious feelings and sanctity. This is the benefit of living in a Jewish society where you are taught to follow the tradition and learn Hebrew the mother tongue of all Jews and Israelites.

They or their forefathers were all victims of atrocities on them since 2500 years but have inhumane atrocities and today feature as one of the topmost powerful nations of the world. Egyptians had once made Jews their bondage but we all know they are no more rulers of the world, whereas Jews are the "masters of the land they survey". Babylonians had also kept them captive but today they are no where.

Romans conquered their land and scattered them throughout the world and they tried to erase the name of their country from the world map, but this race is today thriving and flourishing very well and it is difficult to ignore this nation on any front, be it defence, agriculture, education on the global horizon. They have outlived their persecutors and together have come strong to this age. They have been able to adapt to any kind of circumstances. This race had the power of immense endurance. All wars initiated or imposed upon, have been fought gloriously and have been won because they treat themselves as a cohesive family and are prepared for any eventuality. Be it a 6 days war, or Passover wars, all were fought and won convincingly, because it was not politics but it was like fathers and mothers, saving themselves, their family and children. Around 70% of the population of Israel have the same religion, have gone through same Holocaust experience, same anti – Semitism, have same history, eat same Kosher food, practice same culture & religion and lead same lifestyle : going to synagogues, celebrating same festivities, believing in same God, and so the general mind set and psychology has crystallized in the same manner. Also when one person speaks other believe, same as, when one member of the family says something, the other members hear, believe and act. It is rightly said "You are what you eat". So when all Jews and Israelis eat Kosher, they think, act and react similarly. It's the family culture that spreads and becomes the characteristics of Jews.

As discussed, the moment Israeli youngsters finish off their compulsory military training they rush out to various countries and India is one of their favourite destinations. To this, there could be various reasons to choose India, but the awareness of what they look for and what can make them happy, as a tourist and the confidence and satisfactory answer, comes from their friends, relatives, companions, family members and from the one-voice of the community. They believe and trust what they hear. They do not question the information or the trust with which they are informed. Also this mode : word of mouth, works wonder in Israel, since it is a small community / country and all have the same faith, religion, belief, kind of food they eat, the attitude, share the same history, the same pain, the same religious bonding etc. They seem to move in the same direction on few selected aspects of the social norms.

Small country: The current population of **Israel** is **8,624,854** (8.6 Million) in year 2020, based on latest United Nations data. It is. 11% of the world population and stands at 100th position, population wise. Population density of Israel is 400 per sq KM. Area wise Israel is so small that it is just slightly bigger than one of the States (New Jersey) of America. Its area is 21640 sq KM and rank is 149th , area wise. Israel has a costal line of 273 KMs. Now let us see how does Israel stand against Jews of United States of America, which has the second largest Jewish population after Israel.



We will also see in comparison to India, since the target nation of our discussion is India. US has a population of 329 Million, as of 2020, which accounts for 4.25% of the total world population and stands at number 3 in the world, population wise. Its density is 86 per sq KM. US have an area of 9.8 million sq km and it is 431 times bigger than Israel. This means 431 countries like Israel can be accommodated in US. Its density is 33 per sq km. Its coast-line is 19984 KMs and stands 9th in the world, coastal area wise whereas Israel stands 137th. India's population is 1380 million which is 18% of the world's population and stands 2nd in the world. India's area is 29 lacs 73 K sq km and its population density is 464 per sq km. It's a huge country. Around 120 Israel can be accommodated in India area wise. Length and Breadth wise Israel can be travelled in 6 hours and 1 hour at the most. So with the given data it is quite evident that Israel is a much smaller country in comparison to other target nations and thus much more cohesive and bonded.



Figure 3: Comparative study of Israel, India and US area wise. Blue spot: Israel

All Jews are members of a unique race and ethnic sect: Bennett Greenspan, the founder and President Family Tree DNA founded in year 2000, conducted a research and found that around 75% of the Jews DNA tests prove that they belong to Middle Eastern area. So the DNA matching also indicates that this race is from a certain family and do have a very strong gene persistent for centuries together and stand out with a definite identity.

Part of the one of the oldest religions of the world: Judaism is supposed to be founded during 9th to 5th century BCE in Middle East during Bronze age. It is an Abraham religion and the oldest Monolithic religion of the world. Christianity (founded in 1st century AD) and Islam (founded in 600 AD) are supposed to be the off shoot of Judaism. In fact all 3 religions believe in Abraham, as their forefathers. Probably it is the oldest monolithic religion after Zoroastrianism which came into existence around 10000 BC to 7000 BC.

Victims of Holocaust: Fathers and forefathers of present 75% of the Israeli population who are Jews have had experienced Holocaust or "Shoah" as they call in Hebrew, or have seen/experienced from close quarters. This Ghost -psychology of holocaust is common in the minds and heart of Jews that brings them close to each other and makes them feel the pain and horror on the same frequency. It was genocide during World War II, between 1941 to 1945 of the European Jews, across German occupied Europe, Nazi Germany and its collaborators. Around 6 Million European Jews (2/3rd of the total Jews) were murdered in an organised form by mass shooting and mass murdering in gas chambers by Nazi army under the dictatorship of Adolph Hitler. Hitler believed that Jews were a lower race and that they should be wiped off from mankind so that Germans who are the higher/ highest race can remain pure. And this could happen only once Jews/ lower race is completely wiped off the earth planet. The main reason of Hitler ordering genocide was deep rooted anti- Semitism against Jews since his early age. Hitler's hatred against Jews, could be one of the reasons or all (though not supported by any proof): 1. It is said he developed a venereal disease from one of the Jews prostitutes. 2. He was ashamed of his partly Jews roots. 3. He had a trauma from the poison gas attack during WW1 initiated by a Jew. Anyway the impact that holocaust left in the minds of remaining Jews of the world was a long nightmare never to be cured of.

Anti-Semitism : Anti-Semitism is a kind of racism against the Jews community. It is a feeling of hatred against Jews, a kind of discrimination against this community. It started with Christians believing that Jesus was crucified because of Jews attitude towards Jesus. Also charging interest over the capital lent to people was considered unethical by Christians and Islamic community, which Jews practised widely and as a part of commercial activity and livelihood. Jews believed it was correct to charge some extra money given to needy

persons for a definite period. It was a profitable business for them. However others considered it a selfish and highly self cantered activity of Jews. Also since Jews have done quite well for themselves for last few decades and centuries, it also became a point of Jealousy and hatred for rest of the world. But the final effect was that Jews in general were targeted, hated, discriminated by many communities and countries of the world. Actually holocaust was the culmination/pinnacle of the same hatred feeling accumulated over the years. However this global atrocious attitude brought all the Jews together. Since all of the Jews felt that the entire world is their enemy, and so they all united and stayed connected head and heart.

Unlike many other parts of the world there is no issue of Anti-Semitism in India. Jews have been living peacefully in India since 2500 years. There has been no issue of hatred or non- welcome to Jews in entire Indian history. In many countries people cannot move with Kippa (head cap) on their heads which is a symbol of being Jews. People ask questions and see them with suspicion, jealousy, envy and doubt. Whereas India has accepted Jews since long, in fact welcomed them whenever and wherever they came. That's the reason Jews are never afraid of coming to India. In fact they feel very comfortable in India and have been mixing well with Indians. Also Jews feel good to know that they are not being judged by the people here. They can do whatever they feel like to do, freely and in a conducive atmosphere.

Zionism: It's a movement to re-establish the entire Jews community of the world, in a homeland, now called Israel. It is believed that for safety and security of Jews from the anti Jews lobby of the world, Jews should be given a separate exclusive land; else Jews will never be safe as has been historically. In absence of a homeland its survival, its religious sanctity, its culture and mere existence will be in question. So to protect this "unsafe community" they should have their own protected-promised land. This movement was founded in 1897 by Theodor Herzl. Today around 40% of the total Jews live in Israel and there is no other better example in the history of mankind, when after such a prolonged Diaspora, the community got his own homeland. Though Israel is a small country, but has a great religious value when it comes to Jerusalem, as it is the epitome of 3 world's religion, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. This modern Jewish country is not only the Promised land of the Jews of the world but also homeland to the majority of world Jews. There is no other country in the world with Jewish majority. Irrespective of their birth, origin or citizenship they are one, when it comes to the home for Jews. They may vary on many issues. Almost 98% of the Israeli Jews think that all Jews should move to Jewish state Israel and have Israeli/Jewish citizenship. Around 91% of the Israeli Jews think that Jews are unsafe out of Israel and 76% of the Israeli Jews think that anti-Semitism is a big global threat to their religion and life and that it is has been

increasing ever since. Also a majority of Israeli Jews think that Israel should give preferential treatment to Jews in Israel. This movement more or less has kept Jews and Israeli Jews tied to one rope and similar thought process.

Kosher food : All Jews and in fact even non Jews of Israel eat Kosher food and have a kosher culture at home. Kosher is food prepared in accordance with the Jewish dietary law known as Kashrut. All food items used to prepare kosher food has to be done as per the details mentioned in Torah the religious book of Jews. So when Items are of the same class, prepared in a very specific way under strict guidelines and eaten in similar circumstances, in similar company and similar occasions (on Shabbat, Passovers and other religious occasions), the outcome has to be similar. Similar festivals, similar synagogues, similar tradition-all of these elements moulds Jews into a family of similar DNA/roots.

Females outnumbering males: Women are known to have maintained the family binding : Females understand the family cohesiveness much better than males. Females are soft at heart and more practical when it comes to family and family values. In case of divorce and deaths of a female member it has been seen that the family is scattered and ruined and separated. As per 2015 census there were 98.36 males to 100 females. That's the reason mothers face and experience more career interruptions than men due to females getting into family obligations and attaching more importance to family oriented values. Although females are working on the equal levels in Israel they devote more time doing household jobs than men. Since Israel has more females the family and community feeling is more pressing and dominating.

Table 2: Demography Showing Male and Female Ratio

| Quick facts about the population of Israel | |
|---|---|
| Current population (as of Thursday, August 20, 2020) | 8,780,972 |
| Population rank | 97 (0.11% of world population) |
| Total area | 22,070 km ² (8,521 mi ²) |
| Population density | 397.9 per km ² (1,030.5 people/mi ²) |
| Sex ratio | 0.97 (4,334,820 men to 4,446,563 women) |
| Median age | 30.2 years |
| Life expectancy | 81.0 years (78.8 - men. 83.2 - women) |



Easy and one language communication: Hebrew is spoken and written all over the country. Modern Hebrew is the official language of Israel and almost all speak Hebrew as their first language except for Arabic, spoken by Arab Minorities. Not more than 15% speak Arabic and Russian. And a very small community of Heredi Askenazi speak Yiddish which has some similar with Hebrew- alphabets are same but it is closer to German than Hebrew. Hebrew is Afro – Asiatic language spoken in Middle East whereas Yiddish is a German dialect and integrates many languages, including German, Hebrew and Aramaic languages. In India there are 22 official languages which have got their position in the 8th schedule of Indian constitution. There are 19500 languages or mother-tongue spoken in India. There are 121 (22 8th schedule + 99 other languages) languages spoken by 10000 people of India which has a population of 138 crore as of today. However 97% of the population speak one of the 8th schedule /22 languages of India. The language issue here is so big that if you go to South India the language abruptly changes. On the contrary, American Jews have their native language as English except for some Hasedic Jews who speak Yiddish since they are of Ashkenazi origin. Though Yiddish was spoken as primary languages by the Ashkenazi Jews who migrated to US but over the time the geographic influence gave them the language shift to English. American Jews hardly speak Hebrew in US. They are more “Americanised” than being Jews. So we see how Israeli Jews still hold their original language and feel being one.

During one of personal survey recently, based on set of travel questionnaire given to almost 200 Israeli Travellers who have been to India, once, twice or even more times, majority of them confirmed that their decision to travel to India was primarily based on the ideas, opinion, and discussion, feedback given by their relatives, friends, colleagues and their friend circle. They were less influenced by advertisements or what the tour operators told them. Out of 200, 109 Israelis reported one major source and they confirmed that they already knew about India and what they can expect while travelling to that country through their own networking people and family members, before they even thought of going there. Rest 91 people had other sources of information. They were driven by ads, newspapers, travel road shows etc. But

The mode of information about a country that Israelis get are as follows:

1. Word of mouth from known network
2. General awareness through friend and family circles
3. Through agents / tour operators
4. Through travel Magazine
5. TV Ads
6. Newspapers
7. Flyers and road shows

Table 3: Response from 200 Israeli tourists who have travelled to India in last 10 years

| Source of Information about India as a desirable destination | No of tourists opting to come to India via |
|--|--|
| A. Travel Website | 10 |
| B. Travel show | 31 |
| C. Newspaper and travel mMagazines | 15 |
| D. Through friends & relatives | 109 |
| E. Brochures | 10 |
| F. Advertisement | 17 |
| G. Other sources | 08 |
| Total | 200 |

Community & family travel: Due to their bonding with friends and relatives they always like to travel with families together. There are few couples and families who always travel together and they have been doing it for last 15 to 20 years. They always plan together; check each other's convenience, holidays, health, parent's health etc while planning for a trip to India. The negative side of it is that, many a times they have to postpone their trip since any of their old parents may get sick or unwell closer to the travel date. There have been times when they were almost ready to travel and father of one of the family members got sick at the last minute. They had no option but to cancel the trip. If anyone in the family is sick they do not travel due to just one family. One known family whose wife is suffering from a mental disease and so he himself is now quite depressed. So the other family have not travelled for almost 4 years, although they are ready with the travel kit.

American Jews : Jews in America can never be compared with Jews of Israel. They may be religiously same but their mentality and approach towards India is completely different. The way they look towards India is same as Europeans or a normal American may look. The reasons to count are so many. They do not feel nostalgic, they do not have to undergo compulsory military training, they are not told about India by their fathers and forefathers the way an Israeli Jew is told. Their own country is so vast and so much to see that they do not bother so much on India, also since it is not closing geographically. Their youth do not see India the way Israeli Jews youth see. America is far off whereas Israeli is just 8 hours flight away. American Jews do not at all carry a closed-community identity. In fact they treat themselves as any other American youth or citizen. Also they are less passionate about their religion than Israeli Jews. Israel is a friendly country to India and has been a great friend since decades. So Israelis, who are mostly Jews, feel closer to India. Jews of Israel are more religious than the Jews of US since the Ultra Orthodox or the Orthodox Jews are more in number and percentage in Israel than in US. When we say they are more religious we mean, they are more likely to keep Shabbat, go to Synagogues, follow Judaism more closely, eat more of kosher food etc.

Also Israeli Jews and American Jews have different political views. American Jews are more liberal politically and think more independently than Israeli Jews.

By now we discussed how Israeli mind think get influenced on India and what are the elements which force them to decide on a particular destination. Let us review **some other predominant “local- to- India” reasons as to why Israeli Jews gets attracted to India for their vacations:**

1. India is cheap: Presently it takes only 6 hours to reach India by Air India flight from Tel Aviv International airport to New Delhi international airport. All kind of transportation inside India is also cheap. Train, bus flight all are cheaper than, in Israel. Food is also not expensive out here. Moreover travelling to India is much cheaper than travelling to Europe or any other countries like Russia, Australia and New Zealand etc. With the same money for one week in Europe, they can stay for one month in India. In fact it is much cheaper to stay in India than in Israel itself. Israel relatively is an expensive country to live in, with food and daily needs stuff being expensive. This has been reported by many Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutani, and Pakistani travellers and other countrymen too.
2. Food in India is simply amazing for Israeli tourists. They find quite tasty and palatable to eat Indian food. Some of the food ingredients and items are quite similar to Israeli like chickpeas, sesame, brinjal etc which they use heavily in their day to day items like falafel, Tahini, Shakshuka etc. It has been observed that Indians like Israeli food and Israelis likes Indian food more or less unlike Korean, Taiwanese food which are just world apart. Also in case some Israelis prefer eating only Israeli food, that too is available at many restaurants across the city. Restaurants near Synagogue, in Chabbad houses, and Israeli settlements like in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, huge number of Israeli food joints are available. These days even Indian homes have started cooking and delivering Israeli food in places like Mumbai, Delhi and small villages of Himachal. Especially during Shabbat days many Indian Jew families have started getting involved in Israeli food cooking. Moreover if you are vegan or vegetarian it does not matter, as there are many pure vegetarian restaurants in India. Also there are many religious places like Haridwar, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Vrindavan where only pure vegetarian food is available and non veg is simply not allowed to be cooked and eaten. In places like Bhagsu and Daharamkot in Himachal, adjacent villages, there various Jewish centres and Chabbad Houses which cater food to hundreds of young Israelis coming to India. So it is a kind of food heaven for Israeli travellers.
3. Israeli Jews have lived in India for centuries and they have long experienced Indian culture and have adapted to the same so profoundly as if it was their own culture. They know, understand and feel India so well that it has seeped into their heart. Indian Synagogues and Chabbad Houses are so close to their hearts. So they enjoy coming and staying long durations in India. Many of the Israeli

Jews have carried back Indian culture when they went back to Israeli in 1948 and after. For them Indian culture is just unique.

4. Israelis find spirituality of India, a great asset and love it from their whole heart. Yoga and meditation has been the forte of India and we all know that India is the best country for taking a journey to spirituality. Yoga, Ayurveda, meditation has been the USP of India and in fact is said to have taken birth here only. Places like Rishikesh, Haridwar, Varanasi is like heaven in India for spiritual upliftment. Truly speaking they love the life of spiritually combined with laid back attitude and some fun in life.
5. It is most suitable for family travel. Kids can enjoy, while their family can feel safe. Kids too like Indian food. There is a family atmosphere in India in comparison to other countries, may be because Indians like Israelis, and so are compassionate to kids too.
6. There is one very important thing that they do not like is: Here the roads are so clumsy and full of traffic. Vehicles are parked in much disorganised manner. Traffic lights are missing, traffic policemen are missing. Vehicles keep lying on the road and not cleared off by traffic department. Due to which the roads are chaotic. Also in India bus and truck drivers honk a lot and surprisingly people stay calm and do not do anything on it. It is a like an organised chaos which is so unique to India. But the best part is that still life moves on here. Also in spite of such traffic conditions the Indian drivers are great and drive through small lanes and chaotic traffic where millions of people are walking and cycling in most unorganised manner. Its world apart and some Israelis like to see such India as reported by few Israeli travellers.
7. India is huge and it has many spectrum of things to offer to the whole world and the Israelis. Its natural beauty is great. Some believe that it is so huge that one cannot see the whole of India during one birth alone. Its variety is enormous and endless from landscape, to jungles, wildlife, to adventure, to heritage monuments and hotels to water sports and Islands, to hills and mountains and so on.
8. Since Israelis love to travel and stay together we can find small villages and settlements where there are permanent colonies of Israeli backpackers living for years. In fact they have converted the whole area into Israeli settlement. Israeli shops, restaurants, Chabbad houses, Synagogues, sign boards all yell and say “Hey this is mini Israel”. You can see parties and huge gatherings in many of such India's remote corners. Frankly speaking you will find yourself foreigner like when you visit such towns and villages here if you are non Israeli.
9. Someone truly said it is no more a passion to travel to India but now a kind of ritual for all Israeli youngsters who finish their compulsory Military service to take a break to India. It's like an auto mode for them. It's a wave, phenomena to book yourself for India immediately after graduating from the military camps.



10. The complete freedom to do anything or nothing, quiet environment, natural surrounding brings them to India. These youngsters of 20 to 24 years do not go to Agra to see Taj Mahal first, but rather rush to the Parvati valley (in Himachal), southern villages, Goa beaches, or Himalayas in search of solace and co Israeli travellers. Indians are friendly, comfortable and their let- it- happen attitude gives them huge comfort zone to come to India, in a flow like manner and be a part of the ongoing mix culture. They have an easy life here, getting up late, have breakfast, internet, Googling, listening to soft music, and eating preferred food. So this enormous freedom prompts them to stay for years.

Critical thinking and conclusion: Critics say that, with the fast changing situation, community feeling is slowing fading away and being replaced by professionalism and confined to self upliftment only. Majority of Jews these days are Jews by birth only and not by virtue. Their religious instinct is no more predominating. Their religious practices are more of family & social customary in nature than call from the inner soul and thus Judaism remains just a lifestyle at the best. Judaism practice and participate prevails because they have been taught and experienced from childhood and honestly they do not believe in core values of Judaism. Also Jews are from many different nations and thus they have different religions degree of belief from : some hardcore Orthodox to Jews who do not even care for the religious books and Synagogue visits.

Israelis becoming more modern day by day, they all have developed independent thoughts and ideologies. And so they tend to prefer more reliance on promotional channels rather than the family opinion and thought process even when it comes to choosing a travel destination. They prefer going to a travel agent, and getting more hooked up with the magazines, newspaper ads and road shows.

However all said and done by critics and radical thinkers, we cannot deny the fact that Israel is still a “compact nation” with more family and religious values, carry the same age old hard core ideology and preferred sentimental value for India, possess back-to- roots feeling & community oriented mentality. With no anti-Semitism for them here, Israeli back-packers and normal tourists feel more at ease travelling to India than most of the countries that are on their travel destination list. The impact of historical events since 2500 to 3000 years, the growing closeness with India, the nightmares of holocaust and still predominating anti-Semitism in various countries, cannot be wiped out in just few years. Deep imbibed faith in Judaism and love for Indian people, cordial atmosphere in India, long history of Jews settling in India, still prevailing enmity among anti – Israeli lobby, specially the Palestinian and neighbouring countries, ensures that they are same what they were few decades back. So India can plan and strengthen more blue-prints on the same route to ensure more traffic from Israel, as the state is small, religiously blended, psychologically glued to each other and culturally channelized.

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The Editorial Board had used the Ouriginal – a Swedish anti-plagiarism software tool which is a fully-automatic machine learning text-recognition system made for detecting, preventing and handling plagiarism and trusted by thousands of institutions across worldwide. Ouriginal by Turnitin is an award-winning software that helps detect and prevent plagiarism regardless of language. Combining text-matching with writing-style analysis to promote academic integrity and prevent plagiarism, Ouriginal is simple, reliable and easy to use. Ouriginal was acquired by Turnitin in 2021. As part of a larger global organization GJEIS and Turnitin better equipped to anticipate the foster an environment of academic integrity for educators and students around the globe. Ouriginal is GDPR compliant with privacy by design and an uptime of 99.9% and have trust to be the partner in academic integrity (<https://www.ouriginal.com/>) tool to check the originality and further affixed the similarity index which is {3%} in this case (See below Annexure-I). Thus, the reviewers and editors are of view to find it suitable to publish in this Volume-14, Issue-2, Apr-June 2022.

Annexure 14.9

| Submission Date | Submission Id | Word Count | Character Count |
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Reviewers Memorandum



Reviewer's Comment 1: This paper has very interesting theme. It discusses the factors behind the Jew's travel to India and their close connection with India. As per one personal survey mentioned in the paper it is found that many Israeli tourists travelled to India on recommendation of friends and relatives.

Reviewer's Comment 2: The study is done in quite systematic manner. Right from the beginning of making of the country Israel to who are the Israeli Jews and what are their tourism connection with India, this paper explains very beautifully.

Reviewer's Comment 3: The paper is exhaustive in nature. It talks about the country Israel its population ethnicity in which Jews are in majority who feel more at ease travelling to India than most of the countries that are on their travel destination list.



Arvind Kumar Dubey and Vidyanath Mishra
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Conflict of Interest: Author of a Paper had no conflict neither financially nor academically.

Editorial Excerpt



The article has 3% of plagiarism which is the accepted percentage as per the norms and standards of the journal for publication. As per the editorial board's observations and blind reviewers' remarks the paper had some minor revisions which were communicated on a timely basis to the authors (Arvind and Vidyanath), and accordingly, all the corrections had been incorporated as and when directed and required to do so. The comments related to this manuscript are noticeably related to the theme "**Disguised Force behind Israeli Jew's travel to India - Their closed knitted community's instinct**" both subject-wise and research-wise. Israel is only country in the world which is declared as Jew's state. And these Israeli carry religious values and they have preferred sentimental value for India. Israeli tourists feel more at ease travelling to India. Apart from tourism there is also geo-political significance for India. After comprehensive reviews and the editorial board's remarks, the manuscript has been categorized and decided to publish under the "**Case Based Study**" category.

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The acknowledgement section is an essential part of all academic research papers. It provides appropriate recognition to all contributors for their hard work and effort taken while writing a paper. The data presented and analyzed in this paper by (Arvind and Vidyanath) were collected first handily and wherever it has been taken the proper acknowledgment and endorsement depicts. The authors are highly indebted to others who facilitated accomplishing the research. Last but not least endorse all reviewers and editors of GJEIS in publishing in the present issue.

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