**TOURISM AND SOCIETY (MGBBT1TAS)**

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# Introduction

Tourism will remain a path of development for all nations around the world. It is important to focus on the dynamic interconnection between society and tourism for improving tourism as a sector and society now and in the future. Moreover being a significant driver of the use of anthropic and natural resources, local customs, and tradition, the interconnection between society and tourism is directly offering employment and GDP growth. As commented by Nogues-Pedregal (2012), a statistical sketch would be in order to frame the significance of tourism as an economic fact in the province of Malaga, Spain. However, tourism is not only a simulating aspect for regional or local economies but also enhances all domains of activity with which tourism businesses come into indirect and direct connection.

This essay aims to discuss the dynamic interconnection between society and tourism and identify the reason behind the importance of tourism development as a society and industry. As stated by Yeoman and McMahon-Beattie (2019), identity is an important factor between tourism and society that comes with expressions, beliefs, qualities, and conceptions that make a group or person's identity. For that reason, it might be distinguished from identification whereas it refers to the act, which is classifying itself.

The interconnection between society and tourism can be outlined through the Interconnected Society Theory. In this context, Davis (2022) cited that the first social identity within its interrelation with tourism is a relational social identity. The application of the interconnected society theory is useful to find out how people connected to others in particular methods. People get economic benefits like foreign currency earnings, revenue generation, and employment that uplift the interconnection between their society and tourism. Furthermore, the interdependence and interaction of processes, places, and people in the tourism sector lie in economic entanglement connections with feeding sectors.

# Discussion

**Negative economic impacts of Tourism on the society**

The tourism and travel industry is a strong example of the volatile sectors. According to the views of Eslami*et al.* (2019), the negative economic impact is affected by sustainable tourism development. Sustainable travel refers to tourism that reduces work and harms the development of the cultural and natural environments where tourists visit. Large carbon footprints, environmental pollution, and water overuse lead to the negative economic impact of tourism on the community. Even though many regions of the planet are conserved in the form of protected areas and reserved forests, tourism improvement can still have multiple negative impacts from neglect, overuse, and misuse.

The positive connection between tourism development and environmental performance denotes that economic stability is a necessary condition. However, Musa *et al.* (2021) have shown that the direct economic impact of tourism on GDP ranges from 2.6% to 5.6% in both northeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Besides, over-dependence has a negative impact on the economy. This is because as fashions and tastes transform, the number of visitors traveling to a specific destination may reduce very suddenly (Gov.wales, 2023). It leads to businesses closing and loss of employment. This evidence shows the negative economic impacts of those nations in terms of tourism development.

Some possible interrelatedness among challenges and negative issues within tourism development are security, globalization, travel marketing, and taxation. Although security is a key challenge to the tourism and travel sector, many industry leaders have failed to face security problems. Besides security, globalization has made less distinctive locales within the tourism sector. Travel marketing can transform globalization by working towards making innovative marketing solutions. Taxation is also significant for the sector to provide competitive value for its products and services. Ionescu*et al.* (2019) commented that tourism is contained as a target under three individual sustainable development goals. However, being aware of the interrelatedness between challenges and negative issues, people can invest more in the tourism sector.

Possible interrelatedness among the above-mentioned challenges directly affects the interrelationship between tourism and society. Jamal and Budke (2020) have shown the actions and reactions in the tourism and travel context to overcome those challenges. The actions are directly related to security which is another key challenge to the tourism and travel sector. Hence, the interrelatedness between the challenges and negative issues supports the tourism industry to focus on the solutions to overcome the issues. It can make a positive impact on the interrelation between society and tourism.

Tourism can create negative and positive impacts under three key segments that are environmental, social, and economic. These effects are analysed through data collection by industry, government, and business organizations. As per the data from "United Nations World Tourism Organisation”, global tourist arrival has been expanded up to 1.4 billion, a 5% growth in 2018. This sheer increase in the industry has been driven by a robust global economy (Unwto, 2019). Overall, the growth of tourist arrival after interrelating the tourism sector's challenges has a positive impact on the economic development within the society.

**Other negative impacts of tourism on the society**

The negative impacts of tourism on society are essential and these consist of waste problems and pollution as well as the depletion of local natural resources. For example, with the rapid development of the Chinese economy, residents' disposable income and abundant material wealth gradually grew. Self-driving tourism makes more carbon emissions than bus tourism in China. In self-driving tourism, 27.1% distance has been counted for more than 1000 kilometres, 14.5% distance has been counted for 300-500 kilometres and 37.5% is counted for less than 300 kilometres (Fang *et al.* 2021). These statistics show that the regular carbon footprint of self-driving travellers is the greatest, followed by the tourists who use buses. Moreover, Liu *et al.* (2022) commented that the tourism sector addresses the direct effect of financial development on Carbon emissions while inspecting the connection between Carbon Dioxide emissions and tourism. Tourism depends on, and greatly affects, the ecology in which it runs. In many cases, ecology is a necessary resource that ecotourism and outdoor recreation cannot exist without.

Tourism places numerous stresses on regional land use and can lead to more pressure on engaged species, natural habitat loss and increased pollution. These results can damage the ecological resources gradually on which tourism itself relies. Thyne*et al.* (2022) stated that the interaction between residents and tourists is one of the key aspects of tourism, taking into account the interrelationship between people from various realities. However, it engages destinations and people and has both negative and positive effects on the economy and environment where it happens.

Tourism offers more than 5% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions with transportation counting for 90% of this. In addition, Ferreira *et al.* (2021) commented that a 25% growth is expected by 2030 in Carbon Dioxide emissions from tourism compared to 2016. It negatively affected the economy of the nations. Mannaa (2020) commented that tourism can create negative socio-cultural, economic and environmental consequences. In this context, Social Exchange Theory can be useful to explore and explain the attitude of the host society towards tourism. In addition, it is greatly interconnected with the resource exchange between groups and individuals in a setting of interaction. Therefore, the resource exchange has a positive impact on the economic impact of tourism development.

According to the above interrelatedness among challenges and negative issues, it can be found that tourism is one of the most significant parts of the worldwide economy. It creates a huge opportunity and revenue globally for which it has a positive impact on the society's well-being overall. Moreover, it is contemplated by many societies, particularly in emerging nations, as the only development tool. The overall contribution of tourism and travel to the worldwide total domestic product increased by 21.7% in 2021 (Statista, 2023). Both the actions of tourists and investors are having positive effects on the economic assets of host societies across the world. Hence the tourism sector has stretched from mountain to seaside resorts and from big metropolises to small villages as well ***[Refer to Appendix].***

**Future development of the interconnection between society and tourism**

The possible scenarios of future tourism and society highlight the requirement to be responsive and adaptable to the evolution of travellers and travel markets. According to the views of Hughes and Moscardo (2019), the future travel experience includes the management, maintenance, coordination and existence of the needed systems and infrastructure. Besides, societal and demographic changes will need the tourism sector to make infrastructure services, programming and products resonate with diversified groups. Hence, it affected the growing global middle class, increasing wealth, multi-generational travel, elders and millennial.

An overarching trend has been found in the possible scenarios of future society and tourism. As commented by Webster and Ivanov (2020), the introduction of self-service kiosks, chatbots, robots and other automation technologies are the key factors of future tourism. All these factors are useful to pursue authentic experiences, containing, fulfilment, rejuvenation, learning skills and adventure. Hence, it can have a positive impact on the interrelationship between society and tourism. Many tourism businesses lost or lay off employees during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. A gross of 62 million tourism-related posts was lost globally in 2020 (Obtaininternational, 2023). However, that leisure demand will be made again and companies have struggled to recruit sufficient substitutes for the future tourism scenario.

As with increasing values generated through inflation, employee shortages make it more difficult to accomplish the expectations of tourists. For example, the chaotic scenario at the United Kingdom airports such as Gatwick and Heathrow became viral, acting as a possible obstacle for customers within the tourism industry. About 20% of people travelled for work before the global pandemic. During the post-pandemic, the percentage of business travel is increasing and the overall percentage of business travellers will impact positively future tourism (Salam and Halim, 2022). Moreover, it will also resolve the negative trends and challenges in the future. On the other hand, it is often more usual that antisocial behaviour from tourist groups will be the reason for conflict.

The research findings to sketch the possible scenarios shows that negative trends of tourism have a negative impact on economic development. Besides the economy, the social controls in the interrelation of society and tourism have been presented as a contradiction of recreation and leisure for the traveller groups. Thus it has an overall negative impact on future tourism scenarios. This is because the negative trends are rising due to political, cultural and social instability in tourism development.

# Conclusion

It can be concluded that the tourism industry consists of three key parts that are social and economic results, stability in tourist attraction areas and movement. The movement represents the movement of tourists through various modes of transportation. Moreover, the tourism sector is achieving momentum in recent times for which sustainable tourism development is affected through economic impact. On the other hand, there is a positive connectivity between environmental performance and tourism development that indicates the economic balance in the tourism sector. Therefore, it can be concluded that focusing on security, globalisation, travel marketing and taxation will help tourism businesses overcome the negative issues and challenges.

The global tourism and travel industry's post-pandemic recovery is having pace since the pent-up desire of the world to rekindle travel. Besides, one of the negative effects of the interrelation between tourism and society identified is climate change through carbon emission. Thus the future of interconnection between society and tourism depends on some factors that determine how the tourism sector performs. These consist of consumer preferences, changing market dynamics, health security and vaccination rates and travel restrictions. At the same moment, the tourism sector will have to prepare for future challenges and trends.

The tourism sector has taken the globe by storm with its immense opportunities. Therefore, different issues on preserving the environment from a tourism perspective have been developed. It has addressed the negative issues and challenges in the interconnection of tourism and society. Also, the sustainability of tourism itself, sustainable use of natural resources, and environmental protection has been improved in recent years. This development shows that tourism supports the improvement and development of faculties in countries. In addition, it can be concluded that tourism also equally benefits the regional society and sustainable tourism cannot be a more accurate mechanism for development.

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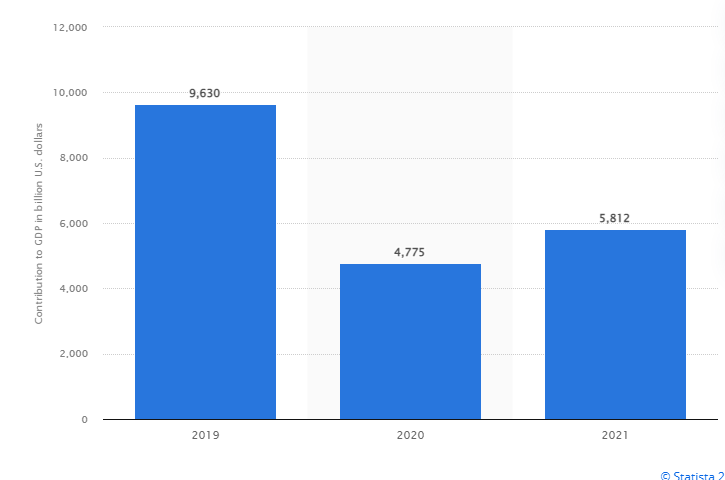
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# Appendix: Contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP



(Source: Statista, 2023)