

“Tourism should be banned in order to protect local environments, cultures and economies.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Evaluate the impact of tourism in these three Areas.

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While every development stand in need of land resources, tourism development claims more land resources to support the existence of its facilities. The expansion of tourism development affects the environment and this suggest the necessity for its regulations over its environmental impacts(Sudipa et al. 2020). The starting point of pollution in ground water, sea water and air is the land activities caused by tourism which act as a source of pollutants from machinery and this reduces the quality of these natural resources(Sudipa et al. 2020). However despite the fact that tourism development have a negative impact on the environment, culture and economies, tourism development actually contributes to the employment of vacant land into developed land, creates job opportunities as well as strengthen identities thus contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Sudipa et al. 2020). This thesis seeks to evaluate the impact of tourism on the economy, the environment as well as on cultural beliefs.

Cultural Impact: When tourists become entertained in a local area their culture can easily get adopted by the local people this ranges from their needs values as well as their attitude, Over a period of time the local people can start imitating the newly earned culture especially in cases where a stronger culture is dominant over the other(Šťastná et al 2020). This then creates and in some way may violate the ethics of the weaker culture from preferences, clothing, tastes and language among others as the stronger culture continue to become dominant over the other. Continuous mixing of cultures also contributes to a situation where by the culture becomes infiltrated with borrowed cultures resulting in hybrid cultures this results in changes in the tastes of music, food and this will then discourage tourism as the culture which was once a tourist attraction becomes diluted and will no longer attract tourists and there will be little to no difference between their culture and the borrowed culture.

On the other side cultural tourism promotes cultural heritage in artefacts such as art, folklore as well as pilgrimages as this will increase more tourists visits thus maintaining the culture in the local area. This is because that the rural community maintains its identity in a much more faithful manner as compared to urban communities which is more globalised as compared to rural (Šťastná et al 2020). Cultural preservation restores the cultural pride of a local area and will increase cultural exchange as well as strengthening cultural values.

Environmental Impact: Kuchumov et al 2021 concluded that tourism has a negative impact on the environment as it results in land degradation. Land degradation is promoted by building of roads, building of accommodation of facilities for tourists, building of recreational areas

among other facilities. The cost of tours also play a crucial role in environment degradation as the rate of carbon emissions is increased due to the continuous burning of petroleum fuels and economic growth caused by tourism as well as high use of energy and this contributes to environmental issues such as global warming and greenhouse effect(Lee & Brahmasrene, 2016). Global warming contributes to climate changed which can be inhabitable for animals in most cases which will be the source of attraction and this causes reduced populations for wildlife and this in turn will reduce the revenues obtained as there will be fewer tourists. Tourism however can lead to over allocation of scarce resources in cases such as clean water and vegetation this is mainly a concern in areas which contain wildlife as there can be overgrazing as well as overconsumption of clean water as animals will be kept in a predefined area. Overuse of land is also another cause of concern on tourism as it exerts stress on the land and will result in soil erosion and habitat loss for animals resulting in uncontrolled deaths of animals and spread of diseases. Tourism result in the depletion of natural resources as they will over consumed when they are already scarce.

However, Lu et al 2018 argued that tourism is beneficial for the environment as it creates competition in local areas such as rural areas as they make use of vacant areas and develop them to make them tourist attractions thus reducing dumpsites as less places will be left vacant thus resulting in planned garbage and waste management. Lu et al 2018 also conducted a research on the rate of garbage collected and discharged in local areas as more and more tourist resorts were developed and they concluded that the discharge of garbage and waste increased as the tourism domestic earnings were increasing thus this turned out to be beneficial to the environment as proper waste management plans were recruited.

Economic Impact: In 2019 the world became in a state of panic as a deadly virus was detected in China which was then identified as COVID-19. Travel and tourism was the major catalyst in spreading this virus as many people travelled from one country to another for vocational and business purposes. This then resulted in a worldwide lockdown and banning all travel and tourism activities until the virus was controlled, Most countries are still under lockdown as a result of this pandemic and some are still experiencing the highest cases per day for this deadly virus. This resulted in many countries closing down on their industries, stores, companies and banning public gatherings resulting in the fall of the GDP for many countries not mentioning the funds disbursed by the government as relief funds, the investments made by governments in order to find a cure and vaccines for the virus among other costs which were associated with

the pandemic (Rowiński, 2020). Tourism contributes to the increase of prices in tourist attraction centres due as this is fuelled by increase in demand for goods and services by tourists and locals on that area. The increase in tourism also requires more infrastructure services which are costly to develop as well as maintain so that they continue to provide quality services to tourists and locals.

On the other hand tourism is a great revenue generator for economies as it creates jobs to locals thus reducing unemployment rate. Ajagunna, 2014 conducted a study in Jamaica on the positive impacts of tourism on the economy and concluded that 13.5% of the workforce conducted research on were in the tourism sector, This finding implies that tourism is playing a bigger role on the support of day to day living of Jamaicans as unemployment rates are decreasing this reducing poverty in the Jamaican economy. Ajagunna, 2014 also recorded a boost in Jamaican GDP which increased with 4.7 percent per annum. The case study showed that tourism is a key factor in the growth of an economy and can increase foreign currency flows into the country. Foreign currency realised through tourism can be re invested into the economy or used to import goods and services as the currency can have a higher buying power in the host country. Some countries have foreign currency which have higher values i.e. United States, Britain among others and targeting of tourists from such countries results in realisation of high value foreign currency.

In conclusion tourism creates jobs, generates foreign currency and generates revenue to a given economy (Ajagunna, 2014). This results in an increase in the economy's GDP and easier importation of goods and services. Tourism also promotes cultural heritage and cultural exchange as well as maintenance of cultural identity to attract more tourists (Šťastná et al 2020). Based on a study, addition tourism promotes competition in local environments resulting in well maintained tourist attractions and proper garbage and waste disposal (Lu et al 2018). Although there are many advantages on tourism on all the three aspects namely culture, economical and environmental, tourism requires proper management in order to preserve natural resources as well as preserve life and avoid spread of diseases resulting in global pandemics. Proper training of staff is also a necessity in order to properly manage natural resources and avoid over allocation of natural resources (Sudipa et al. 2020). Regulations need to be put in place to prevent over exhaustion of natural resources as well as preserving vegetation and forestation such that land degradation is reduced and the preservation of wildlife is upheld.

Reference List

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