

Chapter 22

The Role of Tourism Development in Political Stability and Disruption

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ABSTRACT

Tourism development is considered one of the most potent drivers to transform society by increasing economic growth, ensuring cultural exchange, creating new job opportunities, building new infrastructure, and improving international goodwill. The involvement of all the stakeholders, such as the government, host community, business organizations, and others, is essential and somehow mandatory. It can create significant political disruptions due to the unequal and imbalanced distribution of the benefits of tourism among different parties. This chapter examines the inherent relationship between tourism development and political disruption, including how uneven distribution of economic benefits can create political tensions and disruptions and accelerate social inequalities, which trigger an unstable political environment. The connection between tourism and politics, the concurring challenges from this relationship, and the opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts and offer insights and recommendations for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and communities.

BACKGROUND

As the driving factor of the development, the tourism industry serves the domestic and international markets. The advancements in the tourist sector can create benefits for different destinations and that can influence the overall economic condition of the whole nation (Crouch & Ritchie, 1999). The evolution of new technologies and tourism development can expand the opportunities for all the relevant parties related to tourism. Tourism development can bring both positive and negative impacts in terms of the

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social, environmental, economic, and political perspectives (Sawon et al., 2024). When the benefits of tourism are unstructured and not properly distributed among different groups it can create a disruptive environment and resentment among those groups. Though tourism development is considered a crucial change maker for the well-being of society it can create disruption and social inequalities too (Filep, 2014). From a political perspective, tourist growth can change society for the better or worse. Unequal distribution of power and authority among different key players in tourism can create disturbance, resource conflicts, erosion of cultural values, and also political unrest (Rani et al., 2021). So with changes like tourism development, the expansion in the political implications needs to be analyzed for the betterment of both governments and industry stakeholders (Zmysłony et al., 2020).

INTRODUCTION

Tourism development is considered the route to achieving economic growth, enriching cultural heritage, and gaining international recognition. It indicates the processes through which the planning, development, and management of tourism and its related activities are ensured. Tourism development assists by facilitating sustainable growth in the overall economy of the country by maximizing the benefit of the related parties such as tourists, host communities, and the related sectors (Sharpley & Telfer, 2014). Any sort of disturbance or hindrance to the general functioning of the government or political systems can be termed political disruption. Political disruption can start with a little conflict and end devastatingly by including violence, civil unrest, and civil war. (Clements & Georgiou, 1998). It means tourism development can sometimes create political disruptions and affect both the stability and governance of that particular destination. This chapter examines the inseparable connection between tourism development and political disruption, examining the way how economic benefits can somehow amplify the gap among different parties and create social inequalities, arouse political disruptions, and also initiate unwanted violence and conflicts (Ingram et al., 2013). By analyzing different related studies this chapter focuses on how tourism development can affect the political landscape of a country in both positive and negative ways. Key areas considered within the chapter are the political economy of tourism, the role of government policies, the impact on international relations, tourism in conflict zones, media portrayal, and strategies for mitigating political disruption. This chapter aims to give an overview of the possible challenges and opportunities that tourism development influences the stability of political factors, as well as some insights and recommendations for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the host communities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Literature Review intends to describe the inseparable relationship between tourism development and political disruption. By examining the available studies, this section aims to explain how the condition of tourism development can influence the stability of the political environment and also the harmful effects of it to create political disruption. The concept of tourism development considers the creation and improvement of the key elements related to the tourism sector, such as infrastructure, accommodation, transportation, utilities, marketing and promotion, attraction, employment, and others (Chang & Katrichis, 2016). For the overall success of the tourism sector and development of tourism political stability is one of the prime concerns because political disruption can hamper the impact of

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