

Promoting Responsible Tourism Practices

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Abstract

By responsible tourism we mean that kind of eco-friendly tourism which chiefly focuses minimizing its negative effects on environment, culture and localities of that particular place while enhancing the contribution which has to be positive for the host communities, environment as well as culture. Responsible tourism promotes sustainable and ethical travel practices and mainly focuses not only on preserving heritage but also encouraging responsible travel behavior. Changes in traveller's behavior are among the most significant issues in the current revolution of the tourism industry. The transition to responsible tourism is primarily driven by tourism destination related elements and the strength of the impact related to maintain the quality of life of the local people, redistributing the benefits of tourism for travel destination as well as expanding the value and distinctiveness of the travel destination product and maintaining long term attractiveness within the capacity of travel destination and efficient use of its tourism resources. In the words of Cap Town declaration "Responsible tourism is about making better places for people to live in and better places for people to visit. It is important to find out how visitors from different part of the world support the principles of responsible tourism in the expression of their behavior. This paper will explore on key principles challenges and provide recommendation for implementation

Keywords: Responsible Tourism, Flora and Fauna, Trash, Homestay, Flaming .

1 INTRODUCTION

Thomas cook is the father of modern tourism. Tourism can be regarded as one of the fastest growing industry in the world. As it not only brings economic benefit and cultural exchange but also proved as a biggest reason for the development of the local people. Despite its emergence as an important philosophy and practice of tourism development in many part of the world, very little is known about the demand side of responsible tourism : this taking in one’s understandingof the phenomenon is significant, since the “responsible tourism approach works best when it engages the consumer, enabling the traveler, the holiday makes to have a better experience.”

The principles of responsible tourism, value orientations and expectations regarding the behavior of travelers have been formulated relatively, recently, realizing that it takes time for conceptionalbehavioural attitude to become a part of everyday travel behavior.



Figure 11: Sustainable Travel

Destinations That Promotes Responsibl Tourism:-

- **SIKKIM (INDIA)** – Sikkim focuses on sustainable practices like waste management, organic farming and community based tourism.

- **MAWLYNNONG,MEGHALAYA(INDIA)**–Thisvillage is known for its cleanliness and community – based tourism initiatives, encouraging visitors to respect local customers and support local businesses.
- **BHUTAN** – Bhutan has a“High Value,Low Impact” tourism policy,requiring adailytariff thatcontributes to conservation, infrastructure and local benefits.
- **COSTA RICA** – Known for its commitment to ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. It offers a wide range of sustainable tourism options such as deforestation reversal, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, national decarbonisation plan etc.

KEY PRACTICES FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY – This kind of responsibility enables the travels to minimize waste and indulge in the activities of 3R’ sthatis REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. It also talks about the conservation of fauna and flora of the tourist place and become conscious about the activities that minimize environmental harm.

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY – It is the utmost responsibility to help economically the tourist place where he or she is travelling by staying in the local-owned accommodations like home stay, eat at the local restaurants and purchase souvenirs from local artist.

CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY – It is highly recommended for the travelers to research the culture of their destination and follow the local norms as far as their culture and religion is concerned that involves dignifies behavior and decent dress up especially when visiting a public place, temple, church etc.

BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELER – Show your concern towards the place by interactions with local people, curiosity to learn about their lives and culture and most importantly pack out all trash and minimize your impact on the environment.

CHALLENGES Following are the challenges that works as a hurdle in the path of Responsible Tourism:

OVER TOURISM

With the increasing rate of population worldwide and the increase in the per annum of common people the Irim proved life style, better transport and other facilities, over tourism become a flaming problem for almost all the tourist places. It effects badly not only the localities of the tourist places but also their flora and fauna.

LACK OF AWARENESS –

Most of the travelers are unaware about the term “Responsible Tourism”, even the educated enough tourist hardly knows about this term. What most of the tourists believes is that if they are spending money then they have got the right to enjoy the most and leave that place that’s it.

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LIMITED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT–

In many of the states there is a lack of strong policies, rules and regulations and incentives promoting responsible tourism. This kind of indifference approach of leading government agencies increase the possibilities of indiscipline behavior among the travelers.

INCONSISTENT STANDARDS

One of the biggest challenge or we can say hurdle in the path of responsible tourism is lack of universally accepted framework or certification for responsible tourism. This kind of inconsistency makes it hard to measure and compare sustainable practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS–

- By building a worldwide community of responsible travelers we can lead to a more sustainable tourism industry.
- It is highly recommended for the travelers to get themselves engaged in activities that are respectful of local culture and traditions, especially like attending cultural festivals visiting historical sites and landmarks and to participate in local workshops exhibitions, fetes etc.
- For a responsible tourism, It is required that travelers should choose responsible tour operators and travel agencies that priorities sustainable and ethical practices and support local communities.
- It is recommended that travelers must respect natural habitats and wildlife, like visiting national parks and wildlife sanctuaries', engaging in responsible wildlife watching and support conservation efforts.
- It is important for the travelers to educate themselves on local customs and traditions, environmental issues social and economical challenges facing the community being visited.

2 CONCLUSION

For the better future of travelling there is an utmost requirement of responsible tourism. Overcoming from the above given challenges required coordinated efforts among tourist localities, government and industry players. Awareness, discipline and motivation can also increase the rate of responsible tourism and can make tourism responsible in real sense.

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