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**ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR**

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**ABSTRACT**

Theoretical economic geography concepts have recently become increasingly popular in tourism studies. One of the reasons is the increasing importance of innovation and evolution in the tourism sector, areas that have been theorized much earlier in economic geography. In this chapter we contribute to this emerging literature by focusing on two key notions from economic geography, namely co-evolution and regional innovation systems.

**Keywords:** Economy, Tourism, Geography, Infrastructure, Evolution.

**Introduction**

The tourism sector is regarded as the largest nongovernmental economic activity in the world, and it is important for local economies globally. The natural characteristics of local environments are a key tourist attraction, and the occurrence of natural disasters in such geographical locations might hinder the inward movement of people into such territories. The impact of tourism on economic growth and development might be adversely affected if the impacts of natural disasters on tourism flows and their implications on the attraction of tourists are not addressed.

There can be no denying that tourism is a major global economic force. Hardly a day goes by without a new pronouncement about the wider of what many call the world's largest industry. International tourism has grown substantially in recent decades, with technological improvements, rising living standards and broader processes of globalization leading to rapid increases in visitor numbers.

Tourism impacts economies through three interrelated routes i.e. direct, indirect and induced effects. These impacts and the structure of the tourism sector determine the sectors economic impact on a country. The impact of tourism on both economic growth and employment is clearly positive, there is good quantifiable data and evidence that tourism positively contributes to both economic growth as well as on employment, both directly and indirectly. Estimating tourism's overall impact on incomes is problematic due to limited evidence on income and wage effects at the global level. Overall, available data shows positive impacts on incomes as well as positive impacts on both livelihoods and poverty.

Tourism has direct, indirect and induced impacts on local economies, these can often be largely divergent between countries, based on the structure of the sector but most importantly on how well linked tourism activities are with the local economy. Greater linkages generally translate into higher levels of local economic activity (and growth), which tend to occur when tourism enterprises source their goods and services (including labour) locally whilst low levels of economic linkages occur where tourism enterprises are dependent on imports (including staff) to supply their demands.

**Direct Impacts:** Represents the GDP generated by activities that directly deal with tourism such as hotels, travel agents, airlines and tour operators as well as restaurants and other activities that cater to tourists.

• **Indirect Impacts,** impacts which accrue due to the activities undertaken by the sector, and are a function of three different factors:

1. **Capital Investment in tourism:** Includes capital investment within all sectors that are directly involved in the tourism industry as well as spending by enterprises in other sectors on tourism assets such as transport or accommodation.

2. **Government Spending for Tourism:** Government spending to support the tourism sector, which can include both national and local spending. Activities include tourism promotion, visitor services, administration etc.

3. **Supply Chain Effects:** These represent the purchase of domestic goods and services, as inputs to the production of their final outputs, by enterprises within the tourism sector.

• **Induced Impacts:** Represents the wider contribution of tourism through the expenditures of those who are directly or indirectly employed by the tourism sector.

Tourism activities have gained momentum due to developments, especially after the Industrial Revolution. In this process, the increase of leisure time, the increase of education, culture and income level, the increase of tiredness and discomfort due to urbanization and city life, the developments in rights and freedom, and tourism and travel consciousness started to settle in society and played a great role.

The place is one of the most complicated issues in geographical studies. Place refers to both sides of human and physical geography. There is not clearly understand about the place and sometimes refer to local, area, point, region, and landscape. Tourism geography is about different human and physical characteristics that conduct groups of people to move to a specific place "tourism destination". Therefore, tourist moves have tied to so many different geographical concepts, aspects, and meanings of place. Different places have different identity and geography searches for these uneven distributions of place. Rapid move from one place on the earth to another place is possible by advanced transportation systems. Hiding and destroying the function and meaning place behind space in geography will minimize the success of entire geographical studies in particular tourism geography. No matter how fast human be "speed" shortening "distance" and the "time" of trips faster than decades ago, but they have never been able to carry what are attached to place. The first question is, are we at the end of the real meaning of the place and does place losing the meaning. The second question is how the ability to move from one place to another place has changed the concept and meaning of the place. A library research method and process involve gathering appropriate information. This study aims to show how tourism geography in terms of formation, activity, and significance in shaping and reshaping the new meaning of the place. Also, the evolution of the meaning and function of place in the context of space.

The interaction between service receivers (guests) and service providers (hosts) in tourism is accompanied by social and cultural changes. Interprets these influences of tourism on society and culture in the following way: a) Effect on population structure – including population size, age and gender structure, change in family size, the transformation of a population from rural to urban structure.

- b) Changes in the types of professions and their forms – including effects on language effect or language, the effect of the distribution of occupations according to sectors, increase in demand for the female workforce, increase in seasonal employment.
- c) Transformation of political, social, religious, or moral values.
- d) Effect on traditional lifestyle through, for example, art, music and folklore, traditions and customs in everyday life.
- e) Modification of consumption patterns in terms of quality (qualitative regulations), and quantity (quantitative regulations).
- f) Benefits provided to tourists such rest-recreation, environment change, broadening the perspective, and social contacts.

The world is changing the meaning, definition, and concept of the place is changing but the place with never ends. Tourism is the modern human behaviour as far as a mathematical science, map, and navigation tools developed human shortened the distance between two points on the earth. The human had never had imagination from the other places when there was not a camera or easy Google Earth online navigation. The cyber world has changed the tourism imagination from the place and ability to reach go to another place. The trip was expensive, dangerous, and not available everywhere and for everyone.

Therefore, the place is not dead and still is the most meaningful theme in geography. Where we start and where we end is a place and in between, we pass through other places. What makes person as tourist moves from one part the world to the other part of the world is “sense of place” and his imagination about “place”. No matter what happened to the meaning and function of “place” since decades, years, and centuries before “the place still is there». However, place and space are intertwined but still; the place is the heart of space meaning comes from the landmark, building, mountain, river, cave, and any other man-made or natural phenomena. Sometimes the meaning and concept of the place draw/define from international interaction. What place as the resource has in that place make meaning of that place, but it has to be recognized by outside the place? Therefore, successful “tourism destination” should introduce a place in the world. A place consists of physical and human geographical aspects of specific location. The main key ideas and theories in geography, refer to a place. We do not take a single step when we do not know where to go, where to eat, where to live, where to enjoy, where is cold, where is hot, where is China Town, where to buy. Where refers to specific place character which in comparison to the other locations and places are different in terms of climatology, hydrology, pedology, topography, geology, geomorphology, and human characteristics.

In fact, space is made out of geographical boundaries and just consumed in geography and more by human geographers. The concept of space in geography has been very exotic and far from real geographical facts and is very one-sided. What in space has produced in geography was narrow, uncritical, and nongeographic. Differentiating between the meaning of space in Geography and other realms of science are difficult. What most of the geographers define as space is what accepted and agreed in other realms of science.

Place is the most important concept in geography and what makes “places” and different between places is much more important than place itself. The main geographical categorization of place is about the place categorization by culture, place categorization by climate, place categorization by human

activities, place categorization by ethnics, place categorization bilanguage, and place categorization by geographical location. Each place categorization attracts different people.

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