

## Ending African Dependency on Developed Countries: Multidisciplinary Assessment

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Article DOI: 10.48028/ijprds/ijaseds.v7.i1.03

### Abstract

This paper aimed to address the issues of ending third world dependency on developed countries through endowed tourism resources available in the developing world. It uses tourism resources development perspective as a catalyst for socio-economic development and prosperity of the developing world. Tourism as a service industry has been identified in many developed and developing nations to address the issues of poverty and underdevelopment; however, it can substantially challenge the dependency perspectives of third world. Some sources of data are used like archival resources, observations and evidences. In conclusion, lists of recommendations were made for the developing countries in terms of adding to developmental knowledge of their countries.

**Keywords:** *Tourism, Resources, Development, Poverty and Dependency.*

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## **Background to the Study**

Tourism is one of the strongest drivers of world trade and prosperity. Poverty alleviation is one of the greatest global challenges. In many countries, tourism acts as an engine for development through foreign exchange earnings and the creation of direct and indirect employment. Tourism contributes 5% of the world's GDP. It accounts for 6% of the world's exports in services being the fourth largest export sector after fuels, chemicals and automotive products. Tourism is responsible for 235 million jobs or one in every 12 jobs worldwide. In 2011, international arrivals grew by over 4% reaching 982 million, up from 939 million in 2010, in a year characterized by a stalled global economic recovery, major political changes in the Middle East and North Africa and natural disasters in Japan. Tourism in many developing and least developed countries is the most viable and sustainable economic development option, and in some countries, the main source of foreign exchange earnings. Part of this income trickles down to different groups of the society and, if tourism is managed with a strong focus on poverty alleviation, it can directly benefit the poorer groups through employment of local people in tourism enterprises, goods and services provided to tourists, or the running of small and community-based enterprises, etc. having positive impacts on reducing poverty levels. Tourism has become a major player in the economy of developing countries.

Here are some facts:

1. In 2011, international tourism arrivals to emerging market and developing countries amounted to 459 million.
2. Tourism is the first or second source of export earnings in 20 of the world's 48 least developed countries.
3. In some developing countries, notably small island states, tourism can account for over 25% of GDP.

## **Tourism Resources Development**

### **Characteristics of Tourism**

There are many characteristics of tourism as an activity which make it particularly relevant to low income countries and to poor communities within them. These include:

**Availability of Natural Assets:** Tourism places great value on some common features of developing countries, such as warm climate, rich cultural heritage, inspiring landscapes and abundant biodiversity. These strengths can be particularly apparent in rural areas, which may have a comparative advantage for tourism while being at a disadvantage in most other economic sectors.

**Accessible and Low Investment:** Tourism is a relatively labour intensive sector and is traditionally made up of small and micro enterprises. Many activities in tourism are particularly suited to women, young people and disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minority populations. Many tourism jobs are potentially quite accessible to the poor as they require relatively few skills and little investment. Some may also be part time and used to supplement income from other activities.

**Connective Influence:** As so many different activities and inputs make up the tourism product, which has a large and diversified supply chain, spending by tourists can benefit a wide range of sectors such as agriculture, handicrafts, transport and other services. Additional rounds of spending by those people whose income is supported by tourism spread the economic benefit further (the multiplier effect).

**Awareness Creation:** Tourism, unusually, is an activity which brings the consumers to the producers. The interaction between tourists and poor communities can provide a number of intangible and practical benefits. These can range from increased awareness of cultural, environmental, and economic issues and values, on both sides, to mutual benefits from improved local investment in infrastructure.

In order to make significant contributions to the alleviation of poverty and to stop the upsurge increment of migration of developing world to the developed world, it is essential to work in the mainstream of tourism, which will require an emphasis on two key challenges:

1. Engaging private sector businesses, including sizeable operations and investors as well as small and micro businesses. This is where tourism wealth is created and distributed. They should be helped to deliver more benefits to the poor, through employment practices, local linkages and pro-poor tourism activities and products, as well as to be more competitive.
2. Ensuring that tourism destinations as a whole are both competitive and sustainable, addressing issues of resource management and the relationship between tourism and other economic sectors.

This approach should be combined with working at the local level within communities in order to engage with and reach the poor, to fully understand and address their needs, and to create opportunities accessible to them. This must, however, relate properly to the wider tourism context and the market.

### **Resource Base of Tourism Development**

According to the general view, the resources are: tools, materials, and natural and anthropogenic goods that can be economically exploited (value on the market). Resources are part of the overall development of a specific geographic region, i.e. State, region, or more physical sites; with a wealth of resources is a comparative advantage in economic development. According to the Economic lexicon, Mass media, "Resources are a general term for natural and manufactured items, including human knowledge and skills, which can be used as a means of meeting the needs of consumption directly or indirectly in the production." Defert under the tourism resources includes content space that can foster tourism trends, dividing them into natural and anthropogenic resources. Newer dictionaries or encyclopaedias tourist give considerable attention to tourism resources, but do not provide a complete definition of a clear structure of the term, but we mainly deal with factual recording of representative types of tourism resources, thereby indicating most tourist attractions tourist resources. The United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) distinguishes the following types of tourism resources:

- 1) The natural tourism resources,
- 2) Cultural and historical heritage in tourism,
- 3) Climatic features,
- 4) Infrastructure, and
- 5) Travel services and facilities.

Howie treats tourism resources in a more complex manner, noting that "the valuable tourism resources, but raw (unprocessed) elements of a certain place or area, to a large extent determine the development prospects of a given area." He further states that the population of tourist destinations, the resources in such a raw or unprocessed may be enough to satisfy some of their needs (the church, the coastline along the river, the less noise in the central parts of the city, etc.). There may be situations in which the resources of the local population the usual stuff, of marginal significance, and that is not paying more attention, since they have the character of what nature created and assigned by the local population.

#### **Principles for Pursuing Poverty Alleviation through Tourism**

1. All aspects and types of tourism can and should be concerned about poverty alleviation.
2. All governments should include poverty alleviation as a key aim of tourism development and consider tourism as a possible tool for reducing poverty.
3. The competitiveness and economic success of tourism businesses and destinations is critical to poverty alleviation – without this the poor cannot benefit.
4. All tourism businesses should be concerned about the impact of their activities on local communities and seek to benefit the poor through their actions.
5. Tourism destinations should be managed with poverty alleviation as a central aim that is built into strategies and action plans.
6. A sound understanding of how tourism functions in destinations is required, including how tourism income is distributed and who benefits from this.
7. Planning and development of tourism in destinations should involve a wide range of interests, including participation and representation from poor communities.
8. All potential impacts of tourism on the livelihood of local communities should be considered, including current and future local and global impacts on natural and cultural resources.
9. Attention must be paid to the viability of all projects involving the poor, ensuring access to markets and maximising opportunities for beneficial links with established enterprises.
10. Impacts of tourism on poverty alleviation should be effectively monitored.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Since tourism has significant contributions to the global economy, this could be a yardstick for development in the developing world through the development of their tourism resources. However this could be done through the development of their cultural, natural and their entertainment resources to create employment, generate fund thereby stopping unnecessary migration to the developed world for dependency.

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