

# An analysis of sex tourism: issues and critique



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## Introduction

Leisure and tourism is considered as one way of getting away daily routines. Numerous tourists feel bored and tired of their everyday life so they travel to escape those environments. Their jobs and duties have become a hindrance to joyful feelings in life. Tourism is not merely an economic activity, but it is not all of the host culture, elements of culture and cultural guest that comes and accepts that culture.

In the Tourism Industry, a dark sector raises called Sex Tourism. Martin (1998) state that, look back to the history the first signs of sex tourism began to appear on first and second World Wars through of the soldiers who needs a place to relax and recreate after a long walk and trajectories in camps. When the military started developing into seas, such as trade trips, the cities changed into busy roads with places of entertainment for sailors and dealers.

Sex tourism is a constantly developing phenomenon which defined as “ trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination” (World Tourism Organization). Sex tourism also furthers gender inequalities and promotes violence towards women.

There are two forms of sex tourism:

- 1) Sex tourism “ promoted” by those countries in which prostitution is legally recognized and considered as a professional activity;

2) Sex tourism taking place in states that are often considered as developing countries, where prostitution is not regulated by a specific law, but by an illegal system.

This particular type of tourism has both social and cultural effects on the countries of origin and destination, particularly in those situations in which differences related to sex, age, social and economic status of the populations living in such countries are exploited.

The diversity of modern activities is causing impacts on the cultural environment: a common example is the use of cultural as a trade good for the tourism industry. The host community is generally the weak part of the relationship host-guest: taking any influence from the guest side in order to fulfill its requirements (unep 2015). The impacts arise when changes in the cultural v Globalization in the field of economic, cultural, social and political, have a positive relationship and in the field of the environment but a negative relationship with the development of tourism. Tourism can cause change or loss of local identity and values, as well as can convert local cultures into commodities. Tourism can cause change / loss of local identity and values by:

- COMMODIFICATION
- STANDARDISATION
- LOSS OF AUTHENTICITY / STAGED AUTHENTICITY

Commodification

Tourism can turn local cultures into commodities when religious rituals, traditional ethnic rites and festivals are reduced and sanitized to conform to <https://assignbuster.com/an-analysis-of-sex-tourism-issues-and-critique/>

tourist expectations, resulting in what has been called reconstructed ethnicity (unep 2015). Once a destination is sold as a tourism product, and the tourism demand for souvenirs, arts, entertainment and other commodities begins to exert influence, basic changes in human values may occur.

### Standardization

Destinations risk standardization in the process of satisfying tourists' desires for familiar facilities. While landscape, accommodation, food and drinks, etc., must meet the tourists' desire for the new and unfamiliar, they must at the same time not be too new or strange because few tourists are actually looking for completely new things. Furthermore, tourists often look for recognizable facilities in an unfamiliar environment, like well-known fast-food restaurants and hotel chains.

### Loss of authenticity and staged authenticity

Adapting cultural expressions to the tastes of tourists or even performing shows as if they were "real life" constitutes "staged authenticity". As long as tourists just want a glimpse of the local atmosphere, a quick glance at local life, without any knowledge or even interest, staging will be inevitable.

### Cultural clashes:

Cultural clashes, promoted through of convergence of cultural, and can arise from economic inequality which based on consumption patterns and local community. The result can be an overexploitation of the social carrying capacity (limits of acceptable change in the social system inside or around

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the destination) and cultural carrying capacity (limits of acceptable change in the culture of the host population) of the local community (unep 2015).

### Economic inequality

Like all transactions, sex-tourism is both an economic and political phenomenon, this because it must have a market and the transactions must be considered indirectly or directly socially and politically legitimate (Outshoorn 2004 p 267). Many tourists come from societies with different consumption patterns and lifestyles than what is current at the destination, seeking pleasure, spending large amounts of money. Especially in less developed countries, there is likely to be a growing distinction between the 'haves' and 'have-nots', which may increase social and sometimes ethnic, tensions (unep 2015).

### Ethical issues

Finally, ethical issues are also the aspects as crime generation, the practice of child labour and prostitution. With the growth, urbanization of an area, and growth of mass tourism is often the main reason that crime rates typically increase. Furthermore The presence of a large number of tourists with a lot of money to spend, and often carrying valuables such as cameras and jewelry, increases the attraction for criminals and brings with it activities like robbery and drug dealing.

### Job level friction

In developing countries especially, many jobs occupied by local people in the tourist industry are at a lower level, such as housemaids, waiters, gardeners

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and other practical work, while higher-paying and more prestigious managerial jobs go to foreigners or “urbanized” nationals. Due to a lack of professional training, as well as to the influence of hotel or restaurant chains at the destination, people with the know-how needed to perform higher level jobs are often attracted from other countries. This may cause friction and irritation and increases the gap between the cultures.

### Child labour

The United Nations has defined child sex tourism as “tourism organized with the primary purpose of facilitating the effecting of a commercial sexual relationship with a child”. For children from families too poor to send them to school, tourism can present opportunities to earn an income. In many destinations, this is a stark example of how the supposed wealth generated by tourism is not being equally shared across society. It can also leave children open to one the most abhorrent forms of exploitation such as child sex tourism.

Every year, countless numbers of children are sexually abused by tourists. Child sex tourism is the commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Despite concerted international efforts to combat child sex tourism, it is an increasing phenomenon. Factors such as internet, low cost travel, border relaxations and visa free travel are making it more challenging to monitor and prevent.

### Prostitution and sex tourism

Though tourism is not the cause of sexual exploitation, it provides easy access to it. The lure of this easy money has caused many young people, including children, to trade their bodies in exchange for some money and many times for some material goods such as clothes and food. In other situations children are trafficked into the brothels on the margins of the tourist areas and sold into sex slavery, very rarely earning enough money to escape.

Certain tourism destinations have become centers for this illegal trade, frequented by pedophiles and supported by networks of pimps, taxi drivers, hotel staff, brothel owners, entertainment establishments, and tour operators who organize package sex tours.

### Philippines

Philippines has become one of the most popular destination with 40 percent of the visitors are sex tourists. The last years while the Philippines' economy has made a big progress, a quarter of the population still lives below the international poverty line of US\$1. 25 per day. Today Philippines has over 300 bars clubs that offer sexual liaisons. An alarmingly problem to the country is that the fathers often don't take responsibility of the child with result the mothers to can't take care of the child because of economic issues. This kind of social circumstance usual force the children too in prostitution, with many of them facing such ordeals at an incredibly young age with result to trap the young generation in the sex industry. Moreover, must to be note that \$400m spent on prostitution each year in Philippines. There are 500k workers which almost a fifth of whom are minors.

Owners of sex bars in the Philippines often use fake identification documents in order to employ minors. Some former child victims have reported being offered jobs as waitresses in “ red light” districts and then being coerced into providing sexual services to customers. Prostitution of children in the Philippines is in some cases associated with domestic work.

It has been estimated that in Manila alone there are 1. 5 million street children with result to increase the vulnerability of children to all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, in particular, child prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes. John Hopkins University state that the number of minors exploited in the commercial sex industry in the Philippines is between 60, 000 and 75, 000.

#### Trafficking of children

According to the US Department of State, the Philippines are mostly a source country, and to a lesser extent a transit and destination country for children subjected to sex trafficking. Domestic child trafficking in the Philippines presents more challenges than cross border trafficking. Internally, women and children are trafficked from poor farming communities and rural areas to urban areas such as Manila, Angeles City and Cebu City.

Men are subjected to forced labor and debt bondage in agriculture, including on sugar cane plantations, and in the fishing industry. Women and children were trafficked within the country for forced labor as domestic workers and small-scale factory workers, for forced begging, and for exploitation in the commercial sex trade. Hundreds of victims are subjected to sex trafficking each day in well-known and highly visible business establishments that cater

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to Filipinos' and foreign tourists' demand for commercial sex acts. Filipino migrant workers, both domestically and abroad, who became trafficking victims are often subjected to violence, threats, inhumane living conditions, nonpayment of salaries, confinement, and withholding of travel and identity documents.

Traffickers, at times in partnership with organized crime syndicates and corrupt government officials, recruit family and friends from villages and urban neighborhoods, sometimes masquerading as representatives of government-registered employment agencies.

Apart from poverty, the main causes of child trafficking in the Philippines are low economic development in communities of origin, gender inequalities, limited employment opportunities, large family sizes, inadequate awareness among families, and sex tourism. Also persistent law enforcement officials' complicity in human trafficking and corruption at all levels of government enables traffickers to prosper and exploit children in the sex industry

## Trends

The last years in Philippines has emerged a new form of online child exploitation which seems to have devastating effects. The people who promote child sex tourism in Philippines usually offer money or other rewards to the victims in order to promote direct live streaming videos of children. Since there is no direct sexual contact, often parents see it not as a problem but the damage which webcam sex make to the children in fact is large.

## Legislation and mechanisms to protect children from sexual exploitation

In 2004, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons (ACT), in collaboration with other government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders, created a six year (2004-2010) Strategic National Plan of Action against Trafficking. This specific plan is split into three components:

- Prevention
- protection, including law enforcement and prosecution
- repatriation, recovery and reintegration

In relation to the prevention of trafficking, relevant objectives of the plan include:

- 1) Increasing public awareness of trafficking
- 2) Undertaking research on the root causes of trafficking in women and children
- 3) Instituting programs at the local level to prevent women and children from being procured by traffickers.

## Conclusion and recommendation

Many question the Filipino Government's lack of involvement in reducing the accessibility of the sex trafficking and sex tourism industry. Currently, the punishment stands at a £12 fine for the bar or club where the girl is taken from to have sex. Furthermore, being a deeply religious country, access to contraception isn't widely available and therefore increases the chances of pregnancy among the women.

In conclusion, we have seen that the existence of child sex tourism in the Philippines is directly related to the inequalities in wealth that are present between the developing and developed world. Additional factors include the historical context of foreigners in the islands and the images and stereotypes of Orient sexuality. The way forward must include all actors shows as local people, governments and the tourism industry. However these do not necessarily have the opportunity or motivation to act. Therefore there is a crucial campaigning role to be played by civil society and, in particular, the media. Philippines must to realize that their image such as tourism destination has been damaged by the negative publicity for child sex tourism in order to take drastic measures.

the UN refer that Decriminalization enables sex workers to organize within their communities and register their organizations, obtain identification documents so that they can fully access services and entitlements, engage in advocacy and respond to the health and safety needs of their peers.

By legalizing prostitution, a government can help bring sex workers under labor protections offered to other workers. Some claim that prostitution is inherently unsafe and so should not be sanctioned by labor laws, but many other industries are unsafe such as the mining industry, and this was precisely the reason why government labor laws and unions were created to protect them. Moreover, a legalized form of prostitution will help lessen the incidence of human trafficking through of the rules which will be applied with result to reduce sex trafficking and take out prostitution of the black market. Legalization won't cure all of the buses involved in the sex industry. But, if it will make the environment marginally safer, which is an appropriate step in <https://assignbuster.com/an-analysis-of-sex-tourism-issues-and-critique/>

the right direction. In other words, legitimizing prostitution in the Philippines will pave way to equal treatment to sex workers.

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