The Impact of Tourism in the Reduction of Gender Inequality

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Abstract

Gender inequality is one of the major problems of today’s world. Although there are some significant changes in recent years, gender inequality remains as a significant problem, particularly in terms of economic aspects (Blau, 2016). There is still a big debate on whether tourism sector increase the burden on women by expropriating them further or it is beneficial for women employment and gender equality. Some scholars claim that the challenges inherent in gender mainstreaming processes by public policies worldwide are replicated and even exacerbated in the tourism sector (Ferguson & Alarcón, 2015) whereas studies conducted by other scholars depict that tourism is capable of providing specific advantages for women and has a mitigating impact on gender inequality especially in the areas where tourism employment is available (Khatiwada & Silva, 2015). Nevertheless, the gender research are claimed to remain limited within the tourism enquiry despite three decades of study and the recent increase in investigations (Figueroa-Domecq et. al., 2015).

In this study, the role tourism sector on gender equality will be further investigated in order to propose a reliable solution for the ongoing debate on the relationship between gender inequality and tourism sector. The paper will start with a body of literature on the impact of
tourism sector on gender equality based on the previous studies. The methodology will be literature review and critical evaluation of the findings. Finally, the study will conclude the fact that tourism sector has a capacity to provide significantly higher amount of specific benefits for women and therefore positively contribute to the establishment of gender equality. The manuscript will investigate the positive contribution of tourism sector on the well-beings of women in two different aspects. First, the economic conditions of women prone to increase in the presence of tourism sector corresponding to new opportunities of employment as well as creating revenues for public spending, specifically to finance the social policies for women. Secondly, tourism sector enables social interaction among people from different cultural backgrounds and provide an opportunity for women in a particular destination to observe which cultural rights other women have in other countries and open the eyes of local women for the rights that they can obtain. The paper will also suggest a model in order to provide a quantitative analysis for the gender inequality, including the possible related economic and social variables.

**Key Words:** Tourism, Gender, Inequality

**References**


