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ta’minlashning ustivor yo‘nalishlari” mavzusidagi xalqaro ilmiy-amaliy anjuman

O‘zbekistonda millatlararo munosabatlar sohasidagi yondashuvlar Konstitutsiya bilan mustahkamlangan. 1992-yilda qabul qilingan O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Konstitutsiyasi millatlararo do‘stlik, tenglik va milliy birdamlikni ta’minlashga qaratilgan. Ushbu hujjat, barcha fuqarolarga, ularning etnik va diniy kelib chiqishidan qat’iy nazar, teng huquqlarni kafolatlaydi. Bundan tashqari, Konstitutsiya davlatning barcha millatlar va xalqlarni, ularning madaniyati va tillarini rivojlantirish uchun teng imkoniyatlar yaratish majburiyatini belgilaydi.

Xulosa: Yangi O‘zbekiston taraqqiyot strategiyasi millatlararo munosabatlar rivoji yo‘lida muhim qadamlarni tashladi. Millatlararo birdamlik va do‘stlikni mustahkamlash, barcha etnik guruhlarga teng huquqlarni taqdim etish orqali, mamlakat ijtimoiy barqarorlikni va taraqqiyotni ta’minlashi mumkin. Jamiyatdagi millatlararo muammolarni hal qilishda davlatning siyosiy irodasi, madaniy va ma’rifiy siyosatlarning uyg‘unligi, shuningdek, xalqaro tajribalarga tayangan holda, barchaga teng imkoniyatlar yaratishga qaratilgan kompleks yondashuv zarur.

Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar ro‘yxati:

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THE ROLE OF TOURISM SERVICES IN REDUCING POVERTY IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: Tourism is a dynamic sector with significant potential to reduce poverty through job creation, revenue generation, and community development. In Uzbekistan, a country with a rich cultural heritage and growing tourism infrastructure, the sector can serve as a catalyst for socioeconomic development. This article explores the role of tourism services in alleviating poverty in Uzbekistan by analyzing theoretical frameworks, statistical trends, and real-world examples. The findings suggest that strategic investment in tourism services and infrastructure, combined with community engagement, can significantly reduce poverty levels.

Keywords: tourism services, poverty reduction, Uzbekistan, economic development, cultural heritage.

Introduction. Poverty remains a critical challenge for Uzbekistan, particularly in rural areas. While the country has made strides in economic growth, disparities persist. Tourism services have emerged as a potential tool for addressing these disparities by leveraging Uzbekistan’s unique cultural and natural assets. This paper examines how

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tourism can contribute to poverty alleviation and identifies strategies to maximize its impact.

Literature Review. The relationship between tourism and poverty reduction has been extensively studied. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism is one of the most effective sectors for generating employment and fostering local economic development. Studies by Scheyvens (2007)[1] and Ashley et al. (2001)[2] highlight that tourism can directly benefit the poor through job creation and indirectly through improved infrastructure and services.

Materials and Methods. This study uses a mixed-methods approach to analyze the role of tourism in poverty reduction in Uzbekistan. Primary data was collected through interviews with stakeholders in the tourism sector, including government officials, business owners, and community representatives. Secondary data was gathered from reports published by the State Committee for Tourism Development, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and academic studies. Statistical analysis was conducted using data on employment, GDP contribution, and income generation from tourism.[4]

Results and Discussion. In Uzbekistan, recent government policies emphasize tourism as a key economic driver. Initiatives such as the "Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021" and the establishment of free-tourism zones have spurred growth in the sector.[5] However, challenges such as skill gaps, insufficient infrastructure, and limited community involvement hinder the full realization of tourism’s poverty-reducing potential. The analysis reveals that tourism services have significantly contributed to Uzbekistan’s economic development and poverty reduction efforts. Key findings include:

1. **Employment Generation:** Over 300,000 people are employed in the tourism sector, with rural areas benefiting from new job opportunities.
2. **Income Growth:** Tourism revenues increased to $1.3 billion in 2022, providing income for small businesses and local artisans.
3. **Community Development:** Community-based tourism initiatives in regions like Samarkand and Bukhara have empowered local populations by involving them directly in the tourism value chain.

However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, skill gaps, and unequal distribution of tourism benefits were identified. Addressing these issues is critical to ensuring the sector’s sustainability and inclusivity.

Statistical data underscores the growing impact of tourism on poverty reduction:

- **GDP Contribution:** According to the State Committee for Tourism Development, the tourism sector contributed 2.7% to Uzbekistan's GDP in 2022, up from 1.9% in 2018.[3]
- **International Tourist Arrivals:** Annual growth in tourist arrivals averaged 28% between 2017 and 2019, peaking at 6.7 million in 2019.
- **Rural Impact:** Regions with active tourism programs reported a 15% reduction in poverty rates over five years.

These numbers demonstrate the transformative potential of tourism, particularly when integrated with broader development strategies. Despite these achievements, disparities remain in how tourism benefits are distributed, with urban areas receiving more attention than rural and remote regions.

Uzbekistan achieved 98% of its pre-pandemic foreign tourist numbers. In 2019, the country welcomed 6.748 million foreign tourists, and by 2023, this figure was 6.626 million, illustrating a swift recovery(Figure 1).

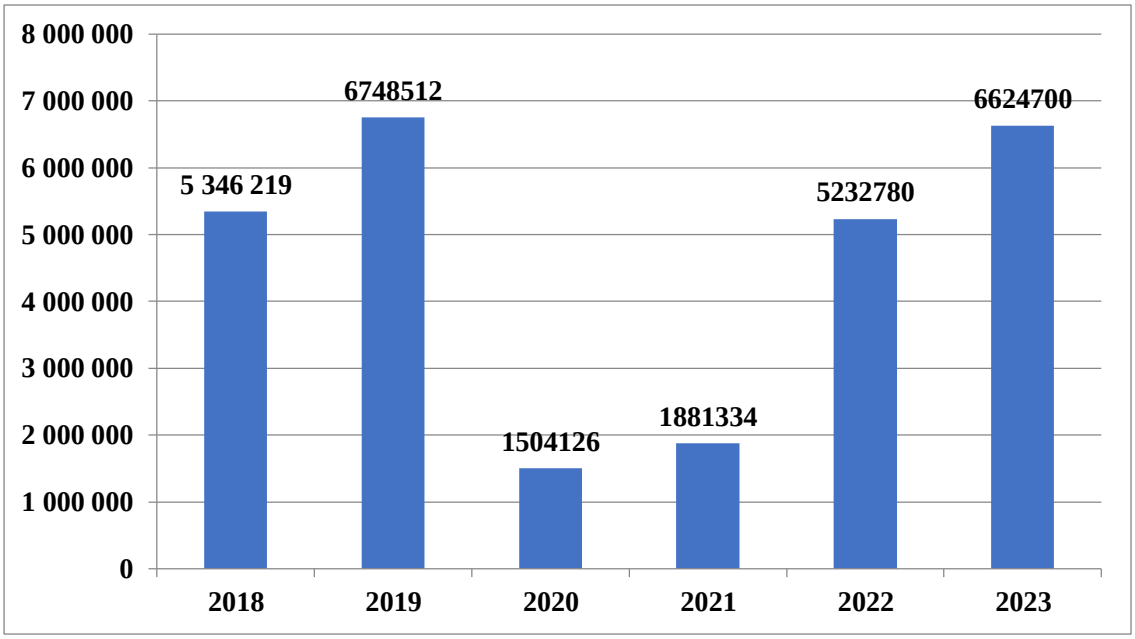


Figure 1. The number of foreign tourists who visited Uzbekistan in 2018-2023[3]

To attract more foreign tourists, Uzbekistan has implemented several practical measures such as simplifying the visa regime, developing new tourism routes, investing in relevant projects, and hosting significant events. For instance, in 2023, a total of 508 projects worth 9.5 trillion soums were executed, resulting in the creation of 9,492 new jobs. 183 new hotels and 232 hostels were launched, and the total number of accommodation facilities reached 5,526. Additionally, 452 family guest houses were established, bringing the total number to 3,458. As a result of opening 810 new tourist organizations and travel agencies, the total number of such entities has increased to 2,649.

From 2017 to 2023, the number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan has significantly increased. Specifically, in 2017, the country was visited by 2.7 million people, whereas in 2023, this figure rose to 6.6 million, which is 2.5 times more than in 2017 and 1.3 times more than in 2022.

The number of tourists from Japan increased fivefold in 2023, while those from India and Italy increased by 3.5 times, and from the USA by two times. In 2023, 80.7% of foreign tourists came from neighboring countries, 11.5% from other CIS countries, and 7.8% from other countries. The average length of stay for tourists increased to 4-5 days, which is 1.5 times more than in 2022 (3 days). This indicates that all necessary conditions for a comfortable stay of tourists have been created in the country.

Domestic tourism is also developing rapidly. Within the framework of the "Travel around Uzbekistan!" program, 15 million people traveled around the country, making 21 million visits to various regions. As part of social support, 1 100 people with disabilities and 570,000 young people were sent on trips.

In 2023, the export of tourist services amounted to $2.1435 billion, which is 1.3 times more than in 2022. Additionally, about 70,000 new jobs were created in the tourism and related sectors. This indicates that all necessary conditions for tourists have been created in the country, which contributes to economic growth and improved living standards.

The development of tourism also helps the country achieve high positions in international rankings. For example, in the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI-2023), Uzbekistan ranked 13th among 140 countries in the international pilgrimage tourism

rating. At the Halal In Travel Awards 2023 ceremony, the city of Khiva was awarded the "Islamic Heritage Tourism Destination of the Year" prize.

At the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly held in 2023 in Samarkand, the village of Sentob in Navoi region won the "Best Tourism Village 2023" award. Additionally, the international publishing company Lonely Planet awarded Uzbekistan a special certificate in the nomination "Best Travel Destination 2024."

Uzbekistan's inclusion in the list of the best countries to travel to in 2024, according to the World of Statistics announcement, will contribute to an increase in the number of foreign tourists and the volume of export of tourist services. All this helps strengthen the country's international image.

Overall, the current state of Uzbekistan's tourism sector and its development trends show positive results. The analysis of measures taken for further tourism development and future prospects confirms the strategic importance of this sector. Additionally, the objectives set for tourism development in the "Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy contribute to increasing the income of the population, creating new jobs, and ensuring the welfare of the people.[6]

Conclusions and Suggestions Tourism services hold significant promise for reducing poverty in Uzbekistan, particularly in rural areas. To harness this potential, the following measures are recommended:

1. **Infrastructure Development:** Improve transportation, accommodation, and connectivity in rural areas to attract more tourists.
2. **Capacity Building:** Provide training and education to local communities to enhance their skills and participation in the tourism sector.
3. **Community-Based Tourism:** Promote initiatives that directly involve local communities, ensuring they benefit from tourism revenue.
4. **Sustainable Practices:** Encourage eco-tourism and sustainable tourism practices to protect cultural and natural assets while generating income.
5. **Policy Support:** Strengthen policies and incentives that facilitate investment in tourism and promote inclusive growth.

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КИЧИК САНОАТ ЗОНАЛАРИНИНГ ТУРЛАРИ, ҲАМДА УЛАРНИНГ МИЛЛИЙ ИҚТИСОДИЁТДА ТУТГАН ЎРНИ