ABSTRACT

Sociological perspectives on tourism: A case study of Mauritius

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Introduction- Tourism is one of the main foreign revenue generators of many countries world over. In Mauritius, it is considered as the major pillar of the economy. Tourism, although viewed positively by most of the population, has few but significant weaknesses which are often disregarded by the main stakeholders in the domain.

Purpose – Sociologists use sociological imagination while analysing the different institutions of the society. In this paper, tourism institution will be taken stock of and discussed from the three main sociological perspectives namely functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionism.

Design/methodology/approach – There has been the use of both primary and secondary data in this study. Secondary data have been easily drawn from government document, through internet search and a review of journal articles. Besides, primary data were collected mainly through observation and informal talks with inhabitants, visitors and local businessmen.

Analysis/Discussion – The reviewed articles and the collected data were used to analyse the tourism sector through the different sociological perspectives. The discussion helped to give a better indication of how tourism is viewed in the society.

Research implications – This study has much relevance for fast growing Mauritian society. The state is called upon to be more vigilant while reviewing its policies for innovation and future development of the tourist sector. Thus, the welfare of all the stakeholders needs to be accounted for if the society wants to sustain the tourism industry in future.

Keywords: Tourism, Sociological perspectives, Tourism development, Mauritius.