

The security of foreign tourists in Iran

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Abstract:

Security is the infrastructure of any development. The most important need of any society is providing the security of it and its individuals, which is why putting effort for providing the security and developing its domain is one of the most important goals of countries in international relations realm and their domestic policy.

Striving for increasing national security limit is one of the most underlying concerns of the governments. There is a defined relationship between tourism and security development. Developing tourism in countries is only possible in the ones possessing required security. Tourism destinations are widespread in country, and through providing security in these regions, social security coefficient is increased resulting in tourism development. Security is a vital effective factor in attracting tourists to traveling and tourism. A tourist who decides to travel all around the world will dismiss their decision if they feel there is no security in host country.

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Introduction

Moreover, it should be noticed that feeling security or lack of security, to the large extent, is subjective and, to some extent, has a direct relationship with foreign tourists and people of a country attitudes. Subjective feeling of security makes foreign tourists prevent traveling to a country in which they feel insecurity due to poison advertisement, despite secure host country. In this case, if this country confronts with insecurity it will face decrease in attracting tourism with subject to prior assumptions. There is direct relationship between security and tourism industry which means security contributes to tourism development and tourism development causes economic development and it contributes to general welfare. In addition, general welfare leads to political stability and as a result preserving security in country. Caring of tourists and providing their security can be discussed in two aspects:

- 1- Caring and providing security of traffic places of tourists. In other words, providing security of cities for tourists.
- 2- Prevention of any abuses of tourists and providing the country security.

In this regard, tourist and the host country have mutual assignments towards each other. The assignments regarding the host country are:

- Preservation of the environment and ecosystem, and preventing environmental problems.
- Providing the possibility of visiting cultural heritage and tourism centers for tourists.
- Providing security of the tourists.
- Providing accessibility to health and transportation services, inhabitancy and etc.
- Appropriate informing regarding costumes, traditions, religious thoughts, local prohibitions, religious places, etc.

- Providing facilities in our representatives in abroad for offering different visas to tourists.
- Monitoring all of the tourism affairs, especially service affairs, and deterring any violation towards visitors.

Tourist assignments are:

- Respecting natural and cultural environment, and respecting the traditions and religion of host country.
- Respecting ruling political, social, moral and religious system of inhabitancy place
- Behavior and manner wellness.
- Avoiding urging on economic, social, cultural differences between our country and domestic residents.
- Welcoming and respecting culture of host country.
- Not to promoting corruption, importing and carrying drugs, illicit and prohibited goods.
- Avoiding espial activities and opposing with political system of host country.

Despite positive influence of tourism in economy, plethora of revenue, creating job and declaring own culture to aliens, like the other phenomenon, it has some disadvantages as well some of which are threatening family and social values and increasing crime in the host countries. Undoubtedly, in places possessing lots of tourists there are some individuals who abuse this situation, and they commit crimes against tourists.

In all of the world countries, the major duty of the police is establishing discipline, and providing general and individual comfort, detecting crimes and prevention of their occurrence. Security of tourists is an issue in which many sectors like state organizations, operational sectors, private and state security forces and general services contribute. Hence, assuring tourists security is not a specific organization duty, providing social security in specific concept is the police force obligation and in general meaning executive organizations have the duty to establishing it. Police as the main force of law implementation in providing tourists security has especial support. Predominantly, problems and security dangers which occur for everyone are exacerbated due to non-familiarity of tourists with environment and the problems in communicating with hosts. Tourist,

upon arrival, hopes to be protected intangibly thanks to help of security organizations and tourism organization accompany. When a tourist entered in country legally, government is aware of their arrival and is responsible for preserving their life and possessions. In Islamic punishment law there are no exceptions for Iranian and foreigners, and anyone committing a crime in Islamic Republic of Iran is prosecuted and judged according to ruling laws, and no more regulations have been adopted. Whenever a tourist commits a crime in Iran, they are judged through the ruling government like ordinary people. According to the Iranian rules, police force and Judiciary are responsible for prosecution and investigation of crimes which tourists commit or the ones which are committed against tourists.

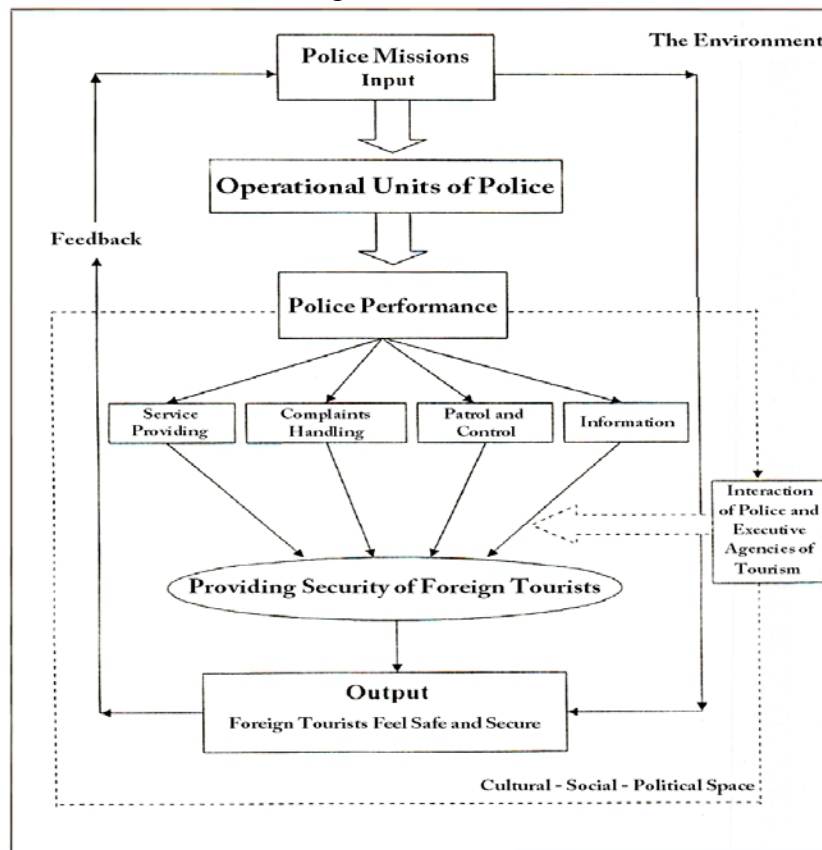


Figure (1). Research model

The global tourism organization as a state unit which has dedicated itself for tourism development in international level has noticed this fact and strives to embed global peace and security in its missions. The mission of this organization in tourism development has been equipped in a way that tourism development is a very important tool for international security and understanding. While the world is turning new millennium and centuries it can be safely said that without global security the national tourism organization probably will not have any values and it is more likely that this state organization in global level of tourism industry strives to cope with this responsibility with the help of private organizations which are interested in stable tourism, and takes effective steps in effort for developing this industry and preserving global peace.

Effective elements in security of tourists

1- The role of governments:

Government and private sector must be sensitive in preserving health of tourists, and in general the dangerous aspects of tourism should be solved. Any health problem, attacking tourists, diseases like; Malaria and AIDS should be noticed, and they must inform the other governments of it. Conditions and travel facilitating regulations, especially migration section and customs should be efficient as possible as they could, and apply the regulations at the same time.

In tourism industry, the role of governments in codifying regulations and rules is very important, as state regulations are established for supporting customer. In supporting tourist and making appropriate settings for exploiting travel, state regulations play an important role.

2- Planning

If tourism is not developed and organized with correct planning, it could engender social and cultural problems. In some cases, congestion caused by tourists leads to depriving residents comfort resulting in their anger towards tourism. If there are more than enough tourists in an area, which usually happens in busy seasons, causes congestion in welfare attractions, restaurants, stores and transportation instruments. As a result, habitants could not use them easily and are deprived of access to welfare features like hotels and beach camps. If habitants conceive that they do not benefit from much economic

advantages and tourism development is controlled through foreign advantages, this issue could result in their anger.

3- Cultural identity

Some problems could lead to cultural weakness and flagging in feeling of cultural identity. Extravagant use of tourists from historical places could cause destruction of them. When cloth, ceremony, music, dance, hand-made crafts and local cultural patterns are offered as tourism attractions inappropriately, it leads to excessive commerciality and missing their originality. One of the effects of tourism is that it could be considered as people imitation, especially young ones from tourists' behavioral patterns and their clothes. This matter is done without recognition of different cultural aspects and social, economic condition of tourists.

4- Political and administrative factors

These factors pertinent to agreed criterions are for facilitating relocation of the ones whose aim is traveling, specifically in borders which are not controlled seriously (by police and customs). Inappropriate welfare criterions deter appropriate conditions between countries which are close together geographically. Political instability and sudden changes are also extreme deterrents.

The police duties regarding foreign tourists

In all of the world countries, the major duty of the police is establishing discipline, and providing general and individual comfort, detecting crimes and prevention of their occurrence. Security of tourists is an issue in which many sectors like state organizations, operational sectors, private and state security forces and general services contribute. Hence, assuring tourists security is not a specific organization duty, providing social security in specific concept is the police force obligation and in general meaning executive organizations have the duty to establishing it. Police as the main force of law implementation in providing tourists security has especial support. Predominantly, problems and security dangers which occur for everyone are exacerbated due to non-familiarity of tourists with environment and the problems in communicating with hosts. Tourist, upon arrival, hopes to be protected intangibly thanks to help of security organizations and tourism organization accompany. When a tourist entered in country legally, government is aware of their arrival

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Apparatuses and forces providing tourists security

In order to providing tourists security the presence of apparatuses and forces are essential and urgent which are as follows:

- Supervisors of police performance
- Police managers
- Police officers
- Local authorities and tourism staff
- Active individuals in security realm which their work is associated with entertainment and tourism

The police role in tourism

In the view of Tarlow, the tourism police take on four major roles in providing tourists' securities which are as follows:

- 1- Supporting visitors which provide the required field for supporting local economy.
- 2- It provides the required security services for tourists and offers a positive image of society to tourists.
- 3- It provides a standard for a good living which penetrates to the officers' relationships with their family, and also provides the opportunity of perceiving other cultures and territories for individuals. (Tarlow, 2005:2)

In general, the role of police in tourism is preserving financial and health security of tourists. Some of these services are assessed partially as follows:

- 1- Meticulous monitoring on entrance and exit of tourists
- 2- Preserving and protecting historical monuments and entertainment spaces

- 3-Correct and on time informing of tourists
- 4-Meticulous monitoring on air, ground and etc. transit systems
- 5-Meticulous security monitoring on service-tourism infrastructures like; hotels and restaurants
- 6-Providing feeling of security in tourism spaces
- 7-Offering guidance and awareness of values and local regulations to tourists and making them cognizant of respecting these values.
- 8-Offering required information in context of dangers which could happen for tourists in some places or specific times.
- 9-Immediate investigating of the crimes which have been committed by tourists or the ones which have been occurred against them.
- 10-Preventing any illegal and immoral activities in tourism industry.

The benefits of tourism police education

Tourism police benefits local economy and tourism industry for which police offices and security forces work. This matter enables them to find new economic sources, and establish innovative social relationships. The tourism police plan as an appropriate way for educating police and security forces is about multi-cultural issues. The aim of this program is educating tutors who deliver tourism security to local police offices or their own agencies or other tourism concepts. (Michael, 2007:8)

Conclusion

Nowadays, with respect to the importance of tourism industry between different nations and value of the productivity of this industry for host countries, noticing foreign tourists' security has been very important. Most of the tourist countries have established tourism police with determined mechanism so that this security organization has a major role in satisfying tourists and offering services to them. Some of the tourism police activities in developed country are as follows:

- 1-Meticulous monitoring on entrance and exit of tourists
- 2-Preserving historical and ancient monuments
- 3-On time informing of tourists about likely dangers

- 4- Offering guidance and awareness of values and local regulations of the host country to tourists
- 5- Preventing of the occurrence of crimes against tourists or the ones which have been committed by tourists.
- 6- Putting armed guards in sensitive places, installing surveillance cameras in entertainment centers and etc.

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