

Air Transport and Tourism

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Global tourism has gained prominence in recent times due to globalization that has led to more integration of the society. The trend has been attributed to several factors, but one of the most important is air transport that facilitates the movement of people between various destinations. Air transport is known to hasten the sustainability element within the tourism sector since it serves to move consumers to various interesting sites in the world. Again, the number of jobs generated in the industry both direct and indirect is high which highlights the importance of air transport in complementing tourism in the globe. Overall, air transport is more important than rising incomes in the growth of global tourism.

Air transport is one of the most critical components of the transport architecture in most parts of the world due to several reasons that will be evaluated in the analysis. To begin with, air transport is the safest mode of transportation based on the number of accidents recorded in comparison to other forms of movement. The number of air accidents fades in contrast to road transport that is one of the most unsafe ways of travelling. The safety issue has led to increased air transport in the world with most people, especially tourists preferring to use the medium to move from one point to the other in the world (IAAT, 2017). In brief, air movement is the safest mode of transport in the world based on accident patterns.

Further, air transport is fast in comparison to other methods of movement which has endeared the service to most tourists in the world. Ideally, one can cover many kilometers within a short time frame that makes it easy for people to visit areas of interest. For example, it is possible for one to travel to a different continent in a span of hours which endears the mode to many passengers in the world. Therefore, air transport is known to contribute to the growth of global tourism primarily when compared to rising incomes since the former facilitates the latter.

In other words, rising incomes would be rendered useless in the absence of a safe and fast medium of transport. In general terms, air transport is rapid since planes can travel at high speeds which increase efficiency among travelers.

The global tourist circuit is dispersed among the various continents of the world which requires long-range transportation mediums. The dispersed nature of the tourist sites in the world requires transportation mediums that are fast and safe which include air and sea with the former being the most effective (Aviation Benefits, N.d). When viewed from such an angle, one will understand why air transport is critical to global tourism in comparison to rising incomes in the world. On a broader term, the dispersed nature of the tourism industry has necessitated the use of air transport that is fast and safe.

Statistics from various sources show that 57% of global tourists use the air to reach their destinations which highlights the importance of the transport medium to the tourism industry in the world (Aviation Benefits, N.d). The numbers are bound to rise in the future with many people choosing to use the medium as their mode of movement, especially during long distances. The issue has been reinforced by emerging economies in the world that have seen a rise in the middle class that use the service for movement. Briefly, data shows that most people are using air travel to move over long distances.

Improved economic fortunes in the world have meant that more people can travel by air which acts as the backbone of many tourism industries in the world. In response, the fares charged by many airlines are on a downward trend that can be attributed to the economies of scale within the aviation sector. The issue has served to improve the tourism sector in many parts of the globe that shows rising incomes have a smaller contribution to the phenomenon in

comparison air travel. In summary, the airfares charged by airlines are on a decline which enabled many people to use the medium to travel.

Most importantly, the aviation industry is known to create both direct and indirect employment in the world which sustains the tourism industry in the globe. It is estimated that 15.6 million workers in the tourism field are directly supported by air which shows that the mode of transport is essential in comparison to rising incomes in the world (Aviation Benefits, N.d). Additionally, 14.1 million indirect employment opportunities have been created in the tourism sector which highlights the importance of air movement in the world (Aviation Benefits, N.d). The effect is known to cascade to other areas of the economy which can be linked to air transport in the world (AALEP, 2015). Primarily, the air industry has created both direct and indirect jobs in the tourism sector.

An integral element of any economic activity in the world is sustainability which has become a buzzword among economists. Towards this end, air transport has been projected as the element that reinforces sustainability within the tourism sector. Notably, air movement enables various tourism sites in the world to receive visitors regularly (Aviation Benefits, N.d.). In a sense, the air sector acts as a conveyor belt that supplies tourism facilities in the world with customers. Even though rising incomes are essential, the growth becomes less impactful to the tourism industry since the individuals with the disposable income are unable to visit the said facilities. To illustrate the point, an individual from the United States is most likely to visit a foreign destination using air travel since it is cost-effective, fast, and safe rather than use water travel. On a general score, air transport has improved the sustainability element within the tourism sector.

Improved air infrastructure in many parts of the world has seen the creation of airports and airstrips even in remote areas that enhance connectivity. As earlier stated, people might have disposable incomes, but the lack of efficient transport systems limits their movements between various places. However, improvement in air transport facilities has had a positive impact on the tourism sector in comparison to the contribution of income growth (IAAT, 2017). In summation, improved air infrastructure has had a positive effect on tourism in the world.

The importance of air transport in the tourism sector in comparison to rising incomes in the world cannot be gainsaid. The air industry is safe and fast which are critical considerations among travelers in the world. Further, air movement is known to move more than half of global travelers within the tourism circuit that highlights the criticality of the medium. Again, the number of employment both direct and indirect created within the tourism field by air transport is high. In conclusion, therefore, improved air transportation is more important than rising incomes in contributing to the growth in global tourism.

References

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