

COGNITIVE DISCOURSES

INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

ISSN 2321-1075 ISSN 2347-5692

VOLUME 11

ISSUE 1

JULY 2023

cdimj.naspublishers.com

Published Since 2013

Educational Tours for Students: Enhancing Learning Beyond the Classroom

Dani P George
Research Scholar
University of Kerala

Shijin S.
Research Scholar
University of Kerala

Dr. Anitha S.
Assistant Professor
University of Kerala

Abstract

The research aims to know about the Improvements that educational tours create in students and Challenges faced by educational tourism activities. Educational tours, also known as field trips or study tours, are organized trips designed to enhance learning by providing students with the opportunity to explore and experience educational, cultural, and historical sites outside of the classroom. These tours can take place at various levels of education, from primary school to college and beyond. The nature of this research paper is descriptive and explanatory. Spent three months for the study. As part of the study, data was collected through face to face interview method from various tour operators and school children. The secondary data required for this study was taken from websites, magazines, journals and other published materials from government and non-government organizations. The study finds that the Study trips can influence students' career choices, students with disabilities often avoid journey related to study trips due to inaccessible study tour destinations, Safety concerns during a study tour affect both those involved in the study tour and those who are part of it.

Keywords: educational tourism, students, benefit, challenges.

Introduction

Educational tours help in the improvement of academic and non-academic activities of the students. Educational tours allow students to acquire rich knowledge and experiences about a place, culture and environment and so on. As part of the educational tour, there is a situation for the students to go out into the community. Through this, students get different life experiences than the knowledge they get from

classroom studies. Interaction with local people, new cultures and nature as part of the educational tour take students' knowledge and thinking to the next level.

Some of the benefits students gain from educational tours are increased knowledge of world experiences, personal development, increased self-confidence, development of problem-solving skills, enhanced critical thinking skills, development of leadership skills, and improved academic performance. Some of the different types of educational tours are science and nature tours, history tours, art and culture tours, and community service tours. Budget, safety, educational value, student demographics, teacher involvement, duration of the tour, etc. are things to consider while planning an educational tour.

Concerns about student safety, lack of qualified tour operators and guides, expensive transportation and accommodation, and lack of skills for school staff to implement educational tours are some of the challenges facing the educational tour sector.

Advantages of Educational Travel for Students

An Increase in Awareness of Social Surroundings

Educational tours give students the opportunity to experience the concepts and social environments they are studying. Beyond the knowledge gained from home and educational institution, as a result of educational travel, the broader perspectives gained from different places, cultures, natural environments, people's living conditions can influence students' decision-making ability. Broadening their perspectives, increasing cultural awareness and leading to greater understanding of social issues.

Academic Achievement and have an Impact on Career Choice

Study tours help students to enhance their knowledge and experience in academic subjects. For example, industrial visits conducted as a part of study tour increase the knowledge of students and also influence their career choice. Interactions with professionals and experts they meet as part of the trip will help students strengthen their academic and career paths.

Enhances Self-confidence

Traveling to unfamiliar places as part of a study tour encourages students to adapt to different environments, which boosts students' self-confidence. Successfully applying problem-solving skills to situations that may encounter unexpected challenges during the study tour can lead to an increase in

students' self-confidence. During the study tour, students are able to rely on their own abilities and increase their self-confidence by doing responsible things on their own.

An Improvement of Cooperation and Leadership Abilities

Students are forced to stick together as a team as a result of having to travel through unfamiliar surroundings during the study tour. Being together results in students taking on leadership roles and increasing their critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Challenges Faced in Implementing Educational Tour Activities

Unaffordable cost

Conducting study tours is often an expensive and financially burdensome activity. Students in an educational institution comes from diverse economic and social background. Therefore, not all students will be able to bear the cost of the study tour. It is the responsibility of the organizers to ensure that all students, regardless of socio-economic conditions, participate in the study tour. Budget planning for study tour can reduce extra expenses.

Security concerns

Traveling to unfamiliar places as part of a study tour can naturally raise concerns for the safety of children for parents. such concerns can be removed through constant communication with the parents and the authorities of the educational institution. To overcome such concerns, understand the socio-ecological conditions of the destination before the study tour journey. Also, prepare a contact list to deal with emergencies.

Time Limits

It is a challenge to devise study tour activities in a way that does not affect the academic activities of the students within the available time. Therefore, proper schedules should be implemented for the implementation of academic and non-academic activities.

Tendency to not consider differently abled students

Students with disabilities are often excluded from field trips not because the organizers exclude the child, but because they cannot go to places that are not accessible to them. But the reason for this is the organizers themselves. As long as organizers choose places where students with disabilities cannot attend,

students with disabilities will continue to miss out on field trips.

Objectives

1. To know what is educational tourism.
2. Improvements that educational tours create in students
3. Challenges faced by educational tourism activities

Literature Review

Outside-of-class experiences gained through travel as a part of academic endeavors promote personal development, improved life skills, and global awareness of a student. This study is primarily aimed at college students. (Petrick, 2013).

Educational tours can have a significant impact on making students more connected to academic fields. Field trips will inspire students to increase their interest and knowledge in academic subjects. This study examines low-cost or low-cost field trip ideas. (Behrendt, 2014).

Foreign students can be drawn to educational institutions using educational tourism as a tactic. The Indian tourism industry benefits from educational tourism's ability to maintain expansion (Choudhary et al. 2022). Educational tour costs should be affordable to travellers and this will ensure the participation of a large number of students (Jackqueline et al, 2021).

International students might be viewed as educational tourists who benefit both the host country and themselves throughout their stay. The perspectives on how higher education institutions might support regional development through educational tourism are compiled in this paper (Tomasi et al. 2020)

Kublashvili. (2013) Educational tourism enables students to improve their personal skills and increase their employability. Kumar, A., & Srivastava, D. (2023) The language problem, the risk of discrimination and racism are some of the challenges faced in conducting study tours.

Summary of Literature Review

After reviewing several research articles, the study confirms that studies on education tour are scarce. Most studies are about international study tour trips and do not address the impacts of educational tourism. There should be more studies that address the core issues facing educational tourism and how educational tourism can benefit students. That is what this study aims to do.

Research Questions

1. What is educational tourism?
2. What improvements do educational tours create in students?
3. What are the challenges faced by educational tourism activities?

Research Gap

There should be more studies on the core issues facing educational tourism and how educational tourism benefits students. This study analysed the core issues faced by educational tourism and how educational tourism benefits students.

Methodology

The nature of this research paper is descriptive and explanatory. The study analysed the Improvements that educational tours create in students and Challenges faced by educational tourism activities.

Spent two months for the study. As part of the study, data was collected through face-to-face interview method from various tour operators and school children. The secondary data required for this study was taken from websites, magazines, journals and other published materials from government and non-government organizations.

Findings

1. Study trips can influence students' career choices.
2. students with disabilities often avoid journey related to study trips due to inaccessible study tour destinations.
3. Safety concerns during a study tour affect both those involved in the study tour and those who are part of it.

Suggestions

1. Include accessible friendly destinations in the study tour so that differently abled students can also participate.

2. Implement a system that ensures continuous communication between the authorities and parents to address the concerns of parents regarding their children during the journey.
3. Make study tours a part of the curriculum.

Conclusion

As part of the study on the topic "Educational Tours for Students: Enhancing Learning Beyond the Classroom." The study analysed the Improvements that educational tours create in students; Challenges faced by educational tourism activities. As part of the study, proposals such as Include accessible friendly destinations in the study tour, implement a system that ensures continuous communication between the authorities and parents to address the concerns of parents regarding their children during the journey, make study tours a part of the curriculum were also put forward as part of the study.

Limitations of the Study

Due to the wide range of the study, different categories of students, authorities in the educational institutions, parents have not been studied in depth.

Future scope of the Study

Various findings and suggestions emerged as part of the study will help the authorities concerned to make major corrections and improvements for the successful implementation and development of the study tour.

References

- Educational Tour*. (n.d.). Govt. College, Hisar. <https://www.gchisar.com/educational-tour.html>
- Li. (2021). *The challenges and opportunities of developing educational tours to Finland targeting the Chinese market*. Theseus. https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/512576/Wei_thesis_final.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y
- Tomasi S, Paviotti G, Cavicchi A. Educational Tourism and Local Development: The Role of Universities. *Sustainability*. 2020; 12(17):6766. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12176766>
- Kublashvili. (2013). *Challenges of Educational Tourism in Georgia*. Biblioteka Nauki. <https://bibliotekanauki.pl/articles/529719.pdf>

- Behrendt. (2014). A Review of Research on School Field Trips and Their Value in Education. *International Journal of Environmental & Science*. <https://doi.org/10.12973/ijese.2014.213a>
- Jackqueline E. Uy*, Hannah Miriam Verano, Chrysler Luis B. Verbo, Gueco, Irene (n.d.). Educational Tours as a Learning Tool to the Third Year Tourism Students of De La Salle University- Dasmariñas. *International Journal of Research in Tourism and Hospitality (IJRTH)*, 7(2021).
<https://doi.org/10.20431/2455-0043.0701004>
- Tomasi S, Paviotti G, Cavicchi A. Educational Tourism and Local Development: The Role of Universities. *Sustainability*. 2020; 12(17):6766. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12176766>
<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/17/6766>
- Kublashvili. (2013). *Challenges of Educational Tourism in Georgia*. Biblioteka Nauki. Retrieved October 20, 2023, from
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwia9qj2m4SCAxVIqVYBHbL4DOMQFnoECBYQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fbibliotekanauki.pl%2Farticles%2F529719.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2cqaXe3kCmRphnoeMzTdor&opi=89978449>
- Kumar, A., & Srivastava, D. (2023). Opportunity and challenges in Educational Tourism for SMEs in India. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Business Management*, 10(2).
<https://jetbm.imtnagpur.ac.in/journal/vol10/iss2/6>
- Stone, M. J., & Petrick, J. F. (2013, August 27). *The Educational Benefits of Travel Experiences*. Journal of Travel Research; SAGE Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047287513500588>
- Choudhary, L. R., Srivastava, P., & Panwar, L. K. (2022, July 20). *EDUCATIONAL TOURISM: A NEW CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM*. ResearchGate.
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362278465_EDUCATIONAL_TOURISM_A_NEW_CONCEPT_OF_SUSTAINABLE_DEVELOPMENT_OF_TOURISM#:~:text=Edu%2Dtourism%20refers%20to%20learning,\(Abrahams%20%26%20Bama%2C%202022%3B](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362278465_EDUCATIONAL_TOURISM_A_NEW_CONCEPT_OF_SUSTAINABLE_DEVELOPMENT_OF_TOURISM#:~:text=Edu%2Dtourism%20refers%20to%20learning,(Abrahams%20%26%20Bama%2C%202022%3B)

School, M. (2023, June 30). *Importance of Educational Tours For School Students*. The Manthan School Greater Noida West. <https://www.themanthanschool.co.in/blog/importance-of-educational-tour-for-school-students/#:~:text=By%20participating%20in%20an%20educational,about%20the%20world%20around%20them>.