



NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SEX TOURISM IN MOMBASA-KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays Sex tourism is booming around the world, this implied that as the number of tourists increase also sex tourism increases at the same rhythm. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of sex tourism for local people in Mombasa. Macroeconomics equation to measure real Gross Domestic Product was used to see the implication of sex tourism. Findings shows that the aggregate demand/local sex workers is increasing (people get a lot of money) as well the aggregate supplier/tourists it will never reach at the maximum exploitation, this is the reality the number of tourism is increasing by 3.5% each year. Not only sex works are benefiting but also other activities associated to tourism like hotels, Lodges, shops, agriculture, etc. So countries like Kenya cannot ignore the reality by abolishing sex business rather Kenya can establish the policy which it can benefit from to avoid all those negative aspects we saw in the development of the discussion.

Key words: Negative, Impact, Sex and Tourism

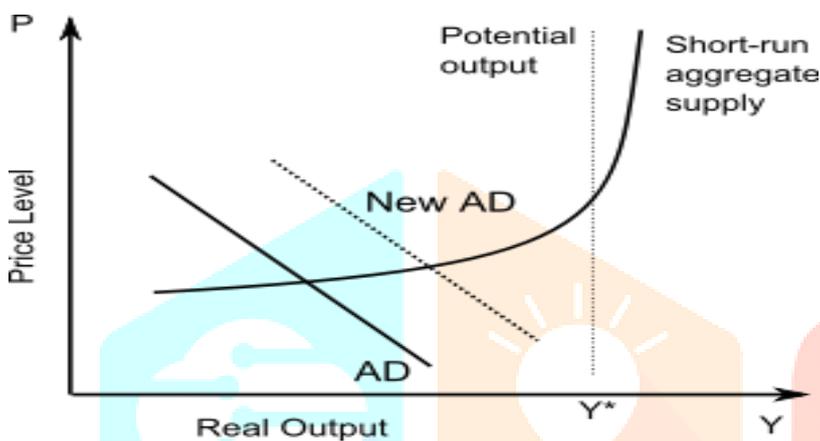
INTRODUCTION

Tourism has been a central pillar in the development strategy for developing nations since the 60 century, strong advocated by such organizations as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank and United Nations (Crick, M., 1989). Indeed, tourism has been a growing contributor to Gross Domestic Products (GDPs) and exports in over half of all African countries, and as such has been identified as a key sector for poverty alleviation in Africa (Karambakuwa,R.T., et Al, , 2011) (Mshenga, P. and Owuor, G., 2009). However certain critics associate tourism to prostitution which make sex tourism segment, this also comply with the view that poor countries which are destinations to tourists sell themselves to the rich tourist generating countries in order to earn a living (Archavanitkul, K. and Guest, P., 1994).

In macroeconomic there are different models used to measure its impact, so I am going to relate negative economic impacts caused by the government policy on sex tourism in Kenya using Aggregate supply and Aggregate Demand (AS/AD) Model. The Aggregate supply and Aggregate Demand Model is a macroeconomic model that explains price level and output through the relationship of aggregate supply and aggregate demand (Wikipedia, 2014).

AGGREGATE SUPPLIES/ DEMAND MODEL

Aggregate Supply/Demand graph



Source: (Boudless.com/AS-AD, 2014)

During this discussion the deeper elaboration and exploration of the sex tourism activities in Kenya is going to be given and its negative effects which are going to have an impact on rGDP equations and lastly conclusion and recommendations

SEX TOURISM OVERVIEW

The advent of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s was one of factors in an increasing research and policy, interest in tourism, travel and sex. Over the last few years a relatively stable pattern has emerged indicating that the large majority of heterosexual case of HIV in UK are associated with sexual activity abroad. Many of these may be due to foreigner nationals seeking treatment in the UK. But there is also evidence of HIV infections among UK nationals associate with travel and tourism, especially to Sub-Saharan Africa. The available statistics have led some epidemiologists to claim that the risks associated with sex abroad for heterosexuals are several hundred times greater than the risks at home (Stephan C. & Simon C., 2000).

By definition, sex tourism is travel for which the man motivation is to engage in commercial sexual relations. Thailand is the most popular associated with sex tourism, the numbers of prostitutes are thought to have risen from 20,000 in 1957 to between 500,000 and a million in earlier 1980, with perhaps 200,000 working Bangkok alone, as a consequences in the late 1980 the rates of HIV infection for Thai was 3.5 % and late 1990 it was 18% which shows an tremendous increase in HIV infections countrywide.

Sex is inseparable with prostitution, but they are two different entities that just happen to share different commonalities; prostitution is considered as the exchange of sexual activities for payment. Yet such a

meaning exclusively relate to sexual monetary exchange where one person sells his or her body to receive a financial benefit. What about a worker or secretary who sleep with her boss/ what about other than financial rewards. Literature review reveals that the male sex tourist flows from the developed countries to developing countries with all their associated effects, very often highlighting the exploitation of children issues (Martin, 1998) .

Sex tourism, including child-sex tourism is taking a large segment of the world tourism market. Statistics shows that an estimate of 25% of sex tourism customers are coming from USA and they help supporting a multi-billion dollar illegal commercial sex trafficking industry, which promotes violence and discrimination against women and children. Children are most vulnerable to become victims for instance UNICEF report says that of 30% of children between 12 and 18 years old are involved in the sex tourism. As all prostitution, sex tourists are overwhelmingly men, but women also are sometimes seen as customers (*Fight Slavery Now, 2014*).

According to Equality Now (2004), the number of women and children who are involved in sex trafficking are alarming as shown in the statistics below (*Equity Now, 2014*).

- At least 20.9 million adults and children are being purchased and sold worldwide into commercial sexual servitude, forced labor and bonded labor.
- At least 2 million children are exploited every year in the global commercial sex trade.
- Almost 6 of 10 identified trafficking survivors were trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Women and girls make up 98% of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SEX TOURISM –CASE STUDY KENYA

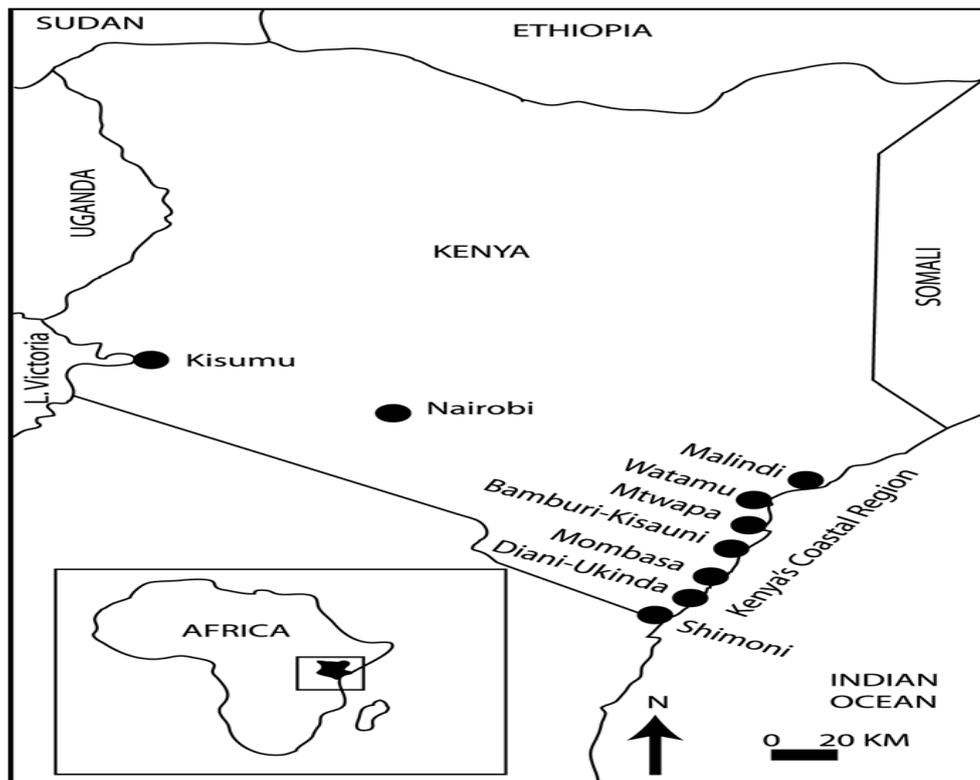
SEX TOURISM SITUATION IN KENYA

Prostitution in Kenya is illegal, however many foreign men and women are involved in sex tourism, which is thriving at resorts along Kenya's Coast especially in Mombasa. Not only the country's wildlife and beaches that draw millions of tourists in Kenya but also because Kenya has a reputation for easy sex for instance tourists are paying between 20\$ up to 70\$ to have sex with girls even younger as 12 years old. Due to the poverty thousands of girls and boys are involved in full-time child prostitution. According to the NGO End Child Prostitution in Kenya (2009), there were up to 50,000 children involved in sex prostitution and most of the customers of child prostitution were Kenyan, tourists from USA, Germany, United Kingdom, etc. (Naomi Conrad, 2012).

The most prominent reasons for prostitution is the poverty. Many family guide their children in the direction of prostitution in order to gain money to support the family in term of food and other needs. Girls become main target for prostitution and they are extremely vulnerable and desperately need money, because many family in Kenya sees prostitution as a beneficial business they allow their children to get into sex business at very young age .For instance sex worker under the age of sixteen can cost twenty 20\$ but can go up to high as 60\$, so this is beneficial because the average of Kenyan only earns 4\$ a day which is small to survive (Wikipedia, 2014). Another reasons which push people to involved into prostitution is the unemployment rate

which is high at 40% (2011) in Kenya, so this also push many people to indulge into sex business, as well the seasonality of tourism activities especially at the East Cost of Kenya, at low season 30,000 people lose their jobs and many of them go to sex business. The map below is showing most sex tourism areas in Kenya

Map: Tourism and Sex Trade in Kenya's Costal Region



Source: (Wanjohi Kibicho, 2009)

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Child Abuse

As we saw it above children in Kenya are being abused, so they are trafficked instead of going to school, they are sold to become sex workers at earlier age.

Untaxable business

The sex tourism is banned in Kenya, so people are trading illegally, the government is losing revenue from that trade because no one can declare it for taxation by fear of being arrested, and the level of corruption given to the authorities and policy to carry on sex activities is very high.

Violence

The rate of violence is very high where there is sex trade, customers fight because girls or girls are raped, for instance in Kenya from 2007 to 2011 more than 33% in 1000 cases was attributed to sex violence (Kenya Police sexual crime report, 2014)

Drug and Alcohol addictions

Sex go with drug and alcohol, most of time prostitute and their clients take drug before having sex, or the sex dealers give drugs and alcohol to the little girls to push them in sex inter-courses without fear and in order to control them, and at the end they became addicted.

Spread of diseases

Obviously unsafe sex bring different diseases and quickly they spread among sex workers and their clients, as well they share the same materials to drug themselves which is also dangerous to transmit diseases, especially AIDS.

Cultural and social value lost

The African life is about family, culture, believes and tradition, so sex tourism and tourism in general bring changes in the way African live. Sex workers/prostitutes in Africa is considered as taboo, even many family reject their children and family members who are involved in sex activities they are rejected and become errand without home, most prostitutes have children who miss educations because their mothers are casted/thrown by the community, etc.

IMPLICATION ON MACRO-ECONOMIC OF KENYA

To see the implication of negative impact of sex tourism in Mombasa/Kenya I am going to use one of the well-known macroeconomics equations to measure real Gross Domestic Product/rGDP using expenditure approach which is as follows:

$$rGDP = C + I + G + (X - M)$$

Where, C is consumptions, I is investments, G is Government purchases, X is exports and M is import. The Government of Kenya has a policy to abolish prostitutions which means it illegal to prostitute in the country, however tourists and local populations prostitute or directly and/or indirectly are involved in sex trade, even if they caught in action they pay bribes/give corruptions, statistics shows that Kenya is the most corrupted country in the East Africa according to the global consultancy firm KPMG report, Kenya stands out with 7.75%, Uganda 2.98% and Tanzania 2.78% of reported corruption cases (Business Daily , 2014). Because of this policy of abolishing prostitution, the problems arise and become negative to the macroeconomic activities of the country. Negative impacts of sex tourism has affect the rGDP of the Kenya and cause it to become thin, as you may know the tourism has a multiplier effects on the economy of any country because it involves the whole economic sectors of the country, for instance if farmers sell their products to hotels, and hotels buy industry products like beer to sell back to the tourists who stay there and hotels pay salaries to their employees, tourist make shopping to buy souvenirs, government gets taxes from hotels, employees and shops and directly from tourism spending. All this make the whole economy of the country to boom and boost exports and make import to become small because everything is produced inside of the counties as the good consequences of the good image from tourism activities which pull the investors to come and invest within the country. Kenya is going well in term of tourism activities within the East Africa country.

Government is not benefiting from it because sex workers are hiding their business for not being arrested by the police and because there are no other adequate measure to perform the sex tourism industry many children get trapped inside as you know many African family are poor, some children are incited to prostitute by their parents, so from here the government is losing taxes from sex activities and is losing future forces (children), instead the government is injecting a lot of money to the policy to arrest people, as well as the government is creating rehabilitation camps to reeducate adducted children and adults which are suffering from hidden sex activities, most of them their poor if they got HIV AIDS, get sick or retired the government or NGOs take care of them whereas they would have paid themselves their own medical insurance, pension if the sex activity was legalized. Also there are people who are benefiting from that so called illegal activities but who

hide their money because the government can ask them where they got money from since they do not have legal business, so the government is losing track of that money, they cannot save it to the banks. All that money that the government is losing is affecting the rGDP of the Kenya because, no one can invest legally in sex tourism activities, and the money got can help to boost export where tourists pay sex traders legally.

Not legalized sex tourism in Kenya create black markets for which government is not in ability to control, it cannot even know the real statistics from tourism because there is part of it hidden from that black market, always black market create uncontrolled inflation which impacts the real Gross Domestic Products of the whole country

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sex tourism is booming around the world, as the number of tourists are increasing the sex tourism also is increasing at the same rhythm, so countries like Kenya cannot ignore the reality by abolishing sex business rather Kenya can establish the policy which it can benefit from to avoid all those negative aspects we saw in the development of the discussion. The aggregate demand/local sex workers is increasing (people get a lot of money) as well the aggregate supplier/tourists it will never reach at the maximum exploitation, this is the reality the number of tourism worldwide is increasing by 3.5% each year worldwide as World Tourism Organization shows even if the world is in recession periods. Not only sex works are benefiting but also other activities associated to tourism like hotels, Lodges, shops, agriculture, etc.

So, I recommend the following in order to increase the real GDP:

- ✓ To legalized sex tourism in Kenya because is profitable business
- ✓ To increase the welfare of the population by creating employment
- ✓ To fight corruption by imposing severe punishment
- ✓ To put in place measure to protect children
- ✓ To fight human trafficking especially girls who forcible get involved into sex trade.

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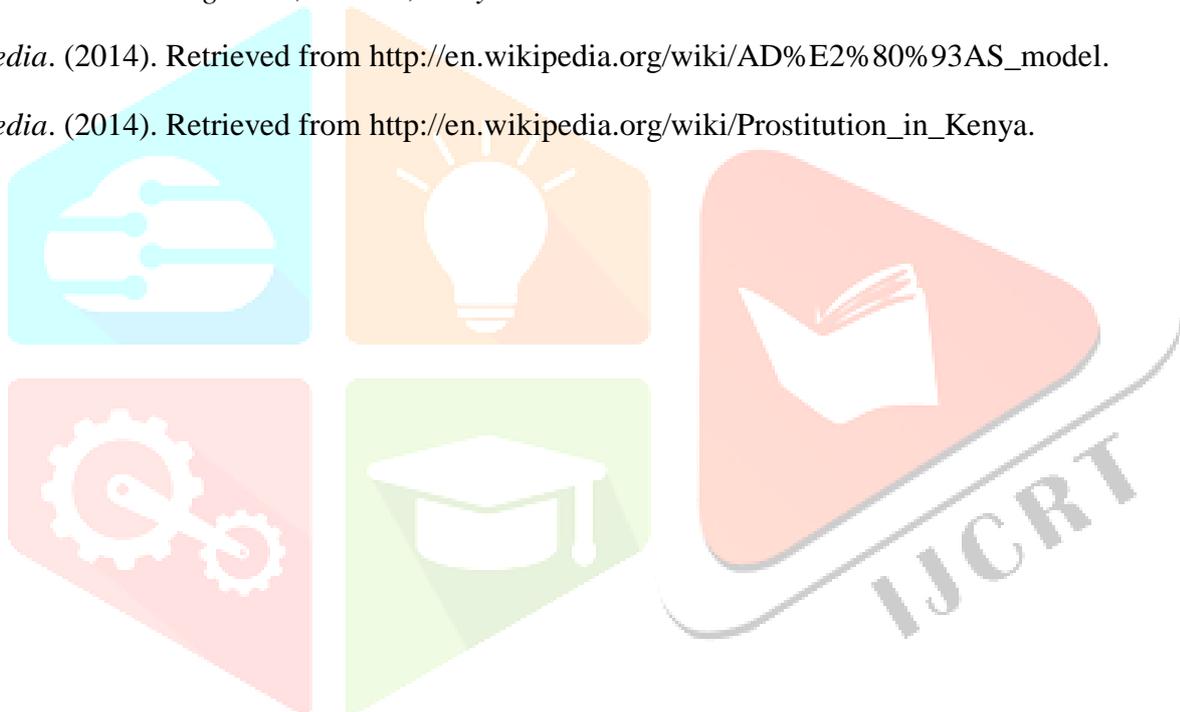
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APPENDIXES

KENYA'S GDP PER CAPITAL SINCE INDEPENDENCE

