



## The Conceptual Clarifications Of Youth Travel And Tourism In The Case Of Uzbekistan

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### ABSTRACT

Youth Tourism has been acknowledged as one of the most perspective sectors of Tourism world, furthermore its trend is showing the high potential possessing for tourism development with the growing rate of student and young people travels. Clearly, in light of a plethora of opportunities and factors youth travellers are willing to spend their free time and weekends by travelling or going to off-beaten track or having trips on new places. As the development of transport, cheap and comfortable hostels, online booking systems together with different kinds of purposes is going to its highest point, travelling has become common for young people. Besides, there are particular factors which have played an indispensable role in urging Youth Tourism to develop significantly. Furthermore, the state and progress of youth tourism largely depends on the state of the methodology and modern practice of learning the theory of youth tourism. The development of Youth Tourism in Uzbekistan is primarily due to the fact that tourism activities are primarily associated with tourism and its legal regulation, as legal and theoretical foundations are considered to be most important to develop any field. This article examines the concepts of youth travel and tourism issued by other scholars and research organization, their approach and methodology and the importance of theoretical aspects of youth tourism. The purpose of this study is to clarify conceptual aspects of Youth travel and tourism in the case of Uzbekistan considering the characteristics and specialties of the country. The approaches were studied to point the main aspects of the travel and tourism activities, as well as, the legal basis of the category.

### KEYWORDS

Youth travel, youth tourism, youth travellers, travel and tourism activities, conceptual clarification.

## INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization, the need of people for travelling is increasing significantly. This can be evident with the number of statistics: the number of international tourism in 2016 grew by 3.9%, reaching a total of 1,235 million in the world, an increase of 46 million compared with the previous year. A comparative sequence of continuous tourism growth has not been registered since the 1960s. [1] The total contribution of the “Travel and Tourism to GDP” sphere in 2016 reached 7,613.3 billion US dollars (10.2% of GDP). In 2017, growth is projected at 3.6% and growth at 3.9% per annum to 11,512.9 billion US dollars (11.4% of GDP) in 2027. [2]

Tourism in Uzbekistan can be considered as a recently introduced sector of the economy, which, as in most developing countries, is developing dynamically. Every year thousands of tourists visit Uzbekistan to explore the region’s historical and natural attractions. In 2016, the number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan reached 2,157.7 thousand people, which is – worth-mentioning – 7 times higher than in 2000. [3]

Understanding the language and culture of other nations and regions is important for the formation of young people as comprehensively advanced people. Tourism is also important for the establishment and strengthening of inter-ethnic relations between peoples and peoples. Youth tourism has a special place in this regard. Today, young people have different goals: they study their language and culture, explore folk customs and traditions, establish friendly relations with them, sports and other areas.

Special efforts are being made to develop tourism, especially for youth tourism in Uzbekistan. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the measures to ensure the dynamic development of the tourism industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated December 2, 2016 identified

youth tourism as one of the priorities and priorities of state policy in this area of tourism.

## METHODS AND RESULTS

Travel and tourism render a unique opportunity to get deeper into and visually familiarize with the cultural and historical heritage of a particular country and other cities, to awaken a sense of national self-awareness among young people, to cultivate respect and tolerance for the life and traditions of other nationalities and peoples. Youth tourism is considered to be one of the socio-cultural mechanisms by means of which conditions can be created for the disclosure of young people’s abilities, as well as the consolidation in a youth environment of national, civil-legal and moral-cultural values based on patriotism. Youth tourism is different from the concept of traditional tourism by the special profile of its participants. In the last decade, this field saw a quite rapid growth, contributing importantly to any countries’ financial condition owing to the amount of money that was spent by young people on different types of tourism.

Up till now many approaches have been employed to give a clear and universally accepted definition for Youth Tourism, however, certain categories, such as age, special motivations and travel nature are so diversified that a particular definition could not fully clarify the concept of Youth Tourism in all terms. More directly, the age limit for young people is different in different countries and organizations, which can easily influence the way to define this type of tourism. Besides, a specifically chosen definition have been out of date over a period of time since even young

people themselves, their motivations and desires from travelling, their social status in the community and in a certain era can change in the long run. According to Claudia Moisa (2010), in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the youth category was not so important in the society, some “fashions” followed by them was easily and quickly forgotten in a short period in Western Europe, however, next century increased the importance of young people accepting the technological progress and confidence in the future in many areas, such as politics, music, fashion, imagination and others. [4] In addition to the social status, their motivations from travelling can diversify compared to other youth segments in different periods which we will discuss in the next part of our scientific research. In other words, a universally set and clear definition cannot be introduced to Youth Tourism. Although it is expedient to refer particular definitions given by different authors and organizations.

Initially, let us refer to the definition of “tourism” term given by the World Tourism Organization **“activities of people who travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty-four hours and not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business or other purposes”**. [5]

In order to give clarify the youth tourism the World Youth Student and Educational Travel Confederation subjoins the concept „independent travel” to the aforementioned definition which is related to trips performed by young people independently, without being accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian. [6]

As we mentioned above, there is no general consensus in terms of limiting exact age of this segment. For instance, according to the UN, “youth” is considered to be people between the ages of 15 and 24 years, while the World Tourism Organisation appoints young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years. Meanwhile, there are other statements that extent the age limit, for example, the Youth Tourism Consortium of Canada (YTCC) expanded the age group through including young adults between the ages of 26 and 30 (Alice 2004), [7] Carr (2001) [8] showed young travellers visiting to London are between 15-34 years old, while Sullivan (2004) [9] states the same numbers for young tourists to Australia.

As for Uzbekistan, according to the Law on Youth, people are considered young between the ages of 14-30. Besides this, to travel abroad without a parent or a legal guardian, one must be older than 18. [10] Thus showing a particular age limit exactly seems difficult.

In Youth Tourism category, young travellers usually mostly prefer low cost airlines and accommodation, meeting new people, new culture, having fun and adventures, independently or in a pre-arranged way, taking longer to short holidays. More directly, their purpose can be specific: to experience a different culture, learn a language, volunteer, work or study. Most of young people travel with tight budget, so they prefer to choose cheap hostels in which they can create friendly atmosphere with other young travellers and local people, by saving their money for a mixed variety of adventure and activities. As well as, in young travellers’ opinion, the best and most unforgettable travels are those that are unexpected, unorganised, full of fun and memorable discoveries. Generally, these

specific features lead us to the definition of youth travel stated by the Youth Tourism Consortium of Canada (YTCC) **“young people up to 30 years old, who travel without their family, don’t travel for business purposes but to visit friends or relatives, for educational reasons or to have fun and whose trip lasts more than 24 hours.”** [7]

Based on the aforementioned information, one of the most proper definitions for “youth tourism” can be the one given by World Youth Student & Educational Travel Confederation – WYSETC stating that: **“youth travel includes all the independent trips lasting less than a year, carried out by people aged 16 to 29, who are partially or completely motivated by the desire to experience new cultures, to gain life experience and / or to benefit from formal or informal opportunities to learn outside the usual environment of the traveller”.** [6]

Even though in Uzbekistan different kinds of resolutions done in order to develop travel and tourism, conceptual aspects are less paid attention, including, clear definition has not been confirmed for youth travel and tourism. Considering all provided points, we decided to give the two different following definitions for the case of Uzbekistan:

*“Youth travel is the travel activities young people aged from 16-30 who travel with friends or alone for fun, adventure, excursions, trips and other purposes but not for business or earning money.”* (1)

*“Youth tourism is the tourism activities of young people aged from 16-30 who travel with friends or alone for fun, educational, adventure or other*

*purposes for more than twenty-four hours and not more than one year.”* (2)

In the first definition, we can see the general characteristics of youth travel which can include all the travel activities even from simple excursions or picnics to long-term travels. In this case it should be highlighted that this definition includes all the purposes related to travelling, but excludes business and making money goals.

As is clearly from the second definition, youth tourism is related to young people with mentioned purposes, different from the former definition, time limit should be appointed in this condition since tourism activities must be within from twenty-four hours till one year, and there is no need to exclude business purposes because when tourism activities are used, the exclusion of purposes related to earning money is comprehended.

In both definitions, age limit has been appointed to from 16 to 30, since in Uzbekistan a 16 year-old owns identification document and has a right to purchase air and train tickets, as well as, travel independently without being guarded by older ones. From both concepts we can clarify youth travellers as people aged from 16-30 spend time travelling for joy, amusement, exploring new places, new knowledge and seeking adventure.

## DISCUSSION

In our country, young people, their desires and intentions are always the most important priorities of the policy of our government. From the first year of independence, the legal basis for youth has been created. This can be

obvious with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 20, 1991 “Basics of youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan”. This law was amended and improved with the advent of the rapidly developing world on 12<sup>th</sup> August in 2016 with the new edition. [10]

This law consists of 4 chapters and 33 articles and the participation of bodies and institutions involved in the implementation of *youth policy* which is a currently essential thing for Uzbekistan. As well as Article 6 of the Law on the Legal and Social Protection of Youth. The main directions of the state youth policy in the legislation are:

- Ensuring the rights, freedoms and legal interests of young people;
- The protection of life and health of young people;
- The assistance of youth in spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral development;
- The assistance providing open and high-quality education for young people;
- The creation of conditions for the employment of young people and their employment;
- The education of young people with strong convictions and convictions that can withstand patriotism, civil feelings, tolerance, respect for laws, national and universal human values,
- The protection of young people from actions leading to violation of moral principles, ideas of terrorism and religious extremism, separatism, fundamentalism, violence and cruelty;
- The raising the level of legal awareness and legal culture of youth;
- The support and promotion of talented and talented youth;

- The creation of conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship;
- The formation of a healthy lifestyle among young people, as well as the creation of a favourable environment for youth leisure and the mass development of youth sports;
- The introduction of a comprehensive system of measures to support young families spiritually and financially, to create decent housing and social conditions;
- The development of cooperation with international organizations in the implementation of the rights and freedoms of youth.

The document also provides for the organization of social services for young people and young families for the purpose of social protection. The law establishes the conditions for the convenient movement and recreation of young people in our country. Today in our country young people make up more 60% of the whole population. This figure is higher than the number of foreigners visiting Uzbekistan which reveals that this segment has high potential to urge to develop this type of tourism in the country.

Currently, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, which protects the rights and interests of these young people, is now taking on the role of integrator of young people in the social life of young people.[11] However, this field needs special legal basis which handles issues related to the development of Youth tourism and implements the following objectives:

- The implementation of projects aimed at developing youth tourism;
- The organization of various scientific conferences, training seminars in the field;

- The study of the problems that impede the development and liquidation of tourism through sponsorship;
- The organization of internships for students studying tourism;
- The study of the activities of tourism organizations and their delivery of youth;
- Support for projects of young people in the development of tourism and the use of sponsorship in their implementation;
- The collection of information on the work done to ensure the continued safety of tourists in the region;
- The development of projects for the development of tourist infrastructures;
- The to ensure the implementation of the scope and directions of youth tourism;
- Youth integration.

## CONCLUSION

This article examines the views of the scholars and scientific organization on conceptual clarifications of Youth travel and tourism, how to lay the theoretical foundation to clarify youth tourism and develop it in a large scale. The study also considers the conceptual definitions of other countries considering their originality and characteristics. In some concepts, age limit differs due to their legal basis and in some the desires and motivations of youth are highlighted. Furthermore, there is no mention of young people being student, worker or unemployed, due to the fact that the main point is age limit despite any profession. The results of the survey show the conceptual clarifications related Youth travel and tourism in the case of Uzbekistan. Up till now youth travel has been developed on its way, especially being popularized among students who plan and make their travels on their own

with course-mates or friends. In order to clarify youth travel and tourism concepts in the case of Uzbekistan, initially, we needed to apply for legal basis of Law on Youth for age limits and Law on Tourism for travel-tourism activities issued by the authority. Separating youth travel and tourism activities, the main point is given for age limit and purposes. Youth travel is appointed more generally in order to include all youth travel activities from even a two-hour excursion to long-term journeys. In this case, we aimed to cover all youth activities and consider them significant types to develop as one aspect of Youth travel in the future. As for the second concept, purposes and time limit are highlighted to differentiate Youth tourism regarding tourism and law basis.

In order to develop Youth Tourism in Uzbekistan a plethora of reforms should be implemented, since its development depends on the theoretical basis and cooperation of the whole infrastructure. If the system is formed in clear conceptual way from the beginning, youth travelling can easily develop. However, it is not straightforward to carry out all the reforms and implementations in one day, it takes time, but the result can be perspective. As a result of the study of world experience in this case, we can conclude that there are particular reforms which should be taken into consideration in terms of the prosperity of Youth Tourism.

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