

THE ROLE OF DOMESTIC TOURISM IN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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This article analyzes the importance of the domestic tourism sector in ensuring youth employment, its socio-economic impact, and the creation of new jobs for young people through the development of domestic tourism in Uzbekistan. In addition, the opportunities for increasing youth entrepreneurial activity and developing professional skills through domestic tourism are examined.

Keywords

domestic tourism, youth employment, service sector, regional development, entrepreneurship, labor market.

Introduction

In the context of globalization, ensuring youth employment is a crucial factor in the sustainable socio-economic development of any country. This issue is particularly relevant for the Republic of Uzbekistan, where young people constitute a significant share of the population, and youth employment is recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy. The successful integration of young people into the labor market, the realization of their professional potential, and the expansion of income sources are closely linked to the development of the service sector, especially domestic tourism.

Domestic tourism stimulates population travel within the country, contributing not only to regional economic development but also to the creation of new jobs for young people, the provision of seasonal and permanent employment, and the support of entrepreneurial initiatives. The tourism sector offers wide opportunities for youth employment in areas such as guiding services, hospitality and catering, transport and logistics, cultural and entertainment activities, marketing, and digital services.

The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “*On Additional Measures to Diversify Domestic Tourism Services*” has strengthened the legal and institutional framework for the development of domestic tourism and contributed to increasing employment in this sector. The resolution identifies the expansion of domestic tourism destinations, digitalization of travel services, effective use of cultural heritage sites, and active involvement of the population—especially young people—in tourism as priority tasks. In this process, cooperation among the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, local authorities, educational institutions, and employers is envisaged.

In recent years, improvements in domestic tourism services have led to the active promotion of tour packages for young people to historic cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Shahrisabz. These tour packages integrate historical monuments, gastronomic services, accommodation facilities, and transport systems, enabling the organization of short-term and affordable travel. As a result, young people are actively involved in developing tourism products, providing services, and bringing them to the market.

Furthermore, the establishment of tourism centers and university museums within higher education institutions enables the involvement of students in domestic tourism activities, the development of their practical skills, and the enhancement of their employment opportunities. Providing concessions on air and railway tickets for students, organizing group trips during vacation periods, and developing camping and cultural-educational routes positively affect youth employment.



Presidential Resolution No. 238 of July 27, 2023. This resolution aims to further accelerate reforms in the tourism sector and improve the efficiency of public administration in the field. It outlines tasks related to the development of tourism infrastructure, attraction of investments, and increase in tourist flows. Within the framework of this resolution, various incentives have been introduced for tourism entrepreneurs and travelers, including:

- income tax incentives;
- incentives for individuals;
- tourist (hotel) fees;
- subsidies;
- outdoor advertising incentives.

Overall, the development of domestic tourism serves as an important mechanism for increasing youth economic activity, expanding employment opportunities, and accelerating regional development. Therefore, the scientific analysis of the role of domestic tourism in youth employment is one of the most pressing issues today.

The Relationship Between Domestic Tourism and Youth Employment. The domestic tourism sector is one of the key areas expanding youth participation in the labor market. Increased domestic travel stimulates the growth of the service sector and generates new forms of employment particularly suitable for young people. One distinctive feature of tourism is its ability to create a large number of jobs within a short period, making effective use of young labor resources.

Tourism-related activities—such as accommodation and catering services, excursion organization, transport services, local product sales, and cultural event management—play a significant role in ensuring youth employment. Due to relatively low entry barriers, young people are increasingly able to establish small businesses and family enterprises, thereby creating their own income sources.

Moreover, domestic tourism serves as an important platform for gaining practical experience. Young people engaged in tourism develop skills in customer service, quality management, time management, information technology use, and marketing. These competencies enhance their competitiveness in the labor market not only within tourism but also across other sectors.

The link between domestic tourism and regional development further strengthens its positive impact on youth employment. The emergence of new service types in tourism-potential regions creates employment opportunities for young people in their local areas, reducing labor migration to cities and increasing regional economic activity.

In addition, domestic tourism provides seasonal employment opportunities, offering students an additional source of income. Working at tourism facilities during vacation periods helps young people adapt early to professional life and develop independent income-generation skills.

As domestic tourism develops, new jobs for young people are created in the following areas:

- guiding and excursion services;
- accommodation and catering services;
- transport and logistics;
- handicrafts and souvenir production;
- organization of events and festivals.

The Positive Impact of Domestic Tourism on Youth Employment. The development of domestic tourism increases regional economic activity and serves as an important factor in ensuring youth employment. This sector creates new opportunities in the labor market and strengthens the socio-economic participation of young people.

Firstly, the implementation of domestic tourism projects leads to the growth of small businesses and private entrepreneurship in regions. The development of tourist routes,



recreational areas, hotels, catering establishments, and transport services creates both seasonal and permanent jobs for young people, particularly in tourism-oriented regions.

Secondly, domestic tourism provides a favorable environment for youth entrepreneurship. Since starting activities in this sector often requires relatively limited financial resources, young people are launching guesthouses, cafés offering national cuisine, guiding services, as well as tourism-related online platforms and mobile applications. This promotes self-employment and financial independence among youth.

Thirdly, domestic tourism serves as a practical arena for developing professional skills. Young people working in tourism gain experience in effective communication with clients, foreign language use, management and marketing fundamentals, and service culture. These skills enhance their competitiveness in the labor market and support their professional growth.

Fourthly, domestic tourism plays a crucial role in ensuring regional employment, especially in rural and remote areas. The establishment of tourism facilities enables young people to find jobs in their places of residence, reducing internal labor migration and increasing the economic potential and social activity of regions.

Overall, domestic tourism is an effective tool for ensuring youth employment, supporting entrepreneurial activity, and accelerating regional development. Therefore, measures aimed at developing this sector should be considered one of the key directions of youth policy.

Opportunities for Increasing Youth Employment through Domestic Tourism in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's historical and architectural heritage plays a vital role in the development of domestic tourism and holds significant potential for increasing youth employment. In particular, the Ichan-Qala complex in Khorezm region, Registan Square and Muhammad Aliboy Madrasah in Andijan, and the Khudoyorkhan Palace in Kokand are among the key centers of domestic tourism.

Ichan-Qala in Khorezm is the only fully preserved historical city complex in Central Asia and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The madrasahs, mosques, minarets, and handicraft centers located in this area attract a large number of domestic tourists. Many young people are employed through excursion services, handicraft sales, national cuisine preparation, and cultural events.

Registan Square and Muhammad Aliboy Madrasah in Andijan are important historical and cultural sites of the Fergana Valley. Registan Square has become a center of public and cultural life, hosting various festivals and mass tourism events. Muhammad Aliboy Madrasah attracts visitors as a historical-educational site, creating employment opportunities for young people in guiding, information services, and cultural event organization.

Khudoyorkhan Palace in Kokand, a unique example of 19th-century architecture, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Fergana Valley. The palace complex contributes to youth employment through museum activities, excursion services, cultural events, and trade services.

Overall, these historical sites serve as important resources for developing domestic tourism, engaging young people in the preservation of cultural heritage, and increasing employment. Effective utilization of historical sites creates new jobs for youth and accelerates regional economic development.

Within the framework of domestic tourism, the following initiatives play a significant role in increasing youth employment:

- special training courses for young people;
- startup and grant programs;
- involvement of students and graduates in internships.

Conclusion

In conclusion, domestic tourism is not only an effective but also a strategically important sector for ensuring youth employment. Systematic development of this sector enables the



creation of new jobs for young people, stimulation of entrepreneurial activity, and formation of professional skills. Domestic tourism contributes to employment not only in hospitality, guiding, transport, and catering services but also makes a significant contribution to regional economic development.

Moreover, domestic tourism engages young people in gaining practical experience, implementing innovative ideas, and preserving national cultural heritage. Active youth participation in tourism projects fosters economic independence, responsibility, and teamwork skills.

The development of domestic tourism also helps reduce internal migration, increase economic activity in remote regions, and effectively utilize local tourism potential. Therefore, supporting and modernizing domestic tourism should be regarded as one of the priority directions of youth policy, and effective results can be achieved through strengthened cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Overall, the development of domestic tourism plays a central role in ensuring youth employment and regional socio-economic stability, occupying a key position in the country's sustainable development strategy.

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