

Archaeological Heritage Management in Turkish Republic and Northern Cyprus: Implication for Sustainable Tourism

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Abstract

The purpose of this study, find out current conditions, local and international tourists' impacts and other problems on archaeological heritages, evaluate awareness and knowledge of local people and examine preservation and conservation activities on archaeological heritages in TRNC. In order to measure the study purposes, qualitative research method is used and all data are collected by using structure interview method. Finally, study come up with realities that, there are many places, are needed preservation and conservation or conserved or rest orated unsuitably, however, government shows lack of care and control for archaeological places and local people, tourism authorities and tourist are not aware and knowledgeable about archaeological places. There are limited source for financing and international aid for archaeological heritage in TRNC.

Keywords: Heritage, visitors impact, preservation, conservation, government, education and financial aid

1. Introduction

Archaeological heritages are highly desirable, especially if a place has a rich history or unique archaeology and culture. Heritage places have become part of the range of visitor attractions, which has changed and create conflict between preservation and access. Tourism industries threaten to contaminate or misuse the concept of heritage has led to an active debate (Herbert, [1995]). Because of actively promotion and allowing visitors access to archaeological places, many countries face a difficult dilemma of balancing the dual objectives of visitor use and resource protection (McCool, [1994]; McCool and Stankey, [1992]; Farrell and Marion, [2002]).

Therefore, a well-planned and managed tourism necessary to generate important positive environmental impacts like help justify and pay for the conservation of archaeological and historical sites as attractions for tourists, also it increases local environmental awareness and help them to realize the importance of conservation in their area (Routledge, [1994]). Well planned, sustainable tourism effect can reap the economic benefits, preserve buildings of historic significance and create community pride (Edgell, [1990]). Moreover, the knowledge of visitor impact is also important to the environmental sustainability and sustainable tourism development requires education, communication and a working partnership between government, business and residents (FSMVB-Secretariat, [2003]). The community has been viewed as a resource or even partners within protected area management and sustainable tourism (Bramwell and Lane, 2000; Dudley, [1999]; Leverinton, [1999]).

Tourism provides an incentive for the restoration of ancient monuments and archaeological treasures and for the conservation of natural resources (Mathieson & Wall, [1992]). The government typically must finance major infrastructure project and tourist attractions And government often find difficult to generate funds for protection and maintenance of conservation areas. The host community, which is very often ill-equipped to provide financial support, can help in protecting and conserving these assets for their survival (Routledge, [1994]). Tourism is using archaeological assets and because of high demand and lack of control and knowledge, tourism cause damages to archaeological places but, as a general the relationship between tourism and archaeological heritages are strongly linked each other and at some circumstance they need each other.

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2. Review of The Literature

Tourism today starts to promote heritage resources, as a tourism asset. Nowadays archaeological heritages are one of the main tourist attractions for destinations. This chapter provides an extensive review which is the dimension of the past of cultural history (Ploeg, [1999]) and the importance of archaeological for tourism. Because of the lack of control and knowledge over Archaeological places and high flow of tourist to the historical places, increase damages and misusing of them. At this point, well planned and sustainable tourism should focuses on sustainable development, which brings conservation vision and increases the environmental awareness. The chapter also provides information about the Importance of heritage awareness and education and training for residents and the personnel, who are working in the field of archaeology and heritage. All the literature is supporting the relationship between tourism and archaeological heritages and giving information about government and residents and personnel's important role acting in the relationship between tourism and archaeological heritages.

2.1 Tourism and Heritage

2.1.1 Defining Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is only one dimension of the past and it is part of cultural history (Ploeg, [1999]). Protection and proper management is essential for archaeological heritages to enable archaeologists and other scholars to study and interpret it on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future generation (Helmy & Cooper [2002]). **The** archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water (Valetta, [1992], Web site: Council of Europe- ETSno_143-European Convention on Protection of the archaeological Heritage (Revised).htm.).

2.1.2 Tourism and Archaeological Heritage

Matheison, [1992] stated that, Natural characteristics are highly desirable, especially if a place has a rich history or is unique in archaeology or culture. Some communities seek to restore old buildings and similar edifices in an effort to maintain the historic preservation of the area and to draw visitors to participate in the local cultural heritage (Edgell, [1999; p.75]). Edgell mentioned that, like other aspects of socio cultural tourism, heritage tourism often creates a source of community pride that helps to ease resentment toward visitors and to prevent displacement. [1999; p.76].

2.2 Heritage Tourism in TRNC

2.2.1 Problems of Archaeological Heritages in TRNC

Most of the damages caused by earthquakes and War in 1963 and 1974, such as Salamis Ruins and many churches and mosque in TRNC. The archaeological sites were under danger of being dismantled by colonies, such as Bellapais Abbey dismantled by The British in the 1970's. Nowadays, most of the damages are caused from refuse, fencing in the surrounding of the archaeological sites, such as Apostolos Andreas Monastery. Lack of cleaning and well cared like the surrounding areas of the sites are not cleaned after conservation activities.

3. Methodology

In this chapter, the methods are presented, which used in collection data of interview and according to concept of the qualitative research methods, structure interview method is found suitable and used for this study.

3.1 Type of Interview

The data were aimed to collect with the appropriate use of qualitative research method, which helps to researcher to experience or understand the more subjective view point of the respondents (Marison, [1986]). Structure Interview is used, which is a form of self-gathered, is used in qualitative research to gather answers to specific questions from small samples of individuals. Qualitative interviewing is also that, the respondents express their own understandings, perspectives or their point of view (Frankfort-Nachimas and Nachimas, [1996; P.234]). The type of interview used was the scheduled-structure interview in nature, which questions and the wordings of the questions are identical for all of the respondents. The sequence, in which questions are asked, is the same in every interview (Frankfort-Nachimas and Nachimas, [1996; P.234]). The Structure interview schedule includes open-ended probing questions (Furlong, Lovelace and Lovelace, [2000; p.536]). Data from structure interview are generally regarded as more reliable, since the order and wording of question are the same for all respondents (Marison, [1986]).

The structure interview method is used by go through each question to make sure all questions asked to all the respondents and reduce the risk of changes in the way questions are worded. When structure interview is used, respondents have a sufficiently common vocabulary is that it is possible to formulate questions which have the same meaning or each of them. The other personal interview type, which is non-structure or focused interview, is not used in this study. Because the researcher has not been involved in a particular experience, might interviewer make failure to remember some questions and it might be hard to formulate respondents' answers for researcher and non-structure interview is less reliable than structure interview method (Marison, [1986]).

3.2 The Sample

The interviews utilized to achieve the objectives of this study were obtained through in the form structure interview with expert administrative, academic from the field of archaeology and archaeologists. Structure interview used in order to avoid item non-response and to obtain adequate answer to open-ended questions. 15 expert people selected based on purposive sampling from archaeology field. Work experience and educational background of the experts were considered in the selection in order to ensure specialization coverage.

Table 1: Profile of the respondents

Respondents	Administrator	Academics	Archaeologies
No of Respondents	1	4	6
Specialization	Administrator and academician in department of archaeology department in EMU and archaeologist.	Academics in the department of archaeology department in EMU.	4 of the respondents of archaeologist graduated from the archaeology department in EMU and working for excavation of Tatlisu archaeological site and rest 2 respondents are coming from England for excavation.

4. Data Collection & Analysis

4.1 Data Collection

15 structure interviews aimed to conduct to 11 respondents agreed to be interview and the rest four respondents refused to be interviewed, because they were too busy to complete interview. I completed all interviews myself. At the beginning of the each interview, aim of the interview is explained to the interviewer and for clarifying some questions, explanations were provided to make all questions clear for respondents. Data were collected from 11 experts' administrative, academics from the field of archaeology and archaeologist in North Cyprus in January, 2004. The interview survey was restricted to one-week period and completed.

4.2 Interview Analysis

The structure interviews were analyzed by checking all the answers of the respondents and grouping the responses according to same or similar responses of expert administrative, academics and archaeologists.

Process – Who you analyzed with Interview

Structured interviews applied on expert administrative, academics and archaeologists, who engage with Archaeology and heritages. Educations and background of all respondents are taken into consideration and then respondents were selected.

Reading

After all the interviews were completed, each respondent given answers were checked and all of the responds for the same question brought together.

Grouping the similar statements

While checking respondents answers for each question, the same or similar respondents were grouped and generalized among perception of respondents. The respondents have a sufficiently common vocabulary so that it is possible to formulate questions which have the same meaning for each of them (Furlong, Lovelace and Lovelace, [2000]; p.536).

4.3 Findings

• Perception about visitors impacts on Archaeological places

Most of the academicians in archaeology department mentioned that, tourists, who are choosing North Cyprus as a holiday destination, they are mostly third age group tourists and they are tourists groups, who are interested historical places; learn more about history, culture and heritage. They believe that, these tourist are not damaging, misusing archaeological heritages and they are more interested, willingly to protect these places and they are more respectful to archaeological places more than locals.

However most of the archaeologist supported that tourist, who is visiting Archaeological places and locals are damaging archaeological places:

1. Taking fragments of pottery, mosaics from archaeological sites as a souvenirs. Archaeological artifact fragments (data for archaeologist) are so important for archaeologist and when tourist is taking them, it is big problem, because, those fragments are the answers and pieces to a puzzle archaeologists work at.
 - a) Many tourists are known to pick up pieces of pottery shreds from archaeological sites.
 - b) Also when tourist and locals are swimming, they come across amphorae in the sea and they pull them out of the sea, causing them to break.
2. Walking over the mosaics or climbing on walls to take pictures.
 - a) Some visitors are too keen to take pictures and they jump over the fences or ropes to get closer to the mosaics and walk over them. If we imagine every tourist doing this, there will be nothing left.
 - b) Sometimes mosaics are covered with sand for protection; tourists try to wipe it off with their feet to see what is under.
 - c) To get a better view, they climb on the walls, so that clear photo can be taken.

Usually, these kinds of pictures are for sale in the museum shops, so that people don't miss anything.

All of the respondents come up the common idea, that because of lack of control from government over the archaeological places, tourist can do anything and they are free for damaging, and also because of lack of control, tourist can take some important fragments from archaeological places, which are so important as a archaeological findings.

• Perception about community and personnel awareness and knowledge about visitor's impacts and their education

Most of the respondents have expressed a shared idea that Turkish Cypriots are not aware of archaeological resources and do not pay attention to protection and Turkish Cypriots also have limited knowledge about archaeological places.

Also all respondents are agreed that, archaeological heritage education should be given especially to young age group of people to grow up with environmental friendly mind and protect archaeological places. If they know their past well, they can be more careful, respectful and pride of them. Therefore, as all respondent mention that, not only Turkish Cypriots, also tour guides and personnel, who are working for Archaeological places, need education and they believe education is important to protect archaeology and heritage.

Administrator of the archaeology department suggested that, education necessary for young age and we need to write books on archaeology for children, organize activities in the museums, dressing them up etc., teaching with game playing, take them to archaeological sites and make it interesting, have to shows of treasure hunt, so they can also learn and enjoy about their heritage. Besides, education program on children, adult evening courses. TV programs on archaeology and visiting sites, it can be like amateur organization trips etc. lead by archaeologists.

Some of the archaeologist mentioned that, personnel importance to protect archaeological places from any misuse or damage. Personnel, who are working for maintaining and conserving archaeological places, personnel who are waiting and giving tickets and tour guides are so important for protecting archaeological places from damages and stole something. And they add that, in North Cyprus no one in any archaeological places knows anything about anything.

- **Reasons of damage of Archaeological Places in North Cyprus**

All respondents' comments on Critical problems of Archaeological places can be generalized as;

1. Many civilizations

One of the respondents, who is archaeologist explained that, many cultures passed from North Cyprus and each period people brings different cultural heritages and when another culture come to North Cyprus , they ignore or damage previous cultural places and it continues like that. Therefore, no any culture protected any other cultural heritages and archaeological places stayed damaged and not protected. Then, because of economic condition and political issues, the government could not take care seriously and protect them properly.

2. Conservation activities are reactive

Some of the archaeologist and administrator of the archaeology department said that, protection and conservation activities are reactive and not proactive in North Cyprus. It means that, protection and conservation activities are taking place, when archaeological places are already damage and sometimes, it can be very late to conserve or resorted that places.

3. Lack of Training

Some of the archaeologist suggested that, because of not having enough training and education programs for locals, tour guides and other personnel, who are working for archaeological heritages, they do not know how to protect and avoid damages, which can be caused by tourists. Especially, it is the responsibility of a tourist guide, however, many time as some of the archaeologists mentioned that, they saw them climbing on a wall to speak with everyone.

4. Not having enough specialists

Some of the administrator suggested that, personnel for maintaining the archaeological places in North Cyprus, they are not specialists and do not have knowledge about best techniques to apply and avoid any unsuitable and impacts to archaeological heritages.

Moreover, some of the administrators said that, many archaeological areas have no or very limited personnel and often they are lack aware of current condition and information about what to do to avoid the visitor impacts. According to administrators, first of all personnel should be knowledgeable about heritages and heritage impacts, then personnel should provide detail information about each items in archaeological places and give correct information to visitors .

5. Lack of funding

Administrator of the archaeology department mentioned that, there is no government or international funds to support training and education programs led by archaeologists for young people, there are lack of funding to have leaflets on the site information and not enough funding for archaeological research for discovering unknown sites.

- **Perception on problems and applications of Protection and conservation techniques of Archaeological places in North Cyprus**

All the administrator, academicians and archaeologist suggest that, archaeological places should kept clean and well cared. It is the first step to protect archaeological places and help preservation. Also, it is recommended that, the total surrounding area of the site should be cleaned, because most of the problems occur not managed and cleaned sites. For example, some of surrounding of archaeological places is full of wild plants and trees, which cause damages on archaeological places.

One of the administrator suggested that, some of the sensitive archaeological places can be presented by using interpretive media and show outside to present and explain the place. This means that, tourist do not allowed tourist and locals to enter internal rooms, because some places are so sensitive and they should be avoided from damages of the area.

Another administrator point that, some of the archaeological places should not visited too much, because of their very sensitive nature, and it can be avoided by putting high entrance fee and limit the high flow to these places.

- **Financing conservation of archaeological places**

Most of the archaeologist mentioned that, enough fund is not coming from government, because government is poor. Archaeologists added that, application of the correct methods for conservation of Archaeological places, first of all, they need money for right conservation and sometimes professional help necessary to exam the current conditions of archaeological places and make research on that.

Some hoteliers are complaining from high entrance fees of archaeological places and most of the archaeologists and administrators commented that, they do not believe entrance fee is high as hoteliers complained, because entrance fees are cheaper than other destinations and they added that, archaeology is so expensive work in the world and archaeological heritages can protect from entrance fees, but conservation is not possible, because entrance fees are nor able to generated enough money for conservation.

Administrator of the archaeology department said that, she is one of the sponsors and donate funds for preservation and conservation activities. Academics said that, they are happy to support and donate some funds for preservation and conservation of archaeological places and archaeologist said that, they would like to donate money for conservation of Archaeological places and they add that, they more likely to help protection and conservation of Archaeological places with their knowledge and experiences.

5. Discussion and Implication

5.1 Discussion

Tourism is main industry, which generates revenue in North Cyprus, however archaeological heritages are not taken their own portion of this revenue to able to carry these valuable resources for future generation and invest for future of tourism in North Cyprus. Government should able to provide funds for archaeological places for preservation and conservation. However, in North Cyprus, government is more engaged with Cyprus issue and forgotten environmental and archaeological heritage issues, which nowadays are main tourism attractions in North Cyprus.

On the other hand, lack of government responsibility to provide financing for heritages and apply legislation and more strict control cause to complains of local people about government. However, at some circumstance, local people should take responsibility and protect these places. For example, open air museums, which are open to everybody and as a local community, they should protect and treat respectfully.

Education of archaeological heritages is very important for local community for treating respectfully and protect. Education also has very important role for apply correct techniques of conservation and restoration for archaeological heritages and avoid visitor impact by informing tour operators, hoteliers and tourist. However, Ministry of Tourism is not providing any training or education programs for archaeological heritages and protection methods of these places.

5.2 Managerial Implication

Education is very important for locals, tourist, tour operators, tour guides and hoteliers. Therefore, Ministry of Education should put some courses in secondary schools and take help of archaeologist to write books about archaeological heritages and also Ministry of Education should encourage schools to organize education tours for archaeological heritages.

Ministry of Tourism should set some legislation and rules of responsible treatment towards archaeological heritages and should provide courses of archaeological sites and methods of protection for locals, tour operators, tour guides. Ministry of Tourism also should inform tourist, who are visiting TRNC by publishing brochures or small books of archaeological heritages and responsible treatment for these places.

Tourism authorities and archaeologist should work together and come up with useful ideas for archaeological heritages in TRNC. Ministry of Tourism can make studies with archaeologists about archaeological sites, which are used most and under danger, then set a rotation for tour operators and hoteliers to avoid visitor impacts on these archaeological places.

Tourists authorities, archaeological authorities and planners should come together and manage the site with conduct scientific research and put some policy on the maximum capacity of each site and they have to conduct with travel agency responsible for organizing tour programs and personnel, who are working for Archaeological places and informed them about the policy of maximum number of tourist can enter and spend time in the Archaeological places.

5.3 Limitations and Implications for Future Research

The researcher had no deep experiences or background about preservation and conservation of archaeological heritages and this study helped the researcher to learn more things about archaeological resources. So there can be some missing point of interview questions, which could be asked and get more useful information. Therefore, other researchers can use this study to learn general view of conditions and problems of archaeological places and expand the study.

This study applied on eleven people from the field of Archaeology and heritages and if the researcher was conducted more respondent, much different and useful information could be gained and the study can be stronger. For the future study, the applied questions can be expanding and will be asked more people.

Another implementation for the future studies, the study can be applied to Ministry of Tourism, Hotel managers and tour operators to learn their perception on archaeological places and it will help researchers to compare their perceptions about archaeological heritages.

Conclusion

As a result, there are highly increasing demand for archeological heritages as a tourism attraction in TRNC. However, while tourists are flowing for archaeological resources, there is no serious effort for protection and conservation of archaeological heritages by government and because of lack of care and control by government, archaeological heritages are facing so many problems and there are very limited and not correct recoveries.

There are very limited financial resources for conservation and restoration of archaeological heritages and limited finance for scientific archaeological researches and invitation of some professional archaeologist for professional guides of conservation and restoration. However, there is no much need of financing for cleaning surrounding area from wild plants, trees and garbage around archaeological heritages and Ministry of Tourism can provide training and education sessions for local, tour operators and hoteliers, which is not much cost for tourism ministry.

As a second responsible power is local people and tourism authorities, however they are not aware and knowledgeable about importance of archaeological heritages and current conditions and problems of these place, Also, there is not specialist archaeologist for using correct and suitable techniques for conservation and restoration. There is not coordination between government, developers, tourism authorities and archaeologies for more sustainable development of archaeological heritages in TRNC.

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