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The Hospitality Industry during and After the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uzbekistan

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Introduction

The pandemic of COVID-19 which has been started its spread from china had crucial impact on the world wide economy and Hotels or lodging sectors are one of the most damaged sectors and tourism (hospitality). Countries which industries run because of tourism or tourists experienced significant challenges as a result of the pandemic. This thesis explores the effects of COVID-19 on Uzbekistan's hospitality sector, the measures taken to mitigate these impacts, and the industry's trajectory in the post-pandemic era.

Challenges that Uzbekistan faced because of COVID-19 pandemic

Literature review

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the tourism industry in Uzbekistan, leading to a sharp decline in international tourist arrivals (Yusupov et al., 2021). To ensure the safety of visitors, the government introduced health and safety protocols for the hospitality and tourism industry, such as enhanced hygiene standards and temperature checks (Baratov et al., 2020).

Initial Shock and Quarantine

The first information or signal of danger of COVID-19 in Uzbekistan was reported in March 2020, Government had to act immediate safety actions. Uzbekistan experienced strict lockdown measures, such as the suspension of international flights, blockage of borders and roads , and restrictions on domestic travel or absolute presence on streets . These measures, while necessary to contain the virus, brought the hospitality industry to a sudden apart . Hotels, restaurants, and tourist attractions faced unprecedented closures, leading to significant financial losses of the hoteliers or hotel industry owners and around the world increased number of unemployment rates

Economic Consequences

GPD shares of Uzbekistan which related to hospitality and tourism decreased very sharply in early 2020. The number of tourists visiting the nation fell precipitously as a result of the halt in foreign travel. According to the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Tourism Development, the number of international or outbound tourists dropped dramatically compared previous year. This loses had enormous effect on Uzbekistan's economy, and the other sectors what are is chain or supplementary parts of tourism for example , transportation, food and beverage and others

Social effect

The pandemic of COVID-19 continued prolonging across the other economy sectors , affecting the mass fabric , transportation and energy and oil suppliant communities what are dependent on tourism. Majority of stuffs and employees in the hospitality sector experienced unemployment and reduced incomes aggravating disparities in income. The tourism industry's small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) were especially vulnerable, with many of them finding it difficult to survive the protracted closures.

Mitigation Strategies and Government Response

Financial Support and Relief Measures

Because of crisis the government of Uzbekistan implemented financial and physical support to the families and citizens who couldn't make profit during the closure and tried to rebuild the economical health statement or currency circle . These included reduced utility rates, tax delays , and direct financial assistance to businesses. The government also made a Tourism Support Fund to provide grants and loans to struggling organizations.

Health and Safety Protocols

To overall reconstruction or restoration government implemented several safety protocols for the Hospitality, travel and Lodging industries. Hotels and restaurants or any public establishments were required to comply to enhanced hygiene standards, including regular disinfection, social distancing, measuring temperature or testing infection before the time and health screenings for staff and guests. These procedures were essential to regaining customer trust and guaranteeing the security of visitors from abroad as well as those from within.

Digital Transformation

The pandemic accelerated online, digital or media transformation, and online services of many industries like delivering online education. With physical interactions limited, many businesses turned to digital solutions to maintain operations. Online booking systems, virtual tours, and contactless payment mainly through mobile phones and computer options become increasingly common. Uzbekistan also promoted and supplied digital marketing of the country to increase future visitors.

Recovery and Future Prospects

Gradual Reopening and Domestic Tourism

At the moment when situation delighted the government started to lower restrictions of Courantyne for travel and attending public places . Realizing that domestic travel had the potential to support a temporary recovery, the government started to organize programs to encourage the current situation . The hospitality industry was able to weather the early stages of the reopening thanks to campaigns encouraging Uzbeks to travel around their own nation.

Investment in Infrastructure and Human Resources

Little later Uzbekistan is focused on strengthening its tourism infrastructure and enhancing the skills of its skills of Hospitality employees, starting to supply in transportation sectors, hotel facilities, and to tourist attractions. Additionally, training actions were crucial part of implementing chance of achieving further goals in hospitality and tourism or being ready to handle pandemic challenges

Sustainable and Resilient Tourism

The need to develop a robust and sustainable hospitality sector has been highlighted by the epidemic. Uzbekistan is making efforts to expand its tourist opportunities and encourage environmentally conscious travel. The development of adventure, historical, and cultural tourism is being given top priority in order to draw in a wider variety of tourists. In addition, the

government is developing rules to guarantee that the expansion of tourism in the future is both socially and environmentally important.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 epidemic had a negative effect on Uzbekistan's Hospitality and economy during 2019 and 2021. However, there have also been chances for development and transformation brought about by the crisis. After the pandemic, Uzbekistan is expected to have a stronger and more tolerant or flexible hotel industry thanks to efficient government measures, innovative use of digital technology, and an emphasis on sustainability. The knowledge gained during this time will be essential in determining how the Uzbekistan's tourism industry develops going smoothly and ensuring that it can survive shocks in the future and can be reconstructed .

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