PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN IN TOURISM DESTINATIONS
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Explain the need to protect children in tourism destinations
2. Review the benefits and pitfalls of encouraging orphanage tourism and orphan volunteerism
3. Discuss the steps to create and manager protective environments for children in tourism
CHILDREN IN TOURISM

• According to UNICEF, 3 million children are victims of sexual exploitation every year

• Under the UNICEF definition a Child is anyone under the age of 18

• The sexual exploitation of children by tourists is a global issue with far reaching negative impacts for the children involved, host destinations and the hotel and travel industries

• Children who are abused sexually suffer a lifetime of ongoing physical, emotional and social impacts.
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

• Under the UN CRC all children have a right to live free from harm and abuse of all kinds, therefore all governments, businesses, employees, volunteers and citizens have a legal and moral obligation to protect vulnerable children.

• The massive increase in international travel over the last 30 years to many third world and developing nations has led to an explosion in cases of child sex tourism and to foreigners travelling for the specific purpose of accessing children for sex.
The Offenders:

• There is no such thing as a stereotypical child sex offender. From past arrests and prosecutions within the ASEAN region, we know that offenders come in all shapes and sizes, can be married, single, professional, of high community standing and from positions of respect and authority in their home countries. Basically anyone can be an offender.

• The only thing we know for certain is that 95% of offenders are male.
The Internet:

- The internet has also played an integral part in the sexual exploitation of children by foreigners, as it has allowed offenders, both situational and paedophiles, to do the following:
  - Access and share information about destinations
  - Provide the details of hotels, bars, restaurants and other hospitality and tourism venues
The Internet:

• The internet has also allowed these offenders **to form networks** that keep each other up to date about ‘new’ destinations where children can be accessed easily as well as allowing offenders to share videos and photographs of abused children.
The Internet:

• The internet has also allowed for the ‘Grooming’ of Children:
  • Where offenders may pose as other children and enter chat rooms, which could lead to invitations to meet them in person
  • Engage children in sexually explicit conversations
  • Ask the children to send sexual images of themselves to them
Impact on the Hotel and Travel Industries

• It is common knowledge amongst the travel and hotel industries that many tourists are not willing to visit areas where child sex tourism (or sex tourism) is openly occurring. The majority of tourists will avoid such destinations, hotels, restaurants, bars and other businesses that allow such activities to occur.
THE WORLD TOURISM NETWORK ON CHILDREN PROTECTION

• Developed by the End Child Prostitution and ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism) is a network of 1278 private, public and non-government organizations in 40 countries whose goal is to prevent all forms of exploitation of children in tourism.

• These abuses include, but are not limited to, sexual exploitation, child labor and human trafficking.
Control Measures

1. To establish corporate ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations
3. To introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children
4. To provide information to travelers
5. To engage with local stakeholders at destinations
6. Annual reporting on implementation
The worldwide issue is most prevalent in North and South America, Asia, and Africa, where victims are often from poor families living on the streets, while the rest belong to minority groups, are abused in the home, or are AIDS orphans.

Destinations for sexual offenders include Mexico, Columbia, Keypa, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco, Mongolia, Vietnam, Thailand, Russia, and Estonia.

Internet provides an alternate venue for Child Sex Tourism (CST) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).
CHILD SEX TOURISM

- According to ECPAT, it refers to the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region or home country in order to have sexual contact with children (ECPAT, 2008).

- It often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment (Noten, 2003).
CHILD ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

• According to World Vision Australia (WVA) clarifies that child abuse and exploitation includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Children who are bused often experience multiple and compounding forms of abuse (WVA, 2013)
FINDINGS: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT)

• SECTT occurs across the globe, from the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latina America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Pacific and North America

• Child protection is not taken seriously in comparison to the other negative effects of tourism on a community and destination.

• There is no typical demographic of a victim except of their vulnerability
FINDINGS: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT)

• Except for the opportunity to exploit, there is no such thing as a typical offender.
• SECTT can occur as a result of the misuse of wealth and power, as well as cultural norms such as girl-brides.
• Data collection and verification are difficult tasks.
• Legislation that is ineffective because it is not strictly enforced
ORTHOAN TOURISM AND VOLUNTEERISM

• *Orphan Tourism*
  • A form of travel to facilities for children to engage in everyday caregiving

• *Orphan Volunteerism*
  • A long-term commitment to provide direct care of children and to provide other services at no costs to the institution
CHALLENGES:

• These programs, which are frequently supported by well-meaning tourists, can fuel human trafficking, trap children in harmful environments, and harm their development.

• Many orphaned children are not orphans, but have been separated from their families in order to attract fee-paying volunteers.

• There is also mounting evidence that growing up in institutions can prevent a child's brain from fully developing, with long-term consequences.

• Children in orphanages are frequently forced to participate in activities in order to please the donors.
CHILD LABOUR IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

• Child-Labour
  • According to ILO (2002) “all children under 15 years of age who are economically active excluding (i) those who are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstances.”
IMPACT ON THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

1. Diminished reputation of the tourism destination
2. Responsible tourists discouraged from visiting
3. Reduced employment and income as a result of diminishing tourists
4. Criminal behavior and other undesirable behavior in the destinations prevents sustainable tourism development
5. Local Culture and traditions are damaged
6. Less support from investors to develop infrastructure and local services.
THE END