THE IMPLICATION OF REVIVING TOURISM ON DANISKI HILL

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ABSTRACT: Most of the publication available about Daniski Hill mainly narrate the history of those who once lived on the hill, measuring and describing structural remains of settlements which indicate significant features and factors of the region's history: multi-ethnicity, migration, ascent to supremacy and early industrial activities. This research is more concerned with assessing the likely physical, economic and sociocultural implication of reviving tourism on the historic Hill. The authors have carried out an ethnographic research, and conducted an interview with some of those who visited the Hill three years ago, as well as the residents of the nearby village, some metres away from the foothill of the study area. This was done so as to collect data, assess and reveal the physical, economic and socio-cultural implication of reviving tourism there. The respondents were asked to provide any other reason that prompted them to visit the study area apart from the ones listed, which are: tourism (appreciation of ancestral homeland, appreciation of geographical features, demystifying legend/myth, sightseeing); collection of medicinal herbs; ethnic purposes (revival of past glory, participation in ceremonial activities); gathering of fuelwood; grazing; hideout; hunting of animals; political purposes; research (observation of archaeological remains, observation of architectural monuments); spiritual purposes; and treasure hunting. The respondents also answered multiple questions associated with physical, economic and socio-cultural implication, in which the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to describe their responses. The research was limited to the Plateau and the surrounding area of Daniski Hill. This paper could serve as a reminder to those managing the Hill of what they should be mindful of so as to conserve the area sustainably, without causing a physical, economic and socio-cultural damages to the site.

KEYWORDS: culture, daniski, conservation, tourism

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is an ancient phenomenon that has developed throughout time; which has changed from a source of entertainment to a source of national income. It reawakens International Journal of Physical and Human Geography Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021 Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)

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societies culturally, intellectually, and artistically. This has led to developing tourism as a major issue in many countries (Hmood et al. 2018, p.209). Going back to decades and centuries ago, Hills have served as a sacred site to some [and still is] to many. Sacred sites are qualitatively different from those that are developed for tourism purposes. Though, sacred sites do have touristic appeal and can benefit from their popularity as both pilgrimage and nonspiritual tourist attractions. To protect these sacred resources and to make the touristic or culminating pilgrimage experience meaningful, many site managers have come up with a well-designed, well maintained and efficiently managed tourist facilities such as visitor centres, interpretive resources, and events (Brayley 2010, p.289).

Tourism is said to be vital for the success of many economies around the world, as a result of several benefits it has on host destinations. Tourism has also been observed to boost the development of infrastructures of a country, creates thousands of jobs, boost the revenue of the economy, and inculcate a sense of cultural exchange between foreigners and citizens (Yehia 2019, p.1). The tourism industry is considered to be one of the world's most widespread industry which has advantages for the host and tourist. The host can benefit from economic, cultural, and social benefits (Ghareghol 2020, p.57).

Most of the publication available about Daniski Hill mainly narrate the history of those who once lived on the hill, measuring and describing structural remains of settlements which indicate significant features and factors of the region's history: multi-ethnicity, migration, ascent to supremacy and early industrial activities. This research is more concerned with assessing the likely physical, economic and socio-cultural implication of reviving tourism on the historic Hill (Seidensticker 1986).

METHODOLOGY

The authors have carried out an ethnographic research, and conducted an interview with some of those who visited the Hill three years ago, as well as the residents of the nearby village, some metres away from the foothill of the study area. Ethnography has been defined as a methodology which largely, though not exclusively, employs qualitative methods; however, it is said to have a distinctive approach over and above the particular methods it employs, which could be useful in process evaluations to explore the detail of how complex interventions operate. Ethnography is characterised by long-term participant observation as a central method, where the researcher spends an extended period of time in a social group in order to collect data. The term 'ethnography' is often used interchangeably with the term 'participant observation', but it has also been observed to be actually a much broader methodology than this, as a result of the range of methods it employs and due to the fact that it encompasses an overall orientation to research (Morgan-Trimmer and Wood 2016, pp.1-2). This methodology was adopted for this study so as to collect data, assess and reveal the physical, economic and socio-cultural implication of reviving tourism there.

The respondents were also asked to provide any other reason that prompted them to visit the study area apart from the ones listed below, which are: tourism (appreciation

International Journal of Physical and Human Geography Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

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Online ISSN: 2052-6385(Online)

of ancestral homeland, appreciation of geographical features, demystifying legend/myth, sightseeing); collection of medicinal herbs; ethnic purposes (revival of past glory, participation in ceremonial activities); gathering of fuelwood; grazing; hideout; hunting of animals; political purposes; research (observation of archaeological remains, observation of architectural monuments); spiritual purposes; and treasure hunting. Furthermore, multiple questions with physical, economic and socio-cultural implication were asked with regards to their visit to the Hill. The data that was collected was analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to describe their responses.

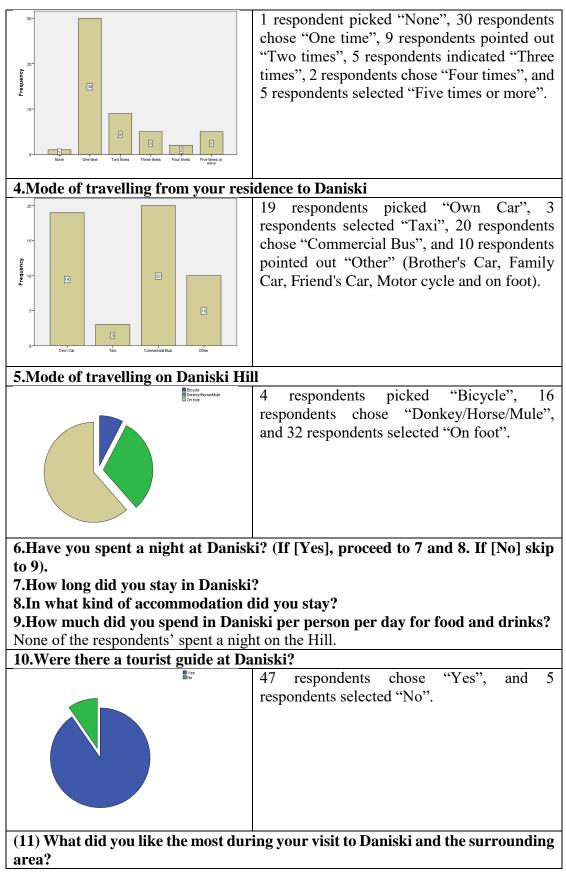
RESULTS

Bar graphs and pie chart was adopted to illustrate their responses in the table below, additional explanation was also given to indicate the frequencies of their response. Questions 11-13 required the respondents to give their opinion, italic font was used to portray that.

Preliminary Questions About the Study Area	
1.Where did you hear about Daniski as a tourist destination?	
Legonda and relatives Bools and guides Travel agency Other	1 respondent chose "The Internet", 34 respondents selected "Friends and relatives", 6 respondents indicated "Books and guides", 3 respondents picked "Travel agency", and 8 respondents chose "Other" and further wrote; "Bona fide Indigene, Constant visit, Grandfather, Grandmother and Parent".
2.What are the main reasons for your visit to Daniski?	
What are the main reasons for your visit to Daniski?	26 respondents selected "Appreciation of ancestral homeland", 3 respondents chose "Appreciation of geographical features", 1 respondents pointed out "Collection of medicinal herbs", another also pointed out "Demystifying legend/myth", 1 respondent chose "Gathering of fuelwood", 9 respondents decided on "Participation in ceremonial activities", 3 respondents pointed out "Research", 7 respondents selected "Sightseeing", and 1 respondent chose "Other".
3. How many times have you visited Daniski before now?	

Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)



Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)

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Responses from The Respondents: "The weather and the people in the area" "Seven Stones of Making a King" "The large expanse of flat land, vegetation and historical monuments and relics" "The scenery" "What I like most on Daniski Hill is some historical places where our Chiefs and Emirs lived" "I have seen many historical places at Daniski Hill during my visit" "Ancestral sites" "The most admirable feature to me was the Stream, as well as the giant hill itself" "Geographically locating a historic material" "Interacting with relatives and friends" "I like how the people [were walking] from bottom to the top of the hill" "Seeing the cultural heritage from different participants" "Nature of the area, farming area, [and] old palace of Emir of Fika" "The historical features at the hill, such [as] Well, Palace and the administrative locations" "Placing of signboards of historical places, "Kushi gando" [reclining Baobab tree], Seven Stones that make you a Moi [King]" "Historic points and scenes" "The wisdom of my ancestors in choosing a place of settlement" "The surrounding is mountainous, is so attractive" "Watching the plantation of different types of trees surrounded the area" "Historic places like walls and trees" "Attendance of people during the visiting area" "The nature of the area, where our ancestors lived" "The royal stone, dyeing pit, the remnant of the Emirs Palace and the Mosque" "Gathering of people during the festival, from different location and area" "Ancestral places" "Presence of the Emir of Fika and some title holders of the Emirate" "The weather is very nice" (12) What did you dislike the most during your visit to Daniski and the surrounding area? **Responses from The Respondents:** "Lack of visitors, good accommodation and food" "Ascension is tiresome" "The tedious work of climbing up the hill" "I dislike the dangerous animals around such as snakes etc." "Shortage of drinking water" "Rushing of mobilities going and coming back from the area of the hill" "Climbing the tall hill, it should be reduced if possible" "The way of climbing to the top of that [hill] is too hard to go at the top" "The climbing up and the climbing down" ''Snakes'' "Mode of climbing to the hill" "Climbing the hill is not easy and the lack of sign-board too"

Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

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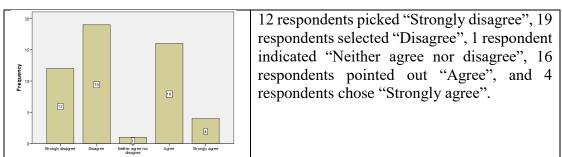
"Mode of climbing to the hill" "Access to the Hill" "The Well, which Princes and erring slaves are thrown into when they [have] committed criminal offences" "Lack of accommodation during the festival and the lack of social amenities" "Lack of accommodation of the visitors" (13) What changes would you like to see in your next visit to Daniski? **Responses from The Respondents:** "Provision of Tent that will accommodate the visitors" "Rehabilitation and preservation of the aforementioned features and monuments" "The Federal, State and Fika Emirate council [should] make Daniski Hill become a tourist attraction [site] where foreigners will like to come and have a good time" "Provision for drinking water" "A safer and easier way of climbing up the hill, water and more shelter" "I will like some board to be erected along the road indicating direction to follow, as a guide to newcomer" "Electricity and water supply" "Affordable drinking water" "Construction of good road from the village up to the bottom of hill" "Maintenance and security" "The organisers [should] provide a simple way that will take you in simple way, install a sign or symbol that will guide me in next visitation" "I hope to see changes, that is, the simplicity of climbing the hill and way down" "Providing of water and food, providing of accommodation, providing of health facilities during the visit, [and] provision of road to the hill' "More concern and maintenance of the historical remnants" "Water and accommodation" "I will like to see that; all the important sites have sign-board. Telling a tourist, what site it is" "New buildings, modern buildings in the area" "Providing of water" "Signboard, medical assistance, providing water and food" "I want to see more traditional building[s], and to spend 2days visit in the area" "Tourist guide as well as infrastructural development e.g. block of wall fencing, accommodation and catering service for tourists" "Creating road from Daniski city to the Daniski Hill" "Accommodation, providing water and other drinks" "Provide good road to the Hill" "Providing of accommodation, health facilities and other social amenities" "I want to see signboard all over the area" The Physical Implication of Reviving Tourism on Daniski Hill 14. Tourism to Daniski could cause overcrowding and congestion at the historic site?

"Climbing the hill is difficult"

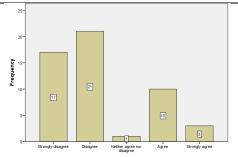
Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)

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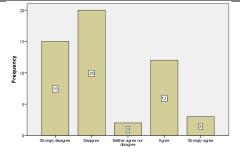


15.Tourism to Daniski could cause noise, water and air pollution at the historic site?



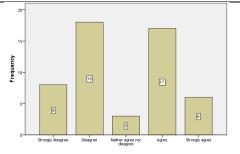
17 respondents pointed out "Strongly disagree", 21 respondents selected "Disagree", 1 respondent picked "Neither agree nor disagree", 10 respondents indicated "Agree", and 3 respondents chose "Strongly agree".

16.Tourism to Daniski could cause difficulty with sewage and sewage disposal at the historic site?



15 respondents pointed out "Strongly disagree", 20 respondents selected "Disagree", 2 respondents picked "Neither agree nor disagree", 12 respondents chose "Agree", and 3 respondents indicated "Strongly agree".

17.Tourism to Daniski could put a strain on the existing source of drinking water at the historic site?

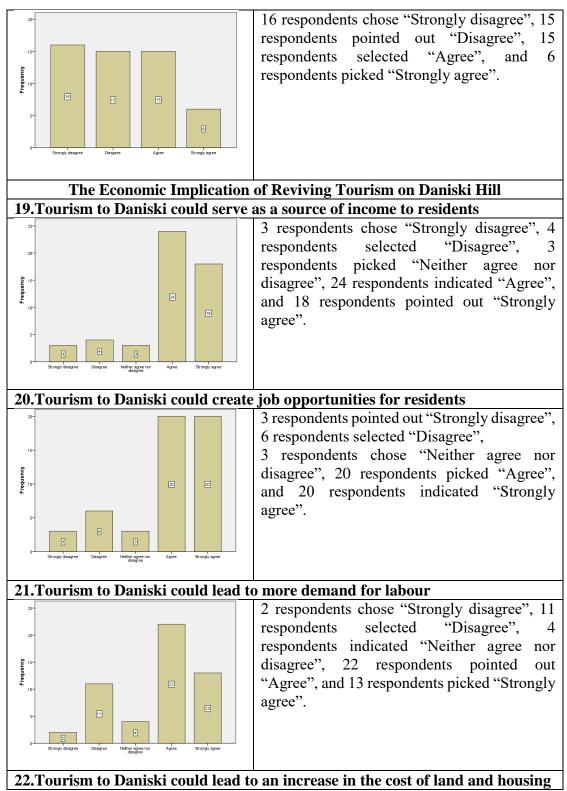


8 respondents chose "Strongly disagree", 18 respondents selected "Disagree", 3 respondents indicated "Neither agree nor disagree", 17 respondents pointed out "Agree", and 6 respondents picked "Strongly agree".

18. Tourism to Daniski could affect the quality of road and footpaths at the historic site?

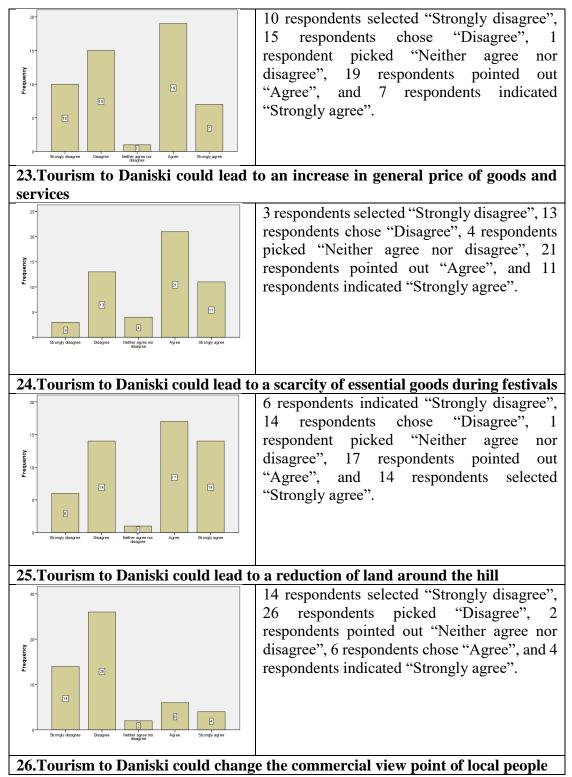
Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)



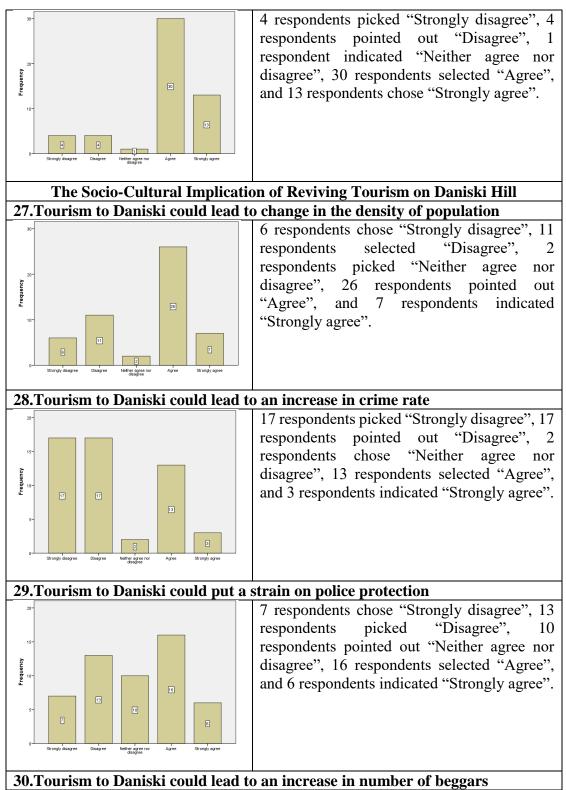
Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)



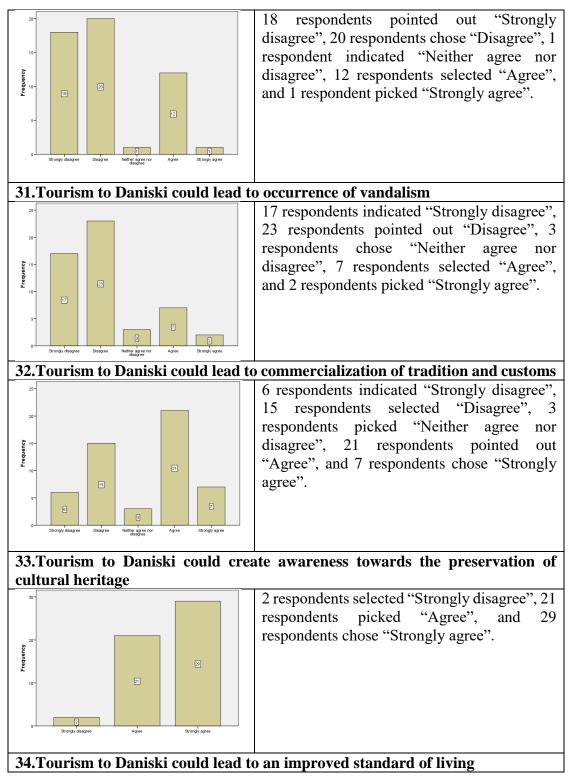
Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

Print ISSN: 2052-6377(Print)



Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

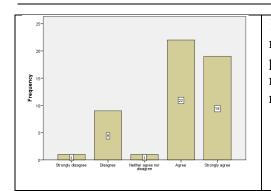
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1 respondent indicated "Strongly disagree", 9 respondents selected "Disagree", 1 respondent picked "Neither agree nor disagree", 22 respondents chose "Agree", and 19 respondents pointed out "Strongly agree".

DISCUSSION

Tourism due to appreciation of ancestral homeland: Heritage tourism is gradually viewed as both an individual and experiential occurrence as well as being related to specific features of a destination. Ancestral tourism centres on tourists traveling to sites which they perceive to be a "homeland" where, during the visit, they attempt to discover more about their own heritage (Alexander at al. 2017, p.543). It has also been observed that; searching for ancestors may be beneficial to one's mental health. Psychologists have revealed that thinking about our ancestors' increases self-esteem (Ray and McCain 2012, p.981).

Tourism attributable to appreciation of geographical features: A prominent author has shown that; the concept of 'sustainable tourism', 'responsible tourism', 'nature tourism', 'ecotourism' and more is quite understood, their research has observed an inclination towards ecotourism among their respondents. The author defined ecotourism as a form of tourism which the main motivation of the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature, as well as the traditional cultures prevalent in natural areas (Naguran, 2017). One of the major issues raised by the respondents in this study can be seen in question 12, where quite a number of those who climbed up the Hill face a lot of difficulty. The impact of such activity has been described further in the study carried out by Timothy and Boyd (2015), which clarified that; the effects of footpath use on tangible culture are manifold. One impact is the physical damage that thousands of feet, tires or hooves inflict on cultural footpath (Timothy and Boyd 2015, p.138). This phenomenon has also been described further by Hornby and Sheath (2001) that; overuse of footpaths and tramping through the countryside can damage cultural landscapes and archaeological relics (Hornby and Sheate, 2001) in (Timothy and Boyd 2015, p.138).

Tourism ascribable to demystifying legend/myth and spiritual purposes: One of the major attraction on Daniski Hill is the famous "Kushi Gando" (the reclining Baobab tree). The tree has served some mystic purposes according to some cultures. Boz (2020) pointed out that; the tourism sector is changing, tourists are more demanding, they want to have new experiences and to know more about other cultures. Host communities are trying to create tourism products to meet new tourist demands and to compete with other destinations. As a result of these reasons, cultural tourism is said to be one of the most rapidly developing types of tourism. Hence, as a part of cultural tourism, myths

and legends add value to the tourist experience, which increase the attractiveness of destinations (Boz 2020, p.3). It has also been clarified that; a person or an event may assume the status of myth when, in a given social circumstance, meaning is added to them. The characters and events that play a part in the history of a place are vital sources of subjects around which tourists can draw stories, and construct narratives with tourism potential (Aranda et al 2015, p.75).

The study carried out by Mahmoud et al. (2015) sheds more light on how each tree has a rhythm in nature, a symbiotic relationship with other organisms, and maintains ecological balance, all of which are crucial for ecosystem integrity; in addition, each tree has a historical, spiritual, and religious significance as well as significant relations with humans. Throughout the world, due to anthropogenic pressures and environmental changes, the rapid decline of such trees in different landscapes is having a severe impact on ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, which consequently has caused great worldwide conservation concern (Mahmoud et al. 2015, p.183). Stem et al. (2003) also discovered that; in the study communities where tourism has been an economically viable alternative, people have largely abandoned environmentally destructive practices. That when people are fully employed, they have less disposable time to hunt or cut trees (Stem et al. 2003, p.393).

Tourism because of sightseeing: Adler (1989) revealed that; sightseeing has not always held its present pride of place in travel ritual. That, between 1600 and 1800, treatises on travel method shifted from a scholastic focus upon touring as an opportunity for discourse, to enthusiasm for travel as "eyewitness" observation. In the course of this shift in attention from the traveller's ear and tongue to the traveller's eye, was when many of the conventions of sightseeing performance were first developed. The Author clarified further that; the historical "visualization" of travel experience can be understood in relation to cultural and social features of the period (Adler 1989, p.7). Demonstrating each act of sightseeing as an ethical test, it has been said that; tourists can recognise the productive potential of their travel desires, penetrate the collective unconscious, so as to gain character, insight, and connection to the world (MacCannell 2011).

Tourism as a result of collection of medicinal herbs: Traditional herbal medicine has over the passage of time essentially remained untapped both for its health tourism potential and medical properties advancements. Quite a number of people are said to travel long distances in search of indigenous herbal medicine for disease treatment (Odmell et al. 2018, pp.3-4). In tourism industry, the tourist's attitude towards any destination is very important for its success. It is said to vary from person to person, and can be different on certain aspects such as; age, gender, income, customer group, family structure, race, culture, social class and ethnicity. Food, cloths, politics and religion are said to be crucial factors for human attitudes. Attitude can be defined as individuals' evaluation of feelings and tendencies toward an object or an idea (Sultana et al. 2014, p.870).

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Tourism ascribed to ethnic purposes, revival of past glory and participation in ceremonial activities: Ethnicities are said to emanate from social processes, positive tendencies toward identifying and including certain individuals in a specific group. That, what distinguishes an ethnic identity is the way that its characterisation reappears to notions of common origin, history, culture, and even race. However, there are numerous forms of tourism that have nothing to do with questions of history, culture, race, or origin, as for example some kinds of recreational tourism, there are other forms that take-up as desired object aspects of identity or alterity. In the case of identity there is, for example, the historical tourism that one would do in his or her own town, city, region or country, and in the case of alterity there are those forms that seek out the exotic or foreign cultures (Grünewald 2006, p.3). Yang (2016) reveals that; ethnic tourism is inspired by tourists in search for exotic cultural experiences through interaction with distinctive minority groups, and the desire of those groups to use aspects of their culture to create economic opportunities. That ethnic tourism provides the chance for tourists to experience aspects of unique cultures, landscapes, and ways of life (that are different from that of the tourists). The author also clarified that; ethnic tourism has been widely adopted and promoted as a strategy for economic development and cultural preservation in many countries throughout the world (Yang 2016, p.11).

Tourism because of research (observation of archaeological remains and architectural monuments): The study by Hmood et al. (2018) reveals that; tourism locations are divided into many types, which includes archaeological locations that result in heritage tourism, and considered to be one of the most important components of sustainable tourism (Hmood et al. 2018, p.209). It has also been clarified that; archaeological sites and landscapes exist through the world at every scale, in every environment, and from urban to desolate desert. They include sites with aboveground ruins, ones without visible traces of human occupation or activity, and others that have been occupied and built upon time and again through to the present day with constructions in service to tourism and development. It has also been emphasised that; archaeological sites and landscapes represent the layering of history and transformations of the land by human use, and among all the categories of heritage under threat, they are a resource that is increasingly in jeopardy (Agnew and Demas 2014, p.38).

Prominent individuals and politicians have made several pledges aimed at improving the tourism potentials of the study area. However, none has materialised until recently when as part of the preparations for the annual visit by the Emir of Fika to the study area, sign post were produced and mounted on the Hill, and proposals were made for providing some light infrastructures on the Hill. Although visitation to the Historic site is encouraged, there are those who go there to illegally cut down trees for fuelwood, those who illegally take their flocks and herds for grazing, those who engage in hunting of birds and animals, nomads on transit that settle on the Hill illegally during rainy season. It was reported that one of such person was the one responsible for cutting down a branch of the sacred Kushi gando.

From a resource management perspective, social and cultural impacts of tourism should be considered all through the planning process, and in an Environmental Impact

Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

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Assessment procedure, so that benefits are optimized, and problems curtailed (Brunt and Courtney 1999, p.494). Tourism has repeatedly been associated with the contact between cultures, behaviours, values and traditions. It is considered a framework where hosts and tourists can learn better from each other, through direct interaction (Paul 2012, p.502).

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Vol.9, No.1, pp.36-51, 2021

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