

## **Humanitarian tourism development as one modern tourism pattern**

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### **Abstract**

The world has seen knowledge, scientific and technological as well as economic developments. All of these factors have been positively reflected on the interest in humans as being the most important source of human capital. That's why countries all over the world as well as international organization work on achieving the principle of democracy, equality and equal opportunity for all people in all aspects of life. Therefore, there is a lucid interest in what is known as humanitarian tourism. This type of tourism is directed to people with special needs. It is also known as accessible tourism. The development and success of this type of tourism in some counties have been achieved via providing architecture environment, infrastructure and related services. This new term has emerged on a large scale at the beginning of the third millennium. This term is a realistic interpretation of the law against discrimination and disability which aims to end the discrimination suffered by a category of people with special needs. A lot of countries such as United State, Australia, England and Pakistan have adopted that law. It has a positive effect not only on the tourist and tourism in countries that have adopted it, but also on people as it makes their daily life easier.

Humanitarian tourism is designed to provide people with special needs with all services and facilities in order to enjoy their spare times without any problems. This category of people may include aged people, pregnant women, ladies with children, those who follow a specific diet or those who need a certain level of comfort when traveling or stay, because they are in a dire need of entertainment as being prisoners of their health.

Therefore, this research aims at forming a set of results that help to identify and understand:

1. The challenges facing humanitarian tourism "people with special needs tourism" in Egypt as a type of tourism programs.
2. How to develop this type of tourism programs in Egypt.

Meanwhile, the study seeks to achieve these goals by identifying:

1. The concept of humanitarian tourism.
2. The elements of humanitarian tourism in Egypt.
3. The obstacles of humanitarian tourism in Egypt.
4. The factors that affect the development of this type of tourism.

Moreover, the study shows some interesting findings such as:

- a. the most important sites that attract this type of tourism are the beaches and the locations of entertainment.
- b. the most important preferred tourism patterns of this type of tourism are recreational tourism, followed by therapeutic tourism.
- c. people with special needs constitute the largest sector as they are usually accompanied by their colleagues. Thus, this category of tourism should grab the attention of those who work in the field of tourism.

Therefore, there are a number of procedures that should be undertaken for developing that type of tourism. Of most important are the following:

- a. reconsidering this type of tourism and different methods of marketing it.
- b. paying attention to therapeutic tourism.

c. providing financial and moral support for those people with special needs. However, there are a number of obstacles that face the development of humanitarian tourism in Egypt such as the lack of infrastructure, lack of skilled and trained manpower and lack of laws and regulations within the tourism institutions in the Egyptian government.

**Key words:**

People with special needs, humanitarian tourism, the obstacles of the humanitarian tourism development, the elements of the humanitarian tourism development