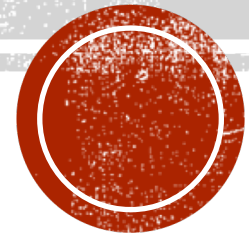


TOURISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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OVERVIEW

- The Dominican Republic is the 2nd largest and most diverse country in the Caribbean. It is the most popular and preferred touristic destination because of its beautiful landscape and uniqueness.
- Tourism is one of the 4 pillars of the Dominican Economy, which is remarkably dependent of the America and European economy.
- Tourism is an industry that welcomes around 6M of arrivals each year. During the past 5 years the Dominican GDP (gross domestic product) reached 75B of US \$, becoming tourism as one of the most important sources of revenue of the country.



Slogan of tourism



IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC

- The Dominican Republic is ranked in the TOP 5 of the most popular tourist destinations in Latin America.
- This industry has benefited the country in many aspects such as: the exchange of different cultures, increasing employment opportunities (b/c of hotels and resorts), external relationships etc.
- The country's economy has achieved a solid growth during the past decade but many studies reveal that this growth has not fulfil all socio-economic necessities and has done very little to reduce poverty.
- The Dominican Republic has the highest economic growth rate of Latin America, however, b/c of the necessity of many men and women they have been "forced" to turn into **sex work**.
- **PROBLEM?** There has been an increase of **underage** child sex tourism, most of them escaping of abusive families and poverty.



CONSEQUENCES

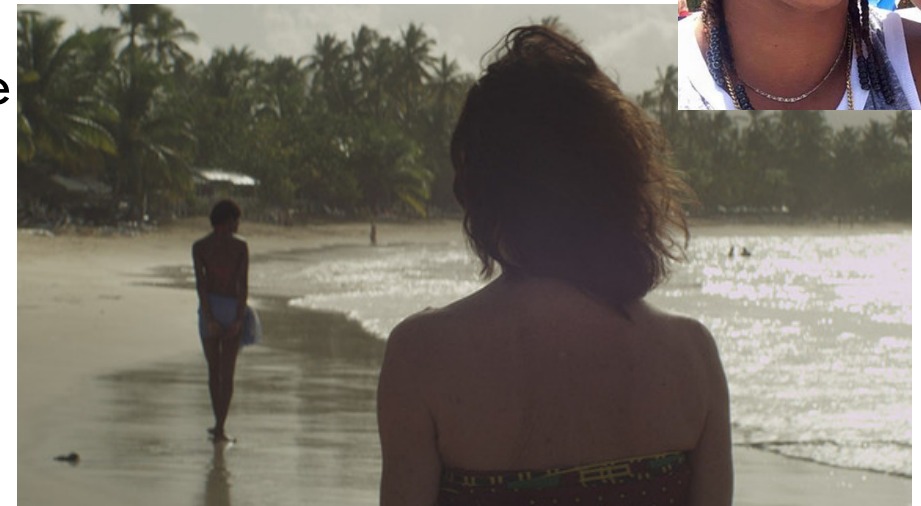


- Because of the increasing tourism and poor people moving to the coast in search of job opportunities, the Dominican Republic has gained a reputation of being a major destination for international sex tourism.
- Prostitution is legal in the Dominican Republic, however, it is illegal to have a brothel and work under the age of **18** which is the **age of consent** in the country.
- Tourism is **not** the cause of sexual exploitation however it has provided easy access. The allure of “easy money” has caused any young men and women to trade their bodies for foreigner money.



SEX WORKERS

- **Child and underage** sex tourism is a problem and it has been reported a decrease in some urban areas with the increase of policy and prosecuting.
- Prostitution commonly involves females, but in the Dominican Republic it frequently involves **males** and exploitation of **minors**. (b/c of unknown circumstances there's no data about the rates).



VIDEO



THE GOVERNEMENT



- The government punishes up to 30yrs. of prison to Dominicans and punishes and penalties to foreigners in their respective countries.
- In late 2013, the Dominican government started combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Police investigators use undercover methods to document a real-time proof in outdoor, street and beach locations, as well as indoor establishments such as brothels, bars, and discos.
- The government has implemented a new program training immigration authorities to deny entry to visitors who had been convicted of child sex tourism and other sex crimes.
- e.g. in a documentary it is mentioned that some times it is hard to track someone considered a sexual assistant or pedophile because, if that person has never being caught people would never know when to notify Dominican authorities.



THE BATTLE AGAINST IT.

- Several United Nation agencies launched an initiative to protect child rights. UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA developed programs and a regional platform to address the issue of the region.
- There also a Dominican institution called **Fundación Mariposa** which along with young mentors, it encourages girls to stay in school, provides them with services, skills, and information on sexual and reproductive rights as well as showing positive results in reducing child marriage and child sex workers in the Dominican Republic.



