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The Impact of Dance Events on the Local Economy and the Preservation of Tradition

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Abstract

Cultural tourism is a type of tourism related to the culture of a country or region. Specifically the way of life of the people of each geographical region, their history, art, architecture, religion and other elements that contributed to the formation of their way of life. Cultural tourism is an aid to the development of the local economy, but at the same time it also contributes to the preservation of the tradition of each society. Dance events, which are an integral part of cultural tourism, since they are events that highlight the culture of each place, contribute particularly to local development and the preservation of tradition. The purpose of the retrospective research was to investigate the effect of dance events on the local economy and the preservation of tradition. For the needs of the review, in which no time limit was set, a search was made for scientific articles, master's and doctoral theses, books and conference proceedings in the databases Scopus, Elsevier, ResearchGate and the National Archive of Doctoral Dissertations. The research was done in Greek and English and for its realization the key words were used: "festival", "dance", "economy", "folk dance", "local economy. The research highlighted 31 electronically published studies, articles, theses, electronically archived master's theses and doctoral theses, of which 21 had as their main theme the impact on the local economy while the remaining 10 referred to the preservation of tradition. The results of the review shows that dance events, and cultural tourism in general, contribute positively to the local economy, through the visitors they attract, while for the effect on the preservation of the tradition the results were controversial since it has such a positive effect, assisting in the process of delivery to citizens, however negatively, due to the trivialization of tradition at the altar of spectacle. In conclusion, the dance events are an aid to the local societies for the development of the economy but also for the preservation and dissemination of the tradition, since in addition to the resulting income from them, they also help to preserve the tradition through its revival. The studies researched both the Greek area and other countries and cultures around the world.

Keywords: festival, dance, tourism, cultural tourism