Research on the Resilience Governance of Tourism Security Risks

Dou Kailong

College of Marxism of Xinjiang University, Urumqi, 830046, China
Doukailong@163.com

Abstract: In today’s Risk Society, risks exist everywhere, so human beings face great uncertainty challenges. In the new era, with the rapid changes of international and domestic environment and the rapid development of tourism, tourism security risks become more severe and complex, testing the ability and level of human risk management. Only by preventing and resolving all kinds of tourism security risks, can human beings promote the development of high-quality tourism and enhance happiness index and sense of gain. On the basis of explaining the connotation of tourism security risk resilience governance, this paper analyzes the present situation and the outstanding problems in governance, and puts forward the optimization path of strengthening the performance of tourism security risk resilience governance in risk society. The paper holds that: (1) Tourism security risk refers to the possible risk factors in tourism activities with the characteristics of superposition, uncertainty and extreme consequences; (2) The tenacity governance is different from the traditional governance model in understanding, focusing on the key points, goals and using the power. (3) In the contemporary society, the tourism security risk has the characteristics of more diverse and complicated sources, stronger uncertainty, wider dissemination area and greater destructiveness. (4) The traditional disaster risk and emergency management model is backward in concept, inexperienced, imperfect in system and mechanism, unable to respond effectively to new situations and needs, so our human beings should carry out resilient governance based on the overall situation to improve the capacity and level of tourism security administration. (5) The important ways to strengthen tourism resilience include forming a new concept of tourism security, strengthening the study of tourism security risks, improving the resilience governance mechanism of tourism security, and ensuring multi-dimensional security of tourism destinations. This paper establishes a basic framework for tourism security risk governance and has a high theoretical reference for enhancing understanding and practical guiding value for the development of tourism security risk management system and capacity building.

Keywords: tourism security risk; resilience governance; path

1. Introduction

Security is the premise of tourism development. With the rapid progress of urbanization and industrialization, tourism has become the most dynamic, potential and benefit of the strategic industry, but in the context of the overall development of tourism, the tourism security risk issues becomes prominent[1-7]. This not only restricts the high-quality development of tourism, but also affects the safety of tourist destination and even national security. Under the new historical conditions, tourist destinations should meet the needs of the times, the needs of industry and the requirements of reality, combine the situation of tourism security risks, and face the outstanding problems and challenges, so as to strengthen the tourism security risk management system and capacity-building, safeguard tourism security and ensure high-quality development of the tourism industry.

2. Analysis of the Meaning of Tourism Security Risk Resilience Governance

2.1 Analysis of meaning of tourism security risk

Risk refers to the risk that has not yet occurred but may occur. It is a combination of the possibility of a specific risk and consequences. According to this concept, tourism security risk can be defined as the possibility of danger and adverse consequences in tourism activities. The traditional sense of
tourism security risk mainly refers to the risk of tourists’ personal and property security, for example, some tourists in the journey do not want to eat because of fatigue and become ill, resulting in the travel’s end; some tourists buy cheap foods, as a result, they got fake goods and lost some of their property; some places were tourist attractions, but for the high altitude there tourists would suffer from brain edema, cerebral hemorrhage or even death due to lack of oxygen; some tourist destinations had high mountains and slopes, while the road is narrow and the tourists will face traffic safety risk. At present, due to the expansion of tourism and the great change of human knowledge, the content of tourism security risk has been expanded, which involves the security risk of tourism economy, tourism resources, tourism destination and so on[8]. Tourism security risk is different from tourism crisis. The tourism security risk refers to all kinds of unexpected events that affect tourists’ confidence and hinder the normal operation of the tourism industry, and tourism security risks may evolve into security incidents or even tourism crises, which will have a major impact on the tourism industry and tourist destinations, and will affect other regions, but sometimes they may not turn into security incidents and have no negative impact on the normal operation of the tourism industry.

Tourism security risk has the following characteristics: The first is the objectivity. It is the objective existence of things, and the occurrence and evolution of a certain law will not be transferred by the human will. The second is universality. In the risk society, the risk is everywhere, especially in the urban society because of the increasingly complex operation system and the increasing multi-interest conflicts. The city is a public security risk area. The third is the difference of distribution. The performance and results of tourism safety risks are different in different areas and time ranges. Some places are mainly faced with the threats of natural environment and natural disasters, while others are mainly faced with the threat of economic backwardness. The fourth is concealment. Some travel safety risks can be directly detected, while others are more hidden. Managers, residents, or tourists cannot be immediately detected and eliminated in time. Once conditions are in place, they will suddenly happen, which needs human being to have quick response and efficient solution for governance. The fifth is they are recognizable. Despite the uncertainty of risks, human beings are not powerless, but can carry out evasion and governance relying on their own intelligence, the use of certain methods and scientific and technological, the risk perception and analysis.

2.2 Analysis of meaning of Resilience Governance

The concept of resilience comes from the fields of mechanics and physics. It is used to describe an object that is elastic, changeable and recoverable after being subjected to external pressure, so Resilience Governance is a governance style associated with resistance, adaptation and recovery. Resilient Governance has gone through a process of development. Abroad, Canadian Ecologist Holling C. S. 1 first extended Resilience to engineering in 1973, resulting in Engineering Resilience. After the 1990s, the global economy is in a rapid development, and some countries and regions experienced environmental damage. As ecological problems arise, resilience begins to be introduced into the ecological, economic and social fields. After the 2002 Global Summit on Sustainable Development, the concept of resilient governance emerged, emphasizing the need to make the governance system more flexible and stable, and to highlight the synergy and coupling among the actors. The goal is to have the ability to take initiative, adapt, self-recovery and development relying on the flexibility of the emergency system to respond to risk[10-12].

Compared with the previous crisis response model and risk management model, resilient governance has distinct characteristics: Firstly, in the understanding of risk, the previous governance model believes that the risk is very scary, therefore people must prevent them and offer early warning, but resilient governance model regards that risk will not completely disappear, but also bring opportunities. Human beings should face the reality, build a normal governance system and learn to live with risk. Secondly, in the focus of the work, the traditional emergency management model focused on how to respond to the crisis and carry out accountability, to pay more attention to system building, meanwhile the risk management model focuses on how to use new technologies and scientific tools to predict risks and prepare responses, but resilient governance focuses on capacity-building to achieve sustainable development. It emphasized that the tourism system has the ability to withstand shocks, adapt quickly, recover effectively, learn from oneself and create internally, so as to enhance the resilience of tourism and prevent and defuse risks and challenges. Thirdly, in terms of operational objectives, the traditional emergency management model focuses on effective disaster mitigation before an accident and the risk management model focuses on active disaster prevention after an accident, but both tend to delay the timing and waste resources and cause hidden danger or damage to the life and property safety of tourists and residents in tourist areas, while the resilient governance...
model considers that risk management is a long-term and systematic project, focusing on the whole-cycle management. It emphasizes to find and solve problems actively. Fourthly, in level of the use of force, crisis management and risk management rely entirely on the official, but resilient governance believes that the management of tourism security risks in modern society cannot be accomplished by the strength of a certain department or a certain person, so it is necessary to mobilize the initiative of the government, enterprises, communities, universities, scientific research institutions, volunteers, non-governmental organizations, residents and professional institutions to carry out collaborative governance. It’s multi-subject cooperative governance.

3. New Situation of tourism security risk and resilient governance

3.1 New situation of tourism security risk

At present, the global tourism security risk presents the following characteristics and trends: Firstly, the sources are more diverse and complex. On the one hand, due to the rapid development of modernization, industrialization, urbanization, globalization and information technology, people’s living environment has undergone major changes, and tourists are faced with a significant increase in unsafe factors. All kinds of traditional security risks and new-type security risks are intertwined, forming a complex and diverse risk chain, which pervades every place in today’s world and deeply affects people’s production and life. On the other hand, with the improvement of the level of human culture and education, the level of cognition has also been enhanced. As a result, Ulrich Baker, a prominent Sociologist, argues that humans have become locked in a chain of risks, and that today’s society is on the volcano of civilization with an unprecedented sense of tension and anxiety. Secondly, there is greater uncertainty. The Industrial Revolution, economic globalization and scientific and technological innovation did contribute greatly to social development and economic prosperity, and as a result, the quality of human life improved significantly, but at the same time man-made risks increased. The factors that lead to the risk come from various sources while the uncertainty expands and then spreads to the whole social field, thus the unpredictability of the tourism security risk is further aggravated. The concrete presentation is whether the risk occurs is in the uncertainty, when and where the risk occurs is uncertain, what kind of accident occurs is uncertain, and the degree of loss after occurrence is uncertain. Thirdly, it spread more widely. In traditional and industrial societies, risk was mostly local. In modern societies, risk is no longer confined to the place where it occurs, but sometimes transcends geographic and social-cultural boundaries, having global impact. At the same time, there will be risk linkage, superposition and diffusion effects, causing secondary risk. Fourthly, it is more destructive. Human beings have entered the risk society, and risk has taken a dominant position in human social life. The political, economic, ideological and natural risks that people face are very complex, and the severity and difficulty of risk management is unprecedented, so the threat to human beings is far beyond imagination. In addition, tourism is a highly sensitive industry with a high degree of dependence between the various links, and is prone to chain reactions, so that once the risk is improperly or carelessly handled, the consequences would be incalculable and unpredictable. In fact, some well-known tourist cities, as special physical space, economic carrier and social field, are characterized by increasing agglomeration, scale, pluralism, mobility, heterogeneity, and strong uncertainty making major security incidents have occurred, which have not only caused the loss of life and property of ordinary people, reduced the sense of well-being and security of tourists, brought great negative impacts on the security of tourist cities and threatened the sustainable development of regional tourism. At the same time, it brings unprecedented pressure and challenge to national security governance. In particular, it should be pointed out that in an era of rapid development of information technology, the information dissemination of the tourist destination in emergency events will transcend the time and geographical limitations and will be able to spread rapidly, leading to the systematic collapse of the image of the whole tourist destination.

3.2 The status quo and the lack of risk governance in tourism security

Tourism security risk is a common challenge faced by countries around the world, and it is even more difficult in the context of opening up to the outside world and tourism development. As a result, the idea of resilient governance, which regards social risk as a normal part of social development, has emerged, and related research has arisen. However, there are some outstanding problems in global tourism security risk management. Firstly, there is the lag of the idea of cognition. On the one hand, with the development of social economy, the mobility of travel agencies has become the norm. Most
people like to go out for leisure and travel, but most of them do not know enough about the risk of travel safety, thinking there will be no safety accident. On the other hand, people tend to adopt a social governance model with risks arising from industrial society, and take external prevention and control as the orientation, believing that the government has the main responsibility, ignoring the opportunities that risk may bring and the development of people, not aware of the importance of community and other forces, so people’s participation is not high. Secondly, there is lack of experience. Because the concept of resilience governance has not been put forward for a long time, there aren’t much empirical research or case analysis on resilience, meanwhile good ideas and practices have not been fully summarized and refined, which makes people are lack of experience for reference. Thirdly, the system is imperfect. For Lack of scientific and technological support, professional information analysis personnel and research, governance power is insufficient. Fourthly, the governance mechanism is not sound. In actual work, the mechanism for preparing plans, releasing information, making decisions, coordinating, encouraging and restricting, supervising and evaluating are not perfect, as a result, various resources, forces and means cannot be effectively and quickly integrated. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out research.

4. Path selection for resilient governance of tourism security risks

4.1 Form a new concept of tourism security

Without safety, there can be no tourism development. Traditional tourism safety mainly refers to the safety of tourists or residents’ lives and property, as well as the safety of the order of the tourist destination. The new tourism safety concept is based on the accelerated evolution of the international and domestic situation and profound changes in the world pattern, and believes that tourism safety must consider non-traditional safety factors, including not only tourism industry factors but also non tourism industry factors. In addition, it is necessary to accurately understand and implement the overall national security concept, put them in the prominent position of preventing and resolving national security risks, regard tourism security as an important component of national security, and regard the tourism industry security governance system as an important part of the national governance system. The country should carry out multi departmental cooperation to ensure that the tourism development rights and security interests of relevant entities are inviolable[14]. Only in this way can we consolidate the cornerstone of national security.

4.2 Strengthen the research on tourism security risk

Overall, the tourism security situation has improved in recent year, but uncertainty still exists. Traditional and non-traditional factors are intertwined, and international and domestic unfavorable factors are complex and ever-changing. In terms of traditional security threats, political, military, diplomatic and other factors may form a certain degree of constraint on inbound and outbound tourism.In terms of non-traditional security threats, transnational crime, natural disasters, accelerated loss of cultural heritage, and conflicts in the distribution of benefits in tourist destinations are increasing, posing new challenges to tourism security governance capabilities. Any slight negligence or inadequate handling can lead to potential crises and even social stability issues. Therefore, countries and tourist destinations must strengthen theoretical, cognitive, evaluation, and governance research, possess analytical, judgment and innovation abilities, and be able to accurately identify problems, proficient in grasping the mechanisms, laws, trends, and difficult points of governance from a global perspective and complex contradictions[15].Thus people can propose more actionable suggestions and improve the overall ability to prevent and resolve tourism security risks.

4.3 Improve the resilience governance mechanism for tourism safety

In the face of tourism security risks in the new era, we should consciously form a resilient governance concept of coexisting of development and security, focusing more on grand national security factors. In practice, we should start the work from the perspective of long-term goal, general situation and sustainability, pay attention to the perception of tourism security risk to improve the resilience of the system to adapt to and recover from complex tourism security risk impacts, implement the transition from emergency management and risk management to resilience governance, get rid of the dilemma of low resilience and great loss and achieve sustainable development. In terms of the early warning mechanism, it is necessary to follow the four step process of monitoring, monitoring, alarm,
and contingency plan to improve the risk and hidden danger investigation and rectification mechanism, form a risk assessment system, conduct safety monitoring in main time periods, special projects, and key areas to collect, organize, and analyze tourism safety information from multiple parties, do a good job of early warning, strive to timely detect and effectively deal with potential tendentious problems in advance to provide information and technical support for predicting and preventing potential risks or crisis risks in tourist destinations, achieving pre perception and effective response. Once a major emergency is predicted to occur, it is timely handled and alerted to ensure the safety of the tourist destination is not threatened. At the same time, it is necessary to reserve and complete emergency plans, striving to win. In terms of emergency mechanisms, we will strengthen the construction of regional emergency forces, improve the capacity for disaster prevention, reduction, and relief, as well as for handling major public emergencies, and normalize emergency governance. We need conduct emergency training in daily life to enhance safety awareness and crisis response literacy. After the occurrence of tourism security incidents, tourists should be transferred to safe places in time to carry out psychological comfort. We need timely report information, mobilize troops, police, volunteers, doctors, etc. If necessary, we must carry out rescue operations, inform the public of the latest progress and situation of the incident to minimize the harm caused by tourism safety issues. In terms of recovery mechanism, after the occurrence of tourism safety incidents, a team of experts will be organized to conduct a comprehensive investigation and evaluation of the losses in the tourism industry, carry out orderly post disaster work, diagnose deficiencies, make up for the shortcomings in the governance mechanism system, innovate the tourism product system or tourism image, and early put the tourism industry on a healthy development track.

4.4 ensure multidimensional security of tourist destinations

In terms of economic security, we should optimize the structure of the tourism industry in a timely manner, improve the tourism product system, adjust the tourism development strategy in a timely manner in line With the world tourism market trend, and ensure the steady growth of tourist reception and total tourism revenue. We need to support community residents in employment and entrepreneurship in the tourism industry, increase economic income, assist impoverished households in poverty alleviation, and avoid income disparities.

In terms of cultural security, we need protect tourism cultural resource management, respect the basic living habits and cultural customs of tourists and community residents, and prevent the disappearance of cultural diversity and authenticity. The tourism destination culture should be deeply explored to form a coordinated development mechanism of culture and tourism coupling, live inheritance and innovation of Intangible cultural heritage in the form of song and dance, publishing, movies, games, animation and other forms, so as to transform and upgrade the cultural tourism industry and form a cultural tourism brand. In tourism exchanges, we should appreciate and share the beauty of others, prevent cultural conflict caused by differences in cultural behavior patterns, and enhance the pride of all groups.

In terms of social security, we need guide passengers to avoid public safety incidents such as tourist stampedes and disease epidemics. We need encourage stakeholders to participate in tourism in an orderly manner and form a harmonious, just, and inclusive tourism destination society.

In terms of ecology, we should advocate and practice the concept of green development, take protective use of natural landscape, and avoid over exploitation and destruction. We need prevent water pollution, soil damage, and air pollution, increase greening and beautification management, and ensure the ecological beauty of tourist destinations.

In terms of politics, we need combat and suppress terrorist activities to ensure the absolute safety of tourist destinations. It’s necessary to enhance friendly exchanges among countries through tourism, and maintain geopolitical political security and social stability.

Acknowledgement

Project source: Chinese National Social Science Foundation Project Research on the Resilience Governance of Tourism Security Risks in Xinjiang under the Overall National Security Framework (22XMZ047)
References