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Global Tourism Experience, Revised Debate For The Assignment.

The revised assignment debate is: “Do Festivals and Events Encourage Anti Social Behaviour?”

This assignment will focus on the positives and the negatives of festivals/events.

Introduction:

A festival is a type of event that people go to for enjoyment purposes. There are different types of festivals which includes music festivals such as Glastonbury, BBC Radio One Big Weekend and Tomorrowland in Belgium, Book festivals like the Hay Festival which is an annual book festival which occurs every year around June/July time.

Festivals like Glastonbury bring success to the UK due to how many popular current chart toppers perform at the festival each year. Headlining guests in the past have included Ed Sheeran, Coldplay, David Bowie and also the Arctic Monkeys which shows that the festival is not just about pop artists and it is a mixture of all genres of music. Millions of people attend festivals throughout the world with an estimate of 32 million festival attendees per year just in the UK and USA ([Time.com,2019](#)). Festivals cater for a large range of people from both young and old and often have acts to suit a variety of people who enjoy different styles of music. Over the years festivals have become very popular worldwide and have created a demand for live music. Not only do they create social links but they give the opportunity for the public to have one off experiences and enjoy with their friends and families. Looking at festivals as a whole whilst there are many positive factors of festivals, in recent years negative factors have increased within the festival environment, this debate will look at both positive and negative sides of festivals to conclude if they contribute to the growth of anti-social behaviour.

Positives: Festivals have more positive impacts than anti social behaviour

- **Festivals bring money in for the local economies**

The first positive of having Festivals and events is the economic aspect, which is clear to be one of the biggest positives and the most clear to see that they bring a great amount of money to the economy as well to the local community the festival/events is held in.

Most festivals usually range from around 2-3 days in total for festival goers to see their favourite acts over a weekend.

To extend on this, the tickets for weekends are usually around £200-350. This is per person, and thousands of people go per year.

Music festivals make money in a lot more ways than just selling tickets online, they generate money through food carts/ stands, fair rides are usually rented for the weekend, and to use an example, they also do sponsorships. For example, Reading Festival: Each year, the Reading Festival has a pop up Co Operative shop for people at the festival to visit to buy essentials.

They have a share of this money made, meaning a split portion of the money goes toward the festival, and the other goes to the sponsored shop Co Operative.

Social benefits:

Festivals are a great way for teenagers/ adults to connect with people over music, meet new people and strengthen friendships and relationships. Festivals bring people together, and whilst everyone is there for the same reason, they will be able to make new friends while enjoying their time.

- **Festivals promote diversity:**

According to Dave Binder, festivals promote diversity as they bring neighbours into dialogue, they increase creativity, they offer opportunities for civic pride.

Here is a link that includes Binder speaking about this in more detail.

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_binder_the_arts_festival_revolution/up-next?language=en

- **Festivals preserve cultural aspects:**

Festivals celebrate heritage, culture and traditions to help rejoice special moments and emotions in people's lives especially loved ones. Festivals bring people together and is a great way to meet new people and hopefully meet new friends and enjoy the same music with each other.

***stewards can reduce anti social behaviour**

Stewards are the people who volunteer at festivals and events to help make sure that the festival runs smoothly and that no one gets hurt. The stewards put their lives at risk by volunteering at these events as they have to control the crowds, direct the festival attendees to the right places, showing them where the toilets are and that everyone has a great time at the festival.

Stewards help the security guards have less hassle from the attendees and help make sure that no one has taken anything into the festival such as drugs, no fights are started etc.

- **Festivals bring happiness and colour**

All festivals have different meanings and are not all the same as festivals bring happiness and good memories to people's lives. The benefits of festivals helps many friends and family come closer together and enjoy the tradition of the festival and most importantly enjoy the music that is being played.

Other festivals that focus on the happiness and colour is the annual National Eisteddfod of Wales which moves from different towns/cities in Wales each year and people in their thousands of people from Wales and other parts of the UK coming to see the traditions of Wales which includes performances from local choirs, violinists etc in a competition format.

- **Festivals provide Trading opportunities for the local community:**

Due to the popularity of the Glastonbury festival 700 of the world's biggest media come to the festival who provide coverage of the music festival in many different countries. According to the Glastonbury website the festival has paid One Million Pound towards many different charities which ranges from the building of the Piltons Working Mens Club.

The benefits of having a festival for a local community especially with the accommodation provision which brings in large amounts of money due to the popularity of the Glastonbury festival many local shops, pubs and restaurants have had significant increase in trade because of the annual festival.

- **Festivals benefit the local economy.**

Festivals help impact the host city//town such as the increase of spending at festivals, creating employment opportunities, public finances increased and finally the increase in standard of living and increase of the awareness in the area thus helping the host city.town become popular.

- **festivals bring communities together**

Festivals bring together as festivals help bring many people closer together,forget their bothers,sorrows and celebrate with happiness and enjoyment with their loved ones and their friends. All festivals try their best to make sure that no anti social behaviour occurs and that all those who are attending have a good time.

Negatives- Festivals encourage anti social behaviour

- **Sexual assault crimes are on the rise in festivals**

In festivals across the world sexual assault crimes are on the rise. With millions of people attending festivals each year more and more people are falling victim to being harassed or sexually assaulted. Sexual assault crimes in festivals have become alarming with many festivals having to publically apologise to their audience for the amount of cases of sexual assault that had occurred during their festival, one of which was Coachella where a survey had claimed more than 90% of women had been sexually harassed at a music festival and that in 2018 sexually harassment was "rampant" at coachella (Teenvogue.com,2018).A record shows that close to 60% of festivals goers admit to being sexually harassed and 30-40% of which are physically assaulted during the festival time (theBritishacademy.co.uk, 2019). 1 in 5 women are assaulted at festivals and this anti social behaviour crime is still on the rise currently in festivals.

- **Drug related usage and deaths are happening more frequently in festivals**

Drug possession is one of the most common crimes committed at festivals annually. Recently drug use has seemed to be becoming worse at festivals with the most common drugs being taken at festivals being MDMA and cocaine. Recent studies suggested that over 50% of people

who visited festivals in 2019 admitted to taking drugs ([Theguardian,2019](#)). The figures of drug takers at festivals have increased to such a high rate in the last decade that it's becoming more and more of an issue each year. Not only do drug use and festivals lead to anti social behaviour but there has also been a number of deaths related to drug overdose at festivals , for example Georgia Jones became one of 11 drug related deaths at festivals in the UK when she overdosed on ecstasy at mutiny festival in Portsmouth in 2019 ([Thesun.co.uk,2019](#)).

- **Festivals cause a lot of public and environmental damage and pollution**

With large amounts of people comes mass amounts of rubbish and pollution caused when people do not recycle or throw used items away responsibly. It is said that festivals account for 26% of greenhouse gas emissions and that more than 23,500 tonnes of waste is produced in festival in the UK each year ([BBC.co.uk,2018](#)). After festivals end it is very rare that attendees pack up the majority of their belongings including tents and deck chairs and instead it is estimated that more than 90% of tents are left at festival sites each year that will all end up in landfill ([Theindependent,2018](#)). Not only is this damaging to the environment but it also creates issues for clean up teams who have to spend hours sorting through people's leftover belongings in the hope to be able to recycle at least a small contribution of what's left.

- **Festivals create a lot of noise for local residents**

Whilst the loud noise and music of festivals may not be noticed by the people attending , it is problematic for the local people who live close by. Loud noise can disturb local businesses trying to run their restaurants , shops and other facilities and the noise can also be damaging to people in the local areas putting them at risk with of hearing issues. Surveys suggest more than 80% of people consider noise at festivals to be a negative environmental impact as many people commented that noise disrupts a number of people including those who work night shifts ([Envirotech-online.com,2012](#))

- **Crime has increased at festivals**

Crimes are happening more frequently at festivals, including theft , physical assault and arson. On average 500 arrests are made per year in festivals in the UK for example 42 people were arrested for a variety of crimes in Manchester's park life festival ([Manchestereveningnews.co.uk,2019](#)) and another figure showed that 49 arrests were made at Reading festival 2019 ([Reading-Chronicle.co.uk,2019](#)). Not only do crimes at festivals put people at harm but they also have a negative impact on the experience for everyone and are promoting anti social behaviour to thousands of people.

Conclusion

In my opinion, I think that festivals have many positive aspects but more often than not the negative aspects seem to overpower the good, The negative aspects are taking over the reputation festivals used to have. With many problems such as people getting into fights , drug usage and crime.

Festivals help create more job opportunities within the local community, however those jobs are only for the period of time the festival is happening. Festivals help local shops, pubs and restaurants in the area gain new customers as well as local catering vans who work at the Festival to help gain more customers for them.

Festivals help bring happiness to those who want to see their favourite artists perform on stage. Festivals are known for anti socially but this is because of young adults who have never been to festivals before wanting to experience the festival lifestyle culture.

Festivals are known for the loud music, bright colours and heavy usage of drug and alcohol but not everyone does this as festivals are usually targeted for families during the day and adults in the night as the artists might use bad language not suitable for children.

Another good point regarding festivals is the promotion and marketing as some festivals are televised this could give the host city or town to be recognised as well as bringing tourists and festival goers into the host city or town where the festival is being held.

My reasoning for this is because festivals are good at bringing new people, chart toppers and the local community together as not many towns have the opportunity for big events happening on an annual basis.

With Festivals like Glastonbury their main aim is to help and bring in the community together by helping local charities and giving back to the people that have made the event for over five decades.

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