

European Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology (EIET)

Cultural Heritage Management – Assignment 10

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1. Define the Following Terms

Stakeholder

A stakeholder is any individual, group, or organization that has an interest in, influences, or is affected by the management and preservation of cultural heritage. Stakeholders may include government agencies, local communities, tourists, researchers, heritage professionals, and business owners.

Example: At the Lahore Fort in Pakistan, stakeholders include tourists, local residents, the government, conservation experts, and tourism businesses.

Rights Holder

A rights holder is a person or group that possesses specific legal, cultural, historical, or traditional rights related to a heritage site or cultural practice. Rights holders are often Indigenous peoples, local communities, or groups with ancestral connections to the heritage resource.

Example: Indigenous communities living near heritage sites may have traditional rights regarding the use, protection, and interpretation of their cultural heritage.

People-Centered Heritage Management

People-centered heritage management is an approach that places local communities and stakeholders at the center of heritage conservation and decision-making. It recognizes that heritage belongs to people and should contribute to their social, cultural, and economic well-being.

Example: Community involvement in preserving traditional crafts and cultural festivals is a people-centered approach because local people actively participate in safeguarding their heritage.

Capacity Building

Capacity building refers to the process of developing the knowledge, skills, resources, and capabilities of individuals, organizations, and communities to effectively manage and protect cultural heritage.

Example: Training programs for heritage site staff on conservation techniques and visitor management are forms of capacity building.

References

UNESCO. (2023). Managing Cultural World Heritage.

ICCROM. (2015). People-Centred Approaches to the Conservation of Cultural Heritage.

Smith, L. (2006). Uses of Heritage. Routledge.

2. Analysis of a Heritage Site Visited: Lahore Fort, Pakistan

The heritage site selected for this analysis is the Lahore Fort, one of Pakistan's most important cultural heritage sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort reflects the architectural and cultural achievements of the Mughal Empire and attracts thousands of visitors each year. Based on observation, the management approach of Lahore Fort appears to be primarily expert-centered, although some elements of values-based management are also present.

An expert-centered approach focuses on decisions made by conservation specialists, archaeologists, architects, and government authorities. At Lahore Fort, restoration projects, preservation activities, and visitor regulations are generally designed and implemented by heritage professionals and government agencies. Technical expertise is used to maintain the historical authenticity and structural integrity of the site.

The site also demonstrates aspects of a values-based approach because managers recognize the historical, cultural, educational, and tourism values of the fort. Visitor information boards, guided tours, and conservation programs help communicate these values to the public. Tourism development is carefully managed to balance visitor access with heritage protection.

However, evidence of a fully people-centered approach appears limited. While local communities benefit indirectly through tourism and employment opportunities, they do not seem to play a major role in decision-making regarding conservation policies and site management. Greater community participation could improve public engagement and strengthen local support for heritage preservation.

Overall, Lahore Fort is managed mainly through an expert-centered model supported by values-based conservation principles. While this approach effectively protects the site's physical heritage, increased involvement of local communities would help create a more people-centered management system aligned with contemporary heritage management practices.

References

- UNESCO. (2023). Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens World Heritage Site.
- ICCROM. (2015). People-Centred Approaches to the Conservation of Cultural Heritage.
- Timothy, D. J. (2021). Cultural Heritage and Tourism: An Introduction. Channel View Publications.
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