

Introduction to the Hospitality Industry

Assignment 11

Topic: Sustainability Approach of a Hospitality Establishment

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Sustainability Approach of an Eco-Lodge: Six Senses Laamu

For this assignment, I have selected Six Senses Laamu, an eco-lodge and resort in the Maldives. Sustainability is especially important for a resort in a sensitive island environment because tourism depends on natural resources, the local community, and the long-term condition of the destination. The sustainability approach of Six Senses Laamu can be discussed through environmental, social, and economic practices.

1. Environmental Sustainability Practices

Energy Efficiency

Energy use is an important part of running a resort. Six Senses Laamu focuses on reducing unnecessary energy use and improving efficiency in its operations. Practical measures such as energy-efficient equipment, careful use of lighting and responsible staff practices can help reduce consumption. These actions are important because lower energy use can also reduce the environmental impact of the resort.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is another important area for an island resort. The resort needs to use water carefully for guest rooms, restaurants, cleaning, and other daily operations. Water-saving practices and responsible water management help reduce pressure on local resources. Guests can also be encouraged to avoid unnecessary water use, for example by using towels and linen responsibly.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Waste management is particularly important in an island destination because waste disposal can create environmental problems. Six Senses Laamu works to reduce waste and increase responsible handling of materials. Recycling, reducing single-use items, and separating different types of waste can lower the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of. Food waste reduction is also relevant because restaurants are a major part of resort operations.

Sustainable Purchasing

Sustainable purchasing means considering the environmental and social effects of products before buying them. The resort can support this approach by choosing responsible suppliers, reducing unnecessary packaging, and giving preference to products that are suitable for a sustainable operation. This also connects environmental goals with the way the resort manages its supply chain.

2. Social Sustainability Practices

Employee Welfare

Employees are an important part of a hospitality business, so sustainability also includes the way employees are treated. Employee welfare can include fair working conditions, training, opportunities to develop skills, and a safe working environment. In a resort, well-trained employees are also important for providing good service while following the property's sustainability practices.

Community Engagement

A sustainable resort should have a positive relationship with the surrounding community. Six Senses Laamu's approach includes working with the local community and supporting activities that can create social benefits. Community engagement can help the resort understand local needs and can also give local people opportunities to participate in tourism-related activities.

Support for Local Culture and Heritage

Tourism should respect the culture and traditions of the destination. Supporting local culture and heritage helps keep the identity of the destination visible to visitors. For a resort in the Maldives, this can include introducing guests to local traditions, food, crafts, and community life in a respectful way. This gives visitors a better understanding of the destination instead of treating it only as a holiday location.

3. Economic Sustainability Practices

Local Sourcing

Buying from local or regional suppliers where practical can support the local economy and reduce some of the impacts connected with long-distance supply. Local sourcing can also help a hospitality business build stronger relationships with suppliers and communities. At the same time, the resort has to consider availability, quality, food safety, and cost when making purchasing decisions.

Contribution to the Local Economy

A resort contributes to the local economy through employment, purchasing, tourism spending, and cooperation with local businesses and communities. When tourism income reaches local people and suppliers, the benefits of hospitality can extend beyond the resort itself. This is an important part of economic sustainability in a destination such as the Maldives.

Long-Term Business Sustainability

Economic sustainability means that the business should remain financially viable over the long term while managing its environmental and social responsibilities. For Six Senses Laamu, sustainable practices can support the long-term value of the resort by protecting the destination, maintaining service quality, controlling unnecessary resource use, and building good relationships with employees, guests, suppliers, and the local community.

Conclusion

Six Senses Laamu shows how sustainability can be connected with everyday hospitality operations. Environmental practices focus on energy, water, waste, and purchasing. Social sustainability includes employee welfare, community involvement, and respect for local culture. Economic sustainability includes local sourcing, support for the local economy, and the long-term operation of the business. These areas are connected, and together they can help a hospitality establishment operate responsibly while continuing to provide a good experience for guests.

References

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2. UN Tourism. Sustainable Tourism resources.

3. Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). GSTC Industry Criteria.
4. International Tourism Partnership. Hotel Sustainability Basics.