

We are the world. The culture of tourism through “harmony at work”

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Situation: Tourism is the exhibition of local heritage to outside groups, aimed at both educating and entertaining those groups at the same time through unique and foreign experiences. Foreign in the sense that such experiences are not abundantly available at home, and entertaining in that the experience is enjoyed as a leisurely activity.

Travel through tourism is fatal to bigotry and narrow mindedness because it brings groups of people together despite our very real and monumental differences to share in the meaningful experience of discovering a new culture. This renders functional considerations immaterial. The satisfaction and enjoyment of the experience is interdependent amongst everyone achieving the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment.

Providing access to that culture in tourism simply means providing one pathway traversable by wheelchair users, while other guests may choose another route that has stairs, but is more scenic. Access means providing a sign language interpreter to a guest whom is deaf. Anyway that you achieve it “access” always means singling out persons with disabilities, highlighting how we are different from the rest of the group and providing us with special treatment.

This creates separate experiences for the disabled and the non-disabled. The person with a disability resents it (I speak from experience). The rest of the group resents you for it (as I am told from tour guides all over the world) . 75% of all disabilities are hidden or invisible. Tourists are generally not aware of each others impairments.

Functionally impaired guests do not want their functional limitations broadcast to their peers.

Methodology: Inclusive tourism through “harmony at work” renders functional considerations immaterial. Everyone’s needs are met in the same way, for the same reason, with the same level of entertainment and enjoyment when you make harmony work.

Results: Persons with disabilities would like to travel. We have money to travel. We travel for the same reasons as everyone else. Inclusion through “harmony at work” entices us to travel to those destinations that make us feel as if we are included in the exact same experiences as other travelers of the same destinations.