Chapter 14

A Birds Eye Views on Leisure Services

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ABSTRACT

This chapter highlights the conceptual framework of Leisure services like reviews of literature, importance, past and present scenario, benefits and challenges in leisure services, various view points on leisure, Christian perspective of leisure, kinds of leisure activities, leisure industry and its types. It is pinpointed in this chapter that people live like a machine in this modern computer world and having more stress. Hence, this chapter describes how one can plan and spend his/her free time fruitfully to come out of stress, to get relaxation and benefits out of it. Finally in conclusion clearly emphasize the importance of using leisure services without become addict of wrong choice of leisure activities.

INTRODUCTION

Leisure is defined in Sociology as activities other than work, or a work other than a specific performance or task carried out in return for wages. Leisure includes free time, means allow to a release from occupational or domestic responsibilities, forms of relaxation, such as recreation and hobbies, and various creative pursuits that give expression to imagination. Today, hobbies are increasingly sought since people have ample surplus time or else want to escape the pressures of the strenuous jobs they undertake. The availability or ample time could also be due to modern technology, lack of employment, and greater number of people living beyond retirement age. Leisure is also commonly regarded as an indicator of the quality of one’s life itself, and as such, it could equally be formerly called, a “gentlemanly” mode of existence entailing no practical work.

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OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Leisure time: The period of time which the individual uses for activities other than his basic needs like sleeping, eating, studying and working.

Leisure Time Activities: The sum of all activities like recreation and relaxation which are performed in a period of time other than the time spent for basic needs and the activities which require participation in society.

- The humanistic or classic approach is based on a concept of being human that requires freedom of action;
- The therapeutic perspective assumes that people are less than healthy if they lack leisure and hence, require some remediation;
- The quantitative model presumes that leisure as time can be identified by the form of time usage;
- The institutional concept views leisure as one element of a social system made up of institutions with complementary functions;
- The epistemological idea is based on the values embodied within a particular culture; and,
- The sociological approach is based on the view that leisure and everything else is defined in a social context by social actors who are creating their own interpreted universe of meaning.

REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Bennis, and Nanus, (1985) 1, says that leadership is an essential ingredient in the provision of any recreation and leisure program or service. In their article “Leadership for Recreation and Leisure service Programme” they point out that a number of levels require leadership in recreation and leisure service organizations; this study has focused on direct, face-to-face leadership, that is, leadership which involves direct contact between the leader and the participant. The Recreation and leisure service field is a people-oriented business. As a result the bottom line of any recreation and leisure service organization has its front line leadership. Leadership in this work is seen as an art or a craft that involves influencing individuals or groups to work together with enthusiasm, dedication, and skill toward some common end. It is a transformational process, whereby both leaders and participants exchange meaning in a powerful interplay of ideas, concepts and ultimately action. The above authors discuss ‘What makes a successful leader?’ ‘What are the hallmarks of successful recreation and leisure service leaders?’ Caring, compassion, empathy, and genuineness coupled with vision, trust, optimism, and hope are often characteristics associated with successful leaders. Effective recreation and leisure service leaders breathe life into individuals and organizations by creating clear, credible visions and see to that they actually occur. Great leaders are both dreamers and doers. Leadership transforms vision into reality.

Eskisehir (1986) 2, in a case study on ‘The students’ use of Time’ explains man’s anxiety today for planning his time (other than the time for sleeping). The activities he performs other than those for his necessary needs can be called Leisure Time Activities. The need for planning man’s time interests almost all societies in the world today. In the countries which are gradually becoming industrialized, the process of automation helps human beings have more recesses. Today, the important question for man is how to plan his leisure time in the way he wants. It may be the cause of deceived by the other people in society or by mass-media. Especially, those who are less educated can be more easily deceived. The differences