

Running Head: TOURISM

Problems that Chinese tourists are facing getting visa to the UK

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## Introduction

The obtaining of Visa is very essential if one wishes to visit any country other than his or her own country. Every country has its own set of rules, policies and procedures that must be complied before obtaining the visa. The Visa policy of country varies from country to country; most of the European countries offer Visas to the citizens of the other countries without many restrictions. However, the Visa polices of the European countries are very strict for the developing countries. The Visa policy is important for the identity proof, work, tourism and most importantly for the immigration control. Immigration control is very important for many countries; these countries keep close eyes on the activities of the immigrants (Emerson, 2011, pp. 5-12). The Visa polices of UK are very strict due to which most of the Chinese tourists are facing many problems. Most of the Chinese tourists claim that the UK government does not want to offer them Visas due to which they have made the Visa polices so strict. Most of the developed and western countries usually do not place strict restrictions on Visa polices. The tourist Visas are usually classified into three main categories. The first types of Visas are general tourist and visit visas. The second types of Visas are tourist child Visa and the third types of Visas are tourist group visas. Most of the Chinese people apply for the general tourist visit or trip visa.

The steps to obtain the UK visa are not much difficult; they consist of filling an online application at first place, then getting an appointment at the application centre. Similarly, meeting the immigrant rules and collecting the supporting documents are also essential for obtaining the UK visit visa. In the immigration office, much focus is given usually on three things. The first thing that they check is the funds of the immigrant. They check that whether the immigrant has enough money to live in UK or not. Similarly, they also check where the person will live at UK, whether he will stay in hotel or in somebody's house. The final thing which is

being noticed is known that when the person will return to China. The supporting documents that a person might have include the family book, the travel plan, evidence of finances and the evidence of employment status (Emerson, 2011, pp. 5-12).

### **Literature review**

Most of the Chinese people are facing a lot many problems in obtaining the Visa to UK, whether it is a visit VISA or work permit, it is difficult for them to obtain the VISA smoothly. The current literature indicates that each year thousands of Chinese cannot go to UK due to the strict Visa policies for the Chinese population by UK. One of the major reasons for that is the UK's current anti-immigrant policy. Due to the influx of many Asian immigrants, the authorities in the UK have adopted strict measures and are not allowing the Visit visas to the Asians. The difficulty that the Chinese immigrants are experiencing is also the continuation of this policy by UK. The UK authorities fear that most of the Chinese go to UK on the Visit Visa and stay there. Another reason for not offering tourist Visas to the Chinese is that most of the Chinese tourists have created a bad reputation in China. It has been defined that the UK authorities that most of the Chinese tourists tried to live in UK even their Visas were expired. The UK business people and businesses see the Chinese tourists as a threat. They think that the Chinese people will try to invest in many UK businesses due to which the local investors will experience losses. This is the major reason that only a few Chinese are offered the tourist Visas. Furthermore, China is viewed as a strong competitor by not only UK but also most of the western world (Hall, and Page, 2007, pp. 10-19).

The Chinese products are competing with the western products on a large scale due to which there is a feeling of animosity against China by UK and many other developed countries (Knowles, et al (2004, pp. 7-23) There are more restrictions on the general visit visa as compared

to the family visit visa that is a discriminatory visa. Likewise, it is also one of the requirements for obtaining the Visa that a person should have been in some of the western countries in the last five years. If a person has not visited some of the selected western countries in the last five years then he will not be considered eligible for obtaining the visit visa. This policy for obtaining the UK Visa is not appropriate and will create many difficulties for those people who will visit UK for the first time. Therefore, this policy should be discarded at first place, as every individual must have the right to tour the country of his or her choice after completing all the requirements. This move will make UK very infamous among the Chinese population (Knowles, et al (2004, pp. 7-23). The government of UK might have many reasons for lighting the Visa policies for the Chinese people but if it relaxes its visa policy then it will also bring many benefits. The Chinese people will invest in the UK markets that will bring favourable results for UK. Similarly, the inflows including the foreign direct investment and portfolio investment will increase for UK. There are many Chinese individuals who want to invest in UK and build partnerships but since they are not even offered the tourist visas so, how they will be able to invest in UK (Knowles, et al (2004, pp. 7-23).

Most of the Chinese investors claim that they want to invest in different businesses in UK but before investing, they at least want to visit the business and meet their partners. The inflow of the Chinese tourists will also increase the revenue for tourism for UK as the tourists will use the different services and buy different products hence increasing the revenue for the UK. Furthermore, when the tourists will visit UK they will also be able to watch the culture of UK closely and understand the people. When the people of different cultures will interact then the chances of peaceful coexistence will double (Tse, 2013, pp. 149-152). Therefore, the Chinese tourists will not only help increasing their share in the economy but will also take the soft image

of UK to home. The tourists of china are also neo very demanding and can be organized very easily as compared to the other tourists. Another major disadvantage of tightening the visa policy of UK is that the Chinese tourist will opt to visit other destinations in Europe that will be a great loss for the economy of UK as more and more Chinese immigrants will visit other European countries instead of UK. This will not only affect the economy of UK but its image in UK will also get affected. Therefore, it is very essential that the UK must relax its visa policies particularly for the Chinese tourists. By relaxing the visa, policy for the Chinese tourists the UK can also negate the notion of animosity between the capitalist UK and somehow socialist china. Moreover, there are many Chinese companies that wan to invest in many major projects in UK but they cannot do if the visa policies of UK continued (Tse, 2013, pp. 149-152). Many Chinese companies want to invest in the UK nuclear power plants but if the employees will not be offered even the tourist visas then they will suffer a lot. Similarly, there are many financial institutions including the different banks which want to open their branches in London and other major cities of UK but they are also compelled by the strict visa polices of UK.

### **Critical analysis of major issues**

The UK visa policies are very strict for the Chinese immigrants and need to be relaxed on priority basis. There are many business opportunities between the two countries that could not materialize due to the strict Visa policies of UK. If the visa policies of UK are relaxed, then there will be more influx of the Chinese immigrants and they will not be compelled to visit other European countries (Lahav & Luedtke, 2013, pp. 80-100). There are mainly two major reasons behind not relaxing the visa polices for the Chinese immigrants. The first reason includes the fear of the local investors and the businesses that the Chinese investors and businesses will affect

their businesses and investments. Another important reason is the concern of the government that thinks that most of the Chinese immigrants that visit UK do not come here for business purposes but their intention is to settle here, therefore, they avoid giving visit visas to the Chinese immigrants (Lahav & Luedtke, 2013, pp. 80-100). Furthermore, the due to the influx of more and more Asian immigrants the UK government has tightened its visa policies (Lahav & Luedtke, 2013, pp. 80-100). The government thinks that there are already many immigrants and it cannot bear the burden of the further immigrants. This was the perspective of the UK government; however, the Chinese immigrants present a different opinion. According to the Chinese immigrants, they apply for the tourist visa and their aim is not to settle in UK. Either they aim to visit UK, to know its culture and people or they want to go there in search of better business and investment opportunities (Singh, 2012, pp. 12-14). Similarly, the Chinese immigrants claim that the government of China and the government of UK have good relations and most of the times the Chinese government has helped the UK government by providing loans and investing in other important projects (Singh, 2012, pp. 12-14).

Therefore, they want the UK government that to ease some of its requirements for obtaining the tourist visas so that more and more people could visit this country and know its culture and people in a better way (Meethan, 2001, pp. 14-28). If the UK government makes the procedure of obtaining the visit visa easier than its economy will improve to greater extent. The different statistics indicate that there are many Chinese immigrants who want to visit UK and if the visa policies are relaxed, they will go to UK and hence providing greater revenue to the tourism industry of UK. Furthermore, the Chinese people will also invest in many businesses of UK, which will also create a boom for its economy. There have been no incidences in the past in which the Chinese people had been involved in any untoward action (Meethan, 2001, pp. 14-28).

Neither the Chinese immigrants have been found involved in other criminal activities. Therefore, it is very essential that the UK government should relax the visa restrictions. As the population of China is the largest, so there are many tourists as well, most of these tourists visit different countries at least once in a year. The favourite destination of most of the Chinese tourists is however Europe along with some countries of North America (Aldebert, Dang & Longhi, 2011, pp. 1204-1210).. There are mainly two types of tourists in China; there are some tourists who just visit the different countries for fun and as an enjoyment (Aldebert, Dang & Longhi, 2011, pp. 1204-1210). However, there are also some tourists whose aim is not only fun but also they have a specific reason. These types of tourist visit different types of countries in order to explore the business opportunities in these countries. The economy of China is growing and the Chinese investors are interested in investing their capital in other countries in order to earn a good return (Meethan, 2001, pp.14-28).

UK is considered a very good destination by most of the Chinese businesspersons. They believe that they can invest in many businesses there by building partnerships with the local businesses and the state as well (MacLeod, 2004, pp. 19-23). The construction industry of China sees many business opportunities in China. Similarly, there are many Chinese investors who want to invest in the nuclear power plants in UK, which they consider as an important and profitable business opportunity in UK. There are also many other business opportunities for the Chinese investors in UK which they want to avail (Aldebert, Dang & Longhi, 2011, pp. 1204-1210).. Above all, if China relaxes its visa policies then it will help in increasing the people-to-people contact between China, UK will increase, and the soft image of UK will be created in China (Aldebert, Dang & Longhi, 2011, pp. 1204-1210). Most of the travel agencies in UK and China have claimed that the Chinese visitors to UK have decreased significantly due to the strict

rule of UK (MacLeod, 2004, pp. 19-23). The different travel agencies also claim that most of the visitors in china want to visit at least two countries that are not possible as there are separate and stricter requirements for UK. It has also been reported in the newspapers that due to the visa restrictions the UK government is experiencing huge economic losses (Aldebert, Dang & Longhi, 2011, pp. 1204-1210).

### **Case studies and examples drawn from international context**

The visa policy is the exclusive subject of a country; whether a country decides to make strict rules for its visa policy or want to relax it, it solely depends upon it. Many countries have changed and revised their visa policies over the time. The country may relax its visa polices for one country and relax for others; it is the sole discretion of the country. After the 9/11, attacks and the increasing incidents of terrorism and extremism many countries had to change their visa policies (Shao, 2013, pp. 10-30). Similarly, some of the countries banned the visas countries or made extremely difficult procedures for obtaining the visas. For instance, in US after the 9/11 attacks strict restrictions were placed on obtaining the visa. Before the 9 / 11 attacks, there were no restrictions on the US visas and every one could get it easily but after they placed very strict restrictions, it became very difficult for many people to obtain the visa. Most of the European and western countries made their visa polices very strict for the Muslims. Even the Muslims who were offered the visas were kept under tight security (Emerson, 2011, pp. 5-12). Many of the western and developed countries have also tightened their visa polices because they do already have a vast majority of the immigrants and they do not want the further immigrants in their countries. Recently, Saudi Arabia cancelled the visas of most of the South Asians such as Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Indians and sent them to their home countries. It has been observed

that the people from the developing world go to the developing countries in search of food and career opportunities (Shao, 2013, pp. 10-30).

Most of these people do not have the work visas and they just visit the foreign countries by obtaining the visit visa. Many of the developing countries claim that the people who obtain the tourist visas do not want to tour the country but the real motive is to find the job opportunities in the desired country. The countries that have changed or made their Visa polices strict give various reasons for this change. The major reason is however is to safeguard their national interest and the voice of the people. In UK, recently the public demanded that the government should devise a strict policy in order to control a high influx of the immigrants. The natives in the UK claimed that if the immigrants continue to grow then there would be very less job opportunities for the natives (Lahav & Luedtke, 2013, pp. 109-115). Similarly, there were some other public demands due to which the UK has to make strict visa policy. Different case studies and examples show that no country has a fixed visa policy and the countries have to change its visa policies due to many internal and external issues. However, the countries should not make the visa polices discriminatory like making easy rules for one country and very difficult rules for the other countries. Moreover, the countries must change their visa polices in a similar way for all the countries without any discrimination.

### **Conclusion**

The Chinese tourists are facing many difficulties in obtaining the Visa for UK. Many of the tourists want to get to UK but due to the difficult procedure introduced by the UK government it is almost not possible for many of the Chinese tourists to go to UK. The procedure for applying the tourist visa is very hectic and it has such difficult requirements that cannot be fulfilled by majority of the Chinese (MacLeod, 2004, pp. 19-25). One such requirement requires

that a person must have visited at least any of the European country only then the person will be able to obtain the UK visa. Those tourists who are going to UK for the first time cannot meet this condition (MacLeod, 2004, pp. 19-25). The economy of UK has been highly affected due to the strict visa policy that has stopped many of the Chinese tourists from going into UK. If the UK relaxes, its visa policies then it will help it a lot to in becoming economically strong. The visa procedures and rules for the Chinese tourists must be relaxed. If these rules are not relaxed then the Chinese tourists will chose other destinations for their tours. Similarly, the image of UK will be affected in the eyes of the Chinese tourists. Furthermore, there are many people who want to visit UK for business opportunities there but if the visa polices continued to remain difficult then they will not be able to go UK and eventually the ultimate loss will be for UK. The UK government must relax the visa policies for the UK tourists as it will not only help its economy but the people-to-people interaction among the people of China and UK will also strengthen (Shao, 2013, pp. 10-30). The trade relations as well as cooperatio9n in other various fields between China and Uk can be enahanced if Uk relaxes the visa polcies for the citizens of China. Moreover, If UK decides to relax its visa policies then in order to facilitate the Chinese tourist then the soft image for it will be created.

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