

Poverty Tourism in old historical Bangkok

Kisnaphol Wattanawanyoo

Abstract

This paper examines the informal settlement in old historic town of Bangkok – Rattanakosin Area, with the development of tourism industry. Slum and informal settlement around the area are adjacent to the back packer area, which attract them to see and wander around these places. As these settlements/slums/communities possess unique characters and are very contradicting with the highlight tourist attractions such as Grand Palace, Temples and Historical buildings. So in one way, it gives an untidiness and disordered atmosphere, but at one view – it also gives the complete pictures of city and city life, a more authentic one. There are mega projects and top down policy to evacuate these settlements outside such historical core of Bangkok, which could change the urban fabric and affect these urban communities and way of life. So this paper will conclude such duality of binary opposition of co-existence, and maybe draw some suggestions for the future development of poverty tourism in historical context.

Keywords: informal settlement, tourism, urban poor, development, co-existence