

Exploring Environmental Impacts of Tourism and Community Participation of Stakeholders

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Abstract

To assess the relationship between the environmental impact of tourism and the involvement of stakeholders in the community, it is necessary for researchers to comprehend the intricate workings of the procedural framework. To determine the amount and influence of environmental impact on stakeholders' community participation, a macro scale of scrutiny was created using 300 respondents selected at random. This covers the phenomenon being studied, the goals of the research, the type and quality of the investigation, the applicability of the findings, and the resources that are available. On the other hand, investigating how tourism affects the environment has an impact on community involvement because raising awareness of these effects may lead to new ideas for long-term advantages. Together with quantitative descriptive analysis—which stresses objective facts, statistics, and computer methods—and survey-based research, researchers also looked at the link between two or more factors. The researchers' own questionnaire is utilized to collect data, and the statistical techniques in this study are Mean and ANOVA. The results show that there is a significant degree of community participation and tourism's environmental impacts. Lastly, the Dependent Variable Community Participation of Stakeholders is significantly impacted by the Independent Variable Environmental Impact aspects of Tourism.

Keywords: Environmental Impacts, Tourism, Community Participation, Davao Region

1. Introduction

Tourism in the Philippines has brought a macro repercussion in different sectors that strengthens the country's economic stability with its natural and artificial attractions that create exhilarating fun and excitement, whether in rural or urban areas. Different tourism industry leaders and experts have observed that somehow apparent and equivocal growth has always played a vital role in maintaining the balance of environmental impacts and community participation of stakeholders. However, unpredictable natural phenomena could occur and affect the progress of such undertaking by the National, Regional, Local, or even the LGUs of communities (Gutierrez, 2019). The tourism industry is an electrifying force that stimulates people to traverse in different spheres, whether it is in the amusement parks, malls, beaches, mountains, visiting other countries, rediscovering, or discovering one's ethnicity, and cultural backgrounds, meeting other people, experiencing new delicacies, religion, traditions, and events. Its development and improvement magnets people to places with relaxation and entertainment to sustain and maintain a peaceful and happy life. According to Bersales (2019), the environmental impacts of tourism establish futuristic advancements and advantages to safeguard the well-being of every life form, whether on land, water, or air. The unpredictable natural phenomenon epitomized occurrences that could be predicted or sometimes prevented because of its force and degree. (Baloch, Shah, Khan, 2022) In Davao Region, various environmental impact factors have been found in the area through analysis and data collected, interviews, and discussions. Findings on the environmental problems of provinces, especially in some part of the region, are illegal cutting of trees for the development of establishments and resorts, pollution due to tourists' irresponsible actions, and lack of public awareness and community participation.

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It includes problems related to the natural environment, natural resources, and living environment. Tourist events lead to the destruction of the environment by contamination of all its fundamentals. Pollution arises, and the burden of waste on the community is deeply felt from the pollutants it creates, producing an unacceptable impression and a complicated matter in some of tourism destination areas. Excessive urbanization, unsafe and low-quality construction, and over-tourism cause the deterioration of an area

(Abbasi KR, Hussain K, Redulescu M, 2021) The environmental impact of tourism in the region is an essential factor in community participation that often puts pressure on natural occurrences such as physical impacts, threatened resources, overpopulation, and loss of natural habitats. Sadly, it pressures stakeholders on how efficiently they render their services. These impacts can, over time, destroy the environmental resources on which tourism depends (Olalo, 2022). The study aims to explore the environmental impacts of tourism and identify community participation in the region. It is a significant challenge to address the environmental impact factors of tourism that influence community participation of stakeholders in tourism. How and where the impact of tourism manifests depends on many factors, including tourism mode, destination, and carrying capacity. These influence and even determine the intensity, duration, and diversity of the phenomenon's impact on the tourism environment. According to Ampako (2021), the population intensity and diversity of the impacts that tourism produces in its most dynamic form are driven by spatial dimensions; the diversity of forms and populations of tourists involved, recreational tourism, business travel, and health tourism will be larger than the effect of organized mass tourism is smaller than that of individual mass tourism.

Institutionalized tourism is less affected. The type and strength of the impact depend on the type of target, which is the community or the stakeholders, which assess and determine their level of participation that involves in environmental impact factors of tourism and whether they will be able to counter the environmental impact of tourism in the community effectively. Therefore, some governments like the Local Government Unit and the Department of Natural Resources have reasonable organizational structures and programs for supporting tourism and, thus, can support large numbers of visitors (Mowforth and Munit, 2023). To sustain tourism, countries need to thoroughly and systematically address the numerous issues emerging from the contribution of tourism to growth. Issues of policy-making coordination, successful management strategy, and the involvement of local government units and the tourism department are of great help in terms of opportunities for action and potential challenges that need to be addressed through joint efforts (The World Counts, 2022). The Philippines, where the tourism industry performs a significant role in economic growth, draws thousands of tourists due to the abundance of islands and travel destinations throughout the country. With thousands of tourists visiting one location, it leaves much garbage, damaging nature and disturbing life.

Local Government Units utilize power to protect natural resources, improve society's sustainability, and maintain ecological balance (Project Clue, 2020). Previous studies in Davao region have induced positive and negative effects on tourism growth. Few studies have shown the negative impact of tourism growth, including land speculation, physical impacts, various types of pollution, overpopulation, lack of safe drinking water, waste generation, and other environmental degradation. Tourism is considered a tool for development, but it degrades non-renewable and renewable resources. The main criticism of tourism has therefore been the destruction of natural resources. On the contrary, tourism maintains the livelihoods of local people or residents by building roads and hotels for tourists or increasing environmental and commercial development (Yang, 2021). More than any other area of endeavor, tourism in Davao City depends on the environment since it is the crucial resource and tourist attraction driver on which the growth of the numerous tourism activities and their nature and components depend. It is a vast and varied field of knowledge regarding the relationship between tourism and the environment ((Abbasi KR, Hussain K, Redulescu M, 2021) The adverse impact brought by tourism is mainly determined by the detrimental development of tourist facilities, with, of course, the irresponsible act of tourists towards the tourism resources or tourist spots. Damaging actions done by tourists, intentionally or unintentionally, are caused in general by the lack of tourist environmental awareness or education.

2. Literature Review

Environmental Impacts of Tourism. Over time, tourism has raised environmental concerns about conserving, protecting, and preserving rare, frequently near-extinct, vulnerable flora and fauna. Organizations such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have set plans, policies, and initiatives that lead ahead of the sustainable tourism agenda. In addition, foreign and local visitors and residents are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of preserving and protecting the environment (Conserve Energy Future, 2019). When the number of tourists increases, the supply of food, water, and energy use in establishments increases to a great extent, which affects residents' access to those facilities and resources.

Furthermore, when travelers engage in commercial activities like fishing, hiking, snorkeling, and many more, they need to be adequately regulated; the effect is that specific natural resources are vulnerable, creating an imbalance in the environmental functions. Over time, the tourism industry and the practices or activities done by visitors have negatively impacted destination areas with different forms of environmental pollutants, such as land, water, soil, and air. For example, some tourists will throw their garbage anywhere and leave behind trash in the places they have visited, as well as the residents or even those in that area (Mason, 2003). Nag (2019) stressed that negligent visitors also litter the tourist sites they frequently visit. Waste pollution is a big concern in the natural environment. If the waste is dumped irresponsibly in the water, it can contribute to the killing of marine animals. The widespread development of tourism facilities, such as restaurants, resorts, hotels, and tourist activities in a region without sufficient sewage treatment procedures, will lead to catastrophic outcomes. Wastewater, which contains runoff from specific areas, also pollutes water sources nearby, contributing to the eutrophication of bodies of water and the lack of equilibrium in marine habitats. Tourist attractions designed to generate profit without caring about incorporating the structure with the site's natural features will contribute to pollution. Building too many infrastructures like tourist facilities can dominate the landscape and ruin or damage the natural beauty of a place.

Community Participation and Stakeholders, National people and officials have realized they need to be more concerned about the planet's well-being, or crisis and catastrophe would threaten the future lives of everyone. Moreover, authentic nature is one of tourism's key sources as tourists have used it to switch to nature because they desire unique experiences. In addition, tourism's negative impacts arise when the degree of use by tourists is much more significant because the environment cannot cope with and sustain resources. The mass number of tourists arriving in one place poses potential threats. Tourism harms the environment because pollution produces waste and physical harm done by tourists in established tourist attractions and destinations. As a result of this issue, the tourism industry considers sustainable tourism, assures the conservation of natural resources, enhances the sustainability of the community, and ensures an ecological balance (Asadzadeh & Mousavi, 2019).

One of them concerns the growing importance of clusters. According to Madhavan and Rastogi (2019), it is the placement of a network of companies and institutions that work closely together geographically to complement each other for standard business results. Innovations are expected to contribute to breakthroughs at the international level under new and effective organizational forms that generalize ideas, offer specific competitive advantages, and open new tourism opportunities. The issue of sustainable tourism development is, therefore, closely linked to competitiveness by fostering innovation in all areas related to business operations. Furthermore, tourism is described as a business characterized by diversity, integrity, and multi-planning. The significant interdependence of the structural elements that characterize the tourism business is precisely what allows companies providing tourism services to collaborate in implementing innovations.

Strategic intervention on the part of the government is necessary to achieve sustainable tourism development for a long-term program. Government intervention through Local Government Units (LGU) with the help of community stakeholders and residents can safeguard these resources and support the local economy and the well-being of everyone. Moreover, tourism drives a country's economic growth, ensures success, and aids long-term sustainable development amidst uncontrolled occurrences (Thakur, 2020).

3. Methodology

This study used a descriptive research method which requires collecting data to address problems related to the state of the subject being studied. It was an approach generated by acquiring, analyzing, and displaying the data obtained. Quantitative research helps the study to obtain measurable data to know the statistical assessment of the respondents. It was a standard method for gathering and analyzing demographic information. In addition, this study presents the collected data to support the theory of the proponent (Manjunatha, 2019). The research respondents address the persons included, under defined terms and circumstances, the scope where the researcher performed the study. Three hundred (1,300) respondents participated in the data collection. It was classified and divided into profile variables categories to know which groups had more community volunteers or stakeholders. It presented the respondents' data regarding their age, gender, civil status, and socio-economic group. A structured method of survey form with several questions to collect and generate responses from respondents.

3.0 Data Analysis and Results

Table 1 Profile of Respondents

Profile Variables	Group	Frequency	Percent
Age	18-23	64	21.3
	24-29	81	27.0
	30-35	55	18.3
	36-41	39	13.0
	42-47	27	9.0
	48-53	23	7.7
	54 above	11	3.7
Gender	Male	138	46.0
	Female	153	51.0
	Others	9	3.0
Civil Status	Single	154	51.3
	Married	96	32.0
	Widowed	5	1.7
	Separated	2	.7
	Living with Partner	43	14.3
Socio-Economic Group	Student	74	24.7
	Employed	98	32.7
	Unemployed	17	5.7
	Residents	64	21.3
	Municipalities	39	13.0
	Others	8	2.7

For this study, the researchers adopted and based the survey questionnaire of Cianga (2019). The researchers used a random sampling technique. A simple random technique is a population subset chosen at random. Each member of the population has an equal probability of getting chosen using this sampling procedure. A Likert-type scale is utilized in the survey questions. Likert Scale is a form of rating system that is used to assess perceptions or views. A Likert type has a corresponding scale (1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Average, 4=Agree, and 5=Strongly Agree) on which a question indicates the respondents' response by encircling the number. This scale is used to know their opinions and views on tourism's negative impact on the Davao region's tourist spots. Moreover, the researcher must recognize the respondent's views to accurately analyze the given relevant information (Glen, 2019).

Range	Description	Interpretation of Mean
4.20-5.00	Very High	This means that Environmental Impact Tourism and Community Participation totally agrees with the factors
3.40-4.19	High	This means that Environmental Impact Tourism and Community Participation agrees with the factors
2.60-3.39	Moderate	This means that Environmental Impact Tourism and Community Participation is in the minimal stand with the factors
1.80-2.59	Low	This means that the Environmental Impact Tourism and Community Participation disagrees with the factors
1.00-1.79	Very Low	This means that Environmental Impact Tourism and Community Participation disagrees with the factors

The answers to each item statement were appropriately explained. The results in each pointer are based on the range of means mentioned below. This will have a typical index of the questionnaire's item claims. The questionnaire results in each assessment measure used the corresponding parameter limit that includes a range of means, descriptive equivalent, and interpretation below (Glen, 2019). The researchers observed the following procedure in compiling data for this study. With the consent and consulting of the subject teacher, the researcher requested authorization from the adviser before implementing and delivering the survey questionnaire. The survey questionnaire has a total item of 40 questions. The researcher has submitted a letter of approval to the advisor, requesting assistance and expertise. Another permission letter was sent to specific areas or barangays in Davao City. This means that the paper must be reviewed to ensure compliance with quality requirements in the research study. The data were collected, interpreted, and analyzed confidentially and appropriately. Statistical treatment was necessary to use the results correctly. Responses to the survey questionnaire by people in Davao City were evaluated for the data criteria of the study. It uses a mean averaging method in which the total tallied score of the respondents will be presented. The level of agreement will be tallied on each item, and then multiplied by the weight of the mean percentage on each item. The answer would be used as the basis for the study of what the respondents noticed about the environmental impact of tourism. ANOVA, p-value, and statistical methods are used as tools for the statement of the problem.

3.1 Descriptive Analysis

In this chapter, the general analysis results were performed on the data obtained from the survey conducted by Community volunteers and stakeholders in Davao region.

Table 2 shows the level of the negative environmental impact factors of tourism perceived by the respondents in Davao region, having an overall mean of 4.33 23 with a standard deviation of 0.138 and a descriptive equivalent of high level, indicating that the negative impact of tourism on the tourist spots agrees with the factors or situation. Respondents experienced high destruction of vegetation and fauna's habitat spots, with a mean score of 4.59 and a standard deviation of 0.538. This means that the respondents have noticed a very high level of illegal selling of wildlife in tourist spots compared to others. The lowest mean contributor was the illegal selling of wildlife in tourist spots, with a mean average of 4.13 and a standard deviation of 0.860. It means that the respondents experience high CO2 emissions in Davao region. The findings clearly show that the respondents know the negative environmental impact of tourism in Davao region.

Table 2. Level of the environmental impact factors of tourism

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent
1. Destruction of vegetation and fauna's habitat.	4.59	0.538	Very High
2. Hunting	4.58	0.563	Very High
3. Killing animals for gastronomic curiosities and souvenir markets.	4.57	0.567	Very High
4. Destruction of valuable vegetation species for plant picking and woods.	4.56	0.641	Very High
5. Clearing of Natural vegetation for the appearance of tourist facilities	4.50	0.750	Very High
6. Reduction of natural Reservation surface.	4.49	0.643	High
7. Pollution of water through dumping sewages.	4.48	0.567	High
8. Pollution of air through exhaust gases.	4.48	0.562	High
9. Pollution of soils through various wastes resulted from different touristic services.	4.48	0.569	High
10. Garbage accumulation due to tourist activities.	4.46	0.613	High
11. Sound Pollution results from tourist activities and transportation.	4.41	0.641	High
12. Land's consolidation and compaction.	4.38	0.705	High
13. Landslides	4.38	0.569	High
14. Soil erosion	4.36	0.583	High
15. Deterioration of crust forms, rivers, banks, and beaches.	4.33	0.629	High
16. Deterioration of Farmlands.	4.34	0.693	High

17. Deterioration of Forests.	4.32	0.647	High
18. Reduction of drinking water sources.	4.30	0.747	High
19. Reduction of natural resources needed in the maintenance of touristic activities.	4.30	0.714	High
20. Reduction of forest surface due to tourist activities.	4.30	0.697	High
21. Reduction of local ingredients due to tourist activities.	4.28	0.860	High
22. Touristic Facilities.	4.28	0.767	High
23. Garbage resulted from touristic facilities.	4.28	0.646	High
24. Vandalized works caused by tourists in tourist spots.	4.27	0.775	High
25. Destruction of the natural beauty of the tourist spots.	4.27	0.583	High
26. Smoking in tourist spots can harm the environment.	4.25	0.630	High
27. Littering around tourist spots.	4.25	0.603	High
28. Vandalizing of tourist spots.	4.25	0.744	High
29. Disturbing the wildlife in tourist spots.	4.24	0.552	High
30. Illegal selling of wildlife in tourist spots.	4.24	0.538	High
Overall	4.33	0.138	High

According to Danilo and Nebrida (2019), tourist activities can disrupt the area and bring negative environmental issues that may affect the community, especially the flora and fauna. As shown in the descriptive analysis, the respondents have a high level of observation of the negative environmental impacts of tourism in Davao Region. The study of Lemma and Alberto (2023) also provides insight into tourist events that lead to the destruction of the environment by contamination of all its fundamentals. Excessive urbanization, unsafe and low-quality construction, and over-tourism are causing the deterioration of the location.

Table 3 presents the level of community participation of stakeholders in Davao region, having an overall mean of 4.23 with a standard deviation of 0.703 which means that there is a high level of community participation of stakeholders in Davao Region perceived by the respondents. The result shows that the respondents support government projects in banning activities that may harm the environment, garnering a mean of 4.33 with a standard deviation of 0.703. This means there is a high level of community support for government projects banning activities that may harm the environment. The lowest mean contributor was government support to help sustain the environment in our community, with a mean of 4.12 and a standard deviation of 0.854. This means that the community still receives high government support to help sustain the environment. The findings clearly show a high level of community participation of stakeholders in Davao region perceived by the respondents.

Table 3 Level of Community Participation of Stakeholders

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent
1. The community supports government projects in banning activities that may harm the environment.	4.33	0.854	High
2. Our community ensures that the equitable distribution of benefits the tourism industry provides sustains the environment and reduces pollution.	4.31	0.826	High
3. The Government has solid waste management plans and regulations for the tourists visiting the city.	4.30	0.573	High
4. The funds generated from tourist activities are used by the community to preserve the environment.	4.30	0.703	High
5. Our community has activities for a cause such as tree planting to help improve the environment.	4.22	0.669	High
6. Some organizations help improve the environment caused by tourism by assisting the Department of Tourism.	4.22	0.576	High
7. The community of Davao region take some projects to help reduce the pollution caused by tourism.	4.21	0.747	High
8. Community organizations of Davao region help in the implementation dissemination of rules and regulations crafted by the city Government.	4.20	0.703	High
9. The community initiated a project to protect in preserve the natural environment and culture	4.20	0.719	High
10. We received government support to help sustain the environment in our community	4.20	0.574	High
Overall	4.23	0.292	High

A stakeholder is an individual or group that depends on, and on which the organization depends, to achieve its goals. For sustainable tourism, all stakeholders must be involved (Scholes and Whittington, 2023). Community participation in Davao region tourism is, therefore, a project made possible by the coordinated efforts of various tourism stakeholders, with a particular focus on local community engagement. According to Ignacio (2019), to achieve these goals, communities must be empowered through awareness-raising and innovative learning processes that enable them to support the government in alleviating harmful environmental practices. Table 4 shows that the indicator has yielded a p-value less than 0.05 which means that there is a significant influence of environmental impact factors of tourism in Davao City and the community participation of stakeholders. The environmental impacts of tourism as a predictor of participation by the community have a significant influence on each other with an overall total of 8.161 and a high degree of freedom, which means there is more power to reject a null hypothesis and find a significant result. The result is to give the community and stakeholders awareness to efficiently formulate and implement policies to ensure they serve that purpose. Scholes, J.& Whittington. (2023). According to Hall (2019), all these stakeholders are involved in some way in the decision-making and maintenance of the tourism industry.

Table 4. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results show the influence on the environmental impacts of tourism and community participation of stakeholders when analyzed by respondents.

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Environmental Impacts of Tourism	Between Groups	.076	5	.015	.789	0.559
	Within Groups	5.655	294	.019		
	Total	5.730	299			
Community Participation of Stakeholders	Between Groups	.704	5	.141	1.665	0.143
	Within Groups	24.860	294	.085		
	Total	25.564	299			
Overall	Between Groups	.223	5	.045	1.653	0.146
	Within Groups	7.938	294	.027		
	Total	8.161	299			

*p<0.05

Local communities and stakeholders' involvement in managing tourism's environmental impacts is seen as an alternative form of sustainable tourism and tourism growth (Stremikiene & Svagzdiene, 2020). It is a form of tourism management that results in the deep involvement of community members in generating tourism activities (Danilo, 2019). According to Eshliki and Kaboudi (2019), the community participation of stakeholders in tourism is, therefore, a project made possible by the coordinated efforts of various tourism stakeholders, with a particular focus on local community engagement.

4. Conclusion

Overall, the study's findings demonstrate that tourism has a negative environmental impact, and that community involvement steps in to mitigate such effects. The statistical findings also demonstrate that the negative environmental effects of tourism have an impact on stakeholders' community participation, despite preventative measures being taken. Even with the community stakeholders' enthusiastic response or involvement, more is required to mitigate the detrimental effects of tourism on the neighborhood. The community's present methods or plans are unable to lessen the harm done to the land or tourist destination because of the frequent occurrence of unplanned events. The public, or the community, must be made aware of the detrimental effects in a large-scale context. Because the residents' land is currently doing well and their income is sufficient, they can believe that everything is bearable and only consider the near future. This has to do with the government's assistance in persuading the local community or other interested parties that the aid is enough, but temporary, and won't be enough to support the community in the long run.

5. Recommendations

The researchers suggested increasing community involvement that is active. Create activities and programs that are efficient or successful and will have a good impact. Use this report to convince the local government unit (LGU) that more funding or programs are needed to prevent negative effects on the community from the current methods. The community and stakeholders believe that the data results demonstrate how tourism-related environmental variables might have a negative impact on the region's ecology. To stop the detrimental effects of tourism on the environment from getting worse, visitors must abide by the laws and guidelines. We suggest a few tourism-related activities to visitors to the Davao region so they can engage in and support environmentally friendly practices and sustainable development.

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