

Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of Tourist Attraction Sites on Local Development: The Case of Sogakofe in the Volta Region

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Abstract

Sogakofe, located in Ghana's Volta Region, relies heavily on tourism for socio-economic growth. This study examines the socio-economic impacts of tourist attractions on the local development of Sogakofe. The primary objectives include analyzing tourism's negative effects on the town's growth, understanding how these attractions empower local populations, and assessing their role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Using a mixed-method approach, the research incorporated surveys and interviews with locals and operators of tourist attractions, involving 70 respondents to ensure a representative sample. Data analysis involved quantitative methods (descriptive, inferential, and correlational statistics) using SPSS, alongside qualitative thematic content analysis to identify patterns and themes related to the socio-economic impacts of tourism attraction sites. The findings reveal that tourism attractions significantly strengthen the local economy by generating jobs, fostering entrepreneurship, and improving public services and infrastructure. These sites also play a vital role in preserving Sogakofe's cultural heritage through history tours, cultural performances, and traditional festivals, thereby promoting regional customs and traditions. However, the study also highlights negative impacts, such as pollution, traffic congestion, and overcrowding, resulting from increased tourist inflow. Environmental issues were also identified, including resource depletion, wildlife disturbance, and habitat destruction. The study recommends adopting sustainable tourism practices and involving the community in tourism planning and decision-making to address these challenges. It emphasizes preserving cultural heritage and implementing capacity-building initiatives to ensure residents fully benefit from tourism-related opportunities. These measures aim to maximize tourism's positive contributions while minimizing its adverse effects on the town's development and environment.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact, tourist attraction sites, local development Sogakofe, Volta Region

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and development, serving as a catalyst for local economies globally. Within the context of developing regions, the establishment and operation of tourist attraction sites bear the potential to significantly influence socio-economic dynamics. The Volta Region, situated in Ghana, epitomizes a locale where such dynamics warrant meticulous examination. In particular, the township of

Sogakofe, with its burgeoning tourist attraction sector, stands as an intriguing case study to gauge the ramifications of such attractions on local development. Tourism has emerged as a potent force in driving local development on a global scale. The symbiotic relationship between tourism and local communities is increasingly recognized as a key driver of economic, social, and cultural progress. The multifaceted impacts of tourism extend

beyond economic gains, encompassing environmental sustainability, community empowerment, and cultural preservation.

By generating jobs and encouraging business endeavors, tourism contributes significantly to the local economy (Dwyer et al., 2004). Handicrafts, transportation, and hospitality are just a few of the industries that gain from tourists' interactions with local companies. In *Achieving Sustainable Transformation in Tourism and Hospitality Sectors*, Kumar et al., (2024) provide a thorough analysis of sustainable practices in the travel and hospitality industries. The editors' stress how crucial it is to incorporate sustainable practices into tourism operations and how technology, legislation, and community involvement can bring about change.

In developing countries, economic diversification has enhanced the economic and cultural well-being of local people (Manwa & Manwa, 2014). Among the nations that send tourists to Sarawak are Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Singapore, the United Kingdom, India, Australia, and Thailand. Sarawak's GDP from tourism increased from RM8.4 billion in 2016 to RM8.59 billion in 2017. Grandcourt (2020) predicts that by 2030, there will be 1.8 billion tourists globally. Successful tourism has created a framework for integrating the local community into tourism and utilizing tourism resources that promote socio-economic development (Pawson et al., 2015).

Tourist destinations in European countries, which receive millions of visitors each year, serve as economic engines, and the revenue generated by admission fees, guided tours, and related services has a substantial impact on local economies (Goeldner & Ritchie, 2012). The influx of tourists boosts the retail, transportation, and hospitality sectors, which in turn supports local businesses and generates jobs, benefiting not only the destinations but also the surrounding towns. Ivona (2021) also emphasizes that although rural tourism can empower communities and promote sustainable development, it can also have negative effects if it is not managed properly. Ecosystem damage and over-exploitation of natural resources are two consequences of excessive tourism in rural areas. Furthermore, the inflow of tourists can upend customs, which would result in the loss of authenticity and monetization of local culture. Ivona continued by saying that unequal distribution of tourism-related income can lead to economic disparities, favoring some stakeholders at the expense of the greater community. These difficulties highlight the necessity of sustainable and well-balanced tourist policies to lessen negative impacts.

In Africa, tourist attractions are essential for local development, greatly influencing the social, cultural, and economic facets of local communities. Understanding the effects of attraction venues is essential to maximizing tourism's potential for sustainable development as the continent continues to establish itself as a popular travel destination. Tovmasyan (2023) asserts that local tourism is a dynamic and changing phenomenon that promotes rural development and transformation. The essay explores

how utilizing local culture, heritage, and natural resources can help rural tourism turn villages into popular travel destinations.

Wang et al., (2020) examined the negative effects of tourism on impoverished locals in the framework of reducing poverty, highlighting the intricacy of multifaceted poverty. The study emphasizes how tourism might worsen social inequality by marginalizing vulnerable groups and unequally distributing economic gains. Additionally, the poor are disproportionately affected by growing living expenses brought on by tourism, especially in the areas of housing and necessities. Other noteworthy problems that further lower the standard of living for impacted people are environmental deterioration and cultural decay. These unfavorable results urge for more inclusive and sustainable methods, undermining the original purpose of using tourism to reduce poverty. Once again, tourism attractions frequently highlight Africa's rich cultural legacy, offering a venue for the promotion and preservation of native customs.

In analyzing the connection between tourism and economic expansion in the biggest economy in Africa, Salawu (2020) emphasizes the importance of tourism as a catalyst for economic activity. According to the study, tourism boosts foreign exchange revenues, creates jobs, and encourages investments in services and infrastructure, all of which contribute to GDP growth. Additionally, it underlines the sector's role in encouraging industrial diversification and assisting small and medium-sized firms (SMEs). According to the findings, a well-organized tourism industry can lessen reliance on conventional revenue sources like oil while serving as a stimulant for overall economic growth.

Sogakofe's prominence as a tourist destination has been burgeoning in recent years, with a noticeable influx of visitors seeking diverse forms of entertainment and cultural experiences. The town boasts a rich historical and cultural heritage, coupled with the natural allure of the Volta Region. Notably, tourist attraction sites in Sogakofe range from historical landmarks to contemporary recreational venues, contributing to a multifaceted tourism landscape.

By encouraging sustainable economic and social development, tourist attraction venues are essential to the empowerment of local communities. According to research, these locations frequently act as hubs for economic and cultural interchange, allowing local communities to capitalize on their natural riches and legacy to draw tourists. Residents who actively participate in tourism efforts profit economically, obtain new skills, and feel more invested. Khalid, Ahmad, Ramayah, Hwang & Kim (2019) highlights the significance of community empowerment in sustainable tourism development. These results promote environmental and cultural preservation while improving the standard of living for residents. Litheko (2022) examines how public-private partnerships (PPPs) are used to manage ecotourism in South Africa, highlighting how they may support the growth of

sustainable tourism. According to the study, cooperation between public and private organizations may enhance infrastructure, maximize resource utilization, and boost community involvement. PPPs have effectively aided in protecting natural ecosystems and marketing ecotourism destinations by utilizing pooled resources and expertise. The study does, however, also draw attention to issues including regulatory limitations and uneven power relations among stakeholders. The results highlight the necessity of clear contracts and fair benefit-sharing arrangements to guarantee the long-term viability and inclusivity of ecotourism projects.

Tourist attractions are essential to preserving local culture and creating opportunities for intercultural dialogue and education by offering spaces that highlight traditions, festivals, and crafts. In addition to providing local communities with financial incentives to preserve their cultural heritage, these sites serve as gathering spots where tourists can engage in authentic cultural activities that broaden their understanding. Cultural tourism increases understanding of local customs and encourages their preservation through sustainable tourism practices (Thao et al., 2023). Incorporating local artists and performers into tourism events also aids in preserving traditional livelihoods and combating cultural decline (Khalid et al., 2019).

Additionally, initiatives that promote authenticity in cultural tourism ensure that local communities' historical and social fabric is maintained. This relationship between the need for tourism and genuine cultural representation intensifies efforts to preserve heritage places and intangible cultural assets (Agoes et al., 2021). Through involving local stakeholders in the development of cultural experiences, tourism strengthens community identity and boosts the local economy. Wasela (2023) examines how intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is essential to the growth of cultural tourism and highlights how it may be a powerful force for sustainable development. The study looks at how components like performing arts, rituals, and oral traditions help to create distinctive and enjoyable travel experiences. Wasela (2023), emphasizes that incorporating ICH into tourism improves cultural preservation while also giving residents access to economic opportunities.

Through a case study of an ethnic minority in North Vietnam, Thao, Loan, & Ha (2023) explore the role of ethnic and cultural values in sustainable tourism development. They show how traditional customs, crafts, and festivals contribute to distinctive tourism experiences while promoting cultural preservation, and they stress the significance of involving ethnic communities in tourism planning to ensure equitable benefits and prevent cultural commodification. These findings show that, when managed inclusively and responsibly, sustainable tourism can be a catalyst for preserving ethnic heritage and improving community livelihoods.

Though its consequences are not always favorable, tourism can have a big impact on how local communities grow. Unsustainable tourism activities frequently result in

social unrest, economic difficulties, cultural deterioration, and environmental degradation. One of the most notable problems is environmental degradation, where a rise in tourism leads to garbage accumulation, habitat damage, and ecosystem pollution. These issues are made worse by overcrowding in well-known tourist locations, which places excessive strain on regional resources like energy and water (Nguyen, 2022; Khalid et al., 2019).

In terms of the economy, even though tourism generates revenue, the profits often go to foreign investors instead of the local population, causing social and environmental harm to locals who also receive little financial benefit. Additionally, communities that rely heavily on tourism as their primary source of income are more vulnerable to shocks like recessions or global crises like pandemics (Nguyen, 2022), and tourism-driven development often boosts the cost of housing, commodities, and services, making living more and more expensive for locals and widening economic inequality (Khalid et al., 2019).

From the viewpoint of local communities, Uslu et al., (2020) investigate the sociocultural, economic, and environmental impacts of tourism. Their research investigates the good and negative effects of tourism on regional customs, economics, and lifestyles. They point out that although tourism can foster economic development and cross-cultural interaction, it also runs the risk of undermining customs and taxing local resources. The study emphasizes how crucial community participation is to tourism planning to minimize negative impacts and guarantee sustainable practices. A balanced strategy that upholds environmental preservation and cultural integrity can turn tourism into a tool for comprehensive local development.

To lessen these challenges, sustainable tourism practices that prioritize environmental preservation, cultural preservation, and equitable economic benefits are essential. Allowing locals to participate in tourist planning and decision-making ensures that development aligns with their needs and interests, fostering resilience and long-term benefits, claim Khalid et al. (2019). Additionally, Mathew (2022) emphasized the function of sustainable tourism in encouraging ethical behaviors that strike a balance between community well-being and cultural preservation. According to their findings, involving communities in tourism planning reduces negative effects on cultural identity by fostering a sense of ownership.

Numerous stakeholders can benefit from the study on the socioeconomic effects of Sogakofe's tourist attractions, which provides important insights into sustainable development. It emphasizes how crucial tourism is to protecting and advancing cultural heritage and helping residents feel proud of who they are. Furthermore, by identifying economic prospects and procedures for active participation in tourism, the study's findings will empower the community and allow them to capitalize on its benefits for local development. By addressing infrastructure gaps, improving community engagement, and boosting tourism, these insights can

also assist local authorities in strategically planning and managing tourist destinations to maximize revenue generation for development initiatives. Aggenbach (2017) investigates the commodification of cultural heritage and its implications for the cultural significance of two African fortifications. The study examines how transforming heritage sites into tourist attractions can alter their original meanings, with a focus on balancing cultural preservation and economic utility.

The study offers the government and policymakers' evidence-based suggestions for developing sustainable tourism strategies and efficiently allocating funds. In line with the national objective for sustainable development, it also provides ideas for striking a balance between environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and economic growth. Understanding tourist preferences and economic trends can help researchers and private companies better personalize services and investigate sustainable tourism practices. In the end, the study provides a tool for promoting responsible tourism, inclusive growth, and comprehensive community development in Sogakofe and surrounding areas.

This study aims to assess the socioeconomic effects of Sogakofe's tourist attractions, with a focus on promoting sustainable development. The study looks at how these locations affect community empowerment, cultural preservation, and local economic growth to offer practical advice for maximizing the positive effects of tourism. It specifically looks for ways that local communities can actively engage with and profit from the tourism industry, resulting in better livelihoods and a higher standard of living.

This study aims to assess the socioeconomic effects of Sogakofe's tourist attractions, with a focus on promoting sustainable development. The study looks at how these locations affect community empowerment, cultural preservation, and local economic growth to offer practical advice for maximizing the positive effects of tourism. It specifically looks for ways that local communities can actively engage with and profit from the tourism industry, resulting in better livelihoods and a higher standard of living. Sogakofe in Ghana's Volta Region has significant tourism potential due to its cultural heritage and natural attractions, yet there is limited understanding of how its tourist attraction sites contribute to local socio-economic development. This lack of analysis impedes the creation of effective policies and strategies to maximize tourism's benefits while ensuring sustainable growth. Therefore, a comprehensive study is necessary to explore these dynamics, guide evidence-based decision-making, and promote balanced development in the region.

The study's main goal is to evaluate the socioeconomic effects of tourism attractions on Sogakofe's local development in Ghana's Volta Region. However, the particular goals are to investigate how much tourist attraction sites empower Sogakofe's local communities through entrepreneurship, job creation, and community development initiatives; to assess how well Sogakofe's

cultural heritage is preserved and promoted, including the effects on local identity and cross-cultural interactions; and to investigate the detrimental effects of tourism on Sogakofe's development.

This study is interesting since it focuses on evaluating the socioeconomic effects of tourist attractions on local development in Sogakofe, a little-known neighborhood in Ghana's Volta Region. Although popular sites are frequently the focus of tourist studies, this study shows how smaller, local attractions either support or impede socioeconomic development. It fills in gaps in the literature by including viewpoints on cultural preservation, community empowerment, and the dual effects of tourism; both positive and bad.

Additionally, the study explores the specific context of Sogakofe, which has unique cultural and natural resources, shedding light on the interplay between tourism and community dynamics in rural Ghana. This localized approach not only provides actionable insights for policymakers but also contributes to broader discussions on sustainable tourism in developing regions. By addressing both empowerment and challenges, the study offers a balanced and context-specific contribution to tourism literature.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employed a mixed-methods research design to comprehensively assess the socio-economic impacts of tourist attraction sites in Sogakofe. The study collected both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data, focusing on indicators such as employment rates, income levels, and tourism-driven business growth, were gathered using structured questionnaires administered to 70 randomly selected respondents, including residents, business owners, and government officials. Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, including tour operators and cultural leaders, to understand community perceptions and the cultural and social effects of tourism. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to examine relationships between tourism activities and socio-economic variables. Meanwhile, qualitative data were subjected to thematic content analysis to identify patterns and insights related to tourism's influence on local culture, identity, and community cohesion. This integrated approach ensured a holistic understanding of the dual economic and socio-cultural effects of tourism in the study area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic information

In terms of age distribution, Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents fall within the 26-35 age bracket, accounting for 34.3% of the sample, followed by the 46-55 age group at 22.9%. This indicates that a significant

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age group	18-25	12	17.1
	26 – 35	24	34.3
	36 – 45	12	17.4
	46 – 55	16	22.9
	56 +	6	8.6
Total		70	100.0
Sex/gender	Male	50	71.4
	Female	20	28.6
Total		70	100.0
Level of education	Primary education	12	17.1
	Secondary education	24	34.3
	Tertiary education	16	22.9
	Postgraduate education	4	4.7
	No formal education	14	20.0
Total		70	100.0
Current occupation	Employed in tourism sector	24	34.3
	Civil/public servant	8	11.4
	Petty trader	4	5.7
	Artisan	16	22.9
	Fisherman	8	11.4
	Unemployed	8	11.4
	Retired	2	2.9
Total		70	100.0
Total	Below Gh 500.00	12	17.1
	Gh.501 – Gh.1,000.00	18	25.7
	Gh.1,001 – Gh.1,500.00	20	28.6
	Gh.1,501.00 – Gh.2,000.00	16	22.9
	Gh.2,5001 – Gh.3,000.00	4	5.7
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

portion of the population involved in tourism-related activities in Sogakofe is in the prime working-age range, which may have implications for employment and economic opportunities in the sector. Also, the age group 18-25 accounts for 17.1 % of respondents, the 36-45 age group accounts for another 17.1% whilst 56 years and above accounts for 8.6% of respondents. Additionally, the data shows that the majority of respondents were male (71.4%) whilst females account for 28.6% of respondents; highlighting a potential gender imbalance in the tourism sector in Sogakofe.

In terms of education, the data in (Table 1) reveals a diverse educational background among respondents, with the highest proportion having secondary education (34.3%), followed by tertiary education (22.9%) and postgraduate education (5.7%). This suggests that a significant portion of the population involved in tourism in Sogakofe has attained a level of education that may enable them to access higher-skilled jobs in the sector. However, there is also a notable proportion of respondents with only primary education (17.1%) or no formal education (20.0%), indicating a need for targeted education and training programs to enhance skills and capabilities in the tourism sector.

Regarding occupation, the data from (Table 1) shows that a significant portion of respondents is employed in the tourism sector (34.3%), indicating the sector's importance as a source of livelihood in Sogakofe. Other common

occupations among respondents include artisans (22.9%), petty trading (5.7%), fishing (11.4%), and civil/public servants (11.4%), highlighting the diverse range of employment opportunities in the area. Additionally, there is a notable proportion of respondents who are unemployed (11.4%) and retired (2.9%), suggesting potential challenges in accessing employment opportunities in the tourism sector. In terms of income, the data shows that the majority of respondents fall within the lower to middle-income brackets, with 25.7% earning between Gh.501 and Gh. 1,000. 00 per month and 28.6% earning between Gh. 1,001 and Gh. 1,500 per month and only 5.7% earnings between Gh. 2,501 and Gh. 3,000.00 per month. Also, 17.1% of respondents earn below GH. 500.00. This indicates that while tourism may provide economic opportunities for residents, income levels are quite low and this could impact the overall economic development of the community as the average income of residents in the study is Gh. 1,143.27.

Tourist attraction sites and empowerment of local communities

From Figure 1, the majority of respondents, accounting for 89.0% agreed that tourist attraction sites greatly help in job creation in the local economy. However, 11.0% of respondents thought otherwise. Again, respondents were asked to rate the impact of tourism on job creation.

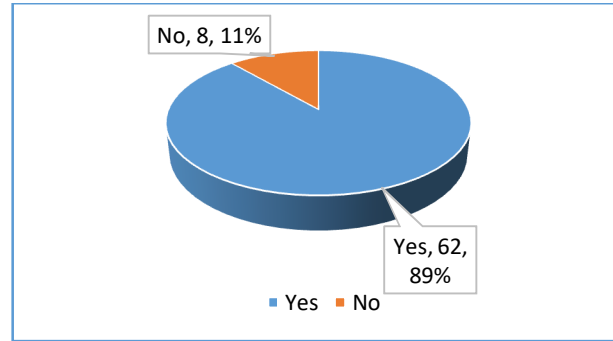


Figure 1: Tourist Entertainment Sites Create Jobs
Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2: Impact of tourism on job creation

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Impact of tourism on job creation	Low	8	11.4
	High	34	48.6
	Very high	28	40.0
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3: Businesses started because of tourist entertainment sites

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Business due to tourist entertainment sites	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The results are shown in (Table 2).

Creation of job opportunities

From Table 2, 48.6% and 40.0% of respondents rated the impact of tourism as high and very high, respectively in terms of job creation, with only 11.4% rating this variable as low.

Business started as a result of tourist entertainment sites

From (Table 3), the majority of respondents, accounting for 88.6%, answered in the affirmative that they either started businesses due to the presence of tourist attraction sites or at least they knew someone in the community who has started a business related to tourism due to the presence of tourist attraction sites in the community. However, 11.4% of respondents answered in the negative.

Types of businesses due to the presence of tourist entertainment sites

From (Table 4), accommodation providers constitute the largest segment, with 22.9% of respondents offering lodging services for tourists. This indicates a significant focus on hospitality infrastructure, which is crucial for accommodating visitors and supporting the local tourism

ecosystem. Tour operators, representing 17.1% of respondents, play a vital role in organizing and conducting tours, highlighting local attractions, and facilitating cultural exchange. Restaurants and food services, accounting for 17.1% of respondents, constitute another type of business influenced by the presence of tourist attraction sites. Transportation services (11.4%), travel agencies (8.6%), and attractions and entertainment providers (11.4%) are other businesses that develop as a result of tourist attraction sites. The 11.4% of respondents categorized as "N/A" represented respondents who noted that tourist attraction sites do not influence the development of other types of business opportunities.

From Table 5, the most significant opportunity identified is the stimulation of the local economy, with 34.3% of respondents recognizing tourism as a driver for economic growth. Another important factor is the diversification of services, with 17.1% of respondents highlighting the need to offer a variety of products and experiences to attract tourists. Job creation is also a significant opportunity, with 17.1% of respondents emphasizing the role of tourism in providing employment opportunities for residents. The promotion of cultural heritage is identified as an opportunity by 25.7% of respondents, whilst fostering innovation is seen as an opportunity by 5.7% of respondents, suggesting a recognition of the importance of creativity and innovation in driving the tourism industry forward.

Table 4: Businesses due to the presence of tourist attraction sites

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Type of businesses	Tour operators	12	17.1
	Accommodation provider	16	22.9
	Transportation services	8	11.4
	Travel agencies	6	8.6
	Restaurants & food services	12	17.1
	Attractions & entertainment	8	11.4
	N/A	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 5: How tourist attraction sites influence entrepreneurial opportunities

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
How tourist entertainment Sites influence entrepreneurial Opportunities	Diversification of Services	12	17.1
	Job Creation	12	17.1
	Stimulating Local Economy	24	34.3
	Promotion of Cultural Heritage	18	25.7
	Fostering Innovation	4	5.7
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

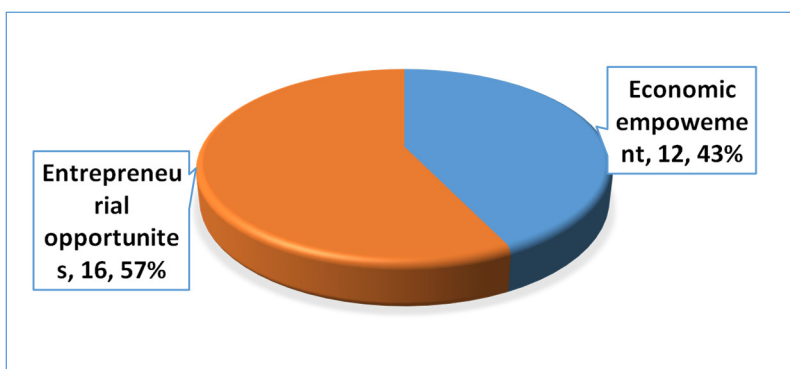


Figure 2: Tourist Attraction Sites Stimulate Community Development
Source: Field Survey, 2024

The role of tourist attraction sites in community development

From Figure 2, the majority of respondents, 88.6%, believe that tourist attraction sites play a significant role in community development. This strong affirmative response underscores the perceived importance of these sites in contributing to various aspects of community well-being. However, 11.4% of respondents indicated that tourist attraction sites do not play a significant role in community development.

Tourist attraction sites and empowerment of the local community

The data from (Table 6) shows that the majority of respondents, 88.6%, believe that tourist attraction sites contribute to the empowerment of the local community. This strong affirmative response suggests that these sites are perceived as playing a significant role in enhancing the

socio-economic well-being of the community. However, 11.4% of respondents indicated otherwise and noted that tourist attraction sites do not contribute to the empowerment of the local community.

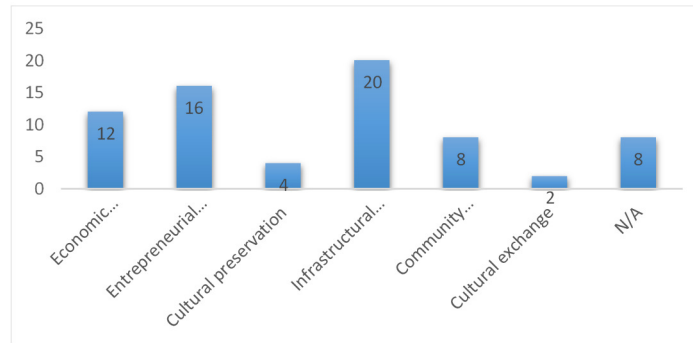
Areas of local empowerment

From (Figure 3), 17.1% of respondents cited economic empowerment as one of the areas in which tourist attraction sites empower local communities, contributing to the financial well-being of the community through job creation and income generation. The creation of entrepreneurial opportunities was mentioned by 22.9% of respondents. Cultural preservation was cited by only 5.7% of respondents, signifying the importance of these sites in preserving and promoting local culture and heritage. In addition, 28.6% of respondents mentioned infrastructural development as another area in which tourist attraction sites empower local communities. Again, community development was mentioned by 11.4% of respondents,

Table 6: Tourist attraction sites empower local communities

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tourist attraction Sites empower local communities	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

**Figure 3:** Areas Where Tourist Attraction Sites Empower Local Communities
Source: Field Survey, 2024

and cultural exchange and understanding were cited by 2.9% of respondents. However, 11.4% of respondents indicated that such sites do not empower local communities.

The role of tourist attraction sites in preserving and promoting cultural heritage

The data from (Table 7) reveals that the majority of respondents, 88.6%, are aware of the historical and cultural significance of tourist attraction sites in Sogakofe. This indicates a strong connection to and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the area. Among those familiar with the sites, cultural villages and heritage sites (11.4%), amusement parks (14.3%), historical sites and landmarks (28.6%), beaches and hotels (28.6%), and cultural performances and festivals are the most well-known. Additionally, 88.6% of respondents believe that tourist attraction sites play a role in preserving the local identity of Sogakofe, with many citing cultural preservation, cultural exchange, creation of a sense of pride, and cultural revitalization as key impacts on local identity.

Furthermore, the data from (Table 7) shows that cultural exchange activities facilitated by tourist attraction sites are common, with 45.7% of respondents having engaged in such activities. This indicates a willingness among residents to participate in cultural exchange and highlights the role of these sites in promoting cultural understanding and appreciation. However, the majority of respondents, accounting for 54.3%, intimated that they had never engaged in any such cultural exchange programmes

facilitated by tourist attraction sites in Sogakofe. Respondents also recognize the contribution of tourist attraction sites to the promotion of cultural heritage, particularly through showcasing traditional arts and crafts (45.7%), organizing cultural festivals and events (34.3%), and offering educational programs and guided tours (20.0%). Additionally, the majority of respondents consider the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Sogakofe to be important (45.7%) and very important (42.9%), respectively, underscoring the value placed on cultural heritage in the community. However, 11.4% of respondents noted that it is not important.

In terms of suggestions for improvement, respondents highlighted the importance of community involvement (5.7%), cultural education and interpretation (11.4%), capacity building (17.1%), sustainable practices (22.9%), collaboration and partnerships (22.9%), research and documentation (11.4%), and promotion and marketing (8.6%). These suggestions emphasize the need for a holistic approach to preserving and promoting cultural heritage, involving the community and stakeholders in meaningful ways to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of initiatives.

Negative impact of tourism on development of sogakofe

From the study, 88.6% of respondents answered in the affirmative that they are aware of the negative effects of tourism on the development of their community, whilst 11.4% answered in the negative. In relation to this and as

Table 7: The role of tourist attraction sites in preserving and promoting cultural heritage

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Awareness of cultural heritage	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0
Attraction sites respondents are familiar with	Cultural village sites	8	11.4
	Amusement Parks	10	14.3
	Historical sites/landmarks	20	28.6
	Beaches and hotels	20	28.6
	Cultural festivals	4	5.7
	N/A	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0
Impact on local identity	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0
Perception of tourist sites on Local identity	Cultural Preservation	8	11.4
	Cultural Exchange	16	22.9
	Creation of a sense of pride	22	31.4
	Cultural Revitalization	16	22.9
	N/A	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0
Promotion of cultural exchange	Yes	32	45.7
	No	38	54.7
Total		70	100.0
Promotion of cultural heritage	Showcasing traditional crafts	32	45.7
	Organizing cultural festivals	24	34.3
	Educational programs	14	20.0
Total		70	100.0
Perceived importance of tourist sites	Not important	8	11.4
	Important	32	45.7
	Very important	30	42.9
Total		70	100.0
Initiatives to enhance the role of tourist attraction sites in community development	Community involvement	4	5.7
	Cultural education	8	11.4
	Local capacity building	12	17.1
	Sustainable Practices	16	22.9
	Collaboration & Partnerships	16	22.9
	Research and Documentation	8	11.4
	Promotion and Marketing	6	8.6
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

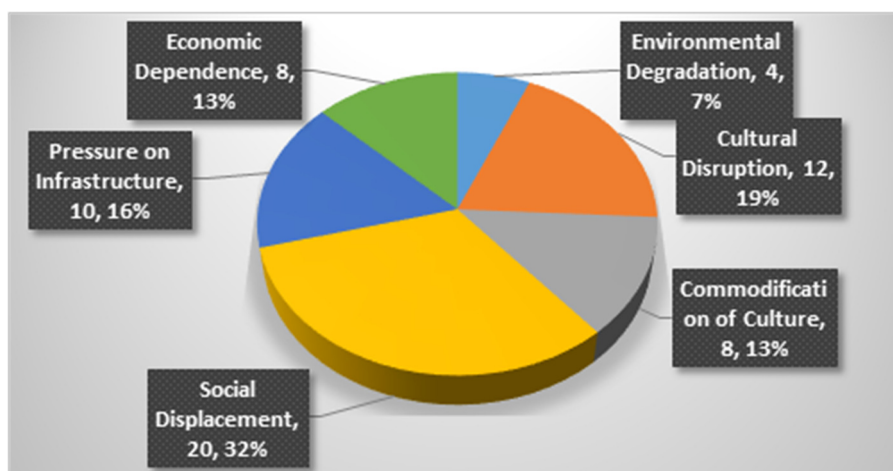


Figure 4: Awareness of the Negative Impact of Tourism among Respondents Source: Field Survey, 2024

shown in (Figure 4), respondents noted the following types of negative effects on community development; environmental degradation (5.7%), cultural disruption (17.1%), commodification of culture (11.4%), social Official Publication of Direct Research Journal of Social Science and Educational Studies. Vol. 13, 2025, ISSN: 2449-0806

Table 8: Tourism Affects Local Infrastructure

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tourism affects local infrastructure.	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total.		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 9: Areas of infrastructure affected by tourism

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Effects of tourism on infrastructure	Pressure on Accommodation	20	28.6
	Waste Management	16	22.9
	Pressure on Cultural & Heritage Sites	16	22.9
	Pressure on healthcare facilities	10	14.3
	N/A	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

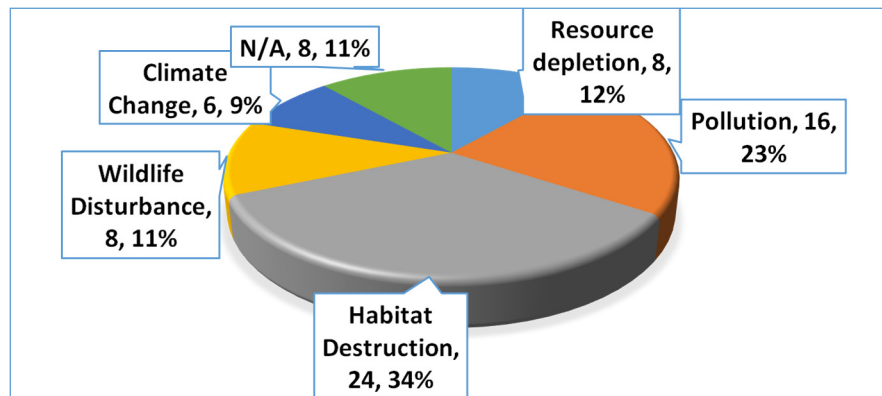


Figure 5: How tourism affects the environment
Source: Field Survey, 2024

displacement (28.6%), pressure on infrastructure (14.3%), and economic dependence (11.4%).

Local infrastructure

From (Table 8), majority of respondents accounting for 88.6% noted that tourism activities affect the infrastructure of the local economy with only 11.4% stating otherwise. In relation to (Table 9), respondents noted some of the areas where tourism affects local infrastructure according to respondents. From the responses in Table 9, respondents mentioned the following areas where tourism affects the infrastructure of local communities: pressure on accommodation (28.6%), waste management issues (22.9%), pressure on cultural and heritage sites (22.9%), and pressure on healthcare facilities (14.3%).

Local environment

From (Table 10), the majority of respondents, accounting for 88.6%, noted that tourism has a negative impact on the environment whilst 11.4% noted otherwise.

How tourism affects the environment

According to (Figure 5), 12.0%, 23.0%, and 34.0% of respondents mentioned resource depletion, pollution, and habitat destruction, respectively, as some of the environmental issues that emerge as a result of tourism. In addition, 11.0% and 34.0% mentioned wildlife disturbance and habitat destruction respectively, as some effects of tourism on the environment.

Local cultural practices

From (Table 11), the majority of respondents, accounting for 88.6%, intimated that tourism has negative effects on the cultural practices of the community, whilst 11.4% of respondents noted otherwise.

Areas where tourism affects cultural practices

From (Figure 6), respondents intimated that tourism affects various aspects of local cultural practices: cultural commodification (17.1%, n=12), cultural dilution (22.9%,

Table 10: Tourism Affects Local Environment

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tourism Affects Local Environment	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 11: Tourism affects local cultural practices

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tourism Affects Local Cultural Practices	Yes	62	88.6
	No	8	11.4
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

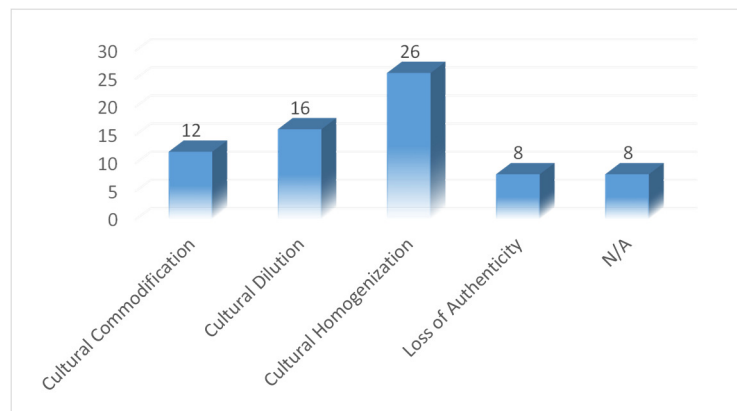


Figure 6: areas where tourism affects cultural practices
Source: Field Survey, 2024

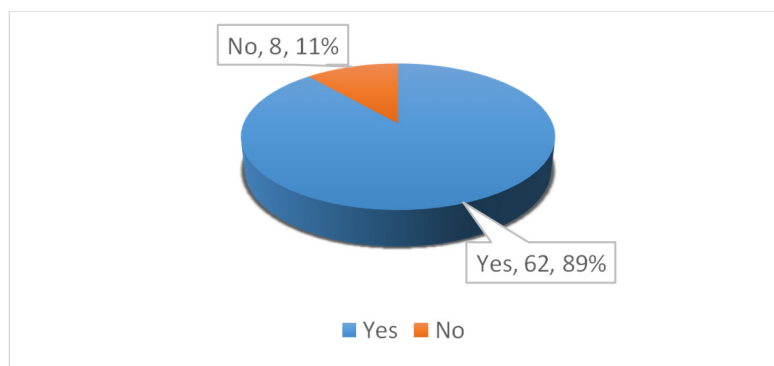


Figure 7: Tourism has a Social Impact on the Community. Source: Field Survey, 2024

n=16), cultural homogenization (37.1%, n=26), and loss of authenticity (11.4%, n=8).

Social impact of tourism

From (Figure 7), the majority of respondents, accounting for 89.0%, answered in the affirmative that tourism has a social impact on society, whilst only 11.0% of respondents

answered in the negative. About this, respondents mentioned cultural exchange and understanding (11.4%), economic opportunities (8.6%), infrastructural development (34.3%), and social interaction (34.3%).

Table 12: Measures to Mitigate the Negative Impact of Tourism on Development

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mitigating negative Impact of tourism on development	Improved infrastructure development	40	57.1
	Environmental conservation initiatives	10	14.3
	Cultural preservation programs	8	11.4
	Effective community engagement	12	17.1
Total		70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Mitigating the negative impact of tourism on community development

Mitigating measures

From (Table 12), the majority of respondents, accounting for 57.1%, mentioned improvement in infrastructure development, environmental conservation (14.3%), cultural preservation programs (11.4%), and effective community engagement (17.1%) as measures to deal with the harmful effects of tourism. According to them, these measures will help promote the community's development.

DISCUSSION

The study aimed to investigate the socio-economic impact of tourist entertainment sites on local development in Sogakofe, focusing on three main objectives: examining how these sites empower local communities, analysing their role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage, and exploring their negative impact on development.

The findings reveal that tourist attraction sites play a significant role in empowering local communities through various means. Job creation is one key aspect, with these sites providing employment opportunities for residents, particularly in the tourism sector. Entrepreneurship is also fostered, as some locals have started businesses catering to tourists, such as restaurants, handicrafts, and tour guiding services. Additionally, community development projects, often funded by revenues from tourism, have improved infrastructure and services in Sogakofe, benefiting both residents and visitors. This supports the views of Restrepo & Peterek (2024) who emphasized that community-based tourism (CBT) models actively involve residents in the management of tourism sites and the equitable distribution of its benefits. These models prioritize participatory decision-making, enabling residents to have a voice in planning and operations, which fosters a sense of ownership. Benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as profit reinvestment in local projects and employment opportunities for community members, further enhance local empowerment. The study demonstrates that CBT initiatives lead to positive outcomes, including increased economic stability, preservation of cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability. These results highlight the potential of CBT to achieve sustainable development while addressing community needs effectively.

In terms of preserving and promoting cultural heritage, the study found that tourist attraction sites are instrumental in highlighting local traditions and customs. Cultural performances, traditional festivals, and heritage tours not only attract tourists but also help residents reconnect with their cultural roots. The sites serve as platforms for cultural exchange, where locals and tourists can interact, share knowledge, and appreciate each other's cultures. However, there is a need to ensure that this cultural exchange is balanced and respectful, avoiding the risk of cultural commodification or distortion. This supports the views of Timothy (2020) who pointed out that tourist entertainment sites play a pivotal role in promoting community identity and pride by celebrating local traditions, customs, and rituals.

Despite these positive aspects, the study also revealed some negative impacts of tourism on the development of Sogakofe. One major concern is the strain on local infrastructure, particularly roads, water supply, and waste management systems. The influx of tourists can lead to overcrowding, traffic congestion, and increased pollution, posing challenges for local authorities. Additionally, there are concerns about the environmental impact of tourism, including habitat destruction, wildlife disturbance, and resource depletion. Sustainable tourism practices are essential to mitigate these negative impacts and ensure the long-term development of Sogakofe. These findings are in line with Unurlu (2021), who explored how tourism can generate both positive and negative impacts, particularly affecting resident attitudes in tourist destinations. On the negative side, the study identifies issues such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, and strain on local infrastructure as significant drawbacks of increased tourism activity. The findings of this study highlight the complex relationship between tourism and local development in Sogakofe. While tourist attraction sites can bring significant economic benefits and cultural enrichment, they also pose challenges that need to be addressed through sustainable planning and management. By promoting community involvement, preserving cultural heritage, and mitigating negative impacts, Sogakofe can harness the potential of tourism for sustainable and inclusive development.

Conclusion

The study explores the varied effects of tourist attractions in Sogakofe on local communities. These attractions

primarily drive economic growth by creating jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and aiding community development, thus improving residents' socio-economic conditions. They also play a vital role in preserving and highlighting the area's cultural heritage through local traditions, cultural events, and exchanges. However, the study also notes negative impacts, such as pressure on infrastructure, environmental damage, and disruptions to traditional practices, calling for strategic management and policies to address these issues.

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