

Exploring the Impact of Tourism on Poverty: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

This research explores the impact of tourism on poverty following a bibliometric analysis using Scopus to identify publications up to 2024, adhering to PRISMA guidelines. Bibliometric analysis was conducted using Bibliometrix, identifying prominent articles, journals, authors, and future research directions. The study identified that from 2017 to 2022, publications related to this field has increased gradually, reaching 138 in 2022. However, in 2023 and 2024, there was a decrease in publications. The Journal of Sustainable Tourism, with 1,893 citations and a 23 H-index, is the leading global publication in this field. The top authors who earned the highest H-index are Wang J, Wang Y, and Zhang Y. Further study found that the poverty alleviation is closely linked to tourism development, focusing on sustainable development, ecotourism, rural development, economic development and human aspects. The highly researched and central to the field, include keywords tourism, poverty and sustainable development. Despite the growing literature, there is a continued need for ground-level studies to understand the role of tourism in poverty alleviation. The findings provide valuable insights to policy makers, industry professionals, and academics.

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Keywords: Tourism; Poverty Alleviation; Sustainable Development; Bibliometric Analysis

Introduction

Tourism, as a multifaceted industry, has been recognized as a significant driver of many factors in an economy. Its potential to alleviate poverty, particularly in developing regions, has been a subject of extensive academic and policy discourse (UN Tourism, 2024). Tourism has a multiplier effect on local economies, as income generated from tourism-related activities often leads to increased demand for goods and services within the community, further stimulating local economic growth (Ashley & Mitchell, 2009). In 2007 Hinch & Butler have highlighted that indigenous communities generate economic benefits through cultural tourism, and it helps to promote social cohesion. Further as recent finding in (Wang et al., 2023) found that in Anhui province in China, the rural tourism development positively impacts poverty alleviation, when the government intervention, industrial structure, economic development, and fixed asset investment played a more significant role in poverty alleviation.

This overview shows that tourism is a more significant element in poverty alleviation. A research gap exists as the analysis of existing literature research focused on impact of tourism on poverty is limited. This research seeks to fill this gap by conducting research on aspects of impact of tourism on poverty reduction by bibliometric analysis. We aim to identify trends of publications, journal sources, and authors hold the most significant influence in the field, the relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation as well as potential future directions for research.

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The study will enable us to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing research landscape while shedding light on the directions towards tourism as a tool of identification of impact on poverty. By merging existing knowledge, this paper will contribute a holistic understanding of the aspects of impact of tourism on poverty, paving the way for future research directions and offering practical implications for countries striving to reduce the poverty.

Objectives of the Study

Accordingly, the following research objectives were made.

General objective: To identify the impact of tourism on poverty through a bibliometric analysis

Specific objectives:

- I. To identify the trends of publications, most global cited journals and most influential authors in the field.
- II. To identify the relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation.
- III. To identify the potential future directions for research into tourism for poverty reduction

Literature Review

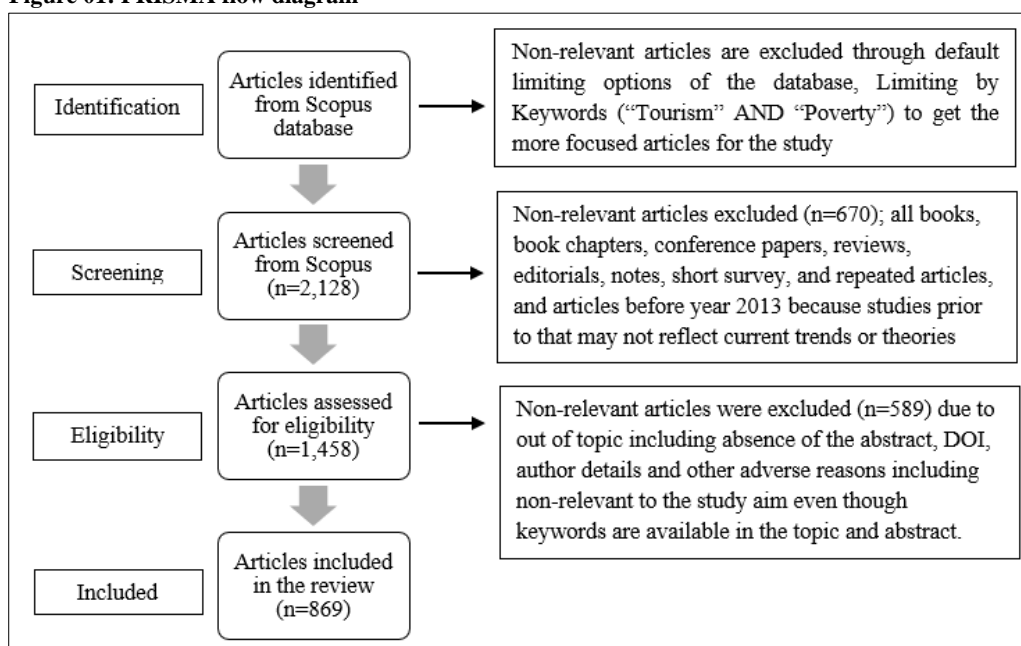
Zhao & Ritchie, 2007 contend that economic growth spurred by tourism can effectively reduce poverty, especially when inclusive policies are put in place to guarantee that the advantages are shared evenly among the local population. Many small island developing states (SIDS) owe most of their economic progress on tourism, which is frequently the only sector in these nations to have grown steadily in recent years (Scheyvens & Momsen, 2008). However, ecotourism, managed by indigenous communities, can lead to biodiversity conservation and community development. It often fails due to factors like lack of human, financial, and social capital, uneven distribution of economic benefits, and land insecurity (Coria & Calfucura, 2012). Further, (Jamal & Camargo, 2014) identified that there is a need for a justice-oriented framework in sustainable tourism, particularly for disadvantaged local groups like the poor, minority, and indigenous populations. According to research done by (Yang et al., 2021) identified that from 1988 to 2016, Jinshitan scenic area experienced continuous increases in building height, volume, and floor area ratio, 99.57% increase in non-agricultural employment, and tourism becoming the leading industry. As recent research highlights cultural, economic, infrastructural, policy, and regulatory factors as key drivers of long-term tourism growth requiring a comprehensive national plan (Nguyen et al., 2024).

Methods

The prime intention of this research was to provide valuable insights into future studies while uncovering the emerging areas of this discipline. The articles were selected adhering to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, as suggested for SLRs (Page et al., 2021). Further, the PRISMA approach is well recognized in different research fields including business and management as a standardized method for conducting SLRs (Aslam & Jawaid, 2023), (David et al., 2023), (Zahari & Kaliannan, 2023). The PRISMA framework provides a structured approach for conducting systematic reviews (Liberati et al., 2009) while it was selected due to its widespread acceptance by many researchers and the possibility of straightforward (Moher et al., 2009). The article selection process of this study followed by the PRISMA guidelines is shown in Figure 01. Bibliometric analysis was conducted utilizing the Bibliometrix, a software platform within R Studio, specifically version 4.3.3. Bibliometric analysis facilitated the identification of prominent articles, journals, authors, thematic areas, relationships and future research directions within the study field.

In the first stage of the study, the identification of relevant articles was done by searching predetermined terms in the Elsevier Scopus database. The multidisciplinary content extensively covered by the Elsevier Scopus database is seamlessly integrated and easily accessible to all users (Pranckutė, 2021). Further, the Scopus database is considered a prominent database for conducting systematic reviews and bibliometric analyses due to its reliability and widespread use in academic works as highlighted by (Pizzi et al., 2020). The search terms were carefully determined and included in the Scopus database utilizing the “AND” Boolean operation to ensure the inclusion of all relevant scholar's works. Finally, the dataset retrieval was carried out until 13th August 2024 by inserting the following search terms “Agriculture” AND “Poverty” within the title, abstract, and keywords of the existing scholar's studies. A total of 2,128 references resulted from the initial search. Then the various document types, such as books, book chapters, conference papers, reviews, editorials, notes, short survey, and repeated articles were excluded. Further articles before year 2013 excluded due to tourism and poverty literature has evolved significantly post-2013, and studies prior to that may not reflect current trends or theories (UN Tourism, 2024). Then, 1,458 publications remained. After that, 589 publications were excluded due to focusing on relevancy to the study following a meticulous manual review including. The title and abstracts of each publication were carefully screened to assess their relevancy to impact of tourism on poverty. Subsequently, only 869 articles were selected to be considered for Bibliometric Analysis as mentioned in the Figure 1.

Figure 01: PRISMA flow diagram

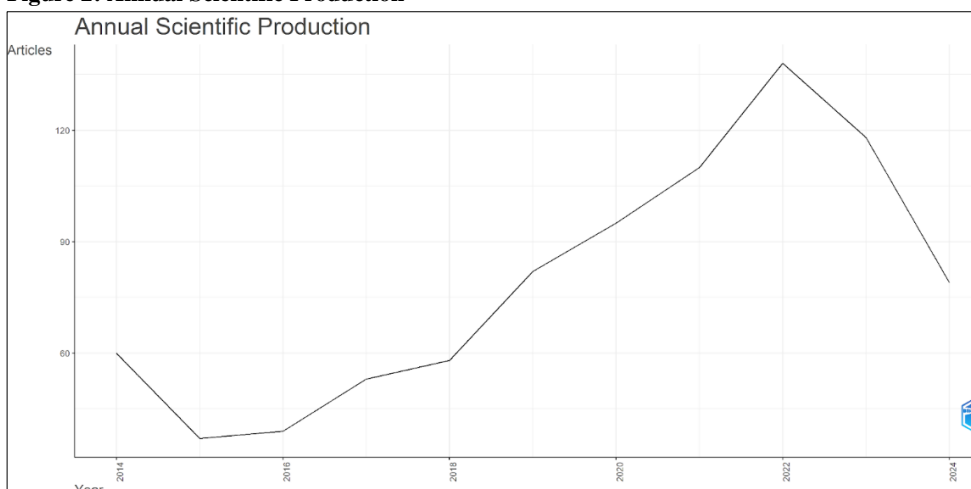


Source: Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

Results and Discussion

A. Trends of publications

After 2014, there is a drastic reduction of article publications up to 2016. To fill the research gap, researchers have begun their studies in tourism and poverty from 2017 onwards. From 2017 up to 2022 there is a gradual increase in publications. During the 2014 to 2024 period, the highest number of publications has been reported in 2022, that is 138 number of publications. Again in 2023 and 2024 publications were decreased in the fields of tourism and poverty. Accordingly, the impact of tourism on poverty is still a growing research domain and required more ground level studies such as case studies, in-depth interviews, participatory observations, progress group discussions and etc. However, it provides a positive sign of the growth of future research works.

Figure 2: Annual Scientific Production

Source: Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

B. Top 5 most global cited journals

Table 01 offers important findings regarding the most globally cited journals in the field of tourism and poverty. Journal of Sustainable Tourism is earned the highest citations which is 1,893 while having the highest H-index which is 23. It is the leading publication in this field. This figure highlights how important it is as the major means of sharing research in this field. When conducting research in this field, publications in the Journal of Sustainable Tourism would be more useful as a guide for the study.

Table 1: Top 5 most global cited journals

Journal	Publisher	h_index	g_index	m_index	Total Citations	Number of Publication	PY start
Journal of Sustainable Tourism	Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute	23	34	2.091	1893	34	2014
Sustainability (Switzerland)	Taylor & Francis	13	24	1.182	657	42	2014
Current Issues in Tourism	University of Oradea, Romania	9	12	0.818	457	12	2014
Tourism Economics	African Online Scientific Information Systems (AOSIS)	9	13	0.818	475	13	2014
Tourism Management	SAGE Publications	8	8	0.727	628	8	2014

Source: Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

C. Top 10 most influential authors

The H-index is a metric that measures both the productivity and citation impact of a researcher's published work. (BernardBecker, 2024). The results show in Table 2, the top authors as Wang J, Wang Y, and Zhang Y have the highest H-index which is 6 among the listed top 10 authors, indicating they have the most local impact based on this measure. Therefore, understanding their contributions could be valuable for anyone looking to deepen their research in the same area.

Table 2: Author's local impact by H index

Author	h_index	g_index	m_index	Total Citations	Number of Publication	PY_start
Wang J	6	9	0.545	101	14	2014
Wang Y	6	13	0.857	181	14	2018
Zhang Y	6	10	1	111	11	2019
Giampiccoli A	5	8	0.455	79	8	2014
Li J	5	7	0.833	62	12	2019
Li Y	5	10	0.833	127	10	2019
Liu J	5	5	0.556	144	5	2016
Lovelock B	5	5	0.625	147	5	2017
Wang H	5	6	0.714	54	6	2018
Bao J	4	4	0.444	71	4	2016

Source: Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

D. Co-occurrence network analysis

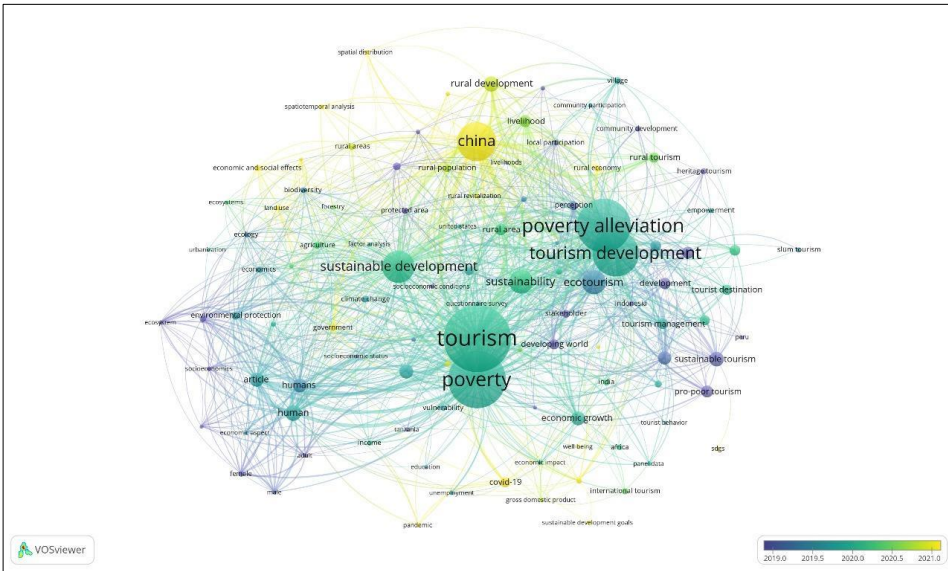
The co-occurrence analysis method enables to construct and visualise a network of emerging themes, i.e. connections within a body of text using linguistic analysis of relationships between words for pattern recognition and with nodes representing terms and edges representing the frequency of co-occurrence. The larger nodes indicating more frequent terms and thicker edges representing stronger co-occurrence relationships (Choudhary & Fränti, 2023). The network analysis in Figure 3 shows that poverty alleviation is closely linked with various aspects of tourism development, including sustainable development, sustainability, ecotourism, rural development, economic development and human. The strong connection between "poverty alleviation" and "tourism development" suggests that these are key areas of focus in the literature. The identification of distinct clusters provides insights into the specific areas where researchers are concentrating their efforts.

E. Thematic map analysis

In Figure 4, the thematic map illustrates the primary concerns within the field. The purpose behind creating such a thematic map is to gain insight into the current landscape and to assess the prospective trends in research development (Bagdi et al., 2023).

Figure 3: Co-occurrence network analysis

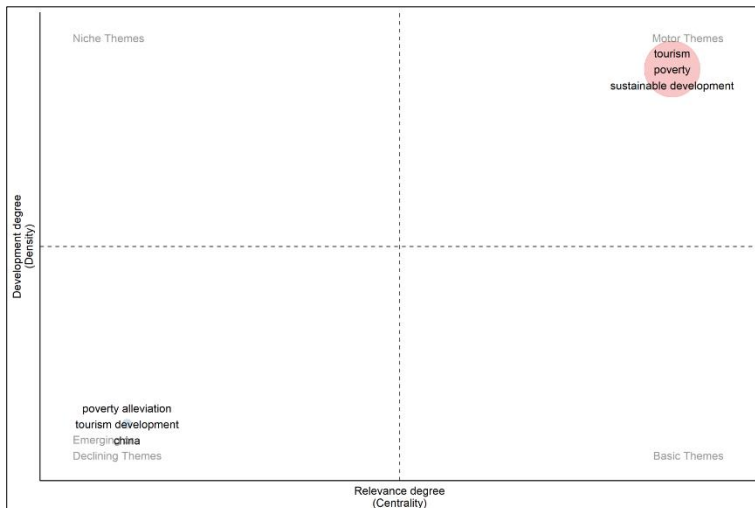
Source:



Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

Motor Themes are highly researched and central to the field, including keywords “tourism”, “poverty” and “sustainable development”. Niche Themes are specialized but important areas with lower research activity and Basic Themes are emerging areas that show promise for future research. Our study has identified that none of the keyword falls in these 2 quadrants. Emerging or Declining Themes are less active, but may either be gaining momentum or losing relevance, including keywords “poverty alleviation”, “tourism development” and “China”. It is essential for researchers to keep an eye on Emerging Themes, as they may become more significant in the future.

Figure 4: Thematic map analysis



Source: Wijesuriya & Sugathadasa, 2024

Conclusion

The impact of tourism on poverty is an evolving research area that requires more ground-level studies like case studies, in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and focus group discussions. These approaches are essential to understanding the link between tourism development and poverty

alleviation. While further research is necessary, current studies suggest a promising future for this field. Publications in the Journal of Sustainable Tourism are valuable resources for researchers, and contributions from scholars such as Wang J, Wang Y, and Zhang Y provide important insights. The strong connection between "poverty alleviation" and "tourism development" remains a central focus, with specific research clusters highlighting key areas of interest. Emerging themes like "poverty alleviation," "tourism development," and "China" are becoming increasingly significant and are crucial for future research efforts. The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers, industry professionals, and academics, providing guidance for practical applications.

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