

Does Tourism Sap Incentive to Modernize? Revisiting the Nexus Against Recent Critics

Turizm Modernleşme Şevkini Kırır mı? Eleştiriler Karşısında İlişkinin Yeniden Değerlendirilmesi

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper critically examines whether tourism undermines or promotes modernization, analyzing its economic, social, cultural, and technological effects. The study synthesizes theoretical perspectives and international case studies to assess tourism's influence on modernization trajectories, considering governance structures and policy implications for sustainable development.

Method: A comparative literature review from 1970-2025 integrates theories like Modernization and Dependency Theory with empirical evidence from countries such as China, Botswana, Spain, Indonesia, Fiji, India, Ukraine, and Bangladesh, focusing on the roles of local agency and governance.

Findings: Tourism's impact on modernization is complex and varies by context. The notion that tourism invariably diminishes modernization incentives is unsubstantiated; outcomes depend on governance, policies, and local engagement.

Practical Implications: Effective governance and inclusive policies are vital for ensuring tourism supports sustainable development and modernization. Community participation helps maximize benefits and address drawbacks, aligning tourism with local values and needs.

Originality/Scientific Contribution: This study provides a systematic, multi-contextual review of tourism's role in modernization, challenging simplistic claims and highlighting the importance of governance and local agency in shaping outcomes.

Keywords: Tourism, Modernization, Modernization theory, Dependency theory

Özet

Amaç: Bu çalışma, son yıllarda artan turizm eleştirileri çerçevesinde turizmin modernleşme şevkini azaltıp azaltmadığını eleştirel biçimde incelemekte ve turizmin ekonomik, toplumsal, kültürel ve teknolojik ilerlemeyi destekleme potansiyelini değerlendirmektedir. Araştırma, turizmin modernleşme üzerindeki etkilerinin niteliğini, yönetim yapılarının bu süreci nasıl şekillendirdiğini ve turizme bağımlı ekonomiler açısından ortaya çıkan sürdürülebilir kalkınma politika sonuçlarını analiz etmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem: Çalışma, 1970–2025 yılları arasında yayımlanmış hakemli akademik çalışmalara dayanan karşılaştırmalı bir literatür taramasına dayanmaktadır. Modernleşme Teorisi ve Bağımlılık Teorisi başta olmak üzere temel kuramsal yaklaşımlar; Çin, Botswana, İspanya, Endonezya, Fiji, Hindistan, Ukrayna ve Bangladeş örnekleri üzerinden karşılaştırmalı olarak ele alınmıştır.

Bulgular: Turizmin modernleşme üzerindeki etkilerinin bağlama duyarlı ve çok boyutlu olduğunu göstermektedir. Turizmin modernleşme motivasyonunu zayıflattığı yönündeki "şevkin kırılması" tezinin indirgemeci olduğu; sonuçların büyük ölçüde yönetim biçimleri, politika çerçeveleri ve yerel aktörlerin kapasitesine bağılı olarak şekillendiği sonucuna varılmaktadır.

Pratik Çıkarımlar: Politika yapıcılarının ekonomik çeşitlendirmeye, toplumsal adalete ve çevresel sürdürülebilirliğe öncelik vermesi gerekmektedir. Yerel toplulukların turizmin etkilerine maruz kalması, bu etkileri uyarlaması veya stratejik olarak müzakere etmesi; potansiyel faydaların maksimize edilmesi ve olası olumsuzlukların azaltılması açısından belirleyicidir. Bu yaklaşım, yerel seslerin marjinalleşmesini önlemekte ve turizm gelişiminin yerel değer ve önceliklerle uyumlu biçimde ilerlemesini sağlayarak çok faaliyetli bir yerel ekonomi içinde sürdürülebilir modernleşmeyi teşvik etmektedir.

Özgünlük/Bilimsel Katkı: Bu çalışma, turizm ile modernleşme arasındaki ilişkiyi çok bağlamli ve eleştirel bir çerçevede inceleyerek alanyazına özgün bir katkı sunmakta; turizmin modernleşme şevkini zayıflattığı yönündeki tezi sistematik biçimde sorgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Turizm, Modernleşme, Modernleşme teorisi, Bağımlılık teorisi

Introduction

Rapid tourism developments around the globe have cultivated the debates around its role in modernization. Tourism boosts the economy and promotes culture, yet critics say it creates dependency, restricts cultural progress, and increases inequality, undermining modernization efforts. This debate has

become prominent in Europe, where worries about tourism hindering growth and impacting historic cities have entered public discussion. Notable interventions by Ganesh (2018, 2024) have galvanized critical discussion by asserting that Europe's reliance on tourism fosters arrested development and intellectual inertia, leading to the perpetuation of traditionalism at the expense of economic diversification and progress. It is unclear whether Ganesh's (2024) link between "mental inertia/laziness" and weaker modernization impulses relates more to individuals' ability to adapt to rapid change (Berman, 1982) or to broader processes like individualization, rationalization, and secularization stemming from changing identities and declining traditions (Giddens, 1991).

Considering the revived interest outside of the academia, tourism and modernization nexus deserve further elaboration. The central research questions guiding this research are:

- Does tourism undermine or promote incentives to modernize?
- Does governance structure mediate tourism's effects on modernization?
- What are the policy implications for sustainable development in tourism-dependent economies?

By synthesizing theoretical perspectives and various cases across diverse contexts, this study aims to provide a nuanced and critical assessment of tourism's role in shaping modernization trajectories.

Literature Review

Modernization and Dependency Theories

Modernization is driven by economic development, industrialization, education, urbanization, technological innovation, and political reform (Weber, 1922; Schumpeter, 1942; Durkheim, 1956; Gerschenkron, 1962; Trow, 1973; Rostow, 1991; Rogers, 2003; Huntington, 2009). Modernization Theory conceptualizes modernization as a linear progression from traditional to industrialized, rationalized societies (Chaudhary, 2013). Indicators like GDP growth, political involvement, changing values, and demographic patterns are commonly used to measure it (Inglehart & Welzel, 2005; Norris & Inglehart, 2011).

Modernization Theory posits that tourism can be a powerful engine for economic and social transformation, facilitating shifts from agrarian to service economies, stimulating infrastructure investment, and promoting cultural exchange (Cohen, 1988; Sharpley, 2003; 2014; Richards, 2007; UNWTO, 2018). It is viewed as a major vehicle for economic development, job creation, and modernization, particularly in-developing regions seeking to emulate advanced economies (Zhu, Airey, & Siriphon, 2021).

Dependency Theory and related critical frameworks challenge the unidirectional and universalist assumptions of Modernization Theory, arguing that tourism can reinforce economic dependency, cultural commodification, and social inequality, thus perpetuating underdevelopment (MacCannell, 1976; Greenwood, 1977; Sinclair, 1998; Wallerstein, 2011). Researchers argue that dependence on external capital, foreign investment, and tourism revenue causes economic leakage and limits local diversification and agency. Cultural critics also note that tourism's pursuit of authenticity often commodifies and rigidifies local traditions, reducing their value and adaptability (MacCannell, 1976; Greenwood, 1977).

Critical Perspectives on the Tourism-Modernization Nexus

While some studies highlight tourism's capacity to foster economic growth, infrastructure development, and cultural exchange (Sharpley, 2003; Richards, 2007; WTTC, 2020), others underscore its potential to engender economic dependence, cultural erosion, and social inequity (Sinclair, 1998; Mbaiwa, 2011; Dredge & Jenkins, 2012). Research from diverse contexts suggest that the relationship between tourism and modernization is highly context specific, shaped by governance structures, local strategies, and broader socio-economic variables (Mbaiwa, 2011; Chadha & Onkar, 2016; Rongna & Sun, 2022). Andriotis (2003) states that unmanaged tourism in Crete causes environmental and social problems due to inadequate planning and limited stakeholder input.

The extent and nature of these impacts are often contingent on the degree of local agency and the effectiveness of policy frameworks in place (Russo, 2002; Richards & Wilson, 2006; Degen & García, 2012). Proactive, inclusive city governance enables tourism to renew urban areas, attract investment, and spur social innovation.

Ganesh (2018, 2024) points out that while tourism boosts European city economies, it can also lead to stagnation and hinder development. Ganesh (2024) describes this phenomenon as “lucrative stagnation” and “intellectual inertia,” particularly evident in regions like Southern Europe where tourism dominates economic activity. The literature agrees that tourism’s impact on modernization varies by context and requires careful, data-driven analysis.

Methodology

This research is based on a comparative analysis of literature to shed light onto the tourism-modernization nexus. The review process involved:

- Comprehensive search of academic databases (e.g., Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR) using keywords “tourism,” “modernization,” “Modernization Theory,” “Dependency Theory,” “economic development,” “cultural change,”
- Inclusion of peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, and seminal works published primarily in English from 1970 to 2025.
- Selection of contexts from varied geographic, socioeconomic, and governance backgrounds: China, Botswana, Spain, Indonesia, Fiji, Ukraine, India, and Bangladesh.

Considering the abundance of the studies and length of the chosen period, selection process based on the dichotomy of modernization-dependency. Studies do not primarily focus on tourism and its effects on modernization are eliminated. Therefore, while highlighting the modernization horizon in the context of tourism, it does not claim reflecting all the possible sources in the analyses. To be able to observe effects of tourism on modernization in various contexts, destinations were selectively chosen by the authors. Hence, even though it offers a comprehensive analysis of the modernization-dependency debate it may not shed light onto all the possible modernization journeys. ., these are the things to be highlighted: it’s possible that published studies included for analysis may not present the full picture. Besides findings might be highly context-dependent at some points. Since modernization may not be considered a one way journey to a better future, relying on studies only in English might limit the reflection of alternative journeys in other contexts.

Findings

Thematical Analysis of Tourism’s Impact on Modernization

Economic dimensions

Tourism’s economic impact on modernization is multifaceted and context dependent. For instance, in China, tourism has played a central role in rural revitalization, stimulating economic growth, increasing residents’ income, and creating new employment opportunities, particularly in rural and ethnic minority areas (Sofield & Li, 1998; Jin et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2024; M. Li et al., 2025; T. Li et al., 2025; Sun et al., 2025; Wang & Sun, 2025). The sector’s expansion has necessitated investments in airports, roads, hotels, telecommunications, and banking services, benefiting both tourists and the broader economy (Mbaiwa, 2011; Ai et al., 2025; M. Li et al., 2025).

Botswana’s Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program, led by tourism, shifted subsistence economies to cash economies and created jobs and income for locals (Mbaiwa, 2011). In Ukraine and Thailand, tourism has bolstered local financial potential and living standards, increased tax revenues, and supported small-to-medium enterprises (Bakalo et al., 2025; Sangkaew et al., 2025).

Tourism can drive industrial growth by boosting sectors like food processing, manufacturing, and the creative industries, as seen in China (M. Li et al., 2025). Foreign direct investment in tourism can introduce international operational standards, pushing the value chain upward and creating high-value-

added jobs (Wang et al., 2025). In Spain, residential tourism has led to a rapid increase in services and facilities in urban environments, contributing to demographic recovery in depopulation-risk towns (Mantecon, 2010).

Economic distortions, inflation, and rising living costs can disproportionately affect less wealthy and politically marginalized groups, while benefits accrue to external enterprises and investors (Sinclair, 1998; Dredge & Jenkins, 2012; Chadha & Onkar, 2016). The tourism industry is often criticized for generating low-paying, seasonal jobs and for its limited capacity to stimulate “real” economic advancement for local populations (Roche, 1992; Pratt et al., 2016). Hashimoto (2014) notes that while tourism may affect living conditions, quality of life, and societal welfare, these concepts lack concrete measures such as mortality rates, literacy, healthcare access, clean water, freedom, or political autonomy, making tourism's impact difficult to assess.

The dominance of tourism is associated with rising property values and a proliferation of tourism-focused businesses. These trends frequently make it more difficult for residents to afford living and working in their own cities. As tourism increasingly shapes local economies, there is a risk that both public and private investment in broader modernization initiatives—those that would benefit local communities and diversify economic opportunities—may decline (Gotham, 2005).

Social and cultural dimensions

Tourism's social and cultural effects on modernization are equally complex. In China, tourism has introduced host communities to new lifestyles and consumption behaviors, leading to enhanced social integration and the adoption of modern leisure practices (Wang & Sun, 2025). The “tourism demonstration effect” can inspire the imitation of modern lifestyles and attitudes, contributing to shifts in value systems (Wang & Sun, 2025). The push for authenticity often simplifies and changes local customs, weakening cultural identity and traditions (MacCannell, 1976; Greenwood, 1977). Tourism can commodify and degrade cultures. In Fiji, tourism has sometimes imposed non-Fijian values, causing ancient traditions to lose their original significance (Pratt et al., 2016). In Indonesia, integrating traditional practices into tourism risks diluting local customs (Ningrum & Abdullah, 2025). The portrayal of ethnic minorities as exotic for tourism purposes can create “internal colonialism” and neglect deeper community implications (Sofield & Li, 1998).

Tourism fosters cultural exchange, strengthens cultural identity, and aids heritage preservation, particularly in ethnic groups (Chen, 2014). In Fiji, it has helped sustain traditional dances and crafts that could have disappeared (Pratt et al., 2015). In rural China, increased economic involvement in tourism has empowered women, strengthening their household decision-making power and challenging traditional gender norms (T. Li et al., 2025). The introduction of tourism diploma and degree courses in Chinese universities has contributed to the modernization of the educational system and skill development in hospitality and related sectors (Sofield & Li, 1998; M. Li et al., 2025).

Tourism can negatively affect local social structures, often benefiting powerful groups such as corporations (Bramwell, 2011). Visitors who disregard local customs may disrupt social organization and alter residents' lifestyles (Smith, 1989). In China, top-down governance structures can restrict local agency and exacerbate tensions when culture is commoditized for tourism (Rongna & Sun, 2022; Fan, 2024). In India, tourism can cause misunderstandings, and conflicts due to language and value differences (Chadha & Onkar, 2016). The unequal distribution of tourism's benefits can increase social inequalities, particularly in free-market environments (Sangkaew et al., 2025).

Technological and institutional innovation dimensions

Technological and institutional innovation are critical dimensions to understand tourism's impact on modernization. The digital economy has boosted tourism's impact by integrating markets, lowering transaction costs, and broadening tourism activities (Sofield & Li, 1998; Cardoso et al., 2024). Along with technology, collaboration and an innovative culture are key for open innovation in tourism, enabling process modernization and competitive services. Social media and digital platforms have further boosted locals' participation in tourism production and consumption (Chen et al., 2024). For example, in Italy's Campania Region, active support for digital transition and modernization in public administration and production systems has fostered innovation in tourism (Luongo et al., 2023).

Public-private partnerships and collaborative governance in tourism reflect political modernization trends (Dredge & Jenkins, 2012). However, critics point out that technocratic, top-down approaches may sideline local voices and favor capital interests over democracy and social justice (Ai et al., 2025).

Environmental dimensions

Tourism's environmental impacts can undermine the sustainability of modernization. Mass tourism often results in pollution, ecosystem destruction, and strain on local resources and infrastructure (Mantecon, 2010; Mbaiwa, 2011; Chadha & Onkar, 2016; Xu et al., 2024; M. Li et al., 2025; Sangkaew et al., 2025). As observed in Botswana's Okavango Delta and Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, rising energy demand from tourism has increased environmental vulnerabilities (Andreoni & Jeyacheya, 2025). Domestic tourism growth in Spain has caused notable environmental impacts, as rapid expansion can exceed energy efficiency measures and result in unsustainable development, especially in countries dependent on energy imports (Mantecon, 2010).

Environmental effects might create undesirable social situations. Those with power and wealth tend to benefit, while environmental harm, higher land and construction costs, and less affordable housing have a greater negative effect on disadvantaged groups (Hall & Lew, 2009; Dredge & Jenkins, 2012).

Multi-Context Cases

China

Tourism has emerged as an effective vehicle for synthesizing some of the differences through its contribution to the modernization process, its utilization of heritage for product development, and its role in meeting some socialist objectives (Sofield & Li, 1998). Tourism has been a driving force behind rural revitalization, supporting economic growth, increasing residents' income, and creating new jobs, particularly in rural and ethnic minority areas (Sofield & Li, 1998; Jin et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2024; M. Li et al., 2025; T. Li et al., 2025; Sun et al., 2025; Wang & Sun, 2025). The sector stimulates industrial upgrading by promoting related industries and attracting foreign direct investment, contributing to economic growth and restructuring as well as agricultural transformation (M. Li et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2025; Rongna & Sun, 2022; Sofield & Li, 1998; Tianyu Li et al., 2025).

Infrastructure investments made to support tourism benefit not only visitors but also the broader economy. Improvements in public services such as transportation and hospitality facilitate both tourism and economic development (Ai et al., 2025; M. Li et al., 2025).

Tourism strengthens cultural identity and fosters cultural exchange, particularly through theme parks which serve as platforms for showcasing diverse traditions (Sofield & Li, 1998; Chen, 2014). Women's economic roles in tourism have boosted their household decision-making (T. Li et al., 2025). Tourism also shifts consumption habits and increases social integration in indigenous communities (Wang & Sun, 2025).

Tourism education has played a role in modernizing the academic system, fostering skill development and supporting the sector's continued growth (Sofield & Li, 1998; M. Li et al., 2025). The digital economy further enhances tourism's transformative effects and modernization processes (Sofield & Li, 1998; Cardoso et al., 2024).

Impacts of tourism vary regionally in China. Unlike inlands, coastal areas have experienced stronger effects (M. Li et al., 2025). In border villages, locals have engaged in "polite politics," demonstrating adaptive negotiation rather than outright resistance to tourism's changes (Han & Lin, 2025). Endogenous tourism has helped revive ethnic practices that were previously lost under modernization pressures (Chen, 2014).

Cultural commodification is a significant concern, as state-driven tourism initiatives may portray minority groups as "exotic," which can perpetuate internal colonialism (Trevor et al. 1998). Besides concerns about cultural commodification, environmental degradation and gentrification are prevalent in rural and historic cities (M. Li et al., 2025; Kan & Sun, 2024; Ai et al., 2025). Governance systems designed to accelerate development can restrict community participation, sometimes resulting in "forced modernization" (Ai et al., 2025).

India

Tourism in India has played a significant role in expanding the cultural identity and fostering economic development. Tourism generates substantial economic opportunities by creating jobs and supporting local businesses, contributing to the overall growth and modernization of the nation (Chadha & Onkar, 2016).

While tourism grows rapidly, it brings challenges such as congestion that strains infrastructure and disrupts residents' lives. The increased presence of luxury goods, alcohol, drugs, and sex-related services can raise crime rates and foster social comparison, which may weaken traditional norms and community ties (Chadha & Onkar, 2016).

Spain

Tourism's role in Spain's modernization is increasingly questioned, as its transformative influence decreases (Pack, 2008). However, tourism, especially residential tourism, still drives urban growth and expands city services (Mantecon, 2010). Residential tourism has played a central role in Spain's modernization, especially by generating employment opportunities and supporting demographic recovery in areas that previously faced depopulation (Manceton, 2010). However, this urban expansion is not without its drawbacks. It has led to environmental degradation and created social tensions within expanding urban areas, highlighting the trade-offs associated with tourism-driven growth (Mantecon, 2010).

In rural Spain, residents play an active role in using tourism to shape their communities and reinforce their rural identity. This local involvement demonstrates endogenous development, as people leverage tourism to maintain and redefine rural life based on their own values (Ruiz-Ballesteros & González-Portillo, 2025).

Indonesia

In Indonesia, integrating traditional practices into tourism offers economic benefits and cultural exposure but risks undermining local customs. Adapting traditions for tourists can dilute their meaning and threaten cultural preservation (Ningrum & Abdullah, 2025).

Local communities respond differently to modernization. The Baduy tribe actively resists tourism-related pressures by protecting their sacred lands and maintaining traditional customs, demonstrating cultural agency and dedication to preserving tradition (Ningrum & Abdullah, 2025). In contrast, the Benda Kerep community illustrates a different approach, demonstrating that modernization and the maintenance of established customs are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Their experience challenges the notion that modernization inevitably leads to cultural erosion, suggesting a more nuanced trajectory where communities can navigate change while preserving core aspects of their identity (Ningrum & Abdullah, 2025).

Tourism in Bali has caused environmental and cultural issues, leading to eco-tourism and preservation efforts alongside modernization in Bali while, Singapore has successfully merged tourism with modern development, building a thriving industry while improving infrastructure and technology (Henderson, 2011).

Indonesian tourism policy shows the state's strong influence on modernization, which can limit cultural preservation and democratic participation. These findings suggest a need for more inclusive governance and greater community involvement in tourism and cultural decision-making (Ningrum & Abdullah, 2025).

Fiji

Tourism in Fiji has played a significant role in sustaining cultural practices. However, the influence of tourism has not been entirely positive. The introduction of external values through tourist interactions and industry demands has contributed to shifts in local norms and social dynamics. As a result, some aspects of Fijian society have experienced growing social inequality, with the benefits of tourism unevenly distributed among different groups. This complex interplay highlights the dual nature of

tourism's impact in Fiji—simultaneously supporting cultural continuity while also introducing challenges related to external influences and social disparities (Pratt et al., 2015; 2016).

Bangladesh

The positive outcomes of tourism are particularly pronounced when tourism initiatives are designed to align with the ecological values held by residents, ensuring that development respects environmental priorities and community preferences in Bangladesh. Despite these benefits, the expansion of tourism also brings significant challenges. When tourism activities undermine local values, they can lead to environmental degradation and spark social tensions within the community. Such circumstances often prompt local resistance to tourism-driven change and encourage residents to selectively adopt modern influences, embracing only those elements of modernization that are compatible with their cultural and ecological priorities (Arshadul Islam et al., 2025).

Botswana

Tourism has fundamentally transformed Botswana's economy and society. The CBNRM (Community-Based Natural Resource Management) Program, mainly driven by tourism, shifted communities from subsistence activities to a cash-based system, creating new jobs and income (Mbaiwa, 2011). Tourism growth has led to major investments in infrastructure like airports, roads, hotels, telecommunications, and banking services (Mbaiwa, 2011). However, increased tourism heightens environmental pressures in areas such as the Okavango Delta, raising sustainability challenges. Tourism also brings social change, with new livelihoods, modern housing, and greater use of foreign goods becoming part of daily life (Mbaiwa, 2011).

Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper demonstrates that the relationship between tourism and modernization is complex, context-dependent, and mediated by a constellation of economic, social, cultural, technological, and environmental factors. While tourism can foster economic growth, infrastructure development, and social transformation, it can also engender dependency, cultural commodification, and social inequality, particularly in the absence of effective governance and local agency.

The assertion that tourism inherently “saps the incentive to modernize” is overly reductive and unsupported by the breadth of empirical evidence. Tourism may lead to economic dependence, cultural commodification, and social inequity without strong governance, but it can also drive modernization, diversify economies, and transform societies (Sharpley & Telfer, 2014; UNWTO, 2018). The literature demonstrates that communities often negotiate, adapt, and selectively integrate tourism with traditional practices, exercising agency rather than succumbing to passive decline (Han & Lin, 2025; Rongna & Sun, 2022).

Tourism's effect on modernization varies based on governance, local community participation, economic adaptability, and alignment with local values and objectives (Dredge & Jenkins, 2012; Roche, 1992; Mbaiwa, 2011; Chen, 2014). When tourism is managed through technocratic, top-down methods that overlook local perspectives and favor external interests over those of the community, it may reduce motivation for modernization (Gouldson, 1996; Arshadul Islam et al., 2025; Ai et al., 2025).

Emphasizing diversification, equity, and sustainability in policy ensures tourism contributes to broad development. Strong governance and inclusive policies help tourism drive sustainable progress. Collaborations between public and private sectors, participatory planning, and flexible management can maximize tourism's benefits and reduce risks (Dredge & Jenkins, 2012).

Cases in China, Indonesia, and Spain show how local actors maintain culture, encourage inclusive growth, and guide modernization according to their values. Local agencies play a pivotal role in mediating tourism's effects. Communities that actively engage with, adapt to, or strategically negotiate the influences of tourism are better positioned to harness its benefits and mitigate its drawbacks (Han & Lin, 2025; Ruiz-Ballesteros & González-Portillo, 2025).

Tourism can boost economies, improve infrastructure, and promote cultural exchange, but it may also undermine cultural authenticity, harm the environment, and affect social equity. The ultimate

outcome depends on the capacity of local actors and institutions to balance economic imperatives with the preservation of local values and resources (Mbaiwa, 2011; Chen, 2014; Ruiz-Ballesteros & González-Portillo, 2025).

The diversity of outcomes observed across case studies underscores the importance of context-specific analysis and the limitations of universal generalizations. Methodological challenges, such as the difficulty of separating tourism's effects from broader modernization processes and the reliance on aggregate data, further complicate efforts to draw definitive conclusions (Han & Lin, 2025; Arici & Koseoglu, 2025; Sangkaew et al., 2025).

Future research should empirically examine the interplay between tourism dependency and modernization indicators such as economic diversification, technological innovation, and cultural change. Key questions include the impact of tourism on quality of life, economic development, cultural dynamics, and the capacity for sustainable, locally driven progress. Methodological innovations, comparative case studies, and participatory approaches are needed to deepen understanding of the tourism-modernization nexus and inform policy development.

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AUTHOR DECLARATION FOR THE MANUSCRIPT

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Conflict of Interest Declaration

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Informed Consent Form Declaration

There are no human participants (informed consent is not required).

The study is based on secondary data / document review (informed consent is not required).

Ethics Committee Approval Declaration

Ethics committee approval is not required.

Ethics Approval Declaration

The author(s) declare that the relevant ethical principles, research, and publication ethics rules stated in the ["ethical principles and publication policy"](#) section of the journal were followed in conducting and reporting the study.

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Data Availability Statement: The data and materials used in this research were derived from publicly accessible secondary sources, including images, videos, statistics, reports, and related documents. No original/primary dataset was generated in this study. All sources used are cited in the text and listed in the references.

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Author Contribution Roles Declaration*

Contribution Roles	Description	Name and Surname of Contributing Author(s)
Conceptualization / Creation of Theoretical Framework	Generating ideas; creating and developing comprehensive research goals and objectives, conceptual/theoretical framework, and hypotheses related to the study.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Investigation / Implementation	Conducting research and investigation processes, specifically performing experiments, or data/evidence collection.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Methodology	Development or design of methodology; creation of models, collection, analysis of study data, or application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other techniques to synthesize relevant data.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Project / Research Administration	Management and coordination of the planning and execution of research activities, including mentorship, oversight, and leadership responsibility for planning and executing research activities.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Visualization	Preparation, creation, and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Writing – Original Draft	Writing the initial draft of the published work (including comprehensive translation), its preparation, creation, and/or presentation. Preparation, creation, and/or presentation of critical reviews, comments, or revisions, including pre- or post-publication stages.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı
Writing – Review & Editing / Final Check	Finalizing the study based on feedback from relevant boards (journal boards, reviewers, etc.), making necessary corrections/edits, and uploading to the journal system.	Sedat Yüksel / Hidayet Kışlalı

*In determining the contribution role categories stated in the author declaration, the “Contributor Roles Taxonomy ([Allen, O’Connell, & Kiermer, 2019](#))” was utilized.