



# AN INVESTIGATION OF SYMBIOTIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

**Purpose of this study:** Growth in the tourism sector helps in the reduction of poverty, maintenance of macroeconomic equilibrium by creating employment opportunities, earning foreign currencies, reduction of excessive dependence on a foreign country for their own development, reduction of the deficit of the current account of the balance of payment, etc. This study aims to acquaint deeply with the relationship between tourism and development so that we can check complexities, gaps, comparability, and the sustainability of impact on each other.

**Methodology:** Secondary sources of data are used in this descriptive research.

**Main findings of my study:** There is a symbiotic relationship between tourism and development and one cannot be separated from others and both are the causes of each other. From the empirical study of different countries with the co-integration method, it is proved that tourism has always been positively related to development.

**Applications of my study:** The study will be helpful to students, research scholars, different government & nongovernmental officials who are interested in any activities relating to tourism, environment and economy, academicians, environmentalists, tourists, and anyone interested in knowing the symbiotic relationship between tourism and development.

**Novelty/Originality of this study:** The novelty of the study lies in the hardness of finding such litterateurs, which are directly related to finding the symbiotic relations between tourism and development. The relations between the two are not one way or simple, there are many other factors like environment, externality, the spillover effect of government activities, etc. that affects the relationship. In this study, I tried to take all of this together to study the symbiotic relationship between tourism and development.

**Keywords:** *Tourism, Economic Growth, Development, Sustainable Tourism, Macroeconomic Equilibrium.*

## INTRODUCTION

We all know that; tourism is one of the most important sectors contributing to the development of a nation. It is enhanced by the level of development of a country and it is also to some extent responsible for the development of a country. So, the relationship between tourism and development is a symbiotic one.

The tourism sector depends on the level of development of a country. The communication and transportation sector system creates the path of development of tourism. In India, after the introduction of the rail system in 1853, the growth of tourism is said to have started. The transport system comprising the waterway, railway, roadway, and airway all are an important factor for tourism. Generally, tourists are attracted to the place of natural beauty consisting of sun, sand, water, and a place of historical importance, a site of cultural heritage, a place with ecological diversity, wildlife reserves, etc. So, proper care should be put forward to such places for development.

Tourism though is a fundamental sector of the global economy for its positive impact on income, foreign exchange, employment, economic linkage, revenue generation, environmental benefit, etc. But tourism is often associated with the phrase 'development dilemma', it is because it's the negative impact on location-specific factors and indigenous people, and most important is from an environmental perspective.

Ohlan (2007) in their study covered the period from 1960-2014 data, using newly developed Bayer and Hacked combined test found that the tourism, financial development, and financial development are co-integrated.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

There are huge numbers of literature available on the relationship between tourism and development. It is one of the most important subjects of discussion in the present scenario. Many pieces of literature focused on the function of the tourism industry as 'the driving engine of the development of some developing economy'. In other words, most kinds of literature provide a positive impact on tourism for the development of a country or nation as a whole.

Shahbaz et al. (2016) examined the tourism growth nexus for Malaysia by incorporating financial development and trade openness from 1975 to 2013.

[Basarir and Cackir \(2015\)](#) investigated the causal relationship between tourism and financial development, energy consumptions, and carbon emission in Turkey and four other European Union countries. They found a causal relationship between tourist arrival and financial development.

The majority of studies relied upon [Engle & Granger's \(1987\)](#) two steps approach and found out the positive relationship between inbound tourism and development in the long run.

[Ghosh \(2015\)](#) clearly emphasized the importance of the development of the agriculture, industrial, and tourism sector to bring more money in an economy.

[Beneet & Radburn \(1991\)](#) also stated the importance of tourism for commercial purposes rather than making a political issue with the help of an investment project to finance tourism.

[Zolfani et al. \(2015\)](#) in their article "Sustainable tourism: a comprehensive literature review on frameworks and applications", the importance of sustainable tourism in context to progress research.

[Calero and Turner \(2019\)](#), on 'Regional economic development and tourism', stated the functions played by tourism in the development of a region.

Tourism has not only a limited function of creating employment and collections of revenue. But also, it has a contribution to society, politics, economy, culture, and most importantly to the environment. From the perspective of the environment, the impact of tourism is found both positive and negative. So, the necessary steps should be taken to minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive effects of mass tourism to environmental balance.

## OBJECTIVES

Tourism is the world's largest industry having a huge commercial gain. The creation of potential and rapid industries in a country can be an attainable goal with the development of the tourism sector.

Thus, the main objective of this study is to find out the extent of the symbiotic relationship between tourism and development. There are some sub-objectives as mentioned below: To study how the environment is affected by mass tourism.

1. To know-how development of a country increases tourist arrival.
2. To focus on how sustainable tourism can lead to inclusive growth.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

For the study of the symbiotic relationship between tourism and development, the researcher followed the methodology of the study in-depth about theoretical research methodology. For this purpose, I have studied various literature and try to analyze the major sources of the relationship between tourism and development. The researcher has used various e-journals, articles, the internet, and Google Scholar in this regard.

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

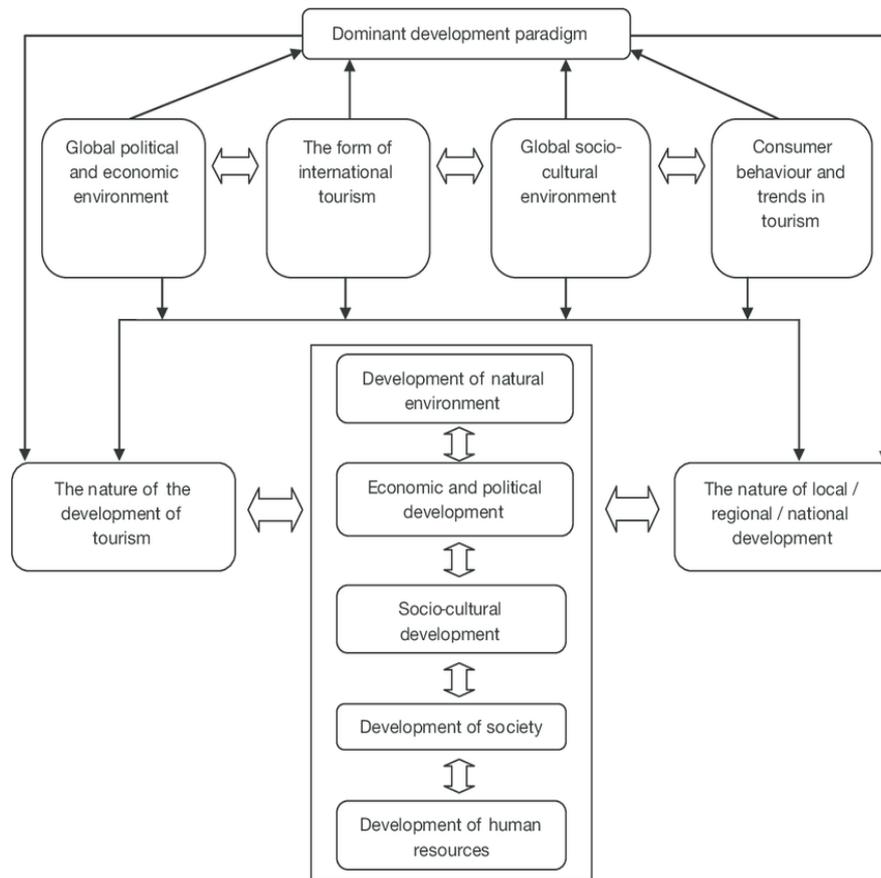
From the study of the relationship between tourism and development, it is found that tourism is the world's fourth fastest-growing sector after the fuels, chemicals, and food. In the year 2014, tourism accounts for 6% of the world's total merchandise and service export that represents 30% of international trade in services [Shakouri\\*, et al. \(2017\)](#). Besides 9.8% of world GDP (Gross Domestic Product) originates from the tourism sector at the same time. Moreover, the importance of inter-tourism on the national economy is increasing because of growing the size of the tourist market.

The impact of tourism on the development of a country can be stated in following headings-

1. According to [Dharmik \(2013\)](#) tourism significantly contributes to foreign exchange reserves, which helps bring new technologies for production purposes.
2. Tourism stimulates investment in infrastructural development, human capital formation, and increasing with the pace of development. Since the tourism sector helps the generation of revenue so these revenues are invested in developmental activities like infrastructure, human resource development as these are poor in developing countries and also are most urgent for such countries.
3. Inbound tourism is effective in promoting industrial development through its spillover effects.
4. Tourism helps create job opportunities, which helps stimulate self-learning.
5. Tourism generates positive externality in the field of development. If the above-mentioned impact of tourism clearly shows that tourism has a positive impact on development.

Thus, from the above analysis, it is found that the economic argument for tourism and development is always a symbiotic one. Both enhance each other.

From the traditional socio-cultural viewpoint and from an environmental and ecological point of view, the relation between tourism and development is found to be a negative one. Because mass-tourism can be a threat for socio-cultural development because it is harmful to traditional culture, social norms, it can harm the tribal community by destroying their culture in the wave of tourism development. Again, to the environment, it can create negative externality, destroy the natural resources, and increase the level of pollution in the air, water, and wind by using different modern means which are not eco-friendly to nature. Again; it also makes a country dependent excessively on foreign countries for their own development. The relation between Tourism and Development can be visualized with the help of a diagram:



**Figure 1:** Relation between tourism & development

### HOW TOURISM EFFECTS NEGATIVELY?

The answer to this question lies in the fact that as we know global tourism grows at a faster and faster rate, the traditional vacation destinations become less important and underestimated. At present, with an increase in personal income, they are looking for exotic, unique, and unspoiled and prestigious destinations, offering a positive nature and culturally rich experience. At the same time, the growth of mass tourism is threatening exactly that through the negative impact it has on the host community. On one hand, tourism has the potential to raise the income of local people, economy, and standard of living of the local community. On the other hand, it too can bring undesirable consequences like severe environmental damages, prostitution, drug abuse, or social and cultural breakdown. So, the function of "tourism is like fire; it can cook our food likewise and burn our house down too".

So, there is a need for sustainable tourism development. Sustainable tourism development guidelines and management practices are applicable for all forms of tourism and all types of destinations including mass tourism. Sustainable tourism consists of three interrelated concepts; socio-culture, environment, and economy. Sustainable Tourism should aim to make optimal use of resources, minimize ecological, social, and cultural impacts, and maximize benefits to conservation and the local community.

### DISCUSSIONS

The general meaning of development is a qualitative change in all spheres including social, cultural, environmental, political, and economic. If there is such a change in a country, it automatically will lead to the development of the tourism sector in that country as social overhead capitals like infrastructure, education, transportations, etc. are developed in that country. So, from this, we can estimate that, if a country is developing there must be progressing in the Tourism sector too.

There are two different sets of opinions among researchers on the relationship between tourism and development. One group of researchers focused on the importance of tourism, for development positively. Likewise, another group of researchers is with the view that tourism plays a negative role in the environmental aspects and proves itself as an obstacle in the way of development of traditional society.

Again, we must know that the importance of the meaning of 'tourism' differs from country to country. For developing countries tourism can be an 'engine of growth' with its function of the collection of revenue, reduction of the deficit in the balance of payment (BOP), creation of employment, increasing industrial development, etc. But for a developed country, tourism has a limited function of protection and conservation of nature and to preserve the place of natural beauty for recreational and refreshment-oriented activities.

In terms of the international case, there is a nonlinear relationship between tourism and development. But from a specific country, the relationship between tourism and development is positive in the long run.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

From this study, it is found that the development of tourism is an important factor for development, so proper care should be given to sustainable tourism development. For this thing to happen, there are some general conditions to have sound tourism in a country, which help increase the number of tourist arrival this includes-well developed infrastructure, a peaceful coexistence, free mobility and access to all parts in a country, availability of proper information and technology, sound communication facility, sufficient social overheads and stable political situations in a particular nation. The place rich with nature, cultural heritage site, spiritually rich site is considered as sufficient conditions for the development of tourism in a country.

Thus, from this study, it is found that tourism and development are symbiotically related. The effect of one will automatically impact on the other. The development attracts more tourists to the area which is the potential for tourism development as more developed the area, the tourist arrivals will also tend to more than before. Again, Due to the development of tourism, the rural and indigenous area, which is endowed with different tourist activities and places, in such areas, the employment and infrastructure develops. Such development is helpful in inclusive growth reducing the gap of income distribution in society.

In conclusion, we can say that to use the tourism sector as a driver of the development of a nation, the minimization of the negative impact of tourism to the socio-cultural and environmental aspects is of the utmost necessary task. Eco-tourism should be turned to sustainable tourism. That means the valuation of the environment and socio-cultural ideologies too should have to be considered while making the tourism sector a source of economic gain. Sustainable Tourism is the only one of the most effective methods when the needs of the respective community and their cultural heritage and history are put first, rather than being imposed by outsiders. In this regard, the local population should be active in planning any decisions about tourism activities affecting them, thereby providing ownership and governance over its development and future. The empowerment and encouragement of such sort will lead to the local community engagement in the tourism field, which leads to the local community of their responsibility to the environment and their own culture. In this way, the environmental and cultural uniqueness of such tourists' place is protected from the negative influences of outsiders.

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