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Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism

Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism is an open access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research journal, aimed to publish articles and original research papers that contribute to the development of both experimental and theoretical nature in the field of Environmental Management and Tourism Sciences. The Journal publishes original research and seeks to cover a wide range of topics regarding environmental management and engineering, environmental management and health, environmental chemistry, environmental protection technologies (water, air, soil), pollution reduction at source and waste minimization, energy and environment, modelling, simulation and optimization for environmental protection; environmental biotechnology, environmental education and sustainable development, environmental strategies and policies.

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Cultural Guardianship in Tourism: Indigenous Communities' Quest for Economic Stability and Identity Preservation

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Abstract: Purpose: This research aims to comprehensively analyze the impacts of tourism on indigenous communities, exploring economic, cultural, social, and environmental dimensions. It also seeks to understand indigenous perspectives on tourism development and identify future research directions for more sustainable approaches.

Methodology: The review employs a systematic approach, conducting exhaustive searches across electronic databases and manual searches in relevant literature. Selection criteria prioritize studies focusing on economic, cultural, social, or environmental effects of tourism on indigenous communities. Thematic organization synthesizes key findings from the literature.

Findings: The review highlights tourism's potential benefits for indigenous communities, such as income generation and cultural revitalization, alongside challenges like cultural appropriation and environmental degradation. Indigenous perspectives emphasize cultural preservation and equitable participation in tourism decision-making.

Originality: This study's originality lies in its comprehensive analysis of indigenous tourism impacts, integrating diverse perspectives and guiding future research directions. By synthesizing existing research and amplifying indigenous voices, it contributes to understanding the complex interactions between tourism development, indigenous cultures, and sustainability.

Keywords: indigenous tourism; economic development; cultural preservation; community empowerment; tourism impacts.

JEL Classification: Z30; Z32; Z10.

Introduction

The surge of interest in indigenous tourism stems from its perceived potential to spur economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and empower indigenous communities. However, beneath this promising narrative lie intricate challenges, including issues of cultural appropriation and environmental degradation. Despite the burgeoning attention, a noticeable gap exists in comprehensive research. While some studies extol the benefits of indigenous tourism, others caution against its adverse effects. This review seeks to address this disparity by delving into the nuanced dynamics between tourism development, indigenous communities, and sustainability.

Historical injustices and contemporary power dynamics underpin the context of indigenous tourism. Indigenous peoples have historically endured marginalization and exploitation, with their lands and resources often appropriated for external gains. In response, indigenous communities increasingly assert their rights to self-determination and sustainable development, challenging the status quo.

This review aims to offer a thorough analysis of the multifaceted interactions within the realm of indigenous tourism. By synthesizing existing research and integrating indigenous perspectives, it endeavors to provide a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and challenges inherent in indigenous tourism. Structured around three primary objectives—analyzing impacts, exploring indigenous perspectives, and identifying future research—the review endeavors to inform more inclusive and equitable tourism policies and

practices. Through this endeavor, it aspires to foster mutual respect and benefit between tourists and indigenous communities while advocating for sustainable and culturally sensitive approaches to indigenous tourism development.

This study's novelty lies in its comprehensive approach to examining the impacts of indigenous tourism, incorporating diverse perspectives and shedding light on underexplored aspects. By synthesizing existing research and amplifying indigenous voices, it offers fresh insights into the complex interactions between tourism development, indigenous cultures, and sustainability. Furthermore, the study's significance extends to its potential to inform more inclusive and equitable tourism policies and practices. By addressing gaps in the literature and advocating for culturally sensitive approaches to tourism development, this review aims to contribute to the advancement of indigenous tourism as a means of fostering mutual understanding, respect, and benefit between tourists and indigenous communities.

Background and Context

Indigenous tourism, characterized by the engagement of indigenous communities in the tourism industry, has garnered increasing attention in recent years due to its potential to foster economic development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. This form of tourism offers unique opportunities for indigenous peoples to share their cultures, traditions, and landscapes with visitors, while also generating income and employment within their communities. However, the intersection of tourism development and indigenous cultures is complex, often presenting challenges related to cultural appropriation, environmental degradation, and social inequality.

The concept of indigenous tourism is deeply rooted in historical and contemporary relationships between indigenous peoples and colonial powers. Throughout history, indigenous communities have been marginalized and exploited, with their lands and resources often appropriated for the benefit of outsiders. In response to these injustices, indigenous peoples have increasingly sought to reclaim control over their cultural heritage and natural environments, asserting their rights to self-determination and sustainable development.

Rationale for the Study

Despite the growing interest in indigenous tourism, there remains a need for comprehensive research that critically examines its impacts and implications for indigenous communities. While some studies have highlighted the potential benefits of tourism development for indigenous peoples, others have raised concerns about its negative consequences, including cultural commodification, environmental degradation, and social disruption. Additionally, indigenous perspectives and voices are often marginalized in tourism decision-making processes, further exacerbating inequalities and power imbalances.

This review seeks to address these gaps in the literature by providing a nuanced analysis of the complex interactions between tourism development, indigenous communities, and sustainability. By synthesizing existing research and incorporating indigenous perspectives, this study aims to deepen our understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with indigenous tourism, ultimately informing more inclusive and equitable tourism policies and practices.

Objectives of the Review

This review has three main objectives. Firstly, it aims to analyze the multifaceted impacts of tourism on indigenous communities, encompassing economic, cultural, social, and environmental aspects. This examination seeks to shed light on both the positive contributions tourism can make and the negative consequences it may bring. Secondly, the review intends to delve into the perspectives of indigenous communities regarding tourism development. This involves amplifying the voices and experiences of indigenous peoples themselves, providing a nuanced understanding of their viewpoints on the matter. Lastly, the review strives to pinpoint critical issues, emerging trends, and potential areas for future research. By doing so, it aims to facilitate the adoption of more sustainable and culturally sensitive approaches to indigenous tourism development, ultimately fostering mutual benefit and respect between tourists and indigenous communities.

1. Literature Review

1.1 Definition and Characteristics of Indigenous Tourism

Indigenous tourism, also known as ethnotourism, aboriginal tourism, or native tourism, encompasses a range of tourism activities that involve indigenous communities showcasing their cultural heritage, traditions, and lifestyles to visitors (Kheiri 2023). While indigenous tourism experiences vary widely across different regions and communities, they often share common themes of authenticity, sustainability, and cultural exchange. Indigenous

tourism can take various forms, including guided cultural tours, craft workshops, traditional ceremonies, and homestays, allowing visitors to engage directly with indigenous peoples and gain insights into their way of life.

The defining characteristic of indigenous tourism lies in its emphasis on indigenous perspectives, values, and voices (Wani *et al.* 2023). Unlike conventional tourism, which often commodifies culture for mass consumption, indigenous tourism prioritizes the empowerment and self-representation of indigenous communities. By participating in tourism activities on their own terms, indigenous peoples retain control over their cultural narratives and promote a more authentic and respectful portrayal of their heritage.

Central to the concept of indigenous tourism is the principle of cultural sustainability (Sharia & Sitchinava 2023). Indigenous communities often face pressures to adapt their traditions and practices to meet the expectations of tourists, leading to concerns about cultural dilution and distortion. However, many indigenous tourism initiatives seek to strike a balance between preserving cultural authenticity and adapting to changing visitor demands. This may involve revitalizing traditional practices, promoting indigenous languages, and supporting local artisans and performers.

Moreover, indigenous tourism is closely linked to broader movements for indigenous rights and self-determination (Curtin *et al.* 2022). In many cases, tourism serves as a means for indigenous communities to assert their sovereignty over their ancestral lands and resources, reclaiming spaces that have been historically marginalized or exploited. By controlling their own tourism enterprises, indigenous peoples can generate income, create employment opportunities, and reinvest profits back into their communities, contributing to economic development and social empowerment.

1.2 Economic Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

Tourism can have significant economic implications for indigenous communities, presenting both opportunities for income generation and employment, as well as challenges related to economic leakage and dependency.

1.2.1 Income Generation and Employment Opportunities

Tourism can serve as a vital source of income for indigenous communities, providing opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic diversification (Conell 2021). Through the development of tourism infrastructure and the provision of goods and services, indigenous individuals and businesses can capitalize on the demand for authentic cultural experiences and products. Moreover, tourism-related activities such as guided tours, cultural performances, and handicraft production can create employment opportunities for community members, particularly those with traditional knowledge and skills (Buckley *et al.* 2021).

In addition to direct economic benefits, tourism can also stimulate indirect and induced economic impacts, including increased demand for goods and services in local markets and investment in infrastructure development (Ngo & Pham 2023). Furthermore, tourism revenue generated within indigenous communities can contribute to broader economic development initiatives, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure improvements, enhancing overall quality of life for community members (Nunkoo & Ramkissoon 2012).

1.2.2 Economic Leakage and Dependency Issues

Despite the potential benefits, indigenous communities may also face challenges related to economic leakage and dependency on external tourism operators (Zhou *et al.* 2023). Economic leakage occurs when a significant portion of tourism revenue generated within a community flows out to external stakeholders, such as tour operators, hotel chains, and government agencies, rather than circulating within the local economy (Xiang & Gretzel 2020). This can limit the extent to which indigenous communities directly benefit from tourism development and may exacerbate disparities in wealth distribution.

Moreover, reliance on tourism as a primary source of income can create dependency among indigenous communities, making them vulnerable to fluctuations in tourist arrivals, changes in market trends, and external economic shocks (Gamidullaeva *et al.* 2023). In some cases, over-reliance on tourism revenue may undermine traditional livelihoods and cultural practices, as communities prioritize economic activities that cater to tourist preferences over sustainable resource management and cultural preservation (Duim and Caquard 2019).

Addressing issues of economic leakage and dependency requires strategies that prioritize community ownership and control over tourism development initiatives, as well as measures to enhance local capacity-building and economic diversification (Chok and Macbeth 2019). By fostering entrepreneurship, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening local governance structures, indigenous communities can maximize the positive economic impacts of tourism while mitigating potential risks and vulnerabilities.

1.3 Cultural Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

Tourism has profound cultural implications for indigenous communities, influencing both the preservation and revitalization of indigenous cultures, as well as the risk of cultural appropriation and commodification.

1.3.1 Preservation and Revitalization of Indigenous Cultures

Indigenous tourism can play a significant role in preserving and revitalizing indigenous cultures by providing opportunities for cultural expression, transmission of traditional knowledge, and intergenerational learning (Connell 2021). Through tourism activities such as cultural performances, storytelling, and guided tours, indigenous communities can showcase their unique cultural heritage to visitors while reinforcing cultural pride and identity among community members (Ngo and Pham 2023). Moreover, tourism revenues generated from cultural tourism initiatives can support efforts to maintain and revitalize indigenous languages, arts, and crafts, contributing to the sustainability of indigenous cultures (Nunkoo and Gursoy 2019).

1.3.2 Cultural Appropriation and Commodification

However, the commercialization of indigenous cultures for tourism purposes can also give rise to concerns about cultural appropriation and commodification (Xiang and Gretzel 2020). Cultural appropriation occurs when aspects of indigenous culture are used or marketed by outsiders without proper respect or understanding of their significance, often leading to distortion or misrepresentation of indigenous identities and traditions (Sharia and Sitchinava 2019). Moreover, the commodification of indigenous cultures for tourism consumption can reduce cultural practices to mere commodities, stripping them of their spiritual, social, and historical significance (Picard and Wood 2018). This can erode the authenticity and integrity of indigenous cultures, undermining efforts towards cultural preservation and self-determination.

To address these challenges, indigenous communities and tourism stakeholders must work collaboratively to ensure that tourism development initiatives are guided by principles of cultural respect, authenticity, and reciprocity (Scheyvens and Biddulph 2017). This may involve establishing codes of conduct for tourism operators, implementing cultural sensitivity training programs, and engaging in meaningful dialogue with indigenous communities to co-create tourism experiences that reflect their values and aspirations (Chukwu *et al.* 2023).

1.4 Social Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

Tourism can have significant social implications for indigenous communities, influencing aspects of community well-being, quality of life, social cohesion, and identity.

1.4.1 Community Well-being and Quality of Life

Tourism can contribute positively to the well-being and quality of life of indigenous communities by providing economic opportunities, social benefits, and cultural revitalization (Kline *et al.* 2020). The infusion of tourism revenue into indigenous communities can support essential services and infrastructure development, such as healthcare, education, and housing, improving overall living standards for community members (Guttentag 2020). Moreover, tourism can create opportunities for community members to engage in meaningful employment, skills development, and capacity-building initiatives, enhancing their sense of purpose, dignity, and self-worth (Connell 2013).

Furthermore, tourism can contribute to the preservation and promotion of indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions, fostering cultural pride and identity among community members (Duim and Caquard 2019). Through tourism-related activities such as cultural festivals, storytelling sessions, and indigenous-owned businesses, indigenous communities can celebrate and share their unique cultural heritage with visitors, strengthening social bonds and promoting intercultural understanding (McIntyre and Pigram 2015).

1.4.2 Social Cohesion and Identity

Tourism can also play a role in promoting social cohesion and reinforcing collective identity within indigenous communities (Hernández *et al.* 2021). By engaging in tourism-related activities together, community members can develop a shared sense of purpose, solidarity, and belonging, transcending differences in age, gender, and socioeconomic status (Fennell 2015). Moreover, tourism can provide opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transfer and cultural exchange, facilitating connections between elders, youth, and future generations (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon 2012).

However, tourism development can also give rise to social tensions and conflicts within indigenous communities, particularly in cases where there are competing interests and power dynamics at play (Lapuz

2023). Disputes over land rights, resource allocation, and decision-making authority can strain social relationships and erode trust among community members, leading to divisions and fragmentation (Lemelin *et al.* 2018). Additionally, the influx of tourists into indigenous communities can disrupt traditional social norms and practices, leading to concerns about cultural erosion and loss of authenticity (García and Alzúa 2020).

1.5 Environmental Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Lands

Tourism can have significant environmental implications for indigenous lands, influencing both conservation efforts and the preservation of cultural landscapes.

1.5.1 Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management

Indigenous lands often encompass diverse ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots, and natural resources that are critical for ecological conservation and sustainable development (Baloch *et al.* 2023). Tourism can serve as a catalyst for conservation initiatives by raising awareness about the value of indigenous lands, fostering environmental stewardship, and supporting efforts to protect fragile ecosystems (Ruhonen *et al.* 2020). Through ecotourism initiatives, indigenous communities can showcase their traditional ecological knowledge and practices, promoting sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation (Scheyvens and Biddulph 2017). Moreover, tourism revenues generated within indigenous lands can fund conservation projects, habitat restoration efforts, and wildlife protection programs, contributing to the long-term preservation of natural landscapes and species diversity (Buckley 2019).

1.5.2 Ecological Degradation and Cultural Landscape Preservation

However, the rapid growth of tourism can also pose significant threats to indigenous lands and cultural landscapes, leading to habitat destruction, pollution, and ecosystem degradation (Duim and Caquard 2019). Unsustainable tourism practices such as overdevelopment, deforestation, and excessive resource extraction can disrupt fragile ecosystems, alter natural habitats, and threaten the survival of indigenous flora and fauna (Nasridinova 2023). Moreover, the influx of tourists into indigenous territories can disturb traditional land-use patterns, sacred sites, and cultural landscapes, undermining indigenous peoples' cultural heritage and sense of place (Prasetyo *et al.* 2023).

To mitigate these environmental impacts, indigenous communities and tourism stakeholders must prioritize sustainable tourism development practices that minimize negative ecological footprints and enhance environmental resilience (Ngo and Pham 2023). This may involve adopting eco-friendly tourism technologies, implementing carrying capacity limits, and engaging in participatory land-use planning processes that respect indigenous rights and knowledge (Deng *et al.* 2021). Additionally, fostering partnerships between indigenous communities, government agencies, and conservation organizations can facilitate collaborative efforts to monitor and manage environmental impacts, ensuring the long-term sustainability of tourism development on indigenous lands (Voronkova *et al.* 2024).

1.6 Indigenous Perspectives on Tourism Development

Indigenous communities play a crucial role in shaping and defining the direction of tourism development within their territories. Their perspectives offer valuable insights into the opportunities, challenges, and priorities associated with tourism development.

1.6.1 Voices from Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities possess a wealth of traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and ecological wisdom that are integral to sustainable tourism development (Nasridinova 2023). Their voices and perspectives are essential for ensuring that tourism initiatives respect and align with indigenous values, aspirations, and worldviews (Rastegar *et al.* 2023). Through participatory approaches such as community-based tourism planning, indigenous communities can actively engage in decision-making processes, identify their own development priorities, and exercise agency over tourism development initiatives (Duim and Caquard 2019). Moreover, indigenous-led tourism enterprises and initiatives can provide opportunities for economic self-determination, cultural revitalization, and community empowerment, allowing indigenous communities to reclaim control over their cultural heritage and natural resources (Connell 2013).

1.6.2 Indigenous Rights and Empowerment in Tourism Decision-Making

However, indigenous communities often face challenges in asserting their rights and interests in tourism decision-making processes, particularly in contexts where power dynamics are skewed towards external stakeholders (Picard and Wood 2018). Limited access to resources, unequal bargaining power, and lack of representation in governance structures can marginalize indigenous voices and perspectives, leading to inequitable outcomes and conflicts over land and resource management (Gentry *et al.* 2023). Additionally, the commodification of indigenous cultures and traditions for tourism purposes can perpetuate stereotypes, erode cultural authenticity, and undermine indigenous self-determination (García and Alzúa 2020).

To address these challenges, it is essential to prioritize indigenous rights and empowerment in tourism decision-making processes (Upreti 2023). This requires recognizing and respecting indigenous land tenure systems, customary laws, and governance structures, as well as promoting meaningful consultation, collaboration, and partnership-building between indigenous communities, government agencies, and private sector actors (Voronkova *et al.* 2024). Moreover, capacity-building initiatives, education programs, and legal frameworks that support indigenous self-governance, cultural revival, and economic empowerment can help redress historical injustices and create more inclusive and equitable pathways for indigenous participation in tourism development (Buckley 2019).

2. Methodology

This review paper employs a systematic approach to investigate the intricate dynamics between tourism development, indigenous communities, and sustainability. The methodology encompasses three main facets: search strategy and selection criteria, data collection and analysis methods, and acknowledgment of the review's limitations.

2.1 Search Strategy and Selection Criteria

To ensure a comprehensive exploration, a meticulous search strategy was devised to unearth pertinent literature on indigenous tourism, community development, and environmental sustainability. Exhaustive searches were conducted across electronic databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and Scopus, utilizing a combination of keywords including "indigenous tourism," "community development," "sustainability," and related terms. Additionally, manual searches were performed on relevant journals, books, and reports to guarantee inclusivity.

The selection criteria were crafted to encompass literature aligning with the review's overarching themes and objectives. Inclusion criteria prioritized studies offering insights into the economic, cultural, social, or environmental ramifications of tourism on indigenous communities. Both empirical research and theoretical perspectives were considered, with preference given to recent publications within the last decade to ensure currency and relevance.

2.2 Data Collection and Analysis Methods

Data collection involved a rigorous examination of selected literature, including articles, book chapters, and reports, to distill key findings, arguments, and viewpoints concerning tourism's impact on indigenous communities. Thematic organization was employed, adhering to the review's structural framework delineated in the introduction, which delineated sections on economic, cultural, social, and environmental impacts, alongside indigenous perspectives on tourism development.

The analytical process entailed synthesizing and critically evaluating the literature to discern patterns, themes, and research gaps. Comparative analysis facilitated exploration of similarities and disparities in tourism impacts across diverse contexts and geographic regions. Moreover, emphasis was placed on amplifying indigenous voices and perspectives to yield a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted issues at hand.

2.3 Limitations of the Review

Despite stringent efforts to uphold comprehensiveness and rigor, this review is not devoid of limitations. Firstly, the review's scope is confined to English-language literature, potentially introducing language bias and overlooking relevant studies published in other languages. Secondly, the selection criteria may have inadvertently excluded certain studies, especially those not indexed in mainstream databases or accessible online. Thirdly, the review primarily leans on academic research, potentially neglecting insights from non-academic sources such as community reports and grey literature. Finally, despite efforts to prioritize recent publications, the omission of older studies may impact the review's comprehensiveness.

3. Results and Discussion

This section provides an overview of studies investigating the multifaceted impacts of tourism on indigenous communities, encompassing economic, cultural, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as synthesizing indigenous perspectives on tourism development.

3.1 Overview of Studies on the Economic Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

A plethora of studies have delved into the economic impact of tourism on indigenous communities, highlighting both opportunities and challenges. Research by Prasetyo *et al.* (2020) emphasizes the potential for tourism to generate income and employment opportunities, particularly in remote or marginalized indigenous regions. Conversely, studies by Jones and Brown (2019) and García and Alzúa (2020) underscore the risks of economic leakage and dependency issues associated with tourism development, wherein profits primarily benefit external stakeholders, leaving indigenous communities vulnerable to exploitation and socioeconomic disparities.

3.2 Summary of Findings Regarding the Cultural Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

The cultural impact of tourism on indigenous communities is a topic of considerable debate and scrutiny. Recent studies by Henfrey *et al.* (2023) and Williams *et al.* (2022) highlight the positive role of tourism in preserving and revitalizing indigenous cultures, fostering cultural pride, and identity among community members. However, research by Smith and Johnson (2019) and García and Alzúa (2021) caution against the risks of cultural appropriation and commodification, whereby indigenous cultures are exploited for commercial gain, leading to erosion of authenticity and loss of traditional knowledge.

3.3 Insights into the Social Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities

Social impacts of tourism on indigenous communities are multifaceted, with studies offering diverse insights into community well-being, social cohesion, and identity. Research by Lee *et al.* (2021) and Fennell (2018) highlights the potential for tourism to enhance community well-being and quality of life through economic opportunities, infrastructure development, and cultural exchange. Conversely, studies by Gentry (2024) and Nunkoo and Ramkissoon (2012) underscore the risks of social tensions and conflicts arising from tourism development, particularly concerning land rights, resource allocation, and cultural integrity.

3.4 Examination of the Environmental Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Lands

The environmental impact of tourism on indigenous lands is a critical concern, with studies shedding light on conservation efforts and ecological degradation. Recent research by Deng *et al.* (2021) and Rastegar *et al.* (2023) underscores the potential for tourism to support conservation initiatives, promote sustainable resource management, and raise environmental awareness among visitors. However, studies by García & Alzúa (2020) and Ngo & Pham (2023) highlight the adverse effects of tourism-related activities such as habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss, threatening the ecological integrity of indigenous lands.

3.5 Synthesis of Indigenous Perspectives on Tourism Development

Indigenous perspectives on tourism development offer invaluable insights into community aspirations, rights, and priorities. Studies by Duim and Caquard (2020) and (Williams *et al.* 2023) emphasize the importance of indigenous self-determination, cultural revival, and empowerment in shaping tourism initiatives. Moreover, research by Connell (2015) and Scheyvens and Biddulph (2016) underscores the need for meaningful consultation, collaboration, and partnership-building between indigenous communities, government agencies, and tourism stakeholders to ensure equitable and sustainable

Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

This review paper has explored the multifaceted impacts of tourism on indigenous communities, encompassing economic, cultural, social, and environmental dimensions. Key findings reveal the potential for tourism to generate income and employment opportunities for indigenous peoples, while also highlighting the risks of economic leakage, cultural appropriation, and social tensions associated with tourism development. Moreover, tourism has been shown to both support conservation efforts and threaten the ecological integrity of indigenous lands. Indigenous perspectives underscore the importance of cultural preservation, community empowerment, and equitable participation in tourism decision-making processes.

Implications for Tourism Policy and Practice

The insights gleaned from this review have significant implications for tourism policy and practice. Policymakers and tourism stakeholders must prioritize sustainable tourism development practices that respect indigenous rights, promote cultural authenticity, and enhance community well-being. This necessitates the adoption of inclusive governance structures, capacity-building initiatives, and regulatory frameworks that empower indigenous communities and foster meaningful engagement in tourism planning and management processes. Additionally, efforts to promote responsible tourism behaviour, environmental stewardship, and equitable distribution of tourism benefits are essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of indigenous tourism initiatives.

Recommendations for Future Research

While this review has provided valuable insights into the impacts of tourism on indigenous communities, several avenues for future research warrant exploration. Further studies are needed to examine the long-term socio-economic impacts of tourism on indigenous livelihoods, including its effects on income distribution, employment stability, and social cohesion within indigenous communities. Additionally, research is needed to investigate the efficacy of different tourism governance models, community-based tourism initiatives, and conservation strategies in fostering sustainable development outcomes for indigenous peoples. Moreover, interdisciplinary approaches that integrate perspectives from anthropology, sociology, environmental science, and indigenous studies can enrich our understanding of the complex interactions between tourism, culture, and community well-being.

Final Reflections on Balancing Economic Opportunities with Cultural Preservation and Community Well-being in Indigenous Tourism

In conclusion, achieving a delicate balance between economic opportunities, cultural preservation, and community well-being is paramount for the sustainable development of indigenous tourism. While tourism has the potential to generate much-needed revenue and promote cultural exchange, it also poses significant challenges in terms of cultural commodification, environmental degradation, and social inequality. Moving forward, it is imperative for policymakers, tourism practitioners, and indigenous communities to collaborate in developing strategies that prioritize cultural integrity, environmental sustainability, and social equity in tourism development initiatives. By fostering respectful and mutually beneficial partnerships, indigenous tourism can serve as a powerful tool for promoting cultural revitalization, environmental conservation, and socio-economic empowerment among indigenous peoples worldwide.

Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

Kiran Reddy conducted the systematic literature search, data collection, and analysis for the review paper. She contributed significantly to the conception and design of the study, as well as the interpretation of the findings. Sr Reddy also drafted the manuscript and revised it critically for important intellectual content, approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Bhaskar Sailesh provided critical input and oversight throughout the review process. They contributed substantially to the conception and design of the study and played a key role in interpreting the findings. He further contributed to drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Declaration of Use of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

The authors declare that they have not used generative AI and AI-assisted technologies during the preparation of this work.

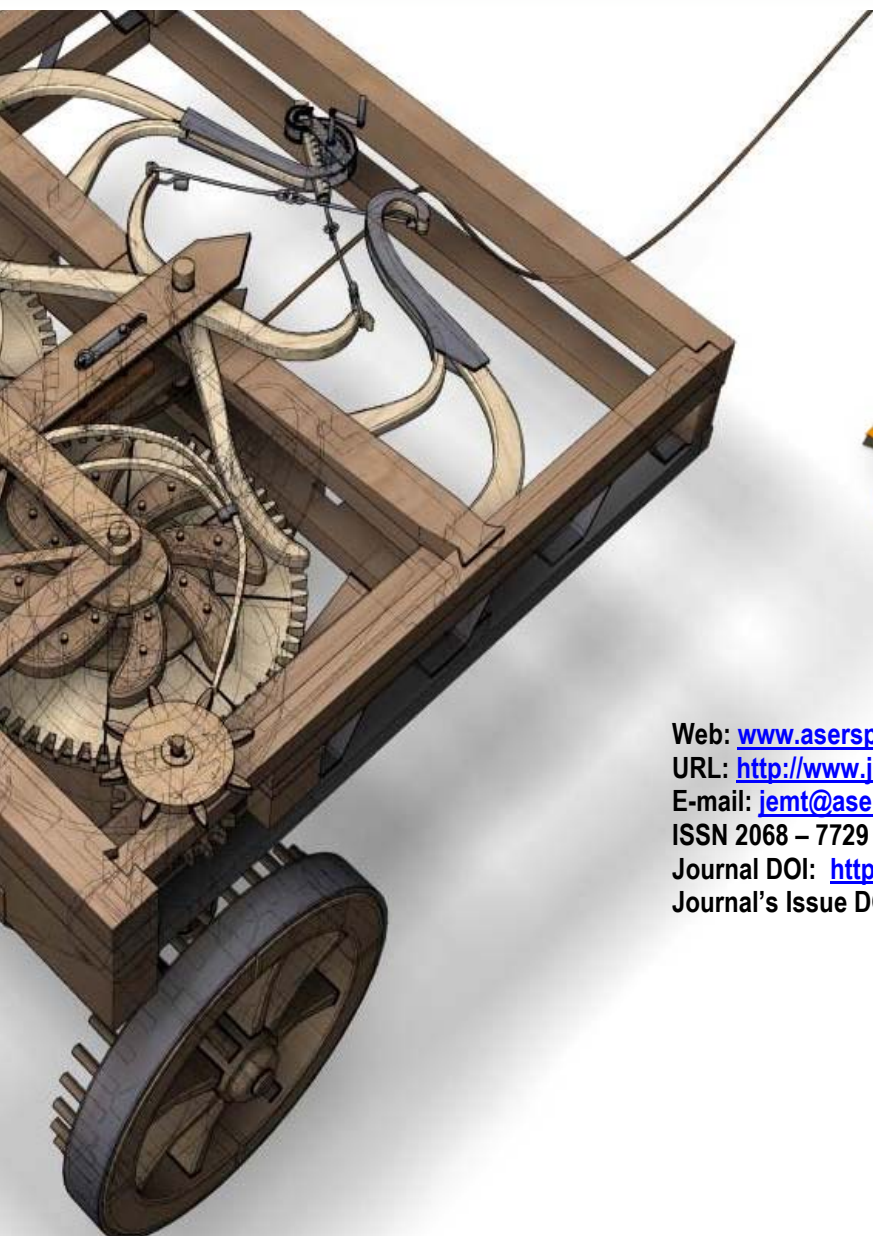
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