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Full Length Research Paper

Community based ecotourism development in Meqdela Amba, Ethiopia: Current development barriers

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Ethiopia has very distinct natural, cultural and historic products that could attract visitors from all over the world. Meqdela Amba, a community in Ethiopia, is endowed with a unique historical heritage and outstanding biophysical features. The aim of this study was to identify the major barrier of the Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism development in Tenta district. The study used descriptive research design and also both probability and non-probability sampling methods. The data sources used both primary and secondary data, and the research approaches used mixed research method both qualitative and quantitative research. These were generated by employing qualitative (using key informant interview, focus group discussions and field observation) and quantitative (mainly using household survey questionnaires) methods. Checklists were the main data gathering tools with the total target population being 370. A sample of 193 questionnaires was distributed to local communities and 185 were returned. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, to interpret the result frequency and percentage. The barriers identified to Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism site were: lack of marketing and promotion activity, low level of knowledge and attitudes of local community towards community based ecotourism, lack of cooperation among stakeholders, lack of professional guides, lack of major infrastructure and facilities such as accommodation, electricity, and clean water supply. Attention should be given to reducing the major barriers from Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism site.

Key words: Barriers, community based ecotourism, Meqdela Amba, Ethiopia.

INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia is land of multiple tourist attractions and visitor friendly people who are conscious about the preservation of its historical heritages. A fascinating range of experiences makes Ethiopia, a land of true discovery being beautiful and secretive, mysterious and extraordinary. In addition to the historical component of tourism attraction, Meqdela Amba is endowed with a unique historical heritage and comprises spectacular

biophysical features that may not even scratch the surface of the real formation of this spectacular gift of nature. It was perhaps for that reason that the popular Emperor Tewodros II selected it as the residency of his kingdom. Meqdela Amba was the capital of Emperor Tewodros during the invasion of British in 1868 (Mulugeta et al., 2012). Meqdela Amba also comprises a number of significant historical sites such as the ruins of Emperor

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Tewodros II palace, the place of suicide of Emperor Tedrowos II and the ruins of a fortress. It also includes the ruins of Meqdela Medhanialem Church, Emperor Tewodros II's swimming pool, Sebastopol and small cannon, the cemetery of Emperor Tewodros II and Fitawrari Gebrye (Personal communication in 2018; Tenta District Culture and Tourism Office, 2018). The other most attractive and outstanding features of this heritage are Saint Michael's church, the famous Girmie cave with a length of more than 60 m and Lam washa cave having a length of 80 m. The Muslim religious centers of the Bajaw Sheikh Bota Haiji Hussein Oumer and Dorih Jifa are the unique gift of the district (Eshetu, 2014).

The stunning nature of the biophysical features, battlefield and the spectacular history of the Meqdela Amba is astonishing, and forms the lion's share that contributes to the international significance of a community based ecotourism destination. However, the rolling and unremarkable topography of the Meqdela Amba has now been almost completely obscured due to many undiscovered challenges. Most livelihoods in Meqdela are fundamentally grounded in the agricultural sector that is vulnerable to food insecurity. This food insecurity has been persistent throughout the district owing to a variety of interrelated economic, social and political factors and environmental crises. It can be argued that poverty has its roots in the notion of access to resources and vulnerability of drought (Moreda, 2017).

While Meqdela Amba and the surrounding Tenta district is rich in cultural heritages and natural beauty which would attract community based ecotourism (Mulugeta et al., 2012), lack of alternative income generation and employment are the main cause of food insecurity in this area. In order to create additional income to the poor, in 2008 Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism was established. This project was also aimed toward exploring the landscape, geological, archaeological, historical and cultural tourism resources; to create public awareness of community based ecotourism through enhancing community participation for empowerment and equitable benefit sharing; and to reduce chronic food shortage, environmental and soil degradation. Other project considerations were with reference to the deterioration of cultural and natural heritage resources, and to improve the livelihood of local communities (Tenta District Culture and Tourism Office, 2018).

Studies have been conducted related to community-based ecotourism in different parts of Ethiopia; for example, Mequanint and Gebremedhin (2015) and Daniel (2011) in Abijata-Shala Lakes National Park; Eshetu (2014) in Borena-Saynt Park; Demissie (2015) in Simien Mountains National Park; Teshome et al. (2015) in Wunania Kosoye Natural Attraction; Demssie (2015) in Simien Mountains National Park; Berhanu and Teshome (2016) in Alatish National Park and Mulugeta et al. (2012) from Gafat to Meqdela; and Teshome and Meskele

(2018) in major tourist destinations in Amhara Regional State. However, none of these studies provides a portrait on the subject of community based ecotourism development barriers and opportunities in the Meqdela Amba mountains historical site remain untouched. In an attempt to bridge these gaps, the research question was to identify the major barriers or challenges currently occurring on Meqdela Amba CBET development.

RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

The travel tourism industry is becoming an increasingly competitive market place at international level, where only the best-managed and marketed enterprises and destinations are likely to enjoy the competitive market (Asker et al., 2010). For instance, lack of marketing capacity and lack of knowledge on how the marketing structure operates was Caribbean CBET projects (Cooper, 2004). This is because CBET operation requires an effective and appropriate marketing strategy to inform tourists of the existence of the destination and encourage them to have experiences in their travel itineraries (Denman, 2001). An effective institutional framework is considered as one of the principal determinants of successful tourism development (Mody et al., 2018). Whilst many writers highlight broad management issues, the linkage between the institutional frameworks in which ecotourism delivered and the performance in terms of livelihoods of the communities involved was minimally studied (Funnel and Bynoe, 2007). In many destinations with ecotourism potentials, lack of infrastructure (e.g. accommodation) and services (e.g. well-trained guides) were the simply observed challenges (UNWTO-UNEP, 2011). Infrastructure denotes the physical attributes of a location that are necessary for tourism development (Graci, 2008). These physical attributes can range from rubbish pits, a tourism information center, destination site signs, road signs, a hospital or first aid facility, etc.

Marketing is another major barrier to establishing viable community based tourism in rural communities (Forstner, 2004). On the other hand, the movement of tourists to tourism destinations is strongly influenced by climatic conditions and timing of cultural festivals (Amelung et al., 2007). Moreover, the seasonality of tourism causes serious problems in view of the limited facilities and limited number of trekking routes (Gebayew, 2011). The barrier often faced by rural communities is the lack of proper infrastructure (Teshome et al., 2018). In many parts of the developing world, security (that is, political unrest, conflict, terrorism, health scares and natural disasters) is another serious challenge for establishment of community-based ecotourism (Salazar, 2012; Zhao and Ritchie, 2007; Nafbek, 2018). In Ethiopia, particularly in the northwestern part of the country, weak marketing strategy and promotion to attract both domestic and foreign tourists were mentioned as potential community

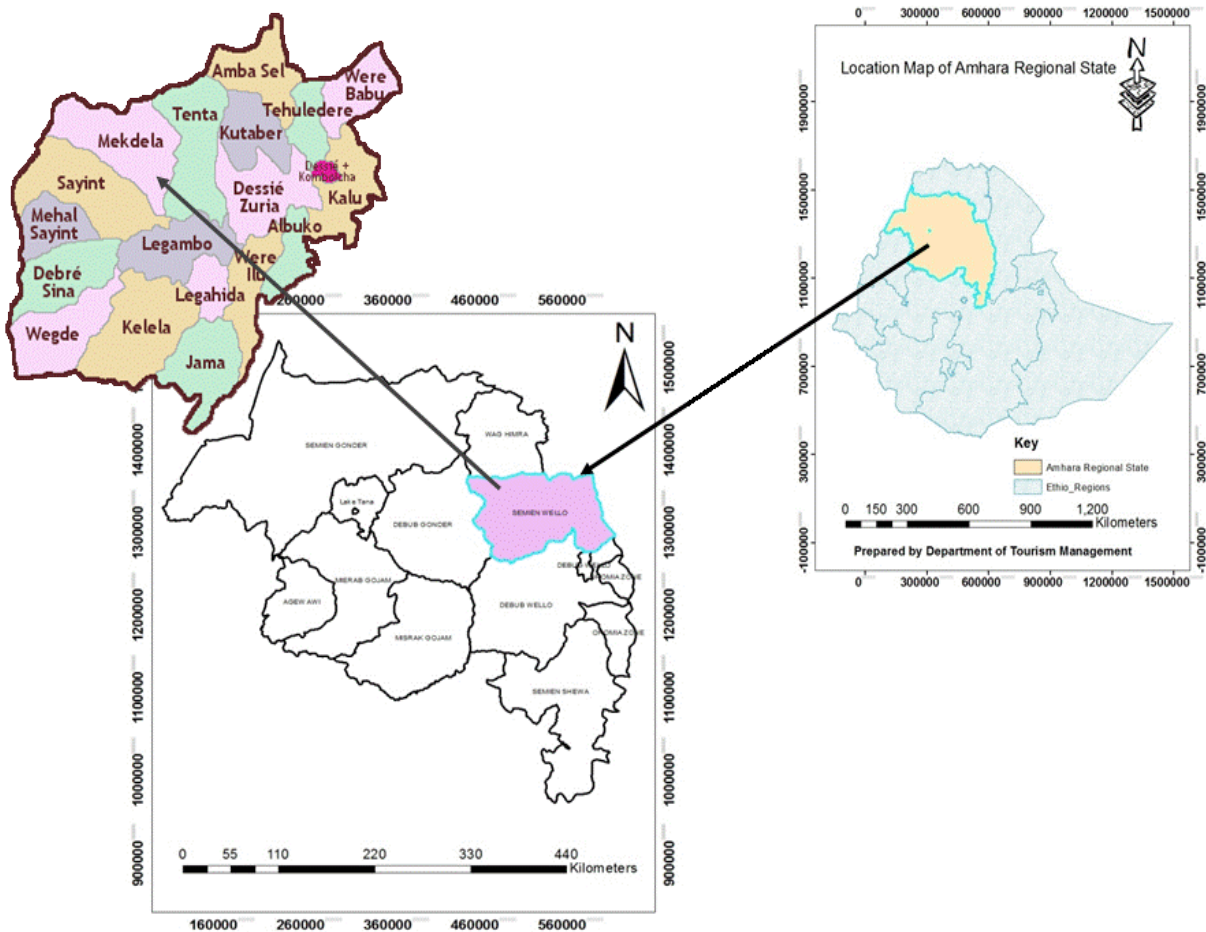


Figure 1. Map of the study area.

based ecotourism development barrier (BoEPLAU, 2014).

Studies showed that Amhara regional state community based tourism destination areas have different challenges, viz; encroachment for settlement in and around the attraction sites, agricultural development and expansion, grazing, deforestation for fuel wood charcoal (Teshome et al., 2015), lack of ownership, lack and loss of proper buffer zone, and lack of qualified human resource to manage CBET development (BoEPLAU, 2014). However, there were no research findings on barriers or challenges of CBET development in Meqdele Amba.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of the study area

Meqdele Amba is located in and coordinated at 11°30'N 38°45'E in the Tenta district. Amhara region is located in the western part of South Wollo zone of the Amhara national regional state (Figure 1). Delanta and Ambassel districts in the north, Legambo district in the

south, Dessie zuria and Kutaber districts in the Meqdele and Sayint districts in the west, border the district. The district comprises 31 rural kebeles and 3 rural towns; Adjibar was the capital town of the district. The temperature in the area is mainly related with altitude, however, the mean annual temperatures are only 18 and 25°C, and mean annual rainfall is 1,278.3 mm (JICA, 2011).

The topography of Meqdele elevations in this district ranges from 700 m above sea level where the Bashilo leaves it to 3600 m at its southeastern point on the upper slopes of mount Amba Ferit. Geographically under the Ashangi formation, it represents the earliest fissural flood basalt volcanism in the region. Meqdele Amba is endowed with unique and stunning biophysical features that may not even scratch the surface of the real formation of this spectacular gift of nature, and the basalt flows are several hundred meters to a kilometer in thickness of strongly weathered crushed and tilted basalts.

Research design

Cross-sectional study design was used to describe the existing community based ecotourism challenge and opportunities where mixed research method was employed. When research is conducted in natural settings, supplementing quantitative data with

Table 1. Lists of sample of CBET HH selected by strata sampling method.

No.	List of villages	Total No. of household	%	Total No. of sample size HH
1	Meqdela Amba	61	16.48	32
2	Meqdela Meda	119	32.16	62
3	Selamgei	190	51.35	99
-	Total	370	100	193

Source: Own Survey (2018).

qualitative method helps to investigate, understand and quantify the complex socio-cultural aspects of livelihoods and the impact of development on the local communities from their own perspective (Neth, 2008).

Target population

The target population of the study was 370 local communities residing in Meqdela Amba (61 households from Meqdela Amba, 190 households from Selamgie and 119 households from Meqdela Meda villages). Moreover, professionals from the South Wollo Zone Culture and Tourism Department and Tenta District Culture and Tourism Office, the Debek Kebele Administrative District Culture and Tourism Office, CBET Management Committee, local tour guides, food preparation employees, camp managers and FGD of the study area were the key informants.

Sampling techniques and size

Both probability and non-probability sampling methods were employed. The selected sampling techniques are stratified, simple random and purposive samplings. These techniques are considered as appropriate for complex situations of Meqdela Amba and its environs.

The village was selected using non-probability sampling method because of the relative position to the community based ecotourism site. The interviewer used purposive sampling, and random sampling was used to question respondents in the local community in Meqdela Amba. The target population of the study was 370 local communities residing in Meqdela Amba (61 households from Meqdela Amba, 190 households from Selamgie and 119 households from Meqdela Meda villages). Each kebele has a different number of participants in order to ensure equal representation as each sample kebele has a different number of households. The sample size for quantitative data gathering is determined using Cochran's formula as indicated by Barlett et al. (2001). This study used the following formula to calculate the sample size:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

where n is the sample size, N is the population size (370), e is sampling error (0.05) or 5%.

$$n = 370 / (1 + 370(0.0025)) = 370 / 1.925 = 192.207 = 193$$

Therefore, the total sample size is 193. Since the numbers of people in each sample CBET household was not the same, the need to proportionate for each household and calculate using the

following formula was necessary.

$$n = n(N1/N)$$

where n = total number of sample, N = total number of population, and N1 = total number of population in each villages of household (HH).

The researcher distributed questionnaires to the calculated sample size in each village households based on the proportional ratio (Table 1).

Data collection methods

The primary data was collected using field observation, household survey, questionnaires (both open and closed ended). Key informant interviews and FGD was used to generate the qualitative data.

Method of data analysis

For the quantitative data, completed questionnaires were cleaned, coded and entered to SPSS version 20 for analysis. Descriptive statistics, mean, frequency and proportion was calculated to report findings and inference was based on the study findings. The qualitative data were analyzed using techniques based on procedures in qualitative data analysis (Bunly, 2011). In-depth interviews and free responses from open-ended interviews were grouped based on related issues, analyzed thematically in line with research questions, and interpreted to show a detailed picture of the existing situation on the study area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Resources related challenge

Inadequate quality of human resource

In the current study, Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism has lack of adequate human resources. As shown in Table 2, 85.5% respondents both strongly agreed and agreed on the statement "inadequate quality of human resource". This result was supported by some scholars in different parts of Ethiopia (Meskele et al., 2016; Teshome et al., 2018; Sisay, 2004). In addition, Eshetu (2014) reported that in developing countries such

Table 2. Barriers of CBET in Meqdele Amba site.

Variable	SD		D		U		A		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Resources capacity										
Inadequate quality of human resource	3	1.6	12	6.5	12	6.5	100	54.1	58	31.4
Absence professional guides	3	1.6	13	7	7	3.8	85	45.9	77	41.6
Nonexistence of finance	3	1.6	10	5.4	8	4.3	104	56.2	60	32.4
Absence of external support	4	2.2	9	4.9	5	2.7	98	53	69	37.3
Lack of cooperation among stakeholders	4	2.2	9	4.9	5	2.7	98	53	69	37.3
Physical challenge										
Encroachment for settlement	3	1.6	15	8.1	10	5.4	95	51.4	62	33.5
Heritage site deterioration by livestock grazing and other impact)	1	5	19	10.3	19	10.3	78	42.2	68	36.8
Inadequate of infrastructure (accesses road and transport)	7	3.8	13	7	7	3.8	109	58.9	49	26.5
Marketing and awareness										
Lack of marketing and promotion	5	2.7	7	3.8	4	2.2	90	48.6	79	42.7
Lack of community awareness	1	0.5	8	4.3	7	3.8	124	67	45	24.5
Lack of local community positive perception	1	0.5	8	4.3	7	3.8	124	67	45	24.5

SD: Strongly disagreed, D: disagree, U: undecided, A: agree, SA: strongly agree.
Source: Survey Result (2018).

as Ethiopia, it is not surprising that one of the industry's biggest challenges is a continuous shortage of qualified and willing labor, whereas adequate human resources are becoming increasingly important to the hospitality and tourism field for several reasons including increasing demand for high quality staff, and increasing consumer demand for quality services.

Regarding the professional guides, 87.5% of the respondents both strongly agreed and agreed on the statements "lack/absence of professional guides to this community based ecotourism destinations", while 8.6% respondents were either disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 3.8%

respondents undecided to give their level of agreement. This finding were also supported by the qualitative data collected from culture and tourism office experts and FGD, where the local guide was selected from the local community, and their educational background was between grade 4 and grade 10 level. As a result, local guides did not communicate properly in English language with their customers. Key informants added that, visitors always face big challenges in this destination site due to lack of professional guides and lack of proper communication. Other research outputs supported this finding, that lack of qualified and experienced local guides were the

main community based ecotourism challenge to satisfy visitors in many part of new tourist destinations (Binyam, 2011; Tekeba, 2016).

In the Meqdele Amba community based ecotourism site, the majority (88.6%) of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed on the statement "nonexistence of finance" in the site (Table 2). Similarly, the overall development of tourism business is perceived as a shortfall and they reported that the current financial support is inadequate and hence government needs to spend more to promote tourism business in the area. Nonexistence of finance in community based ecotourism site reported by other

researchers were due to major barriers like: inadequate financial outlay to develop the infrastructure, inadequate funding for tourism marketing and promotion (Meskele et al., 2016; Teshome et al., 2018) and added that in the country, less attention has been given to heritage conservation and tourism sectors.

Absence of external support for the overall development of tourism business was considered as a gap by 90.3% of the respondents who both strongly agree and agree to statement "on external support". Results show that the current external support is inadequate and hence government needs to spend more to promote tourism business in the area (Table 2). Although community based ecotourism has an enormous potential of bringing economic growth to the local people and make the tourism sector more sustainable (Denman, 2001), the donor community that has continued to offer grants through the government and through local and international NGOs were not available in Meqdela Amba community based destination site. Funds from the donor can facilitate the establishment of community awareness program, build infrastructure upon which tourism thrives, build local capacities, improve marketing system and help to create appropriate partnerships especially between private sector and local communities (Ruhui, 2012).

Lack of cooperation among stakeholders for the overall development of tourism business is considered as a barrier by most of the respondents 90.3% (Table 2). This shows that there was weak collaboration among the stakeholders and perceived as a challenge to Meqdela Amba CBET development. Data from the key informants has supported this finding and they also believed the stakeholders' active participation in a various field of expertise to encourage and support community based ecotourism development. Additionally, another study revealed that lack of cooperation among stakeholders was identified as a bottleneck in and around the study area (Eshetu, 2014). Participation of local government, local community and private sector in the overall tourism development has paramount importance for sustained growth of CBET in Ethiopia (Berhanu and Teshome, 2016; Daniel, 2011; Aynalem, 2013). Because of the absence of coordination and collaboration between institutions, the local community and the private sector leading to duplication of effort, one may push responsibility to the other actors/stakeholders (Manaf et al., 2018).

Physical challenge

Settlement encroachment for the overall development of tourism business was considered as a gap by most of the respondents; 84.9% both strongly agree and agree that the settlement encroachment is inadequate, while 9.7% either disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 5.4% were undecided on their level of agreement with the view that

Meqdela Amba local community has settlement problems in the site. This shows, settlement encroachment to the heritage site was the major barrier to advance community based ecotourism business in the study area. Even the permanent settlement has degraded the heritage sites specially the emperor Tewodos II palace and treasury places. Some local residents in Meqdela Amba even believed the development community based ecotourism were not important, and they recalled that they were opposing the establishment of this business. Prohibiting human settlement into heritage sites would be a difficult task for Meqdela community based tourism development in the study area (FGD 2). In other studies, Demssie (2015) reported such similar challenges in the Simien Mountains National Park that human induced pressures such as human settlement and overgrazing, were the most challenging issues for CBET in the park.

Majority (79%) of the respondents agreed on heritage site deterioration by livestock grazing, while, 15.3% respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 10.3% were undecided, to give positive or negative opinions regarding Meqdela Amba CBET livestock grazing problems to the heritage sites (Table 2). The results indicated that Meqdela Amba heritage site were deteriorating by livestock grazing and agricultural practices. The quantitative findings supported by field observations indicate that there was farmland expansion and livestock grazing in the heritage site. The most important national heritages in the area, which could be affected by expansion of farming activities and livestock grazing are: Emperor Tewodros II palaces and his swimming pool, remains of his treasury heritage sites and remains of Meqdela Medhanielem church. Heritage site and natural resources degradation could affect CBET viewpoints, attraction sites and the surrounding besides absence of buffer zone in historical heritage sites (Eshetu, 2014), no integrated land use management in Meqdela Amba and the Selmegie area (Daniel, 2011) and contribute to its degradation.

Inadequacy of infrastructure (that is, accommodation, accesses road and transport) was agreed upon by 85.4% of respondents. This shows majority of respondents agreed that infrastructural development and transportation accesses to visit Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism site were very poor. The result is consistent with reports from Amhara regional state major tourist destination site by Teshome et al. (2018). Transportation within the Meqdela Amba and the surrounding area was a big challenge for those who were not using private vehicles. In the rainy season, transportation access is closed to the site. According to the FGD discussants and field observation, though the existing infrastructural development has taken place due to the ecotourism projects, they feel that such ventures should be encouraged and promoted in the area. Thus, the availability of clean water and electricity supply were serious infrastructural problems at Meqdela Amba and in

the surrounding community.

Other facilities like banks, insurance and hotels, cafe, post offices, internet access were non-available at the study site (Meskele et al., 2016). Other challenges such as; absence of well-designed trekking passes, parking facilities, camping sites and effective land use planning alongside the lake, lack of transportation and comfortable roads, eco lodges and catering facilities around the lake (Sisay, 2004; Ketema, 2015) were reported. Similarly, in other sites, lack of basic facilities such as electricity, effective road network to and from the tourist destination and lack of health stations were major problems (Eshetu, 2014; Eshetie, 2012). One study conducted around Zengena Lake reported the shortage of sufficient potable water, lack of electricity, toilets and other important facilities as major challenge (Bires, 2014).

Marketing and promotion challenges

Most (91.3%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed to the lack of marketing and promotion (Table 2), and this was supported by the key informants, that is, experts from culture and tourism office, local guides, and FGD who stated that Meqdela Amba CBET does not have its own web site or other promotion related materials such as leaflet, brochures, and newsletters. In this regard, marketing and promotions was a major barrier in Meqdela Amba community based eco-tourism development in rural communities. The travel tourism industry was becoming an increasingly competitive market place at international and local level (Eshetu, 2014). Therefore, carefully designing the product, knowing the visitors to target and ensuring that marketing strategies reach the right people with the right message was critical to building and sustaining an effective and sustainable CBET operation (Sisay, 2004).

Higher proportion (91.5%) of the respondents agreed on the statement "lack of community awareness creation program" (Table 2). This indicates that there is a lack of awareness among the local community in Meqdela Amba community based ecotourism values. Qualitative data from open-ended questions shows the concept of CBET was new to the local community in Meqdela Amba, and was supported by FGD participants' that CBET values were not known. The importance of community awareness was described in different studies at different times. Low level of community awareness in CBET development can affect the overall performance and sustainability of the business (Teshome et al., 2015). The level of awareness among the locals and officials can be another big challenge for developing CBET (Eshetu, 2014).

For the statement "lack of local community positive perception", 91.5% respondents strongly agreed and agreed (Table 2). This might be due to lack of awareness, and knowledge about community-based

ecotourism and lack of visible economic benefit from the sector. Previous study indicated that lack of awareness was critical barrier on local people active participation in tourism development, and can affect the community attitude (Eshetu, 2014). Tourism benefits the local community in a significant manner by increasing income for the local people, generating new jobs and the concomitant increase in the quality of life of the local communities (Asker et al., 2010). However, the responses for negative perception are larger as compared to the undecided perception. The perception of the local community can affect the acceptance of any business venture (Eshetu, 2014). As the name implies, community-based ecotourism has the local community as an integral part (Er et al., 2012). Host community negative attitude could be a big barrier for the establishment of a community-based ecotourism (Ross and Wall, 1999).

Security and safety

The results from FGD discussants and key informants show there were some security problems occurring with visitors, like throwing of stones and theft. Security and safety were probably the greatest threat to the tourism industry. However, significant violent criminal activity against foreign tourists in Meqdela Amba, were very rare. It is believed that the role of local guides, local residents and communities in crime protection were very crucial as nothing is out of the sight of the community. As per report made by Sisay (2004), orientation given to local guides and luggage porters ahead of the trip could bring peace of mind to visitors.

Conflict over resource ownership

According to FGD discussants and key informants, visitors were not willing to pay an entrance fee to the Meqdela Amba community based heritage site. Perhaps, this has created conflict between the local community and tourists. Moreover, the conflicts frequently happened due to resources ownership since grazing and farming land expansion were prohibited. Resources were currently only used for tourist attraction, for the construction of a community lodge and trekking route; therefore, the local residents' believe that they are excluded from the tourism benefits and have lost their ownership right. One of the preconditions for undertaking tourism businesses is a sufficient level of ownership rights within the local community (Denman, 2001). Similarly, conflict over resources ownership has been reported from many parts of Ethiopian tourism destination sites, for instance, Dniel (2011) in Awash National Park, Gebayew (2011) in Meket Community based ecotourism Wollo, and Teshome et al. (2018) in Amhara Region,

Northern Ethiopia.

Conclusion

The Meqdele Amba study has identified major barriers to CBET, and revealed that resource capacities, the quality of human resource, availability of professional local guides, financial support, and proper cooperation among stakeholders has been found below the standard of CBET. Encroachment in search of land; for settlement, farming and grazing were major challenges. Lack of marketing and promotion, lack of community awareness on CBET, lack of positive perception and lack of adequate infrastructure were the major community based ecotourism development barrier in Meqdele Amba.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Special attention should be given to human resources capacity building to manage the ecotourism business and enhance visitor flows in Meqdele Amba CBET.
- 2) The regional and local government should place special attention to infrastructure development and develop basic tourist facilities and amenities in Meqdele Amba community based ecotourism site and the surrounding environment.
- 3) Government should restore the ruins of Emperor Tewodros II palace, the ruins of Emperor Tewodros II Fortress, the ruins of Meqdele Medhani Alem church and the ruins of Emperor Tewodros II Treasure places in Meqdele Amba site.
- 4) Awareness creation programs should be implemented to increase awareness and improve perception of the local inhabitants on the values of heritage, heritage conservation and community based ecotourism development.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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Full Length Research Paper

Bishoftu town residents' perception about economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism

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The main purpose of this study is to explore the perception of Bishoftu town residents about the impacts of urban tourism. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were employed to achieve the objective of this study. Random sampling procedure was used for selection of respondents from the residents. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze data. The result of factor analysis showed that three factors named economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts explained 53.24% of variation in the perceptions of residents. However, most of the local residents and stakeholders were unaware of negative impact of urban tourism. MANOVA analysis indicated that, there was no significant difference between the mean of underlying dimensions of the perceived urban tourism impacts, and socio-demographic characteristics. The concerned bodies and officials should take the issues into account while planning and devising various measures.

Key words: Urban tourism, residents' perception, tourism impacts, Bishoftutown.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is widely perceived as an economic development tool for the local community, providing factors that may improve quality of life such as employment and investments opportunities, tax revenues, accommodation services, natural and cultural attractions, festivals and outdoor recreation opportunities (Brida et al., 2014). Thus, the participation and support of local residents is imperative for the sustainability of the tourism industry at any destination (Gursoy et al., 2010). However, although the increase of tourism offers many

positives, it can also be the cause of a lot of problems in the local societies. It has been accused for negative environmental impacts, for increase of land's value, for being a threat of alteration of the local traditional culture, for undesirable changes in the family values, for the increase of criminality, pollution and traffic congestion and for uncontrolled building (Dimitriadis et al., 2013).

Tourism can have both positive and negative outcomes and that residents' support is essential for sustainable tourism growth (Chen, 2001; Ramchander, 2004;

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Andriotis, 2005; Kuvan and Akan, 2005). Because the positive attitude of residents is very important to create a hospitable and attractive environment for visitor satisfaction and repeat visitation, determining local residents' perception of tourism development and its impacts plays a vital role in the future success of a destination. Many studies conducted so far on residents' attitudes toward and perceptions of urban tourism and its impacts have revealed that these aspects are predominantly explained using the social exchange theory (Andriotis and Vaughan, 2003; McGehee and Andereck, 2004).

Recently, tourism scholars have begun to focus on the specific factors influencing residents' attitudes towards tourism impacts. These factors were divided into internal and external factors that influenced attitude towards tourism (Sharpley, 2014). The external factors included levels of tourism development (Lepp, 2008), tourist types and seasonality (Sharpley, 2014). The internal factors focused on the demographic characteristics of the residents (age, gender, length of residence, economic dependency and level of education), which are considered as significant factors that shape their attitudes and perceptions towards tourism development and its impact (Tosun, 2002).

Tourism takes form on the basis of tourist attraction existence and nowadays one of the most attractive places is city. On the other hand by reason of having good facilities and services, cities are the first destination of many tourists (Estelaji et al., 2012). Urban tourism is "the trips taken by travelers to urban areas places of high population density. One of the unique features of urban tourism is that attractions are distributed densely in the urban areas (Edward et al., 2008).

Ethiopia is one of the developing countries in Africa that is endowed with various and immense tourist attraction sites. Those heritages that reflect the culture and history of the country include music, dance, literature, handicrafts, museums, paintings, churches, mosques and any other places of worship (Tofik, 2012; Yiheyis, 2015). These heritages resources and others play a paramount role in the development of the country through tourism industry. The socio cultural, economic and environmental impacts directly or indirectly influence the tourist attraction sites such as Bishoftulakes, Dinsho Park, Sofumar Cave, Gonder castle, Axum Obelisk, Lalibela, Rock Hewn Churches, Dirre Sheik Hussein and so on.

Bishoftu is one of the tourist attraction sites in Ethiopia' National and international tourists visit it every year. The reason for tourists to visit the area is to enjoy the heritages, natural beauty of the areas, art gallery and the public holiday called 'Ireecha'. International tourists also visit it in all seasons and tour operators mainly organize their visits. These tourists create income for the country in general and Bishoftu town in particular. Hiwot (2013) and Fenet (2015) conducted a study relating to tourism in Bishoftu, without considering the detail perception of

urban residents' toward urban tourism impacts. The site selected, Bishoftu town, is therefore, despite its rich historical, cultural and natural heritages, the town lacks adequate, in-depth, inclusive and professional researches on perception of urban tourism impacts and its development. The major reason for studying urban residents' perception is to understand how these perceptions will affect the tourism development and how planning may best be proceed. Therefore, to better understand the benefits and costs derived from tourism development, various studies have centered on the issues related to residents' perceived impacts of tourism (Williams et al., 1995). The above studies suggested that the distinguishing of residents' perception on the impacts of tourism is to overcome a lack of understanding of development impacts for successful tourism planning indeed, the determinants affect residents' perceptions of tourism development (Uysal et al., 1992). In general, in Ethiopia only few studies are centered on urban residents' perception on tourism impacts using descriptive data analysis method. However, on this study, different methods of data analysis such as Cronbach alpha coefficient, factor analysis and multiple analysis of variances were employed. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to explore the perception of Bishoftu town residents on the economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism.

Conceptual framework of the study

The conceptual framework of this study is clearly depicted in Figure 1. The residents' socio-demographic characteristics, their perceptions of positive and negative tourism impacts, and their overall evaluation of tourism impacts determine their support for tourism development and hence contribute for town development is vividly sited in the frame work. It is proposed that the social exchange theory establishes the underlying theoretical perspective for this study.

METHODOLOGY

Description of study area

Bishoftu town is one of the so-called rail way towns of Ethiopia established following the construction of Ethio-Djibouti railway in 1917. Bishoftu is located at 47 km from capital city of the country South-East of Finfinne main asphalt road and 52 km from capital city of East Shewa zone Adama (<http://www.mwud.gov.et/web/bishoftu/home>) (Figure 2).

Like other Ethiopia's attraction sites Bishoftu Town can be visited at any time of the year. Its tourist attractions are characterized by a cluster of volcanic crater lakes and popular spiritual sites that are found in and around the town. The town is surrounded by eight crater lakes namely: HoraArsadi, Babogaya, Bishoftu, Kuriftu, Chalalaka, Kilole, Green and Balbala Lake (Figure 3). Most of them are well developed with lodges, resorts and spas all are becoming tourist attractions. Endemic birds and plants, chain of mountains

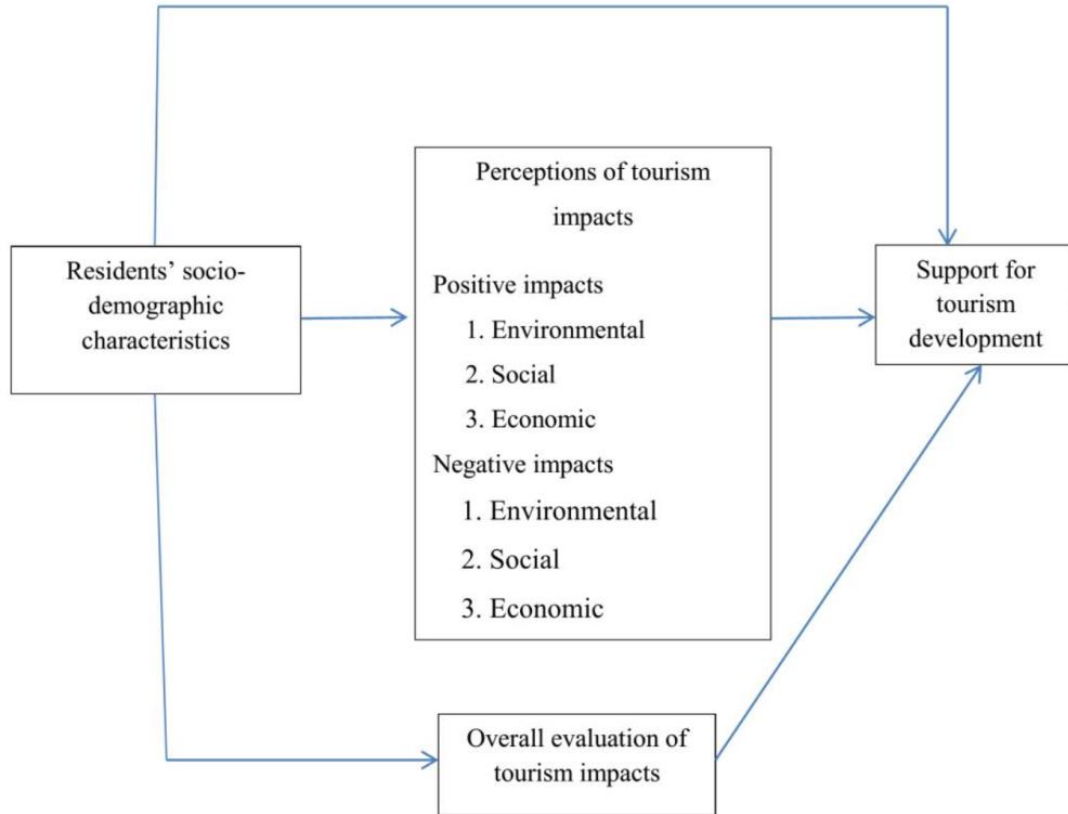


Figure 1. Framework explaining residents' perceptions support levels and contribution for town development.
 Source: Adopted from Long (2008).

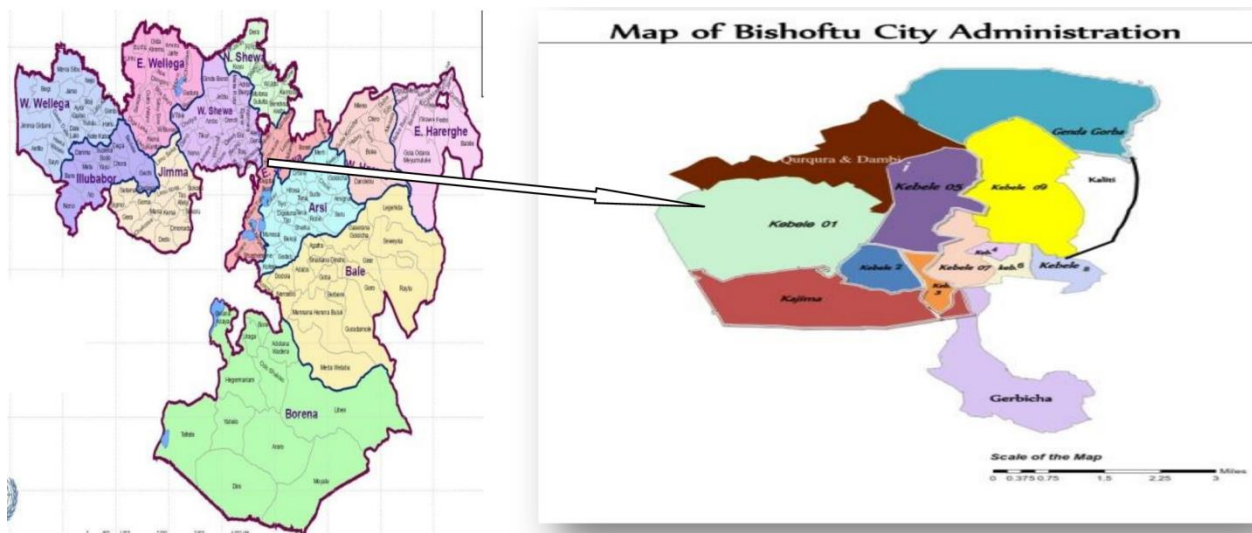


Figure 2. Map of the study area, Bishoftu Town (<http://www.mwud.gov.et/web/bishoftu/home>).
 Source: Bishoftu town Municipal office bulletin, (2017).

are also a good tourist attraction site of the city. Bishoftu is rich with potential resources, thus locals have to be involved in diversifying tourism product of the area. For example, hiking, sailing, fishing

sport, trekking, agro tourism, Bird watching etc. are some of tourism products of the town (Fenet, 2015).

In addition to the above mentioned tourism resources, there is



Figure 3. Lakes of Bishoftu Town.
 Source: Bishoftu Town Municipal Office Bulletin (2017).

also one small museum with collection of both historical and cultural heritages that shows the development of traditional Oromo cultures. GedaTulema Office, Cultural Hall, LemaGuya African Art Gallery, Bishoftu Automotive Industry and ancient human bone which has not split out for 113 years called Aba Sala Mariam, Hailesillassie Palace and Bishoftu Cultural Museum are found in Bishoftu. All these attraction sites made the city invaluable for tourism and have a great ability to attract tourists. Not only this, Bishoftu is also endowed by boasts of being Oromo ritual center where millions of people converge at the Oromo thanks giving ceremony called Ireecha, which is celebrated annually on the banks of Lake HoraArsadi. There are different kinds of Irreecha in Oromia, but the famous ones are Irecha Tulu and IrechaMelka(Hiwot, 2013) (Figure 4).

Selection of the study area

Due to the above mentioned tourism resources, the town was

selected, as it provides an ideal example to investigate the awareness level and perception of residents' towards the impact of urban tourism.

Research design

The nature of this research is descriptive design, which was used to generate the required information. This design gives a description of variables based on field generated data and literature reviews. According to Burns (2000), an exploratory design allows the researcher to make a comprehensive inference about the investigated variables in the target population. It also allows an analysis of results with a view of generating new ideas about phenomena like attitudes and perceptions of local community towards impacts of urban tourism and its development. In line with this, both qualitative and quantitative research methods were employed to illustrate the objectives of the study and to gather relevant data. For the overall research design (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Ceremony of Irrecha prayers and praise.
Source: Bishoftu town Municipal office bulletin (2017).

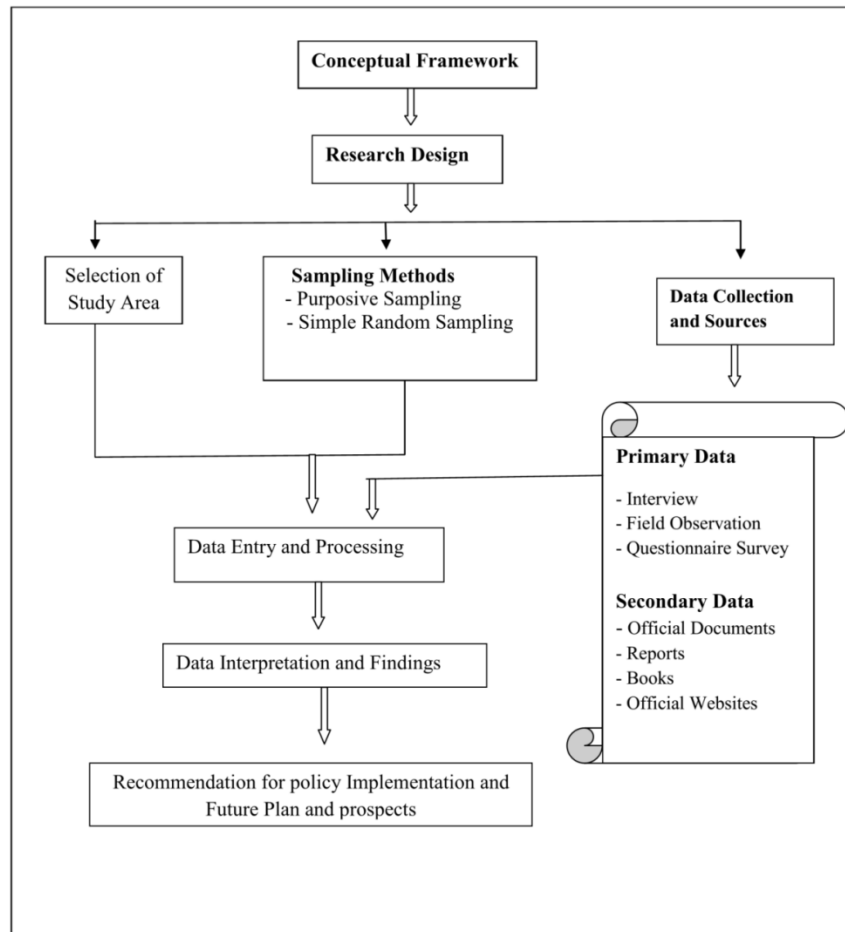


Figure 5. Research design framework.
Source: Researcher’s survey (2017).

Sample and sampling procedures

Due to a limited financial budget and time constraints, the study was conducted on a limited and manageable size. The researcher categorized the sample population in to local communities of the

city and key tourism stakeholders. The study employed different sampling procedures for the local communities and key tourism stakeholders. In order to make the perception of residents' more representative; random sampling technique was employed to select the required total 400 respondents from the nine kebeles and close

Table 1. The sample size distribution of nine kebeles.

Kebeles	No. of population	Sampled population
01	43,915	107
02	23,337	57
03	8,482	21
04	4,162	10
05	19,210	47
06	12,118	29
07	19,210	47
08	11,878	29
09	21,999	53
Total	164,311	400

ended questionnaires were distributed and analyzed by quantitative research method. The sampled population of each kebele is presented in Table 1.

According to Bishoftu city administration (2009 Ethiopian Calendar), the estimated population of Bishoftu is 207,050 and it is divided into nine urban and five rural kebeles. Of the total population, 164,311 people live in the urban kebeles and the rest lived in rural kebeles. Therefore, in determining the representative sample size of the households, the researcher used 95% confidence ($p=0.05$) of samples. Singh and Masuku (2014) provide a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes. This formula will be: $n = N/[1+N(e)^2]$, Where n is the sample size, N is the population size, and e is the level of precision or confidence interval (0.05). Thus, according to the formula the sample size is 400 residents of the city.

Using purposive sampling, this work also examined the perception of 20 tourism stakeholders of Bishoftu city culture and tourism office workers, Municipal office workers, lodge and resort owners, tour guides and travel agents. The open ended questionnaire was used to analyze the response and interprets qualitatively.

Data collection instruments

The necessary data for this study were obtained from primary sources as well as secondary source. Thus, both primary (observation, questionnaire survey and interview) and secondary data were collected.

Validity and reliability

To check the validity and reliability of questionnaire, a pilot test using 20 respondents was conducted and the result of Cronbach Alpha coefficient 0.806 higher than 0.7, which showed that research tool, was reliable. Then 400 structured questionnaires were distributed to the residents categorized into three parts. The first part of the questionnaire deals about resident's general socio-demographic characteristics, the second part comprised the urban tourism impact questions that were helped to measure the perception of Bishoftu town residents and the third part contains the perception of residents on tourism development.

Method of data analysis

The qualitative data which athered through interview, personal observation and secondary data review were narrated. The

quantitative data were analyzed with the help of Package for Social Science (SPSS version 20.). The methods of data analysis for quantitative data were: Cronbachsalpha, factor analysis, Multiple Analysis of variance and correspondence analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of respondents

The sample population for this study was residents, who lived in Bishoftu town. A total of 400 surveys questionnaires were distributed to current residents randomly selected from the 9 kebeles' in the town. Out of 400 questionnaires dispensed, six (1.3%) were rejected due to incomplete addresses. From a total of the distributed questionnaires 394 were analyzed in this study. Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of the residents' from Bishoftu town that comprises the study sample. Among the selected three hundred ninety four sample respondents from town residents 267 (67.8%) of them were males respondents whereas 126 (32%) were females. As it can be seen in the indicated table, the sample comprises primarily young people (over 49% of the respondents were aged between 21 and 30 years, and more than 40% of respondents were aged between 31-40 years, while less than 5% were aged Above 51 years.

Table 3 shows the social characteristics of the residents' from Bishoftu town that comprises the study sample. According to this table, most of the respondents were employed, and university graduates; although a significant percentage of the respondents (31.2%) have Diploma, while around 2.5% of respondents have the educational level of MA / MSc and above. In addition, the habitual residents about 31% have been living in the town for less than 5 years and about 30.5% of respondents were lived in Bishoftu for 5-10 years. 9.1 and 12.7% respondents lived in Bishoftu town for 16-20 and more than 20 years, respectively.

Table 4 shows the economic characteristics of the residents from Bishoftu town that comprises the study

Table 2. Demographic characteristics (age and gender).

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	
Gender	Male	267	67.8
	Female	126	32.0
	Total	393	99.7
	Missing	1	3
	Total	394	100.0
Age	21-30	195	49.5
	31-40	160	40.61
	41-50	21	5.3
	Above 51	16	4.1
	Total	392	99.5
	Missing value	2	.5
	Total	394	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

sample. As can be seen in this table, the majority of respondents (47.7%) earn a monthly income of 1000 to 5,000 Ethiopian birr, while 2.3% of the respondents earn a monthly income of above 10,000 birr. The sample also includes a large number of students and salaried employees.

Benefits of tourism and public attachment

Source of information

Question: What are the main source of knowledge regarding tourism impacts and tourism development? Figure 6 results revealed that more than half of the respondents (50.53%) obtain knowledge regarding tourism from mass media whereas a significant numbers of respondents get knowledge through personal observation (23.81%) and from education (22.75%) respectively. On the other hand a few percentages of respondents (2.91%) get knowledge concerning tourism from any other source like reading booklets and different newspapers. Even though the respondents know the tourist attraction areas of Bishoftu, the result signifies that most of the respondents got knowledge regarding tourism from mass media, whereas a significant number of respondents got tourism knowledge by personal observation.

Attachments to tourism and contacts of people to tourists

Question: Are you frequently in contact with tourists? According to Table 5, most of the local

community residents (65%) do not have a chance frequently to contact tourists of Bishoftu town, whereas 33.2% of respondents have a chance to meet tourists in their daily life.

Question: What is residents' level of attachment to tourism? As shown in Figure 7, the majority of residents' (42.18%) in Bishoftu town that attached to tourism were less as compared to the residents' who had a strong attachment (30.45%) to tourism, whereas around 27% of local community do not have any attachment to tourism in Bishoftu town.

Benefits of tourism

Figure 8 indicated that most of respondents (64.21%) agree that the benefit of tourism is greater than its disadvantage, whereas 31.98% of local community respondents disagree with the advantage of tourism exceed its disadvantage. All of the key tourism stake holders agree that urban tourism is beneficial to local communities to create work opportunity for locals, develop growth domestic product, conserve natural resources, generate income, promote cultural exchange, technology transfer and selling local products.

Local communities' perception of the urban tourism impacts

Economic impacts

The perception of Bishoftu town residents towards positive and negative tourism economic impact is described in Table 6. The descriptive analysis of

Table 3. Social characteristics (Education and Length of residence).

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	
Level of Education	Illiterate	28	7.1
	Read and write	20	5.1
	High school	60	15.2
	Diploma	123	31.2
	BA / BSc	151	38.3
	MA / MSc and above	10	2.5
	Total	392	99.5
	Missing	2	.5
	Total	394	100.0
Length of residence	Less than 5 years	122	31.0
	5-10 years	120	30.5
	11-15 years	59	15.0
	16-20 years	36	9.1
	More than 20 years	50	12.7
	Total	387	98.2
	Missing	7	1.8
	Total	394	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

Table 4. Economic characteristics (income and occupation).

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	
Monthly income in Birr	below 1000	83	21.1
	1000-5000	188	47.7
	5001-10,000	60	15.2
	above 10,000	9	2.3
	Total	340	86.3
	Missing	54	13.7
	Total	394	100.0
Occupation	Employed	239	60.66
	Unemployed	42	10.7
	Student	69	17.5
	Other	32	8.1
	Total	382	97.0
	Missing	12	3.0
Total	394	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

respondents' perceived economic impacts of urban tourism are presented in Table 4. The overall mean (M), standard deviation (SD) and percentage for each assessment item are explained. Respondents rated the items on a five point Likert scale with 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Moderate, 4 = Agree, and 5 = Strongly agree.

The 13 questions that assess residents' perceived impacts of urban tourism were related to economic impacts. According to Table 6, 73.1% of the local community respondents strongly agreed and agreed that urban tourism brings a positive economic impact to the country and 14.2% of respondents do not believe that tourism brings a positive economic impact; 10.2% of the

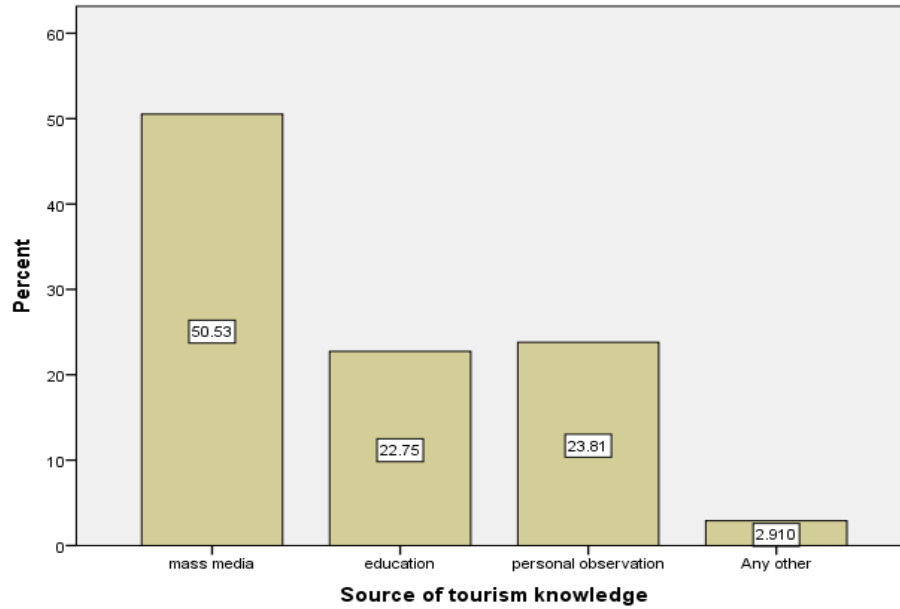


Figure 6. Source of tourism knowledge of Bishoftu town residents. Source: Researcher’s survey (2017).

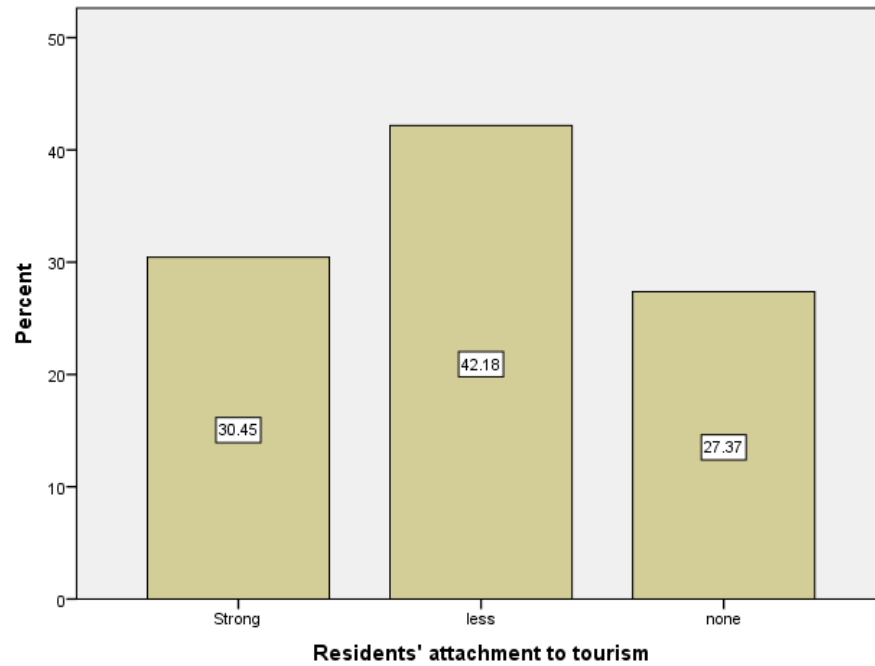


Figure 7. Residents’ attachment to tourism. Source: Researcher’s survey (2017).

local community was not aware about the positive economic impacts. This showed that there were a significant number of local communities who had no any hint about the positive economic effect of urban tourism.

In addition, the mean result (M=3.87) showed that respondents perceived urban tourism as it brings positive impact on Bishoftu’s economy. As per the data obtained from Bishoftu Town Culture and Tourism office, there is a

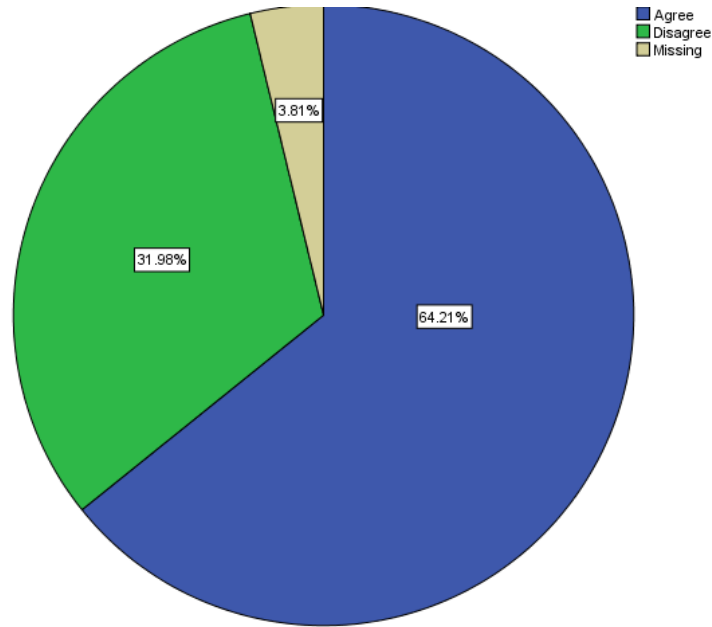


Figure 8. Respondents' response on benefits of tourism. Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

Table 5. Response of Bishoftu town residents' frequent contact with tourists.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	yes	131	33.2
	No	256	65.0
	Total	387	98.2
Missing		7	1.8
Total		394	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

steady increment of income that is obtained from tourism. This idea is clearly supported by Table 6.

As one can understand from Table 7, while the income obtained from 2005 to 2008 showed a steady increment, the income obtained in 2009 shows that it is highly decreased. As the tourism office expert described, the main reason for such reduction of income was the event of conflict during Irreecha ritual ceremony. This is because the number of tourist flow during 2009 Ethiopian Calendar decreased due to political instability of the country.

85% of local respondents were familiar with the fact that tourism attracted more investment to Bishoftu town whereas 7.9% reflected their doubt on tourism attracts more investment and insignificant numbers of respondents (5.3%) do not have knowledge regarding the statement. Besides the mean result (M=4.23) revealed that the respondents agreed with investment attraction to

the town due to tourism development. It is found that, currently investors are coming to Bishoftu town and construct resorts, lodges, hotels and pensions, said the head office of culture and tourism of the town.

71.5% of local community respondents strongly agreed or agreed that tourism attracts more spending to Bishoftu town, respectively, whereas 13.5% of respondents disagree with the statement. Moreover the mean result (M=3.95) indicated that the majority of the local communities agreed with the statement. As can be demonstrated in Table 7, 70.1% of local community respondents strongly agreed or agreed that tourism revenue increases living standards of the community. In addition, the mean result (M=3.87) revealed that, living standards of Bishoftu town community increase more rapidly because of the tourism revenues. 60.1% of respondents agreed that tourism causes an increase in price of land and cost of living. On the other hand, 26.9%

Table 6. Local communities perception towards economic impacts of urban tourism.

Perception on economic impacts of urban tourism		Respondents response							Mean	Std. deviation	
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total	Missing value			Total
Urban Tourism has a positive impact on Bishoftu's economy	Frequency	37	19	40	150	138	384	10	394	3.87	1.231
	Percent	9.4	4.8	10.2	38.1	35.0	97.5	2.5	100		
Tourism attracts more investment to the city	Frequency	16	15	21	147	188	387	7	394	4.23	1.008
	Percent	4.1	3.8	5.3	37.3	47.7	98.2	1.8	100		
Tourism attracts more spending to the city	Frequency	22	31	43	131	151	378	16	394	3.95	1.169
	Percent	5.6	7.9	10.9	33.2	38.3	95.9	4.1	100		
The living standards increase more rapidly because of the tourism revenues	Frequency	26	34	44	137	139	380	14	394	3.87	1.200
	Percent	6.6	8.6	11.2	34.8	35.3	96.4	3.6	100		
Tourism causes an increase in price of land, houses and foods/ increase in the cost of living	Frequency	47	59	43	118	119	386	8	394	3.53	1.381
	Percent	11.9	15.0	10.9	29.9	30.2	98.0	2	100		
Tourism creates new markets for local products	Frequency	16	20	32	138	176	382	12	394	4.15	1.055
	Percent	4.1	5.1	8.1	35.0	44.7	97.0	3.0	100		
Tourism is good for community's economic development	Frequency	15	14	25	149	182	385	9	394	4.22	0.994
	Percent	3.8	3.6	6.3	37.8	46.2	97.7	2.3	100		
Tourism only seasonally increases labor opportunities	Frequency	35	56	62	129	100	382	12	394	3.53	1.273
	Percent	8.9	14.2	15.7	32.7	25.4	97.0	3	100		
Tourism is beneficial for a small group of people	Frequency	56	87	61	107	71	382	12	394	2.82	1.324
	Percent	14.2	22.1	15.5	27.2	18.0	97.0	3	100		
Tourist improves public utilities in the city of Bishoftu	Frequency	25	42	48	139	135	389	5	394	3.13	1.351
	Percent	6.3	10.7	12.2	35.3	34.3	98.7	1.3	100		
The quality of services in the city of Bishoftu is better due to more tourism	Frequency	29	61	62	126	113	391	3	394	3.81	1.204
	Percent	7.4	15.5	15.7	32.0	28.7	99.2	8	100		
Transportation is better in the city due to more tourism	Frequency	38	49	51	128	117	383	11	394	3.60	1.257
	Percent	9.6	12.4	12.9	32.5	29.7	97.2	2.8	100		

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

Table 7. Income obtained from tourism in Bishoftu town.

Income obtained from tourism	2005 E.C	2006 E.C	2007 E.C	2008 E.C	2009 E.C
From domestic tourists in birr	13,843,170	57,500,000	125,000,000	209,621,118	12,173,121
From foreign tourists	398,200	1,004,500	5,000,000	31,109,218	6,513,427

Source: Bishoftu town culture and tourism, (2009).

of local communities believe that tourism does not cause increment on price of land and cost of living. Moreover the mean result ($M=3.53$) majority of local communities agreed with the above statement and 10.9% of local communities were not aware about this statement.

About 79.7% of local communities strongly agreed and agreed that tourism creates new markets for local products. On the other hand, 9.2% of respondents disagreed with the statement "tourism creates new markets for local products". Moreover the mean result ($M=4.15$) shows that the majority of local communities agreed with the statement. Furthermore, similar ideas were raised by, tourism expert of Bishoftu town, kebele administrators, the town's old known elders, hotel managers of Babogaya, Liezak and Kuriftu Resorts as well as Lema art Gallery workers. They all strongly, agreed that tourism helps the community through selling local art products; cultural clothes, handcrafts and etc of the community for the tourists. In other words, it creates market opportunities for the local residents.

Besides, 84% of local community's respondents agreed that tourism is good for community's economic development. Only 7.4% of the local communities disagreed or strongly disagreed that tourism does not benefit the local people by creating economic activities. Moreover the mean result ($M=4.22$) showed that most of the respondents agreed with the statement. These results are consistent with Doxey's Iridex model, which suggested that residents usually hold a relatively positive attitude towards tourism as tourism is introduced to host community.

As it can be seen on the Table 7, 58.1% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed on that tourism only seasonally increases job opportunities and 15.7% of respondents do not have a clue on labor opportunities increased due to more tourism, whereas 23.1% of respondents did not agree with the statement. Likewise the mean result ($M=3.53$) revealed that most of respondents agree with the statement. This idea is also confirmed by the interviewee of Bishoftu town culture and tourism head. She stated that tourism creates job opportunities in various areas. For instance, the head said that tour guides, increased the number of shades from one to three. Not only this they also bought cars and also create job opportunities for other local communities. On the other hand, Liesak resort manager and Bin hotel respondent signifies that jobs related to tourism were seasonal.

Of the respondents, 43.2% of local communities agreed that tourism is beneficial for a small group of people ($M=3.13$) and 36.3% of respondents disagreed with the statement, whereas 15.5% of local communities are not aware with the statement. 69.6% of local community respondents agreed or strongly agreed that tourism improves public utilities in Bishoftu town and 17% of respondents disagreed with the statement. Moreover, the mean result ($M=3.81$) showed that the majority of respondents agreed the statement "tourism improves public utilities in town". In addition, 60.8% of local community respondents agreed or strongly agreed on quality of services in the Bishoftu town is better due to more tourism; whereas 22.9% of respondents disagreed with the statement. Furthermore, the mean result ($M=3.60$) showed that most of the respondents agreed with the statement.

Finally, as shown in the Table 7, 62.2% of local community respondents agreed that transportation is better in the town due to more tourism, whereas, 22% of local community respondents disagreed with the statement; 12.9% hesitated to say transportation is improved in Bishoftu town due to tourism. Likewise, the mean result ($M=3.62$) indicated that most of the respondents agreed with the statement.

Generally, the result obtained from Table 7 indicates that majority of local communities are aware of the positive economic impacts of urban tourism and they know few negative impacts. Moreover, the positive economic impact of tourism is well addressed by key tourism stake holders, but its negative impacts were not well known.

Environmental impacts

The perception of Bishoftu town residents towards positive and negative tourism environmental impacts is described in Table 8. As can be seen from the table, 62.5% of local community respondents agreed that tourism causes more positive environmental effects than negative and 21.3 of them do not believe positive environmental effects of tourism is greater than negative. Moreover the mean result ($M = 3.55$) indicates that, most of the respondents agree with the above statement. According to this table, 41.1% of respondents agreed that Bishoftu community is becoming overcrowded due to the increasing number of tourists and 36.1% of respondents

Table 8. Local communities Perception towards Environmental impacts of Urban Tourism.

Perception on environmental impacts of urban tourism		Respondents response							Mean	Std. deviation	
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total	Missing value			Total
Urban tourism causes more positive environmental effects than negative	Freq.	45	39	57	150	96	387	7	394	3.55	1.283
	Percent	11.4	9.9	14.5	38.1	24.4	98.2	1.8	100		
My community is becoming overcrowded due to the increase in the number of tourists	Freq.	74	68	80	106	56	384	10	394	3.01	1.346
	Percent	18.8	17.3	20.3	26.9	14.2	97.5	2.5	100		
Tourism increases the urban pollution including noise, water pollution and waste pollution.	Freq.	104	72	62	92	56	386	8	394	2.80	1.432
	Percent	26.4	18.3	15.7	23.4	14.2	98.0	2	100		
The construction of tourist facilities destroy the environment	Freq.	59	49	56	119	100	383	11	394	3.40	1.395
	Percent	15	12.4	14.2	30.2	25.4	97.2	2.8	100		
Tourism provides an incentive for the conservation of natural resources	Freq.	21	22	50	138	150	381	13	394	3.98	1.120
	Percent	5.3	5.6	12.7	35.0	38.1	96.7	3.3	100		
Tourism increases the traffic congestion in the city	Freq.	47	51	67	126	92	283	11	394	3.43	1.316
	Percent	11.9	12.9	17.0	32.0	23.4	97.2	2.8	100		
Tourism transformed the city in an overcrowded urban territory	Freq.	59	69	73	99	82	382	12	394	3.20	1.372
	Percent	15.0	17.5	18.5	25.1	20.8	97.0	3.0	100		
Because of tourism, roads and public infrastructure are kept in higher standard than they otherwise would be	Freq.	33	26	41	145	144	389	5	394	3.88	1.223
	Percent	8.4	6.6	10.4	36.8	36.5	98.7	1.3	100		
Tourism development is responsible for the water sanity	Freq.	75	71	38	95	107	386	8	394	3.23	1.507
	Percent	19.0	18.0	9.6	24.1	27.2	98.0	2.0	100		

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

disagreed with the statement; whereas 20.3% of respondents were not aware about the statement. Furthermore the mean result ($M = 3.01$) signifies that the local communities were not aware of the

statement (Table 8). The mean result ($M = 2.80$) showed that most of the local respondents were unaware of the statement "tourism increases the urban pollution including noise, water pollution

and waste pollution". The researcher observed that the lakes around resorts are polluted to some extent. The banks of some lakes were contaminated with un-decomposed materials like use and throw

plastics materials.

According to Table 8, 35 and 38.1% of local respondents agreed and strongly agreed that urban tourism provides an incentive for the conservation of natural resources, respectively and 12.7% were unaware of the statement; 10.9% of respondents disagreed with the statement. The mean result ($M = 3.98$) also signifies that local communities agreed with the statement that tourism provides an incentive for the conservation of natural resources. Respondents from Babogaya resort, Adulala resort and Paradise lodge also confirmed that tourism helps to protect, maintain and conserve nature, such as lakes, plants, animals, forests etc.

55.4% of local community respondents agreed that tourism increases the traffic congestion in the city and 17.0% of respondents were unaware of the statement; whereas 24.8% of respondents did not agree with the statement. In addition the mean result (3.43) showed that local communities hesitated over the statement "tourism increases the traffic congestion". In addition, 45.9% of local community respondents agreed that tourism transformed the city in an overcrowded urban territory and 18.5% of the respondents are unaware that tourism converts Bishoftu town into an overcrowded territory. On the other hand, 32.5% disagree with the above statement. Likewise the mean result (3.20) indicates that respondents of local community are ambivalent that tourism transforms city in to overcrowded urban territory.

Table 8 also revealed that 36.8 and 36.5% of local community respondents agree and strongly agree that roads and public infrastructure are kept in higher standard than otherwise due to tourism expansion, respectively. On the other hand 15% disagree with the above statement. In addition, the mean result (3.88) indicated that majority of the respondents agree with the statement. The same response has been given from administration office that, due to tourism activities different infrastructural activities such as the construction of roads, electricity and hotels were developed.

51.3% of the local community respondents agreed that tourism development is responsible for the water sanity and on the other hand 37% disagreed with the statement. Moreover the mean result (3.23) revealed that the majority of the local communities are unaware of tourism development role for water sanity.

Finally, the interviewee from tourism office and the town administration experts said that most of the constructions undergone in the town are not as such attractive. This is because of the lack of coordination between the tourism office and town administration. In addition, the Bishoftu Afaf hotel manager signifies that locals meaning farmers are being displaced from their land due to more tourism. This is because as tourism develops, the town is more expanded.

To summarize, the descriptive result obtained from Table 8 indicates that Bishoftu town residents have positive perception of the environmental impacts of urban

tourism and they are unaware of the negative environmental impacts of tourism.

Socio - cultural impacts

The perception of Bishoftu town residents towards positive and negative tourism socio-cultural impacts is described in Table 9. According to this table, 69.6% of local community respondents agreed that urban tourism has led to an increase in service for residents, whereas 15.2% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagree with the statement. Moreover the mean value ($M=3.85$) indicated that most of them agree with the idea tourism leads to an increase in service for residents. 36% of local community respondents agreed that tourism causes a lower quality of life and in contrast 48% disagree with the statement.

This indicated that due to tourism the quality of life of residents increase. In addition, the mean result ($M=2.80$) indicates that most of the respondents were unaware of the statement. 48% agreed that tourism causes security and crime problems such as prostitution and drug trafficking and in contrast 32.7% disagreed with the statement. The mean average ($M=3.25$) shows that the respondents were unaware that tourism causes security and crime problems such as prostitution and drug trafficking. Furthermore, one tour guide said that around Babogaya there were some tourists who use 'Shisha' and harass local females. In addition, as a negative tourism impact of socio-culture, Kuriftu resort, View point lodge and Tommy Hotel workers revealed that, bad cultures such as homosexuality (a person usually a man who is attracted to people of the same sex) and locals imitation of bad foreign culture is expanded by forgetting indigenous culture.

62.6% of local community respondents agree that tourism brings more positive social effects than negative; 21.3% strongly disagree and disagree with the statement and a significant number, 10.2% are unaware of whether the positive social effect exceeds its negative effect. In addition, the average mean result ($M=3.65$) revealed that most of the respondents believe that tourism brings more positive social effects.

36 and 43.4% of local respondents agree and strongly agree that tourism helps the inheritance of culture and gives better knowledge of our own traditional culture, respectively and a significant number of respondents were unaware of the statement; whereas only 8.6% disagreed with the statement "tourism promotes cultural exchange". The average mean result ($M=4.15$) shows that most of the local residents respondents strongly agreed and agreed with the above statement. Most of the key tourism stakeholders stated that tourism helps the locals to promote cultural exchanges. In addition, Asham Africa waitress specified that tourism helps to know foreign culture and share our own culture to attract more tourists

Table 9. Local communities perception towards socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism.

Perception on socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism		Respondents response							Mean	Std. deviation	
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total	Missing value			Total
Urban Tourism has led to an increase in service for residents	Freq.	30	30	42	139	135	376	18	394	3.85	1.220
	Percent	7.6	7.6	10.7	35.3	34.3	95.4	4.6	100		
Tourism causes a lower quality of life	Freq.	96	94	36	71	71	368	26	394	2.80	1.493
	Percent	24.4	23.6	9.1	18.0	18.0	93.4	6.6	100		
Tourism causes security and crime problems such as prostitution and drug trafficking	Freq.	71	58	56	85	104	374	20	394	3.25	1.483
	Percent	18.0	14.7	14.2	21.6	26.4	94.9	5.1	100		
Tourism brings more positive social effects than negative	Freq.	41	43	40	129	118	371	23	394	3.65	1.328
	Percent	10.4	10.9	10.2	32.7	29.9	94.2	5.8	100		
Tourism helps the inheritance of culture and gives you better knowledge of your traditional culture	Freq.	17	17	28	142	171	375	19	394	4.15	1.048
	Percent	4.3	4.3	7.1	36.0	43.4	95.2	4.8	100		
Due to tourism, old customs have rejuvenated	Freq.	16	35	40	121	160	372	22	394	4.01	1.142
	Percent	4.1	8.9	10.2	30.7	40.6	94.4	5.6	100		
Tourism influences the evolution of local arts	Freq.	12	27	31	137	162	369	25	394	4.11	1.048
	Percent	3.0	6.9	7.9	34.8	41.1	93.7	6.3	100		
Tourism commercializes the local traditions	Freq.	12	19	43	138	163	375	19	394	4.12	1.014
	Percent	3.0	4.8	10.9	35.0	41.4	95.2	4.8	100		
Tourism promotes better understanding between people	Freq.	15	25	41	142	153	376	18	394	4.05	1.069
	Percent	3.8	6.3	10.4	36.0	38.8	95.4	4.6	100		
Tourism created more occupational opportunities for women than men	Freq.	42	69	52	100	118	381	13	394	3.48	1.378
	Percent	10.7	17.5	13.2	25.4	29.9	96.7	3.3	100		

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

and make our town well known to the world.30.7 and 40.6% of the respondents agree and strongly

agree with the statement “Due to tourism, old customs have rejuvenated ”respectively; whereas

13% of respondents disagreed that tourism has not contributed to revive old customs, and

significant number of respondents, 10.2% do not have a clue on whether tourism revives old custom or not. In addition, the mean result ($M=4.01$) signifies that most of the respondents believe that due to tourism old customs can be regenerated.

34.8 and 41.1% of the respondents agree and strongly agree that tourism influences the evolution of local arts, respectively; whereas, 9.9% of respondents disagreed with the statement, and significant number of respondents, 7.9% do not know whether tourism influences the evolution of local arts. Furthermore, the mean result ($M=4.11$) shows that most of the local community respondents believe that tourism influences the evolution of local arts.

35 and 41.4% of respondents agree and strongly agree that tourism commercializes the local traditions, whereas 7.8% disagree and strongly disagree with the statement, and a significant number of respondents (10.9%) do not know whether tourism commercializes local tradition. More over the mean result ($M=4.12$) implies that most of the local communities agreed with the statement.

36 and 38.8% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that tourism promotes better understanding between people; whereas 10.1% of respondents disagreed that due to tourism understanding between people is improved, and 10.4% were unaware of the statement. Besides, the mean result ($M=4.05$) indicates that most of the respondents agreed with the statement 'understanding between people is promoted due to tourism'. Moreover, the pyramid hotel waitress and Tommy hotel manager described that tourism helps people to work together and lead their social life well.

55.3% of the respondents agreed that tourism creates more occupational opportunities for women than men; whereas 28.3% strongly disagree and disagree that occupational opportunities created due to tourism are higher for women than men, and 13.2% were unaware of occupational opportunities created by tourism. The mean result ($M=3.48$) indicates that most of the respondents believed that occupational opportunities are created more for women than men.

To summarize, the findings indicate that Bishoftu town residents have a positive perception of the socio-cultural impacts of tourism. Yet, they are unaware of the perception on the statement 'tourism causes security and crime problems such as prostitution and drug trafficking and occupational opportunities created for women'. On the other hand, most of the key stakeholders were familiar with both positive and negative socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism.

Underlying dimension of perceived urban tourism impacts

Factor analysis was used for the purpose of identifying the underlying dimensions of residents' perceptions

toward economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism. The utilization of the "Principal Component Analysis" with the varimax rotation contained 31 perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism items. Based on the purposes of this study, the research question "Are there different underlying factors that explain urban residents' perception?"

First of all, in order to decide the appropriateness of factor analysis, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO)' measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity were employed (Golzardi et al., 2012). In this study, the results of the KMO measure of sampling adequacy revealed .839, which is sufficient for further analysis. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity revealed a significance at a level of .000 ($\chi^2 = 1514.256$, $df = 120$). Thus, the variables must be related to each other for the factor analysis to be appropriate.

In order to examine underlying dimensions of the perceived urban tourism impacts, a factor analysis with a varimax rotation was performed and the results are given in Table 10.

The three dimensions were considered as the dependent variables in this study, and they were named: economic effects, environmental and economic effects and socio-cultural effects. A total of 15 items were dropped from further analyses because some items were not interpretable for having only two items loaded in one factor and others were dropped for having low coefficient scores. After the elimination of the 15 items, factor analysis was run again and the final factorial model was constituted by 3 distinctive factors which were related with the perceptions of Bishoftu town residents. Then, reliability analysis using Cronbach's Alpha (α) was conducted to check the internal consistency of the items within each of the three factor structures. Cronbach's alpha should be more than 0.7 so as to be characterized a construct reliable (Dimitriadis et al., 2013).

The first underlying dimension contained six items with an alpha = 0.801. The second underlying dimension contained six items with an alpha = .745. The third underlying dimension contained four items with an alpha = .743. From the results, we can conclude that three factors were reliable. These three factors explained 53.24% of the variance in perception of urban tourism impacts. The factors extractable from the analysis along with their Eigen values, the percent of variance of the factor and Cronbach's alpha coefficient were given in Table 10. These factors explained 53.24% of total variance that the first factor accounts for 29.678% of the variance, the second 13.844% and the third 9.718%. In determining factors, factor loadings greater than 0.40 were considered as to be significant.

As anticipated, the first factor accounts for 29.678% of variance and 7 variables were loaded significantly. A relevant name for this on loading's pattern is economic impact Eigen value of this factor was 4.479, which was

Table 10. Results of factor analysis.

Underlying dimensions and items	Factor loading		
Economic Impact			
Tourism creates job for locals			0.812
Tourism attracts more investment to the city			0.787
Tourism is good for community's economic development			0.788
The living standards increase more rapidly because of the tourism revenues			0.622
Because of tourism, roads and public infrastructure are kept in higher standard			0.580
Transportation is better in the city due to more tourism			0.528
Environmental and economic impacts			
The quality of services in the city of Bishoftu is better due to more tourism			0.545
Tourism is beneficial for a small group of people			0.688
Tourism transformed the city in an overcrowded urban territory			0.720
Tourism causes an increase in price of land, houses and foods/ increase in the cost of living			0.686
Tourism increases the urban pollution including noise, water pollution and waste pollution.			0.728
Tourism development is responsible for the water sanity			0.717
Socio-cultural impacts			
Tourism influences the evolution of local arts			0.776
Tourism commercializes the local traditions			0.792
Due to tourism, old customs have rejuvenated			0.690
Tourism promotes better understanding between people			0.636
Eigen-value	4.749	2.215	1.555
Percent of Variance Explained	29.678	13.844	9.718
Cumulative Variance Explained	29.678	43.522	53.240
Cronbach's Alpha	0.801	0.745	0.743
KMO and Bartlett's Test			
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.			
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	.839	
	Df	1514.256	
	Sig.	120	
		0.000	
Total Variance Explained = 53.24%			
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.			
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.			
a. Rotation converged in 4 iterations.			

Source: Researcher's survey (2017).

placed at the first priority among the impacts of urban tourism. These items were tourism creates job for locals, attracts more investment to the city, good for community's economic development, living standards increase more rapidly, improve public infrastructure, makes transportation better and increase quality of services in the Bishoftu town.

The second factor is associated mostly with the variables related to economic and environmental aspect of urban tourism. Thus, this factor can be named as economic and environmental impacts. The Eigen value

for this factor is 2.215, which explains about 14 percent of the total variance. The items were tourism is beneficial for a small group of people, transformed the city in an overcrowded urban territory, increase in the cost of living, increases the urban pollution and it is responsible for the water sanity.

The name assigned to the third factor is socio-cultural impacts. This factor with Eigen value of 1.555 explains 9.718% of the total variance of the effects of urban tourism. All assessments included in this factor were tourism influences the evolution of local arts,

Table 11. MANOVA table for socio-demographic variables and perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism.

Variable	Wilk'sLamda	F-value	P-value
Gender	0.716	1.640	0.083
Age	0.435	0.761	0.929
Occupation	0.427	0.987	0.510
Education level	0.390	1.109	0.285
Length of residence	0.355	1.235	0.129
Income	0.615	0.615	0.902
Residents attachment to tourism	0.013	19.919	0.000

Source: Researcher's Survey (2017).

commercializes the local traditions, restore old customs and promotes better understanding between people. As a result, factor analysis revealed that there were three dimensions of tourism impacts that were perceived by current residents of Bishoftu town. Thus, this study concluded that tourism development could influence residents' viewpoint of the economic, social, cultural and environmental factors of the local community (Table 11).

Hypothesis 1: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by gender of the Bishoftu town residents.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) given in Table 11 indicated that there was no significant difference between Bishoftu residents' gender and the underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = 0.716; F = 1.640 ; P-value = 0.083).

Hypothesis 2: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by age of Bishoftu town residents.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was no significant difference between residents' age category and the three underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = .435 ; F = 0.761 ; P-value = 0.929).

Hypothesis 3: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by occupation category of the Bishoftu town residents. The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was no significant difference between residents' occupation category and the three underlying

dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = 0.427; F = 0.987; P-value = 0.510).

Hypothesis 4: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by educational level of the Bishoftu town residents.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was no significant difference between residents' educational level and the three underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = 0.390; F = 1.109; P-value = 0.285).

Hypothesis 5: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by length of residence of the Bishoftu town residents.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was no significant difference between residents' length of residence and the three underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = 0.355; F = 1.235; P-value = 0.129).

Hypothesis 6: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by monthly income level of the Bishoftu town residents.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was no significant difference between residents' monthly income level and the three underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk'sLamda = 0.615; F = 0.615 ; P-value = 0.902).

Hypothesis 7: The underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism do not differ by Bishoftu town resident's tourism attachment.

The results of the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) indicated that there was a significant difference between residents' tourism attachment and the three underlying dimensions of the perceived economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of urban tourism (Wilk's $\Lambda = 0.013$; $F = 19.919$; $P\text{-value} = 0.000$).

Conclusion

The study attempted to assess the perception of Bishoftu town residents towards the impacts of urban tourism. The result of the descriptive statistics showed that there is no significant difference between the mean perceptions of the respondents towards economic impacts of urban tourism. The study has found that the local residents perceive the positive economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of tourism auspiciously and have lack of awareness on negative economic and environmental impacts of urban tourism. In addition, key tourism stake holders have lack of awareness on the negative economic impact of urban tourism. This is explained by social exchange theory.

Most of the Bishoftu town's residents perceive the overall impacts of urban tourism constructively. As per the factor analysis, three factors, economic impacts, environmental impacts and socio-cultural impacts were perceived by current residents of Bishoftu town which indicate 53.24% of total explained variance, KMO measure of sampling adequacy 0.839, and the level of significance .000 ($\chi^2 = 1514.256$, $df = 120$) (Bartlett's Test of Sphericity). Thus, this study concluded that tourism development could influence residents' viewpoint of the economic, social, cultural and environmental factors of the host community. The results of the MANOVA analysis indicate that there were no significant mean differences between residents' demographic characteristic and perception of tourism's positive impacts or their perception of tourism's negative impacts. However, there was a significant mean difference between the residents' tourism attachment and their perception of urban tourism's impacts.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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