

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LERIBE DISTRICT,
LESOTHO**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **LERATO THERESIA LEKOATSA**, student number **201702904**, declare that this dissertation has been successfully completed for the Department of Development Studies and Faculty of Humanities at the National University of Lesotho's Master of Arts in Development Studies Program. This dissertation is entirely original work that I did on my own initiative and has never before been submitted for credit at another school or faculty.

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LERATO THERESIA LEKOATSA

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28/06/2023

DEDICATION

In loving memory of my late father, **Sera Joachim Lekoatsa**, this master's thesis stands as a tribute to your unwavering belief in my dreams and your constant encouragement to pursue knowledge. Although you are no longer physically present, your spirit continues to guide me, providing strength and inspiration during every step of this academic journey.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the relationship between tourism and economic development in the Leribe District of Lesotho. Lesotho, a landlocked country in southern Africa, has recognized the potential of tourism as a driver of economic growth and development. The Leribe District, known for its breathtaking natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and historical sites, has emerged as a significant tourism destination within the country.

The primary objective of this study is to examine the impact of tourism on the economic development of the Leribe District. By employing a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data, the research investigates various dimensions of tourism, including visitor arrivals, tourism revenue, employment generation, and multiplier effects on local businesses.

The study assesses the existing tourism infrastructure, including accommodation facilities, transportation networks, and tourism services, to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Additionally, it explores the perceptions, experiences, and satisfaction levels of tourists visiting the Leribe District, shedding light on their motivations, preferences, and the overall quality of their experiences.

Furthermore, the research investigates the socio-economic implications of tourism in the Leribe District, analyzing its contribution to income generation, poverty alleviation, and community development. It examines the extent of local community participation in tourism activities and the distribution of benefits among various stakeholders, including local businesses, residents, and indigenous communities.

The findings of this study provide insights into the potential of tourism as a catalyst for economic development in the Leribe District. They inform policymakers, tourism planners, and local communities on the strategies and interventions needed to maximize the positive impacts of tourism while mitigating any potential negative consequences.

Ultimately, this research aims to contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development of tourism in the Leribe District of Lesotho, emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural heritage, protecting the environment, and fostering community engagement for the long-term benefits of tourism-driven economic growth.

Keywords: Tourism, economic development, Lesotho, Leribe District, sustainable tourism, community participation, tourism impacts.

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List of Acronyms

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NTDP	National Tourism Development Policy
OAS	Organization of American States
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TLGH	Tourism-led growth hypothesis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNWTO	United Nations World Travel Organization
WTO	World Travel Organization
CBT	Community-Based Tourism
DMOs	Destination Management Organizations
GNP	Gross National Product
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
US	United States

CHAPTER 1

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

1.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction to the study, problem statement which motivated the choice of the study, as well as the purpose of the study. The research specific objectives and research questions are also presented. The chapter also presents the hypothesis, states the assumptions and how significant the study is, while also explaining the delimitations and limitations of the study. The definition of key terms is also made and lastly the chapter displays the structure of the research and summary of the chapter.

1.1 Background to the Study

Developing countries began to promote tourism during the globalization era in order to advance their economies, promote peace, develop human resources, and reduce poverty, (Hall and Richards, 2002). Tourism has emerged as a key global economic driver in the twenty-first century. An increase in tourism flow can have a positive economic impact on nations, particularly in terms of GDP and job opportunities. For example, it is already a significant contributor to employment and wealth creation in South Africa, with a massive spillover effect that affects all sectors of the economy (Jonker, 2004). The concept of sustainable tourism is to visit locations without harming the local community or nature while also having a positive impact on the environment, society, and economy of the country (Tang, 2011).

In recent years, there has been a notable transformation in how destinations view tourism. While it used to be primarily regarded as a means of generating income and fostering economic development, many destinations are now placing greater emphasis on sustainable and responsible tourism (McBoyle et al, 2021). They recognize the need to balance the economic benefits of tourism with the preservation of their natural and cultural heritage. As an approach to economic growth, tourism may also have fewer environmental and social impacts than extractive industries, such as timber and mining (Hall & Lew, 2009). From a macroeconomic perspective, international tourism contributes to the export income of a destination. Investment in export-led growth is major

part of the development objectives of economies that see it as the most secure means of achieving long-term economic growth and livelihood (Nowak et al., 2007).

Yui et al (2015) states that tourism development has been identified as a sector that will reduce poverty and absorb many low or semi-skilled labourers by the Lesotho government, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Increasing Lesotho's tourism sector will inevitably contribute to the reduction of poverty in the Kingdom as a whole. Tourism is the government of Lesotho's top priority for creating local jobs. This is a developing industry as Lesotho gains recognition as a tourist destination. Lesotho receives only 2% of the 58 million annual tourists, almost all of whom come from South Africa.

Lesotho is an African country that provides a unique tourism experience due to appealing natural landscape, rich flora and fauna, towering peaks, rich culture, water streams, and magnificent mountain range (Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation, 2016).

As indicated by Manwa (2012), Ha- Lejone tourism has had positive impacts such as development of small and medium-sized enterprises and development of indigenous knowledge system. The promotion of rural tourism is premised on the principles of sustainable tourism in that it brings new uses and values to rural resources, contributes to the conservation of the environment and enhancement, and can be used to supplement the incomes of the locals (Fleischer & Felsenstein, 2000).

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2018), tourism has the potential to contribute immensely to Lesotho's GDP and employment; hence, the Lesotho government has attempted to eliminate potential factors that could hamper the sector's development. This study intends to assess the impact of tourism on Lesotho's economic development, with particular focus on the Leribe district. In particular, the study focuses on tourism impact on revenue, employment, investment, and export. The study shall further investigate the drawbacks prohibiting tourism development in Lesotho. It is believed that the identification of these tourism development drawbacks shall channel the Lesotho tourism decision-makers towards critical areas requiring more attention in order to accelerate the country's tourism competitiveness.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Leribe is one of the tourist attraction centres in Lesotho. The district receives thousands of tourist visitors from the international community annually. Nevertheless, the district is one of the poorest districts in the country, yet the country policy is that income generated from tourism should help improve the standard of living of the people in the district. Where is the income generated from tourist visitors in Leribe going? This study seeks to find out where the problem is.

1.3 Statement of Purpose

The purpose of conducting this study is to establish the reasons for Leribe district remaining one of the poorest districts in Lesotho when it receives many annual tourist visitors.

1.4 Research Objectives

Specific research objectives for this study are as follows:

- to identify ways tourism contributes to economic development in the country;
- to evaluate the factors which hinder economic development from tourist accruals in Leribe district; and
- to provide recommendations on how to accelerate economic development from tourist generated income in tourist destinations more effectively.

1.5 Research Questions

The corresponding research questions are as follows:

- How does tourism contribute to economic development in Lesotho?
- What factors hinder economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe district?
- What measures could be adopted in order to accelerate economic development in tourist destinations?

1.6 Hypothesis

Tourism activities have a long-term influence on economic growth.

1.7 Statement of Assumptions

The tourism industry in Leribe district is not living up to its full potential and there is more effort that could be put in place in order to unlock maximum economic development.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The study seeks to contribute to a theoretical enhancement of the current level of knowledge in the existing literature on tourism and economic development in Lesotho. From a practical view, this study intends to make recommendations based on findings, on how economic development could be achieved effectively through tourism in the destination places.

1.9 Delimitations of the Study

The study was able to cover the area close to tourism facilities and within reach, however, not the whole area of Leribe district was reached due to topography and accessibility of the region.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

Time was the biggest limitation, where scheduled interviews for example, were limited by time. Participants did not provide much needed information and there were issues with accessibility of areas of interest. There was also a shortage of literature in the context of Lesotho's tourism and economic development. In an attempt to challenge the limitations, the researcher, amongst other things, used technology tools like a cellphone to reach respondents in areas which could otherwise be unreachable. Time management was also a priority while striving for accurate responses with more needed information as much as possible. The researcher also travelled to places of interest to conduct interviews in order to yield needed results.

1.11 Definitions of Terms

1.11.1 Tourism

Tourism can be defined as the practice of traveling temporarily to another country by millions of people for pleasure, recreation, relaxation, sightseeing or learning to meet their socio-cultural and psychological needs (Harun et al, 2016).

1.11.2 Economic Development

Economic development as defined by Feldman et al (2016), is the expansion of capacities that contribute to the advancement of society through the realization of individuals', firms' and communities' potential. It is said to be sustained increase in prosperity and quality of life realized through innovation, lowered transaction costs, and the utilization of capabilities towards the responsible production and diffusion of goods and services.

1.12 Chapters Outline

Chapter 1 serves as a general introduction and states the background of the study, the problem motivating the study, the purpose of the study, the significance of the research, the study delimitations, limitations and the outline of the study.

Chapter 2 reviews related literature, while also laying out the theory underpinning the study. The chapter also includes a conceptual discussion as determined by the research questions and an empirical evidence addressing the research problem.

Chapter 3 describes the research methodology, design, population and sampling techniques data collection methods, and data analysis techniques. It discusses the data presentation procedure, identifies the reliability and validity of the study and the ethical considerations in regards to the research study.

Chapter 4 is about presenting data and providing an analysis, while also presenting the demographics of the respondents. It is in this chapter that thematic topics drawn from the research are also presented.

Chapter 5 presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations which are drawn from the results. Limitations and suggestions for further research are also presented in this chapter.

1.13 Summary

This chapter focused on the purpose of this study, laying out the problem and its setting. The chapter explains the problem statement and then the motivation for the study. The aims and objectives of the study are identified, and the hypothesis is outlined. Chapter 1 serves as a general introduction and states the background of the study, the problem motivating the study, the purpose

of the study, the significance of the research, the study delimitations, limitations and the outline of the study. Next chapter discusses related literature to contextualize the study.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to provide the history of the concept of tourism, while also stating its different forms, impacts and challenges as presented by different scholars. The chapter also presents the concept of economic development then proceeds to link tourism and economic development. Empirical findings are also made through different studies from abroad to Sub-Saharan African and lastly studies conducted locally. Summary of the chapter is also made at the last section of the chapter.

2.1 Concept of Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest-growing industries in the world, and it has become an essential part of modern society. Tourism can be defined as the temporary movement of people from one place to another for leisure, business or other purposes (Liu, 2003). It involves the consumption of goods and services, which generates economic benefits for the host community.

2.1.1 Forms of Tourism

Tourism can take different forms depending on the purpose of the travel, duration of the trip, and destination. Some of the popular forms of tourism include domestic tourism, international tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, medical tourism, cultural tourism, and religious tourism (Sharpley, 2014). Domestic tourism involves travel within one's country, where one example of domestic tourism can be seen in the study conducted by Li et al. (2020) in China, which examined the factors influencing domestic tourist satisfaction in a rural area. The study area was the Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area, located in the northern part of Sichuan Province. The area is known for its stunning natural scenery and unique cultural heritage, making it a popular destination for domestic tourists.

The study used a questionnaire survey to collect data from 400 domestic tourists who had visited the area. The results showed that tourists' satisfaction was influenced by several factors, including the quality of tourist services, the natural and cultural environment, and the local community's hospitality. Tourists' satisfaction with the local community's hospitality was found to be the most

significant factor, indicating that the interaction between tourists and the local community plays a crucial role in shaping tourists' satisfaction. The study also found that tourists' satisfaction had a positive impact on their intention to revisit the area and recommend it to others.

Therefore, enhancing domestic tourist satisfaction is essential for promoting sustainable domestic tourism development and increasing the economic benefits for the local community. This study highlights the importance of domestic tourism in promoting sustainable tourism development and economic growth in rural areas. Domestic tourism can create employment opportunities and boost the local economy by generating income for local businesses. Moreover, domestic tourism can help preserve local culture and heritage by promoting awareness and appreciation among domestic tourists.

While international tourism involves traveling to other countries, an example can be drawn from the study conducted by Pesämaa, Hair Jr, and Johanson (2015), which examined the internationalization of tourism SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) in the Swedish Lapland region. The study area is known for its unique natural and cultural attractions, including the Northern Lights, reindeer herding, and the Sami culture, making it a popular destination for international tourists. The study used a survey to collect data from 146 tourism SMEs in the Swedish Lapland region. The results showed that internationalization had a positive impact on SMEs' performance, including increased sales revenue and profitability.

The study found that international tourists were attracted to the region's unique natural and cultural attractions, and that tourism SMEs had to tailor their products and services to meet the specific needs and preferences of international tourists. The study also found that networking and collaboration with other tourism SMEs and stakeholders were essential for successful internationalization. Furthermore, the study highlighted the importance of developing a strong destination brand to attract international tourists and differentiate the region from other destinations.

Eco-tourism focuses on responsible travel to natural areas to conserve the environment and improve the welfare of local people (Weaver, 2017). Eco-tourism is a form of sustainable tourism that focuses on responsible travel to natural areas while preserving the environment and supporting local communities. One example can be seen in the research conducted by Basukriadi et al. (2021) in the Ciletuh Geopark, Indonesia. The Ciletuh Geopark is located on the island of Java and is

known for its unique geological formations, diverse flora and fauna, and cultural heritage. The study used a survey to collect data from 250 tourists who had visited the Ciletuh Geopark.

The results showed that tourists' perceptions of the geopark's ecological, cultural, and economic values influenced their intention to engage in eco-tourism activities. The study found that tourists' participation in eco-tourism activities had a positive impact on the geopark's conservation efforts and the economic development of local communities. The study also found that tourists' satisfaction with the quality of eco-tourism services and the level of environmental education provided by tour guides influenced their intention to engage in eco-tourism activities. Therefore, enhancing the quality of eco-tourism services and promoting environmental education among tourists and local communities are essential for promoting sustainable eco-tourism development.

This study highlights the potential of eco-tourism for promoting sustainable tourism development and preserving natural and cultural heritage. Eco-tourism can generate income for local communities, create employment opportunities, and promote environmental conservation. Moreover, eco-tourism can enhance tourists' awareness and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage, which can contribute to their preservation and protection.

Adventure tourism involves challenging activities such as rock climbing, bungee jumping, and skiing, where an example can be drawn from a research conducted by Ribeiro and Silva (2021) in the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique. The Bazaruto Archipelago National Park is known for its unique marine and coastal ecosystems, which attract tourists for activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling, and surfing. The study found that tourists' satisfaction with adventure tourism experiences was influenced by factors such as the quality of equipment and safety measures, the professionalism and friendliness of tour guides, and the authenticity and environmental sustainability of the adventure tourism products and services.

Musa et al. (2021) conducted a medical tourism research study in Malaysia which involved traveling for medical treatment or procedures. Malaysia has become a popular medical tourism destination due to its high-quality healthcare services, affordable prices, and favorable geographical location.

On the other hand, cultural tourism is a popular and growing field of study that focuses on the relationship between tourism and cultural heritage. It involves visiting cultural and historical sites,

museums, festivals, and other events that showcase the unique traditions, art, architecture, cuisine, and lifestyles of a particular community or region. Here are some key areas of study in cultural tourism, along with some references to further explore these topics:

Heritage tourism, as described by Timothy & Boyd (2003), entails the act of visiting cultural and historical sites with the aim of gaining insights into the past and the unique traditions and customs of a specific community or region. The destinations popular for heritage tourism encompass historic buildings, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes.

Festival tourism, according to Getz (2010), revolves around visiting a destination for the purpose of actively participating in cultural events and celebrations. These can encompass a wide range of activities, from music festivals and food festivals to religious festivals. Notably, festival tourism carries the potential to generate substantial economic benefits for host communities while simultaneously contributing to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

Cultural landscapes, as highlighted by Baldassare & Katz (2018), refer to places that serve as tangible representations of the interactions between people and their environment, often closely associated with specific cultural or ethnic groups. Notable examples of cultural landscapes include rural villages, agricultural settings, and urban neighborhoods.

Dark tourism, as defined by Lennon & Foley (2000), involves the act of visiting sites connected with death, tragedy, or disaster. These sites can encompass a wide range of locations, such as cemeteries, war memorials, and areas impacted by natural disasters. The nature of dark tourism has sparked considerable debate, with some asserting that it aids in preserving historical memory, while others criticize it as exploitative.

Food tourism, as explained by Long & Robinson (2014), is centered around the idea of visiting a destination primarily to immerse oneself in the local cuisine and food culture. This immersive experience can encompass activities like exploring local markets, dining in regional restaurants, attending food festivals, taking part in cooking classes, and indulging in farm-to-table experiences.

These are just a few examples of the many areas of study within cultural tourism. As this field continues to grow and evolve, it will undoubtedly continue to offer exciting opportunities for researchers, practitioners, and travelers alike.

Religious tourism is another type of tourism that involves travel for religious purposes, which has become an important part of many economies, with one example of religious tourism study area of Varanasi, India, according to Gupta et.al (2017), is considered one of the holiest cities in Hinduism. They further outline that Varanasi is located on the banks of the Ganges River and is known for its many temples and shrines. Every year, millions of Hindu pilgrims visit Varanasi to take part in religious ceremonies and rituals, including bathing in the Ganges River, which is believed to purify the soul. The study examined the economic impact of religious tourism in Varanasi. The study found that religious tourism generates significant income for the local economy, creating jobs and supporting small businesses.

The OAS (2010) listed valuable attributes that could result in a successful tourism destination. Table 2.1 lists a summary of the various attributes.

Table 2.1: Tourism Destination Attributes for Success- (Source: OAS, 2010).

Climate	Natural resources	Infrastructure	Amenities	Culture	Socio-economic and political
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature • Rainfall • Humidity • Sunshine hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches • Lakes • Rivers • Forests • Mountains • Flora & Fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic essential services such as electricity, water, waste removal and sewer. • Roads • Telecommunications • Railways • Ports • Airports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation • Institutions • Restaurants • Shopping • Sports and recreation • Entertainment • Wildlife and zoo's • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic features • Theatres • Art • Museums • Festivals events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable government • Political stability

2.1.2 Impacts of Tourism

Tourism can have positive and negative impacts on the host community, environment, and economy. The positive impacts of tourism include the creation of jobs, income generation, and foreign exchange earnings (UNWTO, 2021). Tourism can also promote cultural exchange,

preserve heritage sites, and improve infrastructure development. However, tourism can have negative impacts, such as environmental degradation, overcrowding, and social and cultural changes (Buckley, 2012). Mass tourism can lead to the overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. It can also cause social conflicts, crime, and cultural erosion.

One study area that has experienced the impacts of tourism is Bali, Indonesia. Bali is a popular tourist destination known for its natural beauty, culture, and hospitality. However, the rapid growth of tourism on the island has led to both positive and negative impacts on the local economy, environment, and society.

Tourism has brought about substantial economic impacts in Bali, as observed by Ananta & Arifin (2015). It has positively contributed to the economy through job creation, increased foreign exchange earnings, and tax revenues. However, it has also resulted in economic inequality and the concentration of wealth in specific areas, leaving other parts of the island underdeveloped.

The environmental impacts of tourism, as noted by Ningsi et al. (2018), have been predominantly negative in Bali. The rapid growth of tourism has led to the degradation of natural resources, increased pollution, and threats to biodiversity. Additionally, the overuse of water resources and the destruction of coral reefs have been significant concerns.

Sociocultural impacts of tourism on Bali, according to Irwansyah et al. (2017), have been mixed. It has brought changes to traditional lifestyles, cultural commodification, and tensions between tourists and locals. However, tourism has also played a role in preserving cultural heritage and facilitating cultural exchange.

Tourism has exerted considerable political impacts on Bali, as observed by Dasgupta & Dasgupta (2016). It has led to changes in political structures and power relations, contributing to increased political instability in the region. Simultaneously, tourism has been used as a tool for diplomacy and international relations.

2.1.3 Challenges of Tourism

The growth of tourism has led to several challenges, such as overcrowding, overdependence on tourism, and seasonality (Hall, 2005). Overcrowding can lead to environmental degradation, social conflicts, and a decline in the quality of tourism products. Overdependence on tourism can make the host community vulnerable to economic downturns and crises, such as the COVID-19

pandemic. Seasonality can lead to fluctuations in demand, resulting in unemployment and underutilization of resources. One study area that has faced challenges associated with tourism is Barcelona, Spain, as studied by different scholars. While tourism has brought economic benefits to the city, it has also presented a number of challenges listed below, that impact the quality of life for residents and the overall sustainability of the tourism industry.

Barcelona has grappled with over-tourism, a situation characterized by an excessive influx of visitors that surpasses the destination's capacity for sustainable management, as described by Brouder et al. (2020). This has resulted in overcrowding in popular tourist areas, traffic congestion, and strain on local resources.

Tourism in Barcelona has left a significant environmental footprint, encompassing air pollution, waste generation, and harm to natural areas. The high volume of tourists has further fueled an increase in carbon emissions, contributing to the broader issue of climate change, as highlighted by Chen & Jim (2020).

From a socioeconomic perspective, Tornos and Nadal (2021) underline how tourism has driven up housing costs and fostered gentrification in specific neighborhoods of Barcelona. This phenomenon has led to the displacement of long-term residents and contributed to social inequality. Moreover, the city's heavy reliance on tourism for economic growth has rendered it susceptible to economic shocks, such as those seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cultural impacts in Barcelona have manifested as alterations to the city's cultural fabric, as detailed by Jiménez & Fuentes (2019). Traditional businesses and neighborhoods have given way to tourist-oriented establishments, resulting in a loss of authenticity and character, as well as a decline in the quality of life for local residents.

2.2 Concept of Economic Development

Economic development has been defined in many ways, but the most widely accepted definition is the one by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which defines economic development as "the process of improving the economic and social well-being of people through the creation of jobs, the growth of incomes, and the expansion of production and trade" (UNDP, 2015). According to Todaro and Smith (2015), economic development refers to "the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people". This

definition emphasizes the multidimensional nature of economic development, which goes beyond just economic growth to include improvements in other aspects of people's lives.

One of the key debates in the literature on economic development is the question of how to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, where neoclassical economists argue that economic growth is driven by market-oriented policies that promote free trade, investment, and innovation (Mankiw et al., 2021). Critics of neoclassical theory, however, argue that these policies may exacerbate income inequality and environmental degradation and fail to address the needs of marginalized groups (Stiglitz, 2012).

An alternative approach to economic development is the capability approach, which emphasizes the importance of human capabilities, such as education, health, and social inclusion, as key drivers of economic development (Sen, 1999). This approach suggests that economic growth should be viewed as a means to achieve broader social goals, such as reducing poverty and improving the quality of life.

The literature on economic development also highlights the importance of institutions and governance in promoting economic growth and development. Good governance, including transparent and accountable institutions, the rule of law, and effective public service delivery, is critical for creating an enabling environment for economic growth (World Bank, 2017). Weak institutions, corruption, and political instability are among the main barriers to economic development in many countries (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012).

Finally, the literature on economic development highlights the challenges of achieving sustainable development. Economic growth that is not sustainable, for example, due to environmental degradation or resource depletion, is unlikely to benefit future generations (UNDP, 2018). Achieving sustainable economic growth requires addressing the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change, as well as promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality.

2.3 Tourism and Economic Development

Tourism and economic development have a complex and multifaceted relationship, with numerous studies examining their impact on local and regional economies. This literature below explores key themes and findings related to tourism and economic development, with a focus on relevant studies.

One of the most commonly studied areas of tourism and economic development is the economic impact of tourism on local and regional economies. Studies have found that tourism can contribute to job creation, revenue generation, and economic diversification (Dwyer, Forsyth, & Dwyer, 2010; Sharpley & Telfer, 2015). Tourism can also have a significant impact on the cultural and social fabric of local communities, which can affect the long-term sustainability of tourism in the region (Li & Wang, 2016). However, tourism can also have negative impacts on the environment, leading to issues such as overcrowding and pollution (Scott & Cooper, 2012).

In addition to the economic impact of tourism, the role of government policy in promoting tourism as an economic development strategy has also been studied. Scholars have noted that government policies can play a key role in shaping the economic impact of tourism, through investment in infrastructure, marketing, and regulation (Sharpley & Telfer, 2015). Policies that prioritize sustainability and community involvement can help to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on local economies and environments (Li & Wang, 2016).

One example study area that has received significant attention in the literature on tourism and economic development is the Southeast Asian region. According to Mason (2018) tourism has played a significant role in the economic development of the Southeast Asia region, which includes countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The growth of tourism has led to the creation of new jobs in the tourism industry, as well as in related industries such as transportation and hospitality (Mason, 2018). Tourism has also generated significant revenue for the region, with international tourists spending billions of dollars each year on accommodation, food, transportation, and attractions (WTO, 2018).

In addition to job creation and revenue generation, tourism has also contributed to the diversification of the Southeast Asia region's economy while also helping to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region, as well as to create new markets for local products and services (Buhalis & Sinarta, 2019). This has helped to reduce the region's dependence on traditional industries such as agriculture and manufacturing.

However, the growth of tourism in the Southeast Asia region has also led to a number of challenges and negative impacts. These include issues such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, and cultural erosion (Hall & Williams, 2018). There are also concerns about the sustainability of

tourism in the region, with some scholars arguing that the negative impacts of tourism may outweigh the economic benefits (Telfer & Sharpley, 2015).

Despite these challenges, the overall contribution of tourism to the economic development of the Southeast Asia region has been significant. The tourism industry has helped to create jobs, generate revenue, and promote economic diversification in the region, while also highlighting the need for sustainable tourism practices and policies.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Tourism and economic development in Lesotho can be understood within the framework of the tourism-led growth hypothesis, which posits that the development of the tourism sector can stimulate economic growth and development (Dritsakis, 2004). This framework suggests that tourism development can generate foreign exchange earnings, create employment opportunities, and promote investment in infrastructure and other related sectors.

Furthermore, the tourism industry can also play a role in promoting socio-economic development through the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, the promotion of local entrepreneurship, and the development of sustainable tourism practices (Murphy, 1985).

In Lesotho, the potential for tourism-led economic growth has been recognized in the country's National Tourism Development Policy (NTDP) 2016-2026. The policy highlights the government's commitment to developing the tourism industry as a driver of economic growth and development (Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation, 2016).

Several studies have explored the relationship between tourism and economic development in Lesotho. For example, one study by Lekhanya and Morahanye (2017) found that tourism had a positive impact on Lesotho's economic growth, particularly in terms of employment creation and foreign exchange earnings. Another study by Motebang et al. (2019) highlighted the potential for community-based tourism to promote rural development and poverty alleviation in Lesotho.

Overall, the theoretical framework of tourism-led economic growth provides a useful lens through which to understand the potential for tourism development to promote economic development in Lesotho. However, the specific context of Lesotho, including its unique cultural and environmental

resources, as well as its development challenges, must be taken into account in the design and implementation of tourism development policies and programs.

2.5 Empirical Findings

This sections is going to discuss selected studies that have been done in different areas, from abroad to the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Lesotho.

2.5.1 Studies Done Abroad

In a study done by Liu (2022), *Impact of Tourism on Regional Economic Growth: A Global Value Chain Perspective*, the objective was to fill the void of limited literature on the impact of tourism on the economies along the global value chain. To do this, the study used a multiregional input-output table with 35 industries and 63 economies to examine the economic contribution of tourism to Thailand and the global economy. According to the findings, tourism has a significant economic impact on output and value added in Thailand.

The industry has stronger intra-spillover and linkage with domestic industries, particularly downstream industries, than with industries in other economies in the global supply chain. The multiregional input-output model also demonstrates that it can more accurately measure the industry's export performance than the traditional input-output model. The findings generate comprehensive empirical results that can be used by destinations and regional organizations to better strategize tourism or regional tourism development plans.

This study is different from the one the author is conducting in Lesotho in that, it focused on the impact of tourism on the economic development, with focus on a global value chain perspective, while the latter seeks to establish the contribution of tourism to economic development in Lesotho, with focus on the Leribe district.

2.5.2 Studies Done in the Sub-Saharan Africa

According to a study conducted by Nene and Taivan (2017), *Causality between Tourism And Economic Growth: Evidence From Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)*, tourism is said to be one of the world's largest and fastest growing industries who's contribution to economic growth has grown in importance, and many governments have implemented a variety of measures to upgrade their tourism industries in order to reap the benefits of a thriving tourism industry. While some scholars

discovered evidence supporting the tourism-led growth hypothesis (TLGH), there is also evidence that economic growth causes tourism development and that economic growth and tourism development are bidirectionally causal.

The objectives of this study included to better understand the relationship between tourism development and economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), specifically investigating the relationship between tourism development and economic growth in ten SSA countries using annual time series data from 1994 to 2014. For each country in their sample, the authors' empirical methodology includes unit root tests, cointegration analysis, vector error correction modeling, and Granger causality testing. To account for the potential indirect relationship between tourism and economic growth, their empirical analysis incorporates the trade-to-GDP ratio and the capital formation-to-GDP ratio in a multivariate setting.

For 40% and 60% of the countries included in the study, respectively, their empirical results showed support for the economic growth-led tourism development hypothesis and the tourism-led growth hypothesis. According to the economic growth-led tourism development result, 40% of SSA countries used their incomes to improve tourism infrastructure with the goal of accelerating long-run economic growth. In contrast, 60% of SSA countries rely on tourism revenues to drive economic growth. Furthermore, differences in the direction of causality across SSA countries may be due to differences in tourism industry policies, colonial origin, and other country-specific institutional factors.

Based on their causality findings, the authors propose various policy implications for SSA countries. For countries whose results confirmed the tourism-led growth hypothesis, it is suggested that there should be allocation of resources to support the tourism industry and tourism-related industries, which will benefit economic growth. Alternatively, countries with results consistent with economic growth-led tourism development should allocate their resources to other sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, and tourism-related industries, which will benefit tourism development. Once developed, the tourism industry may help drive economic growth in these countries.

2.5.3 Studies done in Lesotho

There is limited empirical research specifically focused on the relationship between tourism and economic growth in Leribe, Lesotho. However, there are some studies that provide insights into the potential impact of tourism on the country's economy.

A study by Mabelebele and Hoko (2018) analyzed the contribution of the tourism sector to the economy of Lesotho between 1995 and 2015. The study found that tourism had a positive impact on the economy, contributing an average of 4.7% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the study period. The authors also noted that the sector had the potential to generate significant employment opportunities in the country.

Another study by Matete and Brixiova (2017) analyzed the impact of tourism on economic growth in African countries, including Lesotho. The study found that tourism had a positive impact on economic growth in the region, with a 1% increase in tourism receipts leading to a 0.06% increase in GDP. The authors noted that tourism could be an important driver of economic development in African countries, including Lesotho.

2.6 Summary

This chapter highlighted the conceptual discussions on tourism and economic development, providing a broader review on the history of tourism and that of economic development. Forms, impacts and challenges of tourism were also discussed in this chapter, while providing an empirical overview of the contribution of tourism to economic development. Next chapter discusses the research methodology adopted for this study.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research paradigm, research methods and design used for this study. Moreover, it gives an explanation of and justification for how the methods and design were employed in the research. Population and sampling, research instruments, data collection and data presentation procedures; as well as validity and reliability of the study and ethical considerations are also explained in this chapter.

3.1 Research Paradigm

For this study, the researcher used pragmatism paradigm, which is a philosophical approach that emphasizes practicality, empirical knowledge, and problem-solving over abstract theory or ideological considerations (Weaver, 2006). In the context of tourism and economic development, the pragmatism paradigm is often employed to analyze and evaluate tourism policies and practices based on their effectiveness in achieving economic growth and development objectives.

This approach emphasizes the importance of identifying and implementing strategies that can effectively promote tourism as a means of generating economic benefits such as increased revenue, job creation, and investment. Another aspect of the pragmatism paradigm is the recognition of the importance of collaboration and partnerships between different stakeholders in the tourism industry, including government, private sector, and local communities. This approach emphasizes the need for effective governance and stakeholder engagement in order to ensure that policies and practices are aligned with the needs and interests of all stakeholders (Hall, 2008).

3.2 Research Methodology

The systematic process and techniques used to conduct research, collect data, analyze information, and draw conclusions are referred to as research methodology (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). It is further stated by Yin (2017) that research methodology includes the overall design and structure of a research study, as well as the choice of research methods, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques. A solid research methodology ensures that research findings are reliable, valid, and generalizable.

For the purpose of this study, the researcher used the mixed methodology, which is the deliberate incorporation of quantitative and qualitative research methods within a single study or research project (Bryman, 2016). It combines the advantages of both approaches to provide a more thorough and nuanced understanding of research questions. Quantitative research collects numerical data using structured surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis to identify patterns, relationships, and statistical generalizations. Qualitative research, on the other hand, focuses on uncovering rich descriptions, meanings, and interpretations of complex phenomena through in-depth interviews, observations, and analysis of non-numerical data.

The researcher opted for this methodology based on the advantages as stated by Creswell & Plano Clark (2017) below;

The complementary strengths offered by mixed research methodology are one of its primary advantages. Quantitative research provides statistical rigor, enabling the researcher to establish statistical relationships and make broad conclusions. It allows for the detection of patterns and trends in large datasets. Qualitative research, on the other hand, provides a more in-depth understanding of the social, cultural, and contextual factors influencing the research topic. It encompasses subjective interpretations, personal experiences, and the complexities of human behavior. Combining both approaches therefore helped the researcher in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena under investigation.

Mixed research methodologies also encourage triangulation, which improves the credibility and reliability of research findings. The use of multiple methods, data sources, or perspectives to validate and corroborate research findings is known as triangulation. The researcher can therefore identify convergent or divergent results by comparing and contrasting quantitative and qualitative data, resulting in a more robust and accurate representation of the research topic.

The ability to conduct a comprehensive analysis is another significant advantage of mixed research methodology. Researchers can investigate research questions from various perspectives by combining quantitative and qualitative methods. This allows for both breadth and depth of data, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena. Quantitative data provide a broad overview, whereas qualitative data provide context and capture the complexities of human experiences. The incorporation of both types of data enriches the research findings and provides a more complete picture.

Equally important, researchers can overcome the limitations of individual methods by using mixed research methodology. For example, qualitative data can be used to inform the design of quantitative surveys, ensuring that the relevant variables and factors are captured. Similarly, quantitative findings can help researchers identify areas for further qualitative investigation, allowing for a more in-depth understanding of the research topic. Therefore, the researchers was allowed to improve the overall research design by integrating methods and overcoming the limitations of relying solely on one approach.

The incorporation of quantitative and qualitative data in mixed research methodology allows for practical application. The combination of statistically significant quantitative findings and rich contextual insights from qualitative data improves the relevance and utility of research findings. These findings can be used by decision-makers to inform evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and practical applications in a variety of fields.

Depending on the research objectives, available resources, and time constraints, mixed research methodology allows for design flexibility. Concurrent, sequential, or transformative designs can be used by researchers. Concurrent designs involve simultaneously collecting quantitative and qualitative data, allowing for immediate integration during the analysis phase. In contrast, sequential designs involve conducting one phase of research (quantitative or qualitative) after the other, with integration occurring during the analysis. Transformative designs seek to create a symbiotic relationship between quantitative and qualitative methods, with both types of data informing and shaping one another throughout the research process.

3.3 Research Design

The study applied an explanatory research design, which involve manipulating or observing independent variables related to tourism and examining their effects on economic development indicators, while controlling for other factors (Saarinen, 2014). With this approach, the researcher aimed to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between tourism and economic development by collecting and analyzing relevant data.

Independent variables in this context include tourism-related factors such as tourist arrivals, tourism expenditure, tourism infrastructure development and tourism policy interventions. However, in order to control for other factors that could influence economic development in

Lesotho, like government policies, infrastructure investments, or other industry developments, the researcher isolated the effects of tourism on economic development.

On the other hand, dependent variables measured and analyzed include gross domestic product (GDP), employment rates, poverty levels, income distribution and local entrepreneurship. These represent the economic development indicators that the researcher used to assess the impact of tourism on economic development.

Independent Variable

Role of Tourism

- Tourist arrivals
- Tourism expenditure
- Tourism infrastructure development
- Tourism policy interventions



Dependent Variable

Economic Development

- GDP
- Employment rates
- Poverty levels
- Income distribution
- Local entrepreneurship

3.4 Population and Sampling

Population for a research study is defined by Creswell (2014) as the entire group of individuals, objects, or entities that meet the criteria for the inclusion in the study, and this group is just a representative of the larger group from which the research sample is drawn. Therefore for this study, the population included the local residents, tourists, tourism industry professionals (tour operators and hoteliers) government officials and policy makers responsible for tourism and economic development.

On the other hand, sampling refers to the process of selecting a subset of individuals, objects, or events from a larger population to participate in the study, with the goal to collect data from a representative sample that can be generalized to the entire population of interest (Kothari, 2004). Sampling methods enable researchers to draw conclusions about the population based on the characteristics and behaviors of the chosen sample.

For this study, the researcher used stratified sampling, where the population was divided into different sub-groups based on relevant characteristics (Babbie & Mouton, 2015). Convenience sampling was also used to sample local communities and tourists in order to reach individuals who are easily accessible or readily available. Purposive sampling was used to purposefully select the tourism industry individuals and government officials and policy makers.

3.4.1 Population and Sample Size.

Table 3.1: Population and Sample Size- (Source: Primary Data)

The "Population" column lists the various groups or categories of individuals that are of interest in the research project. These groups include:

Local Communities are the residents or community members living in the research area who experience direct effects of tourism and its influence on economic development. They are directly impacted by the changes and opportunities brought about by tourism activities in their regions.

Tourists comprise individuals who travel to Lesotho for various tourism-related purposes, including leisure, adventure, or cultural experiences. These visitors contribute to the local economy and are a significant part of the tourism industry's success.

Tourism Industry Professionals encompass a diverse group of individuals actively engaged in Lesotho's tourism sector. This category includes professionals such as hoteliers, tour operators, travel agents, and tourism guides, who play integral roles in shaping and facilitating the tourism experience in the country.

Government Officials represent government personnel, policymakers, and officials responsible for managing and promoting tourism and economic development initiatives in Lesotho. They play a pivotal role in crafting policies, regulations, and strategies that impact the tourism industry and its contributions to the country's economic growth.

On the other hand, the "Sample Size" column indicates the number of participants that were included in each group as part of the research study. The sample size represents the subset of the population that was selected for data collection and analysis. In this case, the researcher has determined the following sample sizes:

Local Communities in the study were represented by a sample of 50 community members chosen for data collection. Tourists were also included in the research, with a sample of 25 individuals visiting the district. The study featured a sample of 15 professionals from the tourism industry and 10 government officials.

The overall sample size for the research project is 100 individuals and this means that a total of 100 participants was selected from the four groups mentioned above to gather data for the research. The table helps to provide an overview of the population and sample sizes for different groups involved in the research project. It demonstrates the researcher's intention to collect data from specific segments of the population, ensuring representation from different stakeholders relevant to the study. The sample sizes were determined based on factors such as feasibility, available resources, and the desired level of precision for the research findings.

Population	Sample Size
Local Communities	50
Tourists	25
Tourism Industry Professionals	15
Government Officials	10
Total	100

3.5 Research Instruments

The research instruments used provided both the primary data, which was derived from the interviews and questionnaires and secondary data was derived from text books, journal articles, government publications, related works of other scholars such as published magazines, written data sources including published and unpublished documents, company reports and internet sources to provide more information on the study.

3.5.1 Interview

The researcher organized key informant interviews with selected Local Government officials and other members of the community in the Leribe district, particularly those neighboring the main tourist attraction places in the district in order to inform findings. The researcher therefore had to

interact with the respondents, face to face and ask them relevant questions to the study. The method was used purposely because it provided for a systematic flow of information and helped in covering information that would otherwise be omitted.

3.5.2 Questionnaire

Open-ended questionnaire was used in the collection of data and these were administered to the respondents at different destinations in the district to provide answers. The instrument was purposely selected because it sought personal views of the respondents and thus enabled them to use their knowledge in providing a wide range of data and not limit them in any particular way. This was in addition help to avoid repetition of question.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

The data collection procedure of the study consisted of surveys which involved the use of face-to-face questionnaires and structured interviews to collect data from a sample of respondents. The researcher also analyzed secondary data, systematically reviewing and analyzing existing documents, reports, records, or other written materials relevant to the research topic. This included amongst others, policy documents, financial reports, government publications and existing scholarly articles.

It is worth noting that the researcher took into consideration the importance to ensure that the chosen data collection procedures are appropriate for the research objectives and provide reliable and valid data.

3.7 Data Presentation Procedure

The researcher aimed to effectively present data by organizing and presenting collected data in a clear and meaningful manner. This was to enhance the understanding of research findings and facilitates the communication of results to the intended audience. Tabulation is used to present numerical data in a structured format and the tables have clear headings, appropriate labeling, and consistent formatting to enhance readability. Data summaries and percentage statistics are also used in order to assist in highlighting important trends.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

Validity refers to the accuracy and truthfulness of the data and findings, while reliability refers to the consistency and stability of the measurements and results (Babbie, 2017). The researcher was careful when choosing literature to review and conducting the interview in order to ensure that all information and asked questions were relevant in order to achieve what was intended. Equally important, the researcher used the same questions in the interview in order to maintain consistency in the answers provided by those being interviewed. The researcher also ensured that the interviewees understood what was being asked in the interview.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Since this research was conducted under the name of the National University of Lesotho, the researcher will applied the ethical clearance of the University. The researcher will also complied with the ethical procedures of any departments and authorities involved. Equally important, confidentiality, anonymity as well as consent of the respondents was taken into consideration. Respondents were also allowed to declare their voluntary participation, with regards to personal visits, interviews and phone calls, the researcher provided the purpose and explanation on the purpose of such.

3.10 Summary

Chapter Three of the research project focuses on the research methodology employed in the study. It begins with an introduction that outlines the purpose of the chapter and provides an overview of the topics covered. The chapter then delves into various aspects of the research methodology, including the research paradigm, research methods and design, population and sampling, research instruments, data collection and data presentation procedures, validity and reliability, and ethical considerations. The next chapter discusses the data presentation and analysis of the study.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected for the research study on the contribution of tourism to economic development in the country. The chapter focuses on the analysis of the data in relation to the research objectives, with thematic topics derived from the research objectives. The data presentation and analysis provide insights into the economic impacts of tourism, hindrances to economic development from tourist accruals in Leribe District, and recommendations for accelerating economic development from tourist-generated income in tourist destinations more effectively.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Gorard (2019) defines demographic characteristics as the measurable attributes of individuals or groups that provide information about their socio-demographic profile and these characteristics include variables such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, education level, income, occupation, and marital status. Examining demographic characteristics is important as they can influence behavior, attitudes, and outcomes, and help researchers understand the composition and diversity of their study population (Fowler, 2013).

4.1.1 Gender Distribution

Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents- (Source: Primary Data).

The data provided represents the distribution of individuals based on gender. The data table consists of three columns: "Gender," "Frequency," and "Percentage (%)."

The "Gender" column indicates the two categories being analyzed: "Males" and "Females."

The "Frequency" column represents the number of individuals within each gender category. In this case, there are 67 individuals identified as females and 33 individuals identified as males.

The "Percentage (%)" column indicates the proportion or percentage of individuals within each gender category. The percentages are calculated by dividing the frequency of each gender by the total number of individuals and multiplying by 100.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Males	33	33
Females	67	67
Total	100	100

4.1.2 Age Distribution

Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents-

(Source: Primary Data).

The data presented in Table 4.2 represents the age distribution of a sample or population. The table consists of three columns: "Age," "Frequency," and "Percentage."

The "Age" column categorizes the individuals into different age groups. In this case, the age groups are defined as "20-30," "31-40," "41-50," "51-60," and "61+."

The "Frequency" column represents the number of individuals in the sample or population that fall within each age group. There are 3 individuals aged between 20-30, 37 individuals aged between 31-40, 32 individuals aged between 41-50, 12 individuals aged between 51-60, and 16 individuals aged 61 or older.

The data shows the distribution of individuals across different age groups. Individuals aged between 31-40 represent the largest age group, comprising 37% of the total sample. The percentages in each age group indicate the relative proportion of individuals within that specific age range.

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20-30	3	3
31-40	37	37
41-50	32	32
51-60	12	12
61+	16	16
Total	100	100

4.1.3 Marital Status Distribution

Table 4.3: Marital Status Distribution of Respondents-

(Source: Primary Data)

The data presented in Table 4.3 represents the distribution of individuals based on their marital status. The table consists of three columns: "Marital Status," "Frequency," and "Percentage."

The "Marital Status" column categorizes individuals into different marital status categories. In this case, the categories are "Single," "Married," "Divorced," and "Widowed."

The "Frequency" column represents the number of individuals in the sample or population that fall into each marital status category. There are 23 individuals who are single, 40 individuals who are married, 26 individuals who are divorced, and 11 individuals who are widowed.

The data shows the distribution of individuals across different marital statuses. Married individuals represent the largest group, comprising 40% of the total sample. The percentages in each category indicate the relative proportion of individuals within that specific marital status.

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	23	23
Married	40	40

Divorced	26	26
Widowed	11	11
Total	100	100

4.1.4 Educational Attainment

Table 4.4: Educational Attainment Distribution of Respondents-

(Source: Primary Data)

The data presented in Table 4.4 provides information on the educational attainment of individuals. The table consists of three columns: "Education Level," "Frequency," and "Percentage (%)."

The "Education Level" column categorizes individuals into different levels of education they have completed. In this case, the categories are "Tertiary," "High School," "Secondary," "Primary," and "No Formal Education."

The "Frequency" column represents the number of individuals in the sample or population who have attained each education level. For example, there are 38 individuals with a tertiary education, 26 individuals with a high school education, 12 individuals with a secondary education, 10 individuals with a primary education, and 4 individuals with no formal education.

The data shows the distribution of individuals across different education levels. Individuals with tertiary education represent the largest group, comprising 38% of the total sample. The percentages in each category indicate the relative proportion of individuals within that specific education level.

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tertiary	38	38
High School	26	26
Secondary	12	12
Primary	10	10
No Formal Education	4	4
Total	100	100

4.1.5 Employment Status

Table 4.5: Employment Status Distribution of Respondents-

(Source: Primary Data)

The data presented in the table provides information on the employment status of individuals. The table consists of three columns: "Employment Status," "Frequency," and "Percentage (%)."

The "Employment Status" column categorizes individuals into different employment categories. In this case, the categories are "Full-time," "Part-time," "Self-employed," and "Unemployed."

The "Frequency" column represents the number of individuals in the sample or population who fall into each employment status category. There are 28 individuals employed full-time, 16 individuals employed part-time, 30 individuals who are self-employed, and 26 individuals who are unemployed.

The data shows the distribution of individuals across different employment statuses. For example, individuals who are self-employed represent the largest group, comprising 30% of the total sample. The percentages in each category indicate the relative proportion of individuals within that specific employment status.

Overall, this data provides insights into the employment status of the analyzed sample or population. It helps the researcher to understand the types of employment individuals are engaged in, such as full-time, part-time, self-employment, or unemployment. This information can be used to analyze labor market trends, job availability, and the overall employment situation within this specific sample.

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Full-time	28	28
Part-time	16	16
Self-employed	30	30
Unemployed	26	26
Total	100	100

4.2 Contribution of Tourism to Economic Development in Lesotho

Tourism is regarded as an important sector for economic development in Lesotho, as it has the potential to generate foreign exchange earnings, create employment opportunities, and promote investment in infrastructure and other related sectors.

Several studies have examined the contribution of tourism to economic development in Lesotho. For instance, Lekhanya and Morahanye (2017) analyzed the impact of tourism on economic growth in Lesotho using time-series data from 1980 to 2016. Their findings indicate that tourism has a positive and statistically significant effect on economic growth in the country, and that this effect is stronger than that of other sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing.

Similarly, a study by Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (2016) highlighted the economic benefits of tourism in Lesotho, including the generation of foreign exchange earnings, employment creation, and the promotion of investment in infrastructure and related sectors. The study also identified the potential for further growth in the sector, given the country's rich cultural and natural resources.

In addition, Motebang et al. (2019) investigated the potential of community-based tourism as a tool for poverty alleviation in Lesotho. The study found that community-based tourism has the potential to enhance the socio-economic benefits of tourism for local communities, by promoting community participation, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability.

Overall, these studies suggest that tourism can make a significant contribution to economic development in Lesotho. However, the realization of this potential requires a holistic and sustainable approach that takes into account the unique cultural, social, and environmental context of the country.

4.2.1 Analysis of Job Creation

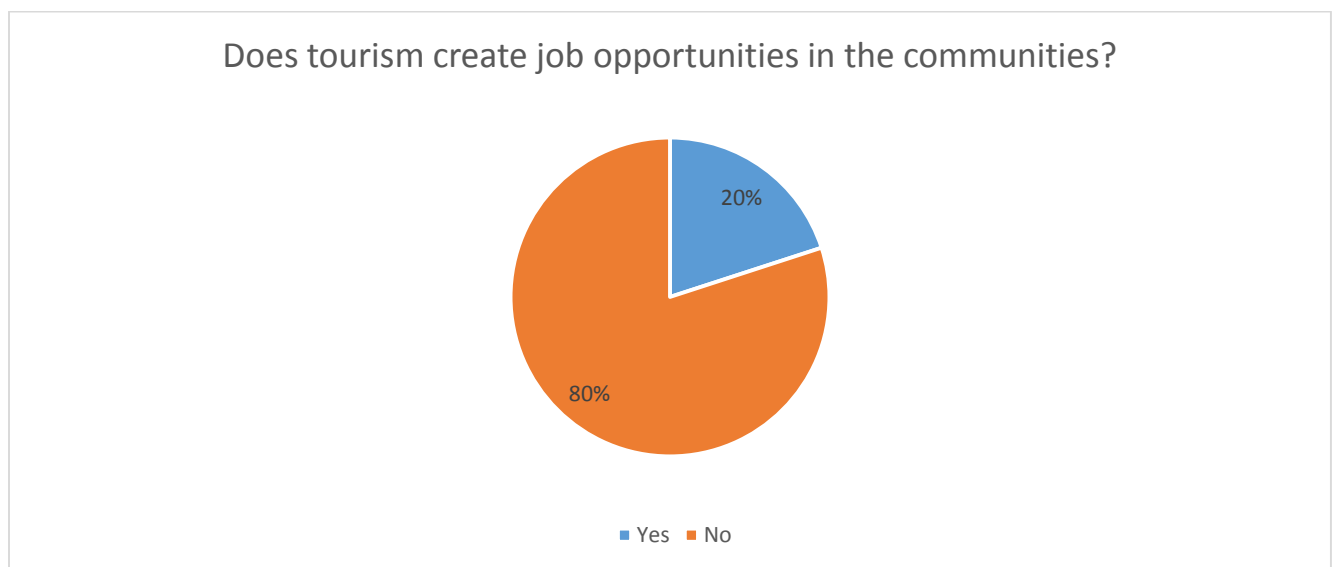
An analysis of job creation was made based on the views of the local communities since they are the ones living in the research area who are directly impacted by tourism and its effects. An open-ended question was asked, which required a yes/no answer and the respondents were allowed to elaborate their given answer more. The local community population sample size was 50, and the figure below depicts their responses.

Figure 4.1: Does tourism create job opportunities in the communities?

(Source: Primary Data)

From figure 4.1 below, of the 50 respondents from the local communities, 10 (20%) are for the notion that tourism does create jobs in the communities, while 40 (80%) respondents are of the view that tourism does not create job opportunities in the communities.

It is worth noting that in their elaborations, those who agreed that tourism created job opportunities were mainly individuals who are directly benefiting from tourism, like those who work in tourist attraction sites. However, those that were of a negative view argued, amongst others, that the locals were not even aware that tourist activities taking place in the district was creating jobs. The locals also believed and argued that establishments like accommodation facilities already have their staff from wherever they originate and never consider the locals.



4.2.2 Revenue Generation

Presented below is the data on revenue generated by tourism activities in Lesotho as per World Travel Tourism Council (2022). For the purpose of this study, an interval of ten years was used from the latest recorded data, and that will be from 2009 to 2019. The statistics shows the number

of tourists in each year, the amount of receipts generated in US Dollars and its percentage contribution to the country's GNP, of which the value is missing for 2019.

Table 4.6: Revenue Generation-

(Source: WTTC, 2022)

The percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) attributed to tourism displays variations from year to year where the highest contribution to GNP from tourism occurred in 2009, accounting for 1.7% of the GNP, followed by 2016 at 2.3%. Conversely, the lowest percentage of GNP attributed to tourism was recorded in 2014, constituting 0.66% of the GNP.

Year	Number of tourists	Receipts	% of GNP
2019	1.14 m	-	-
2018	1.17 m	24.00 m \$	0.94 %
2017	1.14 m	23.00 m \$	1.00 %
2016	1.20 m	48.00 m \$	2.3 %
2015	1.08 m	34.00 m \$	1.4 %
2014	1.8 m	16.00 m \$	0.66 %
2013	433,000	17.00 m \$	0.72 %
2012	423,000	22.00 m \$	0.89 %
2011	398,000	24.00 m \$	0.93 %
2010	426,000	23.00 m \$	1.0 %
2009	344,000	30.00 m \$	1.7 %

Figure 4.1: Tourists Arrivals-

(Source: WTTC, 2022)

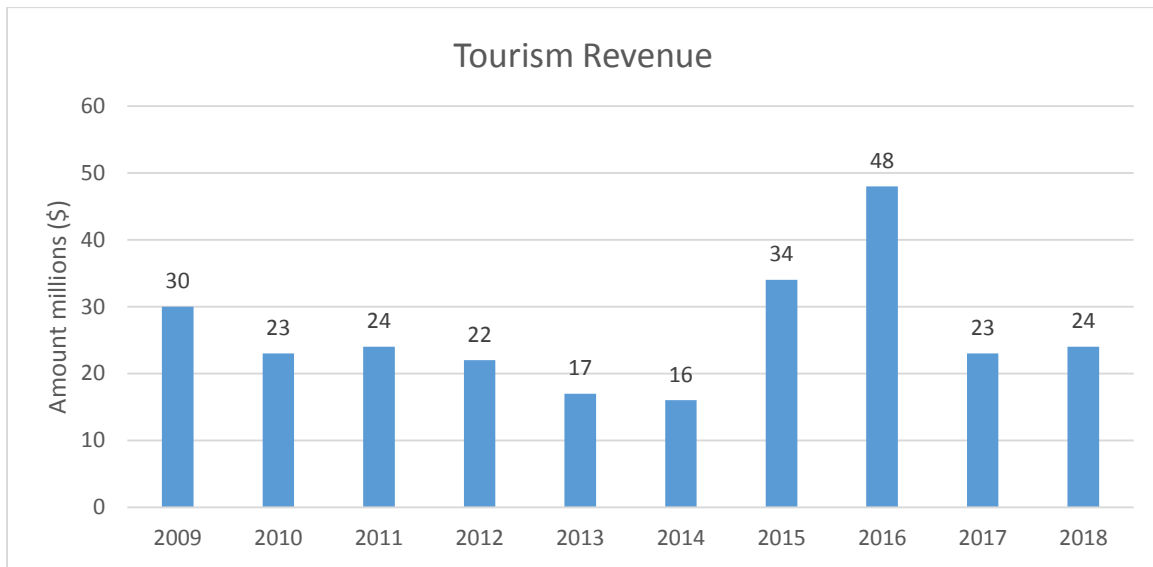
The number of tourists exhibits fluctuations from year to year but demonstrates a general upward trajectory. Notably, there was a peak of 1.2 million tourists in 2016, followed by a slight decline in subsequent years. The lowest recorded number of tourists occurred in 2013, with 433,000 visitors.



Figure 4.2: Tourism Revenue-

(Source: WTTC, 2022)

Receipts generated from tourism closely mirror the patterns observed in the number of tourists, with fluctuations across the years. A significant increase in receipts is evident from 2009, with a figure of \$30 million, to 2016, where receipts reached \$48 million. The highest recorded receipts were in 2016, amounting to \$48 million, while the lowest were in 2014, totaling \$16 million.



Overall, the data suggests that the tourism sector has experienced growth in terms of both the number of tourists and receipts. However, there are fluctuations in the figures from year to year, indicating some degree of volatility in the tourism industry. It is important to note that without the receipts data for 2019, it is challenging to assess the specific trend for that year.

The respondents were also asked questions to achieve the objective of whether tourism contributes to the economic development of Leribe district, and the answers are presented below:

Figure 4.3: Do you think tourism in Leribe district generates high foreign exchange?

(Source: Primary Data)

The study results presented in Table 4.4 below indicate that 62% of the respondents do think that tourism in Leribe generates high foreign exchange, while 38% of respondents do not think that tourism in Leribe generates high foreign exchange. This implies that the majority of the respondents revealed that tourism does generate high foreign exchange.

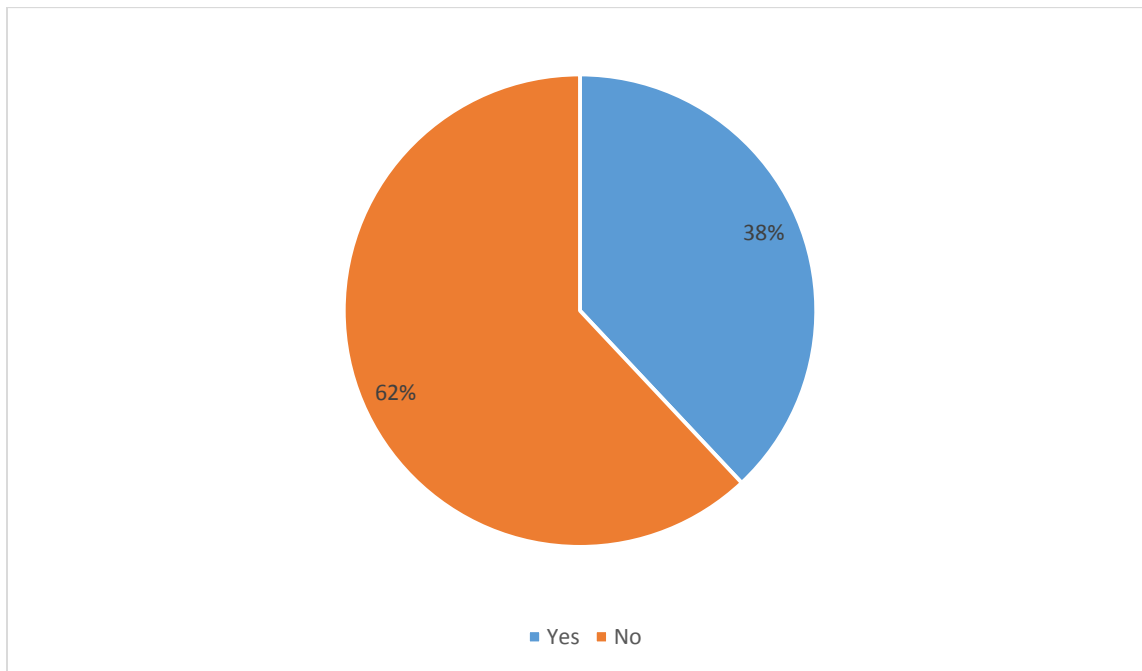


Figure 4.4: In your view, does tourism in the district provide diversification and strengthen the local economy?

(Source: Primary Data)

Figure 4.5 below present the results from the study where 81% of the respondents were of the view that tourism in Leribe provide diversification and strengthen the local economy, while 19% of the respondents did not share that view. This implies that the majority of respondents revealed that tourism does provide diversification and strengthen local economy.

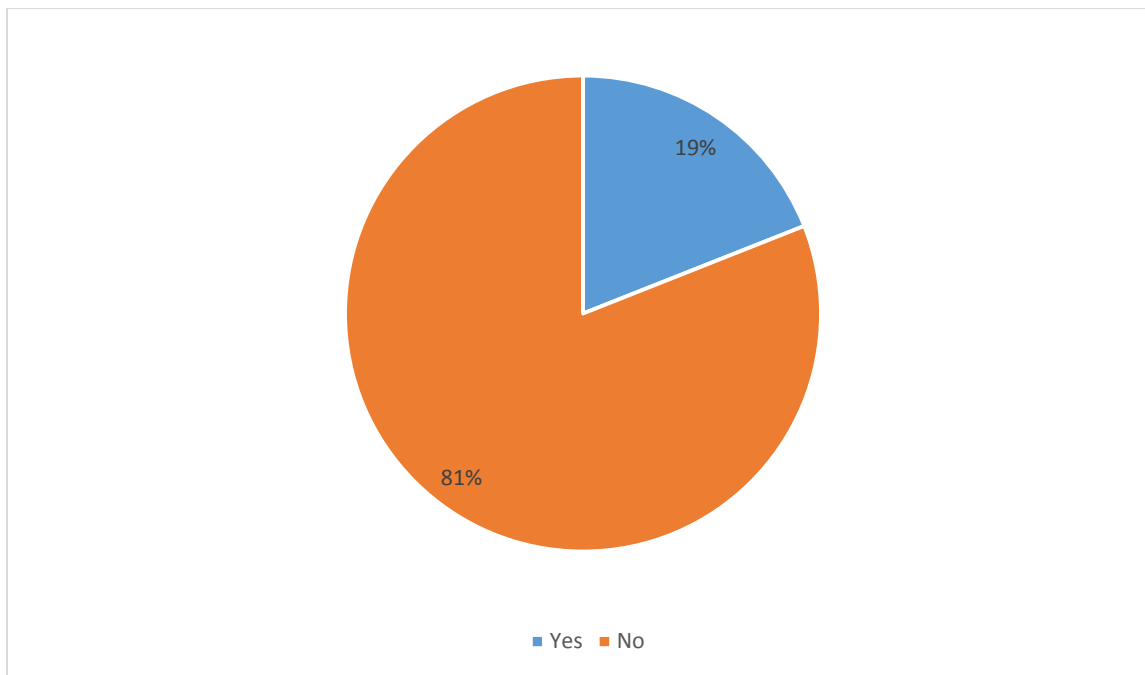
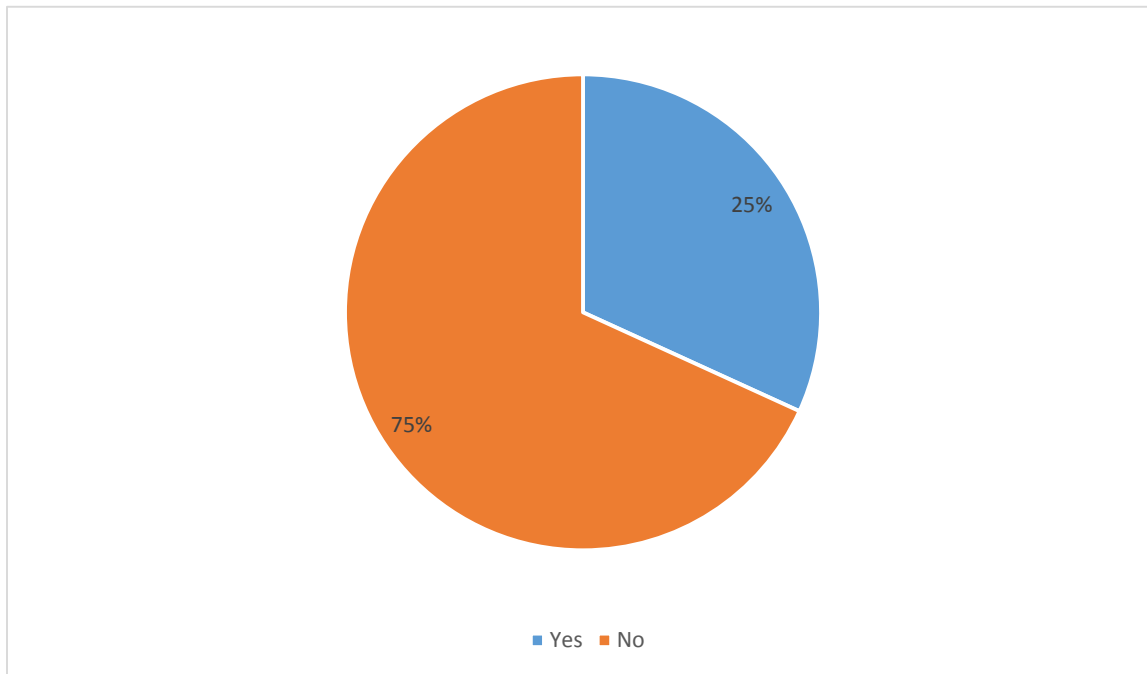


Figure 4.5: In your view, is tourism beneficial for the locals in the district?

(Source: Primary Data)

The study results presented in Figure 4.6 below revealed that 75% of the respondents are of the view that tourism is beneficial for the locals in the district, while 25% of the respondents did not share the same view. This implies that the majority of respondents revealed that tourism is beneficial for the locals in the district.



4.3 Factors Hindering Economic Development from Tourist Accruals in the Leribe District

The Leribe District in Lesotho has a significant potential for tourism due to its natural and cultural resources. However, the economic development of the district has been hindered by various factors related to tourism. Here are some of the factors hindering economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe District:

The district's infrastructure is underdeveloped, making it challenging for tourists to access the district's tourist attractions. The lack of proper roads, transportation systems, and accommodation facilities are some of the significant challenges facing tourism in the Leribe District (Makatjane, 2017). Secondly, the lack of adequate marketing and promotion of tourism in the Leribe District has limited its potential to attract tourists. There is a need for more aggressive marketing strategies and promotional campaigns to showcase the district's unique cultural and natural attractions (Kamoli, 2019).

Thirdly, there is limited diversification, where the tourism industry in the Leribe District is mainly limited to a few attractions, such as the Sehlabathebe National Park and Katse Dam. There is a need to diversify tourism attractions in the district to encourage more visitors to stay longer and spend more money (Makatjane, 2017). Equally important, the district's security situation has been a significant concern for tourists, affecting the influx of tourists to the district. The Lesotho government and security forces need to take adequate measures to ensure tourists' safety and security (Kamoli, 2019).

Moreover, lack of skilled human resources is another important factor to consider. The tourism industry in the Leribe District is facing a shortage of skilled human resources. The lack of trained personnel in the tourism industry affects the quality of services offered to tourists, limiting their experience and satisfaction (Makatjane, 2017). A lack of capacity and skills within the local community can impede their participation and benefit-sharing. Limited education, training, and entrepreneurial skills may hinder the development of tourism-related businesses and limit the community's ability to capitalize on tourism opportunities (Hjalager & Richards, 2002)

It is also worth noting that cultural and social factors can create barriers to local community participation and benefit-sharing. Traditional norms, gender inequalities, and social hierarchies may restrict certain segments of the community from actively engaging in tourism-related activities (Sharpley, 2014). Power imbalances and marginalization can hinder local community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism. Dominant stakeholders, such as government bodies, private companies, and external investors, may control decision-making processes and exclude local communities from meaningful involvement (Boley & McGehee, 2014).

4.3.1 Accessibility and Transportation

Inadequate infrastructure, such as poorly maintained roads, lack of transportation options, and limited connectivity to tourist destinations, can hinder the accessibility for both tourists and local businesses. Difficulties in reaching tourist attractions and remote areas can discourage visitors and limit the potential for economic activities, reducing the overall utilization of tourist-generated income (Amore, 2019).

4.3.2 Accommodation and Hospitality Facilities

Insufficient infrastructure in terms of accommodation and hospitality facilities, including hotels, resorts, restaurants, and public amenities, can limit the capacity to cater to the needs of tourists. This can result in lower visitor satisfaction and a decrease in tourist expenditure within the destination (Ruhanen, 2016). Without proper infrastructure, the tourism sector may struggle to attract and retain visitors, hindering the effective utilization of income for economic development.

4.3.3 Utilities and Services

Inadequate provision of basic utilities and services, such as water supply, electricity, waste management, and telecommunications, can undermine the development of tourism-related businesses and activities. Insufficient infrastructure in these areas can lead to service interruptions, inefficiencies, and increased operating costs, impacting the quality and reliability of services provided to tourists (Hall, 2017).

4.3.4 Cultural and Heritage Preservation

Tourism often relies on the preservation and promotion of cultural and heritage assets to attract visitors. Inadequate infrastructure for the preservation and maintenance of cultural sites, museums, and historical landmarks can limit the potential for cultural tourism and the associated economic benefits (Jing, 2018). Without proper infrastructure to support cultural heritage preservation, destinations may struggle to capitalize on their unique cultural assets.

4.3.5 Tourist Safety and Security

Insufficient infrastructure related to safety and security can pose significant challenges to the effective utilization of tourist-generated income. Inadequate lighting, poor signage, and a lack of surveillance systems can negatively impact the perception of safety and security for tourists, deterring their visits and affecting the economic activities supported by tourism (UNWTO, 2019).

Moreover, presented below are the answers of the respondents to questions asked in order to try and establish what could be some of the factors that hinder economic development from the tourist accruals in the Leribe district.

Figure 4.6: Do you think poor infrastructure in the district affects tourism?

(Source: Primary Data)

According to the study results presented in Figure 4.7 below, 95% of the respondents said yes they think poor infrastructure in the district affects tourism, while only 5% said no they did not think so. This implies that the greatest majority of respondents revealed that indeed poor infrastructure does affect tourism in Leribe.

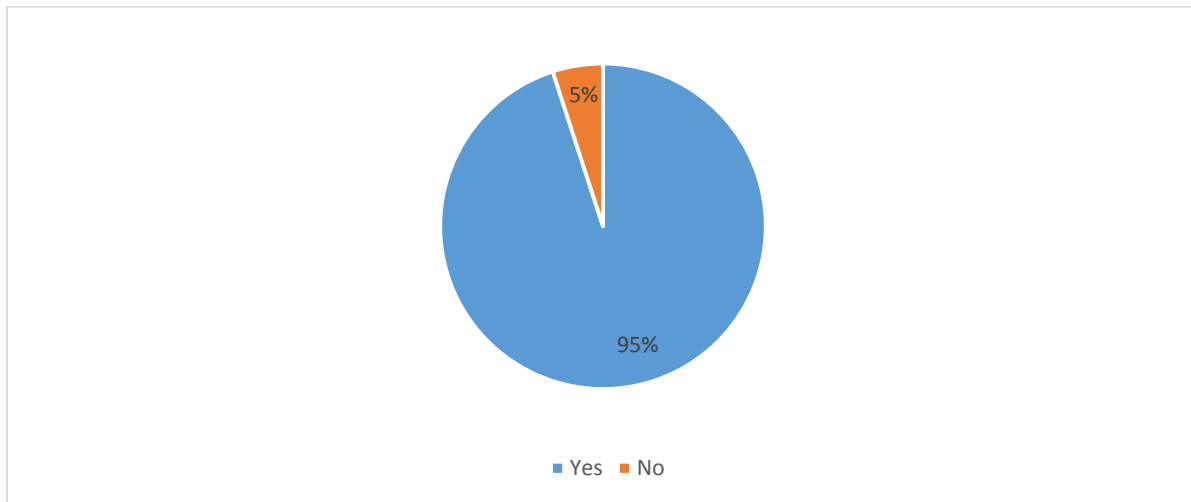


Figure 4.7: Do you think lack of community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities hinder economic development in the Leribe District?

(Source: Primary Data)

The study results as presented by Figure 4.8 below shows that 64% of the respondents said yes they think lack of community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities hinder economic development in the Leribe, while 36% of the respondents did not think so. This implies

that the majority of respondents revealed that there is need for community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities.

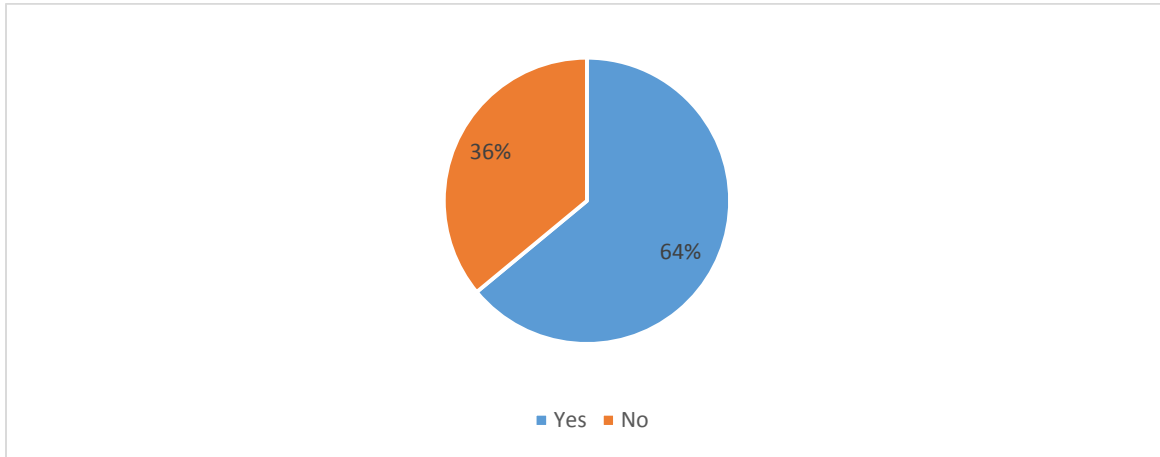


Figure 4.8: Do you think the lack of coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector hinder economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe District? - (Source: Primary Data)

According to the study results presented by Figure 4.9 below, 76% of respondents do think the lack of coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector hinder economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe, while 24% of respondents do not think so. This implies that the majority of respondents revealed that there is need for coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector.

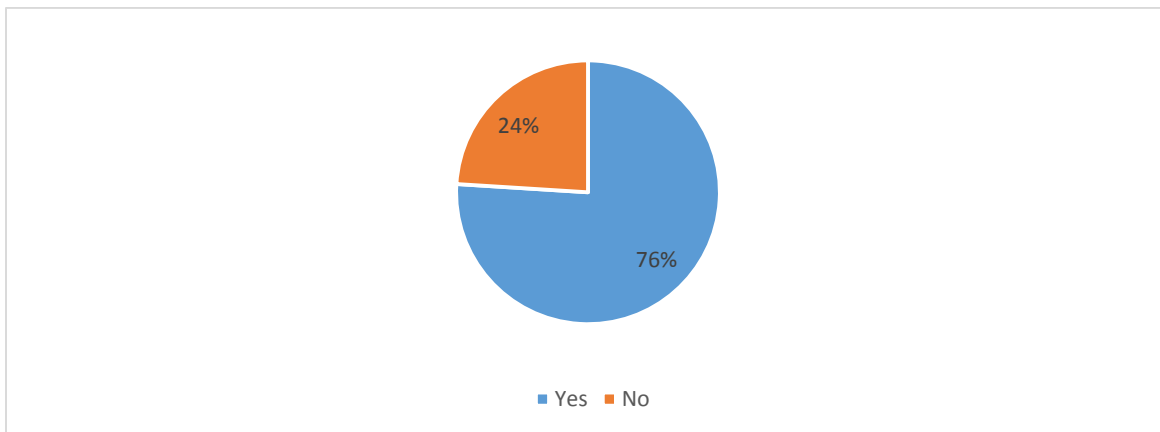
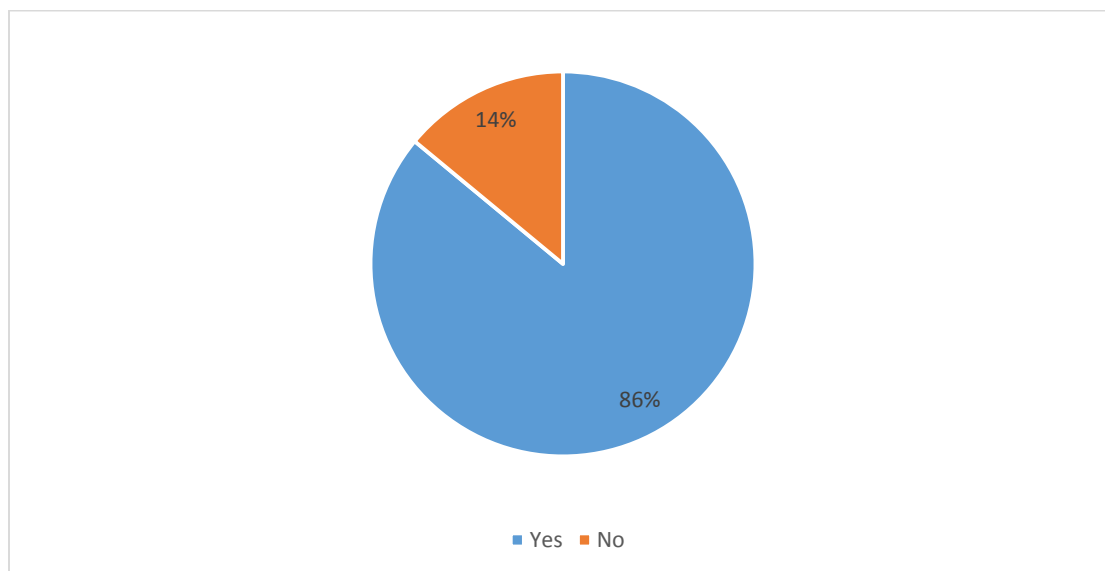


Figure 4.9: Do you agree that the challenges related to skills and capacity development hinder economic development from tourist-generated income in the Leribe District?

(Source: Primary Data)

The study results as present by Figure 4.10 below show that 86% of respondents agree that the challenges related to skills and capacity development hinder economic development from tourist-generated income in the Leribe, while 14% of respondents did not agree. This implies that the majority of respondents revealed a lot needs to be done to combat challenges related to skills and capacity development.



4.4 Possible Measures that could be adopted in Order to Accelerate Economic Development in Tourist Destinations

4.4.1 Infrastructure Development

Enhancing tourism-related infrastructure, including transportation networks, accommodation facilities, and public amenities, has the potential to attract a larger number of tourists and improve their overall experience (Hall & Page, 2019). This investment in infrastructure not only leads to

higher visitor satisfaction but also fosters the development of ancillary industries and contributes to economic growth in the destination.

4.4.2 Product Diversification and Enhancement

Expanding and broadening the range of tourism products and experiences can attract a wider spectrum of tourists and prolong their duration of stay, leading to increased spending by tourists (Crouch et al., 2018). This can be accomplished by identifying distinct local attractions, cultural heritage, natural resources, and actively participating in product development initiatives to create captivating and inventive tourism offerings.

4.4.3 Marketing and Promotion

The implementation of successful marketing and promotion strategies plays a vital role in attracting tourists to a destination and maximizing its economic gains. It is essential for destinations to embrace focused marketing campaigns, utilize digital platforms and social media, and establish collaborations with travel agents and tour operators to enhance visibility and draw a wide array of visitors (Buhalis & Foerste, 2015). The marketing and promotion strategies are further elaborated below:

Digital marketing campaigns: Utilizing online platforms, social media, and search engine optimization (SEO) techniques to reach a wider audience and promote tourist destinations. Digital marketing strategies can include targeted advertisements, engaging social media content, and personalized email marketing (Buhalis & Foerste, 2015).

Influencer marketing: Collaborating with influential individuals on social media platforms, such as travel bloggers or Instagram influencers, to showcase and promote tourist destinations. This form of marketing leverages the influencers' large following and credibility to attract tourists (Hudson et al., 2016)

Destination branding: Developing a unique and compelling brand identity for a tourist destination through effective storytelling, visual design, and consistent messaging. Destination branding aims to differentiate the destination from competitors and create a memorable and desirable image among potential tourists (Pike, 2017).

Collaborations with travel agents and tour operators: Building partnerships with travel agencies and tour operators to promote tourist destinations and offer attractive travel packages. These

collaborations can provide access to wider distribution channels and increase the visibility of the destination to potential tourists (Morrison, 2013).

Participation in trade shows and tourism exhibitions: Showcasing tourist destinations at national and international trade shows and exhibitions to reach industry professionals, travel agents, and potential visitors. These events provide opportunities for networking, establishing business relationships, and generating awareness about the destination (Crouch & Louviere, 2004).

4.4.4 Community Involvement and Capacity Building

Engaging local communities in the planning, development, and decision-making processes of tourism cultivates a feeling of ownership, encourages sustainable tourism practices, and guarantees the equitable distribution of economic benefits within the community (Buckley, 2012). Moreover, capacity building initiatives that offer training and skills development for the local workforce can further enhance employment prospects and generate income within the community.

4.4.5 Sustainable Practices and Responsible Tourism

Embracing sustainable practices and advocating for responsible tourism is crucial for achieving sustainable economic development in tourist destinations. Sustainable tourism practices aim to reduce adverse environmental effects, safeguard local culture and heritage, and enhance the welfare of local communities (Gössling et al., 2020).

The following are some of the ways in which tourism could be practices responsibly and sustainably:

Implementing waste management systems that promote recycling, reduce waste generation, and minimize the environmental impact of tourism activities. For instance, the establishment of recycling facilities, encouraging the use of reusable products, and educating tourists and local communities about proper waste disposal practices (Gössling et al., 2012).

Adopting energy-efficient measures in tourism establishments, such as using renewable energy sources, implementing energy-saving technologies, and promoting responsible energy consumption among tourists and accommodation providers (Hall, 2010).

Protecting and conserving natural resources and biodiversity through sustainable tourism practices. This includes establishing protected areas, promoting sustainable wildlife viewing

practices, and supporting conservation initiatives in collaboration with local communities and conservation organizations (Blamey et al., 2013).

Encouraging cultural preservation and respecting local traditions by promoting authentic cultural experiences, supporting local artisans and craftsmen, and involving the community in cultural heritage conservation efforts (Richards & Hall, 2003).

Introducing sustainable practices such as managing waste, improving energy efficiency, and conserving resources not only attract tourists who prioritize environmental consciousness but also enhance the destination's image as a sustainable and responsible place to visit. This, in turn, boosts visitor satisfaction, encourages return visits, and generates positive word-of-mouth, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of the destination.

4.4.6 Collaboration and Partnerships

Forging alliances and fostering cooperation among public and private sectors, local communities, tourism organizations, and other stakeholders are pivotal in expediting economic development. Collaborative endeavors enable the sharing of resources, exchange of knowledge, and coordinated planning, ultimately resulting in efficient destination management and sustainable growth (Hall, 2017). Below are examples of different ways of fostering collaborations and partnerships and how they can be beneficial:

Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors, known as public-private partnerships (PPPs), can foster successful tourism development. By joining forces, government tourism agencies and private tour operators can enhance infrastructure, implement effective marketing campaigns, and develop new tourism products (Ruhanen & McLennan, 2016).

Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) play a vital role in coordinating tourism stakeholders and promoting collaboration. DMOs facilitate networking, knowledge sharing, and joint marketing initiatives among businesses, community representatives, and government entities to attract visitors and drive economic growth (Pike, 2019).

Community-Based Tourism (CBT) initiatives engage local communities in tourism planning, development, and management. By involving community members in decision-making and providing capacity building programs, CBT empowers them to benefit from tourism while preserving their cultural heritage (Lindberg & Hawkins, 2018).

Skills development programs are essential for enhancing the competitiveness of tourism destinations. Training initiatives focusing on hospitality, customer service, entrepreneurship, and sustainable tourism practices equip local residents with the necessary skills to participate in tourism-related businesses and employment opportunities (Sharpley, 2019).

Collaborations between tourism stakeholders and other sectors, such as agriculture and cultural heritage, can diversify tourism products and enrich the visitor experience. For instance, partnerships between farmers and tourism operators can promote agri-tourism, providing visitors with opportunities to engage in farm activities and sample local produce (Richards & Hall, 2018).

4.5 Summary

This chapter presented data and analyzed it based on the finding both from the primary and secondary sources. The objectives were used to formulate different thematic topics and come up with specific questions which would help in meeting specified objectives. The next chapter presents the summary and conclusion of the study, while also stating the recommendation, limitations of the study and recommendations for further research.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the research findings, draws conclusions based on the data analysis, and presents recommendations to accelerate economic development in tourism destinations. This chapter aims to synthesize the key insights obtained from the study and provide actionable recommendations for stakeholders in the tourism industry.

5.1 Summary

The study focused on exploring the relationship between tourism and economic development in the Leribe District of Lesotho. It investigated the ways in which tourism contributes to economic development, identified the factors hindering economic development from tourist accruals, and proposed measures to accelerate economic development from tourist-generated income. The research utilized various data sources, including tourist arrivals, receipts, and relevant literature, to analyze the economic benefits, infrastructural limitations, community participation, and other factors influencing economic development in the Leribe District.

5.1.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The research project involved a varied and diverse sample of respondents in terms of demographic characteristics. The population consisted of four categories: Local Communities, Tourists, Tourism Industry Professionals, and Government Officials. The sample size for Local Communities is 50, for Tourists is 25, for Tourism Industry Professionals is 15, and for Government Officials is 10. The total sample size across all categories was 100. The study encompassed individuals across different age groups, spanning from young adults to older individuals, the youngest age bracket being 20-30years and the oldest being 61+ years. The gender distribution among the respondents comprised of 67% females and 33 males, which implied the majority being females. Moreover, the participants had diverse educational backgrounds, including those with no formal education to those who with tertiary education thereby capturing a

wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. The research project's sample comprised a diverse group of individuals, enabling a comprehensive analysis of the research topic.

5.1.2 Contribution of Tourism to Economic Development in Lesotho

It was found that only 20% of the respondent believed that tourism created job opportunities, while 80% did not agree. This implies that the vast majority did not consider tourism to have and create job opportunities.

The study also revealed that 38% of the respondents think tourism create high foreign exchange in the district of Leribe, while 62% and the majority does not think so. This implies that the majority is the view that tourism does not create high foreign exchange in the Leribe district.

It was also revealed that only 19% of the respondents was of the view that tourism in the district does provide diversification and strengthen the local economy while a massive 81% do not agree with that view. This implies that majority of the respondents revealed that tourism in the district does not provide diversification and strengthen the local economy.

The study results also indicated that 35% of the respondents believe tourism in the district is beneficial to the locals, while 65% do not believe that tourism is beneficial to the locals in the district.

5.1.3 Factors Hindering Economic Development from Tourist Accruals in the Leribe District

The study revealed that poor infrastructure, lack of community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities, lack of coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector and challenges related to skills and capacity development were amongst the major factors that hinder economic development from tourist accruals in Leribe district. Financial constraints can be a significant barrier for local communities to participate in tourism and share in its benefits. Limited access to capital, credit, and investment opportunities can hinder their ability to start tourism enterprises or upgrade existing ones (Dredge & Jamal, 2015).

Addressing cultural and social barriers requires promoting inclusivity, gender equality, and empowering marginalized groups within the community.

5.1.4 Possible Measures that could be adopted in Order to Accelerate Economic Development in Tourist Destinations

Infrastructure development, product diversification and enhancement, marketing and promotion, community involvement and capacity building and sustainable practices and responsible tourism were found to be possible way that could be adopted and put into practice s as to accelerate economic development in tourist destinations.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is evident that there is a lack of belief among respondents regarding the contribution of tourism to economic development in Lesotho, specifically in the Leribe district. Only a small percentage of respondents (20%) believed that tourism created job opportunities, while the majority (80%) did not agree. Similarly, a significant proportion (62%) did not think that tourism created high foreign exchange in the district. Additionally, a large majority (81%) did not perceive tourism as providing diversification and strengthening the local economy. Moreover, a majority (65%) did not believe that tourism was beneficial to the locals in the district.

The study identified several factors that hinder economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe district. These factors include poor infrastructure, limited community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities, lack of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders in the tourism sector, and challenges related to skills and capacity development. Financial support mechanisms, microfinance initiatives, and community-based funding can help address the barrier of limited financial resources and enable local communities to participate in tourism development

5.3 Recommendations

There should be investment in the development of tourism-related infrastructure, including transportation networks, accommodation facilities, and public amenities, to enhance the visitor experience and attract more tourists. Equally important, there is need for implementation of targeted marketing campaigns, leverage digital platforms and social media, and collaborate with travel agents and tour operators to increase the visibility of the Leribe District as a tourist destination.

The study also recommends fostering of local community participation in tourism planning, development, and decision-making processes, and ensure equitable benefit-sharing to enhance community ownership and sustainable tourism practices. It would also be of greater importance to establish capacity building programs that provide training and skills development for the local workforce, enabling them to take advantage of employment opportunities within the tourism sector. Moreover, there should be an emphasis on sustainable tourism practices that minimize negative environmental impacts, preserve local culture and heritage, and contribute to the well-being of local communities.

The study also recommends collaboration and partnerships facilitated between public and private sectors, tourism organizations, local communities, and other stakeholders to promote resource sharing, knowledge exchange, and coordinated planning for effective destination management.

5.4 Limitations of the Study and Recommendations for Further Studies

Despite the valuable insights gained from this study, there are certain limitations that need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the sample size of the study was limited, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to a larger population. A larger and more diverse sample would provide a more representative understanding of the perceptions and experiences related to tourism and economic development in the Leribe district.

Secondly, the study somehow relied on self-reported data from the respondents, which may be subject to bias and inaccuracies. Future research could incorporate objective measures or combine self-reported data with other data sources to enhance the reliability and validity of the findings.

Furthermore, this study focused specifically on the Leribe district, and the findings may not be applicable to other regions within Lesotho or other countries. It would be valuable to conduct similar research in different districts or regions to explore regional variations in the factors hindering economic development from tourist accruals.

Additionally, the study primarily examined the perspectives of the respondents and did not access enough local data and statistics on tourism. Future studies could incorporate in-depth interviews or focus groups with these stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of the barriers and potential solutions for economic development from tourist-generated income.

Lastly, this study was faced by a major challenge of limited and unavailable data which could have been so useful in yielding rich results. This says Lesotho as a country needs to work on its data capturing and ensuring that the data is available and accessible.

In light of these limitations, recommendations for further studies include expanding the sample size, incorporating diverse data sources, exploring different regions within Lesotho, engaging key stakeholders, and incorporating objective measures of economic development. These recommendations would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the factors hindering economic development from tourist accruals and provide valuable insights for policymakers, tourism planners, and other stakeholders to develop effective strategies for economic development in tourist destinations.

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APPENDIX A

Questionnaire Covering Letter

Informed Consent to Participate in an Academic Research Study

Dear Respondent

You are invited to participate in an academic research study conducted by Lerato Lekoatsa, a Post-graduate Student from the Department of Development Studies in the Faculty of Humanities at the National University of Lesotho.

The purpose of this study is collect information that can be used by the Government of Lesotho, private sector, local communities and all relevant stakeholders in tourism and how it could contribute to economic development of the country at large.

Please note the following:

- This study involves an anonymous survey. Your name will not appear on the questionnaire and the answers you give will be treated as strictly confidential. You cannot be identified based on the answers you provide
- Your participation in this study is very important, however, you may choose not to participate in the study and you may also stop participating at any time without negative consequences.
- Please answer the questions as honestly as possible. This should not take more than 30 minutes of your time
- The results of the study will be used for academic purposes only and may be published in an academic journal. Summary of the finding will be provided upon request
- Please contact me (+266 63282052) if you have any questions or comments regarding the study.

Please sign this letter to indicate that:

You have read and understood the information provided above.

You consent to participate in the study on a voluntary basis.

Respondent' Signature

Date

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE

TOPIC: TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LERIBE DISTRICT, LESOTHO

RESEARCHER: LERATO LEKOATSA

Please indicate your role as a respondent with a cross (X).

Local	
Tourist	
Tourism Industry Professional	
Government Official	

Please indicate tick the appropriate box for each question.

SECTION A: Biographical Data

1. SEX a) Male b) Female

2. Age

a) 20-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 d) 51-60 e) 61+

3. Marital Status

a) Single b) Married c) Divorced d) Widowed

4. Educational Attainment

a) Tertiary b) High School c) Secondary e) Primary

f) No formal Education

5. Employment Status

a) Full-time b) Part-time c) Self-employed d) Unemployed

Section B: Contribution of Tourism to Economic Development in Lesotho

QUESTIONS	YES	NO
1. Does tourism create job opportunities in the communities?		
2. Do you think tourism in Leribe district generates high foreign exchange?		
3. In your view, does tourism in the district provide diversification and strengthen the local economy?		

Section C: Factors Hindering Economic Development from Tourist Accruals in the Leribe District

QUESTIONS	YES	NO
1. Do you think poor infrastructure in the district affects tourism?		
2. Do you think lack of community participation and benefit-sharing in tourism activities hinder economic development in the Leribe District		

3. Do you think the lack of coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector hinder economic development from tourist accruals in the Leribe District?		
4. Do you agree that the challenges related to skills and capacity development hinder economic development from tourist-generated income in the Leribe District?		