

Effect of socio-economic status on interest of domestic tourism : evidence from Algeria

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Abstract

This study explored the influence of tourists' socio-economic status on their passion for domestic tourism in Algeria through online survey of 168 respondents, conducted from June 24, 2023, to January 27, 2024, using chi-square test. The results show no significant gender differences in domestic tourism passion (p-value: $0.854 > 0.05$).

Keywords: - Domestic tourism; Tourists; Algeria, Chi square test; SPSS.

Introduction

Tourism is viewed as a normal consumer activity, with economic considerations playing a significant role in shaping travel (Guleria and Kaushal, 2020). Furthermore, the United Nations World Tourism Organization estimates that ecotourism accounts for 10-15% of the tourism business. In addition, tourism, like petroleum and commerce exports, is a major source of foreign cash. Thus, the tourist business is rapidly developing as a result of rising living standards and increased leisure time. (Cui et al, 2016; Zhang et al, 2004). Furthermore, this paper examines if socio-economic categories influence tourism interest among Algerian respondents by reviewing the literature and assessing the study's findings.

2. Literature review

Tourism is one of the primary driving forces in this area. Many research on tourism have been evaluated in this respect (Valle et al., 2006; Swarbrooke & Horner, 2007; Hung & Petrick, 2011; Masiero & Nicolau, 2012; Chen, Bao & Huang, 2014; Petrick & Durko, 2015; Yousefi & Marzuki 2015; Lohmann & Netto, 2016; Ali khan et al., 2019; Baouali, Baziz, and Hadjiedj, 2019; Boukhedimi, 2024; Lee & Kim, 2023). Furthermore, motivation drives all human action (Berkman and Gilson, 1978). The discussion about motivation in the tourism industry has grown. Psychological, cultural, and social elements all influence consumer behavior, including motivation, perception, ego involvement, loyalty, and commitment (Guleria & Kaushal, 2020).

Thus, tourism has a major impact on economic growth (Temiraliyeva et al., 2021). Furthermore, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) stated that the tourism industry is critical to country growth and community welfare (Syufa'at, 2021). Furthermore, suppliers employ pricing to influence crucial parameters (Lohmann & Netto, 2016). Furthermore, the tourism industry is critical for creating direct and indirect jobs through small-scale businesses, guide services, community activities, and infrastructure development (Islam, 2015). As a result, the decision-making process that influences tourism demand for a certain product has two components: determinant and motivating (Lohmann & Netto, 2016).

3. Methods

Method of Sampling

This study used a quantitative approach and simple random selection to collect 168 responses from Algerian participants via an online survey held between June 24, 2023 and January 27, 2024.

4. Results and discussion

Descriptive statistic

The study sample consists of 168 participants, with women accounting for 51.8% and men for 48.2%. The majority of responders (71.4%) are between the ages of 18 and 25, with 21.4% aged 26 to 35. Only 4.8% are 36-46 years old, with 2.4% being 47 years or older. Additionally, 85.1% are single, and 74.4% are seeking for job.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Variables	Frequency (n)	Rate (%)
Gender	168	100 %
Men	81	48.2 %
Women	87	51.8 %
Age	168	100 %
18-25 years Z	120	71.4%
26-35 years Y	36	21.4 %
36-46 years Y	08	4.8 %
47 years and above X	04	2.4 %
Socio-professional status	168	100 %
Employed	43	25.6 %
Seeking opportunity	125	74.4 %
Marital status	168	100 %
Married	25	14.9 %
Single	143	85.1 %

Source: Survey data

Chi square test's result

The Chi-square test generates a p-value of 0.854, which above the significance limit of $\alpha = 0.05$ (5%). This validates the variables' independence, supporting the null hypothesis and rejecting the alternative hypothesis. Thus, there is no discernible difference in domestic tourism intentions among socio-economic status groups. Table 2 further shows that interest in tourism is not considerably affected by socio-economic level. The majority of employed (95.34%) and unemployed participants (97.56%) show a desire to travel, demonstrating participation from all socio-professional groups in domestic tourism in Algeria.

Table 2. Cross tabulation of the study

	Yes	No	Total
Employed	41	2	43
Not employed	120	5	125
Total	161	7	168

Source: Survey data

5. Conclusion

This article investigates the effect of socio-economic status on domestic tourism intentions among Algerian participants. As a result, it has been determined that both employed and unemployed respondents participate in tourism. For the final category, their budget is dependent on their savings and family subsidies. The conclusions of this study are valuable. While size (N=168) may be considered as a restriction, (CLT) confirms that a sample size of 30 or more people is representative (Chang et al, 2006; Polya, 1920; Johnson, 2004; Tomothy, 2005; Berenson et al, 2012; Naval, 2013; El Sherif, 2021; Sriram, 2023).

Another restriction is that the survey was conducted online, and combining it with a face-to-face study could produce more meaningful results. Furthermore, participants demonstrated higher concentration than several characteristics (for example, unmarried, unemployed, and particularly respondents aged 18-25 years old). Other researchers are encouraged to consider these suggestions.

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