

The role of community involvement and number/type of visitors on tourism impacts: A controlled comparison of Annapurna, Nepal and Northwest Yunnan, China

Gyan P. Nyaupane Tourism Development and Management, School of Community Resources and Development, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874703, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA

Duarte B. Morais Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, The Pennsylvania State University, 228 Mateer, University Park, PA 16802-1307, USA

Lorraine Dowler Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, 302 Walker, University Park, PA 16802-1307, USA

Tourism Management Volume 27, Issue 6, December 2006, Pages 1373-1385

Abstract

Tourism development in mountain regions is reported to bring economic growth to host communities. However, the literature reveals that the economic, environmental and cultural impacts of tourism development in these regions vary greatly and that a number of critical factors may explain that variability. Therefore, the purpose of this paper was to explore the role of community involvement and number/type of visitors on tourism impacts in mountain destinations. The study followed a controlled comparison method [Eggan, F. (1954). Social anthropology and the method of controlled comparison. *American Anthropologist*, 56(5), 743–763] including field observations and individual and group interviews in two popular mountain destinations in Asia: Annapurna, Nepal, and Northwest Yunnan, China. The findings suggested that level of host involvement in management and number/type of tourists helped explain these destinations' varying degrees of economic leakage, local control, and socio-economic inequity. Moreover, both destinations appeared to cope with their challenges through cooperative community efforts supported by non-governmental agencies.

Keywords: Community involvement; Number/type of tourists; Socioeconomic impacts; Annapurna; Northwest Yunnan; Controlled comparison

Article Outline

1. Introduction
 - 1.1. Community involvement in tourism management
 - 1.2. Number and type of tourists
 - 1.3. Tourism in Nepal
 - 1.4. Tourism in Yunnan
2. Method
 - 2.1. Interviews completed in Annapurna
 - 2.2. Interviews completed in Yunnan
 - 2.3. A grounded theory approach to data analysis
3. Similarities between Annapurna and Northwest Yunnan
 - 3.1. Empowerment of women
 - 3.2. Improvement of quality of life
 - 3.3. Revitalization of ethnic culture
4. Differences between Annapurna and Northwest Yunnan
 - 4.1. Impact on children's schooling
 - 4.2. Prostitution
 - 4.3. Control over local tourism industry
 - 4.4. Disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds

5. Critical factors influencing tourism impacts

5.1. Influence of community involvement and control

5.2. The influence of number and type of tourists

6. Conclusions

Acknowledgements

References



Previous version of this paper was presented at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Conference in Philadelphia in March 2004 and received best student paper award among Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V9R-4J6WNX1-1&_user=10&_coverDate=12%2F31%2F2006&_rdoc=26&_fmt=high&_orig=browse&_srch=doc-info\(%23toc%235905%232006%23999729993%23629059%23FLA%23display%23Volume\)&_cdi=5905&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_ct=48&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=0fbbde50844d759ffeb900e13fc7755a](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V9R-4J6WNX1-1&_user=10&_coverDate=12%2F31%2F2006&_rdoc=26&_fmt=high&_orig=browse&_srch=doc-info(%23toc%235905%232006%23999729993%23629059%23FLA%23display%23Volume)&_cdi=5905&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_ct=48&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=0fbbde50844d759ffeb900e13fc7755a)