

Research Paper: Community-Based Tourism: An Approach for Sustainable Rural Development (Case Study: Asara district, Chalous Road)



Naser Shafieisabet^{1*}, Saeideh Haratifard²

1. Assistant professor, Department of Human Geography and Territorial, Faculty of Earth Science, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.

2. PhD of geography and rural planning, Department of Human Geography and Territorial, Faculty of Earth Science, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.



Citation: Shafieisabet, N., & Haratifard, S. (2019). Community-Based Tourism: An Approach for Sustainable Rural Development (Case Study: Asara district, Chalous Road). *Journal of Sustainable Rural Development*, 3(1-2), 75-90. <https://doi.org/10.32598/JSRD.02.02.30>

doi: <https://doi.org/10.32598/JSRD.02.02.30>

Article info:

Received: 03 Feb. 2019

Accepted: 16 July 2019

Keywords:

Rural settlements of Asara district in the Chalous Road in Iran, Community-based tourism, Empowerment, Local stakeholders, Sustainable rural development

ABSTRACT

Purpose: Considering the community-based approach in tourism development planning influence the success of clean and responsible tourism activities through empowering local tourism stakeholders and improving sustainable rural development. However, many countries such as Iran have failed to improve the indices of empowering local tourism stakeholders, due to the emphasis on the "state-led approach" in tourism development planning. Accordingly, different outcomes of improving the sustainable rural development indicator are obtained.

Methods: The present study was conducted by descriptive-analytical method to explain empowering local tourism stakeholders. The sample included 351 local stakeholders.

Results: The results indicated that sectional-oriented in the tourism planning approach, with expert-driven and traditional approaches and economic growth, failed to consider the issue of empowering local tourism stakeholders to promote sustainable rural tourism making the indicators of the empowerment of stakeholders be lower than the average rate.

Conclusion: Therefore, the local government should change its attitude in the tourism development planning towards community-based approach through assigning tourism projects and activities to the private sector. Furthermore, the present study recommended the adoption of appropriate policies to strengthen social capital for empowering and participating tourism stakeholders in planning and implementing the sustainable rural development project.

1. Introduction

As a complementary to traditional and agricultural occupations, tourism as a spatial phenomenon for stakeholders and local

tourism providers through the creation and expansion of diverse career opportunities can have many positive effects such as increasing revenue (Tsephe & Obono, 2013; Lee, 2013), improving social welfare, reducing poverty, and promoting many indicators of life quality

* Corresponding Author:

Naser Shafieisabet, PhD

Address: Shahid Beheshti University, Velenjak, Tehran, Iran,

Tel: +98 (21) 29902636

E-mail: n_shafiei@sbu.ac.ir

and sustainable rural development (Muresan et al., 2016). Accordingly, the “community-based approach” has been considered a way for tourism development planning in many countries since the mid-1980s, especially during 1990 (Redclift & Springett, 2015; Lalayan, 2014). The community-based approach promotes the indicators related to life quality of the local tourism stakeholders (Hatipoglu et al., 2014) and paves the way for the socio-economic and ecological sustainability of the settlements of the route and destination of tourism (Muresan et al., 2016; Waligo et al., 2013). Therefore, the community-based approach was applied in policy-making and planning in many countries since the 1990s (Fayos & Sola, 2012; Sharpley & Telfer, 2014; Rodriguez et al., 2014). The approach focuses on the local management (Kavita & Saarinen, 2015; Scheyvens, 2000) to reduce the negative consequences of irresponsible tourism in confronting the challenges posed by tourism development planning with a “state-led approach” with expert-driven. The state-led approach solely considers the economic growth (Lalayan, 2014) and ignores the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders in terms of responsible and clean tourism (Brokaj, 2014), and causes many environmental problems and socioeconomic inequalities at regional and local levels in many countries (Goodwin & Santilli, 2009). Therefore, empowering local stakeholders and providers of tourism through training (Luchetti & Font, 2013), informing them (Muigua, 2015) about available environmental resources (Park & kim, 2014), and promoting their personal and social characteristics and flexibility in spatial area (Zuo et al., 2017) in order to create a clean and attractive environment for tourists (Chin et al., 2016) and improve their life quality through increasing tourism revenue can ensure sustainable rural development in the rural settlements of the route and destination of tourism (Muigua, 2015). In fact, community-based tourism planning provides local stakeholders and tourism providers with the necessary context to intervene and participate in socio-economic and cultural planning and decision-making (Sutawa, 2012; Van-Brugel, 2013; Strzelecka et al., 2017), and ultimately, implementing the programs through investment on tourism development projects (Giampiccoli & Mtapuri, 2012). In the same vein, based on the community-based approach, empowering local stakeholders and provider of tourism (Constatino, et al., 2012) to operate tourism programs contributes to the transparency (Muganda & Sirima, 2013) in planning and influences the creation of coherence among local stakeholders and provider of tourism, resulted in establishing the organizations and their relationship with the public sectors for a better service delivery (Lama, 2014). In addition, establishing a good

relationship among local stakeholders and provider of tourism through increasing trust and confidence (Zuo et al., 2017) to provide better tourism services improves the quality of tourism experience and protects the natural environment and the sustainability of villages on the route and destination of tourism (Scheyven, 1999; Strzelecka et al., 2016; Robinson et al., 2011).

In contrast, in some developing countries such as Iran, the intervention and participation of local stakeholders and provider of tourism are underestimated in policy-making and the implementation of programs for tourism development by public and affiliated organizations, because of overcoming the “Instrumental-technical planning approach” with an emphasis on economic growth (Shahmirzadi, 2012; Zuo et al., 2017). Accordingly, despite an increase in group trips in urban fringe areas of these countries, the negative socioeconomic and environmental consequences of the tourism development are exacerbated due to their natural and cultural, historical and memorial potentials due to the ignorance of the empowerment and investment in residential and catering infrastructures to develop tourism in the villages on the route and destination of tourism (Giampiccoli, 2010; Kim, 2013). Therefore, the local stakeholders and provider of tourism in the villages on the route and destination of tourism cannot benefit from the diverse expansion of spatial tourism activities along with their traditional activities through the creation and expansion of diverse tourism-related jobs (Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2015). Furthermore, it is obvious there is no contribution among local stakeholders to overcome the predicaments in the study area. The adoption of an “up-down” and “state-led approach” development approach leads to a decrease in traditional and agricultural occupations and the challenge in the function and structure of tourism around the metropolis of Tehran and Karaj. Accordingly, state-led tourism irresponsibly fails to consider the involvement of local stakeholders of tourism in the planning and decision-making process of tourism development. Thus, the natural and human landscapes have faced social and cultural customs and traditions of the local stakeholders of tourism with many problems and challenges. Based on these challenges, the present study aimed to see to what extent the facilitators of the method and process of the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders are effective in promoting the indicators of sustainable rural development in the study area. In addition, it seeks to evaluate the role of local government policies in promoting sustainable rural development indicators in the study area.

2. Literature Review

Empowerment of Local Tourism Stakeholders and Sustainable Rural Development focusing on socio-economic and environmental impacts is regarded as the main objective of sustainable tourism and rural development in order to meet the needs of local tourists and stakeholders. In the same vein, sustainable tourism is possible through reinforcing the priority in local policies, and increasing the involvement of local stakeholders in the development process to achieve the positive socio-economic and ecological- environmental impacts (UNWTO, 2013).

Since the 1970s, authorities and policymakers tried to develop the large-scale tourism, leading to some challenges such as environmental crises and socioeconomic inequalities. Therefore, the development approach of policymakers changed from up-down and expert-driven to down-up and stakeholder-driven development (Wass et al., 2014). In addition, sustainability debates were initiated at various levels such as environmental crisis caused by growth-oriented development with an emphasis on economic growth in international assemblies including the United Nations Assembly in Stockholm. Further, green development through local and small-scale stakeholders with an integrated approach towards all aspects of human life was emphasized at the same conference (McCool & Bosak, 2016). Thus, social justice, human rights, and the integration of different aspects of life were regarded in policy-making (Tasci et al., 2013). Hence, these discussions paved the way for the development of community-based tourism since the early 1980's.

considered the role of local stakeholders in creating an appropriate environment to improve the quality of the tourism experience and local stakeholders (Waligo et al., 2013). Murphy provided a positive strategy for community-based approach based on the environmental situation and the access to resources, the economic situations and their impact on jobs, the social and cultural situation, and the management of these aspects. Accordingly, Murphy emphasized the revival of societies through social and cultural sustainability, improving the economic situation to achieve the mental well-being, through community participation and the promotion of local skills (Sharpley & Telfer, 2014). Researchers focused on community-based development (Saarinen, 2013) in order to overcome the problems arising from development with an expert-driven approach without the participation and utilization of local skills and resources for the development of tourism. Hence, since 1990, concurrent with the

emergence of participatory approach, local stakeholders participated in development planning to improve socio-economic and environmental-ecological sustainability. This approach was against the expert-driven approach in which great investors utilized government and investment resources in policy-making without the involvement of local communities (Muganda et al., 2013; OECD, 2016). As Singh and Tosun proposed in their models, the participatory approach emphasizes on the power distribution and the local stakeholders' involvement in their relevant affairs (Giampiccoli & Hayward, 2012). Okazaki (2008) emphasized that cooperation and participation are essential factors to creating social capital. They utilized the model of Arnstein and Selin and Chavez to demonstrate the degree of power distribution, the participation rate and its impact on promoting sustainability through participation-driven synergy. Furthermore, Strelezecka (2012) suggested the ways to empower local stakeholder like investing and policy making, informing and improving their knowledge and skills necessary to achieve sustainability on the route and destination of tourism through tourism development. The knowledge can be provided through the formation of organization, group networks, internal communications of the networks (local stakeholders with each other) and outside rural settlements (private and public sectors) (López-Guzmán et al., 2011). Therefore, continuous communication and cooperation of stakeholders through these networks in the integrity and clarity of activities create confidence among stakeholders, which try to provide better services in partnership with each other. In addition, participation in collaborative meetings and continuous communication of stakeholders are helpful to find alternative solutions in problem solving (Maiden, 2008; Zuo et al., 2017). Hence, lack of attention to local capacities and potentials, lack of local stakeholders' access to tourism resources, lack of collaboration and transparency lead to a decrease in confidence among stakeholders, resulted in seeking personal interests. Thus, the leaders of these networks can guide them in the right direction (Satarat, 2010; Zuo et al., 2017). By guiding and empowering local stakeholders, tourism, as a source of economic development in rural areas, improves the life quality of villagers and sustainable rural development. Sharply and Telfer suggested that socioeconomic sustainability in rural areas is possible through the empowerment of local stakeholders and the use of indigenous resources through policy-making to localize tourism services (Sharply & Telfer, 2014; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2015).

Facilitators of Local Stakeholders' Empowerment in Sustainable Rural Development on the Tourism Route and Destination (country experiences)

Research on sustainable rural development through the development of community-based tourism by empowering local tourism stakeholders in different countries indicated different results depending on their potential and capacities and their governance status. Matarrita-Cascante et al. conducted a study in developing countries such as Central America and emphasized the role of community-agencies in the improvement of interaction among stakeholders through assigning the ownership and the control of tourism development to local stakeholders (Cascanate et al., 2010; Lopez-Guzman et al., 2011).

The findings from Ballesteros and Ramirez in South America (Ecuador) indicated that the involvement of local stakeholders and their participation with the public and private sectors increase their economic revenues by guiding tourist. Moreover, they have emphasized on the way to inform stakeholders to protect the natural and cultural heritage (Fiorello & Bo, 2012). Thus, social justice, human rights, and the integration of different aspects of life in policy-making were in the center of attention (Tasci et al., 2013). Hence, local people have a great role in guiding tourists into environmental protection (Diaz-Christiansen et al., 2016). Graci (2012) conducted a study in Canada and Ontario on the partnerships among manufacturers, local providers and consumers for environmental sustainability, and emphasized the role of governments in providing local ownership empowering them to protect the natural environment. In addition, Lindstrom and Larson (2016), in their study in Northern Europe and the United States, focused on the importance of knowledge and skills, the access to tourism resources, and taking advantages of integrating "expert-driven" and "stakeholder-driven" approaches to strengthen the relationships and create confidence among local stakeholders. Therefore, the collective co-operation of stakeholders has been applied in the EU in order to benefit from creativity and skills of each other in teamwork. In another study on community-based tourism in Central Europe and Poland, Strzelecka (2012) stressed on the participatory tourism development through local action groups to improve the economic situation and strengthen the interaction among stakeholders; the trend was guided by the leaders. The findings from Mearns (2012) in South Africa and Zimbabwe indicated the importance of stakeholders' involvement through empowering them to benefit from tourism. Furthermore, Chili and Xulu (2015) in their study on the economic problems of unemploy-

ment revealed that tourism is used as an economic alternative; however, governments fail to familiarize local stakeholders to use tourism optimally. Giampiccoli and Kalis (2012) reported that the problems of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and illiteracy in Africa made tourism be considered as a source of income for poverty reduction. Therefore, the roles of facilitators for self-reliance of local stakeholders of tourism were considered as a way to achieve these goals. According to Manu and Kuuder (2012), in West Africa (Ghana), tourism is considered as an opportunity to increase incomes and reduce poverty. Besides, it is necessary that policies be directed towards notification campaigns and the preservation of the cultural heritage in order to improve the life quality. Moreover, the communication of local stakeholders with surrounding areas should be strengthened. Muganda & Sirima (2013), in their study in East Africa and Tanzania, concluded that local stakeholders' involvement in tourism activities is very low, due to the up-down policies and the lack of resources and facilities which lead to both the up-down development and the passivity of local tourism stakeholders. In addition, low level of literacy and poverty is regarded as a barrier to the intervention in decision-making. According to Lubsy and Eow (2015), in South Asia (India), local tourism stakeholders cannot benefit from tourism, due to the lack of infrastructure and the low level of higher education, despite the natural and cultural richness. Furthermore, the government policies, lack of transparency, lack of financial resources and migration for more wages are the reasons leading to the lack of community-based tourism formation. However, Lee (2013) reported that in East Asia (Taiwan), holding festivals influences the solidarity of local communities to strengthen the foundations of community-based tourism. In addition, the study of Zuo et al. (2017) demonstrated that strengthening the role of the government in attracting the confidence of local tourism stakeholders to participate in activities was useful in China. Furthermore, May-Ling et al. (2014), in another study in South East Asia reported that the changes in policy-making and tourism planning are essential to enhancing the participation of local stakeholders, while the lack of skills and economic, traditional and religious factors are inhibiting factors in involving local tourism stakeholders. Park and Kim (2014), in their research in South Australia, found that strengthening the empowerment facilitators of local communities through collaboration has been considered as the most important factor in empowering and strengthening adaptability and localism. The result of the study of Kim (2013) in Korea illustrated that creating agency of local tourism stakeholder and their participation with the public and private sectors is effective in the

sustainability of tourism and confidence. Besides, higher education plays a significant role in the formation of these agencies. Based on the findings from Shafieisabet and Haratifard (2015), tourism development cannot lead to the sustainability in tourism route and destination, due to the rule-based policy-making and the lack of attention to the local stakeholders in planning for tourism development.

Generally, based on the literature review, the promotion of indicators facilitating the method and process of

empowering local tourism stakeholders is effective in improving the indicators of sustainable rural development (Table 1 and 2). Therefore, paying attention to the community-based approach in the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders provides an appropriate field for intervention and participation in activities and investment in clean and responsible tourism projects for sustainable rural development, which was considered in the present study.

Table 1. The indicators of facilitating the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders

Index	Researchers
Training and informing	Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017; UNDP, 2015; ICSU, ISSC, 2015; Muigua, 2015; Manu & Kuuder, 2012; Luchetti & Font, 2013
Knowledge and skills in the field of tourism	Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017; Knight & Cottrel, 2016; UNDP, 2015; Strzelecka, 2012
Access to financial resources	Muigua, 2015; Moscardo, 2008; Jaafar et al., 2015; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017; UNDP, 2015; Park & Kim, 2014
Individual and collective ownership	Cascanate et al., 2010; Graci, 2012; Giampiccoli & Mtapuri, 2012; Strzelecka, 2012; UNDP, 2015
Institutionalism	Lopez-Guzman et al., 2011; Lama, 2014; Kim, 2013; UNDP, 2015; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017
Clarification	Zuo et al., 2017
Equal opportunity and social justice	Tasci et al., 2013; Muganda & Sirima, 2013; Muigua, 2015; Giampiccoli & Mtapuri, 2012; UNDP, 2015
Trust and confidence	Lindstorm & Larson, 2016; Zuo et al., 2017; Giampiccoli & Hayward, 2012; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017; UNDP, 2015
Feeling of belonging	Muigua, 2015; Matarrita-Cascante et al., 2010
Collaboration	Sutawa, 2012; Brugel, 2013; Strzelecka et al., 2017; Sharpley & Telfer, 2014; Zuo et al., 2017; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2017; Liu & Mwanza, 2014; UNDP, 2015
Control over tourism affairs	Muigua, 2015; Strzelecka, 2012; UNDP, 2015
Creativity and innovation	Muganda & Sirima, 2013

Reference: The study based on theoretical foundations and literature review of the study



Table 2. The dimensions and indices of sustainable rural development

Dimensions	Indices	Researchers
Environmental-ecological	Improving land resources	Scheyven,1999; Chin et al, 2016; Diaz-Christiansen et al. ,2016; OECD, 2016
	Improving the conservation of natural resources	
	Improving environmental health	
Socio-cultural	Improving the equal opportunity and social justice	OECD,2016
	Improving social care	
Economic	Improving institutional infrastructure	Fiorello & Bo, 2012; OECD, 2016
	Improving justice and economic prosperity	
Physical-infrastructure	Improving catering, residential and support infrastructure of tourism	Lubsy & Eow, 2015; OECD, 2016

Reference: The investigation based on theoretical foundations and literature review of the study



Theoretical Model of the Study

Based on the literature review, the theoretical approach of the present study is based on the conceptual model proposed in Figure 1. Thus, the main hypothesis raised is whether the facilitators of the method and the process of empowerment of local tourism stakeholders and government policies, as an effective factor with all its dimensions and indicators, influence the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators and whether there is any interaction among them or not (Figure 1).

Geographical area of research (Study Context)

The rural tourism settlements of Asara district in the Chalous Road with diverse attractions of natural, historical, cultural and memorable tourism are located between 35° 36' to 36° 21' north latitude and 50° 12' to 51° 30' east longitude (Iranian Statistics Center, 2011). This area from the north shares the border with Mazandaran tourist

area and the central Alborz Mountains, from the south with Karaj tourist city, from the east with the metropolis of Tehran and Shemiranat and from the west with the Taleghan tourism area (Figure. 2). The tourism status of the studied area in the southern range of Alborz Mountains as well as its location towards the metropolis of Tehran, as the political center and capital of Iran, and Karaj city have led to the expansion of economic tourism activities, due to the influence of several factors. In addition, the establishment of the metropolis of Tehran and Karaj close to the studied area and the need of metropolis citizens to spend their leisure time have caused many intra-regional and extra-regional tourists individually or in a group to visit the tourism attractions of the studied area every year.

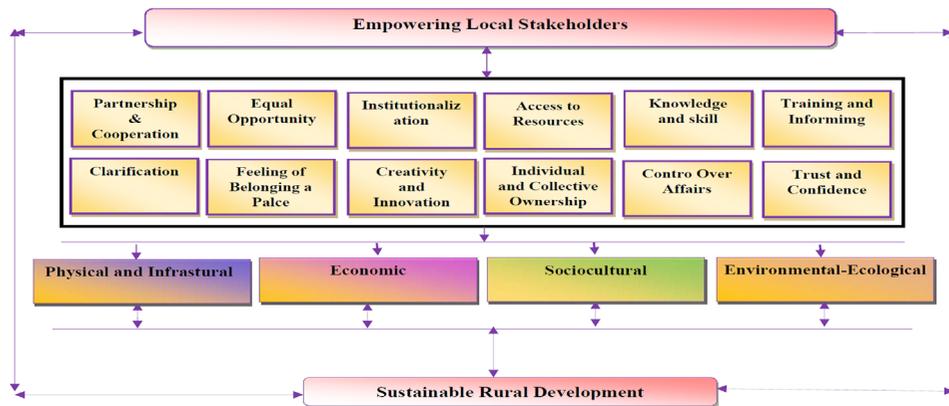


Figure 1. The conceptual model based on the literature review of the study

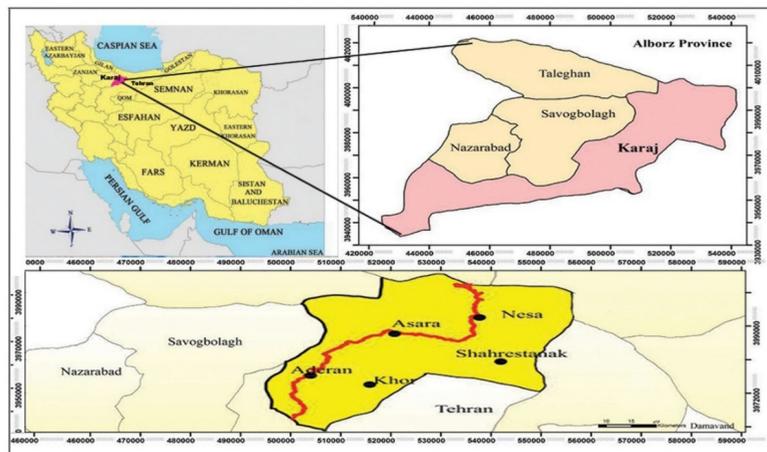


Figure 2. The location of rural settlements of Asara district in the Chalous Road in the Alborz province and in Iran



3. Methodology

The related data were collected using documentary and field methods. In order to answer the research questions, the current study used a descriptive method to study the facilitators of the method and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders for sustainable rural development (Table 3 and 4). Besides, the descriptive statistics, correlation test and multivariate regression were used to investigate the effects of promoting facilitators of the method, the process of empowering and governmental policy-making on improving the environmental, social, economic and infrastructural indicators of the sustainable tourism and the sustainable rural development of tourism paths and destinations. The required data were obtained from the library method to understand the impacts of facilitators of the method and the process of socio-economic empowerment of local tourism stakeholders on participation and involvement in decision-making, investment, infrastructure development and sustainable tourism development in the process of sustainable rural development.

Furthermore, the field survey method was used to collect the field data in relation to indicators, items and measures of effective factors including facilitators of the method and process of empowering local stakeholders and governmental policy-making and impressionable factor including dimensions and indicators of sustainable rural development. According to the statistics of Iran in 2017, statistical population included 63 villages located in Karaj, Asarah region, having tourism potential due to their specific characteristics. Among 63 villages, 30 villages were selected as random sample containing 4323 households encompassing the population of rural household. The multi-stage sampling method was used, due to the research subject and the statistical population. 351 random sample families were calculated for local residents based on the «Cochran» formula (Sarai, 1996), with a 95% reliability level, estimated variance of 0.25 ($0.5 * 0.5 *$), and desirable estimative accuracy of 5%, which were directly questioned. The households were selected in 30 sample rural residences by taking their distribution percentage into account in proportion to the households of the villages in the study area, and in terms of the distance from the functional axis of rural settlements of Asara district in Chalous Road using random combination sampling such as relative and stratified sampling in the first stage and then simple random sampling (Kothari, 2009). Initially, the «focus group interview» technique was used at the level of managers and experts of the related organizations and institutions such as Iran Cultural Heritage, Tourism Organization,

Alborz and Tehran provinces to measure the influential and impressionable indicators. In addition, the idea of scholars and university professors about the research questions was asked using 30 + 1 questionnaires in different dimensions of the theme, with qualitative and open questions. Then the quantitative questionnaires were reviewed. Indeed, after a precise examination of the ideas of local authorities, the experts of the relevant organizations, researchers and university professors, the quantitative questionnaire was developed for household and village analysis based on their ideas.

Data analysis was performed using SPSS 24. The formal validity of the questionnaire was conducted based on the idea of experts and specialists. The reliability of the questionnaire in relation to the qualitative questions with 5 options, ranging from a very low value of 1 to a very high value of 5, was obtained 0.821 through the Cronbach's alpha coefficient, indicating the high reliability of the questionnaire.

4. Findings

Characteristics of Subjects

Among the questionnaires completed by rural settlements in the study area, about 90% of the respondents were male and 10% were female. Respondents were classified into five groups based on age. In general, the average age of respondents is 39 years old and the highest frequency is in the age group of 35-44 years old, which equals to 34.5% of respondents in this category. The youngest respondents were 22 years old and the oldest were 73 years old. Further, the results indicated that about 19.34% of respondents had high school education, 62.7% had a bachelor's degree, and 3.1% had master's degree and higher (Table 5).

Results

Measuring the Effects of Process Facilitators and the Method of Empowering Local Tourism Stakeholders on Promoting Sustainable Rural Development Indicators

As shown in Table 2 and 3, the effects of process facilitators and the method of empowering local tourism stakeholders on promoting sustainable rural development indicators were measured through various indicators and items. Accordingly, the influential indices in Likert scale (1-5) were derived from the average of the responses of the local tourism stakeholders.

Based on the background of the study, the facilitators of the method and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders are affected by 14 indicators including training and informing, knowledge and skills, access to tourism resources, individual and group ownership, institutionalization and formation of agency, clarification, equal opportunity and social justice, trust and confidence, sense of belonging, partnership and collaboration, control over affairs, innovation and creativity, delegation of authority and government policy-making.

The empowerment of local tourism stakeholders will contribute to promoting sustainable rural development indicators if the process works well. Accordingly, the effects of method facilitators and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders have been measured on the promotion of sustainable development indicators in rural settlements of Asara district in the Chalous Road in Iran (Table 6).

Table 3. Indicators and items related to the facilitators of the method and process for empowering local tourism stakeholders (The investigation based on theoretical foundations and literature review)

Index	Item
Personal empowering	
Training and notification	22
Knowledge and skills	4
Access to tourism resources	7
Individual and collective ownership	7
Creating agency	5
Clarification	8
Equal opportunity and justice	8
Trust and confidence	10
A sense of belonging	14
Partnership and cooperation	15
Control over the affairs	6
Innovation and creativity	5

Source: Literature review, 2018



Table 4. Indicators and items related to sustainable rural development in relation to the facilitators of empowering local tourism stakeholders

Dimension	Index	Item
Environmental-ecological	Improving terrestrial resources and cleaning natural environment	3
	Improving environmental health	3
	Developing the rate of conservation of natural resources	3
Sociocultural	Improving equal opportunity and social justice	4
	Improving social care	2
Economic	Improving institutional infrastructure and public participation	6
	Improving economic justice and welfare and the quality of employment	14
Physical-infrastructure	Improving the primary and residential, catering, welfare and support infrastructures of tourism	8

Source: Literature review, 2018



Table 5. Descriptive statistics for the respondents (n = 351)

Characteristic		N	%
Gender	Male	35	10
	Female	316	90
Education	Elementary	27	7.69
	Guidance	22	6.3
	High school and diploma	71	20.2
	Associate degree and Bachelor	220	62.7
	Master and higher	11	3.1
Age	20-24	11	3.1
	25-34	64	18.2
	35-44	121	34.5
	45-54	103	29.3
	55-64	49	14.0
	65-74	3	0.9

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Table 6. The relationship between the facilitator indicators of the method and process of empowering local tourism stakeholders and sustainable rural development

Facilitator indicators of the method and process of empowering	Impressionable factors	Sd	Mean	Kendall's tau_b tes		State of relationship
				Sig	r	
Training and informing	Sustainable rural development	0.74769	2.4843	0.000	**0.184	Supported
Knowledge and skills		0.73501	2.8319	0.031	**0.089	Supported
Access to tourism resources		0.71483	2.3818	0.000	**0.233	Supported
Individual and group ownership		0.50741	2.9943	0.012	0.108 *	Supported
Institutionalism		0.74401	2.5043	0.035	**0.087	Supported
Clarification		0.35018	2.2208	0.000	0.166**	Supported
Equal opportunity		0.80936	2.4160	0.000	**0.219	Supported
Trust and confidence		0.77451	2.3960	0.007	**0.117	Supported
Belonging sense		0.25074	2.6156	0.280	0.028	Not Supported
Partnership and collaboration		0.76028	2.5641	0.000	**0.164	Supported
Control over affairs		0.86893	2.9117	0.016	*0.101	Supported
Innovation and creativity		0.39855	2.4855	0.008	0.117**	Supported

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Measuring the Relationship between the Type and Method of Training Local Tourism Stakeholders and Sustainable Rural Development

In order to analyze the type of training for local tourism stakeholders in rural areas and the promotion rate of sustainable development indicators of trained groups in rural centers on the tourism route and destination,

the impact of tourism development planning, as well as the evolution of spatial environmental behavior of rural centers were considered as a result of sustainable rural development. Accordingly, Kruskal-Wallis test was used to study the comparison pattern of the situation and changes before and after training types. The results indicated no meaningful relationship between the type of training of local tourism stakeholders and the attrac-

tion rate of tourists, and sustainable rural development (Table 7). Based on the information obtained from the local tourism stakeholders' survey, 62.4% of the local tourism stakeholders had completed training courses in direct relation with tourism activities by 2017, 24.8% had passed the training courses in indirect relation with tourism activity 10.5% of the courses had no relation with tourism activity, and almost 2.3% of the local tourism stakeholders failed to attend any training courses. Thus, the result of the Kruskal-Wallis comparison test demonstrated no significant difference among the training courses passed by local stakeholders, the tourist attraction rate and the sustainable rural development ($P > 0.633$). In other words, tourism related training courses had no significant impact on the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders.

Training, the significance level based on Kruskal-Wallis test was 0.633.

Investigating the relationship between the total method facilitators, the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders and promoting sustainable rural development indicators of the functional axis indicates a positive and significant relationship at the 99% level (Table 8). Accordingly, by improving the method facilitators and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders in the functional-oriented villages, an improvement took

place among the indicators related to sustainable development and sustainability of these settlements.

Final Evaluation of Assessing the Effects of Method Facilitators and the Process of Empowering on the Promotion of Sustainable Rural Development Indicators

In order to determine the severity of the effects of influential indicators on impressionable indicators and predicting the future status, 11 indicators of the method and process of empowering local tourism stakeholders in relation to the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators in the study area having a significant correlation were analyzed by using multivariate regression. The results indicated 0.501 correlations between the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators and the 11 factors of local tourism stakeholders' empowerment. Further, the adjusted coefficient of determination indicates that the 22.7% of the changes in promoting sustainable rural development indicators are explained through the linear combination of the 11 variables of the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders (Table 9).

A predictor refers to the training and informing, knowledge and skills, access to financial resources, individual and collective ownership, institutionalism, clarification, equal opportunity, trust and confidence, cooperation and collaboration, control over affairs, creativity and innovation.

Table 7. Comparison test between the variables of the type of training courses and the promotion rate of sustainable rural development indicators (N = 351)

Type of training	Impressionable factor	Number of local tourism stakeholders	The average rating of the local tourism stakeholders
Tourism related training courses (direct)	Sustainable rural development indicators	219	179.19
Tourism related courses (indirect) training		87	171.30
Non-tourism related training courses		37	162.03
No attendance in training courses		8	204.44

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Table 8. The relationship between the facilitators of the method and process of empowering by promoting sustainable rural development indicators

Influential issue	Impressionable category	Mean	Sd	Kendall's tau_b test		Sig.
				Sig	r	
Indicators of the facilitators of the method and process of empowering	Promoting sustainable rural development indicators	2.4911	0.18953	0.000	0.268**	Have

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Table 9. Regression results of 11 main variables in relation with the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators

Model	Multiple correlation coefficient (r)	Coefficient of determination of R ²	R _{ad.} adjusted coefficient	Mistake of criterion
1	0.501a	0.251	0.227	0.17556

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



In addition, based on the calculated value for F at the 99% confidence level, the facilitators of the method, the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders and the combination of independent variables can significantly explain and predict the changes of dependent variables - sustainable rural development in the study area (Table 10).

a: predictor refers to the training and informing, knowledge and skills, access to financial resources, individual and collective ownership, institutionalism, clarification, equal opportunity, trust and confidence, cooperation and collaboration, control over affairs, creativity and innovation.

Dependent variable b: Promoting sustainable rural development indicators

Finally, based on the standardized coefficient of the effect of independent variables on dependent variable, the

results in the group of method indicators and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders indicated the meaningful effect of the dimensions of training and informing, knowledge and skills, access to resources, equal opportunity and control over affairs on the promotion rate of sustainable rural development indicators. In addition, in terms of the impact factor of variables on sustainable rural development rate, the equal opportunity with the impact factor of 0.201 had the highest impact on the improvement of sustainable rural development indicators. Then, the variables of access to resources with impact factor of 0.193, training and informing with impact factor of 0.156, control of affairs with impact factor of 0.111 influenced the improvement of the indicators of sustainable rural development, respectively (Table 11).

Dependent Variable a: Improving sustainable rural development indicators through empowering local tourism stakeholders

Table 10. Regression coefficient of 11 main variables on promoting the sustainable rural development indices of ANOVA (b)

Model		Total	df	Mean squares	F	Sig
1	Regression effect	3.507	11	0.319	10.345	0.000
	Residual	10.448	339	0.031		
	Total	13.955	350			

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Table 11. The coefficients of the intensity of the effect of independent variables on the dependent variables from the perspective of the local tourism stakeholders, Coefficients (a)

Model		Standardized coefficient	Non- standardized coefficient		t	Sig
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	Width from origin	1.255	0.154		8.159	0.000
1	Training and Informing	0.150	0.050	0.156	3.005	0.03
2	Access to financial resources	0.107	0.029	0.193	3.60	0.000
3	Equal opportunity	0.082	0.024	0.201	3.449	0.001
4	Control Over Affairs	0.057	0.026	0.011	2.208	0.028

Source: The Research Finding, 2018



Therefore, according to the viewpoints of local tourism stakeholder, only the dimensions of training and informing, access to resources, equal opportunity and control over affairs were recognized in the process of method facilitators and the process of empowerment. In fact, tourism planners were relatively successful only in four aforementioned indicators among 12 indicators of the empowerment method and process in the operation of method facilitators and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders in the sustainable rural development in the study area. Other indicators related to promoting the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders in developing clean and responsible tourism and consequently, sustainable rural development in the studied area had no positive and significant effect and cannot predict the future status of rural sustainable development indicators in the studied area. Considering that the main indicators of the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders in the study area failed to explain the promotion of sustainable development indicators in rural settlements of the route and destination of tourism, the results of the present study are inconsistent with the findings from the research conducted in the United States and Canada which stressed on the environmental issue and economic prosperity improvement through the local control of tourism in line with sustainable development. In other words, in these countries, policies are being used to strengthen the facilitators of the method and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders by informing them about the benefits of tourism and paying attention to social justice through the participation of local tourism stakeholders. Besides, creating a sense of belonging has been hired for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage by policymakers in these countries. In addition, the results of the current study are not in line with the results of the studies of [Strzelecka \(2012\)](#), and [Lindström and Larson \(2016\)](#) in Europe, emphasizing the importance of collaborative development and economic well-being improvement through strengthening the interactions of local tourism stakeholders and provide supportive services to promote the creativity and innovation of local tourism stakeholders in the villages of the route and the destination of tourism. Furthermore, the findings from [Lee \(2013\)](#) and [Zou et al. \(2017\)](#) in the East Asian countries indicated a change in policies for participating local tourism stakeholders and establishing social justice in tourism activities through the method facilitators and the process of empowerment. However, the findings from the current study are consistent with the findings from the research in the African countries such as Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Tanzania, which considered tourism as a solution for economic problems like

poverty and unemployment in the villages of the route and destination of tourism. In other words, in Iran and the countries with similar conditions and planning system cannot influence the improvement of the life quality of local tourism stakeholders in the route and destination of tourism which caused socio-cultural anomalies and environmental impacts in the settlements of tourism route and destinations of these countries due to inadequate primary infrastructure and the support and welfare of tourism, lack of attention to informing local tourism stakeholders about how to benefit from tourism and the lack of supportive policies to strengthen social justice through tourism.

5. Discussion

In recent years, with the expansion of communication tools, an improvement in infrastructures and an increase in travel opportunities in all seasons, tourism plays a significant effect on the quality of life among local tourism stakeholders and the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators. Based on the background of the study, which emphasized the positive role of the facilitators of the method and process of empowering local tourism stakeholders in promoting sustainable rural development indicators for the tourism route and destination, the present study investigated the method and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders as internal factors through increasing the level of training and informing, improving knowledge and skills, access to financial and non-financial resources, individual and group ownership, and institutionalization in the study area. Furthermore, the impact of external factors was examined by the local government's views on the delegation of authority to the local tourism stakeholders and government policies through innovative tourism strategies and providing equal opportunities for all local tourism stakeholders. The results of the current study indicated a positive and linear correlation between the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators and the empowerment of local tourism stakeholders. However, in the regression model, only four indicators among the total indicators of the method and process of empowerment of local tourism stakeholders could predict the improvement of indicators of sustainable rural development in the study area.

In the same vein, in terms of the impact factor of variables on improving sustainable rural development indicators, the variable of resource access characteristics had the most impact on the indicators of sustainable rural development in the current situation. Then, equal opportunity, training and informing, and control of af-

fairs were effective in improving the indicators of sustainable rural development, respectively. However, the standardized coefficient of the effect of independent variables on the dependent variable indicated that other indicators of the empowerment method and process and external factors indicators such as delegation of authority and government policy-making failed to explain the future status of indicators of sustainable rural development. The results are different from the research findings in America, Europe, and even East Asia, although they are largely consistent with the findings from the studies in Africa and some Asian countries such as [Chili and Xulu \(2015\)](#), [Giampiccoli and Kalis \(2012\)](#), [Manu and Kuuder \(2012\)](#), and [Shafieisabet and Haratifard \(2017\)](#). Based on the findings from these studies, unemployment, poverty, lack of infrastructure as well as up-down policies of government played a significant effect on the lack of promotion in the indicators of the method and the process of empowerment of local tourism stakeholders. Accordingly, local tourism stakeholders in rural settlements in the functional center of tourism in rural settlements of Asara district in the Chalous Road in Iran failed to influence the productive empowerment of the local tourism stakeholders and consequently the promotion of sustainable rural development indicators due to the non-generative empowerment affected by the state-led tourism planning approach, despite the impact of indicators of training and informing, access to financial resources, equal opportunities, trust and confidence, cooperation and collaboration, and controlling affairs on sustainable rural development of the tourism route and destination. In addition, in the present study, the results indicated that extreme religious prejudices and excessive adherence to ethnic and moral values have prevented them from accepting the empowerment of local stakeholders effectively. Therefore, they could not improve the tourism residential, catering and support infrastructure needed to develop sustainable tourism. However, from the perspective of local tourism stakeholders, there is a meaningful relationship between the facilitators of the method and the process of empowering local tourism stakeholders and all the indicators and items of environmental-ecological dimensions of sustainable rural development. In fact, the facilitators related to the method and process of empowering local tourism stakeholders generally improves the economic situation, as well as socio-cultural, environmental-ecological and infrastructural and supportive situation of tourism. Of course, despite the existence of direct and positive linear relationship, with respect to socio-economic indicators affecting sustainable rural development, the local tourism stakeholders' interests were challenged due to the investment by non-native

stakeholders and the limitation of local stakeholder access to resources and banking costs and the lack of maximum absorption of benefits of tourism activity, which resulted in the dissatisfaction of local tourism stakeholders with the development of tourism in the study area. Furthermore, inattention of tourism administrators to training and informing and promoting knowledge and skills of local stakeholders on how to protect the natural environment and inappropriate residential and catering infrastructure of tourism made local tourism stakeholders not take a lot of advantages from tourism, despite the promotion of sustainable development indicators. Thus, improving the indices of sustainable rural development influenced by the productive empowerment of local tourism stakeholders should be recognized in government policies as the importance of facilitators of the method and process of empowerment of local tourism stakeholders to promote environmental-ecological, social, and cultural, and economic indicators in villages. The promotion of sustainable development indicators in this field is related to the internal development method, as well as the process and empowerment of local tourism stakeholders. Therefore, the present study recognized the challenges and opportunities related to the facilitators of the method and process of empowering local tourism stakeholders and the way for their operation. Accordingly, tourism authorities and policy makers should plan for sustainable tourism development. Besides, local government and policy makers of tourism development should change the development planning approaches of "up-down" and "expert-driven" towards "down - up" and "stakeholder-driven" development in order to promote the empowerment indicators and develop productive empowerment through establishing non-governmental agencies and organizations for tourism. In addition, regarding the potential factors which affect the productive empowerment process identified in the present study and the indicators of non-generative empowerment with significant dominant in the studied area, community-based tourism is more appropriate to promote productive empowerment in different countries with the same conditions as Iran and the study area.

Acknowledgements

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

References

- Brokaj, R. (2014). Local Governments role in the sustainable tourism development of a destination. *European Scientific Journal, ESJ*, 10(31).
- Breugel, L. V. (2013). Community-based tourism: Local participation and perceived impacts: a comparative study between two communities in Thailand, Radboud University Nijmegen.
- Chili, N.S. and Xulu, N. (2015). The role of local government to facilitate and spearhead sustainable tourism development. *Probl. Perspect. Manag.*, 13, pp.27-31.
- Chin, C.H., Lo, M.C. and Ramayah, T. (2016). Rural Tourism Sustainable Management and Destination Marketing Efforts: Key Factors from Communities' Perspective. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 9(4), p.179.
- Constantino, P., Carlos, H., Ramalho, E., Rostant, L., Marinelli, C.E., Teles, D., Fonseca-Junior, S., Fernandes, R. and Valsecchi, J. (2012). Empowering local people through community-based resource monitoring: a comparison of Brazil and Namibia. *Ecology and Society*, 17(4).
- Diaz-Christiansen, S., López-Guzmán, T. and Pérez-Gálvez, J.C. (2016). Motivations and Valued Attributes of Ecotourism in a Natural Protected Area: Santay Island (Ecuador). *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(3), 240.
- Fayos-Sola, E. ed., (2012). *Knowledge management in tourism: Policy and governance applications*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Fiorello, A. and Bo, D., (2012). Community-based ecotourism to meet the new tourist's expectations: an exploratory study. *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management*, 21(7), pp.758-778.
- Giampiccoli, A. (2010). Globalisation, development and community-based tourism in developing countries: A case study of Pond Oland, Eastern Cape.
- Giampiccoli, A. and Hayward Kalis, J. (2012). Community-based tourism and local culture: the case of the amaMpondo. *PASOS. Revista de Turismo y Patrimonio Cultural*, 10(1).
- Giampiccoli, A. and Mtapuri, O. (2012). Community-based tourism: An exploration of the concept (s) from a political perspective. *Tourism Review International*, 16(1), 29-43.
- General Population and Housing Census. Assessed, (2011). Iranian Statistics Agency, www. Amar.org
- Goodwin, H. and Santilli, R. (2009). Community-based tourism: A success. *ICRT Occasional paper*, 11(1), 37.
- Graci, S. (2012). Putting Community Based Tourism into Practice: The Case of the Cree Village Ec lodge in Moose Factory, Ontario. *Téoros: Revue de recherche en tourisme*, 65-70.
- Hatipoglu, B., Alvarez, M.D. and Ertuna, B. (2016). Barriers to stakeholder involvement in the planning of sustainable tourism: the case of the Thrace region in Turkey. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 111, 306-317.
- ICSU, ISSC (2015). Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective. Paris: International Council for Science (ICSU).
- Jaafar, M., Bakri, N. M., & Rasooli manesh, S. M. (2015). Local community and tourism development: A study of rural mountainous destinations. *Modern Applied Science*, 9(8), 399.
- Kavita, E. and Saarinen, J. (2015). Tourism and rural community development in Namibia: policy issues review. *Fennia-International Journal of Geography*, 194(1), pp.79-88.
- Kothari, C.R. (2009). *Research Methodology, Method and Techniques* (Second revised edition), New Age International Publisher, New-Delhi,
- Kim, K. B. (2013). The perceived role of key stakeholders' involvement in sustainable tourism development (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nottingham).
- Knight, D.W. and Cottrell, S.P. (2016). Evaluating tourism-Linked empowerment in Cuzco, Peru, *Annals of Tourism Research*, 32-47
- Lalayan, A., (2014). Community based tourism in Armenia: Planning for sustainable development.
- Lama, R. (2014). *Community Based Tourism Development (A Case Study of Sikkim)* (Doctoral dissertation, Kurukshetra University).
- Lee, T.H. (2013). Influence analysis of community resident support for sustainable tourism development. *Tourism management*, 34, pp.37-46.
- Lindström, K.N. and Larson, M. (2016). Community-based tourism in practice: evidence from three coastal communities in Bohuslän, Sweden. *Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series*, 33(33), 71-78.
- López-Guzmán, T., Sánchez-Cañizares, S. and Pavón, V., (2011). Community-based tourism in developing countries: a case study. *Tourismos*, 6(1).
- Lucchetti, V.G. and Font, X. (2013). Community based tourism: Critical success factors. *The International Centre for Responsible Tourism*, 27, 1-20.
- Liu, B., & Mwanza, F. M. (2014). Towards Sustainable Tourism Development in Zambia: Advancing Tourism Planning and Natural Resource Management in Livingstone (Mosi-oa-Tunya) Area. *Journal of Service Science and Management*, 07(01), 30-45.
- Lusby, C. and Eow, K. (2015). Tourism development in a new democracy: Residents' perceptions of community-based tourism in Mawlamyine, Myanmar. *Journal of Tourism and Recreation*, 2(1), 23-40.
- Maiden, J.A. (2008). *Participation in sustainable tourism development: Stakeholders & partnership working*. Cardiff University (United Kingdom).
- Manu, I. and Kuuder, C.J.W. (2012). Community-based ecotourism and livelihood enhancement in Sirigu, Ghana.
- Matarrita-Cascante, D., Brennan, M.A. and Luloff, A.E. (2010). Community agency and sustainable tourism development: The case of La Fortuna, Costa Rica. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 18(6), pp.735-756.
- May-Ling, S., Ramachandran, S., Shuib, A. and Afandi, S.H.M. (2014). Barriers to community participation in rural tourism:

- A case study of the communities of Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia. *Life Science Journal*, 11(11), 837-841.
- McCool, S.F. and Bosak, K. eds. (2016). *Reframing sustainable tourism*. Springer.
- Mearns, K., (2012). Community-based tourism and peace parks benefit local communities through conservation in Southern Africa. *Acta Academica*, 44(2), pp.70-87.
- Moscardo, G. (Ed.). (2008). *Building community capacity for tourism development*. Cabi.
- Muganda, M., Sirima, A. and Ezra, P.M. (2013). The role of local communities in tourism development: Grassroots perspectives from Tanzania. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 41(1), pp.53-66.
- Muigua, K. (2015). July. Empowering the Kenyan People through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. In *CI-Arb Africa Region Centenary Conference 2015*.
- Muresan, I.C., Oroian, C.F., Harun, R., Arion, F.H., Porutiu, A., Chiciudean, G.O., Todea, A. and Lile, R. (2016). Local Residents' Attitude Toward Sustainable Rural Tourism Development. *Sustainability*, 8(1), p.100.
- OECD (2016), *OECD Tourism Trends and Policies 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/tour-2016-en>
- Okazaki, E. (2008). A community-based tourism model: Its conception and use. *Journal of sustainable tourism*, 16(5), pp.511-529.
- Park, E. and Kim, S. (2014). Enhancing local community's involvement and empowerment through practicing Cittaslow: experiences from Goolwa, South Australia.
- Redclift, M. and Springett, D. eds. (2015). *Routledge international handbook of sustainable development*. Routledge.
- Robinson, P., Heitmann, S. and Dieke, P.U. eds. (2011). *Research themes for tourism*. CABI.
- Rodríguez, I., Williams, A.M. and Hall, C.M. (2014). Tourism innovation policy: Implementation and outcomes. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 49, pp.76-93.
- Saarinen, J. (2013). Critical sustainability: Setting the limits to growth and responsibility in tourism. *Sustainability*, 6(1), pp.1-17.
- Saraei, H. (1996). *Introduction to Survey Sampling*, 2th Ed. Samt Publication. Tehran. (In Persian).
- Satarat, N. (2010). Sustainable management of community-based tourism in Thailand. *Bangkok: School of Public Administration, National Institute of Development Administration*.
- Scheyvens, R. (1999). Ecotourism and the empowerment of local communities. *Tourism management*, 20(2), 245-249.
- Scheyvens, R. (2000). Promoting women's empowerment through involvement in ecotourism: Experiences from the Third World. *Journal of sustainable tourism*, 8(3), 232-249.
- Shahmirzadi, E.K. (2012). *Community Based Tourism (CBT) Planning and Possibilities: The Case of Shahmirzad, Iran* (Doctoral dissertation, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)).
- Shafieisabet, N. & Haratifard, S. (2015). The Impact of Cooperation of Tour Operators in Sustainability and Development of Local Settlements (Case study: Tehran and Alborz Regions), *Journal of Tourism Planning and Development*, 4(13), pp.93-119.
- Shafieisabet, N. & Haratifard, S. (2017). *Impact of Empowering Local Stakeholders in Tourism Development and Sustainability of Marginal Rural Settlement in Iran*, *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment*, 226a, 493-504.
- Sharpley, R. and Telfer, D.J. eds. (2014). *Tourism and development: concepts and issues* (Vol. 63). Channel View Publications.
- Strzelecka, M. (2012). Individual and community empowerment enhancement in sustainable tourism development in post-communist Poland. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Strzelecka, M., Boley, B.B. and Strzelecka, C. (2016). Empowerment's Influence on Resident Support for Tourism in rural Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).
- Strzelecka, M., Boley, B.B. and Strzelecka, C. (2017). Empowerment and resident support for tourism in rural Central and Eastern Europe (CEE): the case of Pomerania, Poland. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 25(4), pp.554-572.
- Sutawa, G.K., (2012). Issues on Bali tourism development and community empowerment to support sustainable tourism development. *Procedia economics and finance*, 4, pp.413-422.
- Tasci, A.D., Semrad, K.J. and Yilmaz, S.S. (2013). Community based tourism: Finding the equilibrium in the COMCEC context.
- Tsephe, N.P. and Obono, S.E. (2013). January. A theoretical framework for rural tourism motivation factors. In *Proceedings of World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology* (No. 73, p. 1001). World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET).
- UNDP. (2015). *Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development*. United Nations Development Programme
- UNWTO, W. (2013). *UNWTO annual report 2013*.
- Van Breugel, L. (2013). *Community-based tourism: Local participation and perceived impacts* (Doctoral dissertation, Master Thesis, Radboud University Nijmegen <https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/lavori-pubblici/atlan-te-dei-centri-storici> <http://www.alberghidiffusi.it/modello-albergo-diffuso/http://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurServices/Pubblica/DettaglioL-egge.aspx>).
- Waas, T., Hugé, J., Block, T., Wright, T., Benitez-Capistros, F. and Verbruggen, A., (2014). Sustainability assessment and indicators: Tools in a decision-making strategy for sustainable development. *Sustainability*, 6(9), pp.5512-5534.
- Waligo, V.M., Clarke, J. and Hawkins, R. (2013). Implementing sustainable tourism: A multi-stakeholder involvement management framework. *Tourism management*, 36, pp.342-353.
- Zuo, B., Gusoy, D. and Wall, G. (2017). Residents' support for red tourism in China: The moderating effect of central government. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 64, pp.51-63.

