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Is Tourism an Engine of Growth for Developing Countries? – Perspective from a Synthesis of Relevant Empirical studies.

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Abstract:
How to achieve rapid growth and maintain it stable to have a chance to catch up with more developed countries in the future is always the concern of developing countries. Therefore, the discovery and interpretation of economic growth drivers is a difficult and important task for these countries. In the face of common difficulties in technology and a lack of resources, tourism, with its increasing contribution to the economy, is now expected to be a potential engine for economic growth in many developing countries. In this article, we evaluate a few selected studies on the relationship between tourism and economic growth, clarifies the relationship between tourism and economic growth in developing countries. Most of the literature related to the relationship between tourism and growth is based on the hypothesis that tourism led economic growth through increasing local exports, creating jobs, and earning foreign currency called Tourism Led Growth hypothesis (TLG). For discovering the nature of this relationship, many different approaches have been used. From the existing studies, there are still many conflicting conclusions whether the tourism industry promotes economic growth, whether the level of impact is significant. This paper provides another perspective on the role of tourism in growth in countries where tourism and economic conditions are not really developed. It suggests that governments need to be more cautious in their policies on tourism and consider its negative effects because tourism may not produce the great benefits expected.
Key Word: *Economic growth; Tourism's contribution; Developing countries; Literature review*

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I. Introduction

According to traditional views, economic growth is related to growth in the industrial sector and exports, as well as foreign capital flows (Papatheodorou, 1999). Nowadays, however, tourism is a rapidly growing service industry and an important source of revenue in developing countries.

The travel and tourism sector, in 2019, before covid spread to many countries, grew by 3.5% in 2019, contributing $8.9 trillion to the world's GDP, equivalent to 10.3% of the global GDP (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2019). The rapid growth of tourism and the benefits it generates have attracted the attention of investors, as the sector attracted $948 billion (4.3% of total investment) in 2019. Therefore, the development of tourism is highly concerning to governments. Academics also have extensive discussions on the impact of tourism development on economic growth.

Economic growth is one of the most important goals in economic strategies in developing countries. How to take advantage of the "latecomers" to maintain the development trend and how to achieve a rapid growth rate and thereby gradually shorten the gap with developed countries are central issues in the policies of these governments. In developing countries, tourism, with its rapidly growing trend, today competes with the strong traditional export industries in strategic roles (Faber & Gaubert, 2019). And economic benefits are probably the main reason countries are interested in tourism development (Ennew, 2003).

But because tourism involves many sectors of the economy, therefore, in order to measure and assess the impact and spillover of tourism activities on the economy, it is more important for developing countries. Because of their limited resources, and the attractiveness of a high-growth tourism industry, these countries need to calculate whether reallocating factors of production to tourism will lead to, whether the economic strategy of these countries has a negative or beneficial effect in the long term, should the development of tourism industries be prioritized over investment in manufacturing and export industries?

This article synthesizes some empirical perspectives and studies on the impact of tourism on economic growth and analyzes related research trends, with an emphasis on the case in developing countries. In addition to the summary, introduction and conclusion, the main content of the article will be separated into four parts to analyze the role of tourism with economic growth, the nature of the relationship between them, the impact mechanism and expectations and limitations for the tourism role through experiment researches was performed.

II. Is tourism development important to developing countries?

For many countries, especially developing countries that have the advantage of tourism resources, the tourism industry is seen as the main tool to promote the economy in general and the local economy in particular. Because this is an economic sector that can create new economic activities in the locality, which can positively affect the balance of payments, import and export, output, and employment. Economists have emphasized the importance of tourism to the economy, with tourism's rapid growth rate increasing household and national income through a multiplier, improving the balance of payments effect, and so on. For the local economy, tourism causes large and significant local economic benefits (Faber & Gaubert, 2019). Tourism has the potential to create jobs and increase income in the country, and tourism encourages local governments to invest in infrastructure development and promotes growth in other manufacturing industries (Balaguer & Cantavella-Jordá, 2002; Ennew, 2003; Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Bozkurt et al., 2018; Brida et al., 2020). As a result, tourism has a spillover effect of improving living standards and reducing poverty for local people (Truong, 2013; Lin et al., 2018). The impact of tourism on the economy can be seen through the following specific aspects:

Firstly, tourism development will contribute to GDP (Bozkurt et al., 2018), promote economic growth and economic development in many regions and localities. Revenue from tourist spending on related goods and services will promote market prosperity and contribute to local GDP. Furthermore, tourism leads to regional convergence because it contributes to the distribution of income from rich and developed regions to poorer and less developed regions (Tugcu, 2014; Bozkurt et al., 2018).

Secondly, tourism is a service industry, which is an important component in the industry structure of the national economy. On the one hand, the development of tourism is likely to lead to the development of other industries and, at the same time, promote the concentration of the service industry in tourism development countries. Thereby increasing the proportion of the service sector in the local economic structure, creating more jobs in the service industry, playing a role in promoting the process of urbanization, and transforming the economic structure towards a more progressive direction. On the other hand, it can also contribute to the transformation of some traditional industries, providing new development space for traditional industries. While the tourism industry has become the new economic growth spearhead for the development of the region, it has reorganized and coordinated new and old industries at a higher industrial level to enhance the hierarchical structure of urban industries. The regular trend of the world economic structure shows that a progressive and reasonable economic structure is when all economic sectors are gradually increasing in productivity, but the proportion of industry and service sector dominates. Therefore, the development of the tourism industry contributes to increasing the proportion of the service industry in the economic structure, contributing to the restructuring of the economic sector in a reasonable direction. Furthermore, because of the linkages between industries, the demand of domestic and international tourists will contribute to stimulating the development of other material production industries (Lin et al., 2018) such as industrial production, agriculture, transportation, commerce, construction, hotels, restaurants, retail, media services, and so on due to spillovers (Proença & Soukiazis, 2008; Tugcu, 2014; Brida et al., 2020), thereby promoting economic development in many fields and thereby contributing to the diversification of industries in the economy.

Tourism development contributes to the improvement of human resources qualifications, the development of business and other skills (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009), the dissemination of important technical knowledge, and the ability to stimulate research and development (Brida et al., 2020), create more and more jobs (Bozkurt et al., 2018), reduce unemployment, and increase workers' incomes (Tugcu, 2014; Brida et al., 2020),. Specifically, tourism is a labor-intensive industry, requiring many service workers with many industries and different qualifications, so the more the tourism industry develops, the more job opportunities will be created, increasing income, improving the living standards of people in tourist areas, creating employment and income opportunities for the poor (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Lin et al., 2018) and for residential communities in tourist spots and traditional craft villages.

The development of the tourism industry leads to an increase in investment both domestically and abroad to meet the needs of tourists (Proença & Soukiazis, 2008; Lin et al., 2018). Economic benefits will cause investors to invest in areas with potential for tourism development, areas that attract a large number of tourists. With the increasing income of the population, people tend to travel. In order to meet the increasing demand for material and cultural goods, people will be more willing to pay for this type of tourism. So that investment in tourism is also becoming increasingly attractive. Investment in tourism also leads to the development of infrastructure (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Brida et al., 2020), street decoration, and urban face.

Furthermore, tourism development contributes to the balance of payments for many countries (Malik et al., 2010; Bozkurt et al., 2018), because tourism is often the main source of foreign exchange earnings (Ozturk

& Acaravci, 2009). Due to the flow of foreign tourists, a large amount of currency flows to the destination, thereby supplementing the source of foreign currency for the destination, helping to balance the balance of payments, becoming an important source of foreign currency revenue, and facilitating the import of capital inputs and technologies (Brida et al., 2020) for developing countries, which can be used to finance domestic and foreign debt (Tugcu, 2014). Moreover, tourism development contributes to trade promotion (Bozkurt et al., 2018) by creating local consumption capacity for goods and services, increasing the export value of local products (tourism creates local exports for tourists instead of bringing goods to their destination), and increasing imports of tourism-related goods from neighboring regions.

Business tourism has been shown to have a significant impact on technology transfer through international trade and foreign direct investment (Hovhannisyan & Keller, 2015). They are very attractive to countries that need foreign currency from tourism to import raw materials, have a low level of industry and technology, and have a lack of capital.

These deep connections create prospects for sustainable development in the overall economy, contributing to the achievement of economic growth goals. Therefore, developing the tourism industry is an attractive option for many countries, especially developing countries with the potential for tourism development.

III. The tendency of the relationship between tourism and economic growth

In the tourism literature, the relationship between tourism and economic growth is still controversial. Some researchers argue that they have no relationship, some argue that the relationship will change over time and economic conditions. Although there are differences in research results in the works that have been done, However, the two main schools of growth-led tourism and tourism-led growth still capture the majority of researchers' consensus. The first one explains that the economic prosperity of the locality will lead to the development of a high-quality accommodation system, infrastructure, convenient transportation, services, and a high-end entertainment system. This will attract tourists and also potentially lead to higher visitor spending in these areas. However, it should be recognized that the dominant view, accepted by many authors, is that tourism development will lead to economic growth (TLG). Most of the literature related to tourism is based on the hypothesis that tourism leads to economic growth through increasing local exports, creating jobs, and earning foreign currency, called the Tourism Led Growth hypothesis (TLG). The theoretical underpinnings of the TLG hypothesis are derived from a conventional export-led growth hypothesis, which emphasizes the important role of export expansion in stimulating economic growth.

Studies on the relationship between tourism and economic growth are often conducted on time series data for a country, and some studies use panel data covering many different countries. Country-specific case studies such as India's in the period 1978 - 2009 (Mishra et al., 2011), research for Spain (F. M. M. Kreishan, 2010), Sarawark province case study (Lau et al., 2008), study with Turkey 1990 to 2008 (Zortuk, 2009), Tunisia in the 1970 - 2007 period (Belloumi, 2010), research for Jordan for the period 1997 – 2009 (F. M. M. Kreishan, 2010), Pakistan for the period 1972-2007 (Malik et al., 2010), Malaysia for the period 1975 to 2011 (Tang & Tan, 2015), Bahrain from 1990 to 2014 (F. M. Kreishan, 2015), Mauritius for the period 1999 to 2014 (Liu et al., 2018), Spain from 1995 to 2016 (Liu & Wu, 2019), Pakistan from 1990 to 2015 (Manzoor et al., 2019) and research for Poland for the period 1995 to 2017 (Croes et al., 2021). These studies all found evidence of a one-way causal relationship between tourism and economic growth. Accordingly, these results prove that the development of the tourism industry has a positive impact on economic growth in the long run. For studies using panel data, the case of South African countries (Akinboade & Braimoh, 2010), the study examines the relationship between tourism and economic growth in the OECD and non-OECD countries using data for the period 1990-2002 (Lee & Chang, 2008), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries' research (Tang & Abosedra, 2014), the study of the contribution of tourism to economic growth using panel data for 42 African countries for the period 1995–2004 (Fayissa et al., 2008), Sequeira & Nunes (2008) using data from 1980–2002 for all countries worldwide available data, and for a subset of countries that specialize in tourism, Zhang & Gao (2016) studied the influence of tourism on China's regions economic growth from 1995 to 2011, Faber & Gaubert (2019) studied the relationship between tourism and economic development in Mexico, supporting the existence of the tourism-led growth hypothesis. Tourism promotes economic growth is also verified in studies using data sets of countries (Cárdenas-García et al., 2015; Tang & Tan, 2017). These studies show that there is a clear and significant positive correlation between tourism and economic growth.

Thus, a large amount of research has been done base on the linear relationship between tourism and growth. Recently, however, some authors have suggested that the linear model may oversimplify the tourism-growth relationship, therefore, some scholars began to investigate the non-linear mechanism between tourism development and economic growth. Po & Huang (2008)examined the non-linear relationship between tourism and tourism growth in 88 countries, used q (international tourism revenue as a percentage of GDP) as the threshold variable. The results show that, when q is below 4.05% or above 4.73%, tourism can significantly promote economic growth; when q is from 4.05% to 4.73%, the impact of tourism on economic growth is insignificant. Chang et al. (2009) investigated the threshold effect of tourism on economic growth by using r (degree of tourism specialization) as the threshold variable and found a positive and significant relationship between tourism and economic growth when r is below 14.97% and when r is between 14.97% and 17.5%. When r is higher than 17.5%, there is no significant relationship. Shahzad et al. (2017) examined the validity of a non-linear tourism-growth relationship for the top ten world tourist destinations: China, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Turkey, The United Kingdom, and the United States, using the quantile-on-quantile (QQ) approach. The author finds a positive relationship between tourism development and economic growth for ten countries and there are significant differences between countries, particularly for China and Germany the role of tourism is weaker compared to other destinations. Zuo & Huang (2017)used a system generalized method of moments (SYSGMM) to explore the non-linear relationship between tourism and economic growth in 31 Chinese provinces. The results show that there is a significant N-shaped or inverted U-shaped relationship between tourism and economic growth. (Deng et al., 2014) used the threshold table regression method with annual data of 30 Chinese provinces from 1987 to 2010, confirming a non-linear relationship between international tourism revenue as a share of GDP and real GDP per capita growth. When the level of tourism specialization is lower than 1.80% or between 1.80% and 2.04%, international tourism has a significant positive effect on economic growth, but the magnitude of the impact is weaker. When the level of tourism specialization exceeds 2.04%, an insignificant negative relationship between tourism and economic growth appears. This suggests that tourism-led economic growth may not be sustained at a high level of tourism specialization. Sahni et al. (2020) used threshold regression and a quantum regression framework on a dataset of 23 African countries for the period 2002–2015. First, there is a kink in the relationship between tourism revenue and economic growth. Specifically, tourism revenue tends to contribute more to economic growth below the threshold when tourism revenue is 3.82% of GDP than above the threshold. Adamou & Clerides (2010) pointed out that the contribution of tourism to economic growth depends on its level of specialization. In other words, there is an inverted U-shaped relationship between the level of tourism specialization and economic growth. They point to a turning point of 20.8 percent in the level of tourism specialization (measured as tourism revenue as a percentage of GDP) for 162 countries between 1980 and 2005. Before the turning point, tourism specialization can promote a country's economic growth rate; after the turning point, tourism can still contribute to economic growth, but the contribution rate will gradually decrease. Some studies are carried out on specific countries. For example, Kumar & Stauvermann's (2016) study on Sri Lanka from 1978 to 2014 also found a long-term U-shaped relationship between tourism revenue and per capita output. The threshold is tourism revenue as a percentage of GDP, 1.26%. They explain this non-linear relationship because the efficiency of tourism is highly dependent on public infrastructure, airports, road systems or telecommunications. Zhang & Cheng (2019) analyzed the data of 36 counties affected by the Wenchuan Earthquake from 2008 to 2016, it confirmed the tourism-driven growth hypothesis. However, when the level of tourism specialization exceeds the threshold, its impact will gradually weaken. It can be seen that, for developing countries, tourism will drive growth, but once the potential of tourism to drive growth is exhausted, other economic activities must be developed to promote economic development.

On the other hand, finding a positive one-way causal relationship between real GDP and tourism revenue supports the view that economic growth causes tourism development in Croatia (Payne & Mervar, 2010), Ecuador (Rivera, 2017). Accordingly, the tourism industry will develop once policies to stimulate a positive investment and economic development environment are implemented. As a result, tourism revenue will increase accordingly. Similar to the case study for Korea, although they did not find evidence of a long-run equilibrium between tourism revenue and economic growth, the use of the Granger causality test, confirms that GDP is the cause leading to the development of the tourism industry (Oh, 2005). Aratuo & Etienne (2019) investigated the relationship between economic growth and six tourism-related sub-sectors (shopping services, aviation, transportation, shopping, catering, and entertainment). According to the quarterly data analysis of the United States from 1998 to 2017, supporting the view that economic growth causes tourism development. Therefore, tourism marketing policies should be based on current levels of economic activity. Thus, in the case of some countries, it is the dynamism of the economy that creates favorable conditions for attracting tourists. When tourists not only conduct tourism activities, visit landscapes, but also generate consumption for other goods and services such as entertainment, shopping, travel, accommodation, etc., it is clear. that regions and countries with good infrastructure conditions, more developed and more complete tourism-related fields will have advantages in attracting tourists as well as increasing tourist spending during their trip.

A two-way effect is also found when investigating the relationship between economic growth and tourism (Gautam, 2011; Tang, 2011; Massidda & Mattana, 2013; Nguyen et al., 2014; Yu-chi & Lin, 2018; Kumar et al., 2019). The causality results confirm a two-way link, thus reinforcing the relationship between visitor arrivals and economic growth. A two-way relationship between tourism and economic growth is also found in several studies on transboundary country datasets (Fahimi et al., 2018; Dogru & Bulut, 2018; Roudi et al., 2019; Danish, 2019) .

Meanwhile, in contrast, the study of Ozturk & Acaravci (2009) and Croes et al. (2018)did not find a relationship between tourism and growth. In addition, some other studies show heterogeneity in the relationship between tourism and economic growth when it depends on a country, region, or time period (Antonakakis et al., 2015; Tugcu, 2014). Based on monthly data for 10 European countries for the perio1995–2012,12 found that in times of crisis in 2007, some countries have moved from tourism-led economic growth to economic growth-led tourism, while others have done the opposite. At the same time, these events have a higher degree of impact on the economies of Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Portugal, which are European countries that have seen economic downturns since 2009 (Antonakakis et al., 2015). The causal relationship between tourism and economic growth in European, Asian, and African countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea for the period 1998-2011 to assess the contribution of tourism to economic growth in each country (Tugcu, 2014) shown that the direction of the causal relationship between tourism and economic growth depends on the country group and the tourism index. Lin et al. (2018) in the study of the causal relationship between international tourism growth and regional economic expansion in China in the period 1978-2013 show that 10 out of the 29 regions experienced tourism leading growth (TLG) during the period 1978-2013, while nine regions experienced economic led tourism growth (EDTG). The results show that regions with less developed economies, larger economies of scale, and covering larger geographical areas are more likely to experience TLG, and regions with less developed are also more likely to experience EDTG.

Thus, it can be seen that studies on the relationship between tourism and economic growth have rich content, not only exploring the relationship between tourism and growth but also focusing on comparing this relationship of heterogeneity across countries or regions. A number of studies have also analyzed the non-linear relationship between tourism and economic growth, comparing the degree of dependence on tourism or the level of economic development, etc., helping to understand the relationship more deeply. It can be seen that most studies show that tourism has a positive impact on growth, especially for developing countries, but it should be acknowledged that the conclusions in these studies are not complete consensus. It is reasonable for developing countries to expect tourism, but it should also be noted that tourism may not bring the expected benefits in all cases.

IV. Mechanism of impact of tourism

Scholars have studied the effect of tourism on local economic growth from a theoretical point of view, and generally believe that the impact of tourism on local economic growth includes direct impact, indirect impact and induced impact. By promoting these mechanisms, tourism development influences local economic growth and helps to make the region more prosperous and wealthy. However, the nature of this link is not easy to determine. From the perspective of transmission mechanism, the tourism industry determines the spillover effect between tourism and other industries through the externalities of physical capital, human capital and public services (Liu et al., 2018; Liu & Wu, 2019).

The impact of tourism development on physical capital

It is well known that tourism has the potential to attract private, foreign and public investment, especially in infrastructure, thereby contributing to economic growth (Sequeira & Nunes, 2008; Kumar et al., 2019). In theory, the development of tourism will lead to an increase in domestic and foreign investment in tourism infrastructure to meet the service needs of tourists (Proença & Soukiazis, 2008; Lin et al., 2018). Tourism infrastructure includes the infrastructure of the tourism industry itself, including restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, transportation and infrastructure of other industries, such as: roads, bridges, telecommunications, power and water systems, etc.

For private and foreign investment, the increase in the number of tourists requires more tourism-related facilities such as international restaurants, hotels, resorts, bars, beaches, amusement parks, etc, under such a trend, investment in the tourism industry is becoming more and more attractive, and economic benefits will prompt investors to invest in areas with tourism development potential. Investment in tourism will also drive infrastructure development (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Brida et al., 2020). The relationship between tourism and FDI has been considered positive (Arian et al., 2019), so the development of tourism leads to an increase in investment capital, especially foreign direct investment (FDI). The tourism potential of developing countries has attracted FDI, and FDI has improved infrastructure and amenities in these countries (Samimi et al., 2013).

For public investment, tourism development depends on public infrastructure, so local tourism development can influence public policies to upgrade infrastructure (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Brida et al., 2020). In the tourism sector, infrastructure is the secondary tourism resource base (Stabler et al., 2010). The development of general infrastructure and tourism infrastructure, such as airports, railway stations, roads, electricity, water supply, drainage, etc., is generally considered the responsibility of governments. In the process, local governments can invest in improving infrastructure, forming new tourist attractions and better traffic conditions, and decorating streets and urban areas.

The tourism industry drives the national economy through all the investments made to meet the service needs of tourists. Therefore, domestic/international investment in the tourism sector may show positive effects in the short term and contribute to the development of underdeveloped regions (Proença & Soukiazi, 2008). If public, private and foreign capital are effectively mobilized and utilized, they can be powerful levers for local economic growth.

Therefore, in general, a large part of the investment in tourism will be concentrated on the investment in construction facilities, thereby increasing the physical capital of this industry, and then increasing the physical capital of the whole society. At the same time, economic theory has always emphasized the role of physical capital in economic growth. Therefore, it can be seen that physical capital is a channel through which tourism affects economic growth.

The Impact of Tourism Development on Human Capital

Tourism development helps to create more and more jobs (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009; Bozkurt et al., 2018), reduce unemployment and increase workers' income (Lin et al., 2018; Brida et al., 2020; Tugcu, 2014). Specifically, the tourism industry is a labor-intensive industry, which employs a large proportion of the labor force and requires many service personnel from different industries and with different qualifications. Therefore, the development of tourism will create more employment opportunities for laborers, increase income, and improve the living standards of local residents. Also, the tourism industry offers many attractive jobs as employees in the tourism industry are able to earn higher salaries than other fields. With the development of tourism, the economic structure will change to a direction in which the proportion of the service industry and the industrial sector increases and the proportion of the agricultural sector decreases. Correspondingly, the employment structure of laborers has also undergone strong changes, with increased employment in the fields of industry-construction, tourism-services, etc., and the number of skilled and well-trained labor has increased.

In addition, the development of tourism is believed to help improve human capital (Ozturk & Acaravci, 2009), facilitate the dissemination of important technical knowledge, and enhance research and development capabilities (Brida et al., 2020). The development of tourism will promote the increase of human capital investment, because when the tourism industry develops, the benefits brought by tourism will allow many locals to learn business skills and foreign languages to serve tourists. Public institutions such as restaurants, hotels, and tourist resorts will also look for workers with corresponding skills and encourage them to participate in employment training activities. The higher income level of the industry will also attract workers to study related majors to find high-paying jobs. In addition, with the development of the tourism industry, the quality of the labor force will also be more and more valued by high-quality tourism operators to meet the standard requirements of VIPs and high-income customers. They will assimilate international service standards and update staff with knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of the tourism business. The benefits of tourism provide people with an objective means of choice, because monetary resources from tourism can flow to areas such as health care, education, and infrastructure (Croes et al., 2021). Tourism specialization provides material resources to society and individuals, so destinations have more material resources to meet people's needs such as health and education (Croes et al., 2018).

It can be seen that the income of tourism not only directly contributes to GDP, but also helps to improve local human capital, thus indirectly affecting the economic growth of the region.

The Impact of Tourism Development on Policy Quality

Improving the quality of economic policy can also help boost domestic economic growth (Ahmad & Hall, 2017). Good regional policies are an important factor in attracting private investors and businesses, can provide a good environment for economic growth, and are conducive to the implementation of optimal long-term macroeconomic policies. Conversely, poor policy quality can lead to corruption, bureaucracy, which in turn lead to more volatile inflation rates, and lead to high economic costs and potential risks, and reduced investment, which may have a negative impact on economic growth. Instability in policy quality negatively impacts key macroeconomic variables such as GDP, inflation, and private investment (Liu & Wu, 2019). Therefore, policymakers in developing countries need to improve policy quality and establish practical mechanisms that are conducive to long-term economic stability (Tang & Bosera, 2014).

On the other hand, the development of tourism may lead to the strengthening of market forces and government intervention. The development of tourism will prompt local governments to reform and open their policies, improve the investment environment, and thus improve the quality of public services. In order to better serve tourists, in addition to developing the existing local tourism resources, it is also necessary to invest in the construction of tourist attractions and service facilities. However, under the background that every place wants to attract investment, if you want capital to flow into the local area, the investment environment has a great influence. The local government should have preferential policies for investors, convenient and quick administrative reform procedures, and establish an open, transparent and preferential mechanism. Therefore, the development of tourism will drive the improvement of the quality of local policies.

The growth of tourism has also led to increased local management of land funds and new forms of benefit-sharing between investors and local people. Tourism activities have also attracted the attention of government agencies, focusing on the protection and beautification of the landscape, the construction of public works, and the preservation of the traditional value of the craft village. In addition, in order to serve the tourism development process, the local area will provide vocational training and create jobs for the local area. These policies are conducive to a better governance mechanism and a more positive and attractive local image.

It can be seen that tourism activities require the government to participate in the formulation and promotion of relevant policies, and at the same time support the local image building. By balancing tourism's economic impact with social and environmental impacts, governments need to provide effective tourism investment guidelines. At the same time, the government has also implemented appropriate redistribution policies and vocational training programs to achieve poverty reduction. In addition, in order to improve tourism efficiency, the government will implement policies to improve tourism competitiveness and eliminate the negative impact of external economic factors. Relevant policies include providing training, attracting foreign direct investment, providing tourism subsidies, encouraging the adoption of advanced technology and regulating the tourism market, setting environmental standards and so on. As mentioned above, it can be seen that tourism has a stimulating effect on the improvement of local management quality and policy quality, and then indirectly affects the economic growth of the region.

V. What are the expectations and limits for tourism development in developing countries?

Studies on the impact of tourism on economic growth have been carried out quite diversely for different territories. These studies often measure the effect of tourism specialization on growth. Although the research results are different, it is possible to see a general trend that acknowledges the positive impact of tourism on economic growth. While small countries do not receive more benefits than larger countries, countries with low levels of tourism specialization are likely to receive greater benefits from tourism. This trend is also observed in studies accounting for a large number of African countries, the group of developing countries, and small island countries and regions (see Akinboade & Braimoh, 2010; Fahimi et al., 2018, Roudi et al., 2019; Fayissa et al., 2008; Sahni et al., 2020). Studies in Africa have all found a one-way causal relationship between tourism to GDP and found that tourism has a strong impact on the African economy and is stronger in countries with low levels of economic growth. Studies in developing countries see evidence of a two-way relationship between tourism and GDP. The type of research object is island economies or groups of countries with small economies that are highly dependent on tourism and also show a tendency to promote positive economic growth by developing tourism.

The conclusions of empirical studies with a single country, that are major in tourism, such as Spain (Balaguer & Cantavella-Jordá, 2002) , Italy (Massidda & Mattana, 2013), Asian countries that are more developed in tourism, such as Korea (Oh, 2005), Singapore (Wong & Tang, 2010), countries with a small level of tourism development, such as Vietnam (Nguyen et al., 2014), Malaysia (Tang & Tan, 2015), Tunisia (Belloumi, 2010), Jordan (F. M. M. Kreishan, 2010), have not reached a unified understanding of the interaction relationship between tourism development and economic growth with different or even contradictory results.

For the scope of a locality, there have been a number of studies on the impact of tourism on economic growth, such as the study in Sarawark province, Malaysia (Lau et al., 2008); research in Zhangjiajie city, China (Xie et al., 2011) and so on. Similar to the studies on a national scale, the studies for specific localities mostly agree that tourism leads the economy, but the magnitude of the impact is very different.

Recently, some researchers have noticed the use of datasets for the entire province of a country to study the relationship between tourism and growth, a study found that in the case of coastal towns of Mexico (Faber & Gaubert, 2019), these studies mainly focus on provinces in China (Lin et al., 2018; Zuo & Huang, 2017; Deng et al., 2014). The results confirm the role of tourism in the economy and provide information on the level of impact for groups of provinces based on size, geographical location, or development level of tourism or the economy, which provides a useful reference for decision-makers. However, the number of these studies is very small, mainly the author's for China, where tourism development is quite high and on a large scale. More diverse studies targeting different countries will help provide a richer answer.

Theories on tourism have also confirmed that tourism activities and tourist spending will contribute to economic growth. This view has also been proven in many research results, especially, with most of the studies done in developing countries showing that the role of tourism in growth is relatively large. Many studies show that poor countries receive more benefits from tourism than more developed countries. With developing countries with small market size, low income, high unemployment rate and low development level of important industries, revenue from tourists will quickly seep into the economy and often have a larger impact, promoting the development of diverse industries. The shortage of foreign exchange also makes tourism more important in less developed places.

However, researchers also agree that although it has been recognized as a potential economic development strategy, tourism is not always a panacea for economic growth, the contribution of tourism still varies in different regions. For example, in some areas tourism has not achieved the expected contribution, while in others it does play an important role in the local economy. Why tourism isn't always a panacea for economic growth? Why is the role of tourism heterogeneous across regions? A plausible explanation for the above problem is that the contribution of tourism largely depends on the socio-economic conditions of the region, and tourism development can promote economic prosperity only under specific geographic and socio-economic conditions(Antonakakis et al., 2015; Tugcu, 2014). Furthermore, developing tourism imposes some direct and significant financial costs on local governments (Ennew, 2003). These costs include the cost of advertising and marketing the destination, the establishment and operation of tourism organizations, and costs associated with developing and maintaining the associated infrastructure. Additional costs may arise where subsidies and other incentives are needed to attract private sector investment, of course, over time, development costs and tourism subsidies can be offset by additional on tourism-related activities and the benefits of tourism to the economy (Zuo & Huang, 2017). This leads to the local need to spend a lot of money in the early stages of tourism development, and when the basis for tourism is established, the benefits of tourism begin to become more obvious. Therefore, the expectation that tourism will contribute positively to growth in developing countries may not occur in the early stages of tourism development. This can lead to the fact that in underdeveloped tourist areas, the impact of tourism is negligible at the stage of low specialization and will gradually increase as tourism activities become more vibrant.

The level of local economic development also has an influence on the role of tourism in economic growth. Differences in levels of economic and social development lead to differences in capital accumulation, technological progress, quality of labor, which in turn will affect the development of tourism, thereby affecting its contribution to economic growth. On the other hand, it should be noted that, without the corresponding supporting conditions, it will be difficult for the tourism industry to receive the expected economic benefits. It can be seen that in less developed economies, the impact of tourism on promoting economic growth may be negligible because the level of infrastructure support is not enough (Zuo & Huang, 2017; Brida et al., 2020). A lack of infrastructure will hinder the transfer of income from tourism to economic growth. By tourism activities, besides sightseeing, there are also shopping, dining, accommodation, transportation, etc. of tourists, in very low-income regions, due to weak infrastructure, poor support services and low quality, and poor marketing strategies, tourism's contribution to economic growth Is negligible. It can be seen that developing countries have certain advantages in tourism development in terms of resources and labor supply, but also certain limitations in promoting benefits from tourism.

From a scale perspective, on the basis of the theory of the impact of tourism on economic growth, an increase in the number of tourists is likely to lead to an increase in consumer demand for related goods and services such as accommodation, dining, retail, and so on. The increase in spending from the concentration of tourists will contribute to the revenue of these industries, stimulate investment, increase taxes and exports, and so on, thereby increasing the size of the GDP. On the other hand, most studies have concluded that the elasticity of tourism to growth changes significantly (Po & Huang, 2008; Chang et al., 2009; Shahzad et al., 2017; Zuo & Huang, 2017; Deng et al., 2014; Sahni et al., 2020). The level of development of the tourism industry will determine how much the tourism industry contributes to economic growth. Tourism will positively affect growth at low levels of specialization, and when the level of specialization is too high, it will lead to a decline, even negatively affect growth. This can be explained by the risk that tourism, when overdeveloped, can 'overwhelm' the development of other sectors, the amount of economic benefits derived from the tourism industry depends on the degree of contraction between tourism and other goods and services. This, of course, is only really a problem when the economy is in a state of full employment, with no unused resources available. The development of tourism will increase the opportunity cost of development investment in other industries. Once too dependent on tourism, it can ignore the development of some other industries, leading to simplification of the economic structure, creating an economic structure that lacks diversity, thereby affecting the development and stability of destinations. Tourism development can attract over-investment, leading to over-investment in the region, resulting in a waste of resources, reduced economic efficiency, and potentially exacerbating resources and wealth in less developed areas to more developed areas. The growing popularity of tourism in a country can drive the prices of tourism services in that country far beyond what is considered reasonable, thereby decreasing their profits over time. Or if tourism development is mainly based on imported goods and services, being too dependent on tourism will risk stifling local production. Either it is due to the inefficient use of resources in the tourism industry, which is likely when tourism is characterized by seasonality and is highly susceptible to natural disasters, epidemics, political events, and economic crisis (as we can see a decrease in demand for tourism during the COVID epidemic, tourism activity has almost stopped globally). Once these events occur in a tourist destination, the demand for tourism in this area will drop sharply, causing a decline in labor income and unemployment, which affects the stability of the national economy. An economy that is more dependent on tourism will be greatly affected because the transition to other manufacturing industries takes time. Besides, the development of tourism may also lead to inflation. The consumption of guests during travel is likely to push up the prices of products and goods. Areas with a high concentration of tourists also lead to an increase in the prices of real estate and related services. This leads to an increase in the cost of living locally. This will cause inflation, affecting the lives of local residents and the stability of the economy. This is likely to lead to the risk that growth substantially increases at the initial levels of tourism specialization and may decelerate to growth when tourism has a high level of specialization. But for developing countries, due to the small economic scale, tourism resources are not fully utilized, other resources are not effectively utilized, the substitution effect between industries is small, and the economy can withstand a higher degree of tourism specialization.

Taking all of this together, there is a strong indication that we should carefully consider tourism policy in developing countries. Studies have found a threshold point in dependence on tourism, showing that a diversified economic structure, comprehensive development is still more sustainable. Therefore, in the absence of a scientific basis, only taking tourism as the leading industry for development will be highly vulnerable to systemic risks. Therefore, when formulating corresponding policies, it is necessary to weigh the negative impact of tourism occupying resources and crowding out the development of other industries, and the positive role of tourism in creating employment and increasing people's income. For a country or region that is underdeveloped and rich in tourism resources, if it is expected that tourism will create more development opportunities, while the crowding-out effect of tourism on other industries is small, policies to promote tourism development should be actively formulated. Tourism expansion should be controlled, and regional innovation strategies should be adopted to avoid the negative impact of tourism development. Otherwise, to a certain degree of development, economic growth slowdown is inevitable.

On the other hand, it can be seen that only with the simultaneous development of related industries can tourism give full play to its economic benefits. Because tourism needs related supporting industries to provide transportation, energy, processed food, accommodation, shopping, entertainment, finance, media, retail, and other products and services. Therefore, in addition to the development of tourism, it is necessary to transform and upgrade other industries. In order to ensure that when the tourism development no longer maintains the benefits of the initial stage, the economy will continue to grow.

VI. Conclusions

With the increasing role of tourism in the global economy over the past few decades, the presence of research on the role of tourism has also increased. Through the synthesis of the above-mentioned studies, in general, the impact of tourism on economic growth has received much attention and research from many scholars in recent years. This issue has been studied from both theoretical and experimental perspectives in many different countries, regions, and localities, with different methods, research models, and data sets, presenting different research results and suggesting useful new research directions.

Most of these studies agree that tourism has a positive role in exports, job creation, foreign exchange earnings, etc. At the same time, tourism also has a positive spillover effect on other industries. It also mentions the negative impacts of tourism, such as environmental problems, the negative impacts of tourism on local communities.

However, as has been mentioned, the question of how tourism affects economic growth has been given conflicting answers. Especially for developing countries, where there is more and more interest and expectation in tourism as an economic strategy, whether to focus resources on tourism or not, whether the growth-promoting effect of tourism is long-lasting, and whether there is a limit to the extent of tourism development in these countries, there are not clear answers both theoretically and experimentally. It suggests that developing country's governments need to be more cautious in their policies on tourism and consider its negative effects because tourism may not produce the great benefits expected.

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