



Tạp chí Khoa học và Kinh tế Phát triển  
Trường Đại học Nam Cần Thơ

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## A systematic review of local residents' involvement in tourism development

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Received: 30/12/2024

Revised: 10/1/2025

Accepted: 18/2/2025

**Keywords:** bibliometric analysis, content analysis, local residents' involvement, participation, tourism development, Vietnam

**Từ khóa:** dân địa phương, phát triển du lịch, phân tích nội dung, sự tham gia, trách lượng thư mục, Việt Nam

### ABSTRACT

Fostering local community engagement is now a crucial element in ensuring the sustainable viability of the tourism sector. As a result, both domestic and international specialists are growing more interested in the challenges of local community participation in tourism development. However, there is no commonly agreed definition of community involvement, and there are numerous approaches to assessing and quantifying local community participation in tourism development. Through a systematic inquiry and extensive analytical involvement of local people in the development of sustainable tourism in Vietnam, the author gives key notions on local residents' engagement in tourism development that serve as the framework for real participation research. To ensure impartiality and science in the text this study used bibliometric and content analysis methodologies, as well as VOSviewer software, to identify key research aspects among 2,100 papers from two sources of data: Web of Science and Scopus and suggest potential research directions.

### TÓM TẮT

Hiện nay, một trong những tiêu chí quan trọng đảm bảo sự phát triển bền vững của ngành du lịch là khuyến khích sự tham gia của người dân địa phương. Các chủ đề liên quan đến sự tham gia của người dân địa phương trong phát triển du lịch vì thế cũng ngày càng thu hút sự quan tâm nghiên cứu của các học giả trong và ngoài nước. Tuy nhiên, về lý thuyết, hiện vẫn chưa có một định nghĩa nhất quán về sự tham gia của người dân cũng như có rất nhiều phương pháp phân tích và đánh giá sự tham gia của người dân địa phương trong

*phát triển du lịch. Qua đánh giá hệ thống và phân tích tổng hợp, trong bài viết này, tác giả đưa ra tổng quan các tài liệu về sự tham gia của người dân địa phương trong phát triển du lịch làm cơ sở cho các nghiên cứu thực tiễn sự tham gia của người dân địa phương trong phát triển du lịch bền vững ở Việt Nam. Để đảm bảo tính khách quan và khoa học trong văn bản, nghiên cứu này đã sử dụng các phương pháp phân tích nội dung và trắc lượng thư mục, cũng như phần mềm VOSviewer, để xác định các khía cạnh nghiên cứu chính trong số 2.100 bài báo liên quan từ hai nguồn dữ liệu: Web of Science và Scopus từ đó gợi ý một số hướng nghiên cứu tiềm năng.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the 1950s, scholars have been developing concepts such as community development and local community engagement, as well as community tourism research. Following the failures of continent-wide "civilization" development schemes, Western experts have shifted their focus on the human component and stakeholder involvement [22]. After learning that methods of increasing investment capital were ineffectual in improving the lives of disadvantaged people in rural regions, professionals resorted to people-centered basic needs solutions in the 1960s. Community involvement has been recognized in tourism studies since the early 1970s when Gunn advocated for it through the use of forums [2]. According to Arnstein (1969), "citizen participation is citizen power," and it is only rhetoric without devolution of power to the grassroots level [1]. Since Arnstein's seminal study was published in 1969, much has been written about the importance of individual citizen and community engagement in tourism. For decades, policymakers and scholars have debated the value of community participation in tourism

development in achieving long-term sustainability goals [7],[13],[17],[21]. Because the idea is flexible, many academics have utilized and interpreted it differently, yet there is still no agreement on a single definition [17]. According to Pretty's review, several research on development projects imply that participation is one of the features that ensures project success while also allowing increased project owner authority. Reduce service costs, promote efficiency, understanding, and social cohesion, empower the poor and disadvantaged, and strengthen people's learning and action abilities [11]. Despite this, academic Cevat Tosun noted in 2006 that "it is difficult to give a common definition of community participation" [17]. A growing amount of studies have shown the critical significance of local community engagement in the expansion of tourism, a crucial economic sector in the global economy. Because of its relevance in sustaining growth in this critical economic sector, studies on the issue have grown in recent years, notably in Vietnam. This study does a quantitative literature review to investigate residents' engagement in tourism development definitions and issues in both

developed and developing countries. The mapping of existing data suggests potential directions for future study and pandemic response efforts.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

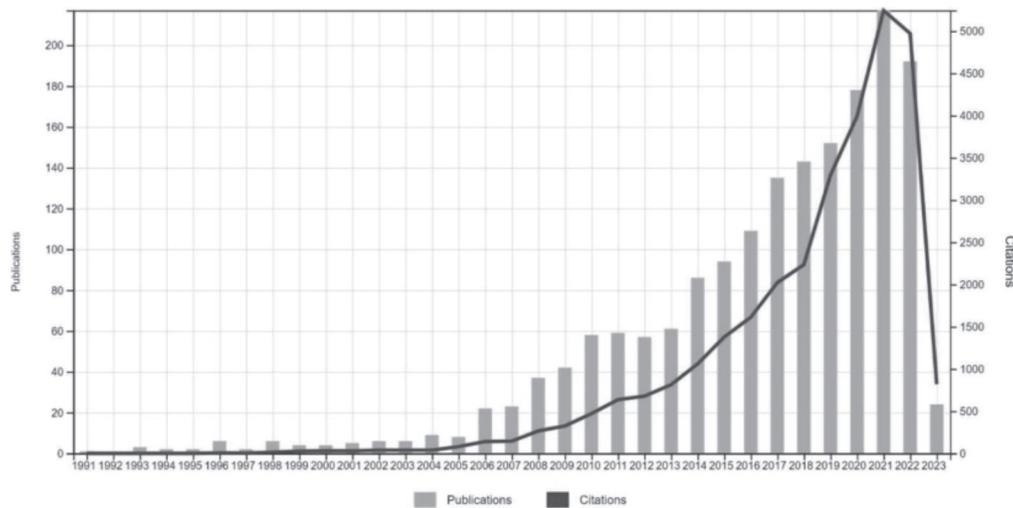
This study used the bibliometric method to conduct a literature review on the participation of local people in tourism development for 1753 works from the Web of Science, published from 1991 to 2023 and 347 works published between 1987 and 2023 from the Scopus. The author originally utilized the bibliometric approach, which is often used in social science research, to synthesize literature on the topic. Pritchard developed this approach in 1969 as a combination of mathematics and statistical methods for quantitatively analyzing book content and other publications [12]. Bibliometrics is widely utilized in statistical research from a variety of perspectives, such as statistical analysis of publishing attributes (authors, keywords) to measure, explain, and predict the written communication process. Bibliometrics may also be used to analyze the network of linked bibliographic properties in a document, such as co-authoring networks, co-citation and co-

occurrence analysis, keyword co-occurrence, and bibliographic coupling. Bibliometrics can be descriptive, such as counting the number of publications produced by your company, or evaluative, such as utilizing citation analysis to assess how those articles affected later research conducted by others. While counting publications is relevant for some comparisons, citation analysis allows you to investigate the influence of those articles on others by calculating how frequently they are mentioned. Citation analysis may also reveal which journals, organizations, and even nations have had an effect in certain fields of study [8].

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Result of a bibliometric analysis of local community participation in tourism development**

The scientific bibliometric approach (bibliometric) was used to study the literature on local people's engagement in tourism development from the Web of Science data source for 1753 works published between 1991 and 2023 and 347 works published between 1987 and 2023 from the Scopus data source.



**Figure 1. The number of papers on local people's engagement in tourism development published on Web of Science between 1991 and 2023**

*(Source: Web of Science, Mars 2023)*

According to Web of Science statistics, only about 20 research articles on local people's engagement in tourist development were produced each year between 1991 and 2005. The number of research projects published on this topic progressively climbed to fewer than 100 between 2006 and 2015, with an average of 54 articles produced per year. The number of papers published during the next three years (2016-2018) averaged more than 120 every year, with more than 140 articles published in 2018. Notably, the number of research projects on local people's involvement in tourism development published between 2019 and 2022 averaged 184.7 articles per year, with 2021 having the largest number of research projects published,

with 220 papers published (Figure 1). According to the statistics below, a rising number of academics are interested in researching local people's participation in tourism development. Studies on local people's involvement in tourism development, according to Web of Science statistics, are largely published in hotel, sports, entertainment, and tourism research. Among the 1,753 publications related to the aforementioned study subject are 708 papers on hospitality, sports, entertainment, and tourism, 325 papers on environmental research, and 293 papers on science. Table 1 shows that there were 260 articles on sustainability and 260 articles on green science and technology.

**Table 1. Web of Science statistics on publications by study area on people's engagement in tourist development published between 1991 and 2023**

No.	Study area	Number of publications
1	Hotel, Sport, Leisure and Tourism	708
2	Environment Research	325
3	Environmental Sciences	293
4	Green and sustainable science and technology	260

5	Management	163
6	Regional urban planning	78
7	Business	77
8	Sociology	77
9	Research Development	75
10	Interdisciplinary Social Science	73
11	Geography	73
12	Economy	68

(Source: Web of Science, Mars 2023)

Data from Web of Science and Scopus also suggest that several specialized tourism journals are interested in the issue of local people's engagement in tourism development such as Tourism Management and Journal of Destination Marketing and Management, Annals of Tourism Research, Journal of Hotel and Tourism Management, Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, Journal of Tourism Management Perspectives... Among them, Tourism Management, published by the prestigious

publisher Elsevier, has an H-index of 216, ranking Q1 according to Scimago, and is the magazine with the most publications on the participation of local people in tourism development, with 203 articles, according to WoS statistics. The Journal of Sustainable Tourism, published by the famous Taylor Francis, has an H-index of 127 and is ranked Q1 in Scimago, a journal with numerous articles linked to this study field, according to Scopus statistics, with 192 articles.

**Table 2. Statistics on journals have the most articles on local people's engagement in tourism development according to Web of Science statistics**

No.	Journal title	Number of articles	H-index	Rank on Scimago
1	Tourism Management	203	216	Q1
2	Journal of Destination Marketing and Management	7	50	Q1
3	Annals of Tourism Research	4	187	Q1
4	Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management	4	45	Q1
5	Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism	4	27	Q2
6	Tourism Management Perspectives	3	54	Q1

(Source: Web of Science, Mars 2023)

**Table 3. Statistics on journals have the most articles on local people's engagement in tourism development according to Scopus statistics**

No.	Journal Title	Number of articles	H-index	Rank on Scimago
1	Sustainability	208	136	Q2
2	Journal of Sustainable Tourism	192	127	Q1
3	African journal of hospitality, tourism, and leisure	128	18	Q4
4	Tourism Management	128	236	Q1
5	Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research	72	53	Q1
6	Tourism Geographies	72	85	Q1
7	Annals of Tourism Research	56	201	Q1
8	Current Issues in Tourism	56	94	Q1
9	Tourism Planning and Development	48	41	Q2

(Source: Scopus, June 2023)

Following that, a Web of Sciences data analysis of 1753 articles reveals that the majority of authors with the most publications related to local people's participation in tourism development work for European and American organizations, with only two Asian authors: Rong Wang (Singapore) and Choongki - Lee (Korea). Furthermore, the H index may be utilized to

explore and give extra information for a certain study topic's overview technique. The H- index measures a researcher's scientific output. The H index denotes the number of articles that have citation counts greater than or equal to “H” [6]. The writers in the rankings all have a high H-index, indicating a solid research position (see Table 4).

**Table 4. Statistics of the 10 authors with the most publications on local people's participation in tourism development**

No.	Author	Organisations	H-index	Number of articles
1	MUZAFFER UYSAL	University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America	84	6
2	STEPHEN J. PAGE	The Ohio State University Medical Center, United States of America	50	5
3	XIANG (ROBERT) LI	Temple University, United States of America	51	5
4	DONALD GETZ	The University of Calgary, Canada	68 (D-index)	4

5	RONG WANG	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	98	4
6	BOB MCKERCHER	University of Queensland, Australia	79	3
7	BRIAN KING	Penn State University, United States of America	20	3
8	CHOONG-KI LEE	Kyung Hee University, Korea	71	3
9	DAISY X.F. FAN	Bournemouth University, United Kingdom	19	3
10	GEOFFREY WALL	University of Waterloo, Canada	55(D-index)	3

(Source: Web of Science, Mars 2023)

Furthermore, the author assessed the Scimago Journal rank and the SIR8 index. This index measures the scientific impact of academic publications by taking into account both the number of citations a journal receives and the reputation of the journals from which those citations originate. A higher SIR score suggests that the journal has a higher level of notoriety [5]. Table 4 displays the results of rating the ten articles with the most citations and the SIR ranking index based on data from 1753 Web of Science articles on people's engagement in

tourism development. The journal ranking index (SIR) varies from 1.48 to 3.38, showing a strong influence on the international scientific community. The journals in this ranking from 1 to 10 are all ranked as Q1 according to Scimago. Among them, Tourism Management has 4 articles in the ranking of the most cited articles. This is a prominent tourism specialty journal with a SIR index of Q1 (3.38). Alternatively, the Annals of Tourism Research includes two articles ranked with a SIR index of Q1 (3.15).

**Table 5. Statistics of 10 studies with the most citations and journal ranking index (SIR)**

No.	Article title	Author	Journal	Total number of citations	SIR 2021
1	Limits to community participation in the tourism development process in developing countries	Tosun, C (2000)	TOURISM MANAGEMENT	578	3.38
2	Influence analysis of community resident support for sustainable tourism development	Lee, Tsung Hung (2013)	TOURISM MANAGEMENT	460	3.38

3	Stakeholder collaboration and heritage management	Aas, C; Ladkin, A; Fletcher, J (2005)	ANNALS OF TOURISM RESEARCH	438	3.15
4	Mapping community values for natural capital and ecosystem services	Raymond, Christopher M.; Bryan, Brett A.; MacDonald, Darla Hatton; Cast, Andrea; Strathearn, Sarah; Grandgirard, Agnes; Kalivas, Tina (2009)	ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS	411	1.78
5	Residents' attitudes toward tourism development: A literature review with implications for tourism planning	Harrill, R (2004)	JOURNAL OF PLANNING LITERATURE	394	1.82
6	New directions in tourism for Third World development	Brohman, J (1996)	ANNALS OF TOURISM RESEARCH	384	3.15
7	Tourism routes as a tool for the economic development of rural areas - vibrant hope or impossible dream?	Briedenhann, J; Wickens, E (2004)	TOURISM MANAGEMENT	368	3.38
8	Applications of low-cost sensing technologies for air quality monitoring and exposure assessment: How far have they gone?	Morawska, Lidia; Thai, Phong K.; Liu, Xiaoting; Asumadu- Sakyi, Akwasi; Ayoko, Godwin; Bartonova, Alena; Bedini, Andrea; Chai, Fahe (2018)	ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL	334	2.76
9	Expected nature of community participation in tourism development	Tosun, C (2006)	TOURISM MANAGEMENT	332	3.38
10	Stakeholders in Sustainable Tourism Development and their Roles: Applying	Byrd, Erick T. (2007)	TOURISM REVIEW	309	1.48



of publishing, from 2017 to 2023, focuses on five topics: rural tourism (the majority of publications), participation of local people,

sustainable development, tourism, tourism development, calendar, and China (see Figure 5).

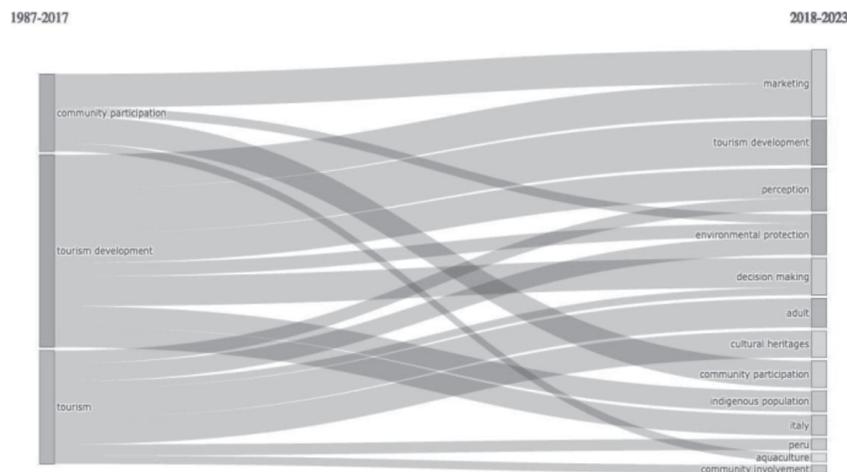


**Figure 5. Trends in local people's participation in WoS from 1984 to 2016 and 2017 to 2023**

(Source: Web of Science, Mars 2023)

In addition, the trends in Scopus article research are divided into two time periods: 1987-2017 (focusing on three major topics: community participation, tourism development, and tourism) and 2018-2023 (covering more than ten topics:

marketing, tourism development, awareness, environmental protection, decision making, adults, cultural heritage, community participation, and indigenous people).



**Figure 6. Trends in local people's participation in Scopus from 1987 to 2017 and 2018 to 2023**

(Source: Scopus, June 2023)

**3.2 Result of a content analysis of local community participation in tourism development**

Firstly, referring to the definition of local community engagement, academics globally fall into two camps. In which the most commonly

accepted viewpoint characterizes participation as a process. The definitions provided below are common for this category. The authors, Oakley and Marsden, confirm that participation is the process by which individuals, families, or communities work for their own benefit and earn

the right to contribute to the growth of themselves and their communities [9]. According to researcher Paul, participation is an active process in which people with similar objectives influence the administration and execution of development operations in order to increase money, improve their careers, or get other benefits [10]. Pretty describes participation as the process by which individuals exercise influence and share authority over. The remaining group sees community engagement as a tool; people influence resources to develop products but only get involved in the implementation process once an external choice is made. This school integrates research from [14],[18],[21]. This is the guiding idea behind creating CBT (Community-based tourism) model initiatives that consider the community as a project partner, both contributing to and profiting from the venture. This viewpoint does not have support among researchers. The contrast between these two groups of viewpoints arises from the authors' study aims on community participation. In this article, the author recognizes that engagement is a process.

Second, experts believe that community involvement in tourism development is vital to accomplishing the goal of sustainable tourism development. According to researcher Taylor, community engagement proves that people support the goals and objectives of tourist development, are pleased with the results, and are required for long-term tourism growth. According to Brohman (1996) community engagement is an important component of community tourism development since it acts as a vehicle for resolving key issues in the developing world's tourist industry [3]. Furthermore, Wang and Fesenmaier

believe that local community engagement is critical to achieving overall tourist development goals. To maximize effectiveness, community engagement must be maintained throughout the local tourist development process [20].

Furthermore, local community engagement in tourism development can take several forms, depending on the management method, the community development process, and the project's stages. In turn, the kinds of local community engagement reflect the degree of community involvement. Thammajinda, the author, has classified community involvement projects from over ten nations and territories into three types of participation: planning, implementation, and tourist benefits. According to studies, planning involvement, in which locals are given responsibility to make decisions regarding tourist development, is the most beneficial sort of engagement for local communities [15].

Moreover, when exploring community participation in development, particularly in tourism development, scholars agree that it is important to assess the level of participation. Oakley and Madsen argue that there is always a gap between participation theory and local practice, making it crucial to understand the level of participation through quantitative or qualitative models [9]. The issue of determining the level of community participation in tourism development remains a contentious one among scientists. One school of thought advocates for using social theories to qualitatively assess community participation. Cohen and Uphoff (1980) suggest that it is essential to answer three questions when studying the participation of local communities: Who are the participants, how to

get started, and what is the nature of participation? They speculate that participants may include locals, local leaders, domestic and foreign individuals with various demographic characteristics. Local participation is influenced by factors such as age, gender, marital status, education level, social class, income, length of time living locally, and land ownership status according to Cohen and Uphoff (1980) [4]. And Paul evaluates participation on four levels, starting with information sharing and progressing to consulting, decision-making, and initiation. The first two levels indicate low participation, where local communities have an influence on the project, while the last two levels indicate high participation, where local communities have control over the project [10]. Tosun (2006) also supports community involvement in decision-making and benefit-sharing for proactive management of local issues, including tourism development [17]. Simultaneously, other social theories, such as Stakeholder Theory, Social Capital Theory and Social Exchange Theory have also gained support among researchers. The second school of thought suggests several models to quantify community involvement in tourism development, including Amstein's participation scale, Pretty's participation spectrum, and Tosun's participation level classification. While the division of scales or stages of participation varies among researchers, there is content and viewpoint correspondence between authors. For instance, Tosun's study shows that the level of passive participation corresponds to Amstein's participation scale steps 1 and 2, which correspond to Pretty's participation spectrum levels 1 and 2. Similarly, the inducement or

incentive participation content equals the known level on Amstein's participation scale, including ladders 3, 4, and 5, as well as levels 3 and 4 in Pretty's participation spectrum. The same rule applies to the rest of the content. However, there is still a research gap in understanding the impact of community participation in tourism development. Many studies focus on assessing the level of community participation but do not delve into the effects of this participation on the community, tourism development, and the destination's sustainability. Therefore, future research should focus on examining the impacts of community participation in tourism development and provide practical recommendations for promoting sustainable tourism development through community participation.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Following a thorough analysis and rigorous investigation of theoretical problems surrounding community engagement in tourist development, the author arrived at the following conclusions: As a result of a bibliometric examination of the two databases Web of Sciences and Scopus, it is clear that local people's engagement in tourism development is a well-known topic of interest to worldwide scholars. My work has appeared in a number of famous niche travel journals throughout the world. This shows that the scientific community is interested in this subject and that high-quality research publications are required. Furthermore, the bibliometric study's findings show evolving research trends on local people's engagement in tourism development over time. This demonstrates how research on local people's engagement in tourism

development is increasingly concentrating on real, practical, and critical issues. And in order for tourism to prosper, in addition to economic circumstances, each destination's political stability, social safety, and tourist policy must be established. These features can have a significant impact on community engagement and may inhibit tourist growth in the region. As a result, while researching participation, it is not possible to incorporate simply the viewpoints of local people, but also those of other players in tourist development, such as the state, businesses, and so on, as well as the research setting. Furthermore, community participation is important and significant in supporting efficient tourist development, although the level of determination differs by kind of tourism. In other words, local community participation has varying effects on the growth of different types of tourism. To determine the level of community engagement, both qualitative and quantitative approaches must be applied, including contemporary social theories and quantitative research findings from previous community participation studies. Moreover, in terms of local people's participation in tourism development, the author suggests several future research directions, including: research on the level of participation of local residents in tourism development, research on conflicts between stakeholders at tourism destinations, and research to verify the influence of resident participation on conflicts between stakeholders, etc, particularly in the study's context of Vietnam. Because academic study on these themes remains sparse in Vietnam, despite the government's emphasis on sustainable tourism development.

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