



Relationships between Perceptions of Residents Toward Tourism Development, Benefits Derived from Tourism and Support to Tourism

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Abstract

The study aimed to find out the relationships between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits derived from tourism, and their support for tourism in Bepazari, Turkey. The data was collected through a questionnaire technique from the residents in Bepazari, one of the cultural tourism destinations in Turkey. The data was examined through a descriptive, exploratory, and confirmatory factor analyses, and structural equation modeling. The research found that there is a relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development and the benefits derived from tourism. The research further showed a relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development and their support for tourism. More specifically, this research contributes to the sustainable development literature by evaluating the perceptions of tourism development from the perspective of residents, the benefits derived from tourism, and the support provided to tourism. Moreover, the research provides information for destination management organizations to manage sustainable development processes effectively and efficiently by revealing the factors that shape the attitudes and behaviors of residents towards tourism.

Keywords

Sustainable Development, Sustainable Tourism, Residents, Bepazari, Turkey

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Introduction

The rapid and uncontrolled development of tourism from the increasing supply and demand leading to negative effects on environmental, socio-cultural, and economic resources have experts questioning the scale of tourism-related negative effects at an international level (Budeanu, 2007). This situation requires a platform for discussions on how to determine the effects of tourism and how to balance the positive and negative effects of tourism development by offering solutions to stakeholders to eliminate negative effects in tourism destinations in the medium and long term (Calik, 2019). A thorough understanding of sustainability leads to the balanced management of economic, socio-cultural, and natural resources by focusing on reducing the negative effects of tourism. According to this understanding, economic, socio-cultural, and natural resources should be managed holistically for long-term development in tourism (Arica, 2020). With a holistic view, the activities in tourism should be conducted with the participation of many stakeholders leading to sustainable development (SD) with collaborative initiatives in a multidimensional structure of tourism. To support this, Hamid and Isa (2020) emphasized that the involvement of stakeholders to the continuity of SD in tourism is crucial. Moreover, Budeanu (2007) supported this level of involvement with SD is only possible with the participation and support of all stakeholders in tourism. More specifically, Timur and Getz (2008), and Arica (2020) described the main stakeholders in ensuring sustainability in tourism are national and local governments, tourism-related businesses and employees, tourists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and residents at a destination.

While the contribution of each stakeholder to the SD process is undeniably salient, the participation and support of residents in the SD process has special importance due to its impact on both supply and demand of tourism (Arica and Corbaci, 2017). Since residents engage in the tourism activities supporting SD, they play a crucial role in the effectiveness and efficiency of the SD process along with other stakeholders in tourism (Cengiz and Kirkbir, 2007). Therefore, ensuring the SD process in tourism largely depends upon the support and participation of residents at a destination. With the support and participation of residents, the form and scale of SD are shaped by the perceptions of residents at a destination. Thus, the perceptions of residents prompted research focusing upon the benefits from tourism development and residents support for tourism development (Cengiz and Kirkbir, 2007; Woosnam *et al.*, 2009; Pham and Kayat, 2011; Arica and Corbaci, 2017; Cakir and Kodas, 2020; Sarac and Colak, 2022).

As previously mentioned the benefits of tourism development and the support of residents for tourism development is important, so the perceptions of residents at a destination needs to be further examined with a different research framework. Therefore, this research examines the relationship between the perceptions of residents

toward tourism development and the benefits residents receive from tourism and their support for tourism development. This research further aims to convey the findings to the people in charge of tourism by revealing the necessary conditions for supporting the development process of tourism on local and national levels with this research framework. Furthermore, this research contributes to the literature by determining the components effective in the support of residents to tourism development.

Literature Review

Sustainability

Sustainability is defined as an understanding to prevent any unnecessary burden on environmental, socio-cultural, or economic carrying capacity at a destination (Weaver, 2006: 10). With this understanding, sustainability ensures the continuity of a certain ecosystem without any disruption and without being consumed by the excessive use of natural resources (Sezgin and Kahraman, 2008; Makian and Hanifezadeh, 2021). Thus, sustainability advocates the necessity of protecting natural, socio-cultural, and economic environment for the improvement of societal and individual welfare and the long-term continuity of society and tourism (Choi and Murray, 2010: 579). To reflect upon the long-term continuity of society and tourism, Patterson (2016: 12) said that sustainability was to take care of the needs of future generations while meeting the needs of the present. In line with the understanding mentioned above, Arıca (2020: 9) stated that a more balanced view is needed bringing into account the use of environmental, economic and socio-cultural resources together in a balanced way for future generations. This balanced view of sustainability was first discussed at the United Nations Human Environment Conference held in Stockholm in 1972 (Boydak, 2000). Following this conference, sustainability and SD were discussed and defined in the Brundtland Report published at the World Conference on Environment and Development Commission meeting held in 1987 (Swarbrooke, 1995). In 1992, the UN Environment and Development Conference, also known as the Rio Conference, went down in history as the most important event in which the concept of SD was discussed internationally. At this summit, the needs of future generations were emphasized while meeting today's needs, and five documents including Agenda 21, which is an important text for the creation of a SD plan for 21st century were created. Following this summit, the 1995 EU Green Paper, 1997 Kyoto Protocol, 2002 Johannesburg Summit, 2012 Rio+20 Final Declaration have been the main initiatives on sustainability at an international level (Swarbrooke, 1995; Budeanu, 2007; Sarac and Colak, 2022).

By looking at all the initiatives mentioned above, the focus of sustainability and international initiatives has been economic, socio-cultural, and natural environmental

resources. Du Plessis (1998) emphasized that the principal framework of sustainability should be reflected in the resources mentioned above and should be reciprocated in industrial practices across industries. Especially, the Rio+20 Summit outlined these principles and application of sustainability and mentioned the importance of SD specific to each industry across the World. With the emphasis of SD across industries in the World, tourism is seen as one of the leading industries that should adopt the understanding of sustainability, and the concept of sustainable tourism was put forward (Patterson, 2016; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development, 2020).

Sustainability in Tourism

In the concept of sustainable tourism, tourism takes into full account the current and future environmental, social, and economic impacts with the aim of meet meeting the needs of stakeholders of tourism e.g. visitors, local communities etc. (Patterson, 2016: 12). To support the concept of sustainable tourism, Weaver (2006: 10) explain explained sustainable tourism as tourism that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Moreover, Cakar (2013: 83) paid attention to sustainable tourism in a more systematic way that advocated planning, implementation, and control processes to reduce the damage caused by all types of tourism activities. In the most up-to-date approach, Arica (2020: 24) explained sustainable tourism as a way of securing the future by protecting the natural environment while ensuring its sustainability in socio-cultural and economic systems.

To ensure sustainability in tourism, it is essential to protect and maintain the natural, economic, historical, and cultural resources in a host country/region/destination (Schwartz *et al.*, 2008; Zamani-Farahani, 2016). To achieve this, the understanding of sustainability in tourism should not only reflect the tourism industry-wide participation but it should also include a global-level participation to reduce the negative effects of tourism by increasing the positive effects. The tourism industry-wide participation consists of many stakeholders to influence sustainable initiatives in tourism (Jamal and Robinson, 2009; Polat Sesliokuyucu, 2022). Moreover, Timur and Getz (2007) argued this sustainability in tourism as being a multi-stakeholder structure for which they stressed the requisite of holistic participation in tourism to receive sufficient benefits from SD activities. This holistic participation in tourism requires active involvement and support of stakeholders to reflect upon the understanding of sustainability in tourism. A growing number of literature studies emphasized the importance of holistic participation and support of stakeholders regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of sustainable tourism (Jamal and Robinson, 2009; Arica, 2020). Therefore, the efficiency and effectiveness of sustainability in tourism

primarily requires the participation and support of all stakeholders including national and local governments, tourism enterprises (accommodation, travel, food and beverage, entertainment, *etc.*), employees, visitors, and residents (Timur and Getz, 2008; Weiler *et al.*, 2013; Ozdemir *et al.*, 2014). With this support and participation for sustainable tourism, stakeholders develop environmental attitudes, behaviors, and sensitivities in tourism resulting in environmentally sensitive investments and businesses (Schwartz *et al.*, 2008: 311).

Research Model and Hypotheses

The overall aim of this research is to find out the relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, and the benefits derived from tourism and support to tourism. By examining the related literature, the hypotheses for the research were developed to better explain sustainable tourism in a new theoretical framework. In this research framework, the causal (hypothetical) approach was adopted in which the assumptions about the relations between the research variables were developed. By doing this, the existing literature review and the researchers' own experiences were used to determine the relations between the variables related to the research phenomenon. As a requirement of the research approach, the research problem was first defined. Then, the variables related to the research problem were examined within the framework adopted from the existing literature. Finally, the relationship assumptions were formed for the research. The main question of the research was determined by asking 'Is there a relationship between the perceptions of residents regarding tourism development, the benefits obtained from tourism and their support for tourism activities?'. From this point of view, the research aimed to find out the relation between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits from tourism and their support for tourism from the perspective of stakeholders in sustainable tourism development. With a stakeholders' view in sustainable tourism, residents in protecting and sustaining tourist attractions and other tourist resources are one of the fundamental stakeholders in tourism. Despite the emphasis on how important residents are in sustainable tourism, the tendency toward sustainable tourism by residents varies. Thus, the higher the tendency, the more likely residents are to protect their touristic attractions and tourism resources as their positive perceptions support tourism development at their destination (Jamal and Robinson, 2009; Pearce, 2018; Cetin *et al.*, 2021). This suggests that any positive changes in the economic, socio-cultural, and natural environments constituting the main tourist resources and attractions of tourism in general cause the perceptions of residents toward tourism development to be positive. On the other hand, any negative perceptions of residents lead the perceptions of residents negative as well. The linear relationship between positive/negative resident perceptions toward tourism development are well documented. The supported findings in the literature

on the positive perceptions of residents toward tourism development are published by Andereck and Vogt (2000); Garcia *et al.* (2015); Styliadis and Terzidou (2014); Alrwajfah *et al.* (2019). On the other hand, findings showing negative perceptions to tourism development by residents are revealed by Yoon *et al.* (2001), Kostekli *et al.* (2012) and Martín *et al.* (2018).

In the literature on the relationship between positive/negative perceptions of residents toward tourism development, it is clear that residents benefit from tourism development at a destination. To support this, Han *et al.* (2011) and Alrwajfah *et al.* (2019) argued that there is a relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development and the benefits derived from tourism. More specifically, the research in the literature showed the relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the economic outputs of tourism such as increasing economic development and income level, preventing poverty, providing new employment and job opportunities (Vargas-Sánchez *et al.*, 2008; Woosnam *et al.*, 2009; Han *et al.*, 2011; Alrwajfah *et al.*, 2019). On the other hand, some of the other research in the literature displayed a negative relationship between the perceptions of residents and the negative economic effects of tourism development such as income inequality, increase in land prices, price increase in products and services, and inflationary pressure (Alrwajfah *et al.*, 2019). As for the perceptions of residents about the effects of tourism development on the socio-cultural environment, the positive perceptions depend on the issues of (i) the preservation of cultural and historical heritage by tourism; (ii) development of new ideas in local community; (iii) the improvement of the quality standards of local life; (iv) improving the qualities in local career development; (v) the increase in activity and entertainment opportunities in a destination (Vargas-Sánchez *et al.*, 2008; Pham and Kayat, 2011; Enemu and Oduntan, 2012). On the other hand, some research indicated that residents see tourism as an activity causing negative socio-cultural effects as social problems such as population growth, conflicts related to zoning use, crowding in public spaces, drug and alcohol addictions that weaken the benefits from tourism (Martín *et al.*, 2018; Arica, 2020).

Another area affected by tourism development is the natural environment of a destination. Thus, one would expect a positive relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, natural environment, and the benefits from tourism because new developments in tourism at a destination bring more attention to the local natural environment to be protected (Mansuroglu, 2006). Thus, the negative effects of tourism development such as pressure on natural resources, pollution-producing effect, physical deterioration and negative effects on local biodiversity etc. impact on the perceptions of residents (Kostekli *et al.*, 2012; Arica, 2020). Especially, the research of Yoon *et al.* (2001) found that the majority of residents perceived

tourism as degrading the natural environment, wasting natural resources, causing a decrease in aesthetic quality and negative environmental effects from new tourism infrastructure to develop tourism at a destination. From the discussions mentioned above, the perceptions of residents toward tourism development will emerge either positive or negative depending on the effects of tourism on the economic, socio-cultural, and natural environments at a destination.

Based upon the literature mentioned above, the hypotheses were developed as follows:

H₁: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the economic environment and the benefits they derive from tourism.

H₂: There is a significant relationship between the negative perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the economic environment and the benefits they derive from tourism.

H₃: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the socio-cultural environment and the benefits they derive from tourism.

H₄: There is a significant relationship between the negative perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the socio-cultural environment and the benefits they derive from tourism.

H₅: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the natural environment and the benefits they derive from tourism.

Having constructed the hypotheses for the relationships between positive/negative perceptions of residents toward tourism development and the benefits derived from tourism, the research now moves to explain the relationship between support for tourism and residents. The support for tourism is essential to develop tourist products and services leading to forming promotional strategies at a destination accordingly. This support for tourism also enables SD. Thus, the support of every stakeholder at a destination is essential for SD in tourism.

Residents among the stakeholders are most affected by tourism development. In this respect, the support of residents toward tourism is one of the prerequisites for SD in tourism (Cicek and Sari, 2018: 186; Cakir and Kodaş, 2020). To support this view, Lyon *et al.* (2017: 237) argued that residents' perceptions of tourism development are related to their support for tourism development. While Jamal and Robinson (2009) supported this argument, they stated that considering the interests of residents in tourism development encouraged residents' support for tourism. In this respect, there is a relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, their support for tourism and SD in tourism. By stating the

support of residents to tourism development, it is necessary to know residents' attitudes and the factors affecting their attitudes (Cengiz and Kirkbir, 2007). In the sustainable tourism literature, there was a significant relationship between the positive effects perceived by residents on tourism development and their support for tourism activities (Cicek and Sari, 2018; Martín *et al.*, 2018). On the other hand, Ritchie and Inkari (2006) did not find a meaningful relationship between the perceived positive effects of residents on tourism development and their support for tourism activities. In the research of Choi and Murray (2010), the negative effects perceived by residents toward tourism development had a negative effect on their support for tourism. Therefore, the support given by residents to tourism is related to the positive economic effects of tourism development (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2011). Accordingly, the support of residents to tourism will increase when residents have better perceptions of the positive economic outputs of tourism development. This argument is supported by much research in the literature (Jurowski *et al.*, 1997; Styliadis and Terzidou, 2014; Rasoolimanesh *et al.*, 2017; Segota *et al.*, 2017; Sert, 2019). On the other hand, when the economic effects of tourism are perceived as negative by residents, their support for tourism decreases (Gursoy *et al.*, 2002).

Having seen the relationship between the support of residents towards tourism development and the positive economic effects of tourism development, it is essential to draw attention to the relationship between the socio-cultural perceptions of tourism development and support for tourism. Some research in the literature showed that when the socio-cultural effects of tourism development perceived by residents are positive, residents supported tourism development (Cengiz and Kirkbir, 2007; Ertuna *et al.*, 2012; Ozaltin Turker and Turker, 2014; Styliadis and Terzidou, 2014; Rasoolimanesh *et al.*, 2017; Segota *et al.*, 2017; Sert, 2019). On the other hand, some research in the literature showed that the support of residents towards tourism decreased when the negative effects of tourism development on the socio-cultural environment are perceived (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon 2011; Sert, 2019). Moreover, the support of residents for tourism is also associated with their perceptions of the protection of the natural environment in tourism. Thus, the positive environmental effects of tourism perceived by residents supported the development of tourism (Ertuna *et al.*, 2012; Styliadis and Terzidou, 2014; Almeida-Garcia *et al.*, 2016; Rasoolimanesh *et al.*, 2017; Segota *et al.*, 2017; Sert, 2019). Based upon the literature mentioned above, the hypotheses were developed as follows:

H₆: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the economic environment and their support for tourism.

H₇: There is a significant relationship between the negative perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the economic environment and their support for tourism.

H₈: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the socio-cultural environment and their support for tourism.

H₉: There is a significant relationship between the negative perceptions of residents toward the outputs of tourism development in the socio-cultural environment and their support for tourism.

H₁₀: There is a significant relationship between the positive perceptions of residents about the outputs of tourism development in the natural environment and their support for tourism.

Furthermore, the research about the benefits to residents from tourism and their support for tourism were conducted and the findings showed that the benefits to residents from tourism positively affected their support for tourism. More specifically, the personal benefits perceived by residents from tourism positively affected the support offered to tourism development (Poh Ling *et al.*, 2011; Vargas-Sanchez *et al.*, 2011; Ozaltın Turker and Turker, 2014; Cicek and Sari, 2018; Gonzalez *et al.*, 2018). In the research conducted by Aksoz *et al.* (2015), the perceived benefits of tourism to residents affected their support for tourism. Moreover, the research mentioned above concluded that the harm of tourism did not have an effect on the support given by residents to tourism. However, Duran (2013), investigated the attitudes of residents of Bozcaada, Turkey toward the development of tourism, and concluded that residents' support for tourism depended on their benefits from tourism. On the other hand, Ekici (2013) stated that although residents benefited from tourism, they did not support it.

With these findings in the literature, the research of Harrill (2004) and Gursoy and Rutherford (2004) determined that social and economic benefits affected residents' support for tourism development. Based upon the discussions above, the following hypothesis is offered:

H₁₁: There is a significant and positive relationship between the benefits of residents from tourism and their support for tourism.

Research Framework

Within the scope of stakeholders in sustainable tourism development and the hypotheses developed from the related literature, the following theoretical model was constructed to determine the relationships between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits they received from tourism and their support for tourism (See Figure 1).

As seen in the theoretical research model below, the main focus is to determine the perceptions of residents, the benefits from tourism, and their support for tourism development.

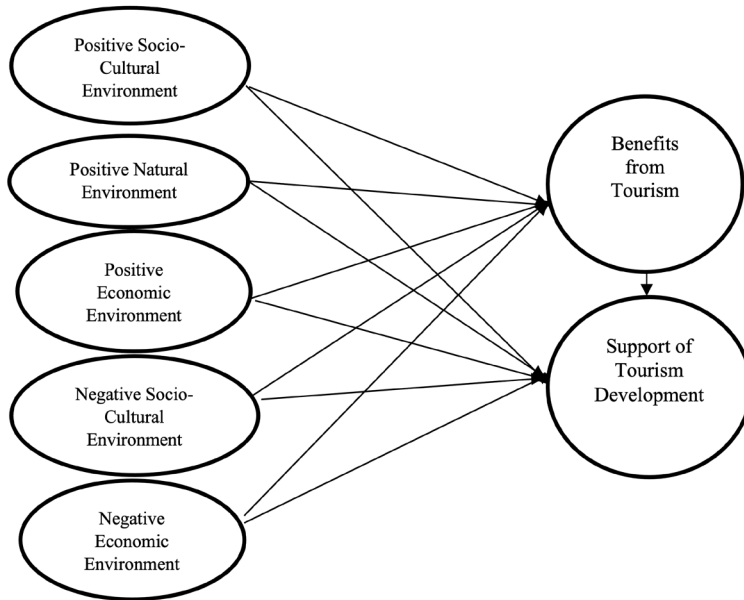


Figure 1. Theoretical model.

Source: Adapted from Cicek and Sari (2018); Airwajfah, Garcia and Macias (2019).

Methodology

Instrument and Data Collection

The research items were adapted from the research of Cicek and Sari (2018), and Airwajfah *et al.* (2019). To measure the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, a five-dimensional model developed by Airwajfah *et al.* (2019) was used. The scales created by Cicek, and Sari (2018) were used to measure the perceptions of residents about the benefits derived from tourism and their support for tourism. The data were collected from the residents in the Beypazari district of Ankara, Turkey. Beypazari is one of the important touristic destinations of Turkey, where the local people’s participation in tourism is high (Kodas and Ozel, 2016). The data were collected by a questionnaire survey technique from 262 participants with the convenience sampling technique between March and April 2021. The sample adequacy was calculated from the literature. For example, Hair *et al.*, (2010) and Sekaran (2013) stated that a sample adequacy should reach 10 times the number of statements in a scale. However, Tabachnick and Fidell (2001) indicated that reaching at least 5 times the number of statements in a questionnaire was sufficient for factor analysis and structural equation modeling analysis. In addition to this reference, another criterion used as a basis for calculating the sample size for structural model analysis was the “r” value, which is determined by dividing the number of items in

the scales, i.e., the number of observed variables by the number of latent variables. (Marsh and Bailey, 1991). According to this, it is emphasized that “*r*” value should be 2.0 for at least 400 questionnaires, 3.0 for at least 200 questionnaires, 4.0 for at least 100 questionnaires (Marsh and Hau, 1999). Since the number of observed variables was 35 and the latent variables were 7 in the current research, “*r*” was determined as 5. Therefore, 100 questionnaires were enough for sample adequacy. With this calculation, the sample adequacy criterion was met by reaching 262 questionnaires for this research.

Data Analysis

Structural equation modeling was used to evaluate the relationships between the variables in the theoretical research model. Before evaluating the theoretical model, alpha coefficients for the reliability of the scales were found in the research and exploratory (EFA) and confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) were performed to ensure the validity of the scales. Firstly, EFA and then CFA were conducted for the research scales to determine the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development in Beypazari. Before the analysis of the structural equation model, the measurement model was created, and the convergent validity and discriminant validity of the measurement model were tested. Finally, structural equation analysis was applied to the dataset to determine the relationships between the research variables.

Findings

Demographic Findings

The demographic characteristics of the research participants are displayed in Table 1 below. By looking at Table 1, the ratio of male and female participants is almost equal. The 19-39 age group was 55% of the participants. The smallest age group was comprised of the 17-18 age group with 2.3%. Regarding marital status, the number of married and single participants was equally represented for this research. Considering the educational background of the participants, more than 50% of the participants received vocational and undergraduate degrees. Regarding the occupations of the participants, while 52.3% of the participants worked in private sector, the rest of the participants consisted of the public sector (23.6%), retired people (6.1%), homemakers (11.1%) and students (6.9%). In addition, the status of the participants reflected different income levels. While the residents working and doing business directly in tourism reflected 23.7% of the participants, the rest of the participants (76.3%) had work outside tourism. Regarding residency status, the majority of participants (60.7%) lived in Beypazari over 21 years. The rest of the participants lived in Beypazari from 5 to 20 years. Regarding permanent residency,

62.2% of the participants had permanent residency and were homeowners. Twenty-three point three percent of the participants were permanent residents and tenants. The rest of the participants (14.5%) were seasonal residents in Beypazari.

Table 1
Profile of the participants

Demographic Characteristics		N	%
Gender	Female	126	48,1
	Male	136	51,9
	Total	262	100,0
Age	17-18	6	2,3
	19-39	144	55,0
	40-59	91	34,7
	60 and over	21	8,0
	Total	262	100,0
Marital Status	Married	144	55,0
	Single	118	45,0
	Total	262	100,0
Education	Primary school	5	1,9
	Secondary or equivalent school	2	,8
	Primary education	67	25,6
	High school	43	16,4
	Vocational school	100	38,2
	Undergraduate	40	15,3
	Postgraduate	5	1,9
	Total	262	100,0
Occupation	Public sector	62	23,6
	Private sector	137	52,3
	Retired	16	6,1
	Homemaker	29	11,1
	Student	18	6,9
	Total	262	100
Income (Turkish Lira)	0-2750	66	25,2
	2751- 5500	106	40,5
	5501- 7250	33	12,6
	7250 and over	57	21,8
	Total	262	100,0
Participation Status in Regional Tourism	Residents- working outside tourism	103	39,3
	Residents- working in tourism	40	15,3
	Entrepreneur- doing business outside tourism	32	12,2
	Entrepreneur- doing business in tourism	22	8,4
	Retired	7	2,7
	Homemaker	30	11,5
	Student	19	7,3
	Others	9	3,4
Total	262	100,0	
Length of Residency in Region (Year)	0-5	49	18,7
	6-10	25	9,5
	11-15	9	3,4
	16-20	20	7,6
	21 and over	159	60,7
Residency Status in Region	Permanent resident and homeowner	163	62,2
	Permanent resident and tenant	61	23,3
	Seasonal resident and homeowner	14	5,3
	Seasonal resident and tenant	24	9,2
	Total	262	100,0

Findings of Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analyses

Before evaluating the proposed theoretical model, the analyses of reliability and validity were conducted on the scale of perceptions of residents toward tourism development due to its multidimensional structure. For the reliability analysis, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was satisfactory (see Table 2 below). The analyses of EFA and CFA were performed to test the construct and convergent validity of the scale used to measure the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development (see Table 2 and 3).

Before the analysis of EFA, the skewness and kurtosis coefficients of the data were examined that the values were between acceptable values (± 1.5 and ± 1.5) (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2001). In addition, the correlation coefficients ($r > 0.30$) and the sample fitness value (Measure of Sampling Adequacy- (> 0.50)) between the statements in the scale were examined and there was no multicollinearity problem (Hair *et al.*, 2010; Cokluk *et al.*, 2012). As a result of EFA, two problematic statements in the negative socio-cultural environment factor (Number 17 and 20) were removed from the scale. The results of the EFA findings are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2

EFA Findings for Perceptions of Residents Toward Tourism Development

Factors and Statements	Factor Loadings					Eigenvalues	Percentage of Variance Explained (%)	Cronbach's Alpha (α)
	1	2	3	4	5			
<i>Perceptions of Negative Socio-Cultural Environment</i>						6,506	27,109	,878
15. Tourism increases crime rates in the region.		,819						
19. Tourism hazards the rights of residents to use natural areas and facilities by causing natural areas and lands to be used to increase the boundaries of national parks.		,747						
14. Tourism increases drug and alcohol use in the region.		,741						
21. Tourism increases the pollution (water, noise, air, etc.) in the region.		,737						
16. Tourism causes a decrease in the number of leisure activities (sports, entertainment, picnic, cinema, theater, etc.) performed by the residents.		,704						
18. Tourism hazards the rights of residents by increasing the use of natural areas and lands to increase the number of hotels.		,656						
23. Tourism endangers the natural landscape of the region.		,596						
<i>Positive Perceptions of Economic Environment</i>						5,122	21,343	,872
11. Tourism creates better public transportation routes/networks connected to the region.		,832						

10. Tourism creates better public transport infrastructure in the region.	,818			
12. Tourism helps to increase business opportunities in the region.	,813			
13. Tourism helps to create more jobs in the region.	,632			
9. Tourism increases the household incomes in the region.	,625			
Positive Perceptions of Natural Environment		2,168	9,033	,922
6. Tourism contributes to the increase in the number of natural protection areas in the region.	,879			
5. Tourism helps to protect the natural environment.	,859			
7. Tourism encourages residents to protect the natural environment in the region.	,802			
8. Tourism helps to keep the region clean.	,802			
Positive Perceptions of Socio-Cultural Environment		1,321	5,504	,800
1. Tourism provides entertainment opportunities for the residents.	,778			
2. Tourism helps to create more local associations	,747			
4. Tourism helps to preserve local traditions	,668			
3. Tourism helps to improve the government provided facilities (Health centers, better schools, post office, sport centers, etc.)	,651			
Negative Perceptions of Economic Environment		1,141	4,753	,777
25. Tourism increases the cost of living (heating, water, electricity, transportation, rent, etc.) in the region.	,799			
24. Tourism increases the price of real estate/properties (land, house, etc.) in the region.	,796			
26. Tourism generates seasonal unemployment in the region.	,771			

Total Variance Explained: 67,742; CR: ,819; KMO: 0,868; Bartlett's test of Sphericity: (3749,405; df:276). (p<,000)

Through CFA, four statements (10,18,21, and 23) were removed from the analysis. These statements were one (10) from the positive economic environment factor and three (18,21 and 23) from the negative socio-cultural environment factor. In the analysis the construct validity and convergent validity of the scale were ensured. By examining Table 3, the standardized factor loadings of each factor are higher than 0.50, the combined reliability (CR), Cronbach's Alpha and average explained variance (AVE) values and the scale's goodness-of-fit criterion values are at the desired level.

Table 3*CFA Findings of Perceptions of Residents Toward Tourism Development*

Factors, Statements and Factor Loadings	α	CR	AVE
Positive Perceptions of Socio-Cultural Environment Perception1=0,78, Perception2=0,73, Perception3=0,74, Perception4=0,61	0,800	0,82	0,55
Positive Perceptions of Natural Environment Perception5=0,91, Perception6=0,92, Perception7=0,83, Perception8=0,79	0,922	0,92	0,75
Positive Perceptions of Economic Environment Alg19=0,71, Alg11= 0,76, Alg12=0,88, Alg13=0,76	0,845	0,86	0,61
Negative Perceptions of Socio-Cultural Environment Perception14=0,78, Perception15=0,84, Perception16=0,59, Perception19=0,66, Perception21=0,66	0,834	0,84	0,51
Negative Perceptions of Economic Environment Alg124=0,81, Alg125=0,79, Alg126=0,61	0,777	0,78	0,55

Note: RMSEA: 0,067; NFI: 0,93; NNFI: 0,95; CFI: 0,96; IFI: 0,96; *Chi-Square* (χ^2) /df: 339,40/160: 2,183, $p < ,01$ ($t > 2,58$).

Findings of Theoretical Research Model

The theoretical model proposed in this research was evaluated by using the two-stage approach proposed by Anderson and Gerbing (1988). First, CFA was applied to the theoretical model in which the variables were considered together. The factor loadings, construct reliability, correlation coefficients, and AVE values of the variables in the theoretical model were examined. After CFA, the statement “I am proud (happy) that tourists come to our region”, which was included in the scale of support for tourism development, is closely related to other statements. Thus, this statement was removed from the research model. Afterwards, the CFA produced acceptable values that the standardized factor loadings and AVE values were higher than 0.50, and the reliability values were between 0.82 and 0.92 (Hair *et al.*, 2010) (see Table 4 below). Moreover, the square root values of the AVE are higher than the correlations of all factors with each other ($\sqrt{AVE} > \text{Correlations between factors}$) (Fornell and Larcker, 1981).

Table 4*Findings for Theoretical Research Model*

Factors	Standard Loadings	α	CR	AVE
Positive Perceptions of Socio-Cultural Environment (PPSCE)		0,800	0,82	0,55
Perception _1	0,77			
Perception _2	0,73			
Perception _3	0,75			
Perception _4	0,61			
Positive Perceptions of Natural Environment (PPNE)		0,922	0,92	0,75
Perception _5	0,91			
Perception _6	0,92			
Perception _7	0,83			
Perception _8	0,79			

Positive Perceptions of Economic Environment (PPEE)		0,845	0,86	0,60
Perception _9	0,71			
Perception _11	0,75			
Perception _12	0,88			
Perception _13	0,76			
Negative Perceptions of Socio-Cultural Environment (NPSCE)		0,834	0,84	0,51
Perception _14	0,78			
Perception _15	0,84			
Perception _16	0,59			
Perception _19	0,67			
Perception _21	0,66			
Negative Perceptions of Economic Environment (NPEE)		0,777	0,78	0,55
Perception _24	0,81			
Perception _25	0,79			
Perception _26	0,61			
Support		0,896	0,90	0,64
S_1= I support the development of tourism in the region.	0,74			
S_2= I support more tourists coming to the region.	0,81			
S_4= Tourism contributes to the economic development of the region.	0,85			
S_5= Tourism is one of the important sectors for the region.	0,82			
S_6= Tourism continues to play an economic role in our region.	0,77			
Benefit		0,841	0,85	0,65
B_1= I benefit socially from tourism.	0,87			
B_2= I benefit economically from tourism.	0,76			
B_3= I benefit culturally from tourism.	0,79			

Fornell-Larcker Criteria

Dimension	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.PPSCE	0,74							4,02	0,771
2.PPNE	0,47	0,86						3,51	1,078
3.PPEE	0,73	0,46	0,77					4,23	0,676
4.NPSCE	-0,09	-0,28	-0,10	0,71				2,65	0,882
5.NPEE	0,26	-0,16	0,38	0,27	0,74			3,59	0,935
6.SUPPORT	0,56	0,40	0,62	-0,21	0,29	0,80		4,21	0,764
7.BENEFIT	0,36	0,46	0,43	-0,23	0,13	0,72	0,80	3,56	1,011

Not: RMSEA: 0,077; NFI: 0,92; NNFI: 0,94; CFI: 0,95; IFI: 0,95; Chi-Square (x2) /df: 842,54/329: 2,560, p <.01 (t> 2,58).

Findings of Structural Equation Model (SEM)

The structural equation modeling (SEM) technique was used to assess the relationships between the variables in the theoretical model of this research. Among the variables in the theoretical model, the positive perceptions of the socio-cultural environment, the positive perceptions of natural environment, the positive perceptions of economic environment, the negative perceptions of the socio-cultural environment, the negative perceptions of economic environment were the exogenous

variables. The variable of benefit was defined as both exogenous and endogenous variables. On the other hand, the variable of support was defined as an endogenous variable. By examining the results of SEM, only the five-path analyses produced significant relationships among the variables as t values were significant. In other words, only five hypotheses out of eleven research hypotheses were supported in the theoretical research model. To point out these significant hypotheses in detail, the positive perceptions of natural environment were positively associated with perceived benefits (0.35), while the negative perceptions of the socio-cultural environment were negatively associated with perceived benefits. The other three supported hypotheses were that the positive perceptions of economic environment (0.22) and the positive perceptions of socio-cultural environment were positively related to the support for tourism development (0.19) and that the perceived benefits had a positive relationship with the support given for tourism development (0.54) (See Table 5).

Table 5
Results of Structural Equation Model

Hypothesis	Standardized path Coefficients	t-values	Relations
H1: PPEE → BENEFIT	0,20	1,69 ^{AD}	No
H2: NPEE → BENEFIT	0,15	1,73 ^{AD}	No
H3: PPSCE → BENEFIT	-0,00	-0,04 ^{AD}	No
H4: NPSCE → BENEFIT	-0,15	-2,10*	Yes
H5: PPNE → BENEFIT	0,35	4,19**	Yes
H8: PPEE → SUPPORT	0,22	2,39*	Yes
H10: NPEE → SUPPORT	0,11	1,64 ^{AD}	No
H6: PPSCE → SUPPORT	0,19	2,20*	Yes
H9: NPSCE → SUPPORT	-0,09	-1,67 ^{AD}	No
H7: PPNE → SUPPORT	-0,05	-0,69 ^{AD}	No
H11: BENEFIT → SUPPORT	0,54	7,65**	Yes

**p <,01 (t > 2,58), *p <,05 (t > 1,96), ^{AD} t-values are not significant.

Conclusion and Discussion

This research investigated the relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits derived from tourism and their support for tourism. In this context, the attitudes and behaviors of residents toward tourism were evaluated with a holistic view through the theoretical model developed based on the literature about the perceptions of residents toward tourism, the benefits derived from tourism and their support for tourism. This theoretical research model produced four different results.

Firstly, the research determined that the perceptions of residents toward tourism development have a multidimensional structure. With this multidimensional structure, the perceptions of residents toward the tourism development consisted

of (i) *positive perceptions of economic environment*, (ii) *negative perceptions of economic environment*, (iii) *positive perceptions of socio-cultural environment*, (iv) *negative perceptions of socio-cultural environment*, and (v) *positive perceptions of natural environment*.

Secondly, the relationship between the research variables was examined. In this examination, five hypotheses evaluating the relationship between the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development and the benefits they derive from tourism were evaluated, and it was determined that only two of the hypotheses were supported by this research. As a result of the structural equation model analysis, the positive perceptions of natural environment and the negative perceptions of socio-cultural environment of the residents toward tourism development are related to the benefit they receive from tourism development. Accordingly, as the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development became more positive, their perceptions of the positive impact of tourism on the natural environment and the negative impact on the socio-cultural environment changed as well.

Thirdly, the relationships between residents' perceptions of tourism development and their support for tourism activities were examined. Only two of the hypotheses were supported. When the supported hypotheses were examined, a positive relationship was found between the positive perceptions of socio-cultural environment of the residents and their support for tourism activities. Similarly, there was a positive relationship between the positive perceptions of economic environment of the residents and their support for tourism activities.

Finally, the relationships between the benefits of the residents from tourism and their support for tourism activities were investigated. The findings show that there is a positive relationship between perceived benefit and support for tourism development.

Theoretical Implications

Residents, as one of the stakeholders, have a significant role in effective sustainable tourism development. Therefore, the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits derived from tourism and their support for tourism are of great importance in terms of ensuring sustainability in tourism. This makes this research important in investigating the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of residents in sustainable tourism. In the literature, some research studied the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits derived from tourism, and their support for tourism activities (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2011; Rasoolimanesh *et al.*, 2017). In this research, the perceptions of residents toward tourism development were examined in a holistic framework by combining the benefits of tourism and support for tourism activities in the theoretical model. Theoretically, the research contributes

to the understanding of the relationship between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits derived from tourism, and their support for tourism activities. In this context, this research contributes to the literature through the findings obtained in the research as follows:

Firstly, the perceptions of residents toward tourism development were examined. According to the research findings, the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development are clustered under five factors. These factors are (i) *positive perceptions of economic environment*, (ii) *negative perceptions of economic environment*, (iii) *positive perceptions of socio-cultural environment*, (iv) *negative perceptions of socio-cultural environment*, and (v) *positive perceptions of natural environment*. By looking through the literature to compare the research findings, the perceptions of residents toward tourism development were clustered under a range of factors in sustainable tourism development. The perceptions of residents toward tourism development are based upon economic, socio-cultural and natural environments shaping the total perceptions of tourism development (Anderect and Vogt, 2002; Cengiz and Kirkbir, 2007). For instance, Cengiz and Kirkbir (2007) found that the determining factor for the perceptions of residents toward tourism development were the effect on economic environment. Moreover, Han *et al.* (2011) and Alrwajfah *et al.* (2019) emphasized that the positive effects of tourism on economic environment were a decisive factor in shaping the perceptions of residents toward tourism development. On the other hand, Ayaz *et al.* (2009) and Pearce (2018) showed that the negative economic effects of tourism shaped the perceptions of residents toward tourism development. However, the positive or negative perceptions of residents toward tourism development was not enough to explain the different opinions about the evaluation of tourism development. Thus, the positive effects of tourism development on the socio-cultural environment affected the perceptions of residents (McCool and Martin, 1994). On the other hand, the negative socio-cultural effects of tourism development influenced the perceptions of residents (Martin *et al.*, 2018). Similarly, some other research showed that residents had negative perceptions about tourism on the natural environment (Nepal, 2008; Pearce, 2018). From this point of view, the findings of this research are consistent with the research mentioned above on the perceptions of residents toward tourism development.

Secondly, the relationship between the variables determined within the scope of this research's theoretical model were critically evaluated. The findings show that there is a relationship between the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development and the benefits they receive from tourism. More specifically, when the positive perceptions of the residents toward tourism increase, their perceptions of the benefits from tourism also grow positively. Moreover, Kayat (2002) and Kostekli *et al.* (2012) said that there was a relationship between the perceptions and the benefits

of residents from tourism. In their research, the positive perceptions of natural environment and negative perceptions of socio-cultural environment of residents toward tourism development were in a close relationship with the benefits they received from tourism. In short, when the perceptions of residents toward tourism development become more positive, their perceptions of the impact of tourism on the natural environment become more positive too. Even the negative perceptions of the residents on the socio-cultural environment from tourism might develop into the positive perceptions as well. In the literature, some research showed that there is a relationship between the positive perceptions of residents on the natural environment, the socio-cultural environment from tourism development and the benefits they received from tourism (Mansuroğlu, 2006; Martin *et al.*, 2018; Arica and Ukav, 2020). Thus, the findings of this research are consistent with the literature mentioned above.

Thirdly, a relationship was determined between the perceptions of the residents toward tourism development and their support for tourism. Regarding this relationship, Cengiz and Kirkbir (2007) showed that the socio-cultural perceptions of residents were effective in supporting tourism. Cengiz and Kirkbir (2007) also concluded that there was a positive relationship between the positive economic perceptions of residents toward tourism and their support for tourism activities. Therefore, the findings of this research are coherent with the literature.

Finally, this research determines that there is a relationship between the benefits of the residents from tourism and their support for tourism development. In the literature, research showed a relationship between the benefits of residents from tourism and their support for tourism development (Ko and Stewart, 2002; Poh Ling *et al.*, 2011; Vargas-Sanchez *et al.*, 2011; Duran, 2013; Ozaltın Turker and Turker, 2014; Aksoz *et al.*, 2015; Cicek and Sari, 2018; Gonzalez *et al.*, 2018). Woosnam *et al.* (2009) explained that the economic benefits of residents from tourism increased their support for tourism development. Furthermore, Gursoy and Rutherford (2004), and Harrill (2004) determined that the social and economic benefits affected the support of residents for tourism development. The research conducted by Aksoz *et al.* (2015) also determined that the perceived benefits of tourism by residents affected their support for tourism. From this point of view, the findings of this research are consistent with the literature.

Managerial Implications

This research aimed to find out the relationships between the perceptions of residents toward tourism development, the benefits residents receive from tourism and their support for tourism activities in Beypazari. The research findings show that there is a relationship between the perceptions of the residents toward tourism

development, the benefits they receive from tourism and their support for tourism activities. Moreover, this research determined that there is a relationship between the benefits of the residents from tourism and their support for tourism.

Overall, the research findings indicate that improving the perceptions of residents toward tourism and the benefits they derive from tourism will increase their support for tourism activities. According to the theory of social change, residents influence the negative perceptions more into the positive perceptions when residents believe that the positive aspects of tourism will be more than the negative aspects of tourism. Thus, residents give their support for tourism development (Getz, 1994: 275; Arıca and Ukav, 2020). With this view in hand, the primary requirement to develop the perceptions of residents toward tourism development is to take measures to increase the positive effects of tourism and to reduce the negative effects of tourism in the eyes of residents. According to this understanding, involving residents in tourism development will positively contribute to the support of residents toward tourism. Therefore, it is important to include and to encourage the managers in charge of tourism in Beypazari to participate in any tourism development process from the planning stage to the evaluation stage to improve the perceptions of the residents toward tourism. Furthermore, it is a requisite to receive the opinions of the residents toward tourism in terms of the planning, implementation, inspection, and evaluation stages of tourism development in Beypazari. In addition, as seen in the demographic findings of this research, most of the research participants do not engage in tourism-related businesses or do not work in tourism. This situation may cause them to be insensitive toward the positive and negative effects of tourism. Therefore, it is essential for the managers in charge of tourism to organize education, information, and awareness-raising initiatives about the effects of tourism development to all the people living in this region. In these awareness-raising initiatives, the positive and negative effects of tourism should be explained such a way that the attitudes and behaviors of the residents toward tourism development should be better understood. In this way, it will be possible to raise the awareness of the residents about the effects of tourism as well as to motivate their participation in the tourism development process in Beypazari.

Another finding of this research is that there is a correlation between the benefits of the Beypazari residents from tourism and the support they offer to the tourism development activities. Accordingly, as the economic, social, and cultural benefits of the residents from tourism increase, their support for tourism also increases. In this context, it is necessary for the managers in charge of tourism to work toward the initiatives focusing on increasing the benefits of the residents from tourism development i.e. the benefits derived from the economic and socio-cultural gains from tourism, the protection of natural resources, the sustainability of social values,

regional development, and increasing the quality of living standards should be the main prerequisites to increase the benefits of the residents from tourism. It is also important to offer economic support and incentives to the residents to increase the benefits of the residents from tourism. The incentives and support in tourism will increase the investments of the residents in the region and enable them to be included in the tourism development process. In addition, the revenues obtained from tourism should be reinvested to renew infrastructure and superstructure in the region. To further this, it is necessary to ensure the participation of the residents in the workforce and to support women's entrepreneurship. By doing this, the certificate programs in tourism for the residents should be taken into consideration as a priority. In this way, the residents will be encouraged to support tourism in order to directly or indirectly benefit from tourism development.

Limitations and Recommendations

In this research, the perceptions, benefits, and support for tourism development were examined from the perspective of the residents in Beypazari, Turkey. In the future, it will be important to examine the perceptions of stakeholders such as local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and businesses in tourism to provide a holistic research framework on the theoretical model.

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