

A Review on the Impact of Cultural Tourism on the Sustainability of Residents' Livelihood

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Abstract

Using the elements of the sustainable livelihood framework, this study aims to identify the impact of cultural tourism practices on residents' livelihoods. Also, this study describes research trends and gaps since 2007. The results showed that cultural tourism generally improved the economic and physical capital of destinations, promoted the development of cultural capital, increased the diversity of local livelihood and was therefore accepted by local participants. However, cultural tourism without proper management may have negative impacts, such as the grabbing and destruction of natural capital and interference with the values and social relations of participants, which may further result in damage to cultural heritages. In recent years, the concern about residents' capacity building, distribution of benefits, and identity perceptions of local people have become more evident in a lot of studies.

Keywords: Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Livelihood, Literature Review

Introduction

Cultural tourism has been seen as a useful tool for developing countries and regions for its contributions on increasing household incomes, strengthening the power of community and residents, improving community well-being and promoting the preservation of cultural heritage (Đukić & Vukmirović, 2012; Angeloni, 2013; Salazar, 2016). However, the seasonal constraints of tourism and the depletion of resources it causes, as well as the conflict between tourism development and heritage conservation have also been pointed out by others (Ioan-Franc & Iştoc, 2007; Nocca, 2017; Stoica et al., 2022). In this debate, the focus is increasingly on the tourism industry itself, rather than on the overall sustainable development of the destination. Tao and Wall (2009b) argued that the view of sustainable development in terms of a narrowly defined tourism sector is one-sided, as an excessive focus on tourism usually leads to neglect of the environmental, social and cultural sectors, and the consequence of a tilt in resource allocation towards the tourism sector is a restriction on the overall integrity of sustainable development. Therefore, Tao and Wall (2009b) advocated the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) as another way to implement sustainable development, with tourism being recognized as one of the factors stimulating development.

The main issue that the SLA addresses is the vulnerability of livelihoods. Typically, livelihood vulnerability increases when the sustainability of resources, the residents' access to resources and the diversity of livelihood activities are disrupted, making it difficult for people to survive. Tao and Wall (2009b) found that residents in underdeveloped areas must resort to multiple resources and activities to survive, as it helps to decentralize the pressure on livelihood in changing environments. Sustainable livelihood outcomes should be in terms of increased household incomes, guaranteed food security and resource sustainability (Tao & Wall, 2009a). Due to the focus on resources and livelihood in SLA, it integrates with issues such as ecology, society, and culture, providing an opportunity for the comprehensive promotion of sustainable development (Tao & Wall, 2009b).

Su and others (2016a), demonstrated a sustainable livelihood framework (SLF), which was built on the original one by the Department for International Development of the UK (DFID, 1999), presented five key elements of concern for sustainable livelihood, namely contexts, livelihood capital, transforming structures and processes, livelihood strategy and sustainable livelihood outcome. Subsequently, Ma and others' (2021), study added cultural resources to the list of livelihood capital, making the SLF interpretation of cultural heritage-based tourism livelihoods more specific. The understanding and use of SLF in this study combines the key points of the three studies mentioned above (Figure 1). "Contexts" refers to broad livelihood states that encompass policy, economic, social, historical, ecological factors, which may be the result of previous livelihood activities or a trigger or constraint to future livelihood changes. Livelihood capital is a collective term for the resources on which livelihoods depend, usually including natural capital (soil, water, vegetation, etc.), financial capital (reserve funds, economic incomes, etc.), physical capital (facilities, equipment, buildings, etc.), social capital (social relations, organisations, and rights, etc.), human capital (knowledge, skills, labour capacity, etc.) and cultural capital (tangible and intangible cultural heritages). The access to and appropriation of various capitals is a prerequisite for people to decide on livelihood strategies. "Transforming structures and processes" refers to changes in policies and institutions that determine whether and how residents can access livelihood resources. Residents' livelihood strategies are generated under the influences of the three factors above, while appropriate strategies provide them with livelihood outcomes that are not limited to economic gains (Scoones, 1998; Tao & Wall, 2009b). The SLF provides an assessment method that allows us to analyse livelihood changes in different contexts. Due to the conflicts between development and conservation in the practices of cultural tourism and the doubts about the contribution of tourism to sustainable development, it is necessary to identify the practical effects of cultural tourism from the perspective of sustainable livelihood.

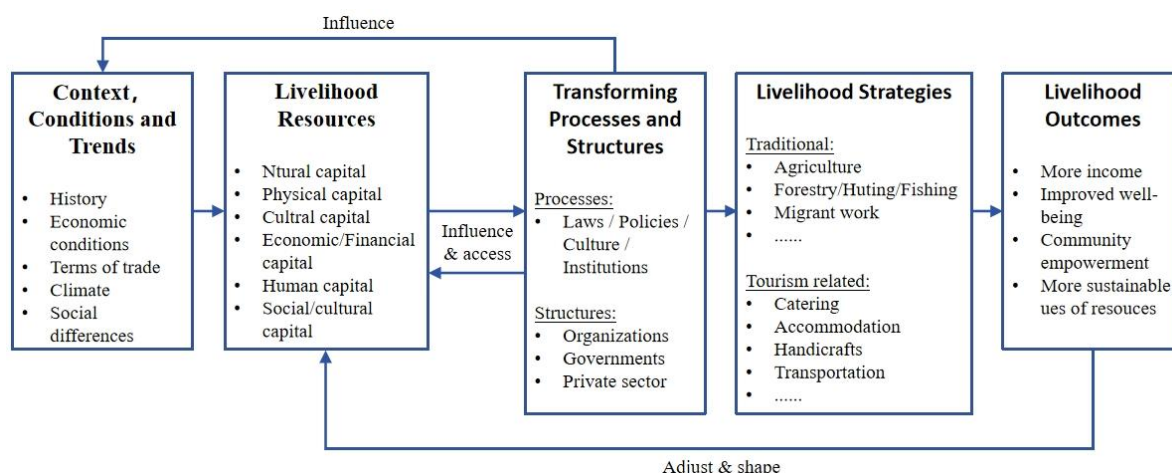


Fig 1. Sustainable Livelihood Framework (Adapted from DFID(1999), Su and others(2016a), Ma and others(2021))

This study aims to identify the impacts of cultural tourism practices on residents' livelihoods. By collecting and reviewing relevant literature, this study will elaborate and summarise the status of residents' livelihoods in the context of heritage tourism as reflected in a selection of empirical studies. On the one hand, it helps to fill existing research gap. Although similar topics had been discussed in other review articles(Shen et al., 2008; Guo & Yang, 2020; Brooks et al., 2023), few have used sustainable livelihood theory and framework to review previous studies about cultural tourism, particularly focusing on the changes in cultural capital. On the other hand, deepening the knowledge and understanding of the elements of tourism livelihoods will expand ideas for subsequent related research. For example, given a general consensus that tourism is attractive to destination residents because of profits and welfare, has livelihood status become the main driver for residents to engage in tourism-related activities? Can the public's voluntary ecological and heritage conservation behaviour in the context of tourism be motivated by improving the livelihood status of residents? Research on these questions is based on an understanding of the elements of livelihoods. Based on the sustainable livelihood elements of the SLF, this study focuses on analysing the influences of cultural tourism on residents' livelihood capital, strategies and outcomes as they are more intuitive representations of the influences of tourism development.

Methodology

Data Collection

This study adopted a systematic literature review approach, Web of Science (WOS) and Scopus were used as the data sources for the literature search. According to the screening criteria given by WOS and Scopus web pages, this study restricts the types of data searched to journal and scientific conference articles, for they represent the topics and trends discussed in various disciplines. Meanwhile, we only review and analyse empirical research articles, as the focus of this study is on discovering the influences of cultural tourism practices.

Based on the content discussed in this study, the keywords used in the search were identified as "cultural heritage", "tourism" and "livelihood", and only the "AND" Boolean operator provided by the two databases was used to combine the keywords in searching for articles, as the required articles must be about these three aspects to fulfil the study's aim. In the WOS database, the scope of keywords in articles was chosen to be in "All fields", thus to cover as

many data resources as possible, while in Scopus, only articles containing keywords in "Title, Abstract, Keywords" were searched, thus blocking articles with weak relevance. Only articles in English language were included in this study and the publication period of the required ones was limited to 2007 to 2023, as the number of studies on cultural tourism has risen significantly after 2007 (Qiu et al., 2022; S. Zhang et al., 2023). The initial search resulted in 83 articles in WOS and 101 articles in Scopus, respectively, leaving 127 articles after excluding inaccessible and duplicated ones. The first screening of the articles was carried out by reading the titles and abstracts, and 80 articles were obtained after excluding irrelevant ones from this study. Afterwards, the second screening was conducted during the full-text reading to exclude non-empirical studies and articles with low relevance to this study, after which 62 articles remained, including 46 that were included in the WOS database and 16 non-WOS articles. The brief process of data search and screening is shown in Figure 2.

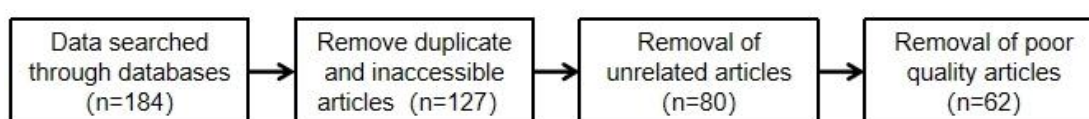


Fig 2. Process of literature screening

Data Analysis Tools

The Citespace software and SLF were used as data analysis tools in this study. Citespace is a visual bibliometric software that identifies, classifies, and graphically displays basic features of articles, including title, keywords, authors and the institution they belong to, and the temporal and spatial distribution of studies, which helps researchers sort out the body of knowledge within a field (J. Zhang et al., 2022; Brooks et al., 2023). On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, the SLF provided the criteria for analysing the content of the articles for this study. Based on the elements of SLF, we analyse the processes and impacts of tourism livelihood development represented in different cases.

Data Analysis

The data analysis process consisted of two parts: feature statistics and content analysis. Feature statistics were first analysed using Citespace for keywords and authors' belonging institutions and countries to get an general idea of the current research. As Citespace is currently unable to analyse data from both databases at the same time, this process was carried out using only the 46 articles provided by WOS. A second round of statistics was then conducted on all 62 articles, with the following indicators: whether the research directly discussed sustainable livelihood theory or livelihood elements (livelihood capital, livelihood strategies and livelihood outcomes), whether included a notable heritage site (with a nomination such as World Heritage or Global Important Cultural Heritage System) and the stage of tourism (early-stage or mid-stage). The basic information from the articles can provide the basis for subsequent analyses.

Subsequently, a detailed content analysis was conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the findings of previous studies. In terms of livelihood capital, the access and usage of various resources by residents in the context of cultural tourism were analyzed, as well as the sustainability of livelihood resources. In terms of livelihood strategies, we explored the competitive or collaborative relationship between tourism and traditional livelihoods and determined the influences of tourism development from the perspective of livelihood

Results

In the preliminary statistics using Citespace, all keywords appeared a total of 176 times, and the cluster analysis of keywords showed content that appeared more than twice (Figure 3). With 13 occurrences, "conservation" was the most used keyword in all of the articles, and after removing items containing "heritage", "tourism", and "livelihood", other keywords that occurred four or more times included "community" (n=7), "climate change" (n=5), "management" (n=5), "adaptation" (n=4), "biodiversity" (n=4), and "China" (n=4). The frequent use of these keywords showed some of the main directions of heritage and livelihoods research in the context of tourism, such as heritage conservation, tourism and heritage management, focusing on ecological and environmental issues, attention to community well-being and advocacy for community participation, and adaptation of the tourism industry to the destination, among others. In addition, the keywords involving sustainable livelihood factors were "sustainable livelihood/livelihoods"(n=4), "livelihood capital/asset"(n=2) and "livelihood strategy"(n=1), which accounted for about 4% of the frequency of usage of all the keywords, indicating that the discussions on tourism and cultural heritage are less connected to SLA.



In terms of authors' institutions, there are 40 articles from universities, among which, the University of Waterloo and the Renmin University of China contributed 5 and 4 articles respectively, which are the main contributors in the related research areas. Other institutions that provided two or more articles are Chuang Yuan Christian University, Sichuan University,

China University of Geo-sciences, Fujian Agriculture & Forestry University University Oulu and Yunnan Normal University. Of the seven institutions, five are related to China, reflecting the strong interest of the Chinese research community in related topics (Table 1). The results based on the nationality of the authors reflect a similar picture, with the top five countries in terms of frequency of occurrence being China (n=18), Canada (n=7), Australia (n=5), Japan (n=4) and India (n=3) (Table 2).

Table 1

Institutions with more than Two Publications

Institution Name	Number of Articles
University Waterloo	5
Renmin University of China	4
Chuang Yuan Christian University	3
Sichuan University	3
China University of Geo-sciences	2
Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University	2
University Oulu	2
Yunnan Normal University	2

Table 2

Top five Countries by Number of Publications

Country	Number of Articles	Year of First Publication
China	18	2016
Canada	7	2014
Australia	5	2015
Japan	4	2010
India	3	2015

In a manual count of all 62 articles, elements from sustainable livelihood theory were used in 17 of them, such as the concepts of livelihood capital, livelihood diversity and livelihood vulnerability as the basis for analysing the study cases. Although “livelihood” was used as one of the keywords for data searching, few articles with high relevance to SLA were collected, suggesting that the role of sustainable livelihood might be under-appreciated in research related to tourism and cultural heritage. The temporal distribution of the publication of the 17 articles is shown in Figure 4, which reports that research about sustainable livelihood in the context of cultural tourism mainly appeared after 2016.

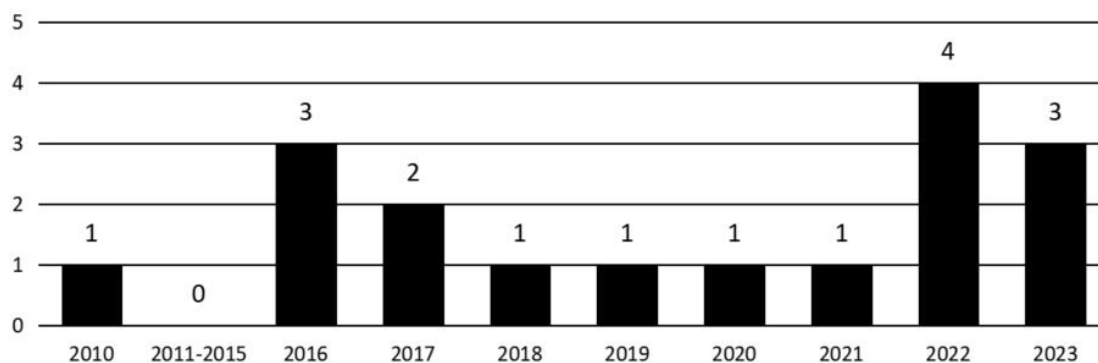


Fig 4. Statistics of articles directly related to SLA

A total of 23 studies were carried out on WHS (n=17), GIAHS (n=5) and geological heritage sites (n=1) with UN agency accreditation. Compared to non-nominated cultural heritage sites, the world-class title attracted and brought more international tourists, formal tourism-related jobs, and attention from government departments and inward investors, and also led to more significant pressure on the environment, resources and societies (Kausar & Nishikawa, 2010; Su et al., 2016b; Rashid, 2020). Complex situations arising from the combination of transport pressures, the impact of foreign cultures, heritage conservation policies, and the demands of communities and tourism operators were prone to cause local discontent (Liu et al., 2022; Quang et al., 2023). In contrast, non-famous heritage sites received more domestic and close-in tourists. Small-scale operations allowed practitioners to retain considerable autonomy, and flexible scheduling allowed traditional livelihoods and the tourism industry to complement each other's seasons of operation, which gave a chance to practitioners to vary the content and form of their services according to their strengths and contributed to improving the quality of tourism services and the diversity of livelihoods (Su et al., 2017; Rongna & Sun, 2020).

This study also referred to the theory of the tourism life cycle proposed by Bulter (Andriotis, 2005) to classify all the tourism mentioned in the articles into early-stage and middle-stage, based on the time when the tourism industry has been carried out, the number of tourists and employees, the size of the tourism facilities, the abundance of the tourism activities, and direct descriptions in the articles. 13 articles showed the concern on the early-stage of tourism, where cases may be described as sparsely visited, dominated by non-tourist livelihoods, or still in the planning stages of tourism. These studies focused on the analysis of livelihood contexts, resource values, and the advantages and potential benefits of tourism, while there were relatively few empirical descriptions of negative impacts (Lenao & Saarinen, 2015; Munjal, 2019; Ramaano, 2022). Those cases with a certain scale of tourism are categorized as tourism middle stage, with a total of 49 articles. In contrast to the former, these studies provided comprehensive analyses of the advantages and disadvantages of tourism and the causes of the current situation. However, we did not generalize about the types of cases that are in the "late stages" of tourism, as the vast majority of articles reported on the continuing rise in the benefits and scale of tourism or showed expectations, but no cases discussed the impacts of failing tourism on destinations.

Text Analysis Results

Cultural Tourism and Livelihood Capital

The issues of natural capital in the context of cultural tourism are mainly about the grabbing of land and water resources. Tourism-induced changes in land use patterns have led to the compression of the living environment for traditional livelihood activities, which made it difficult for younger generations to inherit traditional industries (Parnwell, 2013; Lorenzen, 2015), the contest on water between tourism usage and agricultural usage triggered conflicts between tourism operators and non-operators (Hua et al., 2018). Another source of pressure on natural capital reported is the pollution caused by tourist behaviours, which have led to ecological degradation, noise, light and air pollution, an increase in waste and garbage, and poaching, among other things (Talamini & Tritto, 2020).

Unlike the depletion of natural capital, cultural tourism has had several positive influences on cultural capital. First, resource development improves stakeholders' perceptions of the value of cultural capital and attitudes towards resource protection. Lenao and Saarinen (2015) stated that tourism has changed the previous indifference of the indigenous people towards the Gandanyemba heritage site of Botswana as they look forward to utilising this resource for economic gain. Second, the sale of local products and intangible culture as an opportunity may stimulate more cultural restoration and creative activities. Lin and Lin (2020) observed that the Zhulu (meaning deer hunting) community, although no longer hunting after resettlement, had developed tourism by raising sika deer, incorporating sika deer decorative elements, constructing buildings representing hunting culture and organizing cultural festivals.

However, profit-driven behaviours for the development and protection of cultural capital are selective. Venter and Loyn (2015), described the preference for Aztec civilisation in tourism promotion for the heritage of the Tuxtla region of Mexico, where the tourism sector was willing to adopt the more prestigious Aztec civilisation to promote and create a tourism experience, even though there was far less archaeological evidence of its presence than native artefacts. Ma and others (2021), and Zuo and others (2022), observed that to expand the scale of B&Bs, the community's spontaneous and uncontrolled architectural renovation and facility construction had damaged the overall appearance and spatial order of the cultural heritage sites and that it was difficult to improve the situation even when coordinated by governmental departments. It can be seen that the benefits of tourism may draw the attention of operators to the economic factor rather than the "heritage" nature of cultural resources, and therefore the heritage conservation in the context of tourism may fail due to excessive pursuit of economic benefits by the tourism operators.

The development of cultural tourism usually serves to enrich both financial and physical capital. In terms of financial capital, one aspect of the economic contribution of cultural tourism lies in the significant increase in household and individual incomes, mainly in the form of income from employment or business, subsidies from the government and shares in tourism enterprises (Su et al., 2017; Shen & Chou, 2022). On the other hand, local revenues are increased and then transformed into the improvement of public physical capital, such as new roads, public spaces and facilities. At the same time, to improve the quality of services and competitiveness, tourism operators undertook the renewal of physical capital on their own, firstly, in the case of lodging operations, which improve the living space, such as the

optimisation of sanitation, electricity and network, and secondly, in the case of operating tourism projects, which urge practitioners to renew the facilities and tools for their business (Su et al., 2017). The regeneration of physical capital, both public and private, contributes not only to industrial development but also to the improvement of human settlements and the well-being of communities. Furthermore, geographic location can be seen as a type of physical capital, as accessibility determines advantages or disadvantages in terms of livelihood options. Communities close to tourist destinations or their transport corridors would enjoy advantage in tourism related business (Su et al., 2016b; Yang et al., 2018), however, relocation of communities for tourism development could lead to the bankruptcy of traditional livelihoods (Parnwell, 2013; Su et al., 2016a).

The effects of cultural tourism on human capital are related to the tourism development programme and the decision-making of the participants. The positive effects of tourism are obvious: the need for specialisation in tourism services and production urges those who want to participate to expand their knowledge and skills, and the enrichment of economic capital facilitates the development of local health and education sectors, thus gradually improving the overall quality of the local population (Makandwa et al., 2023). Furthermore, increased employment and entrepreneurial opportunities may attract young people back to rural areas (Shen & Chou, 2022). However, the negative impacts of tourism on human capital are often hidden and indirect, for example, Lwoga and Asubisye (2018) through their study in Tanzania found that gifts from tourists accustom local children to receiving charity, influence on children's values and perceptions could be a potential risk to human resources.

The impact of cultural tourism on social capital is focused on three dimensions: family relations, community relations and community connections to the outside world. Employment opportunities and decent payment have led to the return of labourers who would otherwise have worked outside the home, increasing the amount of time and emotion that families spend with each other (Gao & Wu, 2017). At the community level, positive impacts were also identified in terms of increased resident bonding and collective solidarity (Kausar & Nishikawa, 2010), however, some housing resettlement schemes may disrupt otherwise stable social structures (Rashid, 2020), and fragmented patterns of tourism may trigger neighbourhood rivalries and thus reduce the closeness of social connections. In addition, improvements in physical capital have increased social capital to a certain extent, such as the use of the Internet and information technology, which has enabled tourism operators to develop new channels of communication and has increased the frequency of communication between the tourism community and the outside world (Yang et al., 2018).

Cultural Tourism and Livelihood Strategy

Researchers generally reported the thriving of livelihood activities related to cultural resources, the positive effects of tourism are mainly manifested in two aspects. The first positive effect is traditional livelihood recovery, which refers to the revival of traditional livelihood activities related to the production and presentation of cultural heritage, which is stimulated by tourists' demand for recreation, experience and consumption of cultural products and souvenirs (Gao & Wu, 2017; Shen et al., 2021). The second one is livelihood transformation, which refers to the promotion of a gradual shift from unsustainable primitive livelihood activities to cultural tourism, which allows the history of cultural heritage to be preserved and still perpetuated as a means of sustaining the livelihoods of its inhabitants (Lin

& Lin, 2020). In contrast, the grabbing of natural resources by tourism development is likely to lead to the contraction of traditional livelihood activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. As mentioned earlier, such situations include the shift from traditional livelihood land to tourism land, as well as possible conflicts over the rights to water and electricity resource access and usage (Hua et al., 2018). Also, community relocation leaves residents directly disconnected from their former agricultural or fishing livelihoods (Parnwell, 2013; Lorenzen, 2015).

In terms of livelihood diversification, tourism undoubtedly offers more choices of different kinds of livelihood activities, with common employment opportunities including accommodation, catering, production and sale of cultural products, tour guides and cultural resource managers, among others (Su et al., 2016b). However, improving economic gains is not the sole reason for destinations to engage in tourism; people might be forced to adopt tourism as a means of survival due to factors such as climate and environmental changes, political upheavals, and policy shifts (Lwoga & Asubisye, 2018; Ranasinghe & Cheng, 2018). Makwindi and Ndlovu (2022) argued that changes in livelihood strategies are an involuntary response to crises by the poor and a proactive choice by the rich to reduce risk. For areas threatened by harsh environments or natural disasters, the jobs provided by tourism are an important complement to their fragile livelihoods and almost the only thing they can count on to survive in the short term (Lwoga & Asubisye, 2018; Lin & Lin, 2020). For those whose livelihoods are not threatened, tourism livelihoods are more evident as one of the diversification options. The seasonal nature of tourism makes it easier to adapt and integrate with traditional livelihoods (Su et al., 2017). The tourism business has a natural advocacy advantage that can also drive production and revenues from traditional livelihoods (Gao & Wu, 2017).

In addition to changes in livelihood activities, the change in labour mobility and migration represents the impact of tourism on community livelihood strategies. The widespread issue of rural decline usually leads to seasonal or permanent migration of labour. Employment and entrepreneurship provided by tourism contribute to the return of the labour force, especially the youth segment, which would be beneficial to the sustainable development of the countryside (Shen & Chou, 2022).

Cultural Tourism and Livelihood Outcome

In many of the articles, there are clear perceptions and satisfaction of communities and residents with the alleviation of poverty and employment issues and the increase in household income (Kausar & Nishikawa, 2010; Apuru et al., 2014; Lenao & Saarinen, 2015; Su et al., 2016a). The enrichment and upgrading of household and public physical capital have liberated people in impoverished areas from the backward conditions of sanitation, transportation, and communication (Ranasinghe & Cheng, 2018). However, the economic impact of tourism on a region is not always favourable from a comprehensive sustainable development perspective. Deng and others (2023) indicated that when the level of tourism development was low, it did not contribute to the livelihoods of the Ziquejie terrace system, but instead made agricultural livelihoods vulnerable due to the transfer of public resource values. They described this situation as a 'chaotic adaptation stage' in the process of livelihood change, whereby if tourism does not quickly compensate for the reduced returns to traditional livelihoods due to the shift in public resources and the lagging livelihood strategies

of residents, this will be detrimental to the overall benefits of the area. Another noteworthy issue is the benefits are sometimes distributed inequitably. Quang and others(2023) found that the uneven distribution of tourism benefits led to dissatisfaction among local rituals and may also shake their attitudes towards heritage preservation.

At the social benefits aspect, the process of tourism development of cultural resources may stimulate a renewed sense of appreciation of the value of their history and culture among locals, enhancing their sense of identity, pride and sense of hospitality(Aporu et al., 2014; Fraser, 2022; Shen et al., 2022). For vulnerable groups, the opportunity to participate in work not only enhances their voice within the family but also strengthen ties and coordination within them, as some manual activities offers chances for women and the elderly to work together(Lwoga & Asubisye, 2018; Shen et al., 2021; Woyesa & Kumar, 2022). However, the relationships between villages and the outside world are not always satisfactory. On the positive side, cultural exchanges not only provide an opportunity to showcase local cultures but also increase the exposure of people in underdeveloped regions to the world. On the negative side, the multiculturalism brought in by tourists may erode the authenticity of the local culture, and certain tourism operations may conflict with traditional culture and values. Ranasinghe and Cheng(2018) found that those involved in tourism in the Vedda community have abandoned the tradition that "guests are not allowed to spend the night in their houses". The local chief also reported that the stimulation of tourism benefits has led to a shift in community values from collectivism to the cult of individual money, which undoubtedly threatens the uniqueness of their national identity.

According to the results of the text review, the effects of cultural tourism on destination development and community well-being are multifaceted. In terms of its contribution to the diversity of livelihood activities, cultural tourism reduces community dependence on traditional livelihoods through new resource development and increased forms of livelihood activities. From the perspective of livelihood capital, cultural tourism focuses on the development and presentation of cultural capital, which contributes to the improvement of both financial and physical assets. However, the pollution and waste of natural capital by cultural tourism should not be overlooked, and its long-term impacts on social relations require continuous investigation. At the same time, the economic benefits of tourism, community benefits and flexible employment opportunities were generally recognized in residents' responses, but the accompanying shift in values and insensitive attitudes towards heritage conservation are also worthy of scrutiny.

Discussion

From 2007 to 2023, there has been a gradual increase in research concerning livelihoods within the framework of tourism. This surge in interest is not only marked by a deeper comprehension of the concept of sustainable livelihood among researchers but also by a shift in research focus. There's been a transition from mere narration of phenomena and outcomes to more comprehensive investigations into the vulnerabilities of livelihoods, the impact of policies, and the dynamics of the social environment.

Firstly, empirical analyses using SLF have become more specialised and theoretical explorations of sustainable livelihood have become frequent. The content of DFID's original SLF was mainly used in earlier studies,(Kausar & Nishikawa, 2010; Ahebwa et al., 2016; Su et

al., 2016a), while in response to the characteristics of cultural tourism, in addition to the inclusion of cultural capital as a factor of livelihood capital, Ma and others (2021), conducted their study by including culture as a factor of the transforming processes based on the original SLF. Also, Liu and others (2022), included community self-organisation in the framework's transforming structures to emphasise the impact of residents' collective agency, rights and social interactions on livelihoods. These cases together illustrated the growing understanding and application of SLA and SLF by researchers.

Secondly, there is a noticeable and deepening trend in discussions surrounding people's well-being, values, discourse, and capacity-building regarding tourism livelihoods. Communities and residents are not only passive beneficiaries or victims of the impacts of cultural tourism but their subjective initiative and influence have also been emphasised (Saluja et al., 2022; Mayuzumi, 2022; Li et al., 2023; Quang et al., 2023). As found by Zou and others (2022), the behaviour of Hongcun residents in China in reclassifying and commodifying their residential spaces reflects the changing traditional residential ethics and values of residents in the tourism context. Makandwa and others (2023) reported on the skills that rural women in Southern Africa have acquired in tourism livelihood activities, including an eye for opportunity, and business skills such as planning, negotiation and marketing, which have enabled them not only to survive on cultural tourism but also to escape the stereotypical image of the African women's community as ignorant and backward. In conjunction with the content of the SLF, shifts in human values and attitudes might also be seen as a part of transforming structures, as these factors guide people's capital utilisation and livelihood strategy. Moreover, the enhanced sense of community cohesion and pride resulting from tourism development and increased heritage nominations may not directly translate into concrete attitudes and behaviours favoring heritage preservation.

Thirdly, the examination of various sub-types of cultural tourism is marked by a trend of progressive refinement. These categories primarily encompass religious tourism, gastronomic tourism, ethnic tourism, and archaeological site tourism. Variations in types of cultural capital and market preferences often lead to differences in livelihood strategies and forms of tourism. In religious tourism, tourist groups place more emphasis on religious celebrations and spirituality (Genet & Kebede, 2022), while food-based gastronomic tourism places more emphasis on qualities such as uniqueness and healthiness of the food (Woyesa & Kumar, 2022), and some of the ancient villages tourism projects may have preserved more architectural and scenic heritage (Malijani, 2019; Ma et al., 2021), while ethnic tourism may favour intangible cultural heritage displays (Milan, 2023). Differences in resources, environments, planning and development processes can all result in diverse outcomes for cultural tourism livelihoods.

In addition, we have identified overlooked elements in current research. While some studies acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy and international tourism within the literature surveyed in this study, there has been limited targeted research conducted on the relationship between cultural tourism, community livelihoods, and the repercussions of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the job opportunities and benefits brought by the tourism industry vary for individuals across different social strata. For instance, Ghimire and others (2023) pointed out the positive impacts of small businesses around the heritage site of Pashupatinath in Nepal on the food, education, and health of business owners and

their families. However, most studies have not compared the effects of different types of employment on livelihoods. For example, few have investigated or compared the impacts of formal and informal employment in tourism-related industries, despite the likelihood of restrictions on informal employment by management authorities, such as those related to disruptions in transportation or market disturbances, which could affect the income and attitudes of practitioners towards the tourism industry.

Conclusion

In this study, we conducted a systematic review of sustainable livelihood research within the context of cultural tourism. Leveraging Citespace and SLF, we performed various statistical analyses on empirical research articles retrieved from the WOS and Scopus databases. The study mainly includes the identification of changes in livelihood capital, livelihood strategies and livelihood outcomes in destination communities, which is what distinguishes this study from other retrospective studies on cultural tourism. The results showed that the impacts of cultural tourism on livelihood capital are diverse, with land and water being the most predominantly appropriated natural capital, and that cultural capital is preserved and restored in tourism development, but then alienated or loses its authenticity through commercialisation. The livelihood strategies and outcomes of residents, which are influenced by changes in livelihood capital, vary from one case to another. Cultural tourism livelihoods, marked by relatively modest natural resource requirements and seasonality, can serve as a means of survival for the poor and vulnerable, while also providing an avenue for economic enrichment to complement traditional livelihoods. However, cultural tourism has the potential to impact not only the sustainability of traditional livelihoods but also the values and social relations of the local community due to its commercialisation tendencies, limiting the development of local culture.

Additionally, it's important to note the limitations of this study. In comparison to some other retrospective studies, the amount of data collected in this study is relatively small. This may be because the required articles have to take into account the three themes of tourism, sustainable livelihood and cultural heritage, or because we only used the WOS and Scopus databases for this study, as well as using only literature in English, empirical studies and other constraints. At the same time, this study did not investigate research at a theoretical level, making it difficult to analyse the relationship between relevant theoretical advances and tourism practices. Research on themes such as tourism, livelihood, cultural heritage and sustainable development should be discussed in a multidisciplinary and coordinated manner.

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