



American Journal of Economics and Business Innovation (AJEBI)

ISSN: 2831-5588 (ONLINE), 2832-4862 (PRINT)

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 (2026)

**PUBLISHED BY
E-PALLI PUBLISHERS, DELAWARE, USA**

Tourism Contributions and Impacts of Selected Resorts in Southern Oriental Mindoro, Philippines: A Sustainable Program for Development

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Article Information

Received: December 25, 2026

Accepted: February 16, 2026

Published: June 03, 2026

Keywords

*Contributions, Cultural,
Economic, Environmental,
Tourism*

ABSTRACT

The study assessed the tourism contributions of resorts within a single municipality in the southern region of Oriental Mindoro. The research employed a descriptive-correlational methodology. Sixty locals, government representatives, visitors, and municipality workers took part. The profile was analyzed using percentage and rank, the weighted mean for the amount of tourism contributions, and Pearson's R to see whether there was a meaningful correlation. The majority of respondents were residents and students, and they strongly agreed that the selected resorts' contributions to sociocultural, economic, and environmental dimensions were significant. Environmental influences on respondents' work and marital status, as well as sociocultural and economic factors on respondents' marital status, were shown to be significantly correlated. The goals and initiatives of the suggested sustainable program will increase the contributions of tourism in the Municipality of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

INTRODUCTION

The development of a country was greatly aided by the tourism industry. This illustrated the effects on the economy, environment, and people. The community as a whole, visitors, and locals are all greatly impacted by the appropriate usage and management of tourism sites or attractions. The effects of tourism were separated into various areas, including sociocultural, economic, and environmental, and they might be either favorable or harmful. The contributions of tourism to the host community, visitors, local government, the public and commercial sectors, and other stakeholders have been highlighted in numerous studies. However, the growth of tourism had a detrimental impact on the lives and cultures of the populace as well as on the environment and the economy.

Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was approved by the UN in 2015. These goals are intended to address global issues such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and peace. By 2030, these objectives seek to promote sustainable development and raise everyone's standard of living (United Nations, 2015). Integral to the agenda are the five Ps of development People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships which underscore the interconnection of these aims and underline the significance of integrated, inclusive progress across all sectors of society (United Nations, n.d.). To end hunger, preserve ecosystems, promote economic growth, and guarantee enduring peace, the SDGs which are underpinned by these five pillars call for coordinated efforts at the international, national, and local levels (Rahm *et al.*, 2025). When combined, they

provide a roadmap for building a more just, economically sustainable, and sustainable world for future generations. One of the communities in Oriental Mindoro's southern region was clearly seeing the growth of tourism. One of the most well-known places in the region, especially for tourist attractions, is Mansalay. This consisted of seventeen (17) barangays, and there are numerous resorts all around them, including Melzar's Mountain Resort Corp., Aaron Beach Resort, Al Puerto Beach Resort, Footprints in the Sand Beach Resort in Cabalwa, La Sersita Casitas and Water Spa Beach Resort in Don Pedro, Mahalta Glamping Resort: Mahalta Resorts and Leisure in Wasig, RC Farm and Resort in Manuel, Sidel Beach in Cabalwa, Buktot Beach, MB Hiraya Beach Resort, and many more.

Analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of the local tourism initiatives is crucial in light of the aforementioned principles. Moreover, the study is advantageous to resort owners, the Mansalay Local Government Unit, visitors, and all other community stakeholders because its findings will shed light on the tourism industry's advantages, disadvantages, opportunities, and threats, which will aid in the planning of sustainable development initiatives.

Furthermore, the municipality's contribution to tourism has not been studied. In view of this, the study sought to assess the respondents' perceptions of the main contributions made by a few resorts in the area to social, economic, and environmental development. Its specific goal was to learn about the respondents' gender, marital status, occupation, and place of residence. It investigated how much tourism contributes to environmental, sociocultural, and economic variables. It was investigated whether there were any noteworthy connections between

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the respondents' profiles and the contributions of tourism. Finally, the study's findings supported the Municipality of Mansalay's suggested sustainable program.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kostoska and Koracev (2019) underlined that the 169 individual targets that constitute the 17 SDGs are made up of the three primary pillars of sustainability: economic (SDGs 1–3 and 8–9), social (SDGs 4–5, 10–11, and 16–17), and environmental (SDGs 6–7 and 12–15).

According to Sharma, R. (2020), the three outcomes of tourism development were economic prosperity, environmental consciousness, and a robust and stable community. Additionally, this enhanced the community's overall standard of living. But according to Aires, J. *et al.* (2010), the combination of these three variables results in more or fewer negative features in addition to favorable ones, depending on the society. Members of the same culture, for instance, should assess or comprehend sociocultural effects in various ways.

Milheiro (2017) asserts that tourism has several beneficial effects on the local economy, such as drawing in investment, boosting regional income, generating jobs and the multiplier effect of tourism on job creation, raising living standards for residents, promoting agricultural development, growing local services and facilities, raising demand for local goods, raising household income, enhancing destination economic structures, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing infrastructure. Despite these advantages, he also mentioned a number of disadvantages, including a heavy reliance on tourism, inflation, a greater inclination to import, seasonality, a low rate of return on investment, a lack of direct employment because of small firm sizes, and higher real estate taxes, among other things.

The economic and environmental effects of tourism need to be balanced, according to Kuöller and Mihalic (2019). Effective decision-making is important to grow and sustain urban tourism, and concerns like air pollution, excessive noise and vibrations, and the harmful visual consequences of tourism must be addressed. Leslie (2012) backed this argument by adding that in order to maintain environmental resources for future generations, it is necessary to ensure that both tourists and residents take responsibility for the environment.

Furthermore, interactions between visitors and inhabitants can either result in new social and cultural opportunities or, on the other hand, tension and worry because of the changes that occur, as observed by García *et al.* (2015). Positive benefits on the community's services help to retain cultural values, strengthen cultural identity, conserve historical heritage, and increase the standard of living for citizens. However, it also indicated negative results such as growing rates of drug and alcohol use, crime, violence, delinquency, and prostitution.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The design of the research was quantitative. Furthermore,

this study uses a descriptive-correlational research approach. It was carried out in the Philippine province of Oriental Mindoro, specifically in the Municipality of Mansalay. There were sixty (60) participants in the survey, which included visitors, local government workers, and residents in the area. This study employed convenience sampling using a self-created survey questionnaire.

The profile of the respondents, including their work, place of residence, and marital status, made up the first section of the survey questionnaire. The amount that tourism contributes to the environment, economy, and society was covered in the second section. The correctness of the aforementioned questionnaire was confirmed by experts and teachers in one Philippine State University's hospitality-related courses.

Additionally, the researchers used a test-retest approach to make sure the instrument was reliable, which they accomplished by employing the pilot study for reliability testing. Twenty copies of the questionnaire were distributed to resort owners in the surrounding towns as part of the pre-test.

The managers of the chosen resorts and the barangay captain in Mansalay received a letter from the study's researchers asking for permission to conduct the survey, along with a request for the adviser's approval. The participants were then given the survey questionnaires. Following the survey, the collected data were totaled, tabulated, and subjected to suitable statistical analysis utilizing the weighted mean, percentage, Likert scale, and Pearson-r correlation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It should be mentioned that, with a total of 24 or 24% of the respondents, students came in first place among the largest group of survey participants. With a total of 22, or 22%, government employees ranked second, followed by other occupations with 13, or 13%. The smallest percentage of responders were skilled workers in industries related to hospitality (1, or 1%).

Regarding respondents' residence, locals accounted for the largest share (55%), followed by those who lived outside the municipality (5%). It indicates how much the locals in Mansalay adore their tourism attractions. However, with 38 or 38% of the total respondents, single respondents were the largest group. Married respondents came in second with 21 or 21%, and widowed respondents came in last with 1 or 1%. Furthermore, with a total of 31 or 31% of the population, female respondents outnumbered male respondents by 29 or 29%.

With an overall mean of 3.57, respondents strongly agreed that the resorts in the area contribute to socio-cultural tourism. With the highest mean score of 3.71, it highlighted how the resorts were promoting and safeguarding the local heritage for any cultural preservation initiatives. Both resorts received low mean scores of 3.35 and 3.26, despite having recently promised to promote inclusivity and diversity in their hiring policies, guest interactions, and other kinds of community involvement.

Table 1. Level of Tourism Contribution when it comes to Socio-Cultural Factors

Items	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. The resort protects and promotes the local heritage for any cultural preservation efforts.	3.71	Strongly Agree
2. The resort organized programs and other forms of community involvement.	3.35	Agree
3. The resort promotes inclusivity and diversity in its employment practices and guest interactions.	3.26	Agree
4. The resort supports local arts, crafts, or traditional performances.	3.56	Strongly Agreed
5. The resort actively engages with the local community and fosters positive relationships.	3.63	Strongly Agreed
Composite Mean	3.57	Strongly Agree

This suggests that resorts may examine their hiring practices and community engagement activities.

Although tourism can promote intercultural communication and understanding, it can also commodify cultures, undermining their genuineness. Finding a balance between sharing their culture with tourists and conserving it for future generations is a challenge for many rural villages. Government policies and community-led initiatives can play a critical role in ensuring that cultural heritage is protected and serves as an asset rather than a burden (Agarwal *et al.*, 2023).

Table 2, showed that respondents strongly agreed about the resorts' economic contributions to tourism in the Municipality of Mansalay with an overall mean of 3.58. The respondents' overall mean score of 3.88, which ranks highest among other metrics, indicated that they thought the resorts helped grow or improve the local infrastructure. According to Rusu *et al.* (2012), resort operations have considered the promotion of social development, economic growth, and entrepreneurial opportunities for small businesses in rural areas, where economic development is the primary driver of growth.

With the lowest mean score of 3.46, the respondents just agreed that the resort supported programs or initiatives to participate in CSR activities, such as aiding neighborhood charities or community development projects. Improvements in corporate social responsibility should be taken into consideration in order to achieve income sustainability for the people, as the outcomes have demonstrated the substantial contributions made to infrastructure.

The results were in line with a study by Ramasola, A. *et al.* (2021) that discovered that Anda, Bohol's beautiful white sand beaches, drew both domestic and foreign tourists to its many beach resorts. Due to the dearth of work opportunities in rural areas, the pure water significantly boosted the local economy by providing jobs for residents, which in turn promoted the establishment of small enterprises and improved the community's standard of living.

Lastly, Table 3 showed an overall mean of 3.54; respondents strongly agreed that the resorts contribute to environmental tourism. With a mean score of 3.73 overall, the respondents overwhelmingly agreed that

Table 2. Level of Tourism Contribution when it comes to Economic Factors

Items	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. The resort creates direct employment opportunities for the local community.	3.56	Strongly Agree
2. The resort actively supports local businesses and suppliers in its operations	3.48	Agree
3. The resort contributes to local infrastructure development or improvement projects	3.88	Strongly Agreed
4. Resort helps in diversifying the local economy by attracting tourists and generating revenue.	3.53	Strongly Agreed
5. Resort has initiatives or programs to engage in corporate social responsibility activities, such as supporting local charities or community development projects	3.46	Agree
Composite Mean	3.58	Strongly Agree

the resorts used the 3Rs (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) to conserve natural resources. Support or cooperation with regional conservation groups or initiatives, however, received the lowest mean score (3.28). This suggests that there aren't many partnerships between the resort and environmental groups, especially when it comes to conservation projects and activities. The local government unit and resort operators may take this into

account in order to increase the sustainability of the area by stepping up environmental collaborations. Further, the findings indicated a noteworthy correlation between the respondents' occupation and their environmental, socio-cultural, and economic contributions, as well as their marital status. However, there were no discernible correlations between gender or place of residence and the resorts' contributions to tourism.

Table 3. Level of Tourism Contribution when it comes to Environmental Factors

Items	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. Use 3Rs (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) to conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and save energy	3.73	Strongly Agree
2. Protect and preserve the local ecosystem and biodiversity.	3.56	Strongly Agree
3. Resort has a waste management system in place.	3.68	Strongly Agreed
4. Conduct regular environmental audits or assessments to monitor and evaluate its environmental performance	3.51	Strongly Agreed
5. Support or collaborate with local conservation organizations or projects.	3.28	Agree
6. Have any programs or initiatives to raise awareness among guests about environmental issues and responsible tourist	3.33	Agree
7. Protect the natural resources (water, forest, etc.) to give value to nature.	3.71	Strongly Agreed
Composite Mean	3.54	Strongly Agreed

CONCLUSIONS

The majority of responders were female students who lived in the Municipality of Mansalay and were single. The findings indicated that respondents overwhelmingly

agreed with the selected results' contributions to the economy, society, and culture. However, indicators that received low mean scores included: encouraging diversity and inclusivity in hiring practices and guest interactions;

Table 4: Proposed Sustainable Program

Key Result Areas	Objectives	Proposed activities	Person's Involved	Expected output
Human Resource and Customer Service	To enhance the capabilities of the resorts on Human Resource and Customer Service Management.	- Conduct extension program on seminar workshops on Human Resource and Customer Service Management - Consultation and collaboration with TESDA and other agencies that provide enhancement programs and certification	Dean Government Officials CBM Faculty and students	- Bolster the resorts' human resources capacities. - Employees acquired TESDA certification - Established a customer feedback mechanism in the resorts.
Corporate Social Responsibility	To increase the Corporate Social Responsibility programs of the resorts.	- CBM may venture into seminars for Corporate Social Responsibility - CBM may venture into seminars and outreach programs for environmental management awareness, particularly on tourism-related industry. - Dean and Faculty members may conduct tie-ups and dialogues with tourism-related operators to identify issues and concerns for Tourism planning and development of the municipality.	Dean CBM Faculty and students Community members/ volunteers	- Increase sustainable programs and activities in the resorts and in the whole municipality. - Formulation of Tourism Plan

organizing programs and other community involvement activities; promoting corporate social responsibility initiatives and programs; and supporting and working with environmental organizations, especially on conservation initiatives and programs.

The researchers' conclusions led them to recommend a number of seminars and training sessions aimed at enhancing the customer service and human resource skills of the resort employees. Programs for corporate social responsibility should also be improved in order to establish strong relationships with the community. Furthermore, the researcher's Sustainable Program, which was developed in collaboration with Mindoro State University-Bongabong Campus—more especially, the College of Business and Management—should serve as a manual for the resorts and the local government unit. Additionally, the researcher and the organization may conduct consultancy, awareness campaigns, and other extension efforts to promote sustainable tourism in the area. Finally, this study might be repeated by other researchers in the future. It is important to take into account other elements that have influenced the area's growth.

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