

Role of Community-Based Tourism in Achieving Multiple Sustainable Development Goals: An Overview

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Abstract

Many tourism scholars over the years have proposed community-based tourism as an effective means of promoting and ensuring sustainable tourism development at the global level. This study attempts to find out the importance of community-based tourism activities in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in developing regions across the globe. The current study involved a systematic review of the literature from different research articles and case studies from different parts of the world, focusing on themes which were relevant to this study. Other relevant literature from various web sources was also reviewed. The study's results indicate that the community-based tourism approach can work with the United Nations' Agenda 2030 to help reduce inequality, promote local culture, protect the environment, and contribute to poverty alleviation at the global level. The study also found that weak institutional frameworks, limited market access for the locals, and challenges in measuring social and environmental impacts are the major factors that often reduce the effectiveness of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) at a destination.

Keywords: Community-Based Tourism, Community Participation, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Development Goals

1. Introduction

Under Agenda 2030 of the UN, tourism has been identified as one of the major tools to boost the economic growth in small islands and developing nations. The importance of tourism for communities around the globe has been increasing rapidly due to its economic benefits, but on the contrary side tourism activities at a destination produces some negative impacts also. The main focus of the UN is to promote sustainable practices in tourism development so that negative impacts of the tourism sector can be reduced as much as possible. The UN adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 while considering the local challenges, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation (Buhalis et al., 2023; Jackson, 2025). These 17 SDGs are all connected to each other, and several of them are relevant to the tourism sector, which highlights the tourism industry's potential in contributing to the global well-being (Buhalis et al., 2023). Many scholars in their study have found that SDG 1 (No

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Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) commonly have a direct link with the tourism industry, whereas SDG 5 (Promoting Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) can be indirectly influenced by tourism (De Abreu et al., 2024 ; Buhalis et al., 2023).

Traditional mass tourism approach was not supportive of sustainable development at a destination and used to cause many negative impacts such as economic leakage, environmental exploitation, and cultural degradation (De Abreu et al., 2024). However, community-based tourism (CBT) can be considered a better alternative to mass tourism for achieving sustainable development by keeping the local population at the focus of tourism planning, protecting the cultural & physical environment, and sharing economic benefits (Jackson, 2025; Walia, 2020; Pasanchay & Schott, 2022). One critical aspect of achieving sustainable development in the tourism industry is the active participation and involvement of indigenous communities (Cheng et al., 2017). The CBT approach focuses on the inclusion of the local community in the tourism planning and decision-making process which is crucial for considering their needs, concerns and aspirations (Pitanatri & Hassan, 2025).

The community-based tourism (CBT) approach promotes sustainable destination development by encouraging local participation in tourism planning, fostering local economic growth, preserving cultural heritage, and protecting the environment. This study examines the role of community-based tourism in achieving multiple interconnected sustainable development goals by extensively analysing the available literature and case studies from different geographical locations. This study also highlights the positive outcomes of community tourism initiatives for a destination's local community at the social, economic, cultural, and environmental levels. In the end, the study also shares different scholars' perspectives on the administrative and policy measures needed to implement CBT effectively, which can help minimise the adverse effects of tourism at a destination.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Community

Different researchers have interpreted "community" on various parameters, making it a complex and challenging task to define. While there is no universally accepted definition, several perspectives can help to understand its meaning. Scholars have approached the concept of community based on different criteria. Traditionally, a community refers to people living in the same geographical area who interact and share common interests, emphasising both physical proximity and a collective environment (Howley, 2013). Jamal and Getz (1995) defined community as "a group of people living in the same region." According to Spenceley (2008, p. 288), "a community is a delimited place where people live and meet their daily needs while trying to pursue their collective or individual agendas."

Community can also be defined as "the people living in one particular area or people who are considered a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality" (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). "A community consists of individuals sharing a common interest or characteristic who live together within a larger society" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Thus, in

general terms, a community is a group of living beings that share similarities such as their geographical area, social standards, beliefs, values, traditions, or sense of identity.

2.2 Community-Based Tourism (CBT)

Community-based tourism has emerged as a promising model that aims to empower local communities and encourages sustainable development within the tourism industry (Walia, 2020). The idea of including local residents in the process of tourism development is not a recent phenomenon; it had been discussed earlier, too (Doxey, 1975; Murphy, 1983), but the focus on community-based tourism has risen significantly since the 1990s, when discussions on sustainable tourism development really intensified (Gautam & Walia, 2016).

CBT can be defined as a form of sustainable tourism that aims to ensure the long-term welfare and safety of both the environment and the local community. The aim of CBT is to involve the local community in various aspects, like planning and managing tourism activities. Community participation allows individuals to express their opinions and engage in the decision-making process (WHO, 2002). The goal of community-based tourism (CBT) is to promote a more sustainable tourism industry by involving local communities in the planning and administration of tourism development (Hall, 1996).

Community participation is a critical component of tourism development planning in both developed and developing nations and has a primary objective of sustainable management of resources (Esteban and Macarena, 2010; Sapkota et al., 2024). To have an effective community engagement, there must be a transfer of authority from those who have traditionally held decision-making positions to those who have been excluded from such responsibilities (Willis, 1995). This indicates that a professional readjustment of power is necessary between local communities, developers, and local authorities to ensure the participation process is not manipulated. In fact, the prevalent method of top-down administration, which leads to issues during project execution, needs to be reconsidered (Langley, 2002).

2.3 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commonly referred to as the Global Goals, were initially announced at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Olujobi et al., 2024). Later, “in September 2015, all 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and created 17 Sustainable Development Goals” (Geng et al., 2018) as a worldwide call to action aimed at eradicating poverty, safeguarding the planet, and guaranteeing that by 2030 everyone experiences peace and prosperity (UNDP, 2015). These 17 SDGs are interconnected to each other; this means that action taken in the field of one SDG will influence results in others.

Figure 2.1 : List of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified by United Nations



Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

3. Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive review approach, primarily based on the systematic identification and analysis of secondary data. Scholarly research articles and case studies of diifferent regions were retrieved from Scopus and Google Scholar using keywords such as "community-based tourism," "sustainable development," and "SDGs" etc. Relevant information rearding this study has also been taken from the original websites of international bodies like World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations (UN), UN Tourism etc. Mainly, this research is focused on examining the relationship between the community-base tourism and sustainable development goals. Also, an analysis of articles from diverse geographical regions is conductred to identify cross-border trends and challenges in CBT.

4. Relation of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) with Multiple Sustainable Developent Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations has defined sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Buhalis et al., 2023; WCED, 1987, p. 43). Sustainable development has been a major focus in many UN development programs, such as Agenda 21 (United Nations, 1992) and the Millennium Declaration (United Nations, 2000), as a blueprint for global development planning (Buhalis et al., 2023). The United Nations Agenda 2030 consists of 17 interconnected sustainable development goals (SDGs). These goals push all countries and industries to work together to protect the environment, promote social justice, and boost the economy (Buhalis et al., 2023; Scheyvens and Cheer, 2021). In 2017, UN Tourism identified tourism as a major driving force in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting sustainable development. The United Nations declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (UN Tourism, 2017). This declaration serves as a general concept for the execution of the SDGs as a global code of ethics in tourism. Since then, tourism

scholars have also conducted many studies on this concept of including tourism in national SDG planning processes (Boluk et al., 2019; Buhalis et al., 2023).

“Community tourism is an innovative approach to responsible travel that places local communities at the center of the tourism experience” (Khanal, 2024). CBT does not limit visitors to only conventional sightseeing but allows them to immerse themselves in the authentic culture of their destinations (Khanal, 2024). CBT can be aligned with the central pillars identified by UNWTO and, as a result, can play an important role in achieving multiple sustainable development goals. Here’s how CBT helps in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

4.1 SDG 1: Eliminating Poverty

The goal of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG) is to eradicate poverty worldwide. SDG 1 focuses on eliminating extreme poverty globally by ensuring equal access to resources, opportunities, and social protection for everyone, especially the most vulnerable section of society. Reducing poverty at a global level, especially in low-income countries, has been a major challenge faced by humanity today. The World Bank (2024) says that approximately 700 million people, which is about 8.5% of the world's population, live under extreme levels of poverty, surviving on under \$2.15 per day.

Tourism has been recognised worldwide as a useful tool to reduce poverty by many researchers. Also, it has been observed globally that through community experiences, travellers engage in genuine cultural exchanges, supporting local livelihoods and breaking the cycle of poverty. By fostering homestays, guided tours and other sustainable projects, CBT ensures universal access to fundamental necessities like food, shelter, education, and healthcare. This helps reduce poverty in concerned areas. Tourism plays a vital role in economic advancement and serves as a key contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for many nations today. Pro-poor tourism is usually regarded as a favourable and cheaper way for poverty reduction in underdeveloped regions (Gao & Wu, 2017). Patwal et al. (2023) in their study has stated that the homestay scheme is playing an effective role in poverty alleviation in the Almora region of Uttarakhand, India and their findings suggested that the poverty rate has decreased as a result of income generated by homestay units and other tourism activities in the region. During their study, Gao & Wu (2017) found that a rural tourism-based initiative in Yuanjia Village, Shaanxi Province, China, has provided opportunity for economic development to the locals, which resulted in the economic growth and revitalisation of the village. The community-based ecotourism facility in the Wechaiu Community Hippo Sanctuary Project (WCHSP) of Ghana has accelerated the development of the area and played a major part in poverty reduction for local people there, as household incomes in sanctuary villages are 30% higher than those in other surrounding villages (Bonye et al., 2021). Agritourism activities in Hoi An village of Vietnam has provided locals the opportunity to generate revenue, which has lifted their standard of living (Ngo & Creutz, 2022).

4.2 SDG 5: Gender Equality

The aim of SDG 5 is to achieve gender equality at the global level by empowering all women and girls and ensuring equal opportunities for them (United Nations, 2015). The UN has been

working to reduce gender inequality for many decades, but gender inequality remains prevalent, as women still face social, economic, and political discrimination. Women are not only victims of personal abuse, but they also face discrimination and salary inequalities in the workplace (Buhalis et al., 2023; United Nations, 2021). The Covid-19 pandemic also increased the gender gap due to the extra burden of unpaid work on women (United Nations, 2021). Tourism can act as a driving force for empowering women by creating equal opportunities across various domains (Smith, 2024). The tourism industry is one of the largest sectors for generating employment globally, offering a wide range of job opportunities for women, particularly in developing countries (UNWTO, 2019). The participation of more women in tourism activities benefits the sector because women are generally more capable than men of providing higher quality services to visitors (Costa et al., 2017). Therefore, the tourism sector offers a more gender-balanced workforce and experiences fewer gender pay disparities compared to other sectors (UNWTO, 2019).

Many jobs in the tourism industry offer flexible schedules that are beneficial for women, particularly those with family responsibilities, as these jobs help those women achieve a better balance between work and personal life (Costa et al., 2017). Under the responsible tourism initiative in Wayanad, Kerala, local women received training in various sectors like “bamboo handicraft, papad-making, pure coconut oil-making units, chili Kondattom and bitter guard Kondattom units, candle making, paper bag, ethnic food units, and pottery, etc.” (Markose et al., 2022). These community-based tourism activities in Wayanad are focusing on women’s empowerment, which is a crucial aspect of sustainable development. According to Syafruddin et al. (2023), before the advent of the tourism industry on Lombok Island of Indonesia, women of the area only used to do the household work. But after the development of tourism in the region, women are now indulged in different activities like preparing handicrafts, working in restaurants, and also working as guides, etc.

According to UNWTO (2019), women constitute approximately 54 percent of the global tourism workforce, whereas their representation in other sectors worldwide is 39 percent. Therefore, it can be said that the tourism industry has more representation of women in the workforce than any other sector. Also, the tourism sector provides women more opportunities to assume leadership positions, with 23 percent of tourism ministers being female, compared to 20.7 percent of ministers in general.

4.3 SDG 8: Promoting Economic Growth

Tourism has become an important factor of economic growth and development in many regions around the world. Community participation in tourism can really help in providing financial benefits directly to communities, boost infrastructural development, and promote social equality. Tourism creates jobs, encourages growth of local economies, and fosters a more equitable society. SDG 8 focuses on supporting steady, equitable, and sustainable economic growth while also ensuring productive employment and decent working conditions for everyone (United Nations, 2015). The aim of SDG 8 is to incorporate decent work in both developing and developed nations and ensure a better work environment at the same time (Aldao et al., 2021). The relationship between tourism and SDG 8 can help people question the current way of thinking about growth, neoliberal competition, and taking advantage of systemic

injustices. This is especially important in developing countries, where weak labor laws lead to lower wages and a lack of safety measures, which leads to exploitation (Bianchi & de Man, 2021). The tourism sector offers worldwide prospects as a service-oriented, labor-intensive field that promotes a more equitable distribution between developing and developed nations (United Nations, 2018). Krittayarungroj and Suriyankietkaew (2024), during their study in Baan Khoa Lak village, Thailand, found out that ecotourism activities like water rafting, Thai cooking classes, and homestays have helped around 183 families generate local income and have also developed a sense of ownership and belonging by involving them in tourism planning decisions.

Community involvement in tourism businesses can play an important role in developing nations, as it can be an efficient source of income generation and contribution to the local community's well-being (Sharma & Sarmah, 2021). Tourism development boosts the local economy of the destinations and includes underserved populations in tourism employment (Dashper et al., 2021). In the Annapurna Conservation Area, which is one of the famous trekking destinations of Nepal, community-based ecotourism attracts a large number of visitors from different regions of the world and has emerged as an effective measure to maintain a balance between economic growth and sustainable development (Jackson, L. A. 2025). Sharma and Sarmah (2019) stated that community-led ecotourism projects attract many tourists in Meghalaya, India. Since ecotourism projects demand lower capital investment and less highly specialized labor, this makes it popular in Meghalaya. Additionally, these projects have indirectly contributed to improving local infrastructure, as the income generated from them is also utilized for developing village infrastructure (Sharma & Sarmah, 2019).

Tourism is one of the major sectors regarding providing jobs at the global level. According to WTTC (2024), the global tourism industry experienced a significant increase in job creation in 2023 compared to 2022, nearly reaching the employment levels seen before the pandemic in 2019. Overall, travel and tourism generated, directly and indirectly, around 330 million jobs worldwide in 2023, representing 9.1% of global GDP. The tourism industry created about 348 million jobs in 2024, which was more than the pre-pandemic era. By 2034, the tourism sector will have a share of 11.4% of global GDP, providing employment to 449 million people. About 12.2% of the global workforce will be involved in the tourism sector by 2034, highlighting Travel & Tourism's major role in global employment (WTTC, 2024).

4.4 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The aim of SDG 11 is “to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable” (United Nations, 2015). It can be further interpreted as transforming cities into places where everyone can live well, with access to adequate housing, safe transport, and green spaces, while also addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Tourism operations can generally have diverse environmental, socio-cultural, and economic effects on host communities. Despite the frequent criticism of these impacts as negative and dangerous, we should not overlook their significant positive effects. Community-Based Tourism (CBT) can play an important role in achieving SDG 11 by encouraging sustainable

urbanisation and actively involving local communities in tourism development. In Malaysia, the Homestay Programme demonstrated the role of CBT in supporting SDG 11. This homestay initiative has enhanced infrastructure, upgraded village landscapes, improved facilities, and empowered communities while, at the same time, preserving local cultural heritage. This community tourism model addresses both economic and social aspects of sustainable cities and communities (Zulkefli et al., 2021). Community tourism activities help develop local infrastructure in a way that is more suitable for the surroundings of a destination, aligning with SDG 11's vision for sustainable cities and communities. Income generated from homestays in adjacent villages to the Jozani–Chwaka Bay National Park Biosphere Reserve in Zanzibar has been used to rejuvenate and upgrade existing water wells of these villages (Carius & Job, 2019). An investigation by Fan (2020) found that the community tourism approach can also make locals feel better about their culture and strengthen both the tangible and intangible parts of their cultural heritage. "It also helps them to establish a strong cultural identity, preserving their customs, and enhancing cultural awareness" (Gao and Wu, 2017). According to Magboo-Campo (2024), CBT helped rice cake vendors in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines, enhance their livelihoods while also preserving their cultural heritage. The local community's participation in heritage tourism at the Mahabalipuram heritage site in India helped maintain sustainable urban environments by preserving cultural heritage, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the standard of living for the residents (Kalaimathy et al., 2024). CBT not only benefits the economy, but it also helps to preserve the socio-cultural identity of the Lepcha population in India's Kalimpong region (Das, 2024). The holistic approach of the community tourism model not only raises the living standard of local residents of a destination but also ensures that cultural and natural resources are conserved for future generations.

4.5 SDG 12: Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

SDG 12 talks about responsible patterns of production and consumption. It means we should use our natural resources wisely, try to reduce the waste, and ensure that we produce and consume goods in such a way that it has a minimum negative impact on the environment. This includes recycling, reducing food wastage, and making business practices more eco-friendly (United Nations, 2015). Involving the local community in tourism development planning at a destination may help to ensure that sustainable development efforts are planned and implemented in a way that decreases tourism's negative environmental impacts while encouraging sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Additionally, community members can also provide useful guidance regarding how to reduce the environmental impact of development initiatives. The development of tourism at any destination relies on the use of natural resources. Therefore, it is important for the tourism industry to use natural resources in an effective way to achieve sustainable consumption (Xu and Fox, 2014). There should be a sense of responsibility among individuals regarding protecting nature. Travellers should be encouraged to adopt more sustainable travel practices. They should be motivated to use more eco-friendly products, respect local customs, and act responsibly with the local communities at the visited destination (Barr et al., 2011). Dolnicar (2021) stated that travellers forget to care about the surrounding environment while travelling to a destination, and they come up with many excuses to justify environmentally unfriendly behaviour. According to Xu et al. (2020), tourists' behaviour at the visited destination has a direct relation with their behaviour at home;

environmentally friendly behaviour is expected not only at home but at the visited destination also (Xu et al., 2020).

In terms of tourism, SDG 12 means that the tourism industry must adopt the model of responsible consumption and production to minimise adverse environmental impacts, manage natural resources effectively, and support local economies. At the business level, the tourism industry can use circular economy models and methods to cut down on food waste by taking preventative steps and recycling (Camilleri, 2021; Dolnicar, 2021). A collaborative approach can be used in the tourism industry in which resources like housing, transportation, and staffing can be shared (Leung et al., 2019). Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is another well-known area of sustainable production and consumption, and this CSR model should be incorporated by previously overlooked stakeholder groups such as communities, ecosystems, NGOs, and government (Font & Lynes, 2017). Top tourism companies should lead the way in showing other parties how to cut down on chemical releases and waste production. A lot of them make Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reports to show how much they help reach the SDGs.

4.6 SDG 13: Taking Measures to Counter Climate Change and its Impacts

Climate change has a wide range of negative impacts, like affecting ecosystems, human societies, economies, and the planet's overall health. The 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in 2021, indicates that the production of heat-trapping gases has already increased the climate's temperature by around 1.1 degrees Celsius, with a projected rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the future decades. This rise in global temperature will have various adverse effects on the environment. Globally, we are already seeing negative effects such as sea ice loss, melting glaciers and ice sheets, rising sea levels, irregular weather patterns, and more extreme heat waves. The aim of SDG 13 is to take urgent measures to counter climate change and its adverse impacts. This includes taking actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, helping communities and ecosystems adapt to climate change-related disasters, raising awareness about negative impacts of climate change, and encouraging countries around the globe to incorporate climate measures in their national plans and policies (United Nations, 2015).

The development achieved due to the tourism industry cannot be truly sustainable until it finds solutions to reduce its carbon footprint. The tourism industry globally accounts for about 8% of overall CO₂ emissions, out of which the transportation sector alone is responsible for almost 50%. The tourism sector is constantly trying to reduce its carbon emissions with the help of continuous innovations in travel transportation mediums, including air, land, and sea (Buhalis et al., 2023; Luo et al., 2018; Paiano et al., 2020). CBT can align with SDG 13 and play an effective role not only in reducing the adverse impacts caused by climate change but also in helping local communities in adopting the changes brought to the environment by climate change. On the mitigation front, CBT can help reduce carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions through its sustainable practices, like ecotourism and the sensible use of natural resources. On the adaptation front, it can assist local communities in overcoming climate-related difficulties such as droughts, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels brought on by climate change (Lee et al., 2022; Chikuta et al., 2024). The development in CBT is usually

involved in low-carbon-releasing activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and cultural tours, which have a lower environmental impact compared to mass tourism. Additionally, CBT initiatives mainly promote the use of local resources, which reduces the need for long-distance transportation and imported goods (Landholm et al., 2019). Community-based tourism ventures in Europe have been shown to reduce carbon footprints by up to 24% through renewable energy generation and the use of sustainable transportation mediums (Landholm et al., 2019).

5. Conclusion:

Today, sustainable development has become a necessity in every sector. Numerous studies carried out by researchers have explained that engaging the local population in tourism activities is essential for achieving sustainable development, particularly in underdeveloped and indigenous areas where cultural heritage and natural resources hold significant value. Host communities themselves are an integral part of any destination's primary tourism resources, and the effective development of tourism relies heavily upon them (Hall & Richards, 2000). Involvement of local community in the planning and managing tourism activities is also important due to the fact that their inputs can be crucial for developing tourism sustainably at a place.

This study has tried to examine the importance of the community-based tourism approach in attaining sustainable development goals. Various case studies from regions such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Zanzibar, South Africa, etc. were analysed while writing this review paper. After analysing various research papers and articles, it is evident that community tourism can become an effective tool to achieve many sustainable development goals if it is carried out with strong community involvement, effective governance, and supportive policies. This study explains the potential for CBT to empower underdeveloped population, create sustainable livelihoods, and tackle global sustainability concerns. Also, many studies have claimed that the involvement of local populations is essential for sustainable development in rural and indigenous regions, where traditional customs and cultural heritage are a crucial part of the tourism experience for visitors. Tourism development at a destination can align with sustainability principles by considering the views and needs of host communities. This community-based strategy can help make tourism more sustainable by finding a balance between the economic benefits and the protection of the local culture, environment, and social well-being, ultimately contributing to the long-term sustainability and success of the tourism industry.

However, the success of CBT cannot be guaranteed. It faces many challenges, such as weak governance policies, dependency on external funding, the commodification of indigenous culture, and environmental degradation (Abreu et al., 2024; Jackson, 2025; Pasanchay & Schott, 2022). Weak governance structures and domination of bigger private players in the tourism sector in Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE initiative have witnessed the decrease in equitable benefit sharing from tourism to the community, and dependency on external funding in Tajikistan's Zerafshan Valley has resulted in unsustainable project lifecycles once external support is withdrawn (Jackson, 2025). Pasanchay & Schott (2021) in their study at rural areas of Laos found out that to get 'net positive' contributions to the SDGs from CBT homestays and

mitigating the negative impacts of this type of tourism development are possible only when and that careful consultative planning and management are carried out. While CBT shows promise for addressing multiple SDGs, further research and practical implementation are necessary to maximise its impact. Policymakers, tourism stakeholders, and local communities must work together to develop and implement CBT strategies that align with specific SDG targets (Omar et al., 2024). By doing so, community-based tourism can serve as a useful tool for achieving sustainable development and contribute significantly to the global agenda of creating a more equitable and environmentally friendly world. In summary, active participation and support of local communities is necessary for achieving sustainable tourism development at any destination and making community-based tourism initiatives a successful tool for completing multiple sustainable development goals. But there is scope for future research focusing on making community tourism more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable so that it can adapt to new global problems while still focussing on sustainable development.

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