

Tourism and the Developing World: A Comparative Analysis on Socio-Economic
Development between the Dominican Republic and Haiti

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ABSTRACT

TOURISM AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BETWEEN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

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The tourism industry has been growing exponentially throughout the world, both in developed and underdeveloped countries. The industry is normally considered means of economic growth for a destination, however there is much controversy as to whether the social effects are positive or negative. The purpose of this study was to compare strategies of socio-economic development through tourism in select developing countries. In the cases of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, tourism has contributed greatly to economic development, and both countries should continue focussing efforts on tourism for means of economic development. However, they should focus on educating their citizens so the industry is able to employ and be run more by locals. In terms of social development, it was found that tourism has both positive and negative effects in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The destinations should focus on developing sustainable tourism, combating inequality, and utilizing a pro-poor tourism approach.

Keywords: social development, economic development, poverty, jobs, tourism, developing countries, the Dominican Republic, Haiti,

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Background of Study

Travel and tourism is often praised for bringing jobs and economic development to destinations throughout the world. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC, 2018), tourism accounts for 10.4% of global GDP and one in ten jobs. While tourism undoubtedly helps boost the economy of underdeveloped countries throughout the world, it may also bring about threats. Tourism can account for the depletion of a destination's natural resources, causing competition between tourists and locals for resources, and economic leakage where the local community does not see a majority of money being gained from tourism. Additionally, underdeveloped countries are especially susceptible to crisis and corruption, which tourism can play a role in as well. Overall, the impact of tourism can be both positive and negative on a community, but tourism-related organizations and governments need to understand how to use tourism as a way to alleviate poverty and not cause other unintended consequences. The purpose of this study was to discover the best practices at creating positive and sustainable socio-economic development through tourism in developing countries. It compares the policies and practices in multiple destinations to discover which are beneficial to the local people and countries overall wellbeing, as well as which are harmful or unfair to the destination.

Review of Literature

Research for this review of literature was conducted at Robert E. Kennedy Library on the campus of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In addition to books and other resources, the following online databases were utilized: Hospitality and Tourism Complete and One Search. This review of literature includes the following subsections: socio-economic development, socio-economic development caused by tourism, and socio-economic development from tourism in developing countries.

Socioeconomic refers to a combination of both social and economic factors. Therefore socio-economic development is referring to a change causing both social development and economic development. The International Institute of Social Studies (n. d.) states “Social development is about putting people at the centre of development. This means a commitment that development processes need to benefit people, particularly but not only the poor” (p. 1). Economic development is used to describe the change in a country's economy over time, but normally refers to the process in which an underdeveloped country develops into an economically prospering country. There are a few quantitative ways to measure economic development. According to Bojanic and Lo (2016), Economic development is normally measured either by GDP (Gross Domestic Product) or GNP (Gross National Product) on a per capita basis. Both help indicate the general wealth of a country based on the value of goods and services produced by citizens (GNP), or by both citizens and foreigners in the country (GDP).

Social and economic factors of development go hand in hand, with each contributing to the other. Often places that have a high level of economic development

also have a high level of social development, and vice versa. While it is possible to have one without the other, both are needed for a healthy functioning society. Economic development is not helpful if it is only reaching a small portion of society and not being distributed evenly. “Mere growth of economy cannot bring social justice and balanced development unless it is coupled with poverty alleviation and employment generating opportunities for deprived and marginalized sections of the society” (Dada & Ahsan-ul-Haq, 2018). It is possible to have positive economic development while still having a low standard of living, inequality among diverse groups, and high percentages of poverty. On the contrary, it is also possible for a country to have a government and society that cares about people and social justice, but still struggle immensely if there is not valuable goods & services being produced and exported.

Tourism is one way countries improve both social and economic development. As Liu and Wall (2006) state, “Tourism is promoted in policy agendas on the grounds that it will enhance the lives of local people and, as such, tourism planning should be as much about planning for residents as planning for visitors” (p. 160). One of the greatest ways tourism contributes to a country’s development is by creating jobs. Worldwide, tourism accounts for one in ten jobs (WTTC, 2018). Not only does tourism create a high volume of jobs, it also creates jobs for underprivileged groups such as women, unskilled workers, and poor rural citizens (Dada & Ahsan-ul-Haq, 2018). However, a big issue with the tourism industry is its seasonality. Many destinations have peak seasons and low seasons due to weather and other factors. This causes seasonal employment, underemployment, and unemployment (Jolliffe, 2003).

There is much debate as to the quality of these tourism related jobs. An analysis by Choy (1995) suggests that the quality of tourism jobs is higher than perceived by those outside of the industry. According to Croes (2014) tourism provides healthier, safer and more pleasant working conditions than other economic sectors in Nicaragua. In a survey among employees in Hawaii, 43% of tourism workers said they would recommend their kids to study their industry in college, compared to 33% in government and 23% in other private sector jobs. Additionally, 80% of airline employees and 72% of hotel employees surveyed said they were likely to be in the same industry in 5 years (Choy). While there is concern about the level of pay of travel related employment, hotel jobs had the 5th highest wages of all service industry jobs, including doctors, lawyers, etc. (Croes, 2014).

In addition, creating employment opportunities also helps to alleviate poverty, which contributes to social development. Dada & Ahsan-ul-Haq (2018) conducted a study evaluating all factors of tourism involved in alleviating poverty. It was found that employment was the number one factor contributing to poverty alleviation. They add “It is also because of linkages of tourism with other sector of economy like transport, construction, handicrafts, manufacturing, horticulture, agriculture and many others; therefore tourism has the potential to employ the large proportion of people” (p.81). The second factor after employment was infrastructure development. Dada & Ahsan-ul-Haq state “By contributing to infrastructure improvements, such as roads and transport, water supply, communication, and to improvements in education, health and security tourism contributes indirectly to local community livelihoods” (p. 78). Another way tourism can help the poor is through taxes. Croes (2014) explains how the rise in income means a rise in government taxes, increasing investment in infrastructure, health, education, and other

services relevant to the poor. Croes also discusses how studies found that tourism has the ability to spread more income to the poor compared to the other economic sectors.

Overall, tourism often has a positive effect on poverty alleviation which is considered positive socio-economic development.

Interestingly enough however, tourism actually switches from having a positive effect on poverty reduction to a negative effect if a country is at a certain level of income (Kim, Song, & Pyun, 2016). According to the study, only less developed countries have managed to reduce their poverty ratios via tourism efforts. Kim et al. share that in countries with relatively high economic development, tourism does not seem to make a difference for the poor. They attribute this to an increase in inequality, corruption, and non-sustainable tourism development. Policy makers need to consider the country's economic status before adopting policies in order to achieve successful pro-poor tourism (Kim et al.). Tourism does not always mean poverty reduction, it depends on the country and their level of economic development among other factors.

Additionally, there are also other cases in which tourism doesn't perform as well as it could in improving social development and poverty reduction. In a study performed by Dada and Ahsan-ul-Haq (2018), it was found that direct sales of goods and services to visitors by the poor did not perform as well as other factors, showing that there is a lack of sustainable platform for the poor to sell directly to visitors without an intermediate. This is a necessary means of improvement for governments and tourism planners to work on. Dada and Ahsan-ul-Haq also state:

Tourism, if developed in the right manner, can generate business and employment opportunities for local communities and simultaneously preserve local, natural

and cultural heritage. Indeed, tourism can sustain livelihoods if appropriate opportunities are provided to the local communities. But the lack of a pro-poor approach to tourism can increase hardships, especially for the marginalized sections of society (p. 77).

This shows how while tourism has the opportunity to contribute to development and preservation, it cannot be taken for granted and there must be strategic planning set in place to ensure the tourism actually creates the desired positive effect. Lui (2006) explains how many tourism development plans are not including necessary means for positive sustainable human capital development.

In addition to social development, tourism has immense opportunity to cause economic development. Tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry and is often one of the top three industries in many countries, regardless of their level of development (Bojanic & Lo, 2016). One aspect unique to tourism is that international travelers are bringing outside money in, as opposed to some other sectors of the economy where money is being circulated within. Dada and Ahsan-ul-Haq (2018) lists many economic activities involved in the tourism supply chain:

- the production and sale of handicrafts,
- local souvenir products or other materials,
- recreational activities,
- transport, and
- the construction or maintenance of tourism facilities.

These enable local populations to gain economic benefits from tourism. A case study done in Nicaragua showed that tourism had a larger impact on GDP than any other

economic sector (Croes, 2014). Additionally, the study also showed that a 1% increase in tourism receipts reduces the poverty index by 1.23 points. This is an example of how the economic development (tourism receipts) also affects social development (reducing poverty index), and the two concepts are interconnected.

There are some factors that make developing countries a unique situation in regards to socio-economic development. Some challenges that developing countries face are

- small populations,
- limited resources,
- remoteness, vulnerability to global developments,
- external shocks (such as natural disasters), and
- excessive dependence on international trade (Bojanic & Lo, 2016).

Developing countries often rely more on tourism because they do not have as many products to export because of limited production and technological expertise (Bojanic & Lo). According to Cvelbar, Dwyer, Koman, and Mihalič (2016), tourism factors are the greatest competitive drivers in developing countries, whereas developed countries rely on more factors. This shows that tourism is more important to developing countries than to developed countries. There is often question as to whether so much reliance on a single economic factor is healthy. Bojanic and Lo say “If not done properly, over reliance on tourism can have a negative impact on economic development. However, if countries focus their efforts on sustainable tourism practices and government policies, they can actually benefit from higher levels of tourism reliance” (p. 213). Fortunately, tourism in developing countries is on the rise and doesn’t seem to be diminishing soon. According

to the UNWTO, international tourism arrivals are growing faster in developing countries than developed countries. .

In the case of developing countries, the increase in jobs is not always as positive as it can be in developed countries. According to Choy (1995) critics of the industry argue that tourism often provides low paying, low-skilled, and demeaning jobs. One of those critics, Liu and Wall (2006), speaks to how locals in developing countries often lack the required education and skills to be involved in tourism development, which leads to managerial and senior positions being filled by foreigners and lower level lower paying positions left to the locals. They acknowledge that while tourism does contribute jobs, many reports and destination development plans only mention the number of jobs, and do not speak to the level or quality of the jobs. On the contrary, Croes (2014) explains that while the hotel industry often has lower wages than, for example, the sugar industry, hotel employees have permanent contracts and better benefits such as bonuses and paid leave. The sugar industry and other agricultural industries such as cocoa and coffee are primary jobs in many developing countries, but tourism can offer certain aspects that those jobs do not.

Tourism in developing countries can also sometimes lead to social inequality and other problems. Liu and Wall (2006) state:

In the developing world, tourism is usually implemented through a top-down planning approach. Decision-making in such tourism developments is predominately based on the interventions of government agencies and large tourism firms, resulting in the dominance of external, often foreign, capital and the marginalization of local people (p. 159).

They also share how local people in developing countries are often unfamiliar with the workings of a service economy, which causes tourism to be manipulated bureaucratic initiatives. In order to change this, the local people must be educated and become familiar with running tourism businesses. “There appears to be a general oversight by governments to address the connection between education, ability to deliver a quality tourism experience and the need to develop a sustainable tourism industry” (Liu & Wall, p. 163). While studies have acknowledged the importance of locals being involved in tourism planning if the local communities are to benefit, there is not enough strategies being studied or implemented (Liu & Wall). Liu and Wall also state “Often, little more is done than the hiring of a few “local experts” at modest remuneration to assist the highly paid team of consultants” (p. 161).

For example, a study by Croes (2014) shows that in Costa Rica the poor are excluded from jobs due to tourism development. Croes explains how often it is higher educated people and foreigners who end up getting the jobs. The study shows how in the case of Costa Rica tourism does not benefit the poor, but in the case of Nicaragua it does because of Nicaragua emphasizing a pro-poor tourism approach. This confirms Kim et al.’s (2016) claim that tourism development does not guarantee poverty alleviation in developing countries.

It appears that while tourism has the opportunity to contribute to socio-economic development, sometimes tourism can also cause unintended hardships. In order to create healthy socio-economic development in developing countries specifically, a lot of steps must be taken to ensure that tourism is employing locals, not contributing to social inequality, and a pro-poor tourism approach is being utilized.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to compare strategies of socio-economic development through tourism in select developing countries.

Research Questions

This study attempted to answer the following research questions (*include 3-5 Qs*):

1. What are social development practices through tourism in The Dominican Republic and Haiti?
2. What are economic development practices through tourism in The Dominican Republic and Haiti?
3. How effective are the social development practices through tourism in The Dominican Republic and Haiti?
4. How effective are the economic development practices through tourism in the Dominican Republic & Haiti?

Chapter 2

METHODS

The purpose of this study was to compare strategies of socio-economic development through tourism in selected developing countries. This chapter includes the following sections: description of organizations, description of instrument, and description of procedures.

Description of Organization/s

A comparative analysis was conducted between The Dominican Republic and Haiti. Together the Dominican Republic and Haiti make up the island of Hispaniola, which is known for its tropical climate, offering average temperatures of 77 degrees Fahrenheit (DominicanRepublic.com, n. d.). The two countries have almost the same geographic location and climate.

The Dominican Republic is the second largest nation in the Caribbean, making up 18,172 square miles of rugged highlands and fertile valleys on the island of Hispaniola (DominicanRepublic.com, n. d.). The country has a highly diverse geography ranging from desert plains to tropical rainforests, while most tourists come for the 870 miles of coastline and sandy beaches. Over 6 million overnight visitors and 1,100,000 cruise passengers visit the Dominican Republic every year (Dominican Republic Has it all, n. d.). The total population is 10.77 million (World Bank, 2017), the official language is Spanish, and 95% of the population is Roman Catholic. The racial demographics are 16% white, 11% black, and 73% mixed.

Haiti occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, making up 10,714 square miles, including 950 miles of coastline. (Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, n. d.). There are also mountains nearing 3,000 meters high providing rich flora and fauna, a variety of animal and plant species, and incredible waterfalls (Experience Haiti, n. d.).

Tourism began in Haiti in the 1970s. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit the southwest side of Haiti, causing mass destruction in certain areas. Experience Haiti (n. d.) says the best way to help is to travel and spend your money in Haiti, buy Haitian art, or choose an organization to donate through. The population of Haiti is 10.98 million (World Bank, 2017), the official languages are French and Creole, and 80% of the population is Roman Catholic (Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, (n. d). The racial demographics are 95% black and 5% mulatto and white. Additionally, the risk of major infectious diseases is considered high, and as of 2006, 18.9% of children under 5 were considered underweight.

Description of Instrument

The instrument utilized in this study was a best practices analysis developed by the researcher (see Appendix A). The instrument was created after discovering and researching areas that contribute to socio-economic development in the Review of Literature. The instrument displays various areas of development within a county, a description of each area including what the researcher is looking for and how it will be measured, and a section to include what was discovered. A pilot test was conducted on a similar developing Latin American country. After the pilot, the researcher altered the instrument by removing a section on the country's international marketing approaches, as marketing approaches are not a type of socio-economic development like the other areas.

Description of Procedures

A comparative analysis was conducted between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The instrument utilized in this study was a best practices analysis developed by the researcher. Research for this study was conducted during a two-week period in February 2019. The results are a combination of both qualitative and quantitative data. The researcher conducted the study by using information from the country's government websites and various tourism-related websites. Additionally, research was done using articles and journals from Cal Poly's academic databases including Hospitality and Tourism Complete and the One Search function. Data were also gathered from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Index of Human Development for Inequality, the World Health Organization, Human Rights Watch, and Worldbank. Finally, The World Travel and Tourism Council's Economic Impact Reports for each country were utilized.

Chapter 3

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

The purpose of this study was to compare strategies of socio-economic development through tourism in selected developing countries. A comparative analysis was utilized to examine the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This chapter includes the following sections: social development and economic development.

Social Development

The following factors were used to evaluate social development in the Dominican Republic and Haiti: life expectancy, human development index (HDI), human development index ranking, poverty index, gender inequality index, gender inequality rating, and literacy percentage. For data purposes literate is defined as able to read and write by age 15. For a complete presentation of these findings, see Table 1.

Table 1

Quantitative Social Development Factors

Factor	Dominican Republic	Haiti
Life expectancy	73.5	63.5
HDI	0.736	0.496
HDI Ranking	94	168
Poverty Index	30.5%	58.6%
Gender Inequality Index	0.451	0.601
Gender Inequality Index Ranking	103	144
Literacy Rate	82%	51.20%

Of the HDI rankings, The Dominican Republic is considered in the “high” category, and Haiti is considered in the “low” category. The Dominican Republic ranks better than Haiti in all of the above categories.

Although the Dominican Republic is doing comparatively well, they still have some social development challenges, one being inequality. One aspect of inequality the Dominican Republic struggles with is gender inequality, as shown in Table 1. In the Dominican Republic, only 19% of congressional spots are filled by women.

Additionally, participation in the workforce is 51% women vs. 78.6% men. Another form of social inequality the Dominican Republic struggles with is racism. Although the population is predominantly dark in complexion, those with the darkest complexion tend to be discriminated against. Additionally, the Dominicans have a history of discriminating against Haitians. There are numerous times in history where the Dominican Government deported high volumes of Haitians living in the Dominican Republic at a time.

Haiti has similar inequality issues but more severe. Haiti is the most unequal country in Latin America, with the richest 20% holding 64% of wealth while the poorest 20% barely holds 1%. Additionally, gender based violence in Haiti is extremely high, and there is no laws against domestic violence. Haiti has been deeply affected by natural disaster over the years including the 2010 earthquake and the 2016 hurricane. There are still 38,000 people still living in displacement camps from the 2010 earthquake. Haiti is currently in a state of civil unrest, as Haitians are violently protesting current president Jovenel Moïse for being corrupt. The United states has been retracting all non-emergency personnel including tourists from the country.

There are certain ways tourism can contribute to these inequalities. In the Dominican Republic transnational companies, foreign investors, and large-scale enclave tourism projects are the dominant form of tourism development. This means that foreigners are in power and often key decision makers. Another example in the Dominican Republic is that the constitution states that all beaches are considered public land. However private resorts come taking over the nicest beaches, not allowing locals or anyone not paying to enter. This leaves few and far less nice beaches left to the locals. Additionally, many women living in poverty in both countries end up becoming victims to sex tourism, which is a huge industry in Hispaniola. It is most prominent in certain areas of the Dominican Republic, where both Dominicans and Haitians move to become sex workers, but it is seen in Haiti as well. While this helps the women out of poverty, it does not help with gender roles and also leads to the spread of HIV. It was found that many women often join the industry fantasizing that a European man will fall in love with them and take them away from Hispaniola and out of poverty, yet in most cases this dream does not become a reality. Another controversial example of inequality between tourists and locals was a Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship ported in Haiti just 3 days after the catastrophic 2010 earthquake. Aside from inequality within the country, there is definite inequality seen between visitors and locals.

Economic Development

The following factors were used to evaluate economic development and tourism's contributions to economic development in the Dominican Republic and Haiti: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), travel and tourism's total contribution to GDP, visitor exports

as a percent of total exports, travel and tourism investments as a percent of total investments, travel and tourism contribution to total employment, and the number of tourism related jobs. For the employment factors the data includes jobs that are indirectly supported by the tourism industry, meaning they are a part of the tourism industry without being a direct lodging accommodation or tour company. For a complete presentation of these findings, see Table 2.

Table 2

Quantitative Economic Development Factors

Factor	Dominican Republic	Haiti
GDP	\$75.93 billion	\$8.408 billion
Tourism's contribution to GDP	17.2%	9.2%
Visitor exports as % of total exports	38.7%	34.4%
Tourism investments as % of total investments	3.8%	4.2%
Tourism as % of total employment	15.9%	8.5%
Number of tourism jobs	678,500	364,500

Another positive factor for the Dominican Republic is that they have the highest hotel taxes of all Caribbean countries. This is good because tax money actually benefits the local government and population, unlike some other forms of tourism income, which are sometimes more likely to benefit foreigners and large chains. For example, all-inclusive resorts are often owned by foreigners. Additionally, all-inclusive resorts can harm local businesses because tourists don't have reason to leave the resort with everything they need included.

Tourism jobs are a vital part of economic development for both countries as shown in Table 2. Unfortunately, no information was found on the quality of the jobs

including the pay, benefits, and overall experience, nor the level of jobs referring to whether locals fill entry level positions or managerial positions. It was found though that younger more educated individuals who know foreign languages are most likely to benefit from tourism.

Chapter 4

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The significance of this study is to help governments, policy planners, and tourism planners understand how to use tourism as a means for positive socio-economic development without causing harm. This concluding chapter includes the following: a discussion of the major findings, limitations, conclusions, and recommendations for the organizations, industry, and future research.

Discussion

Research on the social development of both the Dominican Republic and Haiti showed the Dominican Republic with a more favorable score on a variety of quantitative data. However, both countries struggle immensely with poverty and inequality within the country, inequality within tourism, and inequality between tourists and locals. The data leads to the assumption that the Dominican Republic is more socially developed than Haiti. Research also leads to the assumption that tourism in each country is contributing to social development in some aspects, yet harming social development in others. Liu and Wall (2006) stress how foreigners making tourism and policy decisions leads to marginalization of locals, and how for tourism to be sustainable local people must be highly involved. The Dominican Republic would benefit from having less transnational companies, foreign investors, and large-scale enclave tourism projects. Having locals involved in decision making would help solve a lot of inequality problems. For example,

local tourism planners would be less likely to set up a system where the locals are not allowed to use the beaches. Additionally, both the Dominican Republic and Haiti should enforce policy against sex tourism, as it is shown to negatively affect gender inequality, which is an area of social development both countries struggle with. In the meantime, it would be beneficial to provide health care services to affected areas to reduce the spread of HIV. Additionally, large companies, such as Royal Caribbean, should be mindful about how their presence in The Dominican Republic and Haiti is affecting the country. Finally, Haiti should continue spending resources and effort on disaster relief to help the thousands of people still displaced from disasters.

Research on economic development showed that the Dominican Republic and Haiti are both very reliant on tourism as a major economic driver. Both countries had high percentages of total income, exports, jobs, and more as a result of tourism. This confirms Cvelbar et al.'s (2016) claim that tourism factors are the greatest competitive drivers in developing countries. Bojanic and Lo (2016) say this is positive because countries can actually benefit from higher levels of tourism reliance if they focus on sustainable practices. This leads the researcher to believe that both countries should continue putting resources and efforts into growing tourism, as it is a very important driver of economic development. This is confirmed by Croes' (2014) study that showed a 1% increase in tourism receipts reduces the poverty index by 1.23 points, leading to the assumption that the high percentage of total receipts being tourism receipts in each country is positive. Additionally, the countries should focus on making education a priority as it is mostly younger, educated individuals who end up benefiting from tourism jobs in The Dominican Republic and Haiti. This is supported by Liu and Wall's (2006)

claim that locals in developing countries often lack the required education and skills to be involved in tourism development, which leads to managerial and senior positions being filled by foreigners and lower level lower paying positions left to the locals. Finally, Haiti should consider raising hotel taxes as done in the Dominican Republic to increase revenue that goes directly to the government and local population.

There were several limitations that may have impacted the results of this study. First, a very limited sample size was utilized. The results in the Dominican Republic and Haiti cannot be generalized to all developing countries, as every country and region has differing situations and challenges. Additionally, both countries are in Latin America, and results could be very different for countries in other geographic locations with different cultures. Second, a big limitation was access to information. The government's tourism plans were not found online, and there was much less information available on Haiti than there was on the Dominican Republic, leading to slight bias. Finally, the most significant limitation was conducting research on Hispaniola without being in Hispaniola. There is only so much depth on a topic a researcher can gain without being present in the location being researched.

For decades the Dominican Republic has been leading the way for underdeveloped countries using tourism as a means of development. Now, both the Dominican Republic and Haiti rely on Tourism as a major sector of their economy. However, tourism's effect on development in the countries is not only positive, there is occasionally negative implications. The Dominican Republic and Haiti see both positive and negative effects on social development, while the effects on economic development are primarily positive with some room for improvements.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. The Dominican Republic is more socially developed than Haiti, yet both countries struggle immensely with poverty and inequality within the country, inequality within tourism, and inequality between tourists and locals.
2. Both the Dominican Republic and Haiti are very reliant on tourism as an economic driver, as tourism contributes to a high percentage of their total income, jobs, exports, and more.
3. Tourism in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is contributing to positive social development in some aspects, yet harming social development in others.
4. The economic development practices through tourism are overall positive in both the Dominican Republic and Haiti, however there are still ways each need to improve.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Dominican Republic would benefit from having less transnational companies, foreign investors, and large-scale enclave tourism projects.
2. The Dominican Republic and Haiti should place an emphasis on ensuring locals are involved in tourism planning and decision making.

3. The Dominican Republic and Haiti should enforce policy against sex tourism in order to help gender inequality. They should also place an emphasis on healthcare services in order to stop the spread of HIV surrounding the industry.
4. Haiti should continue to spend effort and resources on disaster relief.
5. The Dominican Republic and Haiti should continue putting resources and efforts into growing tourism as a means for economic development.
6. The Dominican Republic and Haiti should place an emphasis on education as a means of getting a greater portion of the population able to benefit from the tourism industry.
7. Haiti should consider raising hotel taxes as done in the Dominican Republic to increase revenue that goes directly to the government and local population.
8. Future research should be done in developing countries via interviewing locals, tourism industry members, government officials, policy planners, etc. to gain a more in depth analysis.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix A

Area	Description	DR	Haiti
Social Development	Inequality in country, inequality in tourism, human development index, gender inequality index		
Poverty	Poverty Index, whether a pro-poor tourism approach is being utilized, and how tourism contributes		
Economic Development	GDP, economic growth, how tourism contributes		
Tourism Jobs	Amount of tourism jobs, quality of jobs (pay, benefits, experience), level of jobs (executives & managers vs. entry level)		