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The Role of Local Community in Enhancing Sustainable Community Based Tourism

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Abstract: The emergence of "community-based tourism" (CBT) is seen as a viable and alternative means of promoting sustainable tourism development, enhancing community welfare, as well as empowering local communities. By actively involving and empowering the local community, this tourism model aims to minimize negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts while fostering economic benefits for the community. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the pivotal role played by local communities in the success and sustainability of community-based tourism initiatives. Therefore, a systematic review is conducted to investigate the multifaceted contributions of the local community to sustainable community-based tourism. The researcher examined relevant peer-reviewed articles, books, and reports published in English between 2000 and 2022, focusing on the role of local community in enhancing sustainable community-based tourism. The search was performed in important databases such as Google Scholar, Tandfonline, and ScienceDirect, resulting in a total of 965 publications. After applying removing duplicates and inclusion criteria, only 30 articles out of 152 full articles met the requirements. This thorough and systematic review concludes that active participation of the local community in decision-making processes positively impacts sustainable "community-based tourism". The findings highlight that the local community acts as a key stakeholder in decision-making processes, ensuring that tourism development aligns with community values and aspirations.

Keywords: local community, sustainable tourism, community-based tourism, homestays, Data analysis, Automation

INTRODUCTION

Community -based Tourism (CBT) is a form of tourism that emphasize the active participation of local communities in to purism development and management. Its aims to empower communities by involving them in decision making, economic benefits, and cultural preservation. In CBT, tourists engage directly with local residents, their culture, and environment, providing a more authentic and sustainable travel experience. this approach can help promote community development, preserve cultural heritage, and create economic opportunities for locals. By supporting the CBT initiative, travelers can contribute to the well-being and empowerment of locals.

Traditionally, tourism development has often been top-down, with decisions and resources controlled by external entities such as government agencies or private corporations. However, this approach has often neglected the needs and aspirations of the local communities residing in and around tourist destinations. Moreover, it has resulted in negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts, including the displacement of local populations, degradation of cultural traditions, and exploitation of natural resources (Choi and Sirakaya 2006). As a result, the tourism sector has undertaken novel approaches to perform tourism-related activities. In the realm of tourism,

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Murphy (1985) posited the notion of "community-based tourism" (CBT), which proposes that the local community that resides in the destination of the tours should be entrusted with the responsibility, or at minimum, should be actively engaged in the planning and maintenance of tourism undertakings in their vicinity. "Community Based Tourism" (CBT) is often posited as a remedy for the various challenges faced by local communities. It encompasses not only the ecological sustainability but also includes the social and cultural sustainability, as outlined in previous research. In the context of tourism development, it is perceived as the foremost substitute for establishing the primary mode of tourism in a country, and for rendering an efficacious framework for its management in the times ahead (Sitikarn, 2021).

Contrarily, "community-based tourism" holds utmost significance in the realm of tourism industry, and serves as a crucial determinant for the longevity of tourist destinations. Communities, despite holding considerable significance in the context of tourism, are frequently overlooked. Many tourist destinations overlook the locals, or at best use them as a gimmick or local resources deployment for tourists. It should act as a tool to improve quality (Gascon, 2013).

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the pivotal role played by local communities in the success and "sustainability" of "community-based tourism" initiatives. The role of the local community in enhancing "sustainable community-based tourism" extends beyond mere participation. It encompasses active engagement, collaboration, and shared benefits among community members, tourism operators, and other stakeholders. Local communities possess unique knowledge, cultural heritage, and natural resources that can be leveraged to create authentic and meaningful tourism experiences. Additionally, community involvement fosters a sense of stewardship and promotes the preservation of local traditions, environment, and resources for future generations (Hiwasaki, 2006).

Nepal, known for its abundant cultural and biological diversity, possesses immense potential as a tourist destination, attracting a significant number of visitors each year. Tourism industry has emerged as a significant catalyst for the economic advancement of a nation. The tourism industry in Nepal has experienced significant growth in recent years, with local communities also engaging in tourism activities using traditional methods. The tourism industry Nepal is currently experiencing a decline in environmental aspects, despite its huge potential. Furthermore, there has been a growing emphasis on sustainable tourism approaches, even at the community level, in recent years. The local communities are a crucial component in the tourism industries as they act as destination hosts and play an important factor in the progress of tourism and promote local goods of the nation (Nyaupane *et.al.,* 2006).

"Community-based tourism" emphasizes the active involvement and empowerment of local communities in the planning, development, and management of tourism activities. By placing local residents at the center of decision-making processes, "community-based tourism" seeks to ensure that tourism development aligns with their interests, values, and aspirations. This approach aims to foster a sense of ownership, pride, and responsibility among community members, leading to more sustainable and equitable outcomes (Iorio and Corsale, 2014).

Despite the increasing recognition of sustainable "community-based tourism" as a promising approach for local economic development and cultural preservation, there is dearth of literature in this area, especially in context of Nepal. Existing research on sustainable tourism often focuses on broader environmental and economic aspects, neglecting the crucial role of local communities as active stakeholders. Within this context, this research aims to explore the link between local community involvement and the sustainability of "community-based tourism", ultimately contributing to the development of inclusive and sustainable tourism practices that benefit both the communities and the tourism industry as a whole.

Original Concept of "Community-based tourism"

Originating in Thailand during the 1990s, the concept of "community-based tourism (CBT)" promotes the notion of tourism organized and conducted by local residents for the benefit of the local community. This approach is regarded as a viable solution for achieving sustainable tourism, as it grants local communities the authority to make decisions regarding their tourism development and ensures that they reap the full benefits from it. As longstanding inhabitants of the areas, local communities possess a greater incentive to strike a balance between economic growth and the socio-cultural and environmental impacts associated with tourism activities. Ultimately, it is their home that is at stake. But it's important to know that CBT is not just about tourism in rural areas. It can be applied to different types of tourism, like in cities, natural areas, or even luxury settings. The main idea behind

CBT is to empower the community by giving them control over their own lives and improving their well-being through tourism.

"Community-based tourism (CBT)" is a type of sustainable tourism where local communities play a key role in planning, developing, and managing tourism activities. Its main goal is to empower and benefit the local communities by promoting economic growth, preserving their culture, and protecting the environment. In CBT, the local communities have a direct say in making decisions and actively participate in various aspects of tourism, such as providing accommodation, transportation, guiding services, cultural experiences, and showcasing their unique heritage and resources. This approach values the local knowledge, traditions, and customs, aiming to create a mutually beneficial relationship between tourists and communities (Baniya *et.al.*, 2018).

Key Aspects of Sustainable Community-Based Tourism

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO): "Sustainable Community-Based Tourism is tourism that respects both local people and the traveler, cultural heritage and the environment." "It allows the traveler to enjoy an enriching experience and helps to create economic opportunities for local communities" (UNWTO, 2002). The key aspects of sustainable community-based tourism are involvement in decision making, community involvement, sustainability, culture preservation, economic empowerment, and capacity building (Walter *et. al.*,2018; Reimer and Walter, 2013; Bhalla *et. al.*,2016).

Community Involvement/ Participation

The concept of community participation involves providing individuals with increased opportunities to actively participate in developmental endeavors. This approach is further geared towards empowering individuals to capitalize on their own capabilities, and to adopt a more proactive social role, as opposed to being passive observers. As such, community participation enables people to aptly manage their resources and exercise decision-making abilities, consequently exerting greater control over activities that impact their lives (Ponna, 2011).

According to Esteban and Macarena (2006), community involvement serves as a fundamental aspect of tourism development strategies in both developed and underdeveloped countries and represents a central goal in the sustainable management of resources. Community members hold significant value in providing comprehensive perspectives on heritage tourism. They offer practical and tangible dimensions and metrics related to community identity, thereby aiding in the evaluation, strategizing and organization of this form of tourism.

One key aspect of the local community's role in "sustainable community-based tourism" is their involvement in decision-making processes. When local residents are actively engaged in the planning and management of tourism activities, their knowledge and perspectives are taken into account, ensuring that tourism development aligns with community needs and aspirations. This participatory approach enhances the authenticity and uniqueness of the tourism experience, as it is shaped by the local community's values, traditions, and aspirations.

Local communities are actively engaged in all stages of tourism development, from planning and decision-making to implementation and management. They have a say in the development of tourism activities and can contribute their unique knowledge, skills, and cultural assets.

Sustainable Tourism practice

One commonly used concept of Sustainable CBT research is triple bottom line approaches which consider three interrelated dimensions: social, economic and environmental sustainability. It reflects balancing economic benefits, community well-being, and environmental conservation.

According to Weaver and Lawton (2014), sustainable tourism is "an approach to tourism that maximizes the benefits to communities, minimizes negative environmental impacts, and generates greater economic benefits for local people." Sustainable tourism refers to an approach that seeks to minimize negative environmental, social, and economic impacts while maximizing the positive benefits of tourism on local communities and their natural surroundings. It involves the responsible management of tourism activities, ensuring the long-term viability of resources, cultural heritage, and ecosystems for future generations.

Sustainable tourism has gained recognition as an alternative form of tourism that is economically, socially, and environmentally friendly. However, challenges such as displacement of people, commercialization of culture, and economic dependency need to be addressed (MichniewiczAnkiersztajn, et.al., 2018).

Cultural Impression and Preservation

CBT aims to protect and promote the cultural heritage of the community. It encourages visitors to respect local customs, traditions, and ways of life, while offering authentic cultural experiences that reflect the community's identity.

Economic Benefits for local community

CBT seeks to generate economic benefits for local communities, providing them with opportunities for income generation, employment, and entrepreneurship. Revenue from tourism activities is reinvested in community development projects, infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

Capacity Building and Empowerment

CBT promotes the development of skills and knowledge within the community, empowering individuals to actively participate in tourism-related activities. Training programs and capacity-building initiatives are implemented to enhance the community's ability to manage and benefit from tourism.
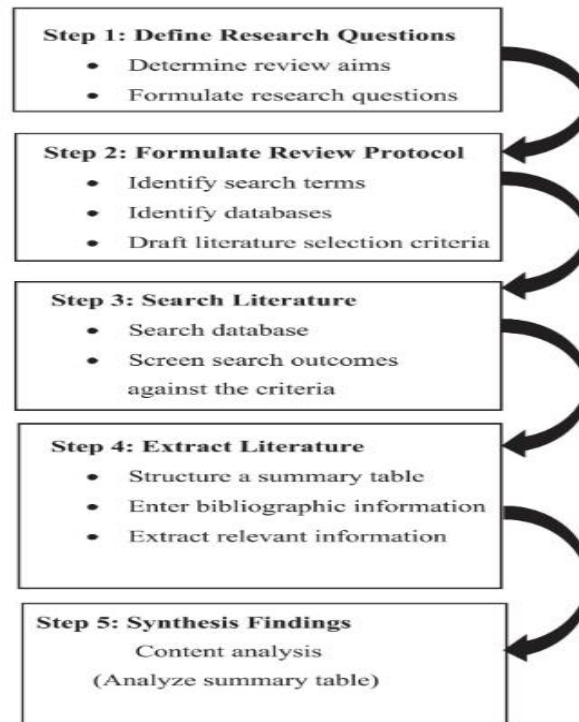
Collaboration and Partnership

Collaboration and partnership play a crucial role in achieving sustainability goals by fostering collective action, sharing knowledge and resources, and promoting synergy among diverse stakeholders. They promote inclusive decision-making, leverage diverse expertise, and facilitate the pooling of resources and efforts. They foster innovation, collective problem-solving, and the pursuit of shared goals. By working together, stakeholders can achieve more significant and long-lasting sustainability outcomes than through isolated efforts (Gray *et. al*., 2015).

Inclusivity and Social Justice

Inclusivity and social justice are fundamental elements of sustainability as they ensure equitable and fair outcomes for all individuals and communities, regardless of their socio-economic background or identities. They promote fairness, equal opportunities, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. By incorporating principles of inclusivity and social justice, sustainability efforts can address systemic inequalities and create a more just and equitable world.

Methodology

The objective of this research was to examine the influence of community involvement on sustainable community-based tourism through an extensive review of scholarly articles. The researcher employed the systematic literature review (SLR) methodology, following the guidelines proposed by Higgins and Green (2011), to systematically gather, organize, and synthesize the information in a rigorous and structured manner. To accurately classify the text in the input data, in this research a random forest algorithm is implemented to classify the input textual data. According to Pickering and Byrne (2013), systematic reviews have the ability to incorporate insights derived from both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. In the current study, five SLR steps are undertaken, which were adapted from Pickering and Byrne (2013).

The initial stage focuses on establishing the objectives of the review and creating relevant research inquiries. Following this, the next step involves creating a review protocol that entails meticulously designing the criteria for literature selection and identifying appropriate search terms and databases. During the third phase of the research process, the selected databases are meticulously scrutinized to identify relevant literature and then evaluated based on predetermined criteria to refine the results. The next step involves the extraction and concise synthesis of relevant information in a tabular form, while finally the next step entails the thorough examination of the gathered data using content analysis.

Research Aim

The research objectives can guide the studies focused on understanding, evaluating and improving Community based tourism initiatives and it will be help to support or the sustainable development of tourism in local communities. the research objective depends on the specific context and goals of the study. And the following are primary research objectives for CBT:

1) How CBT initiatives contribute to community development, including factors such as income generation, employment opportunities, infrastructure development, and social inclusion?

2) How CBT initiatives contribute to the preservation and promotion of local culture, tradition, customs, heritage and how they mitigate the negative impacts on cultural authenticity?

3) What are the best practice and success factors for CBT implementation such as identifying and analyzing successful CBT modules, strategies and approaches that have positively impacted to communities and provide valuable insights for future CBT initiatives.

Systematic Review Protocol of CBT

The review protocol of this review comprised a set of systematic guidelines that delineated the databases, search terms, and criteria for literature selection. The present study utilized specific word schemes in order to identify and analyze prior research endeavors that have investigated the "Community Based Tourism" through the lens of "sustainability". The search keywords are "sustainable" and either "local community" or "home-stays," "sustainable tourism," and "environmental sustainability," in an effort to comprehensively capture relevant literature and perspectives on the topic. The principal phrase "role of local community in enhancing sustainable community-based tourism" is used for more precision result. The databases used in this review are: Google Scholars, Science Direct, Taylor & Francis Online.

Inclusion Criteria

To make sure the research is good, only articles that have been checked by experts/ "peer-reviewed "and published in recognized journal were used. Here is a list of "inclusion criteria" the author used to choose which sources to include in this review of literature:
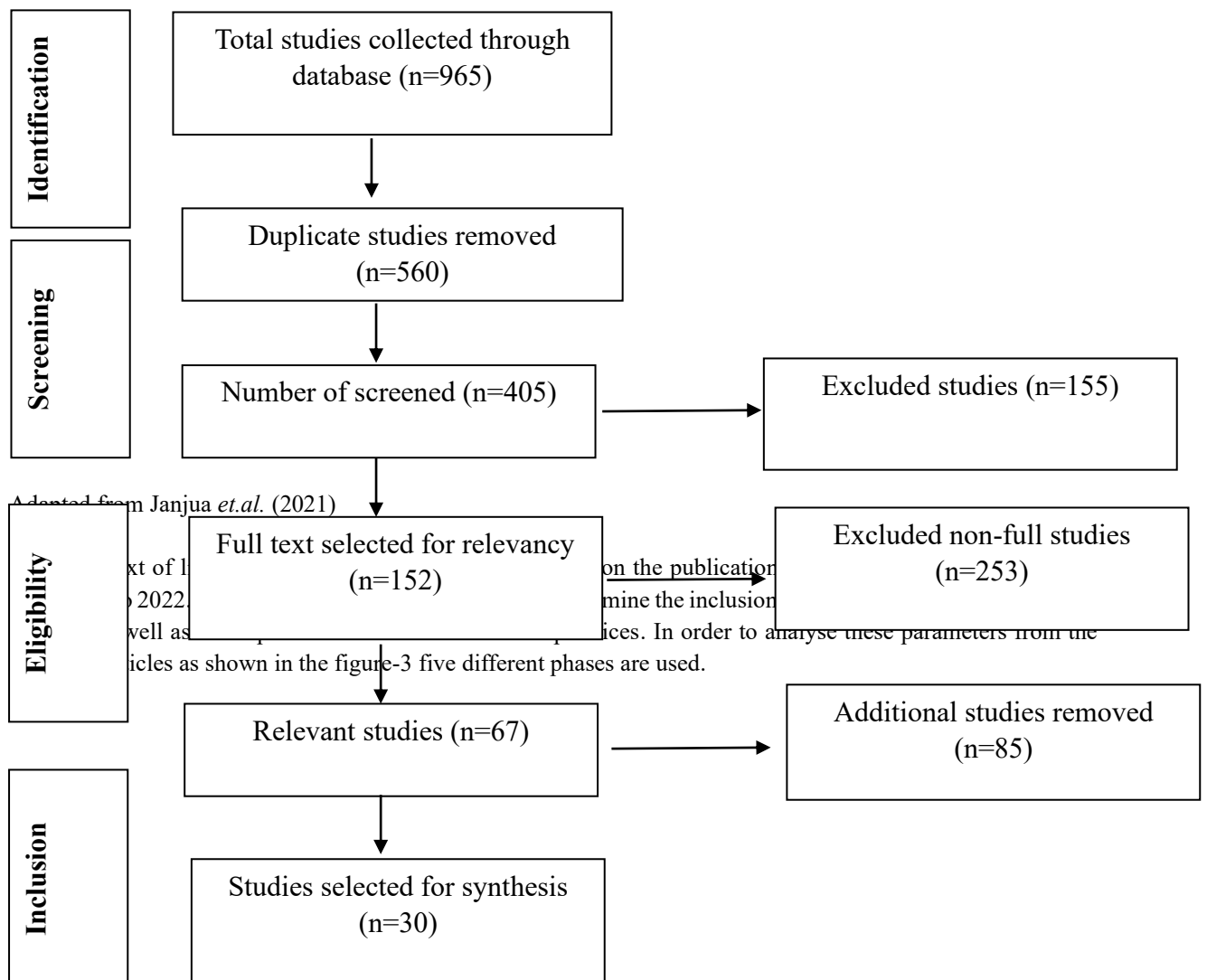
Time span: 2000-2022

Language: English

Access: Open Full-text article

Relevant: Subject and keyword must be relevant to study topic ("sustainable tourism", "community-based tourism", "sustainability", "homestays").

Type of research: Peer-reviewed article, google books and research report

Screening

The "Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)" is used as screening methodology (PRISMA, 2019). The "PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses)" methodology is a set of guidelines and a reporting framework which provides a structured approach for researchers to plan, conduct, and report their studies systematically (Liberati, 2009). The PRISMA methodology has been extensively deployed in previous "community-based tourism" (Yang *et. al.,* 2017).
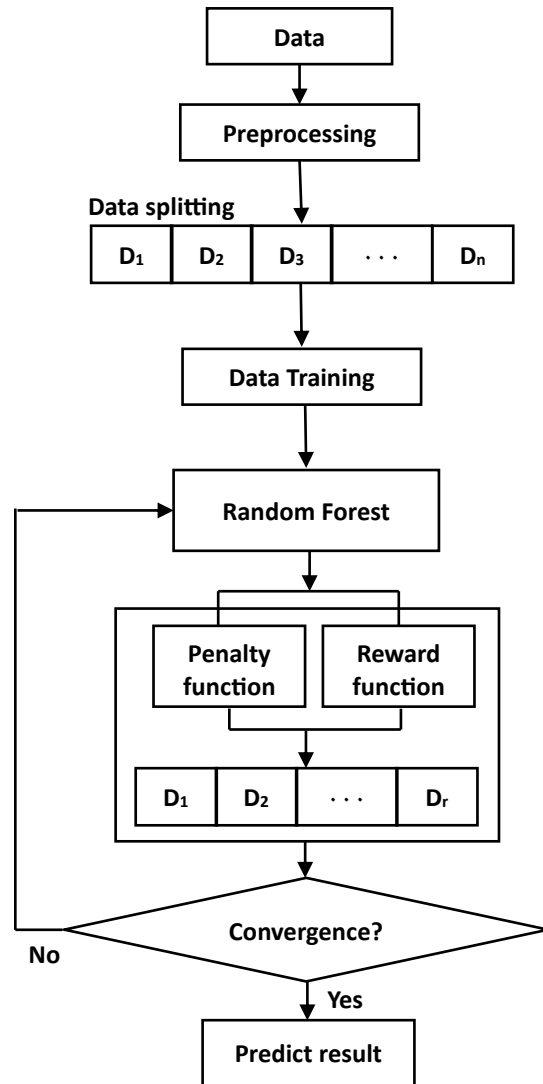

Adapted from Janjua *et.al.* (2021)

xt of l ... on the publication
 2022. ... mine the inclusion
well as ... ices. In order to analyse these parameters from the
icles as shown in the figure-3 five different phases are used.

Figure-3 Workflow of the proposed approach

Random Forest

One of the machine learning techniques is random forest which is used to solve classification and regression. It is used for ensemble learning. This technique combines classification to provide solutions for complex problems. The algorithm consists of many decision trees. A random forest algorithm is trained for bootstrap or bagging aggregation. The bagging algorithms will ensemble and improve the accuracy of machine learning algorithms. The random forest algorithm outcome is based on decision tree prediction. Moreover, increasing the number of trees will increase the outcome. However, it helps to reduce the overfitting of datasets and increases precision. A random Forest algorithm is a building block of decision trees. The decision tree is a supporting technique to form a tree-like structure. Thus, the decision tree helps to understand the working algorithm of random forest. The random forest can perform both classification and regression tasks. It produces good predictions for a better understanding. The dataset can be handled efficiently. The random forest algorithm has a higher level of efficiency and accuracy in the outcome prediction than the decision tree algorithm.

Text classification using porposed RF algorithm

At first, data pr-processing step is performed to remove the repeated content in the input data. this step will reduce the computational complexity of the proposed approach. After pre-processed the input data, the entire data are classified into multiple data $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots x_n$ to reduce the model complexity as shown in the equation-1.

$$Input\ D = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_N, y_N),\} \quad (1)$$

Then the split data are trained and obtained trained R data in equation-2 result are transferred into the the proposed RF model.

$$D_r = \{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_R\}$$

Here the proposed RF model automatically analyse the input textual based several parameters as discussed in the above-mentioned section. Based on the data received from the RF, the automatic learning system update the type of functions. That is, if the RF return zero, the reward function is activated to predict the final prediction. The reward fiunction based final updation result is generated using equation-3.

$$p_i(n + 1) = p_i(n) + a[1 - p_i(n)]$$
$$p_j(n + 1) = (1 - \alpha)p_j(n), \ \ \forall j, j \neq i \quad (3)$$

Else, the penalty function is activated, when the ,model returns one. The prediction result produced by the peanlty fucntion is performed using equation-(4).

$$p_i(n + 1) = p_i(n) + a[1 - p_i(n)]$$
$$p_j(n + 1) = (1 - \alpha)p_j(n), \ \ \forall j, j \neq i \quad (4)$$

By using these functions, the data received from the RF model is updated at each time of iterations. Based on the probabilities of high voting the final meta-analysis report is generated by the propose approach to improve the sustainability of tourism. If the convergence result is not high, the overall classification process is start from the begin. This process will continue until the entire textual data are analysed more successfully.

Results and Discussion
Meta Analysis

This review has found that a rising cohort of scholars hailing from developing nations are dedicating their efforts towards the study of community-based rural homestays, with a particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region encompassing nations such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, and Cambodia (UNWTO, 2018). Majority of research in context of Nepal are also focused on homestays as community based sustainable tourism. Let's discuss the findings in detail.

Authors	Country	Research Focus	Theory Applied	Conclusion
Rahman *et.al.* (2021)	Malaysia	"Community participation in ecotourism development"	Stakeholders' collaboration theory	"Community participation is important for the development of ecotourism, which in turn lead to sustainable development of economic, social and environmental in marine protected areas. The involvement of local communities contributes to promotion of local culture and protection of natural resources."
Fong and Lo (2015)	Malaysia	"Community involvement, for sustainable tourism, Stakeholders collaboration theory"	N/A	"The findings of the study have indicated that the involvement of local communities in decision-making processes, the provision of opportunities for their empowerment, and the possession of knowledge by the community with regard to tourism constitute significant factors for the promotion of sustainable rural tourism development."
Ponna (2011)	Cambodia	Community participation	Sustainable theory	"Results have shown that local communities' participation in decision making, empowerment, and community knowledge about tourism are the important elements in

				achieving sustainability in rural tourism development because local communities are the residents in these rural tourism destinations and they have the knowledge about their own community to make decisions which will benefit the destinations."
Rasoolimanesh, S. M., & Jaafar, M. (2016)	N/A	Community participation	N/A	"The level of community participation encompasses a spectrum that spans from active involvement in the decision-making processes at the most elevated echelon, to engagement in economic activities and advocating for the destination at the subordinate level. The engagement of communities plays a pivotal role in revitalizing and maintaining the esteemed status of World Heritage Sites (WHSs), resulting in economic progress and subsequent enhancements in the standard of living of neighboring communities."
Walter *et.al.* (2018)	Nepal	"Community based ecotourism in Nepal"	N/A	"Homestay and host learning has high importance in the sustainable community-based ecotourism."
Acharya and Halpenny (2013)	Nepal	"Homestays as community-based tourism"		"Homestays is an alternative form of community-based tourism that fosters sustainable community development and gender equality."
Ellis and Sheridan (2015)	Hong Kong	"Community Participation, Sustainability theory"	Sustainability theory	"The involvement of the community is a crucial factor in facilitating the sustainable development of tourism. In view of the symbiotic relationship that exists between tourism and the local community, where the tourism destinations are encompassed by communities in which local residents actively interact, it becomes imperative to engage the community to achieve sustainable tourism development."
Dahal *et.al.* (2020)	Nepal	"Community-Based Homestay, Ecotourism"	N/A	"The significance of local communities in the sphere of tourism development is considerable. The implementation of planning and management strategies by local communities contributes significantly to the promotion of sustainability within the tourism industry. Consequently, the advancement of the tourism sector is intricately linked to the participation, function, and

				favorable reception of the native inhabitants towards visitors."

Thematic Analysis

The study conducted by Acharya and Halpenny (2013) is relevant for Nepalese context. Thus, the thematic analysis is conducted to understand about community based-tourism in detail. This research explores the role of homestays as an alternative tourism product for sustainable community development, with a specific focus on a women-managed tourism product in rural Nepal. The proposed RF based article text analysis model employ a qualitative approach and conduct a case study to gain insights into the experiences and perspectives of local women involved in the homestay program. The thematic analysis of the study reveals several key findings.

- Firstly, the establishment of homestays has provided economic opportunities for women in rural communities, enabling them to generate income and contribute to the household economy. This economic empowerment has led to an improvement in the overall socio-economic status of women and their families.

- Secondly, the homestay program has enhanced the social capital of the community by fostering stronger social connections and networks among the women and between the women and tourists. The interactions and cultural exchange between the guests and hosts have resulted in increased cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

- Thirdly, the study identifies the positive environmental impacts of the homestay program. The women hosts have become more aware of environmental conservation practices, leading to a greater emphasis on sustainable tourism practices, waste management, and natural resource preservation.

Simulation Result

Figure-4 and 5 graphically respresent the effeciency and loss rate of the proposed model on alaysising the all kind of textual data from different articles. The result of the analysis, indictaes the propoed RF based model more effeceinty input data with less error rate, the theoritcal eport genrtaed by the proposed approach is shown in the table-1.
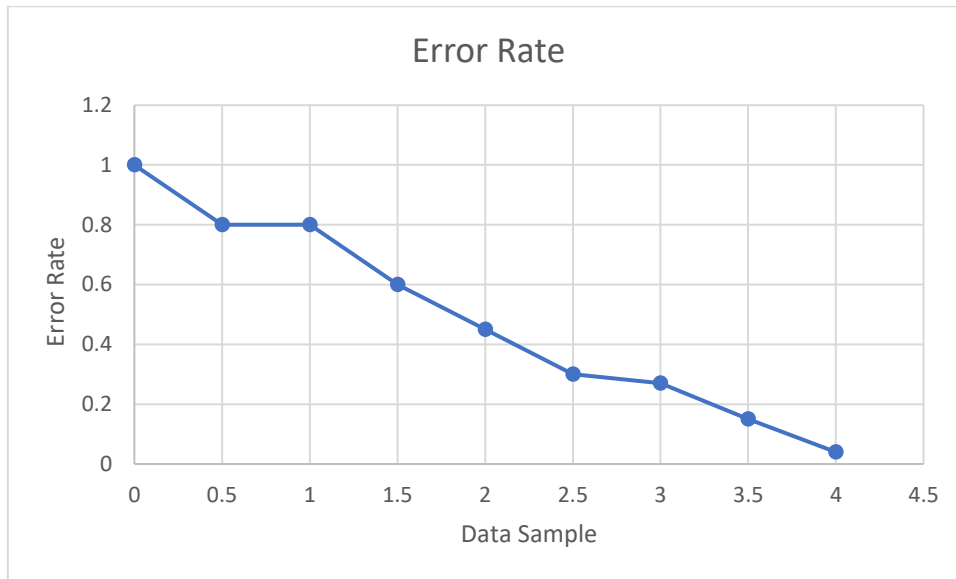

Figure- 4 Efficiency analysis

Figure-5 Error Rate analysis

Similary figure-6 depict the perfromance of the model on various types of sustainabaility development in high heritage toruist places like nepal. The resut shows that, the porposed have suggested various significant steps and more efficiently improve the socio, economic, and environemental sustainability of the tourism places.
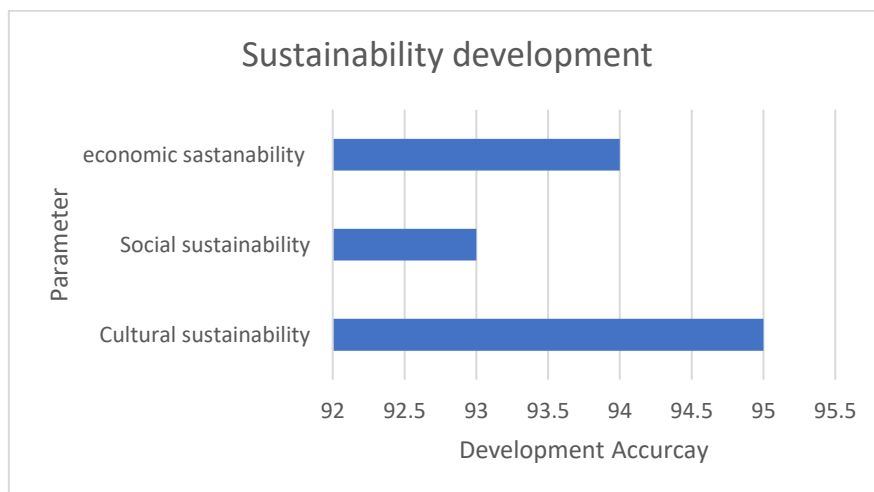

Figure-6 Sustainability development anlaysis

Overall, the study suggests that homestays can serve as a viable alternative tourism product for sustainable community development, particularly when managed by women in rural areas. The findings emphasize the economic, social, and environmental benefits of homestays and underscore the importance of providing support, training, and resources to empower women in tourism-related activities.

Conclusion

A comprehensive and thorough analysis was conducted on the existing literature in a systematic and critical manner.

Summary and Findings

The systematic literature review on the role of local community in enhancing sustainable community-based tourism has provided valuable insights into the various aspects of this important topic. Through the analysis of a wide range of scholarly articles, several key findings have emerged which are listed below:

- It is found that most of studies highlights important implications for community-based tourism as homestays to position their tourism products strategically based on sustainability.

- Sustainable tourism is a dominant theme in academic studies, with a focus on sustainable tourism development and the involvement of local communities.
- Homestays are singled out as an exemplary community-driven initiative ecotourism product; rural tourism; ecotourism and sustainability; homestays, economic sustainability and poverty alleviation; women involvement in tourism entrepreneurship; homestays and role of NGOs; and homestays as a cultural tourism product.
- The findings underscore the multifaceted benefits of community-based tourism, including enhanced social capital, cultural exchange, environmental conservation, and economic empowerment.
- This review has underscored the importance of actively involving and empowering the local community in decision-making processes and resource management, as well as in preserving cultural heritage and promoting authentic experiences.
- By recognizing the local community as a key stakeholder, tourism development can align with community values and aspirations, leading to economic benefits, improved livelihoods, and poverty reduction.
- Furthermore, the intimate knowledge of the environment possessed by the local community facilitates sustainable resource management and conservation efforts. To fully leverage the potential of the local community in enhancing sustainable community-based tourism, effective engagement, capacity building, and collaboration among stakeholders are crucial.

Implication:

The implications of this systematic literature review are substantial. The findings emphasize the importance of recognizing and involving local communities as active stakeholders in tourism development processes. It is crucial to empower and support local communities by providing them with opportunities for active participation, capacity building, and equitable distribution of benefits. By promoting inclusive decision-making, cultural authenticity, and sustainable practices, destinations can create a more resilient and responsible tourism industry.

Contribution to Knowledge:

This systematic literature review contributes to the existing body of knowledge on sustainable community-based tourism. By synthesizing and analyzing a wide range of studies, it consolidates the understanding of the role of local communities in tourism development. The proposed RF based prediction model identifies key factors and mechanisms that contribute to successful community engagement, as well as the outcomes and impacts of community-based tourism initiatives. It fills gaps in the literature and provides a comprehensive overview of the topic, serving as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this review, several recommendations can be made to enhance the effectiveness of community-based tourism initiatives.

- First, it is crucial to establish strong partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and tourism operators. This collaborative approach ensures shared decision-making, resource sharing, and capacity building.
- Second, comprehensive planning and management strategies should be developed to address the social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable tourism.
- Third, continuous monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms should be in place to assess the impacts of community-based tourism and make necessary adjustments.

Limitations:

While this systematic literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the existing research, it is not without limitations. The review primarily focuses on English-language publications, which may result in some relevant studies being excluded. Additionally, the review relies on the availability and quality of the included studies, and variations in research methodologies and contexts may limit direct comparisons. Furthermore, the review may be subject to publication bias, where positive or significant findings are more likely to be published, potentially influencing the overall conclusions.

Future Research Directions:

This systematic literature review suggests several avenues for future research. Further studies could explore the long-term impacts of community-based tourism on local communities, including social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions. Additionally, there is a need for more research on innovative approaches and best practices in community engagement and empowerment within the context of sustainable tourism. Furthermore, investigations into the role of technology, digital platforms, and social media in enhancing community-based tourism experiences and marketing strategies would be valuable.

Overall, the role of the local community in enhancing "sustainable community-based tourism" is essential for creating a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between tourism and local communities. By empowering and involving the local community, sustainable tourism can contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage, economic development, and environmental conservation, ultimately fostering a more sustainable and equitable future for both the community and the tourism industry.

In conclusion, this systematic literature review provides a comprehensive synthesis of research on the role of local communities in enhancing sustainable community-based tourism. The findings highlight the importance of community engagement, cultural preservation, environmental conservation, and economic empowerment. The implications of this review underscore the need for inclusive decision-making, partnerships, and sustainable practices. By addressing the limitations and exploring future research directions, this review contributes to the knowledge base and supports the development of sustainable tourism that benefits both the local communities and the tourism industry as a whole.

Compliance with Ethical Standards
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Conflict of Interest
  The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval:
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