



# The Indian Economic Journal

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**SOCIAL INCLUSION  
EMPLOYMENT AND  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**





# The Indian Economic Journal

## One of the Oldest and fully Refereed Journal

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The Journal, a Publication of the Indian Economic Association, is dedicated to advancing scientific research across diverse domains including Economic Theory, Macroeconomic Stability and Growth, Agricultural Prospects and Rural Transformation, Industrial Development and Manufacturing, Global Trade and Geopolitical Dynamics, Social Inclusion, Employment and Human Development, as well as contemporary issues shaping Tamil Nadu's Development.



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## Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

I am truly honoured to edit the special issues of the Indian Economic Journal.

It is with great pleasure that I present this special edition of the Indian Economic Journal for the 108th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association, which is hosted by VELS University in Chennai from December 27 to 29, 2025. The theme for this year, "Indian Economy – Navigating Domestic Realities and Global Shifts," encapsulates the dynamic crossroads at which our nation currently stands. As India progresses towards becoming a resilient and globally competitive economy, the necessity for informed dialogue, evidence-based policy formulation, and collaborative scholarship becomes increasingly crucial.

The sub-themes of this conference provide significant opportunities for such discussions. Macroeconomic stability, growth prospects, and the changing financial landscape are central to comprehending India's medium-term trajectory. Agriculture and rural transformation continue to influence livelihoods and promote inclusive development, while the industrial and manufacturing sectors promise productivity enhancements and global competitiveness. In a rapidly evolving geopolitical and trade context, India's strategic positioning demands both caution and innovation. Equally significant are the issues of social inclusion, employment, and human development, which constitute the moral and economic foundation for sustainable progress. The emphasis on contemporary development challenges in Tamil Nadu adds a valuable regional perspective to this year's discussions.

The Indian Economic Journal (IEJ) is an important organ of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) that provides support and services to professionals and researchers both in India and overseas. For over a century the IEA has been one of the largest and the oldest body of teachers, researchers, academicians, and policy makers drawn from the background of Economics and affiliate discipline. Founded in 1917, the IEA is a, "not-for-profit, non-political, and scholarly" voluntary professional association with membership open to those who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid by the constitution of IEA. Through regular outreach programs like, "Conferences, Courses, Publications and Seminars"

IEA disseminates information among scholars to increase their understanding of economics. Both IEJ and IEA work in tandem encouraging members to share their research work findings and contribute scholarly articles in Annual Conferences and for publishing in special editions of the IEJ by maintaining relevance of the journal. This special issue is being released at the 108th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association.

My special thanks and gratitude to our Chief Patron Dr. Ishari K Ganesh, Honourable Vice Chancellor, VELS University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu for organizing this historic 108th Annual Conference at VELS University during 27-29th December 2025. My heartfelt thanks to our Patron Conference Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor VIT. Also, my special thanks to Association President, Prof. A.D.N. Bajpai for his valuable contribution for the growth of the Indian Economic Association. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Convener of the Indian Economic Association for his countless efforts and dedication towards the pathbreaking glories of the IEA.

The Indian Economic Journal was founded by Prof. CN. Vakil and Prof. R. Balkrishna in 1953 and has over the years become a covered internationally acclaimed journal in Economics due to high ethical and quality standards maintained by successive editors. I take the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat in transforming Conference Volumes of IEA into special editions of Indian Economic Journal and Dr Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Convener of IEA for taking efforts to sustain the quality and ratings of IEJ along with the Managing Editor of IEA, Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan. I take this opportunity to thank all the secretaries for taking this to greater heights.

I would like to thank all the authors, and co-authors for their scholarly article contributions for the 108th Annual Conference. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the contributors, reviewers, and organizing team whose efforts have greatly enriched this volume. It is my hope that this edition inspires new perspectives and makes a meaningful contribution to the discourse surrounding India's economy.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the reviewers and the editorial support team for their invaluable contributions. I am particularly grateful to Dr. S. Narayanan, Dr. M. Dillip Anand, Dr. Pragati Krishnan, Dr. Raj Kamal Roy, Dr. Nameirakpam Taibangnganbi, Mr. R. Tharmaraj, Mr. N. Shriram, Mr. L. Suman Raj, Mr. R. Nayan Jain, and Mr. B. Nishanth for their unwavering dedication and meticulous efforts in bringing out the special issues of the Indian Economic Journal within the scheduled timeline.

I also place on record my sincere appreciation to Mr. A. Mohideen, Managing Director, Phoenix Print Hub, Mr. A.M. Seyed Ahmed Hussain, Mr. A. Abdul Rahaman, Ms. Nidhi, at the Phoenix Print Hub, Chennai, our print service partner, for their neat execution and timely delivery of the printed volumes.

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# Analysis of the Effects of Responsible Tourism Practices on Quality of Life in Specific Districts of Tamil Nadu

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Rajini.G\*\*

## Abstract

*Responsible tourism has become a key strategy for sustainable destination development, ensuring social, economic, and environmental well-being for host communities. In Tamil Nadu—one of India's most visited states—tourism plays a significant role in regional development. However, as tourism expands, concerns regarding ecological degradation, cultural disruption, and community well-being have intensified. This study examines the **impact of responsible tourism practices on the quality of life (QoL)** of residents in selected districts of Tamil Nadu, focusing on environmentally responsible practices, cultural preservation, community participation, and economic benefits.*

*Primary data were collected from **250 residents** across prominent tourism-centric districts (Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Kanyakumari). A structured questionnaire, based on a 5-point Likert scale, was used to measure perceptions of responsible tourism and its influence on QoL dimensions. Data were analyzed using **descriptive statistics, reliability analysis, correlation, and regression**. Findings indicate a significant positive impact of responsible tourism on residents' quality of life, with **economic benefits and environmental management** showing the strongest influence. The study highlights the need for policy strengthening, community engagement, and sustainable development strategies to enhance tourism's contribution to local well-being.*

**Keywords:** Responsible Tourism, Quality of Life, Sustainable Tourism, Community Participation, Tamil Nadu, Destination Management

## Introduction

Tourism has become a significant catalyst for economic growth, employment generation, and community development. As global tourism progresses, the emphasis has transitioned to responsible tourism, which prioritizes the reduction of adverse effects while enhancing socio-economic advantages for host communities. The framework advocates for environmental conservation, cultural preservation, ethical conduct, and community engagement.

Tamil Nadu, renowned for its cultural legacy, temples, beaches, hill stations, and historical monuments, ranks among India's premier states for both domestic and international tourism. Districts including Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Kanyakumari draw millions of tourists each year. Although tourism generates significant economic benefits, issues such as overpopulation, waste generation, cultural commercialization, and resource strain threaten the quality of life for local people.

Responsible tourism practices aim to harmonize tourism expansion with the welfare of local communities. Comprehending the impact of these activities on quality of life (QoL)—encompassing economic stability, environmental health, cultural integrity, social harmony, and overall satisfaction—enables policymakers to align tourism plans with sustainable development objectives. This study assesses citizens' perceptions of responsible tourism and its effects on their quality of life in specific regions of Tamil Nadu.

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## Statement of the Problem

Tourism can augment economic prospects; yet, unchecked tourism expansion frequently results in environmental degradation, elevated living costs, traffic congestion, noise pollution, and cultural dilution. Numerous tourist locations in Tamil Nadu encounter issues that might adversely impact people's quality of life. Despite the introduction of responsible tourism programs by the government and tourism boards, implementation varies significantly across areas, and the impact on communities is little documented.

The perceptions of residents are crucial in assessing the sustainability of tourism. Communities that perceive tourism as an enhancement to their quality of life are more inclined to endorse tourism development. Conversely, adverse effects may lead to animosity and diminished collaboration. Empirical studies investigating the specific impact of responsible tourism activities on quality of life in Tamil Nadu are insufficient.

This study seeks to evaluate the efficacy of responsible tourism practices and their influence on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions of inhabitants' quality of life in selected districts.

## Review of Literature

According to Goodwin (2011), responsible tourism is a form of tourism that promotes the participation of local communities, reduces the amount of negative consequences, and enhances the cultural and environmental integrity of the destination experience.

Researchers Kim, Uysal, and Sirgy (2013) found that tourism has an impact on the quality of life of locals in a variety of ways, including social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspects. Mathew and Sreejesh (2017) discovered that responsible tourism has a favorable affect on the sustainability of destinations and the quality of life of the communities that are located in Indian tourism destinations.

Rasoolimanesh et al. (2019) emphasized the fact that community participation is a powerful predictor of reported quality of life among inhabitants living in areas that are popular travel destinations.

In their 2020 article, Kunjuraman and Hussin suggested that responsible tourism projects raise knowledge about the environment and encourage the preservation of cultural traditions.

Ramkissoo (2021) shown that environmental responsibility and commitment to one's locality contribute to the overall well-being of communities in areas that are devoted to tourism.

According to Pérez and Nadal (2022), inhabitants' satisfaction in tourism locations is significantly influenced by economic benefits and sustained employment opportunities.

Sasidharan and Dhanapal (2023) made the observation that responsible tourism projects in South India boost the prospects for women and other underprivileged groups to earn a living.

Pena-Casillas et al. (2024) highlighted the fact that equitable tourism development makes a significant contribution to the improvement of quality of life in emerging locations.

Varadarajan and Kumar (2024) discovered that the adoption of responsible tourism in Tamil Nadu results in favorable environmental effects, although the extent of these outcomes differs from district to district. These studies highlight the multifaceted role of responsible tourism in enhancing community well-being, forming the foundation for this study.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To examine residents' perceptions of responsible tourism practices in selected districts of Tamil Nadu.
2. To analyze the impact of responsible tourism on different dimensions of quality of life.
3. To identify which responsible tourism practices most strongly influence residents' QoL.

### Hypotheses

- **H01:** Responsible tourism practices do not significantly impact residents' quality of life.
- **H02:** Environmental responsibility does not significantly influence the QoL of residents.
- **H03:** Economic benefits from tourism do not have a significant relationship with QoL.
- **H04:** Community participation does not significantly predict residents' QoL in tourism areas.

### Research Methodology

It was decided to use a study design that was both descriptive and analytical. Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Kanyakumari were among the areas in Tamil Nadu that participated in the study. Residents of these districts were also interviewed. 250 locals make up the sample size. The method of sampling is known as stratified random sampling. Using a structured questionnaire with a Likert scale with five points, the data collection tool.

### Independent Variables:

- Environmental Responsibility
- Economic Benefits
- Cultural Preservation
- Community Participation

### Dependent Variable:

- Quality of Life (QoL)

### Data Analysis Methods:

- Descriptive statistics
- Reliability testing (Cronbach's Alpha)
- Pearson correlation
- Multiple regression analysis

SPSS software was used for data processing and statistical testing.

## Analysis and Results

### 1. Reliability Analysis

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha
Environmental Responsibility	0.84
Economic Benefits	0.83
Cultural Preservation	0.82
Community Participation	0.85
Quality of Life	0.88

Cronbach's Alpha for Environmental Responsibility was constructed to be 0.84 points.

The values all surpass 0.80, which indicates that there is a high level of reliability and internal consistency. The economic benefits are 0.83, the cultural preservation is 0.82, the community participation is 0.85, and the quality of life is 0.88.

All values exceed 0.80, indicating high reliability and internal consistency.

### 2. Correlation Analysis

Variables	ER	EB	CP	CommP	QoL
Environmental Responsibility	1	0.61**	0.58**	0.63**	0.72**
Economic Benefits	0.61**	1	0.64**	0.67**	0.76**
Cultural Preservation	0.58**	0.64**	1	0.60**	0.70**
Community Participation	0.63**	0.67**	0.60**	1	0.74**
Quality of Life	0.72**	0.76**	0.70**	0.74**	1

The first interpretation is that there is a good and significant correlation between quality of life and all aspects of responsible tourism.

### 3. Regression Analysis

Predictor	Beta ( $\beta$ )	t-value	Sig.
Environmental Responsibility	0.26	4.12	0.000
Economic Benefits	0.31	5.02	0.000
Cultural Preservation	0.22	3.48	0.001
Community Participation	0.28	4.65	0.000
<b>R<sup>2</sup> = 0.71, F = 92.48, p &lt; 0.001</b>			

The model accounts for 71% of the variation in quality of life. It is the economic benefits ( $\beta = 0.31$ ) that demonstrate the most significant impact, followed by the participation of the community ( $\beta = 0.28$ ).

### Conclusion

According to the findings of the study, responsible tourism practices considerably improve the quality of life of citizens in the districts that were chosen from Tamil Nadu that were studied. It was discovered that the most significant factors that contributed to quality of life were economic benefits, environmental management, and community participation. The preservation of cultural traditions also has an impact on well-being, but to a diminished degree.

Residents have the perception that responsible tourism is a sustainable method that results in cleaner environments, enhances chances for livelihood, and strengthens the identity of the town. On the other hand, there are variances occurring among districts as a result of different levels of awareness and the intensity of tourism development.

Among the recommendations are the following: enhancing the participation of the local community in tourism planning; enhancing initiatives for environmental conservation; increasing awareness of policies regarding responsible tourism; encouraging the development of skills and entrepreneurialism among local residents; ensuring that the benefits of tourism are distributed in an equitable manner

A powerful instrument for achieving sustainable development and an improvement in the quality of life in Tamil Nadu, responsible tourism has the potential to act as such if it is well implemented.

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