



**T.C.  
İZMİR KÂTİP ÇELEBİ UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM MANAGEMENT**

**EXPLORING THE EFFECT OF PLACE  
ATTACHMENT ON THE IMPACTS OF TOURISM  
TO DETERMINE SIVAS RESIDENTS' SUPPORT  
FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

**Master's Thesis**

**FURKAN ATASOY KARACABEY**

**İZMİR - 2023**

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**SUPERVISOR: ASSOC. PROF. EMRULLAH ERUL**

**İZMİR - 2023**

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this master's thesis titled as "Exploring the Effect of Place Attachment on the Impacts of Tourism to Determine Sivas Residents' Support for Tourism Development" has been written by myself in accordance with the academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that all materials benefited in this thesis consist of the mentioned resources in the reference list. I verify all these with my honour.

31/05/2023

Furkan Atasoy KARACABEY

Signature

## ÖZET

**Yüksek Lisans Tezi**

**SİVAS HALKI'NIN TURİZME OLAN DESTEĞİNİ SAPTAMAK  
AMACIYLA YER AİDİYETİNİN TURİZM ETKİLERİ ÜZERİNDEKİ  
İLİŞKİSİNİN İNCELENMESİ**

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**Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü**

**Turizm İşletmeciliği Ana Bilim Dalı**

Yerel halkın turizm etkilerine olan algıları ve onların turizm gelişmelerine yönelik tutumları turizm literatüründe sıklıkla incelenen konular arasında yer almaktadır. Özellikle turizm faaliyetlerinin yoğun olmadığı ve turizmin henüz gelişmediği destinasyonlarda yaşayan yerel halkın algılarının belirlenmesi sürdürülebilir turizm gelişiminin sağlanması açısından büyük önem taşımaktadır. Bu nedenle çalışma, turizm gelişmelerini destekleme niyetini belirlemek ve literatürdeki boşluğu doldurmak için iki farklı yapıyı (yer aidiyetliliği ve turizmin etkileri) birlikte kullanmayı amaçlamaktadır. Araştırmada oluşturulan anket formları aracılığıyla 450 katılımcıdan veri toplanmış, SPSS ve AMOS istatistik programı ile analizi yapılmıştır. Önce faktör analizi, daha sonra yapısal eşitlik modeli uygulanmıştır. Araştırma sonuçlarına göre yer aidiyetliliği ile turizm gelişimini destekleme niyeti arasında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmazken, yer kimliği ve destekleme niyetinin anlamlı bir şekilde belirlendiği tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca, yer bağlılığı faktörlerinde (yer kimliği, yer bağımlılığı) hem olumlu hem de olumsuz etkilerin belirleyici olduğu ve ayrıca ikamet edenlerin destekleme niyetleri ile davranışsal destekleme arasında anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Çalışmanın son kısmında daha sonraki çalışmalara yönelik öneriler getirilmiş ve kısıtlar sunulmuştur.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Yerel halk, yer aidiyeti, turizmin etkileri, niyet, davranışsal destek, Sivas.

# **ABSTRACT**

## **Master's Thesis**

### **Exploring The Effect of Place Attachment on The Impacts of Tourism to Determine Sivas Residents' Support For Tourism Development**

**Furkan Atasoy KARACABEY**

**Izmir Kâtip Çelebi University**

**Graduate School of Social Sciences**

**Department of Tourism Management Program**

Residents' perceptions of tourism impacts and their attitudes toward tourism development are among the topics that are frequently examined in the tourism literature. In particular, it is of great importance to determine the perceptions of the residents in the destination where tourism activities are not intense and tourism is not developed yet, in terms of ensuring sustainable tourism development in the destination. Therefore, this study aims to use two different structures (place attachment and the impacts of tourism) together to determine the intention of supporting tourism developments and fill the gap in the literature. The data were collected from 450 participants through the questionnaire forms created in the study and the analysis was carried out with SPSS and AMOS statistics programs. First, factor analysis was applied and then the structural equation model was used. According to the results of the study, while there is no significant relationship between place dependence and intention to support tourism development, it has been determined that place identity and intention to support are determined in a meaningful way. In addition, it has been determined that both negative and positive impacts are predictors of place attachment factors (place identity, place dependence) and there is a significant relationship between residents' intention to support and behavioral support for tourism development. The suggestions for future studies and the limitation of the current study are presented at the end of this study.

**Keywords:** Resident, place attachment, impacts of tourism, intention, behavioral support, Sivas.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>TALC</b>	: Tourism Area Life Cycle
<b>SPSS</b>	: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
<b>TPB</b>	: Theory of Planned Behavior
<b>NGO</b>	: Non-governmental organization
<b>PI</b>	: Place Identity
<b>PD</b>	: Place Dependence
<b>PIT</b>	: Positive Impacts of Tourism
<b>NIT</b>	: Negative Impacts of Tourism
<b>BI</b>	: Behavioral Intentions
<b>BS</b>	: Behavioral Support
<b>etc.</b>	: et cetera
<b>et al.</b>	: et alia
<b>n.d.</b>	: no date



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## **PREFACE**

I would like to express my profound appreciation and gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Emrullah ERUL for his invaluable guidance and support throughout the preparation of my thesis. His unwavering dedication to my academic development, his willingness to offer his expertise, and his brotherly approach have been instrumental in the successful completion of my research.

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Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my family, particularly my brother Tuğra Kutay KARACABEY, and my friends for their constant support and encouragement.

With deep appreciation,  
I present this thesis to my mother Hülya Özlem ŞAHİN.

Furkan Atasoy KARACABEY

İzmir-2023

## INTRODUCTION

The tourism industry plays a crucial role in the economies of various countries, and it has seen significant growth in recent years (Ren et al., 2019). Tourism contributes to the economic development of businesses and governments, provides employment and income opportunities for locals, foreign exchange inflows for countries, and supports the local economy (Gnanapala & Sandaruwani, 2016). Additionally, tourism promotes cultural exchange and enhances diplomatic relations between nations, leading to opportunities for cooperation and agreement (Salehi & Farahbakhsh, 2014).

Consequently, many countries, businesses and destinations invest in the tourism sector to increase their potential and attract tourists for economic and socio-cultural reasons (Ismagilova et al., 2015). These investments include the construction of tourist settlements, the restoration of cultural and historical centers, the introduction of new and interesting tourist routes, and the organization of social and cultural events (Kachniewska, 2015). However, it is essential to note that the success of these investments relies not only on financial inputs but also on gaining the support and participation of local communities (Sebele, 2010).

Many researchers have emphasized the importance of involving residents in the tourism industry and measuring their perceptions, as it has a significant impact on the marketing of the destination and the creation of tourism products (Dwyer & Kim, 2003; Styliadis et al., 2014). Therefore, giving priority to the viewpoints and evaluations of residents is essential to guarantee their endorsement of tourism initiatives (Al Haija, 2011). Similarly, residents' support for tourism development, their involvement in tourism planning, and their participation in tourism-related activities are crucial for sustainable tourism development, particularly in less developed destinations (Saufi et al., 2014). These less developed areas may be more vulnerable to the negative impacts of tourism and the perceptions of residents need to be taken into consideration to ensure that their support for tourism remains

positive. If tourism planning in underdeveloped destinations neglects the perceptions of residents, it can lead to negative attitudes and resentment for tourism development, like in the last step of the tourism areas life cycle (TALC) of the Butler (Butler, 2006).

Previous studies have primarily focused on developed or developing destinations in terms of tourism (Brunt & Courtney, 1999; Gursoy et al., 2009; McDowall & Choi, 2010; Muresan et al., 2019; Ritchie, 1988; Sheldon & Var, 1984), while less attention has been given to less developed destinations (Ap, 1992). Despite this, there are a limited number of studies on underdeveloped destinations (Güneş & Alagöz, 2018; Rasoolimanesh & Jaafar, 2016). These studies reveal that the perceptions of residents towards tourism and its impacts in these areas are generally limited (Atsız, 2021; Ersoy, 2021). However, it's important to note that underdeveloped destinations have a different set of challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, it's crucial to understand the unique characteristics of these underdeveloped areas to make informed decisions on tourism development and management. Therefore, more research is needed in underdeveloped destinations to better understand the perceptions and intentions of residents towards tourism and its impact on their lives.

The relationship between residents' place attachment and their perceptions of the impacts of tourism have not been adequately examined. A limited number of studies suggest that support for tourism may be linked to both the perceived impacts of tourism and the place attachment of residents (Eusébio et al., 2018; Strzelecka et al., 2017; Styliadis, 2018a). In light of these studies, the primary objective of the current research is to investigate the perceptions of residents living in Sivas, an area where tourism development is limited, regarding the negative and positive impacts of tourism, to assess their level of place attachment, and ultimately to determine their intention and behavioral support for tourism development. The objective of this research is to enhance the comprehension of the attitudes and viewpoints of residents regarding tourism in a region with a relatively underdeveloped tourism industry. The study also aims to investigate the influence of place attachment and how it impacts the residents' intentions to support tourism development. To achieve this objective, the research will delve deeper into the residents' perceptions and

attitudes towards tourism in the selected area. The study will also explore how residents' emotional connections to the place can impact their willingness to support tourism development in the region.

Briefly, this study will try to answer the following research questions: 1) Do residents' perceived impacts of tourism significantly explain their place attachment? 2) Do residents' place attachments significantly explain their intention to support tourism development? 3) Do residents' intentions to support tourism significantly explain their behavioural support? By evaluating the correlation between residents' perception of tourism impacts, place attachment, and their support for tourism development, this research seeks to address the void in the existing body of literature.

This study will contribute to understanding the level of residents' support for tourism in underdeveloped destinations. It can also provide insight into the responsibilities of local governments in tourism development by testing a model that identifies the factors that influence support for tourism. In addition to this, the findings of this study can guide future research on this topic and inform the development of tourism activities in the region by providing direction for destination managers and local communities. In this way, the study aims to develop sustainable tourism in underdeveloped destinations by highlighting the importance of residents' support and participation.

The thesis is divided into three main sections. The first section provides the theoretical foundation of the research by reviewing the relevant literature on the concepts of impacts of tourism, place attachment and residents' support for tourism development. The second section presents the research problem, the purpose of the study, its significance, and a brief overview of the research methodology. The third section presents the research findings. Finally, the conclusion section includes an analysis of the findings, as well as suggestions for future research, limitations of the study, and implications for destination managers and local communities.

## **PART I**

### **1.1. Impacts of Tourism**

The tourism development has experienced significant growth and has resulted in changes (i.e., impacts) on the tourism destinations (Butler, 1996). At this point, the impacts of tourism have been the focus of tourism researchers for many years, especially after the emergence of mass tourism and unplanned tourism movements (Vainikka, 2013). However, particularly the economic and socio-cultural difficulties arising from the pandemic have revealed that tourism has considerable impacts on both micro and macro scales (Sigala, 2020). The impacts of tourism will be classified under three categories (i.e., economic, socio-cultural, and environmental) and discussed in this section.

#### **1.1.1. Economic Impacts of Tourism**

Over the half-century, several researchers (Bozgeyik & Yoloğlu, 2015; Erul & Woosnam, 2016; Fletcher, 1989; Kozak et al., 2001; Növresli, 2010; Zhou et al., 1997) have been focused on the economic impacts of tourism. This is because residents were directly influenced by the economic impacts of tourism and got a share of the economic benefits of tourism (Erul & Uslu, 2022; Jurowski et al., 1997). Previous studies emphasized the favorable financial outcomes of tourism (i.e., the positive economic impacts of tourism) such as producing revenue and employment opportunities (Erul, 2021), providing foreign exchange (Jurowski et al., 1997), increase in the revenues of the district administration (Archer et al., 1998), increase in sectoral investments (Nawaz & Hassan, 2016), increased standards of living (Sawant, 2017), the multiplier effect on other economic activities (Khan et al., 1995), while numerous scholars (Frent, 2016; Korça, 1998; Kozak et al., 2001; Kumar et al., 2015; Lv, 2020; Mbaiwa, 2005b; Meyer, 2006; Zarrella, 2016) were concerned about the negative economic impacts of tourism for

the destination and local community (e.g., opportunity cost, excessive dependence on tourism, job insecurity inflationary pressure, seasonal fluctuation, foreign labor requirement, and increase in import tendency, leakage, foreign ownership, enclave tourism, increase price of goods, services, land and housing, job insecurity, infrastructure cost, informal sector or underground economy).

### **1.1.2. Environmental Impacts of Tourism**

The physical environment is an attractive factor in tourism supply and a reason for tourists to visit that destination (Mihalič, 2000). Therefore, the relationship between tourism and the environment is inseparable (Holden, 2008). Tourism has both positive and negative environmental impacts. Some of the positive environmental impacts can be given as an example such as the followings: increasing environmental value, improving environmental quality, developing environmental protection and cleaning awareness, and being a driving force for the restoration and improvement of the existing attractive elements in the destination (Kozak et al., 2001), enhancement of image (Zhong, 2011), encourage sustainable tourism development (Santos-Roldán et al., 2020), scenery beatification (Nonthapot & Wongsiri, 2019), preservation wildlife (Sunlu, 2003). On the other hand, creating air, sound, visual, water and solid waste pollution; degradation of fauna, wildlife, land, flora and wetlands; enchaining unaesthetic views and overexploitation of natural resources (Andereck, 1995), loss of biological diversity, depletion of the ozone layer, acceleration of climate change, trampling vegetation and soil (Sunlu, 2003); chemical contamination, deforestation, decreasing of agricultural lands, excessive construction, the spread of hunting, garbage and waste problem, contamination in protected areas, environmental stress, give rise to erosion and flood, damages to historical and archaeological sites (Akçakaya, 2021) are considered as negative environmental impacts.

### **1.1.3. Socio-cultural Impacts of Tourism**

Since it has a structure intertwined with “human” in terms of tourism structure, the socio-cultural effect of tourism should never be ignored as well as



other impacts (Eslami et al., 2019). Tourism occurs through people's interaction with the destination, the expectations, attitudes, similarities, and differences related to lifestyles that residents and tourists feel towards each other (Snepenger et al., 2007). As the main factor is human when the socio-cultural impacts of tourism are examined, it is ordinary to encounter both positive and negative impacts (Ersoy, 2017). Among the positive socio-cultural impacts of tourism on society and the destination can be listed as follows: indulgence, urbanization, cultural exchange, mutual understanding, social and political stability, community pride, acculturation, infrastructure development, improvement of social services, modernization, women empowerment, cleanliness awareness, new professions, and social institutions, protection of historical and cultural values, foreign language and leisure habits acquisition, strengthening of family ties, quality of life and prosperity (Hashimoto, 2002; Kozak et al., 2010; Mbaiwa, 2005a). In the negative impacts of tourism on society and the destination, it may lead to an increase in such situations as xenophobia, crime rates, commercialization of culture, social dualism, snobbism, security concerns, terrorism and political activism, alcoholism, smuggling, enclave tourism, racism, degradation of traditional features, increased stress, extra expenses, commodification, social evil, rapid population growth, infections, bullying of women, congestion, over-development, ordinary reconstruction, cultural corruption or assimilation, changes in traditions, customs, festivals, values, language and family structure (Besculides et al., 2002; Gaul, 2003; Kozak et al., 2010; Mbaiwa, 2005b).

## **1.2. Place Attachment**

The subject of place attachment is an important multidisciplinary field of study in terms of the sustainability and development of the destination hence it has attracted the attention of researchers and has taken an important ground in tourism (Lewicka, 2011). For this reason, measuring the residents' attachment to the place, especially in areas that are not developed as tourism destination, is an important phenomenon that the state administration and NGOs should not ignore. Place attachment first emerged in environmental psychology, but after a while, it started to be studied in other fields such as tourism and became a multidisciplinary field

(Dwyer et al., 2019). In the early 1970s, some humanistic geographers were dissatisfied with the meaning of "place" and began to work philosophically and experientially in the context of place (Seamon & Sowers 2008). However, according to Low and Altman (1992), it is seen that the studies of place attachment date back to 1959. Besides that, it is reported that the use of place attachment in tourism dates back to the 1980s (Hwang et al., 2005). Since place attachment is a multidisciplinary field of study, it seems to be related to science fields such as tourism, recreation, psychology, sociology, marketing, architecture, geography and natural resource management (Hwang et al., 2005; Styliadis, 2018b; Trentelman, 2009).

"Place" in the literature consists of a combination of physical, social, and psychological attributes that include the meanings people give to their environment (Brown et al., 2012). However, the individual's environment should not be understood as just a small area. This environment can be a village, country, city, small area, or destination (Scannell & Gifford, 2017). In addition, attachment to the place should not be considered only in terms of residents, but also it can be a source of motivation for tourists to revisit the destination (Stylos et al., 2017).

In short, the definition of "place attachment" can be expressed in the literature as all the connections and relationships between the individual and the environment (Hidalgo & Hernandez, 2001; 274). It also refers to the images and thoughts formed in the mind of the individual with that place, as well as associating the things he or she lived in that region with that region in the past (Saatci & Türkmen, 2020; 239). Place attachment generally includes issues related to the psychology of the individual, since destinations provide the necessary conditions and features to meet the needs of individuals, as well as criteria such as the length of stay at the destination and the quality of participation (Güler & Karaçor, 2018). If a destination both meets the needs and exceeds the expectations of the individual, it can affect the individual's attitudes for revisiting the destination (Saatci & Türkmen, 2020).

When the models proposed in the literature for explaining and examining the place attachment, it is discovered that place dependence and place identity are most influential the concept (Williams et al., 1992). With this information, approaches such as place bonding (Hammit et al., 2004) and sense of place (Jorgensen &

Stedman 2006), may have been developed since they are specific to the area where the scientist study. However, when the look at the majority studies such as Woosnam et al. (2018), Song et al. (2017), and Williams & Vaske (2003) are examined, these two dimensions' approaches may be sufficient for investigating residents' bonds with the environment (Woosnam et al., 2018).

### **1.3. Residents' Support for Tourism Development**

Tourism authorities can reduce the negative impacts of tourism and increase the positive impacts by receiving residents' support for tourism (Erul & Woosnam, 2022; Miller et al., 2010). Hence, residents' support for tourism development has been the subject of numerous researchers' works for several years (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011). In order to have such an understanding of residents' and gaining their support, decisions should be taken under consensus by taking the opinion of the residents (Karakaş & Şengün, 2017). In a similar vein, understanding the support of residents for tourism development is a critical factor in successfully managing and marketing community-based tourism (Lee, 2013).

Tourism is a sector that exists because of individuals' participation and mutually created through the interaction of residents and tourists (Seçilmiş & Kılıç, 2018; Var & Ap, 1998). For this reason, residents can even appear as an attractive element for tourists. Finally, residents can interact with tourists frequently, sometimes just to offer assistance, sometimes to market a product, and sometimes to inform them about the destination. For these reasons, the residents should be encouraged to participate in projects, training, and activities that support tourism (Timothy, 1999).

In addition to the foregoing, researchers and managers should consider determining the elements that affect residents' attitudes toward tourism developments (Karakaş & Şengün, 2017). The reason for this is that solutions can be developed by taking precautions against these factors. These factors can be sorted as the duration of living in the region, the distance of residence to the tourism zone, economic commitment to tourism, location of the destination on the life curve, whether or not the person is a native of the destination, demographic variables (Boğan & Sarıışık, 2016).

In the literature, many theories (e.g., social exchange theory, theory of planned behavior, ethnic attitude scale, emotional solidarity scale, value attitude model, etc.) reveal the support of the local people for tourism and determine which factors are effective and what extent. Since the early 1970s, residents' attitudes and their support towards tourism studies have been carried out theoretically and empirically (Erul & Woosnam, 2022; Pizam, 1978; Sirakaya et al., 2002; Thomason et al., 1979). For example, some studies (Chen & Chen, 2010; Nugroho & Numata, 2020) found that community participation has a significant impact on the residents' support for tourism development, while Dyer et al (2007) revealed that the perceived economic benefits variables was a substantial estimator of residents' support for tourism development.

Furthermore, Pham and Kayat (2011) used the social exchange theory to investigate residents' perceptions of tourism impacts and their support for tourism development in Vietnam's first national park. The study discovered how socio-demographic factors also explain residents' perceptions and support. The findings generally show that residents strongly support tourism development, and have a positive sense, particularly in terms of the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of tourism. Researchers point to residents' perceptions that may vary according to socio-demographic characteristics, and residents' gender and age may be predictors of their sense of supporting tourism development.

Similarly, Türkmen and Dönmez (2015) focused on tourism development in Yenice, a protected area, to examine residents' perceptions of the tourism impact. Their results indicated that socio-demographic characteristics differed in residents' perceptions about the support for tourism development. First, they found that married people have more favorable opinions on the economic and socio-cultural impacts of tourism developments compared to singles. Secondly, the middle-aged group reported more positive views on tourism activities in each factor dimension, while older people had more positive perceptions than young people. Furthermore, educated people have more positive perceptions of positive impacts on socio-cultural and environmental factors than the less educated group. Lastly, public servants reported more positive opinions on tourism activities than other occupational groups.

Recently, Erul and Woosnam (2022) utilized two theoretical frameworks, namely emotional solidarity and the theory of planned behaviour, to elucidate the behavioural support of residents towards tourism development. The authors found that emotional solidarity factors (welcoming nature, sympathetic understanding, and emotional closeness) in tandem with TPB constructs (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral controls) were significant determinants of residents' intentional support and ultimately explained Izmir residents' behavioral support for tourism.



## PART II

### 2.1. Methods

#### 2.1.1. Sivas as a Study Site

Sivas is one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia (Ökmen, 2001). Sivas is located in the Central Anatolia Region and covers approximately 2.768 km<sup>2</sup> (Figure1). The population of Sivas is about 636.121 thousand individuals (TUIK, 2021). According to Sivas municipality (2014), Sivas has a harsh continental climate structure:

- Winters are cold and cruel.
- Summers are hot, dry and short-lived.
- The spring and autumn seasons are rainy.



**Figure 1:** Map of Sivas

References: <https://www.harita.gov.tr/urun/sivas-mulk-idare-il-haritasi/333>

Various civilizations and states have exerted their influence over Sivas since ancient times. It has a rich history that dates back to the earliest periods. In the past, Sivas was dominated by significant powers such as the Hittites, Romans, and Byzantines. However, with the conquest of Anatolia by Sultan Alparslan, Sivas came under Turkish rule and has remained so to this day, never falling under the captivity of a foreign country. Throughout history, it was governed by various Turkish states, including the Danishmends, Seljuks and the Ottomans (Elmas, 2007).

There are many rumors about where the name Sivas came from. First, the name Sivas derives from the Hittite tribe Sibasip. Second the name came from "Sebasteia", which means city in Greek, by the Roman Emperor Auguste. Finally, Sivas got its name from the word "Sebast", which means three mills in the Seljuk period (Alaeddinoğlu, 2008).

Sivas is home to many civilizations, which has led to the cultural enrichment of the region. For instance, some of the architectural structures in the city have survived the Seljuks (Şifaiye Madrasah, Buruciye Madrasah, Behram Paşa Inn, Ulu Mosque, Çifte Minareli Madrasah, Gök Madrasah, Kesik Bridge and Eğri Bridge) and some from the Ottomans (Congress building, Kale Mosque, Meydan Mosque, Gendarme Building). Those structures add cultural diversity to the region's architecture (Kalender & Demiroğlu, 2011). In this respect, the city is almost an open-air museum.

Besides, winter tourism can be enjoyed on Yıldız mountain. Trekking can be done at Emirhan cliffs and Altınkale travertines is suitable for health tourism. Nature lovers can visit the Pasabahce recreation area. At the same time, the war horses museum can be visited at Hamidiye national garden, where a pleasant time can also be spent at the adventure park. These places are located close to the city center. Furthermore, in various nearby districts, it is recommended to explore destinations such as Hafik lake, Divriği mosque, Seytan kayalıkları, Gürün gökpınar lake, and Sugul valley.

Furthermore, the region of Sivas boasts a diverse gastronomic culture, with specific dishes such as Sivas Köfte, Kelecoş, Etli Ekmek, and Yağlama (Öztürk & Arikan, 2018). This culinary richness adds to the potential of Sivas as a cultural

tourism destination. In terms of accommodation, the data for 2020 indicates that Sivas has a sufficient bed capacity of 3,931 and is home to 27 hotels (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2020). Examining the number of tourists who visited Sivas in 2020, it was determined that there were 397,034 visitors (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2020).

### **2.1.2. Purpose and Importance of Study**

It is undeniable that the tourism industry has many impacts on the place we live in, both on a micro and macro scale (Mason, 2020). Most of these impacts are generally classified under three headings; economic, environmental, and socio-cultural (Lim et al., 2017; Uslu, Alagöz, and Güneş, 2020). Understanding these three tourism impacts is of great importance for the sustainability, success and development of tourism (Berno & Bricker, 2001). Because, directly or indirectly, the residents, who are the essential stakeholders of tourism, are severely exposed to these impacts (Harrill, 2004; Weaver & Lawton, 2013).

Tourists can stay in the destinations they visit for a certain period of time and return to their own residences, while residents continue their lives in these destinations (Murphy, 1983). At that point, residents' support for tourism development is vital (Choi & Murray, 2010; Erul & Woosnam, 2022). Numerous scholars have investigated the topic of residents' support of tourism, utilizing various theoretical frameworks (e.g., sensory unity, social exchange theory, emotional solidarity, theory of planned behavior, theory of reasoned action, etc.) (Chuang, 2010; Ryu and Jang, 2006; Quintal, Lee and Soutar, 2010; Woosnam, 2012).

For this purpose, residents' feelings, thoughts, and attitudes should be understood, and an action plan should be developed according to them (Snaith & Haley, 1999). However, when the literature is reviewed, it has yet to be determined whether the negative and positive impacts of tourism support the resident as a behavior in the context of their belonging to the place they live. Hence, the main purpose of the research is to determine the perceptions of the resident living in Sivas, where the tourism sector has not developed much, about the negative and positive impacts of tourism, to determine their place dependence and identity, and



ultimately to determine their support (intentional and behavioral) to tourism. Thus, objective of this research is to propose recommendations to tourism actors, NGOs, and public institutions other than residents for the formulation of an eco-friendly tourism policy in Sivas province. The policy aims to promote sustainable tourism development in the area.

### 2.1.3. Population and Sampling

The sum of each individual or subject at the target of the research completely constitutes the "population" (Karagöz, 2019). The population refers to one-to-one representation of the situation to be conducted in the research. The group in which the subjects or elements selected from the population of the researched situation come together is expressed as the "sample" (Fink, 2003, p. 1). The determination method of the selected group is called "sampling (Lunsford & Lunsford, 1995). It is assumed that the sample represents the population as it is not possible to examine each individual one by one due to time and cost shortage (Acharya et al., 2013). For this assumption, it is necessary to determine the sample type and size (Ersoy, 2021). The population of this research is the residents residing in the center of Sivas. Convenience sampling methods were preferred from non-probability sampling methods.

*"Convenience sampling is the non-probability method of the sample selection to be selected from the main mass. (Haşiloğlu, Baran & Aydın, 2015, p. 20)."*

The disadvantage of this technique is that it needs to be discovered to what extent it represents the population because it has biased (Farrokhi & Mahmoudi-Hamidabad, 2012). Since there is no precise probability of the calculation, considering the following table; it is thought that if the number of samples is estimated to be reached by 450 people with an estimated 5% error margin and 95% confidence, the number that can represent the universe can be reached.

**Table 1:** Sample size for a given population size

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310

35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

N: Population; S: Sample

References: (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016; 263)

#### 2.1.4. Data Collection

The study was conducted in Sivas and included individuals who reside in that area as the sample population. To collect data for the study, on the premises self-conducted questionnaires were given to the residents of Sivas. Research was conducted with people older than 18 years of weekends in January, February and March 2022, throughout on weekdays from 9:00 to 17:00 and on weekends from 11:00 to 18:00. Since local language of the residents of Sivas is Turkish, the survey form was translated into Turkish (Appendix 1) by expert interpreters.

The questionnaires were distributed using various data collection techniques: online, face-to-face, and self-administered. In the application of the questionnaires, shopping malls, hospitals, bazaars, universities, and neighborhoods where many people live together were selected. The objective of the survey was explained to the respondents, and they were asked for their willingness to participate. The respondents voluntarily participated, and the survey was designed to ensure that it would not cause any harm to those who agreed to take part. Additionally, the

respondents were guaranteed that their responses remain kept secure. Out of 468 questionnaires obtained while collecting the data, 18 were not included in the analysis due to inaccuracy or incompleteness, and only 450 were evaluated.

#### **2.1.5. Scope and Study Site**

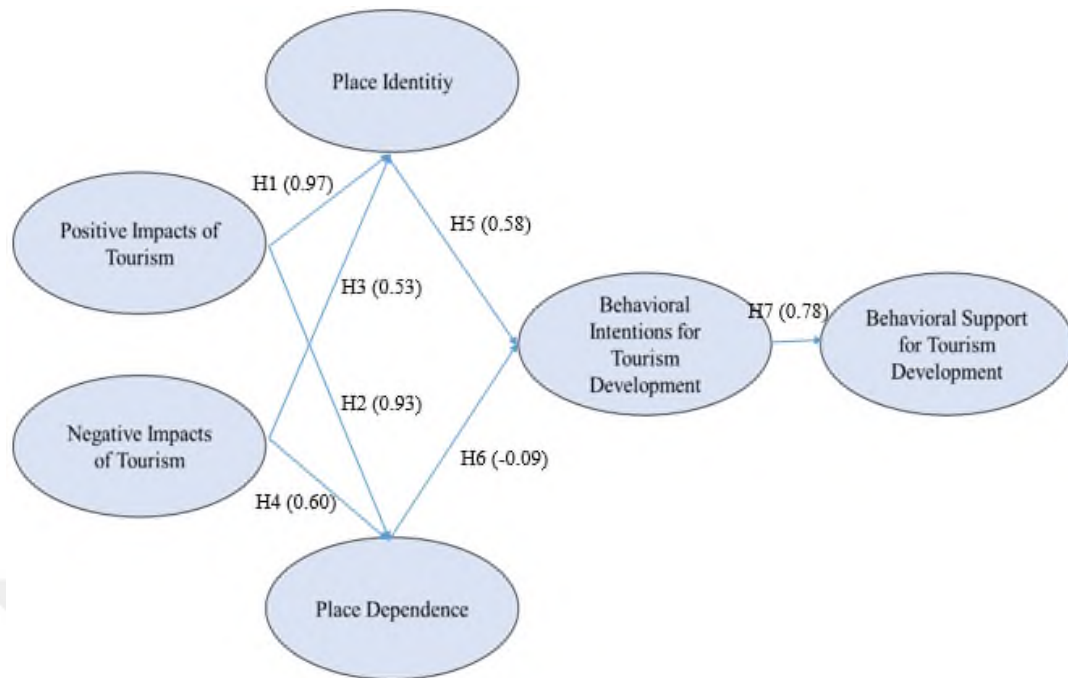
According to the 2021 census, Sivas ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the population ranking of Turkey with 636,121 people (TUIK, 2021). Considering the data of the last three years (646,608 in 2018, 638,956 in 2019, and 635,889 people in 2020), Sivas is defined as a province that gives much emigration (Basel, 2009; TUIK, 2021). There can be several reasons for this emigration such as the economy, agriculture, and construction in Sivas are not very developed (Alaeddinoğlu, 2008). Furthermore, investors ignoring to invest in Sivas results in discouraging joint ventures and increasing unemployment rates (Alaeddinoğlu, 2008; Bilgili, 2018; Gülmez & Yalman, 2010). Sivas has cultural and winter tourism potential (Asan, 2018a; Asan, 2018b; Ardiç et al., 2018; Şahin & Baştürk, 2019).

#### **2.1.6. Measurement Scales**

While developing the selected questionnaire for the data collection, the scales used in the literature were examined, and various expressions in previous studies were reviewed. To measure all items, a five-point Likert scale was used to range from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). The questionnaire was obtained from previous studies. The questionnaire consists of six parts; Demographic characteristics (age, gender, income level, etc.), positive impacts and negative impacts of tourism (adapted from Ribeiro et al., 2017), place attachment (adapted from Williams & Vaske, 2003), behavioral intention and behavioral support for tourism development (adapted from Erul and Woosnam, 2022).

#### **2.1.7. Model and Hypotheses of the Study**

The model and hypotheses of the research are given below in accordance with the purpose, problem, and research questions of the study.



**Figure 2:** Research Model

The current model first examines whether the place attachment has an effect on residents' perception of tourism impacts (positive & negative). Later it tests the relationship between the place attachment and residents' behavioural intentions and ultimately explains their behavioural support for tourism development. The analyses were conducted utilizing SPSS 26 and AMOS 22 statistical software packages.

Hypotheses developed on the basis of direct relationships in line with the purpose of the research and conceptual model are presented below.

H1: There is a positive relationship between residents' place identity and their perceived positive impacts of the tourism.

H2: There is a positive relationship between residents' place dependence and their perceived positive impacts of the tourism.

H3: There is a positive relationship between residents' place identity and the negative impacts of the tourism.

H4: There is a positive relationship between residents' place dependence and the negative impacts of the tourism.

H5: There is a positive relationship between residents' behavioural intention to support for tourism developments and place identity.

H6: There is a positive relationship between residents' behavioural intention to support for tourism developments and place dependence.

H7: There is a positive relationship between residents' behavioural intention for tourism developments and behavioural for support tourism developments.



## PART III

### 3.1. Findings

#### 3.1.1. Findings On the Demographic Characteristics

Table 2 provides a summary of the Sivas residents survey participants, revealing that the study involved 450 individuals, with a majority of them being female (66.4%). The participants' median age range was 20-29 years, and 60% of them reported that their employment was not related to tourism. The majority of respondents were single (68.7%). In addition, more than 72.9% of the locals had attained a minimum of an undergraduate degree, and the respondents' median income bracket ranged between ₺6000-7999.

**Table 2:** Sample characteristics

Socio-demographic Variable	n	%
<b>Gender (n = 450)</b>		
Female	299	66,4
Male	151	33,6
<b>Monthly Household Income (n = 450)</b>		
≤ ₺3999	109	24,2
₺4000–5999	95	21,1
₺6000-7999	78	17,3
₺8000-9999	57	12,7
≥ ₺10000	111	34,7
<b>Age (n = 450)</b>		
≤ 19	52	11,6
20-29	222	49,3
30-39	82	18,2
40-49	38	8,4
50-59	43	9,6
≥ 60	13	2,9
<b>Education (n = 450)</b>		
Less than high school and high school	51	11,3

Technical and vocational school	19	4,2
Undergraduate degree	328	72,9
Graduate degree	52	11,6
<b><i>Marital Status (n = 450)</i></b>		
Single	309	68,7
Married	141	31,3
<b><i>How often do you interact and/or interact directly or indirectly with visitors to Sivas? (n = 450)</i></b>		
Never	207	46,0
Once a week	155	34,4
A few days a week	68	15,1
Almost every day	20	4,4
<b><i>Your current job is directly or indirectly related to or linked to tourism. (n = 450)</i></b>		
Not related to tourism	270	60,0
Related to tourism	180	40,0
<b><i>Considering the whole household, what percentage of the income level in your home is directly or indirectly dependent on the expenditure made by visitors in Sivas? (n = 450)</i></b>		
Nothing	292	64,9
A quarter and a little more	105	23,3
Half and a little more	40	8,9
All	13	2,9
<b><i>Which of the impacts of tourism do you feel more? (n = 450)</i></b>		
Positive impacts and/or aspects (economic, socio-cultural, environmental)	311	69,1
Negative impacts and/or aspects (economic, socio-cultural, environmental)	33	7,3
None	106	23,6

### 3.1.2. Measurement and Structural Models

CFA (Confirmatory Factor Analysis) results for scales are consistent with previous studies in the literature. CFA gives the results of the reliability and validity of variables. This study's reliability results were perfect and high for six factors: the composite reliability value starting from 0.75 to up to 0.94 (Byrne, 2016). All factors have also been acceptable and valid (Schumacker & Lomax, 2010). The average variance (AVE score) described briefly is higher than 0.5 for each factor (Table 3) (Byrne, 2016; Schumacker & Lomax, 2010).

**Table 3:** Measurement model results

Constructs and Indicators	Factor Loadings	t-statistics	Composite Reliability	AVE
<b><i>Place Identity (PI)</i></b>			0.94	0.73
I feel Sivas is a part of me.	0.75	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
Sivas is very special to me	0.88	24.18***		
I identify strongly with Sivas	0.65	26.15***		
I am very attached to Sivas	0.72	25.44***		
Visiting Sivas says a lot about who I am.	0.75	21.20***		
Sivas means a lot to me.	0.68	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
<b><i>Place Dependence (PD)</i></b>			0.90	0.65
Sivas is the best place for what I like to do.	0.87	14.37***		
No other place can compare to Sivas.	0.88	14.48***		
I get more satisfaction out of visiting Sivas than any other.	0.79	13.53***		
Doing my job in Sivas is more important than doing it anywhere else.	0.85	14.21***		
I wouldn't substitute any other area for doing the types of things I do at Sivas.	0.61	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
<b><i>Positive Impacts of Tourism (PIT)</i></b>			0.80	0.67
Tourism develops infrastructure and public services in Sivas.	0.88	12.73***		
Tourism contributes to the increase in the reputation of Sivas.	0.75	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
<b><i>Negative Impacts of Tourism (NIT)</i></b>			0.80	0.50
Tourism damages the cultural heritage of Sivas.	0.69	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
Tourism causes the collapse of public services offered in Sivas.	0.75	12.73***		
Tourism increases vandalism (barbarism) in Sivas.	0.73	12.43***		
Tourism damages the natural environment in Sivas.	0.66	11.57***		
<b><i>Behavioral Intentions (BI)</i></b>			0.78	0.54
I am willing to support tourism development in Sivas.	0.84	11.32***		
I plan to support tourism development in Sivas.	0.79	11.14***		
I will make an effort to support tourism development in Sivas.	0.54	N/A <sup>a</sup>		
<b><i>Behavioral Support (BS)</i></b>			0.75	0.55
I visit Sivas tourist attractions.	0.64	11.17***		
I offer my assistance to tourism promotional events/activities in Sivas.	0.83	13.05***		
I attend local community meetings regarding tourism in Sivas.	0.66	N/A <sup>a</sup>		

<sup>a</sup>In AMOS, one loading has to be fixed to 1; hence, t-value cannot be calculated for this item.

<sup>b</sup>Scale: All items were asked on a 5-pt scale where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree.

Note. \*\*\*p < 0.001 level (one-tailed); CR= composite reliability; AVE= average variance extracted

The results show that both the measurement model (i.e., CFA) and the structural model (i.e., SEM) have sufficient and highly accepted fit (harmony)



values (IFI, TLI, and CFI values are greater than 0.90). In addition, the RMSEA score is less than 0.10 for both models (see Table 4 for detailed information) (Byrne, 2016).

**Table 4:** Fit indices of measurement and structural model

Fit indices <sup>a</sup>	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF	IFI	TLI	CFI	RMSEA
Measurement Model	653.497	212	0.000	3.083	0.94	0.92	0.93	0.07
Structural Model	897.206	219	0.000	4.097	0.90	0.88	0.90	0.08

<sup>a</sup>CMIN: Chi-square; DF: Degrees of freedom; P: Probability level; IFI: Incremental Fit Index; TLI: Tucker-Lewis index; CFI: Comparative fit index; RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation.

In the distinctive validity analysis, the diagonal digits are the square root of the mean-variance explained AVE. The non-dark steps refer to the intercourse (correlation) between the factors. In order to ensure distinctive validity, the values on the diagonals must be at the highest level. According to the results, the correlation values are smaller than the diagonal values. In short, distinctive validity has been achieved and there is no problem (Hair et al., 2010).

**Table 5:** Discriminant validity analysis

Measures	STD	NIT	PIT	PI	PD	IS
Support for Tourism Development (STD)	0.74					
Negative Impacts of Tourism (NIT)	-0.21	0.71				
Positive Impacts of Tourism (PIT)	0.43	-0.33	0.82			
Place Identity (PI)	0.52	-0.14	0.50	0.86		
Place Dependence (PD)	0.39	0.05	0.25	0.73	0.81	
Intention to Support (IS)	0.73	-0.29	0.56	0.47	0.28	0.74

Note: The bold diagonal elements are the square root of the variance shared between the factors and their measures (average variance extracted). Off-diagonal elements are the correlations between factors. For discriminant validity, the diagonal elements should be larger than any other corresponding row or column entry. All items were asked on a 5-pt scale where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 6 indicates that most of the hypotheses performed to find the relationship between the variables in the model have been accepted (six of them were accepted, and one was rejected). When we looked at path coefficients ( $\beta$  coefficients) and  $R^2$  SMC values, the model has a good harmony and the path coefficients for accepted hypotheses (Hair et al., 2010; Byrne, 2016).

**Table 6:** Hypothesized relationship between constructs and observed relationship from the structural model

Hypothesized relationship	Beta ( $\beta$ )	t-statistic	p-value	Supported?
H1: Positive Impacts of Tourism & Place Identity (PIT & PI)	0.97	8.75	***	Yes
H2: Positive Impacts of Tourism & Place Dependence (PIT & PD)	0.93	8.21	***	Yes
H3: Negative Impacts of Tourism & Place Identity (NIT & PI)	0.53	5.03	***	Yes
H4: Negative Impacts of Tourism & Place Dependence (NIT & PD)	0.60	6.00	***	Yes
H5: Place Identity & Intention to Support (PI & IS)	0.58	6.77	***	Yes
H6: Place Dependence & Intention to Support (PD & IS)	-.09	-1.26	n/s	No
H7: Intention to Support & Support for Tourism Development (IS & STD)	0.78	9.09	***	Yes

Note: \*\*\*p < 0.001; n/s : not supported

$R^2_{SMC}$ : PI: 0.94, PD: 0.58, IS: 0.27 and STD: 0.61

## CONCLUSION

For many years, scholars have directed their attention towards the impacts of tourism, residents' support for tourism development. However, limited studies (e.g., Pham, 2012; Zhu et al., 2017; Şorcaru, 2022) examined residents' perceptions of where tourism could be more developed. Moreover, the relationship between the residents' perception of tourism impacts and their support for tourism development within place attachment theory still needs to measure. This section encompasses a synopsis of the present research's findings and an examination of the outcomes concerning the existing literature. The final part of this chapter comprises a discussion of the study's limitations and suggestions for future researchs.

Although tourism in Sivas has not developed much, it has a huge potential due to cultural, historical, and natural resources. Hence, the aim of this study is to measure Sivas residents' perceptions of tourism impacts (i.e., positive & negative), examine their attachment to the destination, and ultimately determine their support for tourism. The majority of the hypotheses in the model created to show the relationship and links between the factors were accepted.

Based on the findings of the current research, there appears to be a parallelism with previous studies (Ersoy, 2021; Ganji et al., 2021; Stylidis, 2018a) with regard to the positive and significant correlation between place attachment and support for tourism development, while also considering the potential impacts of tourism. However, it is worth noting that the present research took place in an area where tourism is not widely established. This particular element of the study is considerable for why it addresses a void in the current body of literature and contributes significantly to the field of tourism. As a result, the outcomes of this investigation could be a useful point of reference for upcoming researchers exploring the correlation between place attachment and tourism growth in areas with comparable attributes.

The initial two hypotheses (H1-2) were formulated to examine how residents' perception of impacts affects their attachment to the place, specifically in terms of place identity and place dependence. Results showed that tourism's positive impacts explained significantly and positively on the place identity and place dependence of the residents' and those findings bear resemblance to the previous studies findings (Yuan et al., 2019; Styliadis, 2018a; Eusébio et al., 2018; Saatci & Türkmen; 2020; Prayag et al., 2018; Aksöz et al., 2015). For instance, Eusébio et al. (2018) identified a gap in the literature pertaining to the relationship between interactions between hosts and tourists, opinions of residents towards the growth of tourism in emerging locations and place attachment. To address this gap, the authors conducted a study on Boa Vista Island in Cape Verde, a popular island tourism destination. The purpose of this research was to investigate how residents' attitudes towards tourism developments are affected by their place attachment, their experiences with host-tourist interactions, and their positive and negative of tourism impacts. The research results suggest that residents' perspective on tourism development is positively impacted by place attachment, the nature of interactions between hosts and tourists, and the positive impacts of tourism. Conversely, their views are negatively influenced by the perceived negative impacts of tourism. Furthermore, host-tourist mutual effect was found to be the strongest determinant, both directly and indirectly, of residents' attitudes towards tourism development. These results suggest the emphasis of fostering positive host-tourist interactions and promoting the positive impacts of tourism in developing destinations to enhance residents' attitudes towards tourism development. Again, a similar study was carried out in Mordoğan, Turkey. Türkmen and Saatci (2020) examined the relationship between place attachment, perceived positive-negative impacts of tourism and the attitudes of residents to support tourism development. As a result of the research, it has been determined that place attachment has a positive impact on supporting tourism development (similar with H5 but dissimilar with H6). In addition, it has been determined that the perceived positive impacts of tourism on supporting residents' tourism development are positive and the perceived negative impacts of tourism are negative. It explains about 19% of the change in the perceived negative impacts of tourism and about 33% of the change in the perceived positive impacts

of tourism in Mordoğan. It has been determined that place attachment, perceived positive and negative impacts of tourism explain approximately 68% of the change in the support of residents to the development of tourism in Mordoğan.

In contrast to our findings, some studies, found residents' perceived impacts were not significant determinants of the place attachment. For example, Atsız (2021) examined the support of residents for tourism in Yozgat, which is an underdeveloped place in terms of tourism like Sivas. He found that, the perceived positive impacts of tourism positively impact support for tourism; On the other hand, it has been seen that the perceived negative impacts negatively impact the support for tourism. However, it has been revealed that when tourism develops, the positive impacts perceived will affect the quality of life of the residents. In addition, the perception that the quality of life of the residents will be affected also impacts the support for tourism. Also, the level of community engagement of residents influences the perceived positive effects of tourism and residents support for tourism. He found, residents place attachment is relative to the positive tourism impacts perceived by the residents ( $\beta = 0.176$ ,  $t\text{-value} = 3.154$ ) and support for tourism development ( $\beta=0.386$ ,  $t\text{-value}=7.290$ ).

Later, the result of the (H3) was similar and consistent with some studies (Prayag et al., 2018; Mancı, 2022; Saatci & Türkmen, 2020), while it was different than with some studies (Yuan et al., 2019; Blešić et al., 2022; Aksöz et al., 2015). For example, Aksöz et al., (2015) aimed to examine the support of the residents living in the Sarıcakaya district of Eskişehir, which has just begun to develop in terms of rural tourism, on 5 dimensions (place attachment, community involvement, perceived positive impacts from rural tourism, perceived negative impacts of tourism and support to rural tourism development). Similar to our study, there was a significant relationship between place attachment and positive impacts of tourism [H1, H2 ( $\beta_1=0,161$ ,  $p<0,05$ )], but unlike our study, they could not find a relationship between place attachment and negative impacts of tourism [H3, H4 ( $\beta_3=-0,030$ ,  $p>0,05$ )]. In addition, Prayag et al., (2018) try to consolidate theoretical model between, motivation perceptions of tourism impacts place attachment, and satisfaction for domestic visitors/tourist. They carry out the research in Elminai Ghana where is a famous for dark tourism heritage. Their findings are similar with

the current study for (H1, H2, H3, H4,) they find relationship between place attachment and positive/negative impacts of tourism. Also they find interesting fact about place attachment constructs to explain it. According to the result, they found that place attachment explained by place dependence .941( $\beta$ ) place identity .823( $\beta$ ) social bonding .704( $\beta$ ). Besides that, Blešić et al., (2022) wanted to assess to residents' perception of Novi Sad where is selected as a The European Capital of Culture 2022. They did quantitative research about of cultural involvement and place attachment on residents' attitude toward tourism and support for tourism development. The findings of the study showed some by a majority (five of six construct) similarities (H1, H2) with current study. But for H3, H4 they find a just two of six construct (negative environmental impacts, negative economic impacts) for the similarity so it's not parallel with current study. But as a result they find same result with current research a relationship between both place dependence and place identity for support for tourism development.

Furthermore, (H4), while some studies show similarity and parallelism (Yuan et al., 2019; Mancı, 2022; Saatci & Türkmen, 2020), some studies show difference (Blešić et al., 2022; Aksöz et al., 2015). For example, (Mancı, 2022) In his study conducted in Göbeklitepe, a World Heritage Site in Turkey. He tried to explain the positive and negative perceptions of residents regarding the support for tourism development, with factors (place attachment and community involvement). Unlike our study, no relationship was found between place attachment and positive impacts of tourism [H1, H2 (-0.024)]. But his research showed parallelism with founding a relationship between place attachment and negative impacts of tourism [H3, H4 (0.95)].

When the relationship between place identity and intentional support is examined (H5), it was found that there were similarities (Aksöz et al., 2015; Prayag et al., 2018; Saatci & Türkmen, 2020; Yuan et al., 2019) and differences (Wang, 2016; Xu, Xue and Huang, 2022) in some studies. For example, In Wang's (2016) study, the objective was to explore the relationships between various components of place identity, namely place distinctiveness, continuity, self-efficacy, self-esteem, and continuity, and the attitudes of residents towards tourism development in Indianapolis, a developing destination in America. The study revealed that place-

based distinctiveness and continuity played crucial roles in predicting the attitude of residents towards tourism development. However, the results differed from our study in that Wang found that self-esteem had a significant impact on supporting tourism development, whereas self-efficacy did not have any effect on the support for tourism development. Xu et al. (2022) conducted a study to investigate the relationship between the sense of place, including place attachment and place identity, and the support for urban businesses in Shaoguan Century-old East Street, China. The principal intent of the study was to determine the residents' support for the regeneration of the urban area in terms of its historical and cultural aspects. The findings of the study showed some similarities and differences with our research. The study found that place attachment had a significant effect on residents' intention to support, which is similar to the current research. However, the study differed from our findings in that it is observe a stronger relationship between place attachment and intention to support then place identity and intention to support. This difference may be attributed to the specific context and characteristics of the study area in China, as well as the differences in the measurement and operationalization of the sense of place constructs. Also, Yuan et al. (2019) try to find the relationships between residents' attitudes toward tourism with place attachment in terms of place identity and place dependence and their involvement in tourism utilizing the social exchange theory, theory of planned behaviour and attitude theory in Huangsh in China where is a city adaptation to industrial heritage tourism. Some of their findings similar with current research hypothesis [H1(0.000p), H2(0.002p), H5(0.043 p)]. The interesting fact that is in here, the both study couldn't find any relationship between place dependence and intentional support [H6 (0.845 p)]. In addition, this, while we found a significant relationship between negative impacts of tourism, place identity and place dependence (H3, H4), they find a relationship between just perceived negative impacts and place dependence (0.031p).

When the studies examining the relationship between intention to support and support for tourism development, which has the last hypothesis (H7), according to Erul and Woosnam (2022), it was seen that such a relationship had not been discussed in depth before, and it was determined that the results of the study were

similar to the study of Erul and Woosnam (2022). For example, Erul and Woosnam (2022) in their study in Izmir, they used emotional solidarity and planned behavior to explain residents' behavioral support for tourism. Their findings are behavioral intentions, in turn, uniquely explained 23% of the variance in residents' behavioral support for tourism.

In summary, it has been seen that the positive and negative impacts of tourism mentioned in the study can greatly affect the support of the residents, which can be explained greatly by place attachment. It is important to ensure that tourism development is supported by residents in order to maximize the positive impacts of tourism and minimize negative impacts. This can be achieved by considering the needs and concerns of residents when planning tourism activities.

**Theoretical and Practical Implications:** Seeing this study is the first to examine the perceptions of the residents of Sivas towards the impacts of tourism, their support for tourism development, and test the influence of the place attachment on those former variables. In the light of the mentioned results, it is thought that organizing events such as seminars, fairs and organizations related to tourism in order to increase the support of the residents to tourism will contribute positively to the development of tourism. In addition, tourism authorities should also take the views of the residents when planning tourism developments (Erul, 2021). Residents should be given the right to speak in projects with the intention of supporting tourism developments and they should be placed in appropriate positions (Erul & Uslu, 2022). Similarly, residents should be conscious of tourism developments by organizing trainings on the positive and negative impacts of tourism and the contribution of tourism developments to the society and destination. In addition, residents who are neutral to the economic effects of tourism can be included in tourism and employed in the tourism sector. For this, works can be developed to increase the touristic facilities and tourism activities that are lacking in the region. In order to increase the support of the residents to tourism, plans can be made to improve and increase the public services (infrastructure and superstructure, etc.) in the region with the support of the state. In the suggestions to be brought to the literature, the fact that the study will be carried out for the first time in this region makes us think that the study will be a guide for future studies. In addition, the



generalizability of the study can be increased by conducting this study in the districts of Sivas. In addition, various factors (Social Exchange Theory, Stakeholder Theory, Destination Image Theory, Social Capital Theory) can be added to the next studies in order to expand the study from a theoretical perspective and better results can be achieved. With these theories, residents' support for tourism development can have complex and multifaceted relationships between tourists, and local businesses, and the broader social and economic factors that contribute to the success or failure of tourism development initiatives. Finally, the perception of residents can be examined based on different types of tourism such as cultural tourism, winter tourism etc. which is unique to Sivas province.

**Limitations and Future Research Directions:** As with any study, this study has some limitations. First of all, the fact that the questionnaires were collected by convenience sampling method can reduce the reliability of the study in terms of representing the universe. Hence, future studies should use other sampling techniques such as simple random sampling or cluster sampling. Secondly, the fact that the study took place in a single destination does not make it possible to generalize the study to different environments and people. Hence, future studies should add more destinations and make comparisons between those destinations. Furthermore, a more inclusive framework can be presented, and a contribution to the sustainable development of tourism can be provided by applying these impact levels in destinations at different stages of tourism. In addition, the fact that only quantitative methods were used among the research methods in the study is another criterion. For the development of tourism in underdeveloped destinations, mixed research methods that examine the perspectives of the residents in more detail and examine the level and content of their knowledge about tourism will also provide fruitful results. Due to cost and time limitations, the collection of research data in a certain period is an important limitation. Hence, future studies should collect the data at different times of the year. Finally, since the variables tested in the structural model of this study are study-specific, testing this model by adding different variables (e.g., emotional solidarity) in different provinces will provide a holistic perspective in understanding residents' support for tourism development.

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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX – 1

### SİVAS HALKI ANKET SORULARI

Sivas'ta gerçekleşen turizmle ilgili aşağıda belirtilen 1-4 arasındaki sorulara ne ölçüde katılmaktasınız? Ölçek Aralığı 1= **kesinlikle KATILMIYORUM**'dan başlayıp 5 = **kesinlikle KATILIYORUM**'a kadardır.'

(Lütfen her bir maddeyi doldurunuz ve rakamlardan sadece birini yuvarlak içine alınız).

1.

	Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum
Sivas'ın benim bir parçam olduğunu hissedirim.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas benim için çok özeldir.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas ile kendimi güçlü bir şekilde özdeşleştiririm (tanımlarım).	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'a çok bağlıyım.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ı ziyaret etmek, benim kim olduğum hakkında çok şey söyler.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas benim için çok şey ifade ediyor.	1	2	3	4	5
Yapmayı sevdiğim şeyler için en iyi yer Sivas'tır.	1	2	3	4	5
Başka hiçbir yer Sivas ile kıyaslanamaz.	1	2	3	4	5
Diğer yerlere göre Sivas'ı ziyaret etmekten daha çok memnun olurum.	1	2	3	4	5
İşimi Sivas'ta yapmak, başka herhangi bir yerde yapmaktan daha önemlidir.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ta yaptığım çeşitli şeyleri başka herhangi bir yerde değişmem.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ta yaptığım şeyleri Sivas'a benzer bir yer olduğunda yapmaktan keyif alırım.	1	2	3	4	5

2.

	Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum
Turizm, Sivas'taki altyapıyı ve kamu hizmetlerini geliştirir.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm yaşam pahalılığını (ürün ve hizmet fiyatlarını) artırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ın itibarının artmasına katkıda bulunur.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ta istenmeyen işlerin oluşmasına katkıda bulunur.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, ziyaretçilerin kültürümü daha iyi anlamalarını sağlar.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ın kültürel mirasına zarar verir.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'a ait olan gururumu artırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ta sunulan kamu hizmetlerinin çökmesine neden olur.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas yerel halkının arasındaki uyumu (bağlılığı) güçlendirir.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ta hırsızlığı ve vandalizm'i (barbarlığı) artırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas halkı arasında daha fazla çevre bilincine yol açar.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'taki doğal çevreye zarar verir.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'taki çevresel etkileri kontrol etmek için araç geliştirmeyi kolaylaştırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'taki kirlilik seviyelerini artırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'taki yerel halk için iş imkânlarını artırır.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizm, Sivas'ta trafik ve park sorunu yaratır.	1	2	3	4	5



3.

	Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum
Sivas'ta turizmin gelişmesini desteklemek için istekliyim.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ta turizmin gelişmesini desteklemeyi planlıyorum.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ta turizmin gelişmesini desteklemek için çaba göstereceğim.	1	2	3	4	5

4.

	Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum
Sivasın turistik mekânlarını ziyaret ederim.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas'ta turizmi teşvik edici organizasyonlara yardımcı olurum.	1	2	3	4	5
Turizmle ilgili bölge halkı tarafından düzenlenen toplantılara katılırım.	1	2	3	4	5

**5 ile 13 arasındaki sorulara demografik özellikler ile ilgilidir. Bu bilgiler tamamen gizlidir ve Sivas halkını yeterince iyi temsil edip edemediğimizi belirlemek için kullanılacaktır.**

**5. Cinsiyetiniz nedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)**

- ☐ Erkek
- ☐ Kadın

**6. Kaç yaşındasınız? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)**

- ☐ 19 yaş ve altı
- ☐ 20-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60 yaş ve üstü

**7. Eğitim düzeyiniz nedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)**

- ☐ Lise ve lise öncesi
- ☐ Mesleki ve teknik okul
- ☐ Üniversite
- ☐ Lisansüstü

**8. Aylık hane halkı geliriniz nedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)**

- ☐ ₺3999 ve altı
- ☐ ₺4000-5999
- ☐ ₺6000-7999
- ☐ ₺8000-9999
- ☐ ₺10000 ve üstü

**9. Mevcut medeni durumunuz nedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)**

- ☐ Bekâr
- ☐ Evli
- ☐ Boşanmış ya da Ayrılmış
- ☐ Dul

**10.** Sivas’a gelen ziyaretçilerle doğrudan ya da dolaylı olarak ne sıklıkla iletişimde ve/veya etkileşimde bulunursunuz? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)

- ☐ Hiç
- ☐ Haftada bir gün
- ☐ Haftada birkaç gün
- ☐ Hemen hemen her gün

**11.** Mevcut işinizin doğrudan veya dolaylı turizmle ilgisi veya bağı nedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)

- ☐ Turizmle ilgili değil
- ☐ Turizmle ilgili

**12.** Tüm hane halkı düşünüldüğünde, evinizdeki gelir seviyesinin yüzde kaçını doğrudan ya da dolaylı olarak Sivas’taki ziyaretçilerin yaptığı harcamaya bağlıdır? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)

- ☐ Hiç
- ☐ Çeyreği ve biraz daha fazlası
- ☐ Yarı ve biraz daha fazlası
- ☐ Tamamı

**13.** Turizmin etkilerinden hangisini daha fazla hissetmektedir? (Lütfen birini işaretleyiniz)

- ☐ Pozitif etkilerini ve/veya yanlarını (ekonomik, sosyal-kültürel, çevresel)
- ☐ Negatif etkilerini ve/veya yanlarını (ekonomik, sosyal-kültürel, çevresel)
- ☐ Hiçbiri

**ZAMAN AYIRDIĞINIZ ÇOK TEŞEKKÜR EDERİZ!**

GÜN \_\_\_\_\_

ADRES \_\_\_\_\_

ANKETNO \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX – 2

### SIVAS RESIDENTS' ATTITUDES ABOUT TOURISM

How much do you agree with the following statements about living in Sivas? The scale ranges from 1= strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. (Please circle one number per statement).

1.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel Sivas is a part of me.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas is very special to me.	1	2	3	4	5
I identify strongly with Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I am very attached to Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Visiting Sivas says a lot about who I am.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas means a lot to me.	1	2	3	4	5
Sivas is the best place for what I like to do.	1	2	3	4	5
No other place can compare to Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I get more satisfaction out of visiting Sivas than any other.	1	2	3	4	5
Doing my job in Sivas is more important than doing it anywhere else.	1	2	3	4	5
I wouldn't substitute any other area for doing the types of things I do at Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy doing what I do in Sivas when there is a place similar to Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5

2.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Tourism develops infrastructure and public services in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism increases the cost of living (product and service prices).	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism contributes to the increase in the reputation of Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism contributes to the formation of unwanted jobs in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism allows visitors to better understand my culture.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism damages the cultural heritage of Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism increases my pride in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism causes the collapse of public services offered in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism strengthens the harmony (loyalty) of the residents of Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism increases theft and vandalism in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism leads to more environmental awareness among the people of Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism damages the natural environment in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism makes it easier to develop vehicles to control environmental impact in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism increases the pollution levels in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism increases job opportunities for local people in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism creates traffic and parking problems in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5

3.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am willing to support the development of tourism in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I plan to support the development of tourism in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I will strive to support the development of tourism in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5

4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I visit the tourist places of Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I help with tourism encouraging organizations in Sivas.	1	2	3	4	5
I attend the meetings organized by the people of the region about tourism	1	2	3	4	5

The questions between 5 and 13 are related to demographic properties. This information is completely confidential and will be used to determine if we have satisfactorily represented residents of Sivas.

5. What is your gender? (Please check one)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

6. What is your age? (Please check one)

- ☐ 19 and less
- ☐ 20-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60 and more

7. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Please check one)

- ☐ High School and less than high school
- ☐ Technical/vocational school
- ☐ Undergraduate degree
- ☐ Graduate degree

8. What is your monthly household income? (Please check one)

- ☐ ₺3999 and less
- ☐ ₺4000–5999
- ☐ ₺6000-7999
- ☐ ₺8000-9999
- ☐ ₺10000 and more

9. What is your current marital status? (Please check one)

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced or Separated
- ☐ Widowed

**10.** How often do you interact and/or interact directly or indirectly with visitors to Sivas?  
(Please check one)

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once a Week
- ☐ A few days a week
- ☐ Almost every day

**11.** Is your current job is directly or indirectly related to or linked to tourism? (Please check one)

- ☐ Not related to tourism
- ☐ Related to tourism

**12.** Considering the whole household, what percentage of the income level in your home is directly or indirectly dependent on the expenditure made by visitors in Sivas? (Please check one)

- ☐ Nothing
- ☐ A quarter and a little more
- ☐ Half and a little more
- ☐ All

**13.** Which of the impacts of tourism do you feel more? (Please check one)

- ☐ Positive impacts and/or aspects (economic, socio-cultural, environmental)
- ☐ Negative impacts and/or aspects (economic, socio-cultural, environmental)
- ☐ None

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME!**

**DAY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **SURVEY NO** \_\_\_\_\_