

ASSESSMENT OF ECOTOURISM PERCEPTION OF RURAL YOUTH FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF YIĞILCA

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Introduction

This study will contribute to the local people living in rural areas economically by using the natural and cultural resources in rural areas more effectively, increase employment opportunities, prevent migration with on-site development and raise living standards, and aims to evaluate the ecotourism perception of rural youth by putting forth ecotourism activities that can help to minimize economic inequality. For this purpose, the perceptions of the young population living in rural areas of Düzce province Yiğilca district about the use of ecotourism activities as a tool in rural development were evaluated.

Methodology

Within the scope of the study, the target group was selected as the young population between the ages of 15–34 living in the region. Within the scope of the study, a total of 155 young people were interviewed in 39 villages of Yiğilca district. The questionnaire includes closed-ended demographic information to determine the ecotourism knowledge level of young people living in the region, their perspective on ecotourism activities and whether they want tourists to come to the region, the priority activities in the region in terms of rural development, the current problems in the region and the obstacles to ecotourism, support ecotourism activities. questions were asked to determine whether they would not support it, the degree of satisfaction among local stakeholders and incoming tourists, the migration status of the region and how these would affect ecotourism. In determining the questionnaire questions, the studies of Altanlar (2007), Berik (2018), Gültekin (2010) were used.

Results

Ecotourism activities in Yiğilca; cave tourism, waterfall tourism, bicycle tourism, camping tourism, trekking, orientering, sport fishing, canoeing, sailing, nature photography, wildlife watching, agrotourism. Cave tourism can be done in Sarıkaya and Gökçekaya Caves in Yiğilca. Sarıkaya Cave, which is the largest cave in the Western Black Sea Region, has stalactites made of limestone and sandstones. Sarıkaya is a water passage way and the branch of Aksu stream passes through it. There are Saklıkent and Yogunpelit Waterfalls in Yiğilca District, where waterfall tourism is carried out. Hasanlar Dam provides the opportunity to have a picnic around the lake in appropriate seasons. The lake and its surroundings offer photo safari opportunities with their changing tones depending on the season. In addition, activities such as canoeing, sailing, rowing sports, water biking and angling can be done. The region where the Geyikbeli Canyon Nature Park is located is in a location that can be preferred by the visitors as it is located on the road route of Yedigöller National Park.

Conclusion

Yiğilca district is a very limited settlement in terms of accommodation opportunities. Among the investments to be made, a study should be carried out to provide accommodation opportunities. These studies are considered as activities that will benefit the development and development of Yiğilca district and the employment of young individuals by preserving the existing population of the region.

References

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