








Tourists' Perception and Decision making Towards Maguri Motapung Wetland as Popular Tourism Destination Aftermath of Baghjan Disaster

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Abstract. Maguri and Motapung Beel (wetland) - an Important Bird Area site in the district of Tinsukia is one of the most popular bird watching destinations of India. Bird watchers and photographers from around the globe visit the wetland to experience its diverse birdlife. A explosion incident occurred at the Baghjan-5 oil well on the 27th of May, 2020, in close proximity to the wetland by approximately 500 metres. The study examines the impact of the oil well blowout on tourists' perception and decision making on visiting Maguri and Motapung Beel as a bird watching destination. An online questionnaire that was organised yielded 448 responses in total. Since the study's population is unlimited, the snowball sampling technique has been used. Structured Equation Modelling (SEM) has been used in this study. The study highlights that study variables like destination image, experience expectation and Travelers' perceptions are significantly positively impacted by media influence; while man-made disaster does not significantly impact tourists' perception. Findings presented a positive relationship between tourists' perception and tourists' decision making.

Keywords: Baghjan-5 Oil well blowout, Destination Image, Maguri and Motapung Beel (Wetland), Man-Made Disaster, Tourists' Decision Making, Tourists' Perception.

1. Introduction

According to data from remote sensing, Assam contains 3513 wetlands. [1], which accounts for nearly 1.29 percent of the state's geographical area. When it comes to bird diversity, the wetlands in the Tinsukia district, namely the "Maguri and Motapung Beel," are noteworthy. Almost all the wetland bird species present in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park have been seen here. Maguri and Motapung Beel ("Beel" is the colloquial version of "wetland") is a 10 square kilometre water body in the Tinsukia district of Assam, India. Adjacent to the marsh is the Maguri and Koliapani grassland, which covers around ten square kilometres and is well known for grassland bird species. Birdwatchers from all over the world go to the Maguri and Motapung Beel area. Outside of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, this wetland complex is a component of the Dibru-Saikhowa Important Bird Area (IBA IN-AS-13). [2]. The Beel is located on the southern bank of the Dibru River, which is a Brahmaputra tributary. A network of canals connects the wetland to the river Dibru, and it is teeming with aquatic life. Grassland species such as "Black-breasted Parrotbill" (*Paradoxornis flavirostris*), "Jerdon's Babbler" (*Chrysomaalतिrostre*), and "Swamp Francolin" (*Francolinus singularis*) [4] inhabit the grasslands closest to Maguri and Motapung Beel, which are vital habitats for these creatures.

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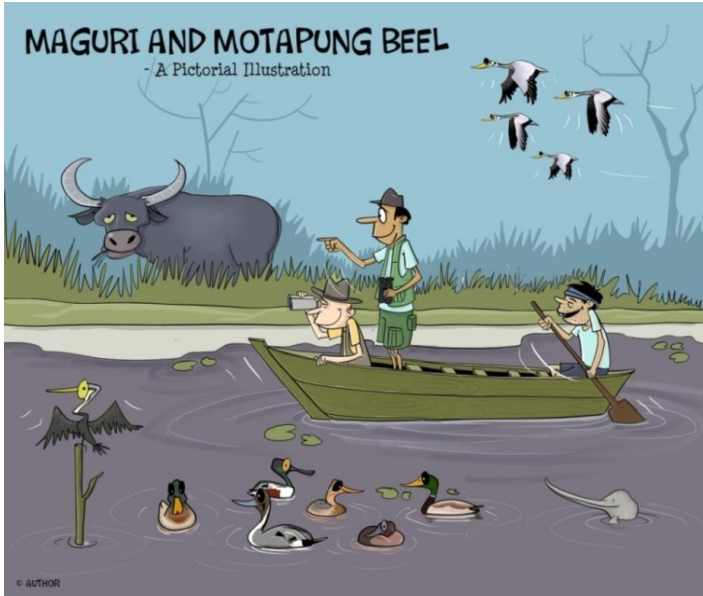


Fig. 1. Maguri and Motapung Beel (A Pictorial Illustration by author Dr. Deborshee Gogoi) **Source:** Author

There are currently 295 bird species known to exist in the Maguri. and Motapung Beel area that includes four nos. of critically endangered (CR) species viz. “White-rumped Vulture” (*Gyps bengalensis*), “Slender-billed Vulture” *Gyps tenuirostris*), “White-bellied Heron” (*Ardea insignis*) [5], and “Baer's Pochard” (*Aythya baeri*) [6]; 2 endangered (EN) species viz. “Yellow-breasted Bunting” (*Emberiza aureola*) and “Swamp Prinia” (*Laticillacinereus*); 8 nos. of vulnerable (VUN) species viz. “Marsh Babbler” (*Pellorneum palustre*), “Black-breasted Parrotbill” (*Paradoxornis flavirostris*) [7], “Swamp Francolin” (*Francolinus singularis*), “Jerdon's Babbler” (*Chrysomma altirostre*), “Lesser White-fronted Goose” (*Anser erythropus*), “Lesser Adjutant” (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), “Common Pochard” (*Aythya farina*), “Bristled Grass Warbler” (*Chaetornis striata*); and ten nos. of Near Threatened (NT) species including “Oriental Darter” *Aythya farina*; “Falcated Duck” *Mareca falcata*; “Ferruginous Pochard” (*Aythya nyroca*); “Black-tailed Godwit” (*Limosa limosa*); “River Lapwing” (*Vanellus duvaucelii*); “Eurasian Curlew” (*Numenius arquata*); “River Tern” (*Sterna aurantia*); “Spot-billed Pelican” (*Pelecanus philippensis*), “Black-headed Ibis” (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), and “Red-necked Falcon” (*Falco chicquera*). Moreover, Maguri-Motapung Beel has given two new birds to the Indian subcontinent, viz. “Baikal Bush Warbler” (*Locustelladavidi*) [8] and “White-browed Crake” (*Porzana cinerea*) [4].

2. Literature Review

2.1 Baghjan Oil Blowout

A blowout occurred on the 27th of May, 2020 at the Baghjan 5 Oil well in the DoomDooma Revenue Circle of Tinsukia district, Assam, India. The well was originally drilled by Oil India Limited on November 20, 2006. On June 9, 2020, an oil spill caused by a blowout and subsequent fire resulted in the destruction of around 60 to 70 hectares of land in its surrounding area [9]. The deafening sound emanating from the explosion site may be detected up to a distance of 12

kilometres and beyond, rendering the vicinity perilous for both humans and animals. The impacted region is abundant in biodiversity and serves as a final sanctuary for some species that have limited distribution and are globally endangered. The user's text is "[10]." The process of permanently stopping the uncontrolled release of natural gas and associated components from a depth of 3.7 km took a total of 173 days.

The Preliminary report from the Committee of Experts, established by the Honourable National Green Tribunal Principal Bench in New Delhi, identified several shortcomings as the likely reasons for the Baghjan-5 blowout and subsequent fire. These deficiencies include a lack of understanding of technical operations, such as the removal of the Blow Out Preventer (BOP), insufficient planning, and inadequate management and supervision by the Contractor and OIL. Baghjan-5 oil well constitutes both parts of the Assam Arakan basin and the Indo Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. The well is located 1.108 km south of the Dibru-Saikhwa National Park Eco-sensitive zone boundary and about 500 meters north of Maguri and Motapung Beel- an IBA site [9]

In promotion of tourism destinations image play a pivotal role [11]. Because a concept like this is emerging, research on tourist destinations is also increasing [12, 13]. Destination image is directly related to tourist perception and tourist satisfaction [14]. Over the past 40 years, significant research has been done on the role that image plays in determining a particular tourism location's success., with various researches tackling the issue from various angles [15]. Man-made Disasters that have adversely affected ecology in the past years include Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spillage in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010 [26]; Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on March 24, 1989 [27]; Dust Bowl during the 1930s [28]; Chernobyl's Accident of 1986 [29]. Tourism is receptive to natural and man-made disasters [30, 31]. It has been noted that natural and man-made calamities have a negative impact on the number and experiences of tourists. [32].

3. Conceptual Framework and Hypotheses Development

3.1 Destination Image

In promotion of tourism destinations image play a pivotal role [11]. Because a concept like this is emerging, research on tourist destinations is also increasing [12, 13]. Destination image is directly related to tourist perception and tourist satisfaction [14]. The role that image plays in determining a destination's level of success has been the subject of much research over the last four decades; various researches tackling the issue from various angles [15]. In promotion of tourism destinations image play a pivotal role [11]. Because a concept like this is emerging, research on tourist destinations is also increasing [12, 13]. Destination image is directly related to tourist perception and tourist satisfaction [14]. In relevant academic literature, the idea of a destination picture may differ. Tourists form perceptions and thoughts about a product, location, or tourism destination based on the image it portrays [16]. Destination image is also the "impressions of a place" or "perceptions of an area" [17]. Destination image is the a significant element in the success and failure of a tourist destination [18]. Natural attraction, cultural attraction, infrastructure, price, and value are attributes of destination image [14].

H1: Destination image positively affects tourists' perception.

3.2 Experience Expectation

Expectations are crucial when it comes to travel, even more so when travelers consider engaging in tourism activities or visiting certain sites [19]. There has been a study on expectations in the hospitality business, mostly in terms of evaluating service quality. These studies looked at the gap dividing consumers' expectations and their perceptions of service quality [20]. Past experiences, service promises (both implicit and explicit),

and word of mouth (WOM) affect customers' service expectations (i.e. desired and predicted services) [21]. Past experiences shape tourists' expectations and so do external communication, WOM, and destination image [22].

H2: Experience Expectation positively affects tourists' perception.

3.3 Man-made Disaster

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR, 2009) has provided a definition of a disaster as a significant disruption to the functioning of a community or society, leading to extensive human, material, economic, or environmental damages and consequences that surpass the affected community or society's capacity to manage using its available resources. According to Carter (1991) [23, 24], a *disaster* is "an occurrence—whether man-made or natural—that affects a community so severely that it requires extraordinary measures in response." Disasters caused by human decision-making are known as man-made disasters. [25]. Man-made Disasters that have adversely affected ecology in the past years include Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spillage in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010[26]; Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on March 24, 1989[27]; Dust Bowl during the 1930s [28]; Chernobyl's Accident of 1986 [29]. Tourism is receptive to natural and man-made disasters [30, 31]. Natural and man-made disasters have been shown to have a negative impact on tourism numbers and experiences. [32]. Thus, the first step in helping the tourism industry recover after a disaster is to understand how tourists perceive risk and how disasters affect their behaviour. [29].

H3: Man-made disaster positively affects tourists' perception.

3.4 Media Influence

Media can be categorised into three main types: print, audio-visual, and social media. Zillmann defines media effects as the societal, cultural, and psychological consequences of mass media communication. Media is a significant explanatory variable in research on the social amplification of risk [33]. Tourism is significantly impacted by the media. Social media is primarily responsible for influencing travelers' decisions about where to go. [33]& their decision making [34, 35]. Additionally, social media can affect how people perceive a destination. [36]. Before visiting any place, tourists read review reports on different social platforms, and then only they decide whether to visit the place or not. Tourists' perception is greatly influenced by the media [37].

H4: Media influence positively affects tourists' perception.

3.5 Tourist Perception

Perception can be defined as the process by which an individual selects, arranges, and analyses sensory information to form a coherent and meaningful representation of the intended target [14, 38, 39]. Perception encompasses cognition, consciousness, incentives, and past encounters. The matter is subjective and differs from one consumer to another. Consequently, a consumer's view of a product or service provider can vary over time. Perception refers to the way in which customers interpret information by relying on their sensory perceptions to make a buying choice. Studies by several researchers [40–45] state that consumer perceptions are usually based on their experience, familiarity, values, and motivation.

Perception is among the most important variables. that positively or negatively influence the tourism sector. Studies emphasizing the impact of tourists' perception on tourism exist all across the globe that was carried out by various researchers [46–50]. For a customer, tourism is an intangible good because his decisions are based on his impression of the destination. (George, 2008). Each tourist has a different perspective. Perceptual differences frequently result in differences in visitors' behavioural intent, which influences destination image, involvement, service quality,

and satisfaction [51]. Thus, understanding how tourists perceive a destination is exceedingly tricky because everyone has their perceptions, and measuring those impressions becomes a challenging task[52].

H5: Tourists' Perception positively affects Tourists' Decision-Making.

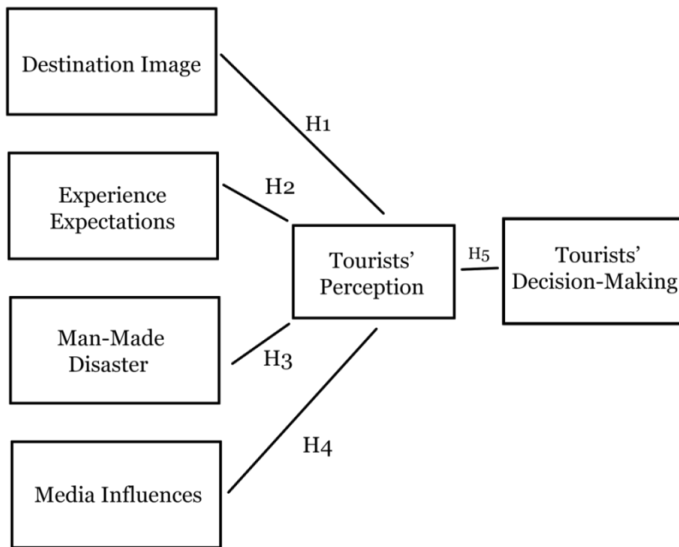


Fig. 2. Conceptual Framework

3.6 Tourist Decision-Making

It is crucial for a tourist to have a picture of a location in their mind that incorporates their interests, beliefs, and attitudes, but is also impacted by the public's perception of the region [53]. Tourists' decision-making is also impacted by a mix of internal (motivation, attitudes, intentions, and beliefs) and external (pull factors and marketing mix) factors [54].

4. Method

4.1 Instrument

Adapted scale items used in this study include tourist perception, destination image, tourists' experience expectation, media influence, man-made disasters, and decision making. An online survey with a structured questionnaire has been used to gather the responses. The questionnaire primarily consists of closed-ended questions and 21 statements on six variables. The statements under different study variables are shown below:

Table 1. Statements under various study variables.

Study Variables	Indicators	Statements	Source
Destination Image	DI 1	Facilities in the Maguri-Motapung wetland are affordable with price and value even after the Baghjan disaster.	Fakeye& Crompton (1991)
	DI 2	I think the geographical location of Maguri and Motapung Beel is easily accessible.	

Experience Expectation	DI 3	I think Maguri and Motapung Beel is safe for tourists even after the baghjan disaster.	Zeithaml, Berry, &Parasuraman (1993)	
	DI 4	I think Maguri-Motapung wetland is among the 100 best birdwatching sites in India		
	EE 1	Based on my experience, I am certain that I will encounter all the targeted bird species during my visit to Maguri and Motapung Beel.		
EE 2	Based on my experience at Maguri and Motapung Beel it is expected that I might encounter a bird that is new to the Indian subcontinent			
EE 3	My experience expects me to believe that there will be good numbers of birds (both in terms of quality and quantity) even after the Baghjan disaster.			
EE 4	I am expecting to get good tourists facilities even after the Baghjan disaster.			
Man-Made Disaster	MMD 1	Baghjan oil well blowout has affected the ecosystem of Maguri-Motapung Wetland		Ainsworth, C.H. et al. 2018
	MMD 2	I believe Baghjan 5 Oil well blowout has affected resident bird species more than the migratory bird species.		
	MMD 3	I believe the sound pollution due to Baghjan 5 oil Well blowout has disturbed the endemic bird species of Maguri and Motapung Beel area.		
Media Influence	MI 1	I am not influenced by the news that was published by print media about the destruction of the Maguri-Motapung ecosystem due to the Baghjan oil well blowout.		Liu, Xuerui (2019)
	MI 2	I am not influenced by the news that was telecasted about the destruction of Maguri-Motapung ecosystem due to the Baghjan oil well blowout.		
	MI 3	I am not influenced by the news webcasted (Social media reporting) about the destruction of Maguri-Motapung ecosystem due to the Baghjan oil well blowout.		
Tourists' Perception	TP 1	I think Maguri-Motapung Wetland has a good reputation among the fellow bird watchers	Garg, A. (2012)	
	TP 2	I think tourists come in large numbers to witness rare species of birds in the Maguri and Motapung Beel.		
Tourists' Decision Making	TDM 1	I am planning to visit Maguri-Motapung Wetland for birdwatching by next year	Woodside &Lysonski (1989)	
	TDM 2	I am planning to visit Maguri-Motapung wetland for bird photography by next year		
	TDM 3	I shall visit Maguri-Motapung wetland to add a few new bird species to my Bird Checklist.		

The questionnaire utilised a five-point Likert Scale, with the following rating options: 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree, 5= Strongly Agree. A pilot poll consisting of 50 respondents was done a few weeks following the Baghjan accident in order to validate the questionnaire. Cronbach's Alpha is used to calculate the internal consistency among the statements in the questionnaire.

4.2 Data Collection and Sampling

A structured questionnaire was used to conduct an online survey while taking into consideration every item discovered during the literature review. As the population of this study is unknown to the researchers therefore the snowball sampling technique,

which is also a non-probability sampling, has been adopted to collect the primary data. Researchers tried to investigate the tourists' perception of the Maguri-Motapung wetland; therefore, initially, we collected the responses only from the tourists who had visited the place before. However, we later opened the link to visitors who may not have previously visited the Maguri-Motapung wetland but have visited other bird-watching locations.

In this endeavour, researchers sent the questionnaire to their known contacts, those who had visited the Maguri-Motapung wetland before the blowout, and asked them to share the questionnaire link to their known contacts. However, we also asked them to share the link to bird watchers who might have visited Maguri-Motapung wetland before but have visited similar places.

As of right now, 502 replies have been gathered. Nevertheless, only 448 (approximately 90% of the total responses) were recorded after eliminating the not adequately filled out responses. IBM SPSS 23 was used to record the answers. For statistical analysis, SPSS AMOS 24 & JASP 0.14.1 software have also been utilised.

4.3 Participants

Out of the 448 participants, 80.8% are males and 19.2% are females. The respondents' age range is as follows: 60.94% are between 20 and 40 years old, 31.92% are between 40 and 60 years old, and 7.14% are above 60 years old. General bird watchers account for 80.8% of all the respondents, while specialist bird watchers with a restricted budget account for 6.25%. Also, 6.25% of the respondents are specialist bird watchers willing to pay to watch rare species of birds, while 6.7% of the respondents are specialist bird watchers who require packaged bird watching. It is also found that 43.75% of the respondents visited Maguri-Motapung wetland 1-3 times, 19.2% visited the place 4-6 times, 7.14% visited 7-10 times, and 19.2% visited the place ten times and more. Contrary to that, 10.71% of the respondents had never visited the place before.

4.4 Limitations

The study conducted in Maguri and Motapung wetland with respondents of 448. Though we carried out the study immediately after the disaster but collection of responses took ample time. The study highlighted as how man-made disaster in Baghjan influenced on tourists' perception and decision making towards Maguri and Motapung wetland as a tourism destination for bird lovers. Therefore, the results of this study cannot be extrapolated to other similar studies.

5. Result & Discussion

A pilot survey was conducted upon 50 tourists and bird-watchers to check the reliability of the constructs of the questionnaire. The calculated Cronbach's Alpha fulfilled the condition that the respective values should be >0.70 [55–57]. Table 2 presents the results of the pilot survey.

Table 2. Pilot Survey

Sl. No	Study Variable	No. of Items	Cronbach's Alpha	Remarks
1	Destination Image	4	.772	Good
2	Experience Expectations	4	.757	Good
3	Media Influence	4	.719	Good
4	Manmade Disaster	3	.748	Good
5	Tourists Perception	3	.855	Good
6	Tourists Decision Making	3	.848	Good

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Test was first performed in the final survey to assess data factor analysis suitability and model sampling adequacy. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) scores indicate an overall value of 0.907, which falls into the 'Marvellous' category as defined by [27] (Kaiser & Rice, 1974). Confirmatory Factor Analysis was subsequently employed to evaluate the dataset. The researchers utilised the measurement quality of the latent components in the proposed model to aid in their identification. The chi-square test yielded a value of 497.729, with a corresponding p-value of 0.078. Therefore, this is considered significant because it has a minimal discrepancy chi-square fit score greater than 0.05 [58]. Table 3 displays the factor loadings for every CFA indicator -

Table 3. Factor Loadings

Factor	Indicator	Estimate	Std. Error	z-value	p	95% Confidence Interval		Std. Est. (all)
						Lower	Upper	
Destination Image	DI1	0.530	0.054	12.160	<.001	0.555	0.768	0.530
	DI2	0.809	0.051	16.664	<.001	0.752	0.953	0.809
	DI3	0.694	0.049	17.898	<.001	0.774	0.964	0.694
	DI4	0.590	0.049	14.833	<.001	0.625	0.816	0.590
Experience Expectations	EE1	0.672	0.046	14.684	<.001	0.590	0.772	0.672
	EE2	0.741	0.049	16.493	<.001	0.715	0.907	0.741
	EE3	0.814	0.049	18.347	<.001	0.798	0.989	0.814
	EE4	0.531	0.047	11.533	<.001	0.446	0.629	0.531
Manmade Disaster	MMD1	0.649	0.048	13.493	<.001	0.548	0.734	0.649
	MMD2	0.730	0.042	14.770	<.001	0.541	0.707	0.730
	MMD3	0.729	0.043	16.909	<.001	0.649	0.819	0.729
Media Influence	MI1	0.780	0.047	8.005	<.001	0.684	0.868	0.780
	MI2	0.707	0.050	17.757	<.001	0.792	0.989	0.707
	MI3	0.820	0.053	20.908	<.001	1.005	1.212	0.820
Tourists Perception	TP1	0.681	0.048	22.291	<.001	0.578	10.766	0.681
	TP2	0.750	0.051	18.132	<.001	0.825	1.025	0.750
	TP3	0.856	0.048	21.470	<.001	0.931	1.118	0.856
Tourists Decision Making	TDM1	0.841	0.047	22.026	<.001	0.944	1.129	0.841
	TDM2	0.841	0.046	22.407	<.001	0.932	1.110	0.841
	TDM3	0.718	0.044	16.739	<.001	0.656	0.830	0.718

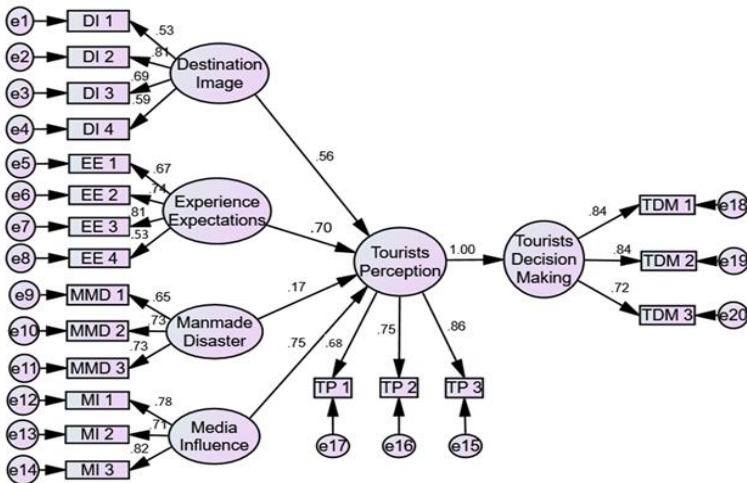


Fig. 3. Path Diagram

Each indicators has a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.001. Consequently, it can be inferred that each indicator holds significance. Additionally, it is evident from the standardised estimates that each indication falls within the range of 0.4 to 1.0, which is considered an appropriate range for verifying any indicator.

Table 4. Regression Weights

Variable	Path	Variable	Standardized Estimate	S.E.	C.R. (t-Value)	P
Destination Image	→	Tourists Perception	.560	.980	0.535	***
Experience Expectations	→	Tourists Perception	.702	.625	0.963	***
Manmade Disaster	→	Tourists Perception	.169	.250	2.678	***
Media Influence	→	Tourists Perception	.754	.580	1.127	0.071
Tourists Perception	→	Tourists Decision Making	1.000	.920	1.076	***

Results present that Tourists Perception is significantly influenced by Destination Image, Experience Expectations, and Media Influence. Table 4 presents that with the rise of Destination Image by 1 Standard Deviation; Tourist Perception goes up by .560 standard deviations with a C.R calculated at 0.535. Similarly, with the rise of Experience Expectations by one standard deviation, Tourist Perception increases by .625 with a calculated C.R of .963. Also, as Media Influence rises by one standard deviation, Tourist Perception rises by .580 with a C.R of 1.127. The common aspect observed in the cases above is that C.R fulfils the primary condition of being valued at $<|1.96|$ with a p-value <0.05 . It concludes that all three proposed hypotheses (H1, H2, and H4) are statistically significant.

However, Table 4 presents that when a Man-made Disaster rises by one standard deviation, Tourists Perception rises by merely .169 with a C.R calculated at 1.127 as it does not fulfil the essential criteria of the C.R being valued at $<|1.96|$ with a p-value <0.05 , it considers H3 to be not significant.

Subsequently, when the impact of Tourists Perception is studied upon Tourists Decision Making, the results present that when the former rises by one standard deviation, the latter also rises by 1.000 with a C.R valued at 1.076. As it fulfils the aforementioned primary condition again, therefore, the suggested hypothesis, H5, is found to be statistically significant.

5.1 Theoretical Implications

The study's findings indicate that destination image, experience expectation, & media influence positively affect tourists' perception, whereas man-made disaster does not significantly affect tourists' perception. The study also indicates that tourists' perception significantly affects tourists' decision-making. The results of this investigation can also be understood in light of earlier research. R. Rajesh (2013) [14], found that visitor perception is positively impacted by destination image. S. Coban (2012) [59] & M.N. Khuong (2017), in their study, revealed similar findings. Boonpat (2014) claimed that tourists' experience & expectations significantly affect tourists' perception. Likewise, the findings of Vorasiha E (2019) [37] claimed that media influence hugely influences tourists' perception. As per the study of Haiyan, M. (2020) [33], It was found that the relationship between the number of tourists and their experience—both natural and man-made—was unmeasured, and that both types of disasters have a negative impact on both. However, the current study non-significant relationship between man-made disasters and tourists' perception. Studies conducted by V.G. Girish (2021) [60], A. Garg (2017) [46] & Chotiwtutideacha. S (2019) [61] indicates the significant positive relationship between tourists' perception and tourists' decision-making.

5.2 Practical Implications

The study identified that media influence has a significant role in shaping the perception of tourists. The tourism service providers can induce a positive perception among the tourists through media campaigns highlighting the avian diversity of the wetland. Since the study showed that the Man-Made Disaster hardly has any significant impact on tourists' perception, tourism service providers can promote Maguri and Motapung wetland with the help of photographs and video graph of birds taken aftermath the oil well blowout. Additionally, this will make it possible for nearby bird guides to resume offering their services in the wetland areas of Maguri and Motapung.

6. Conclusion

The study claimed that the Baghjan Oil Well blowout does not affect tourists' perception about visiting Maguri-Motapung wetland as a birding destination. While analyzing the result, it was discovered that tourists' perceptions are rarely significantly affected by man-made disasters. And as we know tourists' perception has a direct relationship with tourists' decision making; therefore, tourists are expected to visit Maguri and Motapung wetland even after the disaster. The study further asserted that travelers' perceptions are significantly influenced by their expectations for their experiences. Consequently, it is anticipated that visitors who have previously visited Maguri and Motapung Wetland, will visit the place again if their experience with the place is smooth and vice versa. The role of media is also pretty significant in influencing tourists' perceptions. Any negative broadcasting on the Baghjan disaster may significantly affect tourists' perception and vice versa. The study also showed that tourists' perception is significantly impacting tourists' decision-making; therefore, if tourists' perception of Maguri and Motapung Wetland is positive, they end up visiting the place and vice versa. In the coming days, if we witness a good number of tourists visiting the place for bird watching then it will be clear that tourists' perception of the place is positive. The results of this investigation can also be understood in light of earlier research. R. Rajesh (2013) [14], in his study, tourists' perceptions are positively influenced by the destination's image. S. Coban (2012) [59] & M.N. Khuong (2017), in their study, revealed similar findings. Boonpat (2014) claimed that tourists' experience & expectations significantly affect tourists' perception. Likewise, the findings of Vorasiha E (2019) [37] claimed that media influence hugely influences tourists' perception. Haiyan, M. (2020) [33] conducted a study that revealed an unquantified correlation between the quantity of visitors and their overall experience, encompassing both natural and man-made aspects. The study also demonstrated that both sorts of catastrophes had a detrimental effect on tourists. However, the current study found no significant correlation between man-made disasters and tourists' perception.

Given that man-made disasters have minimal influence on tourists' perception and decision-making, it is anticipated that a large influx of bird watchers from various regions, both domestic and international, will visit the area and avail themselves of the available amenities. The study shown a definitive correlation between the perception of a destination and tourists' perspective. Consequently, it is imperative to provide tourists with exceptional facilities in the region to ensure their recurrent visits.

This study aims to determine the influence of anthropogenic disasters on tourists' decision-making process on a well-known bird tourism destination. Similar research can also be undertaken in tourist sites that have been impacted by comparable types of human-caused or natural calamities. An idea would be to analyse the effects of both natural and man-made disasters on the destination.

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