

Community-Based Tourism as a Catalyst for the Empowerment of Tribal Community: A Roadmap to Viksit Bharat @2047

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ABSTRACT

The bibliometric literature review discusses the ways in which community-based tourism contribute to tribal empowerment and sustainable development thus responding to the long-term national vision of viksit Bharat @ 2047. The review identifies key dimensions of CBT Livelihood enhancement, Cultural preservation, participation in local governance and entrepreneurship of tribal communities. Authors and journal contributors' thematic clusters and patterns of research at a country level are assessed to understand global and regional academic interest in the field of tribal community development through tourism. A dataset of studies publishes between 2000 and 2025 indicate a study growth of CBT focused research. Reflecting the increasing international recognition of indigenous -led tourism as a tool for inclusive growth. Key contributors include the journals of sustainability, tourism management prospective, journal of sustainable tourism and current issue in tourism. Finding indicate that CBT enhances social economic resilience, provides support to environmental stewardship and includes community ownership of tourism resources. India Nepal and Malaysia stand out as the leading contributors in this domain.

Introduction

Community-Based Tourism (CBT) has increasingly been recognised as a practical and people-centred approach to sustainable development, particularly in regions where tribal and Indigenous communities possess distinctive cultural traditions, ecological wealth, and strong social networks. In Himachal Pradesh, where many tribal groups inhabit environmentally fragile yet culturally rich areas, CBT offers a platform for strengthening local control over tourism activities. It enables communities

to participate directly in planning and management, ensures that benefits remain within the region, and supports collective decision-making. With global tourism gradually moving toward more inclusive and community-responsive models, CBT allows tribal populations to influence their own development rather than relying on external agencies. India's national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 emphasises inclusive growth, livelihood enhancement, and the preservation of cultural heritage—objectives that closely resonate with the core principles of CBT. For tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh, this

alignment creates an opportunity to enhance livelihood security, expand small-scale entrepreneurship, improve gender representation, and promote environmental stewardship, while also preserving traditional knowledge and Indigenous identity. Although CBT has considerable potential, existing academic discussions remain scattered across regions and disciplines. This highlights the need for a consolidated review that brings together emerging research trends, thematic priorities, and global scholarly contributions. Accordingly, the present bibliometric review examines Indian and international studies published between 2000 and 2025 to assess how CBT supports tribal empowerment. By analysing thematic patterns, productive journals, regional research contributions, and policy-oriented insights, the review offers a structured pathway for integrating community-led tourism into India’s long-term developmental goals for 2047. Beyond demonstrating the socio-economic advantages of CBT, the results also underline its role in strengthening community resilience and promoting balanced regional development. To ensure methodological rigour, the study adopted a systematic bibliometric screening process. The initial search generated 4,570 publications related to community-based tourism and tribal development. These were filtered sequentially based on publication year, subject relevance, document type, language, and journal quality, with titles and abstracts used to assess suitability. After applying all criteria, 200 articles were selected for detailed examination.

Literature review

Community-Based Tourism for Tribal Empowerment: A Roadmap to Viksit Bharat @2047. For this study selected Scopus data base because Scopus from Elsevier has the largest peer-reviewed scientific abstract and citation database, the inquiry began there (Ballew, 2009; Schotten et al., 2017). We include pamphlets, conference proceedings, and academic writings. Scopus includes global science, engineering, medical, and humanities research (Ballew, 2009). Modern approaches monitor, assess, and display research. How Scopus gathered data: Scopus publications with titles, abstracts, and keywords like “Community based Tourism” were initially found. The second step sorted data by topic, popular articles, and duplicates. All chosen studies were multidisciplinary business administration. Following 1986’s extension, sample data covered 2000–2025. In Phase 3, non-English articles were removed from Table 1 and at the end 200 articles were selected for bibliometric analysis. Data was analysed using “Biblioshiny,” a R program, and the R 4.0.3 “Bibliometric” web-based interface. Bibliometrics is making open-source software that is adaptable, upgradeable, and interfaces with other statistical R

packages more valuable (nazma et al., 2023). Except for older literature assessments, bibliometric reviews include subject-specific data (Goodell et al., 2021).

Table 1 Bibliographic Data Retrieval Process

Stage	Filtering Criteria	Eliminated	Accepted
1	Initial search outcome (on search term)		4570
2	Year filter (2000–2025)	793	1777
3	Filter by subject (economics, econometrics, finance, business, management and accounting, and multidisciplinary)	1033	744
4	Language filter (English)	295	449
5	Document type (article, review)	149	300
6	Scimago Journal ranking (Q1, Q2, Q3) & citation	50	250
7	On the basis of title and abstract	50	200

Source: Author Compilation

Discussion of Results

Community-Centric Tourism for Tribal Empowerment: A Strategic Framework for Viksit Bharat @2047. This study analyses the role of community-based tourism in fostering sustainable development, economic advancement, and community empowerment within the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative. We emphasized the significance of tourism trends, community engagement, and the effectiveness of community-based tourism in our paper. The research demonstrates the impact of community engagement, international networks, and governmental regulations on the economy. This project emphasizes culture, environment, and sustainable living practices. The study elucidates significant practices, stakeholders, and concerns, furthering the discipline. The research delineates growth tendencies that may guide governmental actions and enhance the environmental sustainability of visitor activities.



Figure 1. Descriptive information

Source: Biblioshiny

The bibliometric summary of dataset covering the timespan between 2002 to 2025 reveals a steadily expanding research landscape, comprising 200 documents published across 13 sources. A total of 457 author has contributed to this body of work with a moderate collaboration pattern reflected in an average of 2.73 co-author per documents and 29 single authored publications. International collaboration is relatively strong, with 32.5% of the studies involving co-authorship across countries, indicating a globally connected research community. The annual scientific production has grown at a healthy rate 8.83% showing increasing academic interest. Overall, the metric reflects a vibrant, collaboration, and high impact research domain.

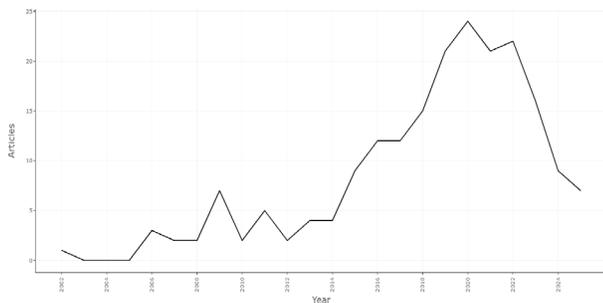


Figure 2 Annual Scientific Production

Source: Biblioshiny

The yearly scientific production graph shows how research output in the field has changed from 2002 to 2025. From 2002 to 2010 there were very few publications, with fewer than five articles coming out each year and occasional changes caused by single contributions. After 2014 there is a show rise, which shows that there is now consistent scholarly interest. Between 2016 and 2020 research output picks up speed quickly, reaching its peak in 2020 with almost 25 publications. this shows that this was the time when academics were most interested in the subject and the most relevant. The year 2021 and 2022 continue to be very productive with more than 20 articles published each year. however, after 2023 the number of articles published starts to drop. Publications drop sharply between 2023 and 2025.

The source productivity graph shows which journals have the biggest impact on research in the field. Sustainability (Switzerland) is the main source, publishing the most documents 44, which shows how important it is for spreading research on sustainability and tourism. After that Comes the journal of sustainable tourism, which has 35 articles. This shows that it is very closely related to studies on eco-tourism and sustainable development. Current issues in tourism 20 and geo journal of tourism 19 are two other important journals that make a big difference. This shows that academics are interested in both mainstream and specialized tourism outlets. The African journal of hospitality, tourism and leisure 14 the journal of ecotourism 14, tourism management 13 and tourism geographies 12 are some of the mid-level contributors. This shows that there are a lot of different places to publish in this field. There are also journals with smaller but still important contributions, like the Asia Pacific journal of tourism research 8 and tourism planning and development 7. These show that are more regional and thematic points of view. The figure shows that most research is published in a small number of very productive sustainability and tourism journals. This shows how important these journals are and how consistently scholars are interested in this area.

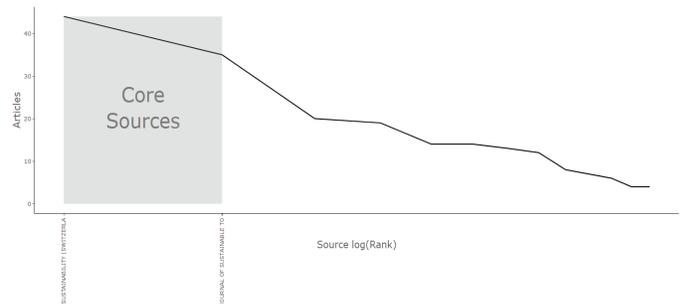


Figure 4 Bradford's law

Source: Biblioshiny

The figure shows how research output is spread out across journals according to Bradford's law. It shows that most of the publications come from a small number of core sources, the core sources are the shaded area. This includes journals that publish the most articles in the field. Sustainability (Switzerland) and the journal of sustainable tourism make up the main core of this dataset, and together they make up the largest share of publications. The number of articles per source drops sharply as the rank goes up. This is in line with the classic Bradford distribution pattern, which says that a small number of journals make up a disproportionately large part of the literature. The productivity of sources steadily declines beyond the core zone, suggesting a long tail of journals that contribute fewer articles

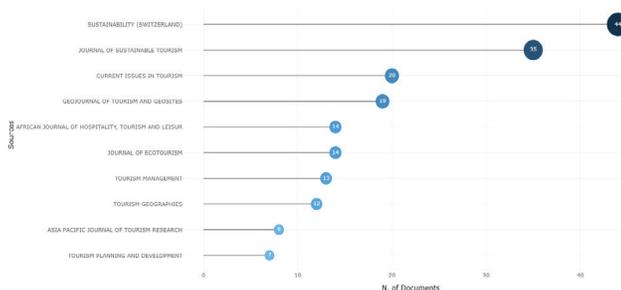


Figure 3. Most productive source

Source: Biblioshiny

individually but collectively broaden the scope of research dissemination. Overall, the figure shows that a small number of important journals strongly support the field. These journals are the main places where scholars talk about the topic.

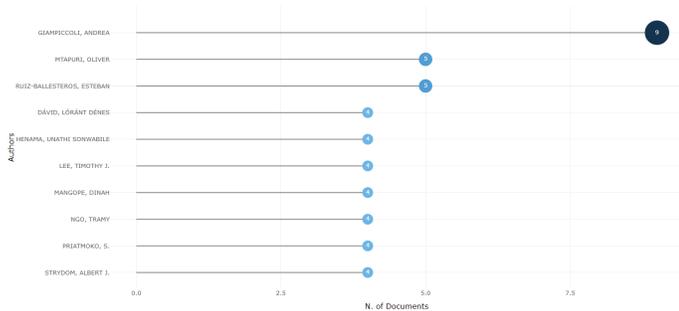


Figure 5 Most productive Authors

Source: Biblioshiny

The author productivity graph highlights the leading contributors to the research domain based on the number of documents published. Giampiccoli, Andrea stands out as the most prolific author, with nine publications, indicating a strong and sustained influence in the field. Overall, the figure demonstrates a typical bibliometric pattern in which a small group of authors accounts for a substantial share of the total research output, helping shape the intellectual structure and evolution of the field.

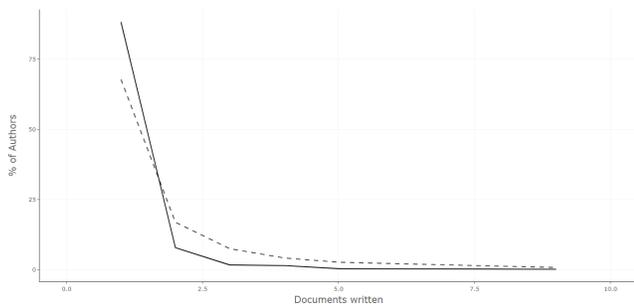


Figure 6 Lotka's law

Source: Biblioshiny

According to Lotka's law which says that only a small number of authors write most of the papers the graph shows how productive authors are. The sharp drop at the start of the curve supports this pattern the majority of authors in the dataset wrote only one document. The percentage of authors writing at that level drops quickly as the number of documents written goes up. Only small number of authors wrote three or more paper, and an even smaller number wrote five or more papers. The dashed line shows the theoretical lotka's distribution and the solid line shows the data that was actually collected. The two lines are very close together, which means that the field follows lotka's expected pattern. This is a

typical scholarly structure where a small number of very productive authors do most of the research.

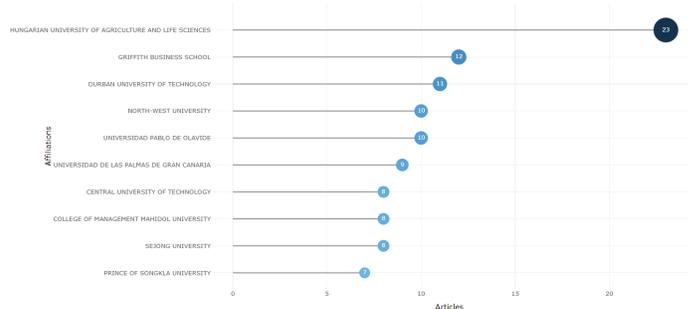


Figure 7 Most Productive affiliation

Source: Biblioshiny

The affiliation productivity figure shows which institutions are doing the most research in the field by showing how many articles they have published. The Hungarian university of agriculture and life sciences is the most important institution because it published 23 articles, Griffith business school some in second with 12 publications, which shows that it has a strong academic presence in tourism studies. The figure shows that research production is spread out across many international institutions with a few universities acting as major hubs that drive scholarly output in the field.

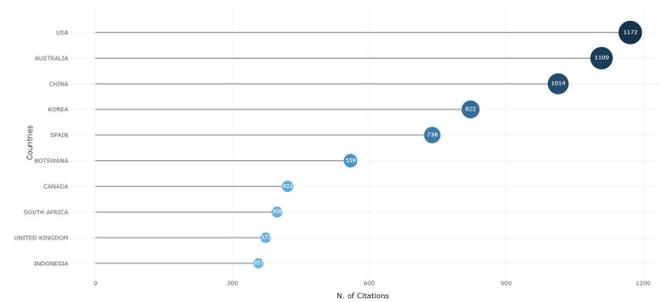


Figure 8 Most productive countries

Source: Biblioshiny

The citation impact figure shows which countries have had the biggest effect on scholarly work in the field, based on the number of citations. The USA has the most citations (1172), which shows that its research has a big intellectual impact and is well-known. Australia (1109) and China (1014) are not far behind, which shows how well-known and highly cited their work is around the world. Korea and Spain also have strong positions, with 822 and 738 citations, respectively. This shows that their work is becoming more important in the literature. Botswana (559) is a notable performer. Even though it has produced fewer documents, it has had a high citation impact, which means that its research is particularly influential and widely cited. Countries like Canada,

South Africa, and the UK have moderate citation levels, which shows that they are consistently adding to the academic conversation. At the same time, Indonesia (357 citations) shows that scholars are starting to pay more

attention to the field. Overall, the figure shows that research influence is mostly in a few major countries. However, some smaller or developing countries are doing important work that is having a bigger impact on global scholarly discourse.

Table 2. Most cited papers

Paper	DOI	Total Citations	TC per Year	
LEE, 2019, TOUR MANAGE	10.1016/j.tourman.2018.09.003	437	62.43	6.56
STONE, 2010, TOUR MANAGE	10.1016/j.tourman.2009.01.005	301	18.81	1.35
ZAPATA CAMPOS, 2011, CURR ISSUES TOUR	10.1080/13683500.2011.559200	294	19.60	1.81
RUIZ-BALLESTEROS, 2011, TOUR MANAGE	10.1016/j.tourman.2010.05.021	263	17.53	1.62
DANGI, 2016, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su8050475	261	26.10	3.41
CHOK, 2007, CURR ISSUES TOUR	10.2167/cit303	254	13.37	1.26
DODDS, 2018, CURR ISSUES TOUR	10.1080/13683500.2016.1150257	222	27.75	3.93
STONE, 2011, J SUSTAINABLE TOUR	10.1080/09669582.2010.508527	170	11.33	1.05
WEARING, 2002, J SUSTAINABLE TOUR	10.1080/09669580208667162	169	7.04	1.00
LEE, 2024, J SUSTAINABLE TOUR	10.1080/09669582.2023.2175836	165	82.50	6.27

Source: *Biblioshiny*

The citation analysis shows that LEE (2019) in Tourism Management is the most important study in sustainable and eco-tourism research. It has 437 citations, which is an impressive 62.43 citations per year, and a strong normalized citation score of 6.56, which shows how widely it is read. Foundational works like STONE (2010) and ZAPATA CAMPOS (2011) have also had a steady impact, with 301 and 294 total citations, respectively. However, their normalized values are lower, which means they had a moderate impact compared to the age of the publication. RUIZ-BALLESTEROS (2011) and DANGI (2016) also make important contributions to the field. The latter has a high annual citation rate of 26.10 and a strong normalized score of 3.41. Recent scholarship, exemplified by LEE (2024), demonstrates a rapidly increasing significance, attaining 165 citations and a notable annual average of 82.50, attributable to its recent publication, highlighting emerging trends and intensified academic focus in sustainable tourism. In general, the dataset shows how both old and new studies work together to shape the intellectual structure of research on eco-tourism and sustainability.

Community based tourism and sustainable development goals

Community-based tourism is a sustainable alternative as it can be used to promote economic growth and reduce

poverty. Community-based tourism (CBT) has been in the spotlight as a means to a sustainable way of tourism because of its ability to enhance the economic growth and social development of local communities and at the same time mitigate the impact of tourism activity on the environment and culture. CBT has a direct contribution to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, and specifically SDG 1: No Poverty and Lack of Poverty. This is achieved through offering the local population with the capacity to own, control, and enjoy the tourist activities. The SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (Lee et al., 2013) became a reality. This research review evaluates the role of CBT in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the provision of employment opportunities, the facilitation of local entrepreneurship, and the growth of a sustainable economy. Goal 1 Community-Based Tourism and Sustainable Development: Poverty is to be eradicated Income and economic empowerment through diversity. One of the tools that is imperative in reducing poverty is community-based therapy (CBT) as it diversifies the sources of revenue in the underprivileged and rural communities. Unlike mass tourism where such tourism often leads to economic leakage, a community-based tourism (CBT) keeps the cash generated by tourism in the community (Dodds et al., 2016). As (Wang et al.,

2016) studies have shown, community-based therapy (CBT) programs provide alternative sources of livelihood beyond the traditional methods of agricultural or fishing activities, which reduces their economic potential and increases the resilience of the community. As reported by a study by Croes (2014), tourism is an effective method of poverty relief as it provides the poor communities with a chance to pursue entrepreneurship activities and secure employment. Similarly, the World Tourism Organization (2002) brings out the fact that CBT enables the local communities to sell local products, handicraft and cultural experiences and the end effect is the enhanced financial independence of such individuals.

Other studies further state that cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) becomes more effective in alleviating poverty in the case of government support coupled with fair trade policies and equitable revenue sharing policies (C. M. Hall, 2007). D. According to Hall and Richards (2000) the process of diversifying income by use of CBT is often frustrated by lack of infrastructure, access to financial resources and limits of reaching the market. This is so, despite the fact that it has significant potential. In order to deal with these challenges, one will need to invest in both the infrastructure of the local community and improve partnerships between communities and tourism authorities (Tolkach & King, 2015). Moreover, as Goodwin and Santilli (2009) suggest, even more economic resilience and overall sustainability may be achieved with the help of the creation of community networks whose goal is to share resources. Another factor that should not be overlooked is the ability of CBT to integrate with other different types of economically viable activities. As an example, such practice as agritourism and ecotourism may be complementary to the more common CBT programs, therefore providing a more predictable and more diversified source of revenue (Ohe & Kurihara, 2013). In the opinion of Scheyvens (2007), intersectionality will make sure that communities are not over dependent on tourism but will create synergies between different local industries in a bid to maintain long-term financial stability. Despite certain similarities between cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and rural tourism, Zielinski et al. (2020) assert that the effectiveness of the two types of tourism are affected differently by the largest socioeconomic, policy, and governance challenges in developing and developed countries.

Introduction Bridging Constraints and Opportunities in Community-Based Tourism: Governance, Capability Development and Inclusive Growth.

As per the results of their study on 103 case studies area-specific, it is often the case that external aid, like policy

structures and developmental aid, is more influential in the developing countries where the machinery of governance is less developed. Speaking of the guarantees of the success of community-based therapy (CBT) work, land ownership and community membership also become important in the study. Construction of Capabilities and the Development of Skills 2.1.2 Cognitive behavioural therapy is one of the most important therapies because it pays much attention to the acquisition of local capabilities. Lee and Hsieh (2016) claim that the training programs related to hospitality, certification of tour guides, and managing the company and cultural interpretation are the main skills that people can possess in order to work in the tourism sphere. Almeida-Garcia et al. (2016) note that these skills are also beneficial in expanding career opportunities and increasing the degree of self-reliance, which reduces the need to rely on external assistance. The research conducted by Nicholas and colleagues (2009) indicates that structured programmes of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) are the factors that lead to the economic stability of the country in the long term by promoting entrepreneurship among the locals. Sebastian and Rajagopalan (2009) give a list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government involvement in training programs to show that people in the community can effectively operate in tourist business.

Simpson (2008) cited research evidence of a comparative analysis of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) programs in Thailand and Kenya that revealed training programmes have a great effect on enhancing business management skills among local entrepreneurs, which consequently led to greater profitability and continued economic growth by the firms. Ashley and Jones (2001) have suggested that the skills development in cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) must be varied to suit the needs of the community, which includes factor like literacy levels, technology, as well as traditional knowledge systems. Scheyvens (2007) argues that blending modern tourism practices with the indigenous knowledge has the prospective of enhancing authenticity and creating an interest in the niche tourism industries. Another crucial aspect of long-term success, as proposed by Ashley and Mitchell (2009), is the provision of continual education and mentoring to the local business owners, as a way of guaranteeing the achievement of success in local businesses. Mentoring and leadership development at a community level must be taken into consideration to develop a self-sufficient and sustainable model of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). Research has revealed that those regions, where cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) has been successful, generally possess strong local leaders that lobby the local businesses, preserve the natural resources, and collaborate with legislators to facilitate sustainable development (Hummel and van der Duim, 2016).

Limitations and future research directions

This bibliometric review offers valuable observations on how Community-Based Tourism (CBT) contributes to tribal empowerment and sustainable development, it is not without limitations. The analysis primarily relies on studies published between 2000 and 2025, which means earlier foundational work and more locally grounded sources—such as government records, NGO reports, and region-specific case studies—may not be captured. Because the majority of the identified publications originate from India, Nepal, and Malaysia, the findings tend to reflect the perspectives and conditions of these regions, making it difficult to generalise the results to tribal communities in other socio-cultural environments. Additionally, the use of citation-based indicators may privilege older or high-impact journal articles, inadvertently overlooking recent studies or community-led research that holds practical importance but has yet to accumulate citations. Future investigations should adopt more interdisciplinary approaches by integrating insights from anthropology, environmental studies, policy research, and development studies to obtain a more holistic understanding of CBT's diverse impacts. Longitudinal research designs would also help trace how CBT initiatives evolve over time, particularly in relation to local governance, digital inclusion, climate resilience, and post-pandemic tourism recovery. Comparative regional analyses supported by extensive fieldwork in remote tribal locations could further deepen understanding of context-specific challenges and opportunities. Such approaches would enrich the evidence base and provide more nuanced insights into the transformative potential of Indigenous-led tourism models.

Conclusion

In summary, this bibliometric review illustrates the increasing global recognition of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) as a meaningful approach for advancing tribal empowerment and sustainable development. The insights gained closely correspond with India's broader developmental aspirations under the Viksit Bharat @2047 agenda. The review indicates that CBT plays a multifaceted role—enhancing economic security, safeguarding cultural traditions, strengthening participatory governance, and encouraging local entrepreneurship all of which contribute to a more inclusive and balanced development model. The publication patterns observed from 2000 to 2025 reveal a steady expansion of academic interest in this field, with influential contributions appearing in outlets such as *Sustainability*, the *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, *Tourism Management Perspectives*, and *Current*

Issues in Tourism. The prominence of studies from India, Nepal, and Malaysia highlights the growing importance of Indigenous-led tourism initiatives across the Global South. Collectively, the evidence suggests that CBT holds the potential to reimagine tourism as a community-driven, equitable, and environmentally responsible sector. By expanding opportunities for tribal communities and reinforcing local stewardship over natural and cultural resources, CBT emerges as a powerful strategy for sustainable development. It not only aligns with but also strengthens India's long-term vision of building a prosperous, inclusive, and culturally rooted society by 2047.

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