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Research Article
(Araştırma Makalesi)

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The local residents' perceptions of natural and cultural resources in the context of ecotourism: Akdağmadeni/Yozgat (Türkiye)*

Yerel halkın doğal ve kültürel kaynaklara yönelik algısının ekoturizm bağlamında irdelenmesi: Akdağmadeni/Yozgat (Türkiye) örneği

* This article; It has been summarized from first author's master dissertation.

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Natural and cultural landscape components play a role in ecotourism and the development of urban identity. This study aimed to comprehensively determine the effects of the natural and cultural landscape components of Akdağmadeni district in Yozgat province on ecotourism potential and urban identity.

Materials and Methods: A survey was administered to 383 participants. Relationships among the variables were examined using correlation and multiple regression analyses, while differences based on demographic variables were evaluated using independent-samples t-tests and ANOVA.

Results: According to the factor analysis, three main dimensions have been identified: cultural resource value, landscape resource value, and attitude toward ecotourism. It indicates that natural areas such as Kadıpınarı Nature Park (Mean=4.85) and Göndelen Valley (Mean=4.79) are perceived to have high landscape value, while Muşali Behramşah Castle (Mean=4.81) stands out for its identity value. Additionally, a positive and significant relationship was found between the frequency of participation in nature-based activities and ecotourism attitude (r=0.46; p<0.001).

Conclusion: The results showed that ecotourism is not only an activity that supports environmental sustainability; it also offers significant potential in terms of preserving cultural values, strengthening social belonging, and promoting local economic development

ÖZ

Amaç: Küçük yerleşimlerde, yerel halkın doğaya ve kültürel mirasa yönelik algıları, turizm potansiyelinin değerlendirilmesinde belirleyici bir faktör olmaktadır. Bu çalışma, Yozgat ili Akdağmadeni ilçesinin sahip olduğu doğal ve kültürel peyzaj elemanlarının ekoturizm potansiyeli ve kent kimliği üzerindeki etkilerini kapsamlı biçimde incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Materyal ve Yöntem: Araştırma kapsamında 383 bireye anket uygulanmıştır. Değişkenler arasındaki ilişkiler korelasyon ve çoklu regresyon analizleri ile, demografik değişkenlere göre ortaya çıkan farklılıklar ise bağımsız örneklem t-testi ve ANOVA analizleri kullanılarak değerlendirilmiştir.

Araştırma Bulguları: Faktör analizi sonuçlarına göre kültürel kaynak değeri, peyzaj kaynak değeri ve ekoturizm tutumu olmak üzere üç temel boyut ortaya konulmuştur. Kadıpınarı Tabiat Parkı (Ort.=4.85) ve Göndelen Vadisi (Ort.=4.79) gibi doğal alanların yüksek peyzaj değeri algısına sahip olduğunu, Muşali Behramşah Kalesi'nin ise (Ort.=4.81) kimlik değeri açısından öne çıktığını göstermektedir. Ayrıca doğa temelli etkinliklere katılım sıklığı ile ekoturizm tutumu arasında pozitif ve anlamlı bir ilişki belirlenmiştir (r=0.46; p<0.001).

Sonuç: Elde edilen sonuçlar, ekoturizmin yalnızca çevresel sürdürülebilirliği destekleyen bir faaliyet olmadığını; aynı zamanda kültürel değerlerin korunması, toplumsal aidiyetin güçlendirilmesi ve yerel ekonomik kalkınmanın teşvik edilmesi açısından da önemli bir potansiyel sunduğunu göstermektedir.

INTRODUCTION

The mutual interaction between the natural environment and cultural structures gives rise to unique lifestyles and cultural diversity across different geographical regions. The natural characteristics of each region have shaped the cultural structure of societies throughout history; this situation lays the groundwork for the emergence of distinct cultures in different environments. This cultural diversity fuels individuals' desire to explore and experience different regions, and these play a significant role in the development of tourism activities (Gülgün et al., 2017; Ankaya et al., 2018; Yılmaz et al., 2025). In particular, tourism types that integrate the natural environment with cultural values offer significant potential for both the conservation of natural resources and the sustainability of local cultures. In this context, ecotourism stands out as one of the sustainable tourism approaches that aim to protect natural areas, support local culture, and contribute to the socio-economic development of local communities. Ecotourism is defined as a nature-based approach to tourism that supports the conservation of natural areas, the sustainability of biodiversity, and the socio-economic development of local communities. In contrast, cultural tourism focuses on visiting and experiencing a destination's historical heritage, architectural structures, traditions, lifestyles, and tangible or intangible cultural values. Although ecotourism and cultural tourism are treated as distinct types of tourism, in many destinations, natural and cultural values emerge as complementary components (Baykan, 2007; İçigen, 2025; Koca & Deniz, 2025). Especially historical structures, traditional settlements, and cultural heritage components, alongside natural landscape features, enrich the visitor experience and enhance the destination's appeal in rural areas. Therefore, holistic approaches that integrate natural and cultural resources play a significant role in ecotourism planning and ecotourism destinations. Ecotourism activities not only offer opportunities to experience the natural environment but also contribute to the recognition and preservation of local cultures. In this process, the sense of belonging that local people feel toward their environment is considered a key factor in the conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural values. In this context, identity-related values can be theoretically grounded in the concept of place identity, which refers to the emotional and cognitive bonds individuals develop with their physical environment (Proshansky, 1978; Proshansky et al., 1983; Strandberg & Styvén, 2024). Place identity encompasses the meanings, memories, and symbolic associations associated with a place's cultural and natural elements. In rural contexts, cultural heritage components such as historical buildings, traditional architecture, and local practices play a significant role in shaping this identity. Therefore, the perceived value of cultural heritage in this study is conceptualized not only as a physical attribute but also as a reflection of place-based identity that influences residents' attitudes toward ecotourism. Similarly, landscape-related values can be theoretically interpreted within the framework of environmental perception and landscape aesthetics. Natural environments are known to influence individuals' visual preferences, emotional responses, and restorative experiences, thereby shaping their overall evaluation of a destination (Kaplan & Kaplan, 1989; Tveit et al., 2006). In rural contexts, landscape elements such as forests, valleys, water bodies, and open spaces significantly contribute to a place's perceived attractiveness and experiential quality. Therefore, landscape value in this study is conceptualized not only as a physical characteristic but also as a perceptual construct reflecting individuals' evaluations of environmental quality and visual appeal. Accordingly, landscape-based values are considered a key explanatory variable influencing residents' attitudes toward ecotourism. The knowledge, cultural values, and environmental experiences possessed by local communities play a significant role in the sustainable planning of ecotourism activities. Especially in regions rich in natural and cultural resources but underdeveloped for tourism, ecotourism offers significant opportunities for both environmental conservation and local development. For this reason, it is of great importance to identify local communities' views, perceptions of the region, and attitudes toward tourism in the planning of ecotourism. The active participation of local communities is considered a key component, supporting both the conservation of natural resources and the development of sustainable tourism models (Kozak & Kayar,

2007; Saydan & Küçükaslan, 2007; Ramaano, 2021). As an economic sector that generates income and creates jobs, tourism is an important economic resource, especially for developing countries. In this context, the areas of geographical environment used for tourism purposes are expanding day by day. However, it should not be forgotten that tourist activities are directly related to a country's natural and cultural geographical features (Soykan, 2003; Gülgün et al., 2014; Karaman, 2025). The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) established the fundamental principles of sustainable tourism in 1988. The only type of tourism based on sustainability is ecotourism. The most important distinguishing feature of ecotourism is the requirement to be sustainable in natural, socio-cultural, and economic terms. While all types of tourism are expected to be sustainable, sustainability is a requirement for ecotourism. Ecotourism is a type of tourism focused on protecting nature. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), ecotourism is an environmentally responsible form of travel that involves visits to relatively undisturbed natural areas. In this process, the socio-economic participation of local communities is encouraged to benefit them, the negative impacts of visitors are minimized, and the preservation of cultural heritage is supported (Kurdoğlu, 2001; Karaman & Kaplan, 2025). According to the studies examined, Ross & Wall (1999) aimed to develop and evaluate ecotourism in North Sulawesi. The study concluded that there was no proportional relationship between tourism, local communities, and natural areas in North Sulawesi. It was found that the local population was unable to benefit from the existing ecotourism potential and that natural resources were poorly protected. Arslan (2005) examined the potential for ecotourism in Erdek. Polat & Önder (2006) stated in their study that ecotourism aims to contribute to society's socio-economic structure. The study aimed to benefit from the existing natural and cultural landscape features of the Karapınar district within the scope of ecotourism. In Seçkin's (2018), the focus was on the region's eco-city potential. First, the region's natural and cultural landscape features were transferred to the Netcad environment. The region's eco-city potential was then assessed using European Union sustainability indicators. Forward-looking strategies were developed based on the identified ecotourism potential. As a result of the study, a 1:25,000-scale Ecological Landscape Plan was developed to support sustainable urbanization in the region. According to Meydan's (2020) study, the region's ecotourism potential was determined with the aim of sustainable development. The ecotourism potential of 55 villages was identified using the Ecotourism Opportunity Spectrum (ECOS) method. The aim was to apply the ECOS method according to the characteristics of the area by defining evaluation criteria consisting of five main components (natural landscape attractiveness, accessibility, tourist infrastructure facilities, tourist superstructure opportunities, and socio-cultural landscape attractiveness).

Kabataş (2020) created GIS maps of the natural and socio-cultural landscape values of the study area, based on his literature review. The ECOS method was used in the study, along with 19 evaluation factors, including accessibility, natural landscape attractiveness, and cultural landscape attractiveness. The study's suitability maps revealed that 89% of the rural areas of Kofçaz district are suitable for ecotourism activities, with 6% highly suitable. Ekiz (2022) identified evaluation factors for ecotourism based on information about the area's general characteristics. An aesthetic evaluation analysis using the entropy approach was employed within the scope of the study. Finally, recommendations were made for the proper ecotourism planning of the area. Sayın (2022) examined perceptions of ecotourism among the local population in Taşucu, Silifke District, Mersin Province, using a survey. The survey was conducted among individuals aged 18 or older residing in three neighborhoods in the study area that are important for ecotourism. As a result of the research, the local community's perception of ecotourism was identified, and recommendations were made to develop the area's ecotourism potential.

In addition to the studies reviewed above (Zhang et al., 2006; Ekici & Çizel, 2014; Panin & Mbrica, 2014; Boğan & Sarıışık, 2016; Hançer & Mancı, 2017; Dargahov et al., 2023; Şahin & Şengel, 2024), studies have also revealed that natural and cultural landscape components are key determinants in determining ecotourism potential. These studies, conducted in different geographical areas, emphasize that ecotourism plays a critical role not only in environmental sustainability but also in socio-economic

development and local community participation (Aliyev & Kızılırmak, 2024). Studies supported by GIS-based analyses, land use planning, survey applications, and international indicators show that the spatial, social, and managerial components of ecotourism must be addressed in a multidimensional manner. In their study, Aydemir & Kazoğlu (2016) analyzed the perceptions of the local community in Halfeti / Türkiye towards community-based tourism (CBT) using quantitative methods. Their findings indicate that individuals who have resided in the area for a longer period are more sensitive to the preservation of traditions and customs and, consequently, have lower perceptions of CBT. Çavuş & Zere (2021) found in their studies that the local community's perceptions of ecotourism are generally positive across the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental sub-dimensions. Furthermore, demographic characteristics (such as gender and marital status) significantly affected perception levels. This study provides a regional example based on local community-based perception measurements and supports the notion that community-focused ecotourism research in the Turkish context remains limited. Shoo (2017) examined the perceptions of local communities living around Lake Natron Ramsar Site in Tanzania regarding ecotourism and environmental conservation. Data from the study's surveys show that the majority of communities view ecotourism positively for environmental protection, employment, and increased income, but these benefits are not distributed equally within the community. Participants reported dissatisfaction, particularly due to insufficient involvement in decision-making and the unfair distribution of income. Runya et al. (2022) examined community-based ecotourism (CBET) practices in the mangrove ecosystem around Gazi Bay, Kenya, in the context of local residents' perceptions, opportunities, and challenges. Surveys conducted in the study show that 81.4% of participants are aware of ecotourism activities carried out in the region. However, the findings reveal that the local community's participation in these activities remains limited and that there are injustices in income and benefit sharing. In particular, the level of awareness and participation in the local community is a decisive factor in the success of ecotourism practices. Therefore, throughout the literature, establishing a balanced relationship between nature conservation and local development in the planning of ecotourism activities is highlighted as a common denominator. This study presents a pioneering framework that integrates cultural identity into ecotourism behavior models, demonstrating that cultural identity and natural landscape components jointly shape ecotourism attitudes in rural areas.

Rural areas are generally preferred for ecotourism activities due to their abundance of natural and cultural resources. Highlighting the values of rural areas and developing their existing potential will both provide employment for the local population and prevent the loss of important existing values. Therefore, ecotourism is crucial for the development of rural areas. In Türkiye which is rich in all kinds of natural resources, the following activities are carried out within the scope of ecotourism: highland tourism, bicycle tours, ornithology (bird watching) tourism, photo safaris, river sports (canoeing-rafting), agro-tourism (farm tourism), botanical (plant study) tourism, horseback nature walks, camping-caravan tourism, cave tourism, mountain tourism, and nature walks. Akdağmadeni is located 103 km east of Yozgat province. Akdağmadeni District, located within the Akdağ mountain range, is characterized by the remarkable forest ecosystems of Central Anatolia. Owing to its geographical location and its rich natural and cultural assets, the district offers a diverse range of opportunities for the development of various ecotourism activities. In other words, Akdağmadeni was selected as the study area due to its unique natural and cultural landscape features and its underutilized ecotourism potential within the Central Anatolia Region. The district possesses significant natural and cultural resources, including extensive forest ecosystems, rich biodiversity, and traditional rural landscapes. These values offer significant opportunities to raise awareness in the region and foster sustainable tourism development. However, studies examining this potential within the context of local perceptions and landscape values are quite limited. Therefore, Akdağmadeni serves as a suitable and unique research area for investigating the contribution of natural and cultural landscape components to ecotourism potential and the local community's perceptions of these values. This study aimed to identify the existing natural, landscape, and cultural values in Akdağmadeni/Yozgat, Türkiye, within the scope of ecotourism. By examining how natural and cultural landscape components shape the region's

ecotourism potential, the local community's perceptions of ecotourism have been revealed. This study aimed to identify and evaluate the natural, cultural, and landscape resources of Akdağmadeni/Yozgat within the scope of sustainable ecotourism. The research examined how this landscape components shaped the district's ecotourism potential and how residents perceived ecotourism. By analyzing the relationships between identity value, landscape value, and ecotourism attitudes, the study provided a scientific basis for sustainable tourism. Unlike previous studies that primarily focus on either cultural or natural dimensions, this study integrates identity-based cultural values and landscape-based environmental perceptions within a single empirical model to explain ecotourism attitudes.

MATERIALS and METHODS

The study was carried out within the boundaries of the Akdağmadeni district in Yozgat. Positioned 103 km east of the provincial center, Akdağmadeni gained official settlement status in 1815. The district is recognized for its mineral wealth, including zinc, iron, lead, and other extractable minerals. The Akdağ mountain range hosts extensive forest ecosystems characteristic of Central Anatolia, predominantly composed of yellow pine, oak, and juniper communities. Although the district has a continental climate, its forested highlands occasionally exhibit features associated with the Black Sea climate zone. Summers are generally mild, while winters are marked by cold and wet conditions (Akdağmadeni Municipality, 2022). Regarding the methodology, surveying the entire population to evaluate residents' perceptions of ecotourism in Akdağmadeni was neither feasible nor economical. Therefore, a sampling design was adopted. Since the population size was predetermined, the required sample size was calculated using the formula suggested by Yazıcıoğlu & Erdoğan (2004). Based on this computation, the representative sample was defined as 383 participants, with a 5% margin of error at a 95% confidence level.

$$\mathrm{n} = \frac{N(p * q)}{(N-1)D^2 + (p * q)}$$

According to this sampling equation, n denotes the required sample size, while N refers to the total population, which in this study is 41,577 individuals. The parameter p represents the assumed proportion of the attribute within the population (0.5), and q corresponds to the complementary proportion (1-p=0.5). The permissible error level is indicated by d (set at 0.05). The term t denotes the critical value associated with the selected confidence level (1.96 for a 95% confidence interval). D signifies the ratio derived from the acceptable error margin relative to the t value at the specified confidence level. The formula is presented below.

$$\mathrm{n} = \frac{43650(0{,}5 * 0{,}5)}{(41577-1)\left[\frac{0{,}05}{1{,}96}\right]^2 + (0{,}5 * 0{,}5)} = 380{,}65 \cong 383$$

The survey was conducted in person, with participants answering the questions via a digital screen. Additionally, IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0 was used for the analyses. This method allowed direct communication with participants while ensuring data were recorded in a digital format, organized, and error-free. In this study, the adequacy of the sample will be assessed using the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure and Bartlett's test of sphericity. According to Kaiser (1974), the threshold value for the KMO statistic is 0.50; when KMO≤0.50, the dataset is considered unsuitable for factor analysis. Once sample adequacy was confirmed, items that failed to meet the required criteria were excluded from the scales via factor analysis. The reliability of the items within each extracted factor was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha coefficients. Convergent validity was examined using the Heterotrait-Monotrait ratio (HTMT<0.90), as recommended by Murtagh & Heck (1987) and Henseler et al. (2015). The findings indicated that all HTMT values remained below the 0.90 threshold, thereby demonstrating satisfactory discriminant validity. In this stage, Cronbach's alpha was used. The reliability coefficients were as follows: Identity=0.895, Landscape=0.860, and Ecotourism Attitude=0.857, indicating strong internal consistency across the scale.

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was employed to reveal the dimensional structure of the dataset and to examine the relationships among the variables. In order to achieve a clearer and more interpretable factor structure, the Varimax rotation method was applied, resulting in the grouping of variables under statistically meaningful components. The obtained components contributed to the identification of the principal dimensions affecting ecotourism perception, including cultural heritage, landscape values, and attitudes toward ecotourism.

The study proposed the following hypotheses:

H1: The values of Cultural Heritage Components positively influence residents' attitudes toward ecotourism.

H2: The values of landscape components positively affect residents' attitudes toward ecotourism.

H3: The values of the Landscape and Cultural Heritage components jointly provide a significant explanation of the community's overall ecotourism perception.

Consequently, coefficients for the factors influencing residents' preference for and intention to sustain ecotourism were computed. A quantitative design was adopted to assess how the cultural and natural assets of the Akdağmadeni district are perceived by the local population. The measurement scale was created by the researcher based on relevant literature (Boğan & Sarıışık, 2016; Meydan, 2020; Sayın, 2022), and its content validity was confirmed through expert evaluation. A five-point Likert scale (1=Not important at all to 5=Very important) was used to assess residents' perceptions of the natural, cultural, and landscape attributes of the Akdağmadeni district. Participants rated the significance of key identity and landscape features characteristic of the area. The scale consisted of 28 items addressing historical landmarks, natural environments, highland areas, reservoirs, and cultural components. Descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) were computed, after which factor analysis identified three fundamental dimensions: identity-related components, landscape-related components, and ecotourism-oriented attitudes. To analyze the influence of demographic variables on these constructs, parametric tests were applied. Independent-samples t-tests examined gender differences, a one-way ANOVA assessed variations across age, education, and income groups, and Pearson correlation coefficients were used to evaluate associations between participation frequency in nature-related activities and the identified factors (Figure 1).

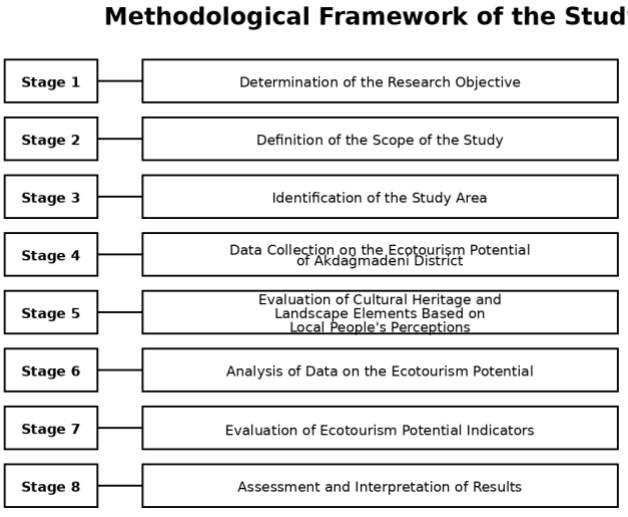


Figure 1. The study methodology flowchart.

Şekil 1. *Araştırma metodolojinsinin modeli.*

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Data on age groups, socioeconomic status, and educational levels of individuals who participated in the survey were analyzed, and the effects of these demographic characteristics on ecotourism awareness and perceptions of the natural and cultural landscape were examined in Table 1. According to the data, 383 people participated in the survey. 52.48% of participants (201 people) were male, while 47.52% (182 people) were female. This indicates that there was no significant imbalance between male and female participants, suggesting that the data were homogeneous. This provided a basis for a more detailed examination of the effect of the gender variable on other variables evaluated in the study, such as perceptions of ecotourism, levels of awareness, and attitudes. Participants were grouped by age, and their frequency distributions were calculated. The data indicate that the 25-34 age group constituted the largest proportion of respondents (103 individuals; 26.89%), followed by those aged 35-44 (94 individuals; 24.54%) and 18-24 (78 individuals; 20.37%). Table 1 presents the distribution of marital status among survey participants in the Akdağmadeni district of Yozgat. According to the data, 56.14% of participants (215 people) were married, while 43.86% (168 people) were single. The demographic structure of the sample provides important insights into interpreting perceptions of ecotourism. The balanced gender distribution suggests that the findings are not biased toward a specific group and allow for a reliable evaluation of residents' attitudes (Hunter, 2006; Rasoolimanesh & Siamak, 2021). The predominance of the 25-44 age group suggests that the results primarily reflect the perceptions of economically active individuals, who are more likely to engage in tourism-related activities and decision-making processes (Gursoy et al., 2002). In addition, the high proportion of married participants suggests a relatively stable social structure, which may support positive attitudes toward community-based and sustainable tourism. Overall, the sample represents an active stakeholder group, supporting the reliability of the findings in reflecting local community attitudes toward ecotourism in rural contexts.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of local residents participating in the survey in Akdağmadeni, Yozgat (gender, age, marital status, education)

Çizelge 1. *Yozgat akdağmadeni ankete katılan yerel halkın demografik özellikleri (cinsiyet, yaş, medeni durum, eğitim)*

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	201	52.48	Married	215	56.14
Female	182	47.52	Single	168	43.86
SD		0.50	SD		0.50
Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Education Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-24	78	20.37	Illiterate	14	3.66
25-34	103	26.89	Literate	17	4.44
35-44	94	24.54	Primary School	25	6.53
45-54	55	14.36	Middle School	27	7.05
55	53	13.84	High School	96	25.07
SD		1.31	Associate Degree	79	20.63
			Bachelor's Degree	92	24.02
			Postgraduate	33	8.62
			SD (Standard Deviation)		1.75

The analysis of educational status in the Akdağmadeni sample revealed that high school graduates constituted the largest group, accounting for 25.07% of respondents (96 individuals). Of the high school graduates, 92 were bachelor's degree graduates (24.02%) and 79 were associate degree graduates (20.63%). Other educational status distributions were as follows: illiterate participants account for 3.66% (14 people), while literate participants account for 4.44% (17 people). The highest participation rate was among students at 17.49% (67 people), while the lowest was among traders at 1.57% (6 people) (Table 2). In the occupational group distribution, 16.45% (63 people) were civil servants, 14.88% (57 people) were farmers, and 14.62% (56 people) were housewives. Workers accounted for 13.32% (51 people),

retirees 4.70% (18 people), tradespeople/artisans 7.31% (28 people), unemployed 6.27% (24 people), and individuals belonging to other occupational groups (daily work) 3.39% (13 people). The income status of the survey participants is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of the local residents participating in the survey in Yozgat Akdağmadeni (occupation, income)
Çizelge 2. *Yozgat Akdağmadeni ankete katılan yerel halkın demografik özellikleri (meslek, gelir)*

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Income (Turkish Lira)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	57	14.88	Has no income	5	1.31
Worker / Laborer	51	13.32	0-17.002	11	2.87
Government Employee	63	16.45	17.003-25.503	135	35.25
Retired	18	4.70	25.504-34.004	39	10.18
Housewife	56	14.62	34.005-42.505	39	10.18
Student	67	17.49	42.506 and above	154	40.21
Trader / Merchant	6	1.57	SD		1.45
Craftsman	28	7.31			
Unemployed	24	6.27			
Other	13	3.39			
SD		2.60			

According to this, the most preferred income group in the income distribution is the “42.506 TL and above” group, with 40.21% (154 people). The lowest income rate among survey participants was observed among those with no income (1.31%, 5 people) and those in the “0-17,002 TL” income group (2.87%, 11 people). Other income groups were: 35.25% (135 people) in the “17.003-25.503 TL” income range; 10.18% (39 people) in the “25.504-34.004 TL” and “34.005-42.505 TL” groups, each accounting for 10.18% (39 people). These results show a wide range of income levels, with the majority of participants in the high-income group.

Assessment of local residents’ perceptions of ecotourism

The term “ecotourism activities” in this study refers to recreational and experiential activities undertaken by individuals in natural areas. In this context, nature walks, hiking, camping, birdwatching, plant and wildlife observation, photography, nature-based educational activities, and other outdoor activities conducted as part of ecotourism are considered nature activities. Such activities enhance individuals’ interaction with the natural environment and contribute to the development of nature awareness and environmental attitudes. Table 3 presents the distribution of responses to the question: Have you previously taken part in any nature-based activity? Of the respondents, 61.88% (237 individuals) had reported prior participation in nature-based activities, while 38.12% (146 individuals) had indicated no such experience. These findings showed that the majority of participants had been engaged in nature activities. The standard deviation of this distribution had been calculated as 0.49.

Table 3. Distribution of responses to the question “Have you previously engaged in a nature-related activity?”
Çizelge 3. *Daha önceden doğa etkinliğine katıldınız mı? sorusuna verilen yanıtlar*

Nature Activity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	237	61.88
No	146	38.12
SD (Standard Deviation)		0.49

The relatively high participation rate in nature-based activities indicates that a significant portion of the local population has direct experience with natural environments. This is an important factor, as previous studies have shown that direct interaction with nature enhances environmental awareness and fosters more positive attitudes toward ecotourism (Ballantyne & Packer, 2011; Lee, 2011). Therefore, the high participation rate observed in this study may contribute to the development of favorable perceptions

of ecotourism among local residents. On the other hand, the considerable proportion of individuals who have not participated in such activities suggests that there is still untapped potential for increasing community engagement in ecotourism. This finding highlights the need for awareness-raising programs and accessible nature-based opportunities to encourage broader participation. Increasing involvement in nature-related activities is likely to strengthen both environmental consciousness and support for sustainable tourism development. This low standard deviation indicates that individuals have a homogeneous structure in terms of their participation in nature activities. This finding provides a valuable basis for assessing the effects of participation in nature activities on ecotourism awareness. It is considered that the proportion of individuals who do not participate in nature activities is significant and that it is important to examine this group's perceptions and expectations regarding nature activities.

Table 4 examined participants' perceptions of ecotourism. Since respondents could select multiple options, the total number of responses exceeded 383, and percentages were recalculated using the multiple-response analysis tool in SPSS 22.0. The most frequently chosen definition was "tourism that explains nature and provides the opportunity to spend time in nature" (26.9%), indicating that nature-oriented perceptions were predominant. This was followed by the view that ecotourism "provided escape from stress and relaxation" (19.7%). In addition, 18.5% of respondents linked ecotourism to participation in outdoor sports, and 17.5% highlighted its role in fostering local development. Less frequently selected options were "nature-focused tours and engagements" at 10.3% and "high-cost, fashion-oriented tourism" at 7.1%. Overall, the findings showed that participants primarily perceived ecotourism as nature, recreation, and local development, whereas the low percentage for the "expensive and trendy" option suggested that ecotourism was not regarded as a luxury.

Table 4. An assessment of participation in definitions of ecotourism

Çizelge 4. *Ekoturizme yönelik tanımlara katılımın değerlendirilmesi*

Category	Percentage (%)
It is a tourism approach that interprets natural environments and enables individuals to spend time within nature	26.9
It is a tourism model characterized by high-cost and trend-oriented travel experiences	7.1
It is a form of tourism that allows individuals to escape stress and experience psychological restoration	19.7
It is a type of tourism that offers opportunities to participate in various sporting activities	18.5
It is a tourism practice that supports and enhances local economic and social development	17.5
It is a tourism category that includes nature-based excursions and outdoor activities	10.3

*N number exceeds the sample size.

The results regarding the participation status of individuals participating in the survey in nature activities are given in Table 5. When the distribution of participation statuses was examined, the highest value was 42.56% (163 people) who answered: "I rarely participate".

Table 5. Participants' frequency of ecotourism activities

Çizelge 5. *Ekoturizm aktivitelerine katılma sıklığı*

Participation status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
I have never participated	148	38.64
I rarely participate	163	42.56
I occasionally participate	61	15.93
I frequently participate	11	2.87
SD (Standard Deviation)		0.80

This is followed by the "Never participated" response with 38.64% (148 people). The rate for those who said "I occasionally participate" was 15.93% (61 people), while the rate for those who answered "I frequently participate" was the lowest at 2.87% (11 people). The data indicate that the majority of survey

participants engage in very little or no ecotourism activities. These findings highlight the need for incentive policies and awareness-raising activities to increase individuals' interest in ecotourism activities. It is considered that awareness-raising activities targeting the "Never participated" and "Rarely participated" groups could be particularly effective.

Landscape features and cultural heritage components of Akdağmadeni

The assessment indicated that the Akdağmadeni region possesses notable cultural and ecotourism potential, reflected in cultural heritage and landscape values. Among the cultural heritage components. Muşali Behramşah Castle received the highest mean score (4.81, SD=0.60), followed by Akdağmadeni Salebi (4.71, SD=0.63) and the İstanbulluoğlu Neighborhood Mosque (4.69, SD=0.67), demonstrating a strong level of cultural recognition among participants. In contrast, Rıfat Koç Mansion had the lowest rating (2.93, SD=1.39), suggesting limited awareness or interest; however, the relatively high standard deviation indicates considerable variation in public perception. In this study, the local population's high level of perceived importance regarding cultural heritage components indicated that the region's historical and cultural identity was strongly perceived by the local community. Timothy & Nyaupane (2009) emphasized that cultural heritage components play a significant role in shaping destination identity and enriching the visitor experience. Therefore, it is to be expected that in rural areas with cultural landscape features, such as Akdağmadeni, the local population would place a high value on cultural heritage. Regarding landscape values, Kadıpınarı Nature Park emerged as the most significant natural site (4.85, SD=0.56), followed by Göndelen Valley (4.79, SD=0.61) and Çerçialanı Village Pond (4.75, SD=0.62), underscoring the district's strong appeal in terms of natural landscape quality. The lower rating for Küçük Kefenli Plateau (3.95, SD=0.98) suggests that this area may require additional development, promotion, or management to enhance its attractiveness relative to other natural destinations in the region. The high level of importance placed on landscape components indicated that the natural environment and visual landscape features were a significant attraction for the region. The literature frequently notes that natural landscape features are a fundamental component of the rural tourism experience and play a significant role in visitors' destination choices (Lane, 1994). In this context, Akdağmadeni's natural landscape features can be considered one of the key factors supporting the region's ecotourism potential. The high perceived value of cultural heritage components indicates that local identity plays a key role in shaping perceptions of ecotourism. This finding is consistent with studies emphasizing that cultural heritage strengthens destination identity and enhances both resident attachment and visitor experience (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009; Richards, 2018). In contrast, the lower recognition of certain heritage elements suggests limited visibility or insufficient integration into tourism planning, as also noted in previous research (Garrod & Fyall, 2000). Similarly, the high ratings of natural areas confirm that landscape quality is a major determinant of tourism attractiveness. This supports the literature indicating that scenic beauty and environmental quality significantly influence destination preferences in rural tourism (Lane, 1994; Tveit et al., 2006). Overall, these findings highlight that cultural heritage, and landscape values act as complementary components in shaping the ecotourism potential of rural destinations.

Ecotourism perceptions and ecotourism attitudes

The KMO analysis had produced a value of 0.953, indicating excellent sampling adequacy and demonstrating that the dataset was highly appropriate for factor analysis. In addition, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity had yielded a significant chi-square value of 5838.117 (p<0.001), confirming that the correlation matrix was not an identity matrix and that the variables were sufficiently correlated to justify the use of factor analytic techniques. Together, these results verified the suitability of the data for factor extraction.

Principal Component Analysis with Varimax rotation revealed three principal components. The first, representing identity-related heritage, included high loadings for key historical and cultural structures such as the Former Industrial Vocational High School Building (0.823), Former Public Education Center

Building (0.796), Former Prison Building (0.783), Former Ziraat Bank Building (0.771), Former Military Branch Building (0.766), Former PTT Building (0.759), Muşali Behramşah Castle (0.731), and the İstanbulluoğlu Neighborhood Mosque (0.720). The concentration of these substantial loadings in a single component demonstrated that the district's architectural and cultural assets collectively constitute a central element of its cultural and historical landscape (Figure 2).

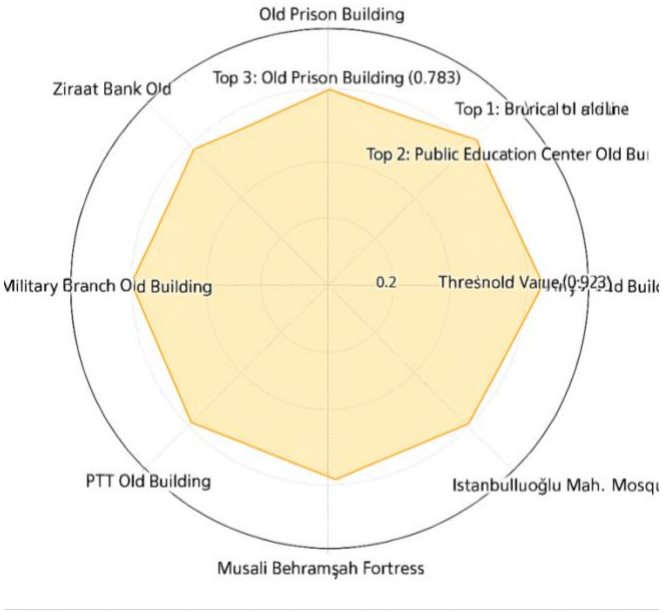


Figure 2. Component 1: Perceived value of cultural heritage components.

Şekil 2. *Bileşen 1 kültürel miras öğelerinin algılanan değeri.*

The second factor, perceived socio-economic benefits of ecotourism (Component 2), captured the broader economic, social, and cultural contributions of ecotourism to the region (Figure 3). Factor loadings showed strong associations for the development of commercial activity (0.743), cultural interaction (0.737), regional economic improvement (0.735), and social integration between visitors and residents (0.734). Additional contributions—cultural recognition (0.715), heritage protection (0.715), regional promotion (0.696), job creation (0.651), and rural urbanization (0.648)—further indicated that ecotourism supported multiple dimensions of regional development. The third factor reflected attitudes toward ecotourism and the perceived attractiveness of natural areas. High loadings were observed for Nalbant Plateau (0.760), Çerçialanı Village Pond (0.724), Akdağmadeni Yellow Pine Forests (0.717), Göndelen Valley (0.716), and Hisarbey Plateau (0.699), demonstrating that these natural sites collectively enhanced the district's ecotourism potential. This factor indicated that the region's natural sites were perceived as comparable in character and held notable ecotourism potential. These areas emerged as key locations for nature-based tourism and were regarded as strategic assets for future ecotourism development. The results further showed that the identity and ecotourism capacity of the study area could be interpreted across three principal dimensions: the historical and cultural heritage forming the identity value, the socio-economic and environmental contributions captured under the value of landscape components, and the perception of ecotourism together with the attractiveness of natural destinations, represented by the ecotourism attitude dimension. Collectively, these results underscore the need for ecotourism planning strategies that prioritize cultural heritage conservation, the sustainable management of natural areas, and regional economic advancement. The importance attributed to activities focused on experiencing local life can be linked not only to the natural environment but also to the desire to experience local culture and traditional ways of life. Studies on rural tourism indicate that local culture and traditional ways of life are an important part of the tourist experience and enhance the destination's

appeal (Sharpley, 2002). This demonstrates that local lifestyle practices in rural settlements such as Akdağmadeni constitute a significant value from a tourism perspective. The factor structure obtained in this study reflects the multidimensional nature of perceptions of ecotourism in rural areas. The emergence of identity-related cultural heritage as a distinct factor confirms that historical and symbolic elements play a central role in shaping place-based perceptions. This finding is consistent with studies emphasizing that cultural heritage strengthens place identity and influences tourism attitudes (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009; Hernández et al., 2010). The second factor, representing the socio-economic benefits of ecotourism, indicates that local residents perceive tourism not only as an environmental activity but also as a driver of economic and social development. This result supports the assumptions of Social Exchange Theory, which suggests that individuals are more likely to support tourism when they perceive tangible benefits (Ap, 1992). The third factor, related to ecotourism attitudes and natural landscape attractiveness, highlights the importance of environmental quality in shaping tourism perceptions. Previous studies have similarly shown that natural landscape features significantly influence destination attractiveness and visitor preferences in rural tourism contexts (Lane, 1994; Tveit et al., 2006). Overall, the identification of these three dimensions suggests that ecotourism perceptions are shaped by the interaction of cultural identity, perceived benefits, and environmental attractiveness. This integrated structure provides a comprehensive framework for understanding ecotourism development in rural regions.

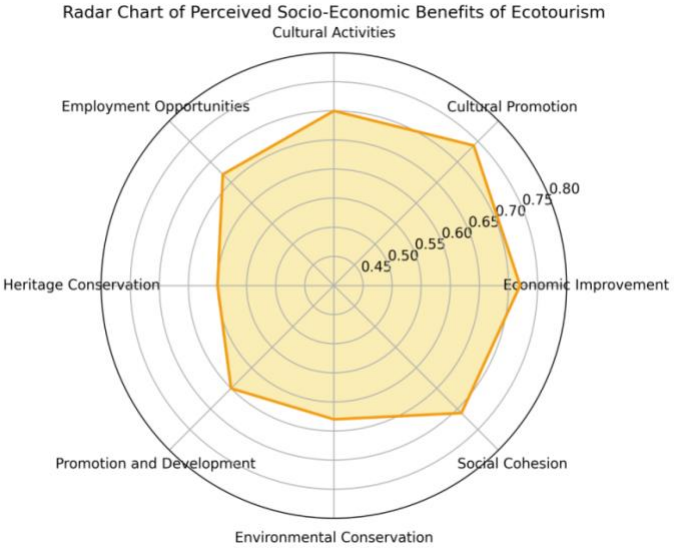


Figure 3. Component 2 socio-economic benefits of ecotourism radar chart.
Şekil 3. *Bileşen 2 ekoturizmin sosyo-ekonomik katkıları radar grafiği.*

PCA with Varimax rotation yielded a coherent factor structure, with all variables showing medium-to-high positive loadings. Three components were identified. Component 1 (values of cultural heritage components) brought together key historical and cultural structures, with the strongest loadings observed for the Former Industrial Vocational High School Building (0.823), Former Public Education Center Building (0.796), and Former Prison Building (0.783), highlighting their collective role in shaping the district's cultural identity (Figure 2). Component 2 (values of landscape components) reflected the socio-economic and cultural contributions of ecotourism, with commercial activity development (0.743), cultural exchange (0.737), economic enhancement (0.735), and social cohesion (0.734) loading most strongly, while even the lowest value—urbanization effects (0.648)—remained meaningful, emphasizing ecotourism's multifaceted developmental impact (Figure 3). Component 3 (Ecotourism Attitude) comprised natural destinations that showed high loadings for Nalbant Plateau (0.760), Çerçialanı Reservoir (0.724), Akdağmadeni Scots Pine Forests (0.717), Göndelen Valley (0.716), and Hisarbey Plateau (0.699), indicating that these areas collectively enhance the region's ecotourism appeal (Figure 4).

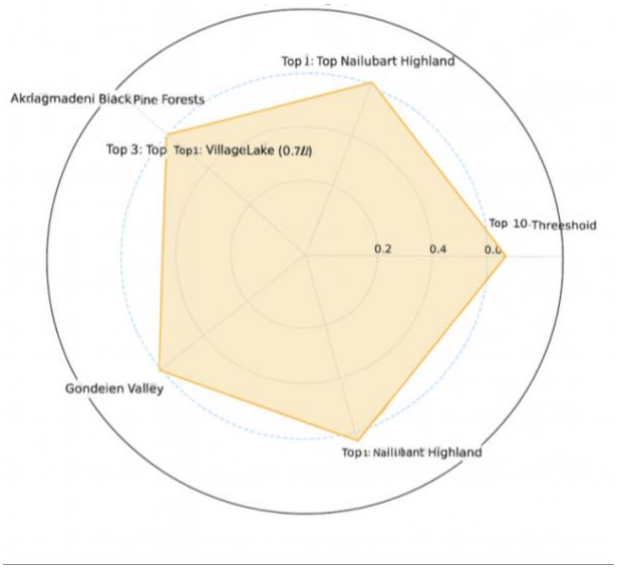


Figure 4. Radar chart of component 3: ecotourism attitude.
Şekil 4. *Bileşen 3 ekoturizm tutumu radar grafiği.*

According to the multiple linear regression analysis, both cultural heritage and landscape components were found to have positive, significant effects on local residents' ecotourism attitudes. In the multiple linear regression analysis; (Ecotourism Attitude ~ Identity + Landscape), n=380: Model R^2=0.305 (significant), Identity β=0.354, $p \approx 6.1\times10^{-11}$, Landscape β=0.241, $p \approx 4.19\times10^{-6}$. H1 and H2 were supported. The two variables together also provide a significant explanation (H3 was supported). In summary, the Multiple linear regression analysis showed that the model was statistically significant (R^2=0.305, F(2, 377)=82.42, p<0.001). Identity value (β=0.354, p<0.001) and landscape value (β=0.241, p<0.001) positively and significantly predict ecotourism attitudes. When effect sizes are examined, the effect of identity value is stronger than that of landscape value (Table 6). However, the model's explanatory power is moderate (R^2=0.305), suggesting that other variables may explain the local population's attitudes toward ecotourism. Perceptions of ecotourism are influenced not only by identity and landscape values but also by various social and spatial factors, such as individuals' level of environmental awareness, tourism experience, socio-economic conditions, and perceptions regarding tourism infrastructure. Therefore, the model's limited explanatory power indicates that ecotourism attitudes have a multidimensional structure; including additional socio-cultural and behavioral variables in future studies could enhance the model's explanatory power.

Table 6. Regression analysis results on the effect of identity and landscape values on ecotourism attitude
Çizelge 6. *Kimlik ve peyzaj değerlerinin ekoturizm tutumu üzerine etkisine ilişkin regresyon analizi sonuçları*

Variable	β (Coefficient)	*p*-value	Result
Perceived Value of Cultural Heritage Components	0.354	< 0.001	Significant (+)
Perceived Value of Landscape Components	0.241	< 0.001	Significant (+)

In Table 7, the perception of landscape value among female participants was higher than among male participants (t(278)=2.41, p=.017).

Table 7. Ecotourism factors analysis according to demographic variables-gender-independent sample t-test
Çizelge 7. *Demografik değişkenlere göre ekoturizm faktörleri analizi- cinsiyet-bağımsız örneklem t-testi*

Factor	t	*p*	Comment
Value of Cultural Heritage Components	1.82	0.071	Women's average is slightly higher than men's; the difference is not significant
Value of Landscape Components	2.41	0.017	Women's perception of landscape value is significantly higher than men's
Ecotourism Attitude	1.54	0.125	The difference is not significant

Table 8. Age, Education, income according to demographic variables-one-way ANOVA
Çizelge 8. *Demografik değişkenlere göre yaş, eğitim, gelir-Tek Yönlü ANOVA*

Variable	Factor	F	*p*	Comment
Age	Identity	1.22	0.30	The difference is not significant
Education	Attitude	3.84	0.011	As education level increases, ecotourism attitudes increase
Income	Landscape Components	4.92	0.008	Perceptions of landscape value are significantly higher among the higher-income group

In Table 8, Individuals with higher education levels had higher ecotourism attitude scores ($F(3,276)=3.84$, $p=.011$). Similarly, participants with higher income levels had significantly higher perceptions of landscape value ($F(3,276)=4.92$, $p=.008$).

In Table 9, there was a positive and significant relationship between the frequency of participation in ecotourism activities and all factors (r=0.38-0.46, $p<0.001$). The strong historical-cultural focal points and natural attractions identified in Akdağmadeni were important for ecotourism in supporting both a sense of place and local well-being. These findings were consistent with the literature, which shows that a combined focus on rural development and cultural heritage increases acceptance by opening channels for participation and benefit-sharing (Panin & Mbrica, 2014). The region's weaknesses, however, primarily stem from gaps in infrastructure, guidance, and service quality; this was similar to the shortcomings addressed through the inter-village network approach in the Küre Mountains (Meydan, 2020).

Table 9. Frequency of participation in ecotourism activities-correlation
Çizelge 9. *Ekoturizm etkinliklerine katılım sıklığı-korelasyon*

Factor	r	*p*	Comment
Cultural Heritage Components	0.38	<.001	As frequency increases, the perception of identity value increases.
Landscape Components	0.41	<.001	A positive and strong relationship.
Attitude	0.46	<.001	As frequency increases, attitudes toward ecotourism increase.

On the other hand, unlike the Samandağ study, where coastal and wetland-based experiences were the defining factors, Akdağmadeni is more conducive to hiking, nature observation, and agro-tourism-focused product diversification along the plateau-forest-valley continuum (Salici, 2018). This distinction highlights low-impact route management in product design and integration into the local production chain. Consequently, a holistic visitor experience in Akdağmadeni, connecting identity focal points (historical structures) with natural "anchors" (plateaus and valleys), supported by promotion, local entrepreneurship, and income recycling, considering carrying capacity, will simultaneously strengthen both conservation goals and the local economy (Meydan, 2020; Panin & Mbrica, 2014; Salici, 2018).

According to the regression analysis, both cultural heritage and landscape components had positive, significant effects on local residents' ecotourism attitudes. The findings indicate that cultural and landscape values play a significant role in local residents' attitudes toward ecotourism in Akdağmadeni. Because identity values reflect cultural belonging and awareness of local identity, they strengthen individuals' attitudes toward ecotourism. This study contributes to the literature by integrating cultural identity and landscape perception within a unified model of ecotourism attitudes. This finding is consistent with previous studies suggesting that identity-oriented planning increases local participation motivation in rural tourism initiatives (Panin & Mbrica, 2014; Meydan, 2020). While landscape value also has a significant effect, its more limited effect suggests that natural attractions alone are not sufficient to raise sustainable tourism awareness.

In conclusion, the example of Akdağmadeni, one of the few areas in the Central Anatolia Region with a forest and valley ecosystem, demonstrates that identity-based ecotourism planning should be a priority element in regional development strategies.

CONCLUSION

Ecotourism is a type of tourism that promotes the preservation of natural areas, supports local economies, and fosters sustainable development. Therefore, this research, conducted in the Akdağmadeni/Yozgat region, aimed to assess the region's ecotourism potential, identify existing shortcomings and areas for improvement, and provide recommendations to enhance its ecotourism capacity. The findings indicate that both cultural heritage and landscape values play a significant role in shaping local residents' attitudes toward ecotourism. In addition, demographic variables such as gender, education level, and income were found to have statistically significant effects, particularly on landscape perception and ecotourism attitudes. From a planning perspective, strategic approaches aligned with sustainable tourism principles are essential to support regional development while preserving natural and cultural heritage. In this context, the effective implementation of policies, improvement of infrastructure, and increasing public awareness are critical for strengthening the region's ecotourism capacity. Furthermore, the results in Table 10 indicate that demographic variables, such as gender, education level, and income, have significant effects on landscape perception and ecotourism attitudes. These findings suggest that ecotourism planning should consider the socio-demographic structure of local communities in order to develop more inclusive and effective strategies.

Table 10. Significant relationships regarding the effects of demographic variables on ecotourism factors

Çizelge 10. *Demografik değişkenlerin ekoturizm faktörleri üzerindeki etkilerine ilişkin anlamlı ilişkiler*

Variable	Factor	Test	Value	*p*	Result
Gender	Landscape	T	2.41	0.017	Female > Male
Education	Attitude	ANOVA	3.84	0.011	Positive affect
Income	Landscape	ANOVA	4.92	0.008	High income > low
Participation Frequency	Attitude	Correlation	0.46	<.001	Positive relationship

The results of this study provide practical insights for spatial planning and ecotourism development in the Akdağmadeni district. According to the analysis results, natural areas such as Kadıpınarı Nature Park (Mean=4.85), Göndelen Valley (Mean=4.79), and Çerçialanı Reservoir (Mean=4.75) were perceived as having high landscape value. These results indicate that these areas may be considered priority zones for ecotourism development, particularly for nature walks, recreation, and nature-based tourism activities. Similarly, cultural heritage components such as Muşali Behramşah Castle (Mean=4.81) and the İstanbulluoğlu Neighborhood Mosque are significant attractions for the development of identity-based tourism routes in the region. Regression analysis results revealed that values of cultural heritage components (β=0.354) and values of landscape components (β=0.241) have a significant effect on the local population's attitude toward ecotourism. This result highlights the need for local governments to adopt an identity-based ecotourism planning approach that integrates the conservation of natural landscape resources with cultural heritage in their planning processes. The positive correlation between participation in nature-based activities and attitudes toward ecotourism (r=0.46, p<0.001) suggests that developing nature trails, ecotourism routes, and recreational areas may increase awareness of and participation in ecotourism in the region. In this context, the study's findings suggest that ecotourism-oriented spatial planning strategies should be developed for the Akdağmadeni district. Based on the empirical findings of this research, a set of policy-oriented recommendations has been developed to contribute to sustainable ecotourism planning and management in the Akdağmadeni district. These recommendations are intended to support local governments and planners in utilizing the region's natural and cultural resources more effectively while ensuring environmental sustainability and community participation. Accordingly, the main recommendations derived from the study are presented below.

- Preparation of an Ecotourism Master Plan: Local governments should prepare a comprehensive Ecotourism Master Plan to guide the sustainable development of ecotourism in the region and to establish long-term tourism development strategies.

- Inventory and Strategic Planning of Ecotourism Resources: A detailed inventory of the region's natural, cultural, and landscape resources should be compiled to identify priority ecotourism assets and support evidence-based tourism planning.

- Institutional Cooperation and Policy Development: Effective collaboration should be established among municipalities, regional development agencies, tourism authorities, and other relevant institutions to implement supportive policies and incentives for sustainable ecotourism development.

- Financial Support for Local Entrepreneurship: Grant programs and financial incentives should be developed to encourage local entrepreneurs and support small-scale ecotourism-related businesses.

- Strengthening Environmental Management and Regulations: Environmental regulations on waste management, energy efficiency, and natural resource conservation should be strengthened to ensure tourism activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

- Public Awareness and Education Programs: Awareness-raising initiatives, including seminars, workshops, training programs, and community-based educational activities, should be organized.

- Integration of Environmental Education in Schools: Environmental education programs should be strengthened within school curricula in order to foster ecological awareness and promote knowledge of ecotourism from an early age.

- Encouraging Local Community Participation: Local residents should be actively involved in ecotourism planning and implementation processes, and opportunities for income generation through tourism should be expanded for villagers, farmers, and local tradespeople.

- Diversification of Ecotourism Activities: New ecotourism products should be developed with the region's strengths and potential in mind. Activities such as trekking, cycling, wildlife observation, nature photography, agrotourism, and permaculture-based experiential tourism should be promoted and integrated into the regional tourism system.

- Development of Ecotourism Routes and Outdoor Recreation Areas: Nature-based routes and recreational corridors suitable for activities such as hiking, camping, mountaineering, and nature observation should be planned in accordance with the region's geographical and ecological characteristics.

- Promotion and Regional Branding Strategies: A comprehensive promotion strategy should be implemented to increase the visibility of Akdağmadeni's ecotourism potential. This may include participation in national and international tourism fairs, the development of regional branding initiatives, and the organization of festivals and events that highlight the region's ecotourism identity.

- Digital Promotion and Media Utilization: Digital communication tools, such as social media platforms, virtual tours, promotional videos, and blog content, should be used to enhance the region's visibility and appeal in the tourism market.

- Improvement of Tourism Infrastructure: Transportation networks, accommodation facilities, visitor services, and environmental infrastructure should be strengthened to support sustainable ecotourism growth and improve visitor experience.

Data Availability

The data will be made available upon reasonable request.

Author Contributions

Conception and design of the study: KK, DY; sample collection: DY; analysis and interpretation of data: DY, KK; statistical analysis: KK; visualization: DY; writing manuscript: KK.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest among the authors in this study.

Ethical Statement

This study was approved by the Social and Human Sciences Ethics Committee of Yozgat Bozok University Presidency with the document number 160963 dated 20.09.2023.

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