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Empowerment and Constraints of Slum Tourism in Ga Mashie Ghana

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FOREWORD

Inspiration

Many people contributed to and influenced the writing of my thesis. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the participants in this research, I am deeply indebted to Bente Heimtun, my thesis supervisor who helped and guided me throughout this academic journey. I am thankful for the honor, and the opportunity to work with such a professional, a role model for me.

ABSTRACT

Slum tourism has a continuous impact on destination communities due to its constraining and beneficial influence on the socio-cultural and economic growth of a region. Existing literature suggests that empowerment as an element of enriching a community enables slum dwellers to overcome various challenges for a sustainable and developmental tourism in the community. By using thematic analysis, this study seeks to investigate the impact, benefit and empowerment of slum tourism in Ga mashie, a community in the capital of Ghana. The result of the study indicated that slum tourism in Ga mashie has both benefits and constraints on the community. The positive impact was stated in terms of socio-cultural and economic benefits including infrastructural development and increase in income. In spite of the benefits, Ga mashie faces constraints as a result of tourism in the area which includes politics, security, finances and adoption of the lifestyles and manners of tourists by residents among many. Despite the constraints, slum tourism has capacitated residents in the community socially, economically, educationally and politically. This has been made possible with the help of the government, private organizations and the residents through community awareness of opportunities presented by slum tourism. In conclusion, slum tourism is a fundamental pillar for development in Ga mashie, howbeit, through empowerment most of the challenges that comes with slum tourism can be resolved within the community.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

This chapter focuses on the background of the study which gives an overview to the research topic and research problem under consideration. It outlines the purpose of the research work thus the specific goal the work seeks to accomplish and indicates the objectives to be achieved after conducting the research. It also presents the research questions to be answered in fulfilling the goal of the study. Furthermore, this chapter shows how this research adds to existing knowledge and fills a research gap in the significance of the study section. Finally, this chapter shows the limitation and delimitation of the study.

Slum tourism is termed such as poverty tourism, ghetto tourism or trauma tourism among others (Dyson, 2012; Frenzel, Koens, Steinbrink, & Rogerson, 2015). Slum tourism is a type of city tourism that involves visiting impoverished areas. Originally focused on the slums, and ghettos of London, and Manhattan in the 19th century, slum tourism is now prominent across the globe (Medlej, 2016). One of the most acceptable definitions of slum tourism was defined by Koens et al. (2012). They described slum tourism as tourists from across the globe visiting poor urban areas to view the impoverished conditions, and understand more of the lifestyles of local inhabitants. It is also known as poverty tourism, township tourism, community tourism, and other terms (Tzanelli, 2018). Due to the importance of slum tourism in slums (Cardoso et al., 2022), there are a lot of research and articles written about slum tourism that shows the relevance of slum tourism, its constraints and empowerment in different communities. Other studies have shown how the popularity of slum tourism have been heightened among tourists looking for experience (Gui & Zhong, 2024). This is the form of tourism that allows wealthy travelers to experience the "reality" of how poor people live which caused criticism and controversy (Bello, Lovelock, & Carr, 2017; Muganda, Sahli, & Smith, 2010; Rolfes, 2009; Truong, Hall, & Garry, 2014)

Today, slum tourism is predominant in some developing countries including Ghana (my home country), Nigeria, and Togo (Griffin & Muldoon, 2022). In Ghana, slum tourism is more common in two different regions namely the Greater Accra Region (MacTavish et al., 2023) and Central Region, thus in Accra, and Cape Coast respectively, yet in my research proposal of

slum tourism, my focus is centered on Accra which is the capital city of Ghana. (Abass & Kucukmehmetoglu, 2021; Aseye and Opoku, 2015; Owusu, Agyei-Mensah, & Lund, 2008).

Even though there are some challenges associated with slum tourism such as increase in crime rate, it promotes the development of the community and country through infrastructure and empowerment of citizens (Boakye, 2012; Komla Aseye et al., 2015). In the area of empowerment, slum tourism provides employment and income for tour guides from the slums, and also an opportunity for craft-workers to sell souvenirs and invest in the community (Nisbett, 2017). For instance, in Accra, a city in Ghana, slum tourism attracts a lot of tourists from Europe, North America and around the world (Yankholmes, 2013). Most of these tourists are impressed about the various artistic displays made by the residents and patronize their products. Slum tourism has been glorified as an innovative economic opportunity for poor urban neighborhoods, and at the same time, has been condemned for promoting poverty voyeurism (Henry, 2020). Also, visits from the tourists and their patronage of goods and services influences Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Slum tourism arrivals in Ghana have been increasing in Ghana from 2005. For instance, in 2005, slum tourists were approximately 428,533 but in 2010 they were 931,224. Correspondingly, there was an increase in revenue from US\$ 836.09 in 2005 to US\$ 1,875 in 2010 (Ansah, 2018).

1.2 Problem statement

Slum areas have been noted to be a place with no structure and with little to no essence to a nation (Agyabeng, Peprah, Mensah, & Mensah, 2022). However, some slum areas have been fortunate to be close to very prominent tourism areas which has great economic impact on the nation (Meschkank, 2010). Most slum areas do not have access to good water, electricity and social amenities and structures. The crowdedness of the place is a key factor for some level of lawlessness to which crime is high in such areas. Tourism is the last thing that is been considered to be relevant in or towards such an area (Burugu, 2015, 2015; Lubasi, 2022). As such, there is less investment and development in and around such areas which may affect empowerment of the community. It is noted that places with such structures have some rich background and history. This history plays exciting role in the culture of slum tourism (Herzfeld, 2020).

Furthermore, slum tourism has been accused of exploitation and voyeurism. However, its proponents claim that tourism opens new opportunities for slum dwellers to improve their poor conditions, while opening the eyes and changing the lives of the people who visit slums (Koens, Frenzel, & Steinbrink, 2012; Steinbrink, Frenzel, & Koens, 2012).

Due to the economic reform in Ghana, there is a limited focus on slums although it produces high investment returns in tourism especially during the year of return program and on festivities (Alagidede, Baah-Boateng, & Nketiah-Amponsah, 2013). Slum tourism is not being capitalized upon but there is a possible great chance of it having great impact on the Ghana's economy (Gebauer & Umscheid, 2021). For this reason, the study seeks to investigate empowerment and constraints of slum tourism in Ghana to provide knowledge for tourist from the developed countries as there is not enough information to address the issues of the slum and how to promote slum tourism in Ga mashie. Doing this will help prevent the lack of awareness among the government and the citizens of Ghana on the potential of slum tourism to the community and generally to the country. This would be more achievable when the government of Ghana and the people of Ghana take into consideration and resolve important constraints of slum tourism. The productivity and efficiency of slum tourism through the awareness of empowerment has a long impact on the nation and its citizens in the slum when well empowered (Purnomo, 2019).

1.3 Justification

Considering the huge impact of slum tourism, it should receive more attention from the government, the community, and other private sectors (Koens, Frenzel, & Steinbrink, 2012). While many studies have been done on slum tourism (Delic, 2011; Koens et al., 2012; W & K, 2014), much less is known about its impact, constraints and empowerment in Ghana. Numerous studies have suggested that slum tourism have the potential to empower a community, therefore, there is a need to study to what extent slum tourism could empower the community (Purnomo, 2014.). Moreover, a few studies have investigated the benefits, constraints and empowerment of slum tourism in Ghana. For instance, a study conducted by Besculides et al. (2002), it was found that tourism including slum tourism enabled residents to promote their culture practices which brought a sense of pride aside the economic gains in the community. Furthermore, a

study conducted by Abdel-Rahman (2024) on slum dwellers in Egypt stated that crime and unemployment are some of the major challenges of people dwelling in slums and it will take time to resolve some of these constraints due to poverty. Consequently, tourism-related actors have not yet demonstrated the potential to empower communities in the country (Meschkank, 2010). Therefore, investigating ways to resolve challenges preventing slums from achieving sustainable tourism development in Ghana is critical. Furthermore, this study will contribute to the limited literature on slum tourism in Ghana and, by extension, the lack of information on the constraints of slum dwellers and their empowerment.

1.4 Aim and objectives

The goal of this study is to investigate the impact of slum tourism in the Ga mashie community of Ghana.

1.5 Specific objectives

- Identify the benefit of slum tourism in the Ga mashie community.
- Examine the constrains of slum tourism.
- Assess the empowerment of slum tourism in Ghana

1.6 Research question

- What are the benefits of slum tourism in Ga mashie?
- What are the constrains of slum tourism in the community?
- How does slum tourism empower the residents in Ga mashie?

1.7 Significance of the study

The study is essential because it provides an insight into the tourism and slum areas in Ghana. The study will bring out some benefits, challenges and empowerment of slum tourism. It also contributes to the development of current knowledge on literature about slum tourism in Ghana.

Findings from this study will be fundamental for further research and be the source of valuable reference to numerous stakeholders such as educationists and policymakers. This will help in addressing constraints of most slums and capacitate the community as well as promote slum tourism for an economic advantage. Moreover, it will contribute to national and corporate slum policies which would be of relevance to other areas in Ghana and Africa, serving as a guide on what strategies to adopt in empowerment of slum tourism.

1.8 Scope and limitations

The scope of the study lies in the slum areas and tourism. Slum areas are congested areas which mostly have high population, with low amenities for the total population. Such areas are also characterized with poverty zone. The tourism sites and tours of slums as a scope of the study explores the impact of slum tourism on Ga mashie community. The study sees a limitation in the attainment of information from participants as I ought to travel and meet participants in Ghana and collect data for analysis. Inadequate documentation did not make it easy for specific figures on tourists visiting the Ga mashie community. Even though, the sampling techniques used in this study was for different parts of the population to be captured, only 7 people were involved in this study as participants. Also, time constraint and lack of finance made it difficult to engage more people which would have been possible if the days for the interview were extended.

Delimitation

There are more than three slum tourism sites in Accra but only Ga mashie was chosen for this study due to inadequate time and financial resource constraints. This study is restricted to only participants who are living in the Ga mashie community.

1.9 Organizational structure

The organization of the thesis will be divided into five chapters.

Chapter two is the literature review which consists of a broad review of works by other scholars on the topic under study. This will only consider works which are directly related to the selected topic or relevant to the study. Chapter three mainly focuses on research methodology that was used in deploying this research. It consists of research design, collection of data, sample size, analysis of data, validity of the study and its reliability. Chapter four focus on presenting the findings of the study and using thematic analysis to analyze these findings.

Finally, chapter five provides conclusion and recommendation that could be considered by various stakeholders.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, I will discuss the literature on slum tourism relevant for my research question. This sets the foundation and understanding of slum tourism in general and its impacts on different communities to promote empowerment for national development.

2.1 Slum tourism a brief overview

Frenzel (2014) gives his definition of slum tourism as visits to poor urban areas in big cities globally, where poor urban settlements are marketed for tourism, arguing that, being a relative concept, it highly depends on the territorial context of certain areas or city districts where poverty is located, where it can be expected and experienced. More recent manifestations of slum tourism have appeared primarily in Africa, Brazil and Asia (Sarrica, Rega, Inversini, & Norton, 2021). In Africa, as early as the 1980s, NGO's and local residents of South Africa organized township tours to make white policy makers aware of the poor living conditions of black people in the segregated and marginalized neighbourhoods (Maharaj, Khan, & Desai, 2017). These tours soon became popular with what (Dondolo, 2002) called "struggle junkies", political tourists who were interested in the fight against Apartheid. Since the end of Apartheid, with South Africa no longer isolated and mainstream tourism growing exponentially, so too has township tourism grown dramatically in all its major cities, up to an estimated 800,000 visitors annually (M. K. . Smith, 2016). Currently, in South Africa, one of the main attractions in tourism is a visit to the townships which is supported by the government and other stakeholders (Donaldson, Iirmdu, Majiet, & Van der Spuy, 2023; Booyens, 2010). The second important destination of slum tourism are the favelas of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Tourism emerged here after the 1992 Earth Summit, when due to the massive interest of UN delegates tour operators began offering favela tours (Duchesneau-Custeau, 2020).

Slum tourism promoters, tour providers as well as tourists claim that this form of tourism contributes to development in slums by creating a variety of potential sources of income and other non-material benefits (Frenzel, 2013a). In line with these assessments and on the basis of similar arguments, local governments in developing countries and slum tourism locations encourage and support slum tourism as a development strategy (Yeganegi & Mohammadi,

2015.). In terms of ethics when it comes to slum tourism, most often economic benefits for the government and the people living in the community is usually evoked (Korstanje, 2016). It has become a debate lately whether there are no ethical considerations in regards of slum tourism because it is believed to dehumanise people living in slums (Canadell, 2018). Meanwhile, a study claims that slum tourism is a suitable option to reduce underdevelopment and poverty in slums, a stand that introduces slum tourism as a modernization strategy for communities that are classified as slums and countries that are still developing (Aseye et al., 2015). However, in the past 4 decades, the differences in opinion about slum tourism have been frequently visited. As a result, there has been a consensus that there has to be a limit of tourism as a development and anti-poverty strategy (Frenzel, 2013)

In the most comprehensive review of the debate to date, concludes that a careful evaluation of specific initiatives needs to replace earlier generalizations. She warns against a blanket assumption of the use and usefulness of tourism as a development strategy. In academic reflections on slum tourism there have been multiple attempts to evaluate its potential to relieve poverty; however, both a link to existing debates in the broader tourism field as well as a synthesis of the approaches is lacking (Frenzel, 2013a). According to Petrick & Backman (2010), slum tourism emerged as a part of mainstream tourism, establishing underdeveloped countries and economically challenged urban spaces as new destinations. The identity of which is based on the supposedly authentic, interactive and extreme character of the type of encounter it promotes (Cohen, 2001).

Slum tourism has different labels which creates an uncomfortable moral dilemma. According to various research, some of the labels of slum tourism includes slum tours, reality tours, dark tourism, adventure tourism, poverty tourism. However it is labelled, the basic concept is that the privileged gawking at the less privileged. Contrary to this, it has been argued that slum tourism is a way of creating awareness on poverty and finding solutions to eradicate it by giving back to the local communities.

Furthermore, it has been pointed out that the practice of slum tourism seems to occasionally overlap with other forms of tourism, such as dark tourism, developmental tourism and volunteer tourism, while also arguing that the relationship between poverty and tourism is not restricted to the effects tourism may have on poverty, but equally concerns the reflection of poverty as an

attraction, a theme of tourism (Frenzel et al., 2015). In relation to developmental tourism, slum tourism is conducted with the support of tours, governments and tourists for slums to remove poverty and establish economic growth and development through local participation and international awareness (Yeganegi & Mohammadi, 2002). Unlike developmental tourism, dark tourism is a broader term referring to any form type of tourism connected with mortality, suffering, act of brutality, misfortune or crime. It forms a connection with slum tourism because they both showcase the suffering of people in local areas (Light, 2017). There are many similarities between slum tourism and these types of tourisms since they are all developed in particular historical conditions and hence form distinct social and political spaces (Yagi & Frenzel, 2022). Consequently, the forms of tourism that later developed in these areas developed into cultural tourism similar to tourism in Ga mashie (Riel & Salama, 2019). The spread of cultural tourism can be explained by the rise of interest in demand for trips to various distant cultural heritage around the world. In cultural tourism there is an exceptional experience between tourists and hosts, usually expressed through the creation of networks and events (Clini & Valančiūnas, 2023a). Studies support that such activities have the potential to change the predominant negative perceptions about slums (Cardoso et al., 2022). It also gives travellers the opportunity to be exposed to otherwise inaccessible landscapes, observe and experience the challenges that millions of people across the world face (Burgold & Rolfes, 2013).

Furthermore, the main characteristic of the phenomenon of slum tourism is the touristic valorisation of poverty-stricken urban areas of the metropolises in so-called developing or emerging nations, which are visited primarily by tourists from the Global North (Rogerson & Mthombeni, 2015). Aside poverty, poverty and ethics revolve around slum tourism and are core issues of tourism research. In general poverty, power and ethics are equally important concepts when it comes to understanding and researching slum tourism (Panagopoulos, 2016). The study of Panagopoulos, 2016, gives the diagram of poverty, power and ethics dynamics of slum tourism in figure 1.



Figure 1: Diagram of poverty, power and ethics dynamics in slum tourism (source: Panagopoulos, 2016).

In this regard, the narratives of many stakeholders in promoting slum tourism largely centers on poverty, power or ethics of the slums which tends to attract tourism. For example, a culture of guns, drugs and lawlessness in the favelas of Brazil involves the interconnectedness of power, ethics and poverty (Zaluar, 2021). All of which are major characteristics of various slum areas around the globe. In addition to poverty, good ethics but not power is more profound in some destination communities. For instance, community spirit, vibrancy and exceptional hospitality in the Townships of South Africa, interactions with the locals and their traditional values, rich cultural diversity, a strong sense of solidarity, culinary delights etc (Barcellos & Zaluar, 2014; Toerien & Jansen Van Vuuren, 2020).

Cejas (2006), argues that the narratives of slums are frequently constructed by the tour providers in parallelism to the cities or countries in which they are located. Correspondingly, some favela tours are linked to the Brazilian carnival and romanticized Samba schools, tours in Argentina's villas miserias highlight the economic debt crisis of 2001, Mumbai's slum features entrepreneurial spirit and diligence and township tours in South Africa use history and the anti-

apartheid struggles as a core theme to reenact local experiences and turn memory into a commodity for external consumption (Cejas, 2006; Gruber et al., 2005; Panagopoulos, 2016).

2.1.1 Slum

Slum refers to highly dense and overpopulated areas that lack basic amenities, each with their unique background and history (Olotuah, 2011). Slum have diverse forms and what qualifies as a slum in one country may be considered a normal living conditions in a different country. Within a country, at the local level, slum areas may have huge difference based on appearance and living conditions. Therefore, “slums are simply too complex, varied and volatile to be encompassed by one conclusive definition. Various national and local governments, statistics offices and other institutions use different definitions, depending on specific contexts” (Steenmans, Robin, Acuto, Iwaszuk, & Garza, 2023).

According to the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat, 2018), “features that are generally associated with slums include a lack of basic amenities (water, electricity, sanitation, etc.), substandard and illegal lodging, overpopulation and lack of living space, unsanitary living conditions and unsafe environments, and uncertain tenure (illegal and informal settlements)”. As a slum, a community usually needs to meet a certain criteria which is largely determined by the local and national governments (Nolan, 2015). Notwithstanding, poverty plays a major role in categorising a settlement as slum. It has been linked to slums as a cause and effect of bad living conditions. The relation between poverty and slum is not exclusive because some wealthy people live within slum areas, while numerous poor people live outside slum areas. Thus, not all people living in the slum experience same level of deprivation (Bagayoko, Akeyo, Kadengye, & Iddi, 2020; Dwomoh et al., 2023).

Therefore, areas considered as slums are a major concern in the international community. One of the Millennium Development Goals found in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) report 2022 is to improve the lives of slum dwellers by 2030 through measures regarding employment, housing and poverty eradication (SDG, 2022). “Governments and donors too often reasoned that the provision of improved lodging and services, through so-called slum upgrading, would solve the problem of the slums. The underlying causes of the living

conditions, in particular poverty, were not addressed” (UN-Habitat, 2010). Accordingly UN-Habitat highlighted eradication of poverty and support for livelihood for poor people living in the slum. In view of this, it was proposed that poor people living in the slum must be included in policy making involving the slum (UN-Habitat, 2010). The United Nations praised this strategy because it was accomplished before the 2020 deadline that was given (UN, 2012). “However, while the overall share of urban slum residents as a percentage of world population has decreased, their absolute number has in fact continued to rise. Thus, many challenges remain” (Doe, Peprah, & Chidziwisano, 2020).

Slum tourism cannot create a significant financial impact and provide huge benefits for all residents living in the slum. It does not seem enough to vitalize the growth of the tourism industry (Ursache, 2015). Slum tourism cannot completely solve the challenges of the slum. The general impact of tourism is seen on a community and individual level. Tourism might benefit some people in the community, increase their income and may even be their way out of poverty. By increasing supply of services in areas of tourism, more opportunities could be opened up. (Ashley et al., 2007; Cecil, Avgoustis, Bahamonde, Basman, & Koceja, 2006).

The tourism industry is by nature defined and shaped by representations (Panagopoulos, 2016). The way that tourism activities, destinations and themes are affected by a continuous spiral of representations and interpretations is well reflected in the term geographical imagination which is defined as the way we understand the geographical world, and the way in which we represent it, to ourselves and to others (Camilleri, 2018; Chatelard, 2011).

2.1.2 Community based tourism

In the 1980s, alternative forms of tourism such as Community Based Tourism (CBT) developed to address the limits of the previous development of tourism (Ei, 2017). It encompasses many approaches to tourism and attempts to create forms of tourism that can contribute to the development of the poorest whiles preventing negative impacts on the community (Ei, 2017). As part of alternative tourism, CBT attempts to direct tourist flows to the poorest by establishing tourism in communities on the basis of their direct participation (Simpson, 2008). As a result, it involves the participation of community members in tourism destinations to partake in every activity concerning tourism in the area. Since most slums are not consulted about events occurring in their vicinity (Ragheb & El-Ashmawy, 2021), CBT provides the platform for an

inclusive tourism fashioned to accommodate the views and contribution of the local people. In spite of the general community participation, critics pointed to the limited economic viability of tourism approaches that were not driven by profit orientation but by development aims (Ngo, Tournois, Dinh, Chu, & Phan, 2024). More recent criticisms of CBT have included the view that it was mainly serving the interests of the 'NGO industry' as a development tool with little positive impact on the communities (Butcher, 2006). Notwithstanding, tourism development has the tendency to promote criminality, higher living cost for the community, resentment of host communities towards tourists, and decrease the quality of life of most residents. These negative impacts of tourism may indicate an absence of planning or a lack of community participation in tourism planning (Reindrawati, 2023).

2.1.3 Effects of slum tourism

Slum tourism has made fast strides in the world especially in poor areas and several studies have conducted research about tourism impacts (Gui & Zhong, 2022; Saayman, Rossouw, & Krugell, 2012). These impacts are readily evident in the tourist attraction region, as visitors engage with the community's ecosystem, financial system, and culture (Cardoso et al., 2022). Slum tourism is contributing significantly to enhance the economy of developing countries. Slum tourism does not occur in all poor areas of the world, but develops under very specific conditions such as extreme poverty, lack of planning and overcrowding, which has its implication on the city and nation at large (Neiderud, 2015). Principally, the objective of slum tourism in developing countries has been to earn foreign currency, create employment, foster socialization among community members and tourists, and poverty eradication (Honey & Gilpin, 2009). Slum tourism can affect the development rate of country, it can bring some level of enlightens to dwellers of the slum area, grow or increase the economic impact through investments, job creations, and makes life better for inhabitants (Iftikhar, Pinglu, Ullah, & Ullah, 2022). Exhibition of poverty may inevitably promote voyeuristic activities regardless of the motive behind the exhibition. Therefore, studies must focus on evaluating slum tourism to be critical to community empowerment and economic development as it is not much different than tourism itself (Williams, 2008).

Slum tourism provides socio-economic growth to nations but also negatively affect the local area (Kronenberg & Fuchs, 2021). According to Garau-Vadell *et al.* (2018) the negative consequences of tourism can be cultural, social, economic, or political. These consequences can be handled but not until they have been recognized and analyzed. Slum tourism impacts are critical for planning and management at a single destination (Garau-Vadell, Gutierrez-Taño, & Diaz-Armas, 2018; Ma, 2010). The arrival of tourists at destination areas presents a challenge to the routine of residents and impacts their quality of life and standard of living. Accordingly, many residents with a longer stay in the slums without income reacts negatively to the influence tourism development. Therefore, in addressing the impact of tourism, two categories are usually mentioned: benefits and constraint (Bornioli, Vermeulen, van Haaren, Valente, & Mingardo, 2022). On the benefits of slum tourism, a study in Chile demonstrated how slum tourism reduces poverty through investments in tourism, the creation of jobs and employment (Cardoso et al., 2022). Similarly, studies in Mexico and Ecuador presented that international promotion of slum tourism by local government and community members establishes a developmental strategy in poverty reduction (Cordero, 2022; Garza-Rodriguez, 2019). However, studies in Kenyan slum proved that the benefits of slum tourism are not enough for the development in the community. Thus, the constraints associated with it is overwhelming for some communities One of these constraints has been shown to be the limited opportunities of interaction between slum dwellers and tourists which can be avoided for a more beneficial impact of slum tourism (Kieti & Magio, 2013).

2.1.4 Social-cultural impact

Slum tourism is viewed as a sociological and cultural engagement (Clini & Valančiūnas, 2023; Crapolicchio, Sarrica, Rega, Norton, & Vezzali, 2022). Therefore, rise in desire of locals to engage in the tourism industry, the development of sustainable culture and an expansion of the region's influence has some positive socio-cultural effects (zufferey, 2013). Tourism greatly reflects the culture of an area encompassing local customs and values. It has also been suggested that tourism has a significant impact on sociocultural features such as beliefs, behaviors and rituals. The relationship between visitors and hosts is one aspect that might affect communities, as tourists could be unfamiliar with local customs, cultures, and norms (Alamineh, Hussein,

Endaweke, & Taddesse, 2023). Tourism exposes residents and tourists to different cultures, which may influence their lifestyle positively or negatively. Accordingly, inadequate education, tourism development, and administration of the tourism sector would cause the loss of local identities and traditions (Olotuah, 2011; Souki, Najaf Beigi, & Daneshfard, 2020). Drugs, alcohol, a rise in criminal activity, and prostitution are some of the other social effects of tourist development on the local population (Ramkissoon, 2023). It has been indicated that overpopulation and traffic congestion can be caused by increased tourism development. Indigenous residents can mingle with individuals from diverse origins and with different way of life which can improved tourism practices and behavior (Babu & Awari, 2017; Ballesteros, 2010).

Most residents view the development of slum tourism as beneficial for fulfilling expectations of tourists and residents partly due to the value of cultural exchange (Linderová, Scholz, & Almeida, 2021). Additionally, residents attain knowledge and skills through interacting with tourists especially in learning foreign language. Moreover, slum tourism exposes residents to different lifestyles and are able to reconcile differences as a result of knowing more about others (Frenzel et al., 2015; Nisbett, 2017). Residents who interact with tourists are more optimistic the growth of tourism and its social implications. Thus, slum tourism may have many different effects on the social and cultural aspects of life in a particular region or area, depending on the cultural and religious strengths of that region. The interaction between tourists and the host community can be one of the factors that may affect a community as tourists may not be sensitive to local customs, traditions and standards. The effect can be positive or negative on the host community (Zaei & Zaei, 2013a). Local communities can mix with people from diverse backgrounds with different lifestyles which through ‘demonstration effect’ may lead to the development of improved lifestyles and practices from the tourists’ examples; There can be an improvement in local life through better local facilities and infrastructure (developed to sustain tourism) which could lead to better education, health care, employment opportunities and income (Frenzel et al., 2015; Zaei & Zaei, 2013).

A variety of events are available for residents such as entertainment and exhibitions, as a result many tourists share these experiences in groups, each with their own beliefs and values generally termed as “cultural baggage”. Cultural baggage has the tendency to impact local culture and society (Sharma, 2008). Numerous researches have been conducted across the globe

on residents' perception of tourism impact on socio-cultural activities like the Homowo festival of the Ga mashie community (Artisticother et al., 2009). Prominent among these investigations is a cultural and societal study in Kwahu, a festival which attracts tourists like the Homowo festival in Ghana. It was found that residents' perception that the nature of contact with tourists can influence attitudes, behaviors or moral values towards tourism (Doe, Preko, Akroful, & Okai-Anderson, 2022). Furthermore, slum dwellers perceive slum tourism to promote local culture and social interaction within the community. It has been mentioned that culture is seen as a commercial resource, which can yield much income (such as, selling local artefacts), improve and preserve cultural activities and cultural heritage (Lança, Silva, Andraz, Nunes, & Pereira, 2024; Sharma, 2008). A study by Ragheb et al. (2016), showed that many residents perceive slum tourism to increase recreation opportunities and social amenities. Others too perceive slum tourism to promote the preservation of religious and holistic buildings. This study among many emphasize how slum tourism increase historical and cultural exhibits, and cultural exchange (Pezeshki, Khodadadi, & Bagheri, 2023; Ragheb et al., 2016). Also, through education tourists understand the environment, people and cultures of the places they visit and broaden their perceptions about the importance of the values and norms of host destinations (Pezeshki et al., 2023).

However, there were some negative reservations expressed by local residents about how they perceived socio-cultural impact of tourism (Alamineh, Hussein, Mulu, & Taddesse, 2023). For instance, it was realized that in areas with high levels of tourism development, residents often perceive tourism to be responsible for the loss of residents identity and local cultures; such as habits, daily routines, social lives (communal living), beliefs and values and leads to culture modification (Alamineh, Hussein, Mulu, & Taddesse, 2023). According to a study on slum tourism in Ghana by Ansah, (2018), local residents' view slum tourism as a potential determinant of crime, such as increase in drug abuse, prostitution and alcohol use. Furthermore, another study in Ghana showed residents perceive slum tourism lead to increase alcoholism, immoral activities and undesired changes in the value orientation of children (Mensah, 2012). Furthermore, local residents perceive slum tourism to have negative effects on traditional family values and language, and on some occasions contribute to overcrowding in some local tourism destinations (Slikker & Koens, 2015). Again, it has been mentioned that local people perceive slum tourism to contribute to materialism, and decline in the level of residents' hospitality (Nisbett, 2017).

2.1.5 Economic impact

Slum tourism has a huge impact on the economy of destination communities and countries (Fikire, Bires, & Emeru, 2022). It is one of the many sources of revenue that provide employment, promote hospitality and support the maintenance of culture and traditions. Previous research has demonstrated that fostering tourism entrepreneurship increases incomes and quality of life as well as contribute to the national economy (Yeganegi, 2015). The tourism industry is the fastest-growing source of foreign currency, which helps a nation's economy grow. Accordingly, “slum tourism gives local communities gainful employment and employment creation in the services business. The industry has provided opportunities for community participation in non-agricultural enterprises” (Sun, Li, Lenzen, Malik, & Pomponi, 2022). Some community members participate in the tourism industry as entrepreneurs while others may become shareholders in businesses that supply products and services (Sun, Xing, Cao, & Li, 2021). Notwithstanding, the negative impact of tourism on the economy includes high cost of living and increased property rates because of the continuous development and usage of services and resources at the destination area. Again, it raises home and land costs is the financial burden of tourism growth (Cardoso et al., 2022; Dürr, Jaffe, & Jones, 2019; Mikulić et al., 2021).

Another major direct economic effect of tourism relates to employment. The unemployment impact of tourism is diffused widely over the economy affecting almost all parts of the services and other sectors (Zaei & Zaei, 2013). The tourism industry is highly labor-intensive service industry and hence, it is a valuable source of employment. It provides employment several times more than normal manufacturing industries (Frenzel, 2013; Južnik Rotar, Gričar, & Bojnec, 2023). Several type of business firms such as hotels, motels, restaurants, transport agencies, travel agents, tour operators, gift shops, car and rickshaw drivers, guide etc. flourish from tourism It employs many people including the unskilled to highly specialized (Khanal, Rahman, Khanam, & Velayutham, 2022).

The travel and tourism industries have both beneficial and adverse effects on the host communities (Nopiyanı & Wirawan, 2021). Additionally, tourism-driven regional integration

is now the greatest apparent manifestation of national policy outcomes. The impact of the industry's operations has been analyzed using various empirical and statistical approaches and from multiple viewpoints (local inhabitants, entrepreneurs, managers, government officials, and other stakeholders) (Nopiyani & Wirawan, 2021; Woo, Uysal, & Sirgy, 2018). Others argue that inappropriate slum tourism planning and management causes issues such as traffic jams, ecological harm, the depletion of community cultural beliefs and values, and even a downturn in inhabitants' standard of living (Banerjee, 2023). However, some academics believe that tourism can positively affect regional power, create new jobs, and efficiently improve living conditions (Nguyen, 2021).

Regarding the economic influence, significant tourism items has developed a destination image, increasing tourists' propensity to return, stimulating more considerable expenditure, and boosting inhabitants' income (Tang, Wang, Jin, & Zhang, 2022). However, that might result in higher local commodities and real estate costs. Based on a previous study, slum tourism development in local communities, and regions has several adverse environmental effects like environmental pollution on the community (Baloch et al., 2023). However, it also promotes environmental preservation through ecological knowledge and economic motivation. Economic impact of slum tourism is the most frequently cited impact and have used by governments and private sector enterprises to justify activities, because its evaluation provides necessary information for the formulation of tourism development policies (Alamineh, Hussein, Endaweke, et al., 2023).

As a result, local communities perceive that when governments and other stakeholders decide to support the tourism industry by embarking on various direct and indirect tourism developmental projects including infrastructural development, it creates more employment opportunities, new investments and provide profitable local businesses (Geoffrey Deladem, Xiao, Siueia, Doku, & Tettey, 2020). These projects influence the development of the local economy, and the standard of living of residents through taxation and personal income. As a result, some residents and economic experts see slum tourism as a tool for economic diversification. In addition, slum tourism industry is a highly labor-intensive service industry, and one of the most important source of employment in a country, even though unskilled labor is highly underpaid for services rendered (Sun, Li, Lenzen, Malik, & Pomponi, 2022).

Negatively, economic impact of tourism includes an increase in the price of goods and services and inflation in property values. For instance, increasing demand for basic services and goods from tourists at the destination will often cause price hikes that negatively affect local residents whose income does not increase proportionately (Fikire, Bires, & Emeru, 2022). Also, traffic congestion and noise are perceived negative economic impacts of slum tourism. Thus, traffic congestion can have tremendous negative impact on host resident's personal life, career, his future and even his safety (Kobina, 2023).

2.1.6 Infrastructural development

The economic importance of slum tourism in national economy can be appreciated with reference to its contribution in infrastructure development (Jamieson, Goodwin, & Edmunds, 2004). Slum tourism necessitates creation of infrastructure utilities and amenities, which are not only used by the visitors but become valuable to the local population as well (Asumadu et al., 2023). The continuous arrival of tourists to visit the slums places a demand on the development of infrastructure. Therefore, governments and the private sector have started to invest in infrastructure especially at tourism sites. This in part, is due to the potential of tourism industry to positively affect economic activities even though it may come with environmental risks in communities where local resources are depleted for tourism advancement (Baloch et al., 2023).

Local resources are very important for the promotion of tourism. It has been suggested that “tourism activities and industry growth could have a significant effect on the environment. This could cause depletion of ecology and increased pollution levels. According to a previous study, noise pollution and crowding are two environmental consequences of tourist destinations” (Jin, Hu, & Kavan, 2016). Together with the ecosystem at destination sites, slum tourism provides a unique experience to tourists. However, the development of slum tourism can deplete the natural resources of the destination sites which can cause damages to the environment. Additionally, the greater the influx of tourists to a location, the greater the damage to the ecological system and resources (Kyara, Rahman, & Khanam, 2022).

Residents of Slum

There is an interdependent relationship between tourists, tour operators and residents because each cannot provide any significant importance without the other. To bring out the best in each, there must be an understanding of their positive and negative impact. Thus, locals of the slum benefits positively and negatively from slum tourism (Cardoso et al., 2022). It has been shown that slum tourism positively and negatively influences socio-cultural and economic activities of residents and the environment of destination communities. As a result, host residents may decide to support or reject tourism (Yasong Wang & Pfister, 2008).

2.1.7 The impact of slum tourism on standard of living

According to Buzinde, Kalavar, & Melubo (2014), slum tourism had both favourable and adverse effects on the well-being of Tanzania's Masai tribes. Residents believe slum tourism brings a living standard to community development, particularly regarding the accessibility of leisure facilities and sentiments of community pride (Aseye et al., 2015). Furthermore, slum tourism leads to the conservation of culture, enhances the wellness of the community, and improves the way of life residents. In Mumbai, the slum of Dharavi has become an industrious place in which nearly 1 billion US\$ are made annually in a variety of industries (Dey & Iulo, 2021). An investigation of the tourism-dependent community of Las Salinas, Nicaragua, shows that tourism had a significant effect on the residents' living standards and well-being, including gainful employment, the preservation of monuments, an improvement in life quality, and the preservation of community history and cultural prestige (Timothy, 2022). Additionally, most slum dwellers bemoan various bad conditions, including unemployment, substance misuse, health issues, and ecological destruction in their environment (Kabore et al., 2019).

Furthermore, studies have shown that residents' conception on the potential benefits of slum tourism on their standard of living positively correlated with their satisfaction on the level of income. Thus, the higher the income, the stronger the perception on the beneficial impact of slum tourism on standard of living (Hateftabar & Chapuis, 2020). The research findings noted that locals will support the development of tourism activities. The results noted that it is advantageous for policymakers to invest in local citizens' leisure contentment and living

standards, as this will ultimately boost tourism development (Costa, Umbelino, de Lurdes Calisto, Nunes, & Afonso, 2020). Hassan, Salem, & Abdelmoaty (2022), examined the impact of rural tourism on residents of Al-Ahsa Region, Saudi Arabia. According to them, tourism as a positive economic driver favourably affect the standard of living of residents and reflects externally on the gross domestic product (GDP) and income. Furthermore, Nopiyani & Wirawan (2021) concluded from their studies that tourism promotes the general well-being including living standards, health, and security of destination areas.

Furthermore, Nordin, Ismail, & Jamal (2020) examined slum tourism impact on the living quality of residents in Perhentian Island, Malaysia. From the study, it was discovered that the positive effects of tourism outshines its negative effect. Moreover, studies by Suntikul et al., (2016) in Hue, Vietnam, showed that residents have a perception of togetherness and belonging to their communities as a result of tourism. In spite of this perception, some residents are unsatisfied because of lack of participation in policy making or engaging with their municipal authorities.

2.2 Theoretical framework

Some studies have researched into the impact of slum tourism on the various communities and individuals. The impact of slum tourism should be to make life better for locals, provide unforgettable experiences for tourists, generate revenue for relevant parties, and contribute to community development (Frenzel et al., 2015). The ability of slum tourism to drive sustainable development in a community depends on identifying constraints and how the tourism empowers residents. (Ngo & Creutz, 2022). These elements act as the framework for this study. Studies from Bakker, (2019); Shpak, Muzychenko-Kozlovska et al. (2021) identified that constraints on slum tourism can be external and internal factors. From these studies, the external factors include factors that are outside the control of the community such as the destination country's economy, security and international competitiveness. Conversely, internal factors lie within the control of the destination area such as human resource; the shortage of skilled labour is considered one of the main explanations of the poor performance of the tourism industry as exemplified by studies in Ghana by Ayentimi, Burgess, & Dayaram (2018). Furthermore, according to Henderson countries with poor infrastructure and set of operators and services will

be disadvantaged as tourist destinations (Abdullah, Abdul Razak, & Jaafar, 2014) and also inhibit enterprises from being successful (Bah, Faye, & Geh, 2018; Wainaina, Truffer, & Murphy, 2023). Moreover, government policies can adversely affect the slum. Examples are tourism-related taxation policies, strict regulations preventing seasonal labour (Safarov, Taniev, & Janzakov, 2023). Lambulira & Bello (2022) examines the challenges to tourism development and their causative factors in Malawi and noticed a lack of continuity of policies as factors hindering slum tourism development. Also, a lack of sanitation measures such as illegal dumping of waste and litter in Ghana was identified as constraint on tourism experience in the country and limits employment opportunities (Lissah, Ayanore, Krugu, Aberese-Ako, & Ruitter, 2021). showed a negative correlation between sanitation and environmental degradation and expenditure by tourists (Azam, Alam, & Haroon Hafeez, 2018; Brouwer, Sharmin, Elliott, Liu, & Khan, 2023; Katukiza et al., 2012). Studies in South Africa showed that a lack of communication and cooperation as a constraint in slum tourism caused fragmented institutions and mismatch of supply and demand which could also cause financial constraint (Rogerson, 2014; Southern Africa, Ashley, & Roe, 2010). Financial institutions are unwilling to give loans to slum dwellers often due to a lack of collateral . Rogerson, 2014; Ashley et al., 2010) indicated that inadequate or unavailability of finances, higher interest rate or collateral creates a burden on residents which hinders tourism development in South Africa.

To increase the chances and potential of people living in the slums, they can be empowered (Mehrolhasani, Yazdi-Feyzabadi, & Ghasemi, 2021a) through education, socio-culturally, economically and politically. Educational empowerment enables residents to attain essential skills and knowledge for employment and entrepreneurship. Education is regarded as the right of every child in Ghana (Stenzel, Osei Kwadwo, & Vincent, 2024). The Right to Education Act 2009 and free Senior High School policy by the government was expected to bring a huge surge of enrolment in urban and rural schools (Korankye-Sakyi, Faakye, & Atupare, 2022). However, most of the children living in slums are drop-out of school and undertake different forms of business to supplement the income of their family. These dropouts often become a burden on the community, indulging in social vices such as stealing and forfeit essential skills like music, painting and craft work which form a vital part of extra-curriculum activities in schools. For instance, lack of education was holding back the locals at Elmina, Ghana from employment opportunities in the tourism industry (Holden, Sonne, & Novelli, 2011). One of the major factors influencing the lack of education empowerment is low socio-economic status and

associated low income (Munir, Faiza, Jamal, Daud, & Iqbal, 2023). Therefore, organization of workshops to train locals and providing sponsorships capacitate slum dwellers (Berger, Shankavaram, & Thiagarajan, 2023). Socio-culturally, slum tourism development tends to depend on social organization, culture and the attitude of the locals towards tourists (Andriotis & Vaughan, 2003). Other studies have concluded that when a community degrades its socio-cultural values, it is less likely for tourists to visit (Abrahams, 2015; Lei, Suntikul, & Chen, 2023). Furthermore, available financial access for tourism enterprises are challenging in developing countries. Studies have demonstrated that in some countries there is an unequal access to finance for people living in the slums (Reindrawati, 2023). A survey in South Africa showed that the majority of businesses were started using the entrepreneur's own or family savings due to lack of access to external funding (Kotze & Smit, 2008). Therefore, economic empowerment through loans for residents capacitates them to start their own business (Adebayo & Butcher, 2021). Politically, empowerment can be inhibited through policies, political instability or change of government. These factors introduces barriers including overregulation, bureaucracy and a centralized government which can affect people living in the slums (Alesina, Özler, Roubini, & Swagel, 1996; Alesina & Perotti, 1996; W. Smith, 2024). Enabling the residents to realize, exercise their political rights and partake in all political activities excessively prohibits bureaucracy and provides high priority to developing tourism in sparsely populated areas (Catellani, 2004; Uhlaner, 2015).

2.3 Chapter Summary

Slum tourism has great relevance globally and nationally on socio-cultural, economic and political factors of the tourism location. Notwithstanding, the influence of slum tourism on the livelihood of residents is not unequivocally positive. Consistently, slum tourism creates feeling of pride or shame depending on its benefit to residents living in the community.

3 METHODOLOGY

This section informs on how data for the study will be obtained and analysed to answer the research questions. It consists of the research design, data collection and the choice of the respondent, data analysis, validity, and reliability of the study. The purpose of the study is to assess the empowerment and constraints of slum tourism in Ghana.

3.1 Research philosophy

In this study, I use an ontology which assumes that people have their own thoughts, interpretations and meanings, realism. Ontology is concerned with the social world and assumptions about social reality. It refers whether or not social reality exists independently of human reason and interpretation (Al-Saadi, 2014). Realism claims that reality can only be understood via the human mind and socially constructed meanings (Zhang, 2023).

The Epistemological stance of my study is constructionism. Constructivism is a philosophical paradigm in that emphasizes how people cognitively construct their own understanding of an event (Shannon-Baker, 2023). By using constructivism, I accept that there are multiple realities and also recognize a co-construction of knowledge between researchers and participants (Mohajan, Mohajan, & Kumar Mohajan, 2022). Thus, meaning is constructed and not discovered. I used constructivism because it allowed me to find answers to my research question and the construction of meaning which was used in a social context. The constructionist's view is based on the fact that there is no right or valid interpretation (Ahmed, 2008.). This allowed me to suggest new directions for investigating slum tourism in Ghana.

Since the ontology of my study is based on the subjective meaning and interpretation of events by people, and the epistemological stance is constructionist I chose interpretivism as the theoretical perspective underpinning this study. Interpretivism is based on the assumption that reality is subjective, multiple and socially constructed (Turin, Raihan, & Chowdhury, 2024). Thus, peoples' reality can only be understood through their experience, which is not the same as a different person's reality shaped by their historical or social perspective (Ryan, 2018). Interpretivism is based on the assumption that reality is subjective, multiple and socially constructed (Kivunja & Kuyini, 2017). Through interpretivism, the social world is studied in

its natural state without the influence of the researcher (Matta, 2015). Furthermore, recommends the use of interpretivism by stating that each person is unique and largely non-generalizable (Pervin & Mokhtar, 2022). In support of interpretivism, Black (2006) stated that there are multiple interpretations and perspectives of an event in a population. Therefore, interpretivism helps emphasize these interpretations and perspectives. Finally, Chowdhury & Chowdhury (2014), reported that interpretivism enables events to be examined through the eyes of the participants but not the researcher which was what was accomplished in this study. Furthermore, it recognizes that social reality is complex and context-dependent, and aims to explore and comprehend the diverse perspectives and nuances of the research topic (Smith & McGannon, 2018). In the context of this study, interpretivism aligned well with the objectives of the study and uncovered the perspectives and experiences of residents (Pulla & Carter, 2018) about the impact, constraint and empowerment of slum tourism. Through interpretivism, researchers can conduct in-depth interviews, focus groups, and observations to gather rich qualitative data that captures the intricacies of slum tourism measurement and evaluation in Ghana (Scheibelhofer, 2023). This approach facilitates a nuanced understanding of the challenges, gaps, and requirements within the Ghanaian slum tourism landscape.

3.2 Research design

Research strategies which gave an overview on the research were important in focusing the research and providing a central guide to achieve its objectives. A qualitative research method was key for the exploration of activities in the slum tourism areas (Tenny, Brannan, & Brannan, 2022). The factors of qualitative study enable the attainment of views and thoughts (Kalu, 2017) which is what was needed for the study as the research sought to examine the benefits, constraints and empowerment of slum tourism in Ga mashie community, Ghana.

Under qualitative method, this study adopted an exploratory case study design. This enabled me to gain insight on slum tourism in Ghana. As such, the exploratory research explored the research questions. Exploratory studies are often conducted using interpretive research methods and they answer to questions such as what, why and how (Ponelis, 2015). A crucial characteristic of exploratory research is open-mindedness and willingness to change the

direction of the research based on the data received (Olawale, Chinagozi, & Joe, 2023). Therefore, it was used to explore the research questions with varying levels of depth.

3.3 Sources of data

The study used primary data for the findings of the study. Primary data is specifically collecting new data for a research work which involves collecting information from the participants themselves and not basing it on another researcher's work (Dhudasia, Grundmeier, & Mukhopadhyay, 2023). Primary data provides qualitative data involving perception, attitudes, opinions, and lifestyle. Primary data can be obtained through the combination of methods such as observation, experimentation, and interviews (focus group discussion, depth interview, and street interview) (Prada-Ramallal, Roque, Herdeiro, Takkouche, & Figueiras, 2018). This study used interview guide to gather data from slum dwellers in Ga mashie. Interviews are used to understand a person's subjective experiences, perceptions and motivations. They can be open (free conversation) or semi-structured. However, in this study, a semi-structured interview guide was adopted because it made it possible for me to use open-ended questions, and still centered on my interview guide. The interview guide were designed according to the research questions as shown in appendix A. Data was collected from selected participants in slum tourism located in Accra Ghana, specifically in Ga Mashie.

3.4 Study area

The study area for the research is Ga Mashie, a suburb of Accra in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. Ghana has many tourist sites and is currently growing in its tourist business as the introduction of the year of return and other activities has made the country very attractive for tourist during Christmas and end of year periods.

Ga Mashie

Ga Mashie is a low-income indigenous community located in the center of Accra with a population of about 200,000 which comprises two traditional settlements - James Town and Ussher Town. It covers about 100 hectares along Ghana's southwest coast. Ga Mashie is home to the Ga people, the original settlers of Ghana's capital city (Accra) who speak Ga (Wahab & Bashiru, 2020). Overcrowding was posing housing problems by the 1950s, especially after the 1939 earthquake in Accra. Even more so, the vibrant economic activities suffered a major setback as the Harbor was transferred to Tema, about 17 km away, and relocation of government administration to present day Ministerial area (Konadu-Agyemang, 1998). Ga Mashie is currently one of the largest informal settlements in Accra with a growing population of approximately 300,000 people in the community. The population includes fishermen, fishmongers, traditional authorities and spiritual rulers in the community. The traditional spiritual leader (called Wulomo) plays significant role in the history of the Ga people and have very rich cultural background (UN Habitat, 2021).

Ga Mashie has various tourist site which makes it very suitable for case study, the James fort and Usher forts can be found in Ga mashie. The light house and the local fishing harbour can be found in James town. Also, with the rich history of all ministries and factories been there before moved to their various places leaves traits of formidable artifacts that enhance tour in the community. The rich culture with the rulership or kingship of the Ga people, including palaces, art works, etc. bring out the rich cultural heritage of the people which is makes Ga Mashie a great slum tourist site. The proximity of the places such as the Art center (which is the biggest art market in Accra), black stark square, Kwame Nkrumah Museum and supreme court play a role to the selection of Ga mashie as a slum tourism site for the study (Lule et al., 2024; N. A. Mensah, Sanuade, & Baatiema, 2022; Nortey, 2012; Osei, Amankwah, & Frimpong, 2021).

3.5 Sample and sampling technique

This study will combine convenient and purposeful sampling techniques in selecting the sample. The purposive sampling technique enabled the selection of the participants required to provide information for the study. Purposive sampling allows for key informants to be selected according to their characteristics, which relate to the problem area to provide in-depth information about the case being studied (Campbell et al., 2020). This blended with convenient sampling, which allowed for the selection of participants according to their accessibility to the researcher and their willingness to participate in the study (Martínez-Mesa, González-Chica, Duquia, Bonamigo, & Bastos, 2016). To enhance sample diversity, snowballing was used to identify some of the participants who were relevant to the study. The snowball sampling helps get key people to speak to the phenomenon of the study (Kirchherr & Charles, 2018).

3.6 Sample size

The sample size for the study was seven participants from Ga Mashie Area (table 1). The sample size covered indigenous of the community who are well versed with information of the history of the community and the relevant places. Participants with various positions in the community were captured in the sample to enable an in-depth understanding on the impact and empowerment of slum tourism in the area. Below is a table showing the number and type of participants from Ga mashie that was used in this study.

Type of Respondents	No. of Respondents
Traditional Authority	1
Fishermen	1
Market Women	1
Community Members	1
Tour Guides	1
Local Politician	1
Ghana Revenue Authority	1

Table 1: Table showing the number of participants.

3.7 Validity and reliability

The identification of true findings among similar individuals outside a given population but have some similarities. The validity ensured that the documents for the collection of data from participants were adequate and served their purpose. It also ensured that all aspects of the study were captured (Ahmed & Ishtiaq, 2021; Roberts & Priest, 2006). The study ensured that the interview guide was valid to be able to collect the needed information to answer the research questions of the study. The interview was tested on residents in Fadama in the same region to ensure the interview guides will attain all the needed information to answer the research objectives of the study. Furthermore, the credibility of qualitative research is demonstrated by whether the findings are consistent with reality (Stahl & King, 2020). To achieve this, I randomly selected my sample from a larger sample population. Makwana, Engineer, Dabhi, & Chudasama (2023) proposed that randomly selecting a sample from a larger population ensures equal distribution of the sample and decrease errors introduced by the study population. In accordance with studies by to ensure reliability of the study, I built a rapport with my

participants prior to initial data collection (Horsfall, Eikelenboom, Draisma, & Smit, 2021). This established trust between the participants and I. Furthermore, I encouraged participants to honestly share their perceptions by keeping every information from them confidential and introducing them to the concepts of the study (Junjie & Yingxin, 2022).

3.8 Research instrument

The study used an interview guide to collect primary data from all participants. Taherdoost (2022) state that, data collection is a process of gathering information from identified participants to answer research questions. Different data collection instruments such as questionnaires, interview, and checklists can be used to solicit information (Paradis, O'Brien, Nimmon, Bandiera, & Martimianakis, 2016). Consistent with studies by Rutakumwa et al. (2019), I used a voice recorder to record participants for the primary data of this study, and a follow up was made through telephone. Two other respondents (Local Politician and Ghana Revenue Authority) were interviewed online and their audios were recorded. The data for all participants were transcribed and coded for analysis.

3.9 Data analysis

Thematic analysis was the analytical tool that was used to analyse the data gathered from the interview. A theme brings out a pattern of critical information about the data in relation to the research question. Thematic analysis enables the determination of these themes (Clarke & Braun, 2014). An approach to thematic analysis can be inductive or theoretical (Naeem et al., 2023). Inductive approach requires the researcher to not engage with literature at the beginning of data analysis, whereas a theoretical approach encourages the researcher to engage with literature before data analysis. In this study, I used the theoretical approach since it was suggested by Naeem et al., (2023) to offer a preview on what to consider as a theme in relation to the research question.

I analyzed the data thematically as proposed by Naeem et al. (2023). I started by becoming familiar with the collected data. I did this by automatically (Sikt transcription app) and manually

transcribing the audios from the participants, repeatedly reading through the transcripts, searching for meanings, patterns, themes and taking notes for coding. Codes are key characteristic of the raw data that can be assessed in a meaningful way regarding the event under study. In generating the codes, I identified words and a list of ideas relevant to the research questions. Afterwards, the different types of codes were grouped into potential themes. At this stage, different codes were combined into an overarching theme from candidate themes and sub-themes. Candidate and sub-themes that did not have enough supporting information were dropped while others were broken down or merged into one theme. In the next step, I identified the importance of each theme to the research question and determined the part of the study each theme captured with accompanying narrative. Finally, I presented the stories of my data according to the research question of the study. As an example, below is figure showing analysis of identified codes and major themes for each research question.

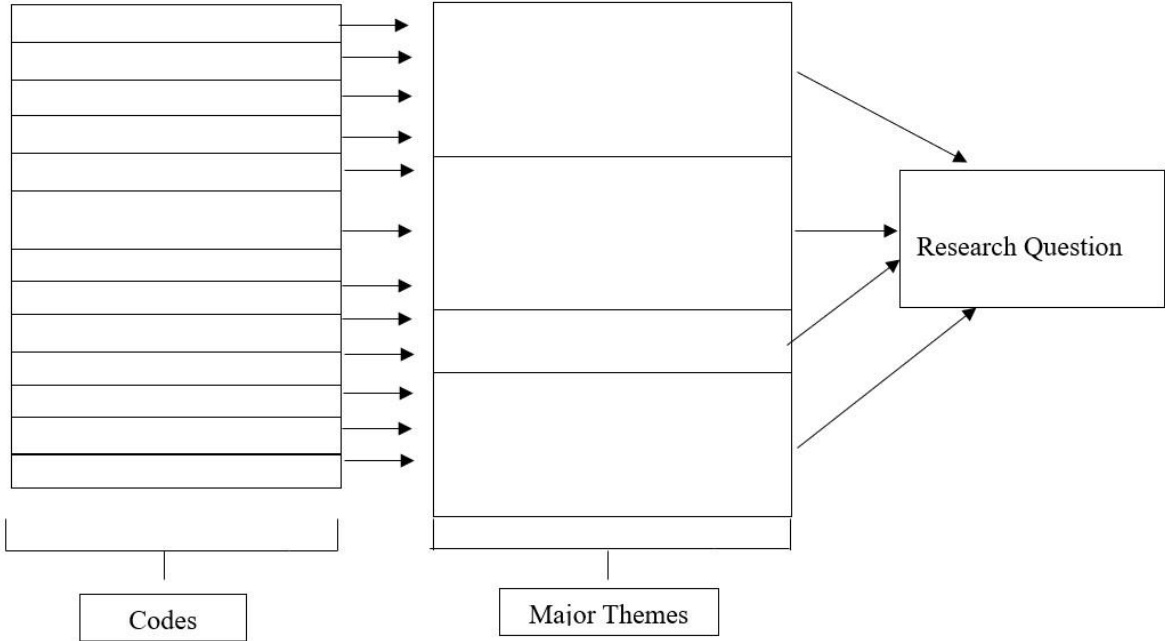


Figure 2: An example of thematic map developed to show codes and major themes.

3.10 Ethical consideration

A letter of information (Appendix B) depicting the purpose of the study and encouraging confidentiality was requested from the Department of Economics at the Arctic University of Norway. This was showed to the participants before the interview and contains the purpose of the study, reasons why they are involved, how I will store and use their personal data, their rights and a consent form. As a result, participants of the study were fully briefed about the aim of the study before they participate. They were informed that the purpose of collecting data from them is for an academic exercise. Participants from the various organizations were first informed about the significance of the study. Participants were given an opportunity to step out of the research will be allowed to do so as per their rights. Following the Sikt procedure for processing personal data, I made sure that the names and identifiable data are not recorded in the collected data. The audios were without any names or information that linked to any of the participants. Also, there was no question on the interview guide that demanded any personal identifiable information.

Ethically, I avoided bias in the research design by accurately misleading questions in the interview guide, data analysis, data interpretation and in all areas where objectivity is expected or required (Mirza, Bellalem, & Mirza, 2023). Additionally, I acted with sincerity in reporting the data, results, and methods used in this study without any fabrication or misrepresentation of data (Nii Laryeafio & Ogbewe, 2023). Aside disclosing every information about the study to the participants, I communicated clearly with the participants and did not discriminate against any participants (Adarmouch, Felaefel, Wachbroit, & Silverman, 2020; Eungoo & Hwang, 2023).

3.11 Limitation

The study did not include tourism policymakers, and different types of tourism stakeholders. There may be varying degrees of impact of slum tourism if they were included in this study. Incorporating a diverse range of residents from other sectors may aid in understanding the correlation between tourism effects and their role in promoting tourism development. Another limitation lies in the area of documentary records that existed in such slums might not be readily

available. Time is also another contributing factor; I will need to take time off from my studies on campus to collect data for the study.

3.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter discussed study area, research philosophy and the research design. It also explained sources of data, the target population, sampling procedure and sample size determination, research instrument, pre-testing, data collection methods, field work, data analysis procedure and ethical issues. The following chapter will deal with collection and analysis of data from the field.

4 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

This chapter presents results from analysis of themes identified in the responses given by seven local people living at the slum tourism sites of Ga mashie, Ghana. Thematic analysis was used to analyse all transcripts. Codes and themes were identified in the responses that were given by the participants based on the interview guide. The themes are presented according to each research question.

4.1 Benefits of slum tourism in Ga Mashie.

Across the globe, slum tourism has created several advantages including infrastructural, economic, and employment opportunities (Nisbett, 2017). Similarly, Ga mashie has benefited and continues to benefit from tourists that visit the community as shown in transcripts from participants. The figure 3 below shows codes generated from the transcripts and their corresponding themes.

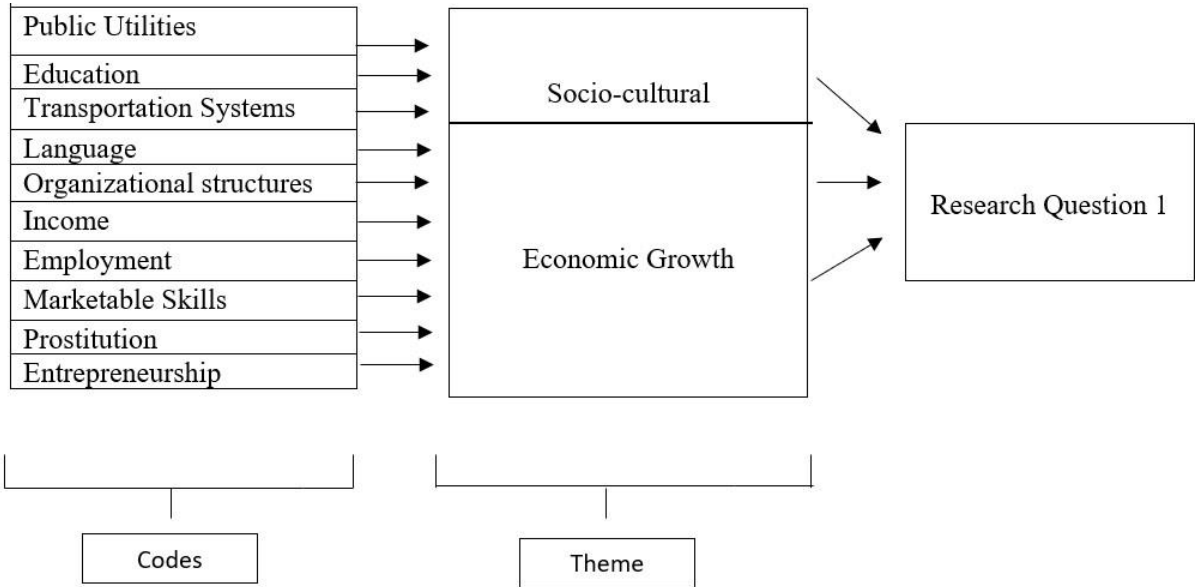


Figure 3: Thematic Framework showing some socio-cultural and economic factors as major benefits of Slum Tourism in Ga Mashie.

4.1.1 Stories on the Socio-cultural benefits of slum tourism in Ga Mashie

A common belief was shared among the respondents that slum tourism has benefited Ga mashie, and is responsible for most of the developmental projects such as boxing arena, football fields and library found in the community. Since slum tourism in the community attracts tourists especially during the Homowo and Chalewate festival, they expect more development. The traditional authority in Ga mashie added that:

The Bukom park, for instance, has been renovated for the youth...and there's the boxing arena. Sometimes you will see people training and fighting which is nice. It gives the youth purpose. Ermm...there is also a library, we have one at Akoto Lamptey, the top there. All these things are from the money the government and private-owned tourist centers get from slum tourism in the community, and donations. Some of the tourists, either as an individual or a group, build guest houses in the community which is used by tourists and people in Accra. But we need more library, because the youth are many and they are not working.

A similar response was given by the tour guide, working for the government in the Ga mashie community:

What we have right now like the police station, school, park and boxing arena is okay. Slum tourism has been going on for some time and that is what we have to show...its better than nothing. People come around to see and enter the lighthouse and now it's even easy to get to town and back because of the availability of commercial vehicles bringing the tourists.

The figure 4 below shows the lighthouse the Tour Guide was referring to in Ga mashie.



Figure 4: Image showing the Lighthouse located at James Fort (Source: John Keney Ademang).

The Market Woman who has been selling fish and vegetables in the Salaga market located at Ga mashie for more than 30 years said the community is comparatively better now in terms of infrastructure because of slum tourism:

I have always said that the best thing to happen to our community is slum tourism. ...Everybody who comes to visit can see, and even we the market women know that. Now, it is easy to get transportation to the market and to the house. (...) the sports park that the children are playing netball on was sponsored by a tourist group. We have a clinic too which has been very useful for the whole community.

The image below shows part of the sports complex the Market Woman was referring to.



Figure 5: Image Showing a Sport Complex as One of the Benefits of Slum Tourism in Gasmashie. (Source: John Keney Ademang)

I met the Fisherman at the harbour. He was very wet and seem to be in a hurry but when I approached him, he gave me all time I needed. What he said varied slightly from the other participants because he emphasized on the underdevelopment of the community:

In this community, we have only one clinic...we have only one clinic...only one clinic. We don't have hospitals. Only one clinic, and it is the Ussher Clinic. We also have only one or two secondary schools. One secondary school and then one technical school. It is not fun at all because the number of people in this community has increased. They (government authorities) can build more schools with the money they get from tourists.



Figure 6: Image Showing Tourism Hub as a Benefit from Slum Tourism in Ga mashie (Source: John Keney Ademang).

Similarly, the Ghana Revenue Authority worker added that considering the amount of money the government makes from tourism every year, even though they have built some very important infrastructure it is not enough.

They've (government) built these tiny structures...the boxing arena is standard, okay?

When I met the Community Member, she said the tourists are doing a better job in developing the community than the local authorities:

“Have you seen the tourism hub, the place for tourists to gather, relax, get distributed or refresh themselves, it's built by one of the tourists that visited us. So, slum tourism is really developing our community.”



Figure 7: Image showing a harbor built by the Chinese close to Ussher Fort (Source: John Keney Ademang).

When asked about the benefit of slum tourism in Ga mashie, the local politician noted that generally the people in the community are happy that people from all over the world are interested in their community because it brings pride to their culture, their way of life. He also added that:

There are some (tourists) that build basic infrastructures like the clinic and schools out of charity for the community. But listen my brother, do you know the group of foreigners that have built many of these structures that we are speaking of? It's the Chinese.

4.1.2 Stories on the economic benefits of slum tourism in Gashie

Slum tourism promotes positive socio-economic impact by creating a better standard of living due to establishment of businesses (Frenzel et al., 2015). This is fundamental to the diversification of a country's economy and increases the number of investors in tourism and in the country. Tourism provides an important source of foreign exchange, contributing to the government's tax revenues and enabling economic growth. Even though none of the participants were able to give any information about the exact income of slum tourism in the community, the Ghana Revenue Agency worker talked about the annual income of slum tourism in the country:

I have served under two different parties (governments) and each party benefits a lot because this tourism (slum tourism) contributes a lot to our Gross Domestic Product. I'm talking about using money as a measure of all goods produced and services we provide as a country. Do you know that tourism boost our economy. The government has been making more than 3 billion dollars every year for the past 2 or 3 years in tourism...3 billion dollars a year.

The Fisherman narrated how he gets extra money from selling his fish to the tourists when they come to tour.

I remember a tourist was once looking for a seahorse. So, I announced to some of my friends. When they caught some, they brought it to me directly and I sold it to him (the tourist). (...) the price I will sell to my country man is not the same price as I will sell to a foreigner...that means extra money.

The Traditional Authority added:

During the festival, a lot of tourists go to them...the artist...and buy from them. I see people selling artifacts and other stuff which helps the sellers because they (tourist) buy a lot. Selling is one of the key businesses which they (the local people) benefit from a lot especially when the tourists arrive in numbers.

The response given by the market woman was not different from the traditional authority and fisherman. She acknowledged that slum tourism has benefited the community through selling:

“Tourism (slum) has good effect on the market. Sometimes you see them (tourists) coming to buy fishes. The local people also come in their numbers to buy and go and sell the fishes they get from us”



Figure 8: Image Showing Local People Buying from Fishermen to Sell (Source: John Keney Ademang).

From the Tour Guide, I gathered that the two major festivals of the community, which are Homowo and Chalewate, increases employment opportunities for the residents.

The two festivals (Homowo and Chalewate) speak about unity in the community and bring people together. The foreigners always like to enjoy these traditional festivals...so when they come, you can see the young ones gathering and showing our cultural heritage like dancing. This impresses the foreigners...and they pay. (...) some of the guys in the community have studied a bit of tourism and so they serve as tour guides. Other guys too gather the tourist and show them around. I can say to some extent, it is a great employment opportunity and they are paid well (Tour Guide).

4.1.3 Summary of benefits of slum tourism in Ga mashie.

In summary, socio-cultural and economic benefits of slum tourism in Ga mashie including building of infrastructures (recreational facilities, clinics, schools etc.), creation of employment and increase in individual income directly influence the support of slum tourism in the community. This shows a relationship between socio-cultural and economic benefits with community participation and their support for slum tourism.

4.2 The Constraint of Slum Tourism in Ga Mashie

The perception of the residents concerning the constraints of slum tourism in their community was centred on various forms of education and the inability of tourism institutions to rehabilitate some of the slum tourism sites. Subsequently, eight themes were drawn from the interviews with the participants. Figure 8 shows codes that were used to develop the themes.

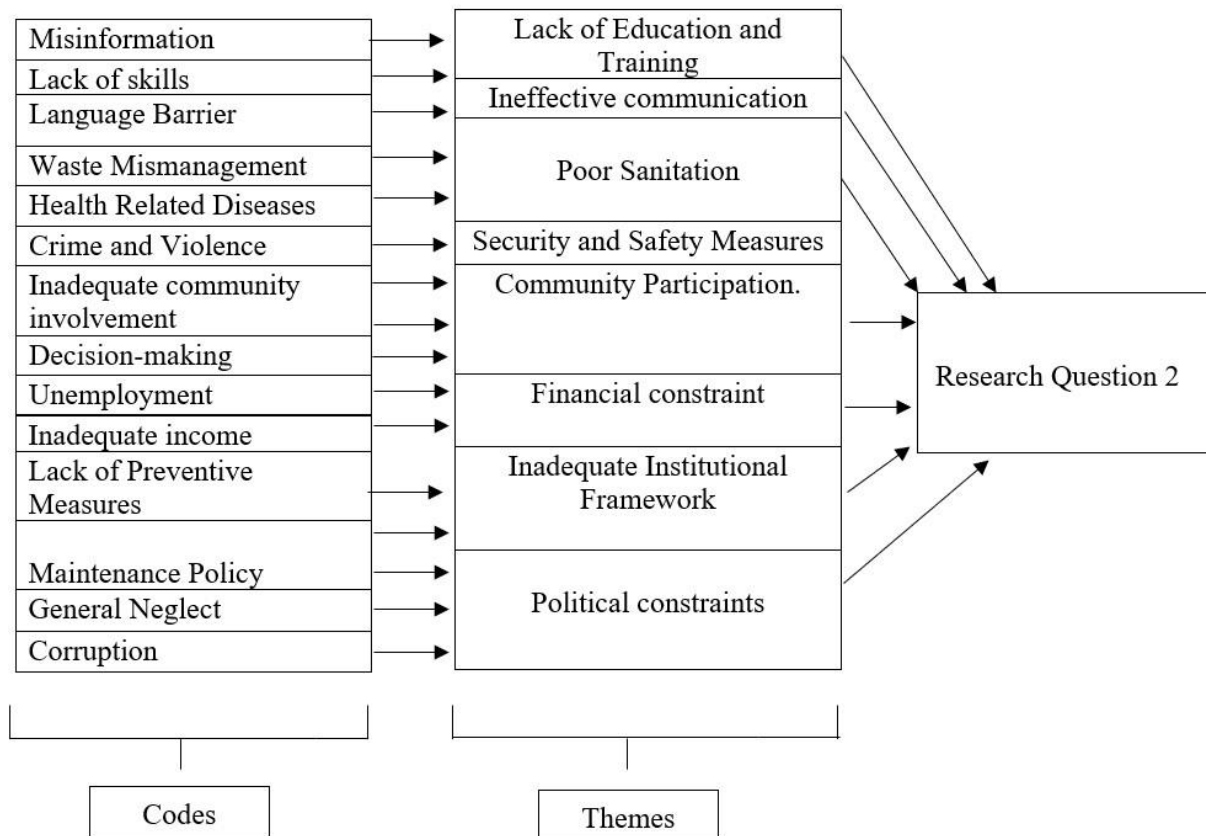


Figure 9: Thematic Framework Showing the Constraints of Slum Tourism in Ga mashie.

4.2.1 Stories on the constraint of politics on slum tourism in Gashie

The political system in a particular geographical area and its stability contributes to industrial growth including slum tourism (Koens, Frenzel, & Steinbrink, 2012c). The political system, principally is based on continuity of government for a period of four years in Ghana. After this fixed period, there may be a change of government. Thus, tourism industry becomes one of the most vulnerable sectors during the political instability because political ideas which shapes all governments, organisational structure and determines the role of government in the development of slum tourism may be reformed (Ivanov, Gavrilina, Webster, & Ralko, 2017). Consistent with the study by Ivanov, Gavrilina, Webster, & Ralko (2017), in Ghana when there is a change of Government, all policies and projects by the previous government are abandoned (Akwei, Damoah, & Amankwah-Amoah, 2020; Damoah, Ayakwa, & Kumi, 2021). Due to this, some projects in slum communities may start and stop depending on the priority of the ruling government. Unsurprisingly, the Fisherman stated that:

Some years back, the government started to develop tourism by building tourism centres, hotels, hub, and renovate historical sites. This would have created employment for many people but they stopped...everything came to a halt and other private investors have taken over because there was a change of government.

Corruption has an adverse effect on slum tourism within a nation. The acknowledgement of slum tourism as an opportunity for strategic economic development has made countering corruption one of the top priority in tourism (Ahmed et al., 2012). In Ghana, large sums of money from taxes and partners such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for programs and projects in various sectors such as the tourism industry fail miserably due to corruption (Damoah et al., 2021). The consequence of corruption on slum tourism such as embezzlement of income, strict taxation policies and unequal opportunities in Ghana are destroying the justification basis for slum tourism development (Akwei et al., 2020; Xu, Yang, Dossou, Berhe, & Ndomandji Kambaye, 2023). The Ghana Revenue Authority worker had this to say:

Corruption here in Ghana is too much. It cuts across every ministry and it is contributing to the downfall of our economic development. If they (government) want re-election they say all kind of things ...I like how they said they will make policies to develop Ga mashie. But because they are corrupt, they don't follow the country's tourism development plans and policies, that is, if they have one as they said. The ability of government to deal with slum tourism issues here is poor.

On corruption the Traditional Authority indicated that:

In the year of home return in 2019, the government received a very huge amount of money. About 84 000 people came to Ussher Fort and other sites around the Ga mashie area. All the percentage (of money generated) has been going to government accounts and they don't use it for any landmark or a major developmental project but they spend it on themselves.

The market woman was concerned about the taxes she pays to the government yet sees no infrastructural development in the area

Every day they come to collect tax but I don't see anything they (government) are doing in the market. All of us pay taxes here but look at how the market is...no refuse dump. So, they are spending the monies we suffer to get. Sometime ago I decided to send (export) some fishes to Burkina Faso but because of the taxes involved I couldn't continue...because you will go and come but you will have no money.

The absence of trustworthy political leadership within the political area affects slum tourism (Nisbett, 2017). One of the roles of slum tourism leaders is to advocate for the people living in slum based on legislation and formulation of beneficial policies which should not be relegated when there is a change in leadership or government. From the local politician, political corruption and constant leadership change within the government are among the reasons why slum tourism is underdeveloped in Ghana.

Because of politically corrupt parties (government) and their leaders, some very important projects such as the renovation of Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park has been neglected for so many years. It was not until recently... I think 2022 that this government decided to renovate the place to increase tourism businesses. The past government knew

how beneficial this project is to the people of Ghana and those in Ga mashie but chose to neglect it, and it kept deteriorating. This government has plans to develop the coastal regions of Ghana but unless we stay in government it will not be done.

Research on political activities in tourism have shown that it is important stakeholders and policymakers in slum tourism agree on legislative issues (Agyabeng, Bawole, Ahenkan, Mensah, & Preko, 2024). Thus, advocates of slum tourism should have a unified voice as a result of their political behaviours. This means reshaping the attitudes and perspective of various slum tourism stakeholders and policymakers to support legislative agenda beneficial for the local people and the tourists. The Tour Guide had this to say:

There is division in government when it comes to slum tourism...they don't speak as one because everybody has his agenda. I was part of a meeting between the private-owned tourism centers and the government. My brother, come and see arguments within the people representing the private-owned tourism centers and the government. The government was having their own agenda which they think will help, and each of the private-owned tourism centers were also having their individual agenda. The meeting was rescheduled and that was it. There's division there (Tourism ministry).

4.2.2 Stories on inefficient security and safety measures in slum tourism

Slum tourism sites around the world are faced with challenges of ensuring safety and security (Privitera, 2018). This could be due to the fact that slum tourism brings many people together in a small deprived area which sometimes lead to a wide array of problems. Some of these problems are crime-related and includes robbery, theft, rape, murder, and kidnapping (Nelson, 2019). Different types of motives are behind various incidents but it generally involves money, religion and hostility. From the response I gathered from two of the respondents, challenges of security are characterized by inefficient police services, limited tourist safety measures and conflicts among local tour guides. From the market woman, the lack of security has been compounded by unemployment which is on the rise in the slum:

Once the tourist is here, he should be safe but some tourists don't follow their guide. Some will even tour where there's no light...and anything can happen. That is where the bad people, those who don't do any work...that is where they meet. At Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, when there is a festival, you will see more police and other security patrolling. That is not the case here because we live in a slum. We have police station but they don't patrol and some street lights are off. (...) we also fight among ourselves because we want customers (tourists).

The tour guide acknowledged the presence of a security post but also pointed out a problem with their services concerning security at Jamestown.

“The problem is they (police and other private securities) don't escort the tourist through the place or even stand at vantage points. They should be standing at the places we know are dangerous for the foreigners.”

According to the community member, Ga mashie is relatively not a hotspot for crime even though they sometimes occur. The community member added that:

Sometimes tourists complain about people stealing their phones around the beaches but most of the time it happens at the nightclubs. They (tourists) usually say that the people that rob them threaten to harm them if they don't give them their bags or wallets. Sometimes it's their laptop or the cameras that they use to take pictures of this place (Ga mashie).

The local politician was in agreement with the community member that Ga mashie is a low-medium community in terms of safety and security for tourists.

The issue of safety and security for tourists still needs to be addressed. The reason why you don't hear much about people hurting or stealing from the tourists is because most of the tourism here is at the day time. That does not mean when the bad people in the community get an opportunity, they won't steal from them because some still do, even in the day time.

From the Ghana Revenue Authority worker, most of the illegal acts in the Ga mashie community are mainly smash-and-grab:

When you park your car without bring the windows up, are you not inviting thieves to take whatever you have in the car. This is the same in every country in the world. People here are not different, it's just that some locals take it to the extreme like snatching phones or purses whiles on motorbikes. I have heard that some people rob tourists using knives. Thats rather unfortunate, 'chale'.

Tourist safety is not the only worry that residents have about slum tourism. The Fisherman said their houses and shops have been broken into for more than two times but the police are not helping to put any measures in place to stop these acts:

The tourism here is breeding thieves and other things like selling weed. They steal from us and the tourists. Sometimes thieves come and steal all our fishes in the refrigerator. All the stores here are afraid that thieves will come and rob them...even drivers too are afraid because they can take your car at night.

Similarly, the tour guide added that:

“The challenge is the police don't escort the tourist through places believed to be dangerous for tourists to walk alone. The police are aware of these places but they have not made a standpoint at those places.”

4.2.3 Stories on lack of education and training in slum tourism

This theme was drawn from the perception of five out of the seven local participants. The participants showed awareness of the impact of education and training on promoting slum tourism and hygiene. The respondents emphasized that due to lack of education on the part of the tour guides, and training on the part of tourism centres, the tour guides misinform tourist about the history behind their culture and historical sites. This reflected in a statement by the community member:

One tour guide told tourists that this part of Jamestown is a vulture town...and that when the slaves die, this was where they put the bodies. Which is not true...it's a false information. The tourists come and they ask questions...hey, where's the vulture site?

If all the tour guides say different things or tell lies, will the tourist come back again? They will say we are not serious or Ghana is not serious because there's no streamlined information on what to tell the tourists and what not to tell them. (...) our people (local tour guides) can't even communicate well...they speak "broken English" (pidgin). You can't use such language to communicate to people who don't understand.

The fisherman said there is a lack of homogeneity in information provided by the tour guides. He attributed this to the fact that anybody can assume the position of tour guide without any appropriate training to inform their knowledge about their history.

They (tour guides) say all sorts of lies that is not part of the museum (Brazil House Museum). So, all the tourists have different things to say. Even if the information should differ, it shouldn't be that huge. It should be just marginal because in oratory there's a possibility that you might skip things but if it's not similar at all then you know there's something wrong.

The local politician recounted how his family decided to enjoy the Homowo festival by signing up for one of the tours around the various historical sites in Ga mashie in 2023.

I couldn't believe the fact that our tour guide was certified and hired by the tourism centre. Remember, I am from this community (Ga mashie) and because of my position I know a lot about these sites but this tour guide had his own version of the sites and their history which was not even close to the facts. I was expecting to hear about the transatlantic slave trade of the Ussher Fort, more about the mausoleum (Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum), you know more interesting and factual history... history like how the Ga's settled in this area. Instead, it was how the Ga's built the Fort and Jamestown to fight the whites. That was ridiculous...excuse my language but everything the guy (tour guide) said was untrue...absolute rubbish.

The tour guide, I interviewed, however was up-to-date on the historical sites in Ga mashie. The response suggested that information about the tourism heritage site is not available to members of the community and even if it was made available, most of the residents can't access the website because they cannot read and the tour centres are not organizing workshops to train their staff.

There's nobody to give an accurate history. Their (tour guides) historical perspective is very low. How can you give proper information to a foreigner if you don't have any in-depth information about the site...my brother? One tour guide told me that Ussher fort was built by the English. Another one too said it was built by the Portuguese...see? These are all not even true. Why can't they learn the history so that we can all sharing the same word on the same scale?

The Ghana Revenue Authority hinted that the tour guides purposely make up stories to make the tour more interesting. Otherwise, it will be boring for the tourists and they might change tourism centres in their next visit:

The tour operators intentionally exaggerate and provide the tourists that come here with incorrect information...information that you can't find anywhere but, in their heads, (laughs). It understandable because they feel like they have to make the tour appear more spectacular but they should also remember the things they say are educational and people learn from it... one of the guys said thousand people from around Accra visit the Salaga market in a day...ahhhhh. That's false information.

Education elevates the socioeconomic status of the community; however, it is one of the most serious constraints in slums because literacy rate is very low. Lack of education combined with poverty as observed in slum tourism creates harsh conditions for the people (Lindberg, Chen, Olsen, & Abelsen, 2022). The socio-economic level of various slum dwellers is the major contributing factor for the continuation or discontinuation of education. Typically, poverty remains among the essential causes of the minimal involvement of children in education and related activities. Consistently, the market woman attributed the lack of education to poverty and the fact that the children have to sell to help their families economically.

If you around this market, you can see many young boys and girls but they are to be in school. They don't go because they have to come and sell fish and other vegetables to help their family and their brothers and sisters. If they see (make) money at this age, what are they going to school to do. Some go but they have to come back home because they don't have money for books or food. They will come and eat in the house and then take care of one or two things in the house. By the time they finish the school will be closed (market woman).

Similar to what the market woman said, the community member added this:

“Most of the people here don’t make much money... and they have to take some of these monies to pay for school fees... how.”

It has been shown through research that the quality of school facilities to contain any number of students, availability of teaching learning materials, and teacher to student ratio have a direct impact on the performance of students (Koc & Celik, 2015). In the slums, many schools lack teachers, basic teaching and learning materials to enhance learning and promote education (Razia, 2021a). Correspondingly, the excerpts below from the local politician describes the situation in Ga mashie:

“There are too many students here in Ga mashie but the schools don’t have enough supplies or infrastructure to help or support them. I don’t want to say the teachers are not forcing but the students are not academically good.”

The tour guide presented a different perspective by touching on the lack of education on the slum tourism sites located in the community.

So, people leaving here...most of the people don’t have any idea of our culture and the slum tourism sites. People don’t know why we have Ussher Fort and the museum (Brazil House Museum) and what they were used for. If you haven’t learned the history, how will you educate the tourists.

4.2.4 Stories on ineffective communication in slum tourism

Communication is one of the most neglected aspects of slum tourism (Burgold & Rolfes, 2013b). However, communication in slum tourism is more than giving out information. It involves interaction between tourists and tour guides. Therefore, tour guides must have the required skill to maintain efficient communication with tourists. Accordingly, effective communication is the exchange of information, orally or written, for the intention of creating denotation that is satisfactorily received and comprehended. The traditional authority bemoaned that if residents will learn “proper” English or French rather than the pidgin English they can effectively communicate with tourist effectively. He said the local people don’t pursue these skills nor education because of lack of financial support and unwillingness to attain the skill or higher education.

You know, I can't speak French and you can't. If a tourist is speaking French, how will you understand and have a conversation. They (tourists) must also benefit from their visit. So, the language is a major problem...and we have children who can learn French and English and not pidgin English but where is the school or money to enrol them.

From the community member, the language used by some of the tour guides are not even understood by portions of Ghanaians.

When our own Ghanaian people come, some of them struggle to understand the residents because of the language. If they speak English, it’s not correct grammar...it’s the ‘broken’ English. There are some tour guides that speak only Ga (language) so how can someone from Sunyani or Cape Coast understand you if he comes here. Some people come from the North and they can’t hear Ga...are you going to send them away or decide not to talk to them...then you lose” (The traditional authority).

Similar to the traditional authority and community member, the fisherman emphasized that:

(...) the problem is language barrier. It’s one of the challenges. People come and they speak Dutch or Chinese...even proper English some residents and tour guides can’t understand or speak. Sometimes it’s even hard for them to speak to natives who don’t speak Ga or English.

Slum tourism brings together people from different cultures, religions, and languages (Cardoso et al., 2022e). It has become more diversified. Culture influences communication based on the concept that it underlies how we behave, think, interact and who we are. Consequently, every culture has specific symbols including gestures which they use to communicate among themselves (Vallotton & Ayoub, 2010). However, effective communication between people from different cultures as seen in slum tourism involve the removal of such cultural barriers in order to provide a more satisfactory experience between the tourist and the local people. Such effective communication is not seen in some encounters between the local people and the tourist, as narrated by the local politician:

When they (tourists) come here, they are strangers in a new place so they may struggle to learn some symbols and rituals for that few hours. So, they don't know the meaning of somethings, right? Let's say a local person is making a welcoming gesture like giving you water or palm wine or even 'pito' in a calabash and you refuse it...what does that tell him (local person). It tells the person you don't accept who he is, but you are there to see him. How can you not accept the person but yet travel to come and see him. Because of this some of the local people signal the tourists to move on by frowning or waving them off but because they don't also understand they keep bothering them and some (the local people) get annoyed.

The Ghana Revenue Authority had a different perspective by seeing the revenue making aspect of effectively communicating with tourist which he said both the tourism centres and the local people don't pay attention to:

What these tourism centres don't get is that, if the person (tourists) comes and you talk to him (tourists) nice, he will tell a friend who will also tell a friend...and then you (tourism centres) will get more customers (tourists). They (tourism centres) don't get it, and it's not about speaking big English, it's about listening to them and engaging each of them like it's all about you two...you understand. (...) the locals are also part because when the tourists get to you and you frown...you are hostile...it's like you don't mind them. It's not a good way to welcome people.

4.2.5 Stories on inadequate community participation in slum tourism

Community participation is about inclusion and a commitment to improving the lives of slum dwellers. To ensure that there is a community participation, all slum tourism stakeholders such as slum dwellers, the tourism industry and the government, must deliver non-discriminatory attitude towards activities in the slum (Aseye et al., 2015). This also means that that slum dwellers are represented in practical processes concerning their community especially planning and assimilation of housing projects, public services such as toilets, utilities including water and electricity, and livelihood activities. Community participation should be based on the right to be meaningfully involved in decisions that directly affect a person's life with the responsibility to contribute appropriate resources time, ideas and in some cases, financial resources (Rusata, Atmadiredja, & Kornita, 2023). Conflicting with this, excerpts from the respondents, the local people are exempted from activities that promote the development of the slum. The Fisherman said:

Sometimes we see buildings and other projects going on and nobody tells us anything. We know that such projects won't be beneficial to us or the tourist because we live here and we interact with the tourists...so we know but the government decides everything over here. (...) we are the ones who promote the tourism but they push us aside when it comes to planning the whole thing (slum tourism). (...) by promote I mean we provide art, dance and lead them (tourists). (...) how can tourism improve without us. They must include us.

A similar idea was shared by the Traditional Authority:

The authorities just sit down at their offices and ministry and implement decisions which they formulated among themselves...and we are left with no choice but to live with that. All I can do is accept the decisions and be part of its implementation...I don't even share in the benefits. In the past the government used to invite us to make contributions when they are making decisions. Even on that, we were only allowed to make contributions to what they have already decided.

The market woman also added how they and their leaders are neglected in making decisions that affects their lives:

Nobody takes idea from us. We have a market queen and she was part of the local committee. I remember we set up a committee to represent us but the committee wasn't successful because the authorities...I'm talking about the minister and his people...they were not listening to our people...nobody listened so they stopped. If they were including us, we would know how to conduct ourselves.

Governments don't necessarily have to address every single challenge of slums (Marx, Stoker, & Suri, 2013). However, if they do, they are not sustainable as communities feel something has been imposed on them. Innovative solutions and pro-active engagement occur around communities when people are given an opportunity to participate. Dissimilarly, the Ghana Revenue Authority said:

The people here feel excluded from everything concerning tourism but we have a lot to offer. All we can do is just go about our lives and then other people will profit from us. This thing (slum tourism) that nobody is meeting with us to talk about how we can make it better, do you know that it results in loss of productivity. Because if the people are involved it will stimulate domestic demand and the country will have increased human resources to boost our economy. Not including the people is actually do more harm... it can even lead to crime because it paints a picture that nobody cares about your wretched life so do whatever you can to make it in life.

4.2.6 Stories on poor sanitation

Proper sanitation is evidence of a developed and economically stable community. The extent to which sanitation positively impact the environment is heavily dependent on the members of that community (Abalo et al., 2017). The lack of proper sanitation practiced by slum tourism host community members creates a gap in socio-cultural and socio-economic empowerment of that area (Booyens & Rogerson, 2019). The respondents shared the same idea that sanitation is a big challenge in the community but it is beyond their control. The Market Woman showed awareness of the impact of poor sanitation on her business. She emphasized that most of the

people in the community are conscious of its impact on their health and on their business but they can't do anything.

The tourists are not coming because of sanitation. Our activities here in the market produce a lot of waste but we don't have any refuse dump area. Salaga market is part of the tourism (slum) sites because we sell different kinds of fishes but the tourists are not coming and we know why. It's because of sanitation. People dump refuse in these gutters and behind the market...when it rains the gutters become stagnant and overflows into the market. Some of the residents sometimes defecate along the beach and other places. We have been speaking against it but it's still going on.



Figure 10: Image Showing Poor Sanitation inside the Salaga Market (Source: John Keney Ademang).

Due to overcrowding in the slum, shared sanitation facilities are often used for the storage and management of waste. Shared or public sanitation facilities are not counted as improved sanitation, since the facilities often lack in cleanliness. The Local Politician added that:

Plenty people here use the public toilets... you should see how we queue in the morning just to go to toilet but the place is not properly cleaned by the caretakers, and we have complained about it several times. The caretakers are saying we the people that are complaining are the ones that make the place so unclean...that they cannot check the toilets every time someone uses it. Since we are all in the same community, we should all make sure we clean up after ourselves. What they are saying too is right but still people dirty the toilet...so if you don't want to see someone's faeces and feel comfortable while easing yourself then the only thing for you is open defecation.

Open defecation and inadequate sanitary facilities are both a threat to the human health and the environment. To establish sanitation infrastructure in slums and make it available for everyone without issues of cleanliness is often a challenge (Schouten & Mathenge, 2010). The establishment of toilets and sewage systems require large amounts of energy, land and water which are deprived in the slum. The Ghana Revenue Authority said:

There's no land to use as refuse dump, or for toilet or urinal and it is not good, especially for women and young girls because it's easy for them to get gonorrhoea and white (candidiasis) from the toilet. (...) If no facility is available because we don't have many toilets around...we have only three. If you consider the number of people who are living here, you will see that is very small. Since the toilets are occupied during the morning many men and women wait until evening to defecate along the beach. I remember a woman was almost raped by someone when she went to defecate at night.

Proper hygiene, sanitation and access to quality drinking water prevents death and diseases. The commonest disease in the slum is diarrhoea. To prevent this disease from spreading, hygiene, sanitation and water play a crucial role. In solving the sanitary situation in slum tourism, the storage and management of waste is paramount because its failure contributes to health and environmental risks for the slum dwellers and the entire city (Showers, 2024). The Traditional Authority said:

If you go to the clinic right now...I have been there myself, most of the people (patients) there have running stomach (diarrhoea) and typhoid (typhoid fever). All because there is rubbish and toilets around us and some of us especially those selling foods don't practice handwashing and proper cleaning (sanitation).

The fisherman believes that Jamestown is dirty not because of the residents alone but the tourists and the people passing by the beaches. He added that it is only the Municipal Chief Executive (government appointee) who can solve the issue of sanitation in the community.

As I have already mentioned, Accra has become big...it has expanded and this place too is very packed. All our food and other things are in plastics. The tourists too when they come, they bring plastics. The residents also bring the polyethene bags and are thrown everywhere. We know it gives cholera and other sickness but there hasn't been any solution. Zoomlion (cleaners) used to come, gather the rubbish and transport them but now they don't come because of low budgetary allocations which leaves them unpaid for months. (The fisherman)

4.2.7 Stories on financial constraint

Slum economies and livelihood of the dwellers make important contributions to the economy of a country and represents a large share of the informal labour force. The informal labour force refers to self-employment and wage employment that is not registered, regulated or protected by existing legal or regulatory frameworks (Sumberg et al., 2020). They include hawkers, pavement sellers and brick layers. A study in Nima, a slum in Ghana, showed that even though slum dwellers contribute massively to tourism and the economy, they are adversely affected by entrenched economic system which limits their economic opportunities (Apeku & Apeku, 2021). This constraint is shaped by a complex and interrelated set of root causes which was identified in some of the excerpts from the respondents. For instance, the local politician said that:

These tourism centres and the beach operators and the night club owners know that aside their jobs, there's no other let me say reputable work here. So, they exploit them.

You can work the whole day or night and they will pay you GH¢ 500 a month, and you can't complain because there's no other work around. If you stop the work too, they won't lose because they will get another person who they can even pay less.

Slum dwellers often lack access to formal finance, literacy and skills, and linkages to non-slum markets, limiting both employment and enterprise growth opportunities. As said by the market woman:

Personally, I want to put up a business and it will flourish. The problem is we don't have money to start the business. Most people (tourists and resident) come and they want different species of fish but they don't get because we don't have big refrigerators to keep the fishes in.

The government's lack of economic provision to those living in slums has been attributed to factors such as inadequate planning and management in slums, and perceived transitory nature of slums where governments ignore the illegal land grabbing activities of slum residents while also not providing them with public goods (Shami & Majid, 2014). Consequently, the traditional authority said:

The children in this community have a talent for arts but the government won't help. I'll show you some of the artwork done by the school children. It was just recently that we engaged the school children. I'll open the gallery, then you have a look at the artworks to support what I'm trying to tell you. Government can support us but they are not doing it and when they do, it is whom you know.

The Ghana Revenue Authority added that:

The rapid increase in population in the community because of migration imposes a challenge on the government to provide any form of assistance to the slum dwellers because the number of people here keeps going up. Because of the number there is no sufficient water or electricity which brings down the time and capacity available for productive economic activity.

4.2.8 Stories on inefficient institutional framework

Institutional framework refers to the functions of government, private enterprises and other organisational structures that shape the socio-economic behaviour of a community (Kurtulmuş, 2019). Slum tourism contributes to the socioeconomic behaviour of the community and to the country's economy both in monetary and employment terms. Subsequently, there has been an increased focus from many institutions including the ministry of tourism and private companies in the investment of slums through the building of infrastructure (Forts, harbour etc.) which are important determinants of economic growth (Adama, 2020; Nguyen, 2021). However, lack of collaboration between local or international institutions lead to inadequate maintenance and lack of attention to the needs of slum dwellers and tourists (Abdulhadi, Bailey, & Van Noorloos, 2024). A recent report conducted in Aboabo and Asawase, slums in Ghana estimates that poor maintenance of infrastructure and mismanagement cost more, adversely impacting the socioeconomic behaviour of the country (Dakpallah Tisong Aabeterkuu Gloria, 2012). This is not different from what is happening in the Ga mashie community based on the interview with the tour guide:

We had 80 forts and castles. Now, we have 28. In Ussher Fort...look at Ussher Fort structure...everything is gone. The British are not ready to support. The Netherlands came to intervene but they stopped. Very soon Ussher Fort...I give you up to five years... the Block B cell will collapse because the roof slab is failing. Everything is caving but the tourism centres both the private and government centres don't care about its maintenance.



Figure 11: Image Showing a Lack of Maintenance Inside the Usher Fort Prison (Source: John Keney Ademang).

Similarly, the market woman added:

We also need to look at the tourism sites. Where the people come around to visit...whether we are really maintaining those places to ensure that they are in a better shape for people (tourists) to see. Salaga market is collapsing but nobody is saying anything about keeping it in a good state. In Jamestown, all the refuse dump and waste management structures are all not working properly because we've failed to expand the market buildings or make a bigger toilet and refuse dump.



Figure 12: Image Showing the Lack of Maintenance in the Salaga Market (Source: John Keney Ademang).

Public transportation is one of the major means to carry tourists to the tourism sites. Therefore, the development of road network promotes the development of slum tourism. Below is an excerpt from the community member:

One problem is we have very bad narrow and small roads. It increases traffic especially during the festivals. We don't have people to report or go around the tourism sites including Makola market to identify and report these things that need to be repaired. There are so many pot holes on the road but nobody cares.

4.2.9 Summary of constraints of slum tourism in Ga mashie

Slum tourism has obviously played a crucial role in changing the image of Ga mashie towards positive denominations. However, it has not completely eradicated constraints faced by slum dwellers in the community. The study found that constraints of slum tourism in Ga mashie includes politics, education, finance, security and safety measures among others. It was revealed that one of the major reasons why Ga mashie faces numerous constraints is project abandonment due to the corruptive nature of some political leaders and lack of maintenance culture.

4.3 Empowerment of Slum Tourism

In the tourism context, empowerment is considered as an essential prerequisite for achieving sustainable tourism development (Cole, 2006). In general, empowerment is a social process that makes provision for people or communities to gain control and improve their quality of life (Haddad & Toney-Butler, 2023). studies on community empowerment, particularly in tourism suggests that, the community can be empowered economically, socially, educationally, psychologically, and politically. The figure 12 shows codes that were used to develop the themes answering research question 3.

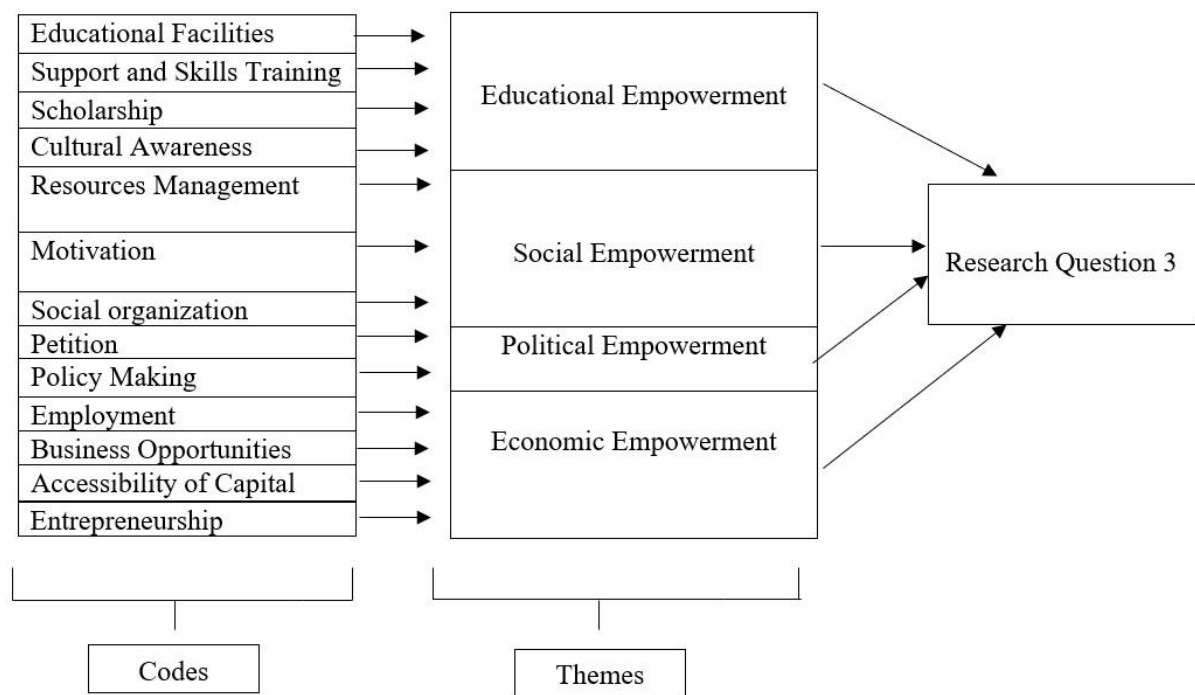


Figure 13: Thematic Framework Showing the Empowerment of Slum Tourism in Ga mashie

4.3.1 Stories on social empowerment

Social empowerment is the process of building the autonomy, power, confidence and other necessary means to enact change and pave the way for a better future (Cole, 2006). Socially, a critical thread in discussions about sustainable slum tourism and empowerment is community participation or involvement (Rahmadani, Kamil, & Salahudin, 2021). The scholars have stated

that one factor that prevents community participation is the top-down approach to decision-making or planning process, whereby decision-making power rests with government or stakeholders with 'official' status, leaving little role for local communities. The traditional authority added:

The people in the community have, excuse my language, wise up. They've come up with a way to make their voices heard because we normally say strength in unity, am i lying. So, we've decided to have general meetings every last Sunday of the month...every month to have a discussion on how we can gain control or have a say on whatever activity that is going on here. In our last meeting we elected new leaders because we want to do things differently this time around so these people will go before the chief and tell him what we have decided...so it's what we are doing.

Moreover, unequal power between slum dwellers and policy makers in decision-making inhibits community empowerment by limiting their access to some of the benefits of slum tourism including improvement in their quality of life (Rigon, 2022).

We elected an assemblyman to represent the community but as things stand, only one person can't help us. So, we've started meeting the Municipal Chief Executive (government representation for the area) in every three months at the market area to share ideas and to include them (the ideas) when they are making plans for us. It can happen that we will tell them something and they will forget or decide to do nothing, that is why we have also elected a team that is monitoring if they are doing what we said, and is it helping as at all. (The tourist guide)

Empowerment through the petition of governmental and non-governmental organizations can facilitate the acquisition of resources and promote community participation in decision-making towards a sustainable slum development which benefits the slum dwellers and tourists (Yuanni Wang, Cao, Yuan, & Zhang, 2020).

I remember some of our people came to us to write our names and sign, and they said they are sending it to the ministry so that they will come and sit down with us and we will talk together because when the tourists come, they come to see us not them. (The market woman)

4.3.2 Stories on economic empowerment

Economic empowerment refers to community access to economic opportunities and benefits resulted from slum tourism development that is equitably distributed in the community (Simbar, Alizadeh, Hajifoghaha, & Dabiri, 2017). Economic empowerment in this research refers to the activities associated with slum tourism that brings economic benefits to the community. Most of the respondents felt that slum tourism has increased their income and they can now afford to pay some of their bills and some basic needs. To the Traditional Authority, the Homowo and Chalewate festival provides occasional income for the people.

On normal days you can see tourists around but they are few. When they come around, they move in very small groups or individually and buy some local arts, drinks, some fish and meat and other things while mingling with us. But when they come during the festivities, *chale*, that is like Christmas for us because they come in numbers and a lot of money is made by selling food and interacting with them (tourists) or showing them around the community. Some of them (tourists) just give money out of charity.

Consistent with what the traditional authority said, the income of the market woman increases when tourists have visited the slum which enables her take care of her children.

The money I get from here (the market) increases when the tourist come. They will come to the market and buy different fishes and because they have a bigger currency we sell to them at high prices. Some of them ask as to get a particular fish for them, and we get it for them at a higher price than what we sell to other people (local people). Even though customers come on regular days to buy, it cannot be compared to when the tourists are here like Christmas or when we have our festival.

There is a rapid growth and development of slum tourism, consequently, many communities have the opportunity to diversify their income by venturing into entrepreneur activities which bring economic empowerment to the community (Chege. & Waweru., 2014). Slum tourism entrepreneurship focuses on building wealth by identifying opportunities and developing into a money-making enterprise (Nisbett, 2017).

I have opened a local business because of the tourists...because when they come, they

are interested in the calabash art work. Some of them want some locally made bangles and chains and some also want beads. Most of them like the bangles but I have a shop that sells all these and the locals also buy from me. (...) it's not like I have money but this (slum tourism) is an opportunity to own a business for yourself and I've taken it and it's helping me. Now people in the community come to me for loans and invite me to church and other programs because they see that I'm making money from the shop. (The Local Politician)

The Ghana Revenue Authority added how the government is empowering local business, especially startups and small enterprises in the community to get on their feet through grants and loans.

You know helping locally owned businesses brings jobs and keep the money in the community. Because of this the government has set up the Ghana Enterprises Agency... they give money to small business in this community to grow their business. Although most people don't get the money because they don't meet certain requirements or because of politicization of the sector but still some people get. I know seven people in this community that have benefited... so it's real. (The Ghana Revenue Authority)

Slum tourism is powerhouse which creates employment for the local people living in the community (Yeganegi & Mohammadi, 2002). It generates employment by generating demand for a many services and products, fostering entrepreneurship, and stimulating economic growth in a country. Projects such as social centers in slums provide benefits for the nation in terms of improving revenue generation from increased tourist visitation. This creates a ripple effect for the communities close to the project. Based on what the fisherman said, the increased number of persons visiting the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park will provide opportunities for local commercial activities.

(...) around the same area some people have built pubs, restaurants, hotels and guest houses for the tourist to relax...you know all these give employments because people will work there and get paid. Ahaa...I forgot one...the Ga mashie hall...do you know that they built it with tourists in mind? I have a friend who works there. He wasn't getting job anywhere but now he works there and it's not only him but there are others who live in this community and are working there with him. (The Fisherman)

From the tour guide, some slum tourism centres in Ga mashie are enforcing local employment which is employment reserved for people who are only living in the community, reducing their financial vulnerability.

Even though the salary from working with the tourism centres are not that great, some of them only hire people who are living with us. This allows us to get money to support our family. Me, for instance, have registered for a teacher training programme which I go only on weekends. I use the little money I get from this work to support myself. (The tour guide)

Some of the people living in Ga mashie have utilized business opportunities made available by tourists needing companionship or escorts during the day but especially in the night. They offer their services to the tourists and are paid in a higher currency at a higher price compared to the rate for the local people.

4.3.3 Stories on educational empowerment

Education is an opportunity through which society and its people are empowered (Lawson, 2011). It aids in the social, emotional, and psychological growth of individuals and hence, the community as a whole. Thus, educational empowerment uplifts individual and the community to achieve social, political and economic justice and a higher quality of life (Malta, 2023). Education is a process of nation building, which moulds our personality, build future citizen, and removes all barriers, disparities, superstitions from the mind of the people of the society. Through education, power is transferred from the traditionally powerful to subsidiary groups within the community. However, not all have been able to reap the benefits of education in Ga mashie but the chief of Ga mashie is amending such situation through the Ga education fund.

“The ‘Ga Mantse’ (chief), Nii Teiko Tsuru II has created an educational fund which he has been using for local projects in the fields of education. That fund covers everything about education like the teaching of skills like English and computer, and helping the students that are very brilliant but needy get proper education through all the levels. Just last month the Asantehene (chief of Asante) donated GHC500,000 into that fund. They

have programmes for the children too when they vacate and it's helping the students in gain access to higher education and a better career...and employment, and they can also turn back to the community to help other people.” (The traditional authority)

The Ghana Revenue Authority added to what the Local Politician said by giving an example of a person who is giving back to the community who also happens to be the executive director of a non-governmental organisation.

Last two- or three-years madam Rita Esionam who is the executive director of No Limit Charity Organisation (NLCO), with another group... SOS advance came to open a learning Centre for the children in Ga Mashie area. She said she grew up in Jamestown and she know the predicaments of the community in terms of education. She has built a library and ICT Centre not only for the children but adults too. It's just that for adults you will pay something small. There is also a vocational skills training centre attached to it which is training people in culinary and fashion design. (The Ghana Revenue Authority)

The local politician spoke about how the government is doing well in training and organizing workshops for the stakeholders involved in slum tourism in Ga mashie

“The Ministry of Tourism has organized training and orientation workshops for the local communities of tourists' sites in the country. People in this community were present when they began in Accra. It's not the first time... it's something that is done every year. They train them to communication well with the tourists, handcrafts, entrepreneurship and equip the tour guides and those who are interested in leading tourist with relevant information. (The local politician)

The tour guide stated that partnership with the government especially the ministry of tourism has been very difficult because they have their own agenda. Notwithstanding, he said the ministry and other NGOs continue to educate and provide skills for the community

The ministry and other NGOs and donated computers to the basic school. Some too come around and organize a three-day or two-day training for teachers to teach well in the classroom and the local people on how to make soap, yoghurt, textiles and 'Pito'

(local drink) ... and 'Sobolo' (local drink). Some make it to sell and others use it their houses. (The tour guide)

4.3.4 Stories on political empowerment

Political empowerment refers to possessing power and utilizing it as a collective or an individual to create an impact on the development of a community or a nation (Budryte, 2014). Therefore, it is the transfer of power to people who do not have it. Subsequently, political empowerment is when access is giving to disadvantaged populations into to various positions in the government. Political empowerment represents one of the most sensitive, urgent and central aspects that need to be addressed at the global level. People living in the slum are significantly underrepresented in politics almost in every corner of the earth (Brandt, 2018). Hence, empowering them to participate in the decision-making process plays an even increasing role in ensuring the societal, economic and political transformation of slum tourism. Slum dwellers political empowerment is about influencing policy, making demands and calling the state to account. Donors provide significant support to improving governance. Some of this support is financially supporting state institutions, the community, decision-making processes and the resulting policies to consider the concerns of people living in poverty.

I've been to many workshops organized by the government and other private organizations. The one I really benefited was a capacity-building workshops by ActionAid. It gave me confidence and increased my political will to review some policies and practices which I often talk about on radio stations for our people to hear and to understand if it favours us or not... just like the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park which we talked and talked about it on radio stations, now government has renovated it.
(local politician)

The right to participate in governance is symbolic of democracy (Holum, 2023). The youth in particular are crucial in politics since their future is greatly affected by political decisions (Krawatzek, 2022). A greater percentage of people living in the slum is the youth. Therefore, encouraging the youth living in slums to actively participate in the political landscape is fundamental to slum's sustainable development. Fostering political engagement among the

youth living in the slum promotes political empowerment (Klopp & Paller, 2019; Paniagua, 2022)

The government... not only this government but other governments are involving more of the youth in their politics and government. The EC (Electoral Commission of Ghana) is doing something that people have taken for granted because is free for the youth living here and any part of the country to become agents. Some are polling agents working for the EC. We have many of the youth here doing that. Some are also agents of the political parties who oversee the activities of election process. Other guys from here are foot soldiers which the parties rely on to intimidate other parties' members and candidates. (The Ghana Revenue Authority)

People living in poverty are less likely to vote because of lack of motivation hindering their ability to go to the polls, apathy, and their belief that politicians neither care nor address social issues relevant to them (Jensen & Justesen, 2014). The traditional authority pointed out the elders in the community together with representatives from the electoral commission meet the youth before there is the national election to elect a president to advise them to vote and show them how important their vote is for the community

We meet the community any time there's an election... like a month to the election and we tell the community that their vote is their power because if they don't vote then they don't get to decide who should lead them out of this place. Everybody wants a better a life and they (local people) want to move out of here... so we create that awareness for them to remember that they have the power. We do this every election year and they vote massively because we want to see change in this community.

4.3.5 Summary of empowerment of slum tourism

This section shows that the residents of Ga mashie are socially, educationally, economically and politically empowered. This has increased their self-confidence, views and social capita for a sustainable development in the community. Consequently, there is cooperation and participation within the community, and among government and other non-governmental organizations for the transformation of the slum.

4.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the major themes generated from codes that were identified in the responses given by the participants on the benefits of slum tourism in the community. The themes are socio-cultural (education, language, organizational, infrastructures and transport system) and economic (income, employment, entrepreneurship and prostitution). The major themes that were identified answers the first research question; 1) what are the benefits of slum tourism in Ga mashie? The research question 2, 'what are the constraint of slum tourism in Ga mashie?' was answered based on the themes; education, sanitation, community participation, financial constraints and politics, that were generated from codes in the interview. From these themes it was observed that the constraints faced by the community outmatch the benefits from tourism in the location. The final part of this chapter delved into research question 3, how does slum tourism empower the residents? It was seen that the community were empowered educationally, socially, politically and economically.

5 DISCUSSION

This chapter, discusses the main findings of the study. It reveals and answers research questions regarding the benefits, constraints and empowerment of slum tourism in the Ga mashie community. The discussion mainly focuses on the benefits, challenges and measures that capacitate slum residents which are classified based on excerpts from the interview as social, economic, educational and political.

Studies by Kieti & Magio, 2013, noted that residents of slum community appreciates the importance of slum tourism, which supports the findings of this study. Residents in Ga mashie support slum tourism development by assisting tourists during their visit, showcasing artifacts, providing services such as transportation and engaging the tourists etc. Consistently, Fikire, Bires, & Emeru, 2022, exhibited that when residents are aware of the benefits of slum tourism, their support for sustainable slum tourism development increases. This is also supported by Kieti & Magio, 2013, who noted that local support for the development of slum tourism in Puri and Varanasi is directly correlated with advantages of the tourism on their standard of living.

Concerning socio-cultural impacts of tourism, local communities in slum tourism destinations benefit from improvement in infrastructure and new leisure amenities (Ragheb et al., 2016). The study by Ragheb et al. (2016), also reveals that there is infrastructural development in the community. Other studies have also highlighted that slum tourism is widely regarded as the main driver of social development such as infrastructures (Alamineh, Hussein, Endaweke, & Taddesse, 2023; Cardoso et al., 2022). This is not different from what was observed in Ga mashie community. The socio-cultural impact of slum tourism on the Ga mashie community involves transportation, infrastructure, culture and health which is an indication of quality of life even though the residents believe more can be done in these areas. More so, residents showed a favourable view towards the socio-cultural benefits of slum tourism such as infrastructural development. This is similar to a study reported by Olthuis, Benni, Eichwede, & Zevenbergen (2015) which stated discovered that slum tourism in developing countries have a favourable view on infrastructural development among other socio-cultural factors such as employment and transportational systems. In Ga mashie, slum tourism has provided more parks and recreational areas thus, improving the area's appearance visually and aesthetically. Some of this infrastructural impact includes the Bukom boxing arena, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial

Park, library, football field, clinic and basic schools which the local residents have attributed entirely to the tourism in the area.

All the respondents agreed that tourism has improved the appearance of the communities, because there are now more structures in the community that have been developed to serve the tourists and the community. More so, the community residents express their satisfaction with the development of infrastructure in the community which is in accordance with research conducted by Gao, Wang, & Gu (2022), based on the data collected in 19 communities in the city of Hangzhou, China. However, majority of the residents in Ga mashie stated that more employment opportunities, infrastructural development and economic growth is needed in the community for their benefit. Mudege & Zulu (2011) back this up by stating that while slum tourism creates employment and other infrastructural development such as health facilities, some local people were disappointed with the level of development and employment in the community and requested more community participation to address that challenge.

Slum tourism can exacerbate civic issues (Sanusi, Huxtable-Thomas, & Sanusi, 2023), but it can also help by raising attention to issues and possibilities, enabling citizens to make judgements, preparation of residents for leadership roles, giving more and greater community infrastructure and amenities, and fostering thriving institutions and feelings of interdependence. Community participation involves economic and social development process based on local efforts (Cardoso et al., 2022; Cattaneo et al., 2022). As a result, there must be active engagement of the local inhabitants. Consistently, the study found that limited community participation, mismanagement and maintenance issues, poor sanitation, lack of education and security all have a noticeable influence on the development of slum tourism in the Ga mashie community.

Even though it has been reported that most local people's participation in planning-related activities concerning the development of slum tourism in their communities is inconsistent (Reindrawati, 2023c), this is not applicable to the people living in the Ga mashie community. The local residents expressed the need to be involved in decision-making and all activities that may directly or indirectly influence the development of slum tourism in their community. However, they feel excluded from planning, decision making and development of their community which is not due to time commitment or unwillingness on their part but lack of finances to form groups, disappointment from leaders, lack of trust in the government and other

private organizations, leading to the belief that various institutions don't acknowledge, hear, or honor their ideas.

As noted by various studies community participation towards slum tourism development is an expensive process because it involves not only time, and manageable skill but money to organise and sustain participation. (Mayaka, Croy, & Cox, 2018; Park, Phandanouvong, & Kim, 2018) Furthermore, most communities are excluded from meetings and decision-making activities because of many factors including their level of education and lack of training (Kabiru, Mojola, Beguy, & Okigbo, 2013; MacTavish et al., 2023b). Similarly, in the Ga mashie community, the local residents are excluded from contributing to the development of their community because of low level of education and training, and language barrier. Due to these factors, the formation of groups and election of leaders to convey ideas and messages to the government and other organizations keep failing.

Economically, slum tourism creates jobs, improves infrastructure, brings foreign exchange, generates revenue and brings about economic diversification (Lagos & Wang, 2023; Macanas, 2019; Matthew et al., 2018). However, there are many hidden costs to tourism which can have unfavorable economic effects on the host community (Bui Hoang, 2024; Frenzel, 2018; Tzanelli, 2018a). In line with this, the research findings showed both positive and constraint of the economic effect of slum tourism in the life of residents in the benefits. Slum tourism through its positive economic influence leads to the generation of income, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship. This outcome is supported by the current study findings as there is an increased income from slum tourism in Ga mashie especially during the festive occasions. The Homowo and Chalewate festivals creates an opportunity for part-time jobs to sell which increases their income.

In general, the economic impact of slum tourism to the residents of Ga mashie is mainly concentrated in the business which is significantly higher during the festive season than regular days. In the festive season, most of the local residents put good measures in place to generate revenue from slum tourism activities. However, due to limited financial resources in Ga mashie community, the residents have limited manpower and skills to sustain themselves for a better outcome. Limited financial resources extremely affects lives and the livelihoods of slum dwellers (Nayak & Jatav, 2023). In the same line, it was observed that most of the residents

have plans and ideas for businesses but are lacking start-up financial support due to inadequate income and government funding which is for some selected few who are either more educated, connected to dignitaries or well-informed.

The lack of education and training in the community has been attributed to inadequate support from management agencies, which prevents most people from participating in planning activities associated with the community. This echoes findings where stakeholders are unable to educate local people living in the slum (Razia, 2021b; Sumangala N, 2022). Consequently, it was observed that some of the tour guides were not trained personnel nor educated misinform tourists about the history behind the various sites. This is contrary to what was stated by... that since slum tourism is being regarded so highly as a source of information, staff who are trained in tourism should take a leading role in every field (Gelbman, 2002; Razia, 2021). Participants indicated that the lack of trained staff especially tour guides affect communication between them and both local and foreign tourists. Consequently, tourists who do not speak English have limited interaction and are being excluded from being educated on the historical sites which is unacceptable as stated by the Community member. This is supported by the view that the lack of trained personnel to communicate effectively through the use of proper language is a significant barrier in slum tourism (Aldohon, 2014).

Another finding supports the view that this is a common problem in slum tourism across most developing countries (Nomnian, Trupp, Niyomthong, Tangcharoensathaporn, & Charoenkongka, 2020). Lack of effective communication prevents tourists from understanding and cherishing the culture of the local residents and is an attribute of low level of training and education in a community. Consequently, the Traditional Authority, Local Politician and Ghana Revenue Authority acknowledged that the local people and most of the tour guides and workers in the tourism centers are not well informed due to lack of training and education. Shortage of trained or educated personnel leads to poor performance of the tourism industry as shown by studies in Zimbabwe (Felisitas, 2012).

This explains the reason why the tourists are misinformed by both the local residents and tour guides on the historical sites and the fact that the community is exempted from decision-making, development, and planning process in the community. Similarly, results from a study showed that there is a big gap between supply and demand for educated personnel, as the

tourism industry is growing which negatively affects community participation (Batra, 2016). This confirms the findings of Reindrawati (2023) that local residents are sidelined in planning process of slum tourism. The same view was shared by most of the participants including the Community Member who claimed that, in most cases, local communities are just informed of proposed developments. Although most of the local residents have low educational levels, they can be trained to partake in different activities to support themselves, the community and the country but this depends on their relationship with other private organizations or the government.

The collaboration between the government, private tourism centers and the local people promotes the development of slum tourism and resolves numerous challenges in the local community (Taufik, Akmal Ibrahim, Ahmad, Suni, & Nur, 2023). It was noted that private tourism centers or the government do not directly consult themselves or involve the community though they are an important stakeholder. Failure to coordinate private sector stakeholders reduces the ability to innovate and meet the overall needs of the community. A study have shown that lack of responsiveness such as mismatch of supply to demand in the community weakens slum development and creates missed opportunities (Lo & Janta, 2020).

Correspondingly, the Ghana Revenue Authority stated that the lack of coordination among various slum tourism stakeholders has led to building of tiny structures for a densely populated community, thus mismatch of supply and demand, and improper maintenance of historical structures. It has been stated that since slum tourism is essential in the development of a nation, the historical monuments in slum community needs to be preserved and maintained for longevity. Maintenance is recognized as an important aspect organizational culture which directly leads to enhanced facility performance and tourism development (Chan et al., 2022).

Since Ga mashie is a heritage tourism community and creates economic prosperity for the country, there must be a culture of maintenance. This culture of maintenance is dependent on the principle of conservation of structure, systems and equipment for a longer duration (Ogunbayo et al., 2022). Subsequently, maintenance is crucial for the preservation and development of the tourism industry. Ghana is a country that lacks proper maintenance culture (Kportufe, 2015). As a result, most industries such as the slum tourism industry under the Ministry of local arts and tourism carelessly abandon and do not rehabilitate structures that

would have promoted tourism in Ga mashie to benefit the community and the country. Based on response from participants, some of the historical sites in Ga mashie such as the Ussher Fort, James Fort and Brazil house have been left without proper maintenance for decades. According to Citi newsroom, a media group in Ghana, because of the lack of maintenance, the country risks losing many historical sites and towns like Jamestown (CNR, 2024). Many have been damaged or destroyed instead of being safeguarded for future generations (Arthur & Mensah, 2006). Stakeholders of slum tourism in Ga mashie including the government, private tourism centers and the residents benefit from slum tourism economically, hence, they are expected to rehabilitate the monuments and the historical sites. This is in line with a study that proposed that stakeholders are they main beneficiaries of slum tourism and they have the responsibility that the historical sites are maintained properly for generations to come (Amoako, Obuobisa-Darko, & Ohene Marfo, 2021).

In spite of proper maintenance, factors such as political instability and intermittent reshuffle of government appointees in the country thwarts the maintenance and development of monuments and historical sites (Adefeso & Adefeso, 2018). Political instability of a country has an adverse effect on slum tourism such as crime rate, continuous development and lack of investments. The realization that slum tourism itself cannot reduce poverty but an inclusive growth in the tourism industry based on policies made by the government can enhance the living standards of slum communities (Nkrumah Agyabeng, Bawole, Ahenkan, Mensah, & Preko, 2023). Even though Ga mashie attracts tourists all over the world, the people believe they are not taken into consideration when the government is making policies concerning tourism. This is part of the reason why they have to come together every three months as a community to meet the Municipal Chief Executive (government representative) of the area to share ideas concerning the community which may or may not be accepted by the government based on their policies. The community lacks a representative who is from the area, appointed by the government to partake in making policies concerning slum tourism.

Inclusive growth policies must be laid down by governments and implemented irrespective of the government in power which allow the people in the community to partake in policy making for their benefit and economic growth (Preko, 2020). This ensures broad access to opportunities so that members of Ga mashie community can participate and benefit economically from slum tourism. A survey on tourism done in South Africa showed that the majority of locally-owned

businesses were started using the entrepreneur's own or family savings due to lack of access to external funding (Rogerson, 2004). It was clear from this study that it is difficult for people living in slum areas to get financial assistance because of factors such as lack of surety which is often an obstacle. For instance, the Market Woman needed support for the expansion of her business while people like the Tour Guide also needed support in his education. Again, strict business policies can affect all economic sectors but some explicitly hinder the slum tourism sector (Aguinis, Kraus, Poček, Meyer, & Jensen, 2023). Slum tourism is negatively affected by increased tourism-related taxes (Mahadevan, Amir, & Nugroho, 2016). Thus, multitude of taxes is one of the main reasons local residents cannot start-up or maintain business in the community (Kouam & Asongu, 2022). This was confirmed by the Market Woman who has to pay a lot of taxes to export her goods outside the country and a lot more on sanitation which was seen as poor in the community.

Slum tourism sites are known for bad sanitation (Huysamen, Barnett, & Fraser, 2020). Notwithstanding, access to basic sanitation facilities is regarded as one of the aspects that should be considered for both residents and tourist in slum locations (Tumwebaze et al., 2023). Local residents in Ga mashie lack basic sanitation facilities such as refuse dump, toilet and urinal which has become a major challenge in the community. Due to this, the local residents either practice open defecation or queue for a longer time to ease themselves.

Issues around environmental management such as illegally dumping of waste and litter have a negative impact on slum tourism experience and health (Abduh, Yusuf, & Buraerah, 2020). This study shows that there is a negative effect of improper sanitation by resulting in outbreaks of diseases such as cholera confirmed by the Traditional Authority. Sanitation is important in forming an image of tourist destinations and tourists have revealed the high risk of contamination and disease, and associated costs in countries that lack basic sanitation facilities (Nayak & Jatav, 2023). Even though, efforts have been made to improve sanitation services by the government and through Zoomlion, sanitation challenges still persist in the community. Sanitation is collective effort and requires policy-makers, decision-makers and the community to act in a concerted way, to provide adequate and improved sanitation services and at the same time protect the health of tourists and local residents (Elysia & Wihadanto, 2023).

Not only should the health of tourist be protected but also their belongings and physical well-being. Over the past ten years, the influence of safety and insecurity on tourism has received increased attention (Opfermann, 2021). It has been stated that crime infuse fear and anxiety not only on tourists but also on the local residents at a destination. Based on the responses of participants, tourism has a negative impact on their community's safety and security. However, the police nor the local residents are actively against it even though they are aware of the route and area where crimes are usually committed. Several studies have shown the tourism industry's sensitivity to security-related news and hasty changes in security arrangements are the most important determinants of destination choice for potential tourists/travellers (Boakye, 2012).

Even though the local residents acknowledge the devastating effect of crime on their daily lives, no changes or security arrangements are being made to curb the situation. The police and the residents are aware of the areas where crime mostly occurs yet nothing has been done. Insecurity has negative effects on prospective tourists' perceptions of comfort, safety, and leisure choices of a destination country (Akamavi, Ibrahim, & Swaray, 2023a). Consequently, there are areas in the community where tourists are not to visit because of the possibility of crime, it creates fear and prevents the tourist from the full experience envisioned.

Contrarily to this, studies have suggested that crime does not always hurt tourism (Mataković & Mataković, 2019). For instance, it has been revealed that because people are inquisitive by nature, tourism demand tends to increase up to a threshold with low to moderate risks (Akamavi, Ibrahim, & Swaray, 2023) as seen in Ga mashie. The reason behind such an outcome could be that the attractiveness of a destination subdues the effect of perceived crime. Furthermore, an increased number of uniformed security officers can increase tourists' perception of safety and sense of destination security, reassuring visitors and increasing tourist arrivals (Akamavi, Ibrahim, & Swaray, 2023c) but in Ga mashie there is a reduced number of police patrolling areas that are known for crime. This negatively impacts productivity and the promotion of tourism in the community.

Empowerment in slum tourism is related to each other, that is, which stakeholders are with what interests in what political system and with what social and economic conditions, with how much power, understanding, and awareness in what community and finally with what policies and strategies participate in empowerment (Nisbett, 2017; Shafieisabet & Haratifard, 2020; Tong

et al., 2024). Consequently, measures used to empower residents located in slum tourism areas involves residents' participation, ability to petition and receive intended response, financial support, education and training etc (Aseye et al., 2015). Accordingly, the findings of the present study presented that the most used strategy for empowerment in the Ga mashie area are social, education, economic and political. These findings were found to have improved the living conditions of residents, enhance their capacity and distribution of power, create a sense of motivation and solidarity among community members and increased awareness on the importance of education and obtaining important skills.

Improved living conditions and solidarity have been mentioned as the most effective determinants of an empowered community (Malta, 2023). Several researchers have used these strategies for empowerment in different communities (Rahmadani et al., 2021; Surya et al., 2021). Through Social empowerment which mostly involved community participation, the local residents were able to identify challenges that are hindering their development and provided solutions. This has changed their belief in the government as the sole developer of the community and has created a sense of trust among themselves because they are able to form groups and elect competent people as their leaders. One of the major determinants that shows a community is socially empowered is when they can come together and form associations that oversee the development of the community (Kurniawan, Yulianto, Setiawan, Mladenov, & M. Ardiansyah, 2023).

Also, changing the beliefs of people living in slum to believe in themselves as a collective and provide solutions to their challenges such as sanitation has been reported as the ultimate result of social empowerment (Mehrolhasani, Yazdi-Feyzabadi, & Ghasemi, 2021). Some of the constraints faced by the community such as sanitation, finances, safety and security are partially resolved by the community. Empowerment of the Ga mashie community has created a sense of responsibility and change of perception which has led to cooperation and coordination between individuals and organizations for the effective management and development of Ga mashie. This is consistent with studies by Aseye et al. (2015), which stated that to effectively enhance the development of residents dwelling in slum tourism sites, the community must first change their beliefs and perspective through education and training.

Education is regarded as the right of every child in Ghana (Korankye-Sakyi et al., 2022). A study stated that an increased engagement with extra-curricular concepts in education promotes qualitative impacts on self-esteem, participation and leadership skills (Kim & Wargo, 2022.). There is unique community-based program for students to enhance their knowledge on curricular concepts, beyond the normal classroom activities and also strengthen the ability of teachers to deliver improved teaching-learning experiences in classrooms. When students are engaged outside of the classroom, they tend to fully understand concepts that were not clear (Delfino, 2019). In a technology driven world, computer literacy program is being driven to make the children and youth within the community well-equipped with basic technology and computer skills (Haleem, Javaid, Qadri, & Suman, 2022). The supply of computers to some of the basic schools in Ga mashie ensures that students attain basic computer skills in a technologically advanced world. Moreover, training on acquisition of skills is a central part for setting up of micro-enterprises and community development. To address the lack of technical skills amongst resident, a community skills center has been established which, unlike other skilling centers, allowed students with lower educational qualifications to enrol with nominal course fee. Due to skills training some residents have been trained to either take up jobs locally or become entrepreneurs. These beneficiaries comprise of college drops outs or community women who would like to work from home or near their homes.

In a study conducted in a slum in Kenya, the author reported the difficulty for people to participate in volunteer activities in an environment where they have no source of income (Kweku et al., 2020). People cooperate in participatory programs as long as there is income, otherwise, cooperation and sense of responsibility may decline (Hiilamo, 2022). Similarly, studies conducted on slum dwellers in Wa, one of the regional capital cities in Ghana, showed that low income and financial assistance is a challenge to financial empowerment and public participation. This was attributed to mismanagement by the government and lack of cooperation among slum dwellers (Abu-Salia et al., 2015). Findings from this study demonstrated a minor role of the government and a major role of individuals and private organization in economic empowerment process in the slums. The ability of the residents to be heard and the government's willingness to respond have a lot to do with the economic contribution of the community. A study investigated if the effect of economic contribution of slum areas merits the level of development in the community. It was reported that most of the economic contributions from slum tourism were used by the government for the development of other

communities and sectors (Fikire, Bires, & Emeru, 2022). Similarly, most of the proceeds from slum tourism are used by the government for the development of other sectors, hence, the lack of capital, employment and income among community members.

It has been reported that without the intervention of NGOs and the community, a large number of slum dwellers will suffer due to poverty (Hirai & Hiyane, 2022; Uddin, 2018). Even though local residents in Ga mashie face financial difficulties, with the help of Non-Governmental Organizations and other local cooperations, they are able to support themselves financially through community loan services. This provides an avenue for employment in the community and gives the residents a help-line to start their business. According to Bolnick (2018), associations within the slum community offer financial aids and services to community members as a way to reduce poverty (Bolnick, 2018). Similarly, cooperation between the people and these organizations enhances entrepreneurship, marketability and other avenues for income. During Homowo and chalewate festivals, the income of most businesses in the community increase. Moreover, residents with education and training act as tour guides and interact with the tourist, others with skilled labor such as the making artifacts are also engaged. Many studies have measured the impact of festivals on the local economies and one of the main benefits is the increase in income on both small and large businesses (Abunyewah, Erdiaw-Kwasie, Okyere, & Boateng, 2023; Mehmetoglu, 2014). This has been linked to the increased rate of currency exchange which influences prices of goods and services.

In developing countries, national and local governments play an important role in developing slums (Danso-Wiredu & Midheme, 2017). There's a negative impact of politics and some government approaches on slum empowerment programs which creates obstacles to the formation of community-based organizations, nongovernmental organization (NGO) efforts, and implementation of some other empowerment actions in the slums (B. Woo & Jun, 2020). However, residents' trust in empowerment actions increase their sense of commitment and their sustainability in the neighbourhood. To eliminate the challenges and barriers related to low trust in government and corruption associated with political parties found in this study, the community elected leaders among the residents who act as a bridge between people and officials (Ataöv, Kahraman, & Osmay, 2022; Khair, Lee, & Mokhtar, 2020; Tsai, 2014). The government as a main actor in any empowerment program must delegate some of its power to slum dwellers, nongovernmental institutions, or the private sector. Since the government is not

ready sharing power with the people of the slums, all empowerment programs are unlikely to be successful. Sometimes, the distribution of power is done but may not include the poorest people (Pansardi, 2016). By electing their own people to lead them as a community, adverse impact of change of political party is reduced. This also promotes their Involvement in decision-making, the governance of their country and community and the formulation of policies. Similarly, community participation in decision-making and all aspect of governance is very essential in political empowerment. The level at which residents are considered in policy-making influences the cultural values of the community. For example, in a study in Thailand, policies by government adversely influences the behaviours of residents creating an obstacle to community-based tourism (Sitikarn, 2021). This can also lead to a lack of responsibility and commitment among slum dwellers reducing election turn-up in slums. Contrary to this, residents in Ga mashie are aware of the influence of political activities and consider it as their responsibility to determine how it affects their lives. This confirms a study that stated that when slum dwellers are made aware of the influence of politics in their lives, the greater the sense of responsibility to make a suitable change (Agyabeng, Bawole, Ahenkan, Mensah, & Preko, 2022).

6 CONCLUSION

This study expands the understanding of the beneficial impact of slum tourism, constraints and empowerment in the Ga mashie community by using thematic analysis to explore responses of participants in an interview. This was done by providing solutions to the following research questions of the study: 1. What are the benefits of slum tourism in Ga mashie? 2. What are the constraints of slum tourism in the community? 3. How does slum tourism empower the residents in Ga mashie?

Firstly, on the benefits of slum tourism, this study showed that slum tourism is a vital source of employment, revenue, and development for the residents and the entire community of Ga mashie. Notwithstanding, much is needed by the community to reflect the revenue that is generated on their account because it is one of the most fundamental pillars contributing massively towards the economy of Ghana.

Secondly, in spite of the benefits that comes with tourism in Ga mashie, it is affected by constraints such as lack of community participation, sanitation, crime etc. This study also revealed that one of the major reasons why Ga mashie faces these constraints is project abandonment due to the corruptive nature of some political leaders and lack of maintenance culture in the country.

Finally, the community, government and private organizations has made plans to capacitate the community politically

, socio-economically, educationally and economically. These findings are relevant to the objectives of this study as insights into the benefits of slum tourism in the Ga mashie community, constraints of slum tourism in the community and empowerment have been established.

6.1 Recommendation

Slum tourism is officially recognized as an economic priority in Ghana, the attention towards its development is not enough. The country has a huge potential for its growth, but so far, this enormous potential has been coupled with challenges. Education and training of workers and

residents should be included in the complex of steps to be taken to improve and solve many of the challenges of the community. The government of Ghana together with other private organizations can collaborate with the community in decision making to enhance slum tourism for the benefit of country, community and tourists. Again, stakeholders should engage actively in the implementation of a state policy for the development of slum tourism. More so, they should ensure adequate provision of facilities and amenities that can enhance the living conditions of the residents positively to enhance the support of community residents towards tourism development in the community. Additionally, government organisations and private tourism developers must incorporate the local residents into future tourism development projects and decision-making processes.

6.2 Suggestion for future study

The local economic impact from slum tourism can more accurately and scientifically reflect the benefit and empowerment. Therefore, knowing the number of people living in the slum and their income can be fruitful. This might in particular be the case for politicians when they develop policies related to slum tourism. This study provides an overview of benefits of slum, constraints and empowerment of a slum community. It is possible that not all challenges, actors, scopes, interventions, and outcomes are identified because of community variations. Therefore, I suggest that future studies evaluate the negative and positive effect of tourism-related policies on the Ga mashie community.

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8 APPENDIX A

BENEFIT, CONSTRAINT AND EMPOWERMENT OF SLUM TOURISM IN GHANA

Interview Guide

Introduction

My study on empowerment and constraints of slum tourism in Ghana is for an academic purpose and your responses are much needed in gathering data for my research work. Hi [Participant Name], I am grateful that you participated in this interview. I want to get a clear understanding of slum tourism through this interview. I will keep your responses confidential and use them only for research.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND

1. What is the length of time lived in Ga mashie?
2. What role do you play in the community?
3. What is slum tourism?

SECTION B: IMPACT OF SLUM TOURISM IN GA MASHIE

4. What are some of the benefits of slum tourisms in the community?
5. How is the community involved in slum tourism?
6. Do you think more can be done to improve slum tourism development in the community?

SECTION C: CONSTRAINTS OF SLUM TOURISM IN GHANA

7. What are some challenges with slum tourism in the community?
8. How does slum tourism negatively affect the community?
9. Do you involve the community people in decisions concerning slum tourism?
10. How helpful is their contribution to slum tourism?

SECTION D: EMPOWERMENT OF SLUM TOURISM IN GHANA

11. How has any organization/government/individual/community stimulated slum tourism development?

12. Do you feel that it is morally/ethically appropriate/acceptable to do these tours in Ga Mashie?

Conclusion:

This is the end of our interview. You have been a great participant and I promise to keep your answers private. I appreciate your time and insightful comments. Regarding the research questions or slum tourism in general, do you have any additional thoughts or recommendations?

Thank you and have a nice day.

9 APPENDIX B

Are you interested in taking part in the research project “EMPOWERMENT AND CONSTRAINTS OF SLUM TOURISM IN GHANA”?

Purpose of the project

You are invited to participate in a research project where the main purpose is to evaluate empowerment of slum tourism in Ghana.

The study has the research objectives of;

- Identify the impact of slum tourism to the Ghanaian economy
- Examine the constrains of slum tourism in Ghana
- Assess the empowerment of slum tourism in Ghana

As a Master's thesis, the study will be submitted to UiT The Arctic University of Norway And published to aid in policy making and inform decision making on slum and tourism.

Which institution is responsible for the research project?

[UiT The Arctic University of Norway] is responsible for the project (data controller).

If applicable, provide names and describe cooperation with other institutions, external partners, joint data controllers etc.

Why are you being asked to participate?

The sample for the selected respondents on random convenient and purposeful method to be able to attain information from key people who will be able to give the needed information to answer the research questions. The study has asked seven (7) people in total to participate in this research study.

Also, you were highly recommended by some members of the community of a person who has immense information regarding the topic.

What does participation involve for you?

Participating in this research will mean you accepting to be interviewed with the aid of an interview guide. To which the interview will be recorded with the help of a digital recorder to be transcribed latter for use of the information, I will be taking notes of the interview. The interview will take approximately 45 mins with questions impact and challenges of slum tourism and their empowerment

Participation is voluntary

Participation in the project is voluntary. If you chose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. All information about you will then be made

anonymous. There will be no negative consequences for you if you chose not to participate or later decide to withdraw.

Your personal privacy – how we will store and use your personal data

We will only use your personal data for the purpose(s) specified here and we will process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation (the GDPR).

My supervisor will have access to these data collected

The information sharing between people who will access the data will have a secured designated access to portals where information will be shared. Their log in will be required before they will be able to access the data or information.

In the response, the names and personal details of respondents will be replaced with a code. The list of names, contact details and respective codes will be stored separately from the rest of the collected data», you will store the data on a research server, locked away and can only be accessed with a log in.

Personal details of respondents will not be recognized in the final report as it will be coded and not to be replaced.

What will happen to your personal data at the end of the research project?

The planned end date of the project is July 2024. In the reporting there will be a digital report which will be published and be reachable in the space of the university the world at large in the field of slum tourism.

Data will be anonymised at the end of the project and it will be kept as such

If the collected data will not be anonymised at the end of the project.

Your rights

So long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to:

- access the personal data that is being processed about you
- request that your personal data is deleted
- request that incorrect personal data about you is corrected/rectified
- receive a copy of your personal data (data portability), and
- send a complaint to the Norwegian Data Protection Authority regarding the processing of your personal data

What gives us the right to process your personal data?

We will process your personal data based on your consent.

Based on an agreement with [UiT The Arctic University of Norway], The Data Protection Services of Sikt – Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research has assessed that the processing of personal data in this project meets requirements in data protection legislation.

Where can I find out more?

If you have questions about the project, or want to exercise your rights, contact:

- [UiT The Arctic University of Norway] via [Bente Heimtun, Professor of Tourism, School of Economics, email: bente.heimtun@uit.no phone: +4778450293/+4741767596]. For student projects you must include contact details for the supervisor/the person responsible for the project, not just the student.
- Our Data Protection Officer: [Annikken Steinbakk]

If you have questions about how data protection has been assessed in this project by Sikt, contact:

- email: (personvermtjenester@sikt.no) or by telephone: +47 73 98 40 40.

Yours sincerely,

Project Leader

Student (John Keney Ademang)

(Researcher/supervisor)

Consent form

I have received and understood information about the project *on* empowerment of slum tourism in Ghana and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I give consent:

- to participate in an interview
- for the researcher to give information about me to this project*
- for information about me to be published in a way that may be recognised in codes*
- for my personal data to be stored after the end of the project for educational or academic purposes*

I give consent for my personal data to be processed until the end of the project.

(Signed by participant, date)