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ABSTRACT NO. 22

The Trend in Tourist Arrivals in Mombasa County before and After the Introduction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the trend in tourist arrivals in Mombasa County before and after the introduction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), specifically to understand the impact of transportation infrastructure on domestic tourism patterns.

Methodology: A descriptive research design was used, employing both quantitative and qualitative data to assess trends in tourist arrivals, economic impacts, and community perceptions. Stratified random sampling was applied to select 250 respondents, including domestic tourists, tourism-related businesses, and local stakeholders.

Findings: The introduction of the SGR resulted in a 15-20% increase in domestic tourist arrivals and a 20% rise in revenue for tourism-related businesses, driven by improved accessibility and reduced travel times.

Unique Contributions to Theory, Practice, and Policy: This study applies Tourism System Theory and Sustainable Development Theory to assess the impact of infrastructure on tourism. It offers valuable insights into tourism policy, recommending sustainable tourism practices, greater community engagement, and further research to evaluate the long-term effects of the SGR on local tourism and economic development.

Keywords:

Tourist Arrivals, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Mombasa County, Domestic Tourism

