

Abstract

In the last decade, the lake tourism as one of the newest branches of natural tourism has been under attention of scientific societies. The experts of the field of tourism believe in the high capacity of lakes as important targets of tourists. Perhaps it is not too unrealistic because some lakes like lagoons are ranged in the most unique, most beautiful, most natural, and most amazing natural phenomena that everyone has lots of exquisite, attractive, unknown, and mysterious appearances. The new approaches of tourism development focus on those strategies that emphasize on the protection of the pristine landscapes and thus on the local people's benefits from the advantages of lake tourism developments. This article based on the mentioned point of view, studies the qualities and quantities of prone areas of lake tourism in one of the most touristic regions of Iran (Fars province) and the study of the effects of this issue on the rural settlements. Numerous lakes of Fars province show a series of interconnected attractive elements and can cause lots of special socio- economic and physical conditions in the villages surrounding these lakes. So, the goal of current paper was to identify the prone areas of tourism on the rural regions of Fars province and its socio- economic and physical effects in these regions. Based on the description- analytical method of research and by use of library resources, field studies and questionnaire, collected information analyzed using the AHP model, GIS software and Kendall correlation coefficient in the SPSS software. The results showed that optimal zones of lake tourism in the Fars province have a priority into development. Also the results showed that the socio- economic and physical effects of lake tourism decreases with the increase of the distance of the rural region from the lakes. In another words, the results are showing a significant correlation between the effects of lake tourism on the socio- economic and physical aspects with the distance between the rural regions and the under study lakes by virtue of Kendall correlation coefficient (-0.470) at the 0.01 level.

Keywords: Lake Tourism Effects, Optimal Zones, Rural Regions, Fars Province.



University of Zabol
Graduate School
Faculty of Literature and Human Science
Department of Geography

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Supervisor
Dr. Gh. Fazelniya

Advisors
Dr. S. Asghari Lafmejani

By
M. Masoumi Jeshni

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