

SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE CURRENT STATUS AND NATURE CONSERVATION IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN THE CADASTRAL OF TATRANSKÁ LOMNICA

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Abstract

Sociological survey of the current status and nature conservation in relation to the development of tourism in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica

The main part of the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica belongs to the Tatra National Park. The activity of humans is limited there because nature is protected by law. This is the first time there will be building of new accommodation and sport facilities, especially after November 2004 when was severe wind damage in the Tatra region. In this thesis we focus on the opinions of respondents on the current state of the environment and its protection in the municipalities of the cadastral Tatranská Lomnica in relation to the present tourist business development.

Key words

Tatranská Lomnica cadastral, the Tatra National Park, regional development, opinions of respondents

1. Introduction

The current structure of land in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica depends on a combination of natural conditions and human activity. The cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica is located in part of northern Slovakia. It is a part of the Prešov Region and district of Poprad. There are Tatranská Lesná, Tatranská Lomnica, Tatranské Matliare, Kežmarské Žľaby and Tatranská Kotlina villages in Tatranská Lomnica cadastral. The main part of the region belongs to the Tatra National Park. The activity of humans is limited there because nature is protected by law. This is the first time there will be building of new accommodation and sport facilities, especially after November 2004 when was severe wind damage in the Tatra region. Many people consider this activity illegal but on the other side there is also a positive response to regional development. The main aim of the research was to ascertain the opinions of respondents on the current state of the environment and its protection in the municipalities of the cadastral Tatranská Lomnica in relation to the present tourist business development. The pattern of respondents consists of living people (home residents) in the region and also the people who were there for just a short period (visitors). We were interested in whether or not the respondents agree with the current building of new accommodation and sport facilities and where they can see positive or negative sides of tourist business development.

2. Methods of research

The survey was implemented by questionnaire method. The questionnaire consists of ten questions. Majority of questions were open. The questions No.3., No.8., No.9. and No. 10. were semi-closed. Our selection of the respondents was pointing. We asked 30 respondents living in Tatranská Lomnica cadastral and 70 respondents who was visiting the region temporary. We were giving questionnaire to people travelling in Tatranská Lesná, Tatranská Lomnica, Tatranské Matliare, Kežmarské Žľaby, Tatranská Kotlina and on tourist path in Dolina Kežmarskej Bielej vody, in Malá Studená dolina, in Veľká Studená dolina and in Dolina siedmych prameňov.

The research was running from August 2013 to January 2014. The results of the research are presented in absolute frequency and relative frequency, using tables, graphs and numerical characteristics. Using a questionnaire is helpful to research the potential of the landscape and its utilization in the regional development of the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica on examples of landscape structure changes.

3. The analysis and interpretation of results

The questionnaire was completed using one hundred respondents. All questionnaires were returned to us completed (100% return). Three participants refused to complete a questionnaire. We replaced them with new ones. Total results are presented in absolute frequency in tables.

Question No. 1.: Majority of the land in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica is part of the Tatra National Park. Do you consider the development of tourist business in this area important? Should it be developed? (Tab. 1)

Tab. 1:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	71	21	50
No	26	8	18
I don't know	3	1	2

Question No. 2.: Do you think that the development of tourism and other activities of humans in a natural environment are in accordance with the law of nature conservation in this area? (Tab. 2)

Tab. 2:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	24	6	18
No	71	24	47
I don't know	5	0	5

Question No.3.: Do you think is there environmental degradation in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica? (Tab. 3)

Tab. 3.

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	65	21	44
No	35	9	26
I don't know	0	0	0

If you say yes, write the damaged location or activity which impairs the natural environment. 58 from 65 respondents who said yes, supplemented their reply. They reported an environmental degradation like garbage pollution, shortening of hiking trails, dog faeces, contaminated areas of garbage nearby accommodation, fumes from cars, construction of new accommodation, too many tourists on hiking trails, scaring wild animals, damage of vegetation by forest work. Some respondents reported a specific area of environmental damage by the construction of ski trails from Skalnaté pleso to Tatranská Lomnica. Several respondents indicated that there is a devastation of the natural environment outside the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica (damaged location in the area of Strbske Pleso).

Question No.4.: Do you agree with expanding the construction of new accommodation facilities in Tatranská Lomnica? (Tab. 4)

Tab. 4:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	37	11	26
No	61	19	42
I don't know	2	0	2

Question No. 5.: Do you agree with the planned new cableway from Hrebienok territory to Skalnaté pleso (it would be situated in the territory of 4th and 5th degree of nature conservation? (Tab. 5)

Tab. 5:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	29	7	22
No	71	23	48
I don't know	0	0	0

Question No. 6.: Do you agree with opening new tourist paths in the cadastral Tatranská Lomnica? (for example a new tourist path to Baranie sedlo which is between Malá Studená dolina and Dolina Zeleného plesa)? (Tab. 6)

Tab. 6:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	65	15	50
No	34	14	20
I don't know	1	1	0

Question No. 7.: There are areas with 4th and 5th degrees of nature protection in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica. Do you agree with building new sports facilities in this area? (Tab. 7)

Tab. 7:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Yes	21	6	15
No	71	24	47
I don't know	8	0	8

Question No. 8.: Circle the activity or write your opinion on human activities that are appropriate to the development of tourism in the region. (Tab. 8, Fig. 1)

Tab. 8:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Build more new accommodation facilities	13	3	10
Build more new sport facilities and sports complex	25	5	20
Reconstruct old accommodation	79	27	52
Reconstruct old sport areas	91	29	62
Others	15	3	12

Some respondents added the answers. They would welcome cheaper accommodation and cheaper restaurant services (9 participants), a higher number of catering establishments (4), entertainment areas for children (2) and cinema (1 person).

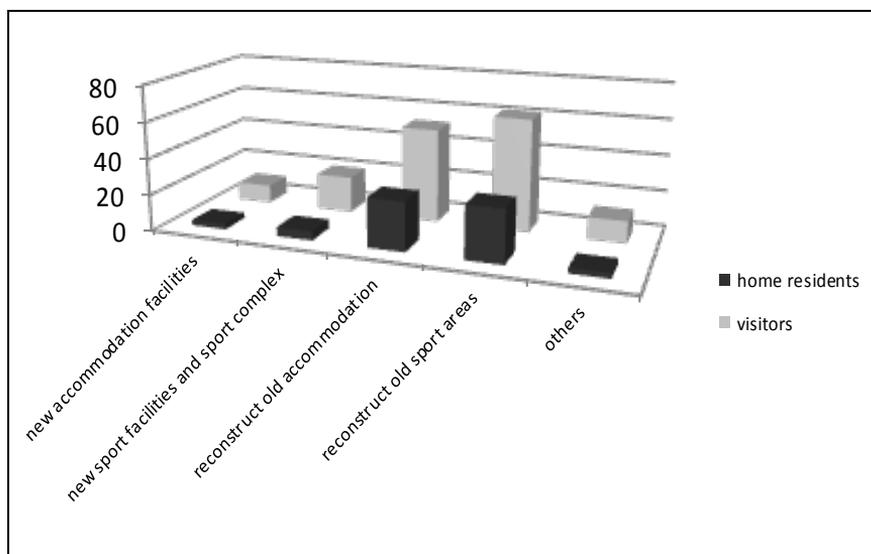


Fig. 1: The opinions of all respondents on the development potential of tourism in region (in absolute frequency).

Question No.9.: The number of tourists in this region is: (Tab. 9)

Tab. 9:

Statement	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Low	31	4	27
Low just out of high season	24	17	7
High	35	5	30
Just enough	10	4	6
I don't know	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0

Question No. 10.: What are the consequences of tourism for this area of Tatras? (You can select both the positive and negative consequence). You can write examples of positive and negative consequence. (Tab.10)

Tab. 10:

Consequences of tourism	Number of respondents		
	together	home residents	visitors
Positive	51	19	32
Negative	46	11	35
I don't know	3	0	3
Others	0	0	0

Some respondents completed their answers (11 respondents). As positive consequence actors reported recreation for tourists, financial injection for the region, job opportunities, the possibility of exploring the region, modernization, construction of roads, built recreation center is attractive for foreign tourists. The respondents mentioned pollution and devastation of nature as negative consequences.

Tab. 11: The review of responses of all respondents to the questions No.1 – No.7 (in absolute frequency and relative frequency).

	Question	Statement	absolute frequency	relative frequency	absolute frequency	relative frequency
			home residents		visitors	
1.	Majority of the land in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica is part of the Tatra National Park. Do you consider the development of tourist business in this area important? Should it be developed?	yes	21	21%	50	50%
		no	8	8%	18	18%
		I don't know	1	1%	2	2%
2.	Do you think that the development of tourism and other activities of humans in a natural environment are in accordance with the law of nature conservation in this area?	yes	6	6%	18	18%
		no	24	24%	47	47%
		I don't know	0	0%	5	5%
		no	24	24%	47	47%
		I don't know	0	0%	8	8%

Tab. 11: The review of responses of all respondents to the questions No.1 – No.7 (in absolute frequency and relative frequency) (continue).

3.	Do you think is there environmental degradation in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica?	yes	21	21%	44	44%
		no	9	9%	26	26%
		I don't know	0	0%	0	0%
4.	Do you agree with expanding the construction of new accommodation facilities in Tatranská Lomnica?	yes	11	11%	26	26%
		no	19	19%	42	42%
		I don't know	0	0%	2	2%
5.	Do you agree with the planned new cableway from Hrebienok territory to Skalnaté pleso (it would be situated in the territory of 4 th and 5 th degree of nature conservation)?	yes	7	7%	22	22%
		no	23	23%	48	48%
		I don't know	0	0%	0	0%
6.	Do you agree with opening new tourist paths in the cadastral Tatranská Lomnica? (for example a new tourist path to Baranie sedlo which is between Malá Studená dolina and Dolina Zeleného plesa)?	yes	15	15%	50	50%
		no	14	14%	20	20%
		I don't know	1	1%	0	0%
7.	There are areas with 4 th and 5 th degrees of nature protection in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica. Do you agree with building new sports facilities in this area?	yes	6	6%	15	15%

4. Conclusion

71 % of all respondents favour development of tourism in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica. They see the inflow of finance for the region, the modernization of tourism infrastructure and the creation of opportunities for recreation and job opportunity as main positive of development. The respondents realize that the nature of the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica is part of the Tatra National Park and so they can see negative aspects of tourism development, too. Here respondents indicated in particular devastation and pollution of the natural environment by visitors. More than half of respondents (71%) think that there is no respect of the laws of nature protection in tourism development. At the same time 65% of respondents advocated the view that the environment in this region is harmed. The people aware the treasure of nature in the Tatra National Park because majority of respondents disagree with the construction of sports facilities in the area of 4th and 5th degree of nature protection. They disagree with planned cableway from Hrebienok territory to Skalnaté pleso. Majority of respondents would like the reconstruction of old accommodation and old sport facilities. Most of respondents disagree with construction of new, especially in Tatranská Lomnica. Approximately half of the respondents believe that the region is visited enough, some respondents think there are many visitors. More than half of respondents (65%) would welcome the opening of new tourist paths. The opinions of home residents and visitors differed only slightly. In our opinion, in question No. 9 (a view on the number of tourists in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica) the opinion of the home residents is more objective, because they move yearly in the region.

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Summary

The Tatra National Park is exceptional. A tourism development can disrupt the sensitive natural environment in this area. Therefore, any intervention to the nature it's needed to rethink. From this perspective, a sociological research, especially the questionnaire method can be used as an auxiliary method in the planning of regional development. 71 % of all respondents favour development of tourism in the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica. They see the inflow of finance for the region, the modernization of turism infrastructure and the creation of opportunities for recreation and job oportunity as main positive of development. The respondents realize that the nature of the cadastral of Tatranská Lomnica is part of the Tatra National Park and so they can see negative aspects of tourism development, too. Here respondents indicated in particular devastation and pollution of the natural environment by visitors. More than half of respondents (71%) think that there is no respect of the laws of nature protection in tourism developmnet. At the same time 65% of respondents advocated the view that the environment in this region is harmed. The people aware the treasure of nature in the Tatra National Park because majority of respondents disagree with the construction of sports facilities in the area of 4th and 5th degree of nature protection. They disagree with planned cableway from Hrebienok territory to Skalnaté pleso. Majority of respondents would like the reconstruction of old accommodation and old sport facilities. Most of respondents disagree with construction of new, especially in Tatranská Lomnica. Approximately half of the respondents believe that the region is visited enough, some respondents think there are many visitors. More than half of respondents (65%) would welcome the opening of new tourist paths. The opinions of home residents and visitors differed only slightly.

