



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Locals' Perceptions of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games' Effects on Urban Tourism: A Case Study in Konya

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ABSTRACT

Today, tourism has remained one of the most important sectors of the world economy, comprising sports, festivals, and recreation. Therefore, the purpose of this research is twofold: first, it seeks to ascertain the influence that the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games had on Konya tourism; second, it investigates the locals' perspectives regarding the impact that the Games had on their lives. According to the study's findings, these games significantly impact the local economy, particularly in terms of tourism. However, this growth may come at the expense of traffic congestion, contrary to what some individuals may believe. The study also discusses the existence of emotional solidarity between tourists and locals as a way of socializing. This social engagement is a result of the study's findings. This emotional aspect contributes to the enrichment of the relationships between the tourists and the society hosting them, which ultimately impacts Konya's tourism industry over the long run. Importantly, these findings have practical implications for the tourism industry in Konya, providing insights into how to manage the potential negative effects of large-scale events on local communities. This study aims to explain tourism's role in promoting unity and sustainable development in the communities of Konya. Understanding these opportunities is a significant contribution.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is one of the constantly developing fields crucial for the success of worldwide economies by providing such services as sports, celebrations, and leisure. However, among all the shown forms of tourism, sports tourism is a prevalent and effective type of tourism since it contributes to attracting large numbers of tourists and bringing significant economic profits. From the historical analysis, it can be concluded that the connection between sport and

tourism began in ancient times when sporting events were an inalienable part of cultural events (Büşra, 1996; Gibson, 1998; Li, 2019; Moulay, 2019). In today's world, sports tourism has evolved from a complementary to an essential component of tourism offered for different countries worldwide (Ziakas, 2020).

It is acknowledged that sports tourism is also a complex phenomenon with positive consequences that affect a country's economic, social, and

environmental spheres (Gürbüz, 2002; Jam et al., 2014). In this context, international sporting events, assuming significance for boosting the visibility of the host countries and cities, have a significant place. These events give tangible returns on investment, mainly from an influx of tourists. Still, other positive impacts embrace long-term gains such as infrastructure development and integrations with the international market (Öncel, 2018).

Examining the role of sports tourism at the international level, a unique case study emerges—the 5th ISG held in Konya, Turkey. This event, a tournament for athletes from different Islamic countries, not only strengthens cultural ties and unity but also presents a distinct research opportunity. Despite the significance of such events, little research focuses on their specific effects, particularly from a gendered perspective and the stakeholders' point of view. This literature gap underscores the need for a study that hones in on the impact of the ISG on Konya. This study aims to delve into the economic and social effects of the 5th ISG on the tourism business in Konya. The primary objectives are to assess the financial impact of the ISG on Konya and to understand the local stakeholders' attitudes toward the event. The research is guided by the following questions: Isodzi (2007) regards the possession of an ISG as important mainly due to its perceived economic advantages. The following aspect relates to the perceived social and emotional value that the residents assign to the games about their city.

Ernest consequently highlighted Konya, chosen as the World Capital of Sport for 2023, as offering a favorable context to this research. The ISG has brought about a new image for Konya, attracting a large number of tourists to the area. However, this influx of visitors has also led to both positive and negative impacts on the community, such as traffic jams and other social disruptions. This dichotomy underscores the complex nature of the ISG's effects on Konya.

All the responses in this study were gathered through face-to-face interviews with local inhabitants. This personal approach allowed for a deeper understanding of the respondents' views and experiences, enhancing the credibility of our findings. This qualitative research method proved to be highly effective in highlighting the detailed effects of the ISG

on the community.

In summary, this study delves into the effects of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games on urban tourism in Konya. By analyzing both economic and social perspectives, this research contributes to our understanding of the effects of such events on the development and evolution of host cities. The implications of our findings are particularly relevant for policymakers and stakeholders in tourism and sports, providing them with valuable insights into the benefits and drawbacks of large-scale events.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This segment provides a broad literature review on events, festivals—in this case, sports—and tourism— and the concept of perception on these subjects. The section begins by examining events and their purposes. Further, this section considers the importance of assessing the perception of the local community as regards the impact of tourism and events. This segment examines sport tourism—its past, present, and impact on the environments that indulge in it.

Events and tourism

According to Jago and Shaw (1998), cited by Aideed, (2021), events are a one-time or infrequently occurring occurrence of limited time that offers the consumer leisure and social encounters outside their daily life courses. Temporal, planned routines and venue are the parameters, according to Getz and Page (2007). Public events are planned and normally have a format that the public uses depending on the timetable set; addictive activities such as music, food, and drinks make up the icons of the event (Ayob et al., 2013). Such events are highly preferred nowadays because the occasion offers the participants new and exciting ways to engage (Light et al., 2020).

Event tourism is, therefore, incomplete without sport tourism due to the widely acknowledged potential of sport tourism to attract international travelers, grow tourism consumption, and present a good image of the host destination, according to Oladeji et al. (2022). In this respect, a series of major events, such as the Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG), hold considerable potential to boost the promotion and development of tourism considerably.

Perception is the procedure for acquiring knowledge

that entails creating a unique set of attitudes toward products, locales, and organizations from the collected data. It involves choosing or filtering some aspects of the environment and then placing them together into a meaningful pattern of the world (Reisinger and Turner, 2003). The general idea of perception can be understood concerning people's sensitivity to environmental stimuli, especially sports activities (Barnes, 2015).

Therefore, evaluating the socio-cultural impact of tourists requires an assessment of local people's views or attitudes because the impacts in this regard are qualitative and cannot be measured quantitatively (Dyer, 2018). People in the locality are stakeholders who can help in the successful arrangement of events, particularly in sports tourism (Rasoolimanesh and Seyfi, 2020). Evaluating residents' attitudes enables consideration of qualitative socio-cultural factors of tourism that may define the effectiveness of implemented programs.

Sports tourism and its impacts

Sport has a long history and, at first, was connected with protection; afterward, with life and existence (Hanci, 2017; Sürme et al., 2017). Sports tourism can be defined as travels hinged on activities involving sporting activities for leisure purposes (Gibson, 1998). It positively affects economic and physical construction, helps improve the marketing of cities in terms of tourism, and benefits social and cultural relations (Can and Emiroğlu, 2022; Yalçın, 2014).

This way, it became clear that international sports organizations enable the transference of culture and possess long-term socio-cultural impacts (Konstantaki, 2008). Spectacular events such as the Olympic Games enhance the local populace's involvement in social and sports activities, as noted during the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 (Malfas et al., 2004).

Sport tourism in Turkey

Sports tourism is significant for Turkey to establish new strategies to eliminate conventional tourism constraints (Yeşil, 2015). Istanbul has hosted most of the world's prestigious sports bodies, helping develop the region's economy (Gül, 2019; Ersungur and Akinci, 2013). Nonetheless, sports tourism also brings some drawbacks to its host country, such as for instance, the outcomes of the economic crisis after the Summer

Olympic Games in Athens mentioned by Toramanlı (2014).

It is quite possible to create solidarity and democracy in tourism and sports by arming people with information and enhancing their knowledge about decimal groups and other related matters.

Solidarity in tourism and sport

Cohesion in sports has been fostered enormously by the support of national policies and programs (Putri & Moustakas, 2022). It is plausible to argue that through tourism, the issue of solidarity can be solved, and means to tackle global changes and crises can be afforded. Research has confirmed that consumers' affective reassurance positively impacts tourists, which brings about positive changes in the images tourists have of the proposed destinations and the level of travel (Joo, Cho, & Woonsnam, 2023).

Based on the idea of emotional connectivity, the concept of solidarity-driven tourism supports local community development and charitable initiatives (Chua et al., 2022). However, the issues of power relations, social justice, and culture should also be considered to place a focus on equity and sustainability (Rasoolimanesh and Seyfi, 2020).

The 5th Islamic solidarity games and Konya

The 5th Islamic Solidarity Games and Konya's imminent conclusiveness have had many significant and unimportant potentially profitable evolutions for all participants and stakeholders commercially and in tourism alike. Through this mega event, it will be appreciated how the ISG, an organization that caters to the athletes' brotherly relations followed by friendly relations among Islamic countries, affects the host cities. The 5th ISG, which took place in Konya from August 9 to 18, 2022, was attended by 4,186 shooters from 56 countries (ISSF, 2022). Konya provided new and more facilities for the event, and national athletes performed brilliantly by getting new medals on several occasions (Tiryaki, 2022). This considers the ability of sports tourism to generate economic revenues, cultural exchanges, and unity among people.

METHOD

Research design

The study employs a qualitative research paradigm to discern the ISG's impact on tourism in Konya, as perceived by its residents. The choice of this approach

was driven by the desire to delve into the intricacies of the participants' experiences and perceptions of the phenomenon under study. The methodology involves literature compilation, data analysis through statistical tests, and interviews with local inhabitants to gather primary data, emphasizing the importance of their unique perspectives.

Participant selection

The selection of informants was a crucial step in ensuring the collection of diverse and comprehensive opinions regarding the effects of the ISG in Konya. The sampling strategy of the study was a "convenience sampling" technique to administer the questionnaires to the participants sourced from the Konya Center. This was done as a measure of convenience in reaching out and getting the participants. The sample comprised 21 people from the local community who were, first of all, chosen for the research. Nevertheless, the study was conducted on a sample of ten participants by eliminating the responses from eleven participants whose responses resembled each other, ensuring a wide range of perspectives.

Data collection methods

Semi-structured interviews: The data collection was carried out through face-to-face, semi-structured interviews, a highly effective technique that allowed the researcher to gain a comprehensive understanding from the participant's perspective. The interview technique was chosen for its efficacy in providing detailed information in the participant's own words (Bogdan and Biklen, 2007). The semi-structured approach of the interviews allowed the researchers to be more flexible in additional questioning in specific aspects of interest while maintaining general standards of comparison in all interviews.

The interviews consisted of eight semi-structured questions designed to elicit participants' awareness, experiences, and perceptions of the ISG:

- Do you know that the Islamic Solidarity Games were held in Konya? (Where did you hear about it?)
- Did you go to watch the Islamic Solidarity Games? (Which one did you go to watch, and why?)
- Do you think the "concept" of the Islamic Solidarity Games is suitable for this organization?

- Has the organization of the Islamic Solidarity Games been beneficial for Konya and our country? In what way?
- Has there been tourism activity? Have you felt this tourism activity?
- Which sectors or individuals benefited the most from the activities of the Islamic Solidarity Games?
- Would you like the Islamic Solidarity Games to be held again?
- Which sport do you think is the most important in such activities?

All the interviews were conducted with the participant's permission, adhering to the principles of ethical research. The participants were briefed on the investigation's goals, the respondents' anonymity, and the intent to use the data for research purposes. Informed consent was obtained from all the participants in the study, and they filled out consent forms, ensuring the research was conducted with integrity and respect for the participants' rights.

Data analysis techniques

All the interviews carried out during the study were audio recorded and later transcribed to form an extensive database for the study. This paper aimed to describe and compare behavior patterns in a purposive sample of children through the thematic analysis methodology. This method involved several steps: familiarization, where the researcher went through the transcriptions and transcripts numerous times to get a feel of what was said; coding, which involved the identification of codes across the entire study to capture specifics of data that are relevant to the research questions; theme development, where codes are grouped into potential themes, and the lists are reviewed to check the validity of the exercise; and defining and labeling themes, where each theme is defined and labeled appropriately. Thematic analysis facilitated the identification of the main themes that captured the participants' perceptions and experiences with reasonable depth while observing the principles of validity, reliability, and usability to guarantee meaningful results (Nowell et al., 2017). This paper offers a theoretical framework for analyzing the effects of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games on the tourism sector of Konya and the attitudes of the people residing in the area. The

study's convenience of qualitative sampling seeks to inform the richness of the participants' experiences, which is beneficial to policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers in the area of sport tourism.

FINDINGS

The participants were coded as YHK- (local community participants), and their answers were provided in order in the study. Local community participants were asked the first question, "Do you know that the Islamic solidarity games are held in Konya? (Where did you hear about it?". Most of the participants (89, 11%) knew about ISG. Sources of information were billboards (18,18%), television (18,18%), social media (27,27%), and posters (45,45%).

I do not know (YHK-1). I know. I heard it on TV...(YHK-2),... I know from billboards and internet sites. (YHK-3),... I know it from billboards and the internet...(YHK-4),... I know it as I saw it on billboards and posters. (YHK-5),... I am aware of this, as I saw it on posters in Konya. (YHK-6),... Sure. I saw them through social media (YHK-7), and yes, it is written everywhere; it was on billboards and TV. (YHK-8),... yes, I know it after seeing them on posters... (YHK-9)... Yes, I know. I saw them on billboards. (YHK-10). Yes, I first learned about them on posters, then met them one-on-one because they stayed at my workplace hotel (YHK-11).

Question 2: Did you go to watch the Islamic Solidarity Games? (Which one did you go to watch and why?)" were asked to the local community participants, and only one person answered that they went. It was observed that most participants did not go to watch the games (81,81%) for different reasons, such as work life and being out of the city.

I didn't go to watch... (YHK-1), no, I wasn't here... (YHK-2),... no, I Didn't go... (YHK-3), unfortunately, I didn't go... (YHK-4),... I didn't Go... (YHK-5),... I watched it on TV sometimes... (YHK-6),... no, I didn't Go... (YHK-7),... yes, cycling race... (YHK-8),... no, I didn't go... (YHK-9) I never had a

chance to watch it. (YHK-10),... I couldn't go... (YHK- 11).

Question 3, "Do you think the concept of "Islamic Solidarity Games" is appropriate for this organization?" was asked of the local community participants. Most of the participants (63%) said that they were appropriate. The remaining participants (36,36%) stated that it was inappropriate and that religion should not be mixed with sports.

This is a suitable name. (YHK-1),... It is not because it is made under the title of Islamic games, but because there were people with different religious beliefs among the players. (YHK-2), suitable... (YHK-3) ... well, of course, since it is held between Muslims countries, yes, it is appropriate. (YHK-4),... It is appropriate... (YHK-5),... I don't think so because people of other religions also participate... (YHK-6),... I don't think so because something else could be used instead of the word Islamic... (YHK-7), appropriate... (YHK-8),... not, the people there belong to different religions, so I don't think so... (YHK-9),... yes, it is an appropriate name because Muslim countries are emphasized... (YHK-10)... so yes, I think it is appropriate because there are citizens from Islamic countries... (YHK-11).

Question 4: Has the organization of the Islamic Solidarity Games been beneficial for Konya or the country? In what way has it been beneficial?". Most of the answers (81,81%) indicated that they thought it was beneficial in terms of promotion, tourism, and the economy. One participant stated that they were unsure.

I do not know because I do not know anything about the organization. But, of course, it has happened... (YHK-1),... I'm still determining... (YHK-2). Yes, it has happened. It has happened, especially in terms of the promotion of Konya (YHK-3), and we may have shown in sports competitions how successful Konya's

position can be in the Olympics. (YHK-4) ... It has happened. (YHK-5),... it has been, because in terms of businesses or touristic regions here... (YHK-6),... it has been useful only in terms of tourism... (YHK-7), A little bit of it introduced the country; it introduced Konya. (YHK-8) It has been, I mean after all, many foreign people came here; at least, I There was some movement... (YHK-9) ... This is beneficial. It has been very useful in terms of tourism and the economy. (YHK-10), ... I do not think so because I heard there was little trade. (YHK-11).

Local participants were asked the 5th question, "Has there been any tourism activity based on the Islamic Solidarity Games? Did you feel this tourism mobility?" was asked. Participants in closed sectors felt this mobility (54,54%), while the other participants (36.36%) did not feel it or see tourism mobility. It Must have happened. I didn't feel it... (YHK-1),... It could be; I'm not sure... (YHK-2),... It happened. I mean the density of arrivals and departures and the number of tourists entering and leaving the country. (YHK-3),... yes, we have already seen it clearly... (YHK-4),... I didn't feel it much... (YHK-5) ... It happened because many athletes from different countries came, and many people came. I didn't realize... (YHK-6)... I didn't go; I didn't feel it... (YHK-7),... it didn't happen... (YHK-8) It happened. I was not here... (YHK-9)... definitely, people from different countries participated and supported the country regarding economy and tourism. (YHK-10),... I mean, there must have been. It was very much felt in our hotel; it was very busy... (YHK-11).

Local community respondents were asked the 6th question, "Which sectors or individuals have benefited the most from the Islamic Solidarity Games activities?" While the most common answer was that local traders benefited the most (63.63%), answers were also

received from places such as hotels and restaurants (36.36%).

... tradesmen... (YHK-1),... probably our own nation, our own people... (YHK-2),... those who participated in the Olympics, those who want to represent themselves, apart from these, the number of people who come to the country as tourists... (YHK-3). It could be as tradesmen... (YHK-4); if it were, the tradesmen around the stadium may have benefited... (YHK-5) Businesses and hotels may have benefited from this touristic aspect. (YHK-6); hotels and restaurants have benefited. Incoming tourists may have visited our museums; they may have visited our natural places... (YHK-7),... tradesmen around Mevlana... (YHK-8),... people, everyone, I mean the people here... local people... (YHK-9). Definitely, primarily tradesmen benefited. Afterward, people, that is, municipalities, may have cultural museums and tourist places; other than that, there may be different tradesmen (YHK-10). As I said, there may be tourism, there may be trade, and there may be shopping. (YHK-11).

Question 7, "Would you like the Islamic Solidarity Games to be held again?" was asked to the local community participants. A few participants (27, 27%) stated that they did not want it to be held again (because it was negatively affected by the density and crowdedness of the city). In contrast, the other participants (63, 63%) said they wanted it to be held again, thinking it would be good for the city.

Yes, (YHK-1), according to my own field, I would want... (YHK-2),... Yes, I would like the promotion to continue in the same way... (YHK-3),... I would always like to have such tourism or sports movements in our country. (YHK-4) It can be; we would like to... (YHK-5),... I want to, there is mobility, and more countries know our country... (YHK-6),... I don't want to; if it is to be done, the word Islamic can be removed, and other organizations can

be made... (YHK-7). No, I don't want it. (YHK-8),...I mean, I didn't go, I didn't watch it... whether it should be there or not... (YHK-9),... It should definitely be done again because it left a very good impression... (YHK-10) No, I do not want it. Because there are traffic problems and accidents on overcrowded roads, I don't want it... (YHK-11).

The last and eighth question, "Which sport do you think is the most important sport in such activities?" was asked of the local community participants. All participants stated their favorite sports as follows:

...volleyball...(YHK-1),...archery...(YHK-2),... Swimming and athletics are the most important...(YHK-3),...athletics running...(YHK-4),...swimming...(YHK-5),... Most sports are important...(YHK-6),...football might make more sense... (YHK-7),...basketball... (YHK-8),...I don't know... (YHK-9), And most importantly, athletics... (YHK-10),... Any football where there are women can be volleyball... (YHK-11).

RESULTS

Awareness and media usage

The responses to the first question revealed a proactive role of the administrators in utilizing mass media tools to disseminate information about the Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) among the local population. Moreover, the study's findings unveiled a high level of community engagement, with local residents actively participating in both mass media and social media platforms. This active involvement instilled trust in the information sources, indicating a strong community bond.

Enthusiasm and attractiveness

For the second question, it was established that the local people displayed a rather low level of motivation towards the ISG activities, stating that the events were not very engaging. As to the reasons for this disinterest, the absence of priorities as activities for the project participants was mentioned.

Sports and religion

The third question generated somewhat ambiguous answers concerning the suitability of mixing sports

with religious motifs. Several participants opined that sports must secure their independence from religion, whereas others reasoned that the concept of the ISG was apt given that it is regionalized for Islamic nations. This divergence in opinions further indicates the participants' cultural attitudes since culture usually informs people's beliefs.

Economic and social benefits

From the responses received regarding the fourth question, the community perceived the ISG as positively impacting the economy. Enumerated global games were considered necessary for enhancing cultural diplomacy and the flow of commerce.

Tourism mobility

Responses to the fifth question showed that tourism activities were encouraged due to the presence of the ISG, which positively impacted the stores and services companies mainly involved in the accommodation sector. On the other hand, all the other employees, including those from other business sectors, did not notice any greater impacts of tourism.

Sectoral benefits

Regarding the sixth question of how the ISG has benefited the local community, the major beneficiaries' responses included local tradesmen, hotels, and restaurants. The entrepreneurs directly and indirectly involved in the tourism business could capture more benefits than the others engaged in other types of business.

Future events

The seventh question of the interview focused on the participants' aspirations for future event hosting. The responses were diverse, reflecting a mix of optimism and concerns. Some citizens viewed the proposed improvements as a potential avenue for international recognition of the city and the formation of a unique city image. However, others expressed concerns about potential issues such as traffic congestion and overcrowding. This mixed response underscores the need for strategic planning to address these concerns and maximize the potential benefits of future event hosting.

DISCUSSION

The study's findings underscore the significant role of mass and social media in effectively raising awareness of the ISG among the local population. These

findings are in line with other related studies that highlight the critical role of media in promoting large-scale events (Getz and Page, 2007). The use of these communication channels ensured that the targeted population within the local society gained a comprehensive understanding of the games.

However, the lack of intensified interest from the town's inhabitants indicates the requirement for more enticing and conducive activities within the ISG. According to Light et al. (2020), improved variety and quality of events could be effective ways to attract more people's attention and engagement. This shows that although the people were aware of these activities, they could not elicit the required interest of the local populace, thereby indicating that event organizers need to find ways of enhancing the activities.

There is information on how people think regarding integrating sports with religious themes and semiotics, which embodies overall discussions. Certain participants expressed their opinion that sports should not have any religion binding them, which correlates with works that have underlined the necessity of eradicating the cultural bias of sports games among people (Barnes, 2015). On the other hand, other participants appreciated the religiousness associated with the ISG and approved religious unification via sports. This research supports the opinion that sport has an exceptional capability to encourage the unification of cultures. The differences mentioned above are clear examples of how contentious it is to incorporate cultural and religious affiliations into international sporting occasions.

The perceived economic and social benefits of the ISG, as revealed in the study's findings, align with earlier research on the positive impacts of international sporting events on host cities. The community's awareness of these benefits, such as increased tourism, economic development, and cultural exchange, instills confidence in the potential of sporting events to foster overall economic growth and social transformation.

The findings of this study show that the sectors that gained the most from sports tourism are hospitality and retail, which are supported by previous research on the economic effects of sports tourism (Can and

Emiroğlu, 2022). Some sectors that benefited from a boost in revenue include the businesses in these sectors since visitors usually flock to the area towards the ISG. However, the shortsightedness exhibited by the workers in the non-tourism industries concerning the change brought about by tourism means a need for broader economic development planning. Widening the access to or distribution of the gains from such events could further improve the overall support for the community and its sustainability.

Lastly, the variable opinion regarding future event hosting has shown the advantage of international attention and the problem of local structures and overcrowding. While some tenants saw the opportunity to increase attention and interaction with people from other countries, others were worried about the pragmatic problems of traffic jams and overcrowding. This finding is in concordance with the existing studies that highlight the role of sustainable management of events to meet these key interests (Scheu et al., 2018). If proper strategic planning could deal with these areas of concern, several negative offshoots could be prevented while the positive results could be boosted for the benefit of the residents and tourists.

CONCLUSION

ISG was created to promote solidarity and unity among the athletes the Islamic world countries paint. The most recent ISG occurred in Konya in 2022, and the contextual data gathered from this event allowed for measuring the community's attitudes toward such an event. This research aimed to identify the Konya residents' reactions to the ISG and the organization's effects on their city. This study's primary data collection method included empirical analysis, interviews, and a review of literature to accumulate qualitative data from the local residents. Thus, the interview technique was adopted to allow the researcher to obtain detailed responses; participants were selected randomly from the center of Konya using the convenience sampling technique. Among the 21 participants interviewed, 11 were elicited to give specific and usable information pertinent to the topic under research.

The research indicates that the residents of Konya had adequate knowledge of the ISG through the city

authorities' use of mass media and social media. While there was high awareness of the event among the residents, there was low energy and interest in the activities, noting that the proposed activities needed improvement. People approved of the economic and development gains of the ISG, such as tourism and opportunities for tradesmen, hotel, and restaurant businesses. Nonetheless, it was found that one shortcoming for the communities where they resided was that there was more vehicular traffic and congestion during the festival. Also, the attitudes toward integrating sports and religious motifs were rather diverse, and the corresponding tendencies in society were discussed.

Practical Implications

Therefore, the study emphasized the need for event organizers to improve the appeal and innovations within activities during large-scale events, such as the ISG, to increase interest among the public and patrons. Also, thus minimizing traffic and congestion, better management and planning of the infrastructure help enhance the chances of approval by the local residents in future events.

Suggestions for further research

It is recommended that the same research include quantitative questions to support these conclusions and compare the perceptions of a more extensive population of residents. More research might be worthwhile on how ISG can increase the socioeconomic returns on Konya's tourist and commercial industries in the long term. Moreover, more research into how the faith and spirituality of people within the host nation can be integrated into international sports events, along with what is secularly appealing to a broader universal audience, might go some distance in achieving more appealing and well-receptive strategies.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

In this paper, the authors have no conflict of interest in the conduct and reporting of the presented study. It was ensured that all the participants understood the research objectives, and they signed consent to participate in line with ethical research principles.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

HAE conceived the idea, I designed the project, and HAE and I wrote the manuscript. They contributed to the design and implementation of the research, the analysis of the results, and the writing of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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