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“Empowering Communities through Sustainability Initiatives: A Study on Women-Led Tourism Practices in Damami.”

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Abstract

This research paper examines the potential of community-based tourism (CBT) in advancing sustainability through a field immersion with the *Damami* community, a women-led rural initiative in Yellapur, Karnataka. Conducted in collaboration with *Suyatri*, a community travel organization, the study explores how women's leadership in tourism fosters inclusivity, cultural preservation, and ecological responsibility. The Damami community integrates traditional practices such as foraging, herbal preparation, and responsible resource use, aligning directly with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 12: *Responsible Consumption and Production* and SDG 15: *Life on Land*. By promoting low-impact tourism, preserving biodiversity, and showcasing indigenous ecological knowledge, the community demonstrates how women-led initiatives can model sustainable consumption patterns and safeguard fragile ecosystems. The findings highlight how women-led CBT not only empowers local communities but also advances global sustainability agendas by bridging rural knowledge and urban curiosity. This positions Damami as a living example of how grassroots tourism initiatives can operationalize global sustainability frameworks, bridging the gap between urban curiosity and rural resilience.

Keywords: *Community-Based Tourism, Women Empowerment, Sustainable Development Goals, Responsible Tourism, Siddi Community*

Introduction

Tourism is one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the world, contributing 10 percent of global GDP and supporting one in ten jobs worldwide (UNWTO, 2023). However, economic growth from tourism is unevenly distributed—developed nations such as Japan and China have achieved high economic diversification, while many African and South Asian countries still face disparities in income, infrastructure, and resource access (United Nations, 2022). India occupies an intermediate position, striving to balance economic expansion with social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Rural tourism has emerged as one of the strategic tools to bridge this gap, providing livelihoods and preserving local heritage through community-based initiatives (Ministry of Tourism [India], 2023).

Globally, the importance of community participation in sustainable tourism has long been recognised. Kilipiris (2005) argued that genuine local involvement ensures that tourism meets the needs of local people while safeguarding their natural and cultural environments. Projects imposed externally for short-term profit often led to environmental degradation and social inequality, whereas local ownership fosters resilience and sustainability. Similarly, Khair et al. (2020) emphasised that sustainable communities are built when citizens actively participate in decision-making and environmental monitoring, which strengthens a sense of ownership and social responsibility. These

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

principles are embedded in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land)—which call for inclusive growth through community empowerment (United Nations, 2015).

India's rural development vision aligns with these goals. The Ministry of Tourism promotes Rural and Community-Based Tourism under its "Dekho Apna Desh" and "Swadesh Darshan" schemes, aiming to strengthen local economies and empower women through tourism enterprises (Ministry of Tourism [India], 2023). In Karnataka, the Department of Tourism collaborates with NGOs to promote community tourism in regions such as Yellapur and Uttara Kannada, where traditional knowledge and ecological awareness guide sustainable practices (Karnataka Tourism Board, 2024). One such initiative is Damami Community Space, developed in partnership with Suyathri, a community travel organisation, to uplift the women of the Siddi community a historically marginalised group.

The Damami initiative integrates traditional livelihoods such as foraging, herbal medicine preparation, and forest resource management into a tourism framework that reflects ecological and cultural sustainability. This aligns with the conceptual models of community-based conservation, which advocate combining local stewardship with tourism to protect biodiversity while improving social welfare (Kothari et al., 2022). Through women's leadership, Damami has become a living model of how grassroots tourism can operationalise global sustainability frameworks at the local level.

Therefore, this research explores how women-led community tourism in Damami contributes to sustainability, inclusion, and environmental protection. It seeks (1) to examine the geographic and cultural context of Damami; (2) to analyse its contributions to sustainable tourism; and (3) to document its environmental practices and conservation measures. By connecting international principles of sustainable tourism (UNWTO, 2023; Kilipiris, 2005) with local community action (Khair et al., 2020), the study highlights how India's village-level initiatives are empowering women and strengthening rural resilience through tourism.

Siddi Community

The Siddi community in India has a unique heritage, tracing its ancestry to the Bantu peoples of Southeast Africa who came to India centuries ago through migration and trade routes (Kukkuje, 2024). Over time, the Siddis settled mainly along the western coast of India, particularly in Karnataka, as well as in parts of Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Despite being Indian citizens for generations, they continue to be identified as outsiders due to their African origin and distinct physical appearance (Kukkuje, 2024).

Social exclusion and discrimination remain major challenges for the Siddi people. Many members of the community experience racial bias, especially children who often face bullying in schools because of their dark skin tone and curly hair (Kukkuje, 2024). This form of discrimination contributes to their low levels of confidence and limits their access to opportunities in education and employment. Historically, most Siddis have worked as agricultural laborers or in unorganized sectors, earning minimal wages and lacking ownership of land or property. Such conditions have led to widespread economic marginalization within the community (Kukkuje, 2024).

Despite these hardships, the Siddis have preserved their cultural identity and traditions, including distinctive music, dance, and folklore that blend African and Indian influences. Their rich cultural expressions have become an important part of their social life and are increasingly being recognized as a potential means for empowerment through sustainable tourism (Kukkuje, 2024).

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

Damami Tourism Project

The Damami Tourism Project is an inspiring community-based initiative led by women from the Siddi community in the Yellapur area of Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka (Kukkuje, 2024). This project was created to promote economic independence, cultural pride, and sustainability within the community. It was initiated by thirteen Siddi women from the Nisarga Sparsha Self-Help Group, with the guidance and support of a Bengaluru-based community tourism organization. Through participatory workshops and training sessions, the women developed skills in hospitality, tourism planning, and eco-friendly construction (Kulturaustausch, 2025; Uravu Eco Links, 2024).

The project features traditional mud cottages built using local techniques and natural materials. These structures not only provide accommodation for visitors but also symbolize the community's connection to their environment and traditions. The cottages were inaugurated in March 2024 and are collectively owned and managed by the Siddi women, ensuring that profits remain within the community (Kukkuje, 2024).

Visitors to Damami can experience a range of cultural and ecological activities. Guided forest walks introduce guests to the Siddis' extensive knowledge of local biodiversity, including identifying honey-bee nests, understanding forest medicines, and learning seasonal fishing and crabbing practices. Evenings at Damami often include performances of traditional Siddi songs and dances, allowing visitors to connect with the community's heritage in an authentic way.

More importantly, the Damami Tourism Project goes beyond providing economic opportunities—it aims to restore dignity and self-worth among the Siddi women. By creating a space where their skills, stories, and culture are valued, the project helps the community overcome stereotypes and reclaim ownership of their identity (Kukkuje, 2024). It serves as a model for how sustainable, women-led tourism can empower marginalized communities through local participation and equitable benefit sharing.

The Case of Damami and Suyathri's Contribution

The success of community-based tourism in India depends not only on policy frameworks but also on the commitment of civil society and grassroots organisations that bridge local and global perspectives. One such example is Suyathri, a community travel organisation that collaborates with rural and indigenous groups to co-create responsible tourism experiences *across South India*. Suyathri's approach combines travel with empowerment its projects are designed around themes of gender inclusion, ecological awareness, and skill development. According to Suyathri (n.d.), the organisation partners directly with communities to design tourism models that generate fair income while ensuring that local traditions, cuisine, and ecological knowledge remain integral to the visitor experience.

In Yellapur, Suyathri's collaboration with the Damami Siddi community has been instrumental in establishing the Damami Community Space a women-led enterprise that highlights sustainable lifestyles and traditional forest-based practices. The initiative enables local women to share their knowledge of herbal medicines, foraging, and nature-based living through guided tours, workshops, and homestays. This project not only generates livelihood opportunities but also restores community confidence and visibility, especially for the Siddi people, who have historically been marginalised and excluded from mainstream tourism narratives (Ministry of Tribal Affairs [India], 2024).

As documented in the National Tribal Knowledge Portal's case study "*Empowering the Damami Siddi Community through Sustainable Tourism*" (2024), the initiative demonstrates how integrating traditional ecological practices with modern tourism can address both socio-economic and

10th International Conference on
Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

environmental goals. It aligns closely with India's broader tribal development objectives, which prioritise skill enhancement, capacity building, and sustainable livelihoods for Scheduled Tribes (Ministry of Tribal Affairs [India], 2024). The case also underscores that tourism, when community-owned, becomes a medium of cultural exchange rather than exploitation allowing indigenous women to act as custodians of both culture and biodiversity.

The partnership between Suyathri, the Karnataka Tourism Board, and the Damami Siddi women reflects a model of shared governance that resonates with the UNWTO's emphasis on "tourism for people, planet, and prosperity." By empowering women through entrepreneurship and heritage interpretation, such initiatives move beyond economic profit to create a more holistic model of development one that protects ecosystems, strengthens social cohesion, and amplifies indigenous voices.

Ultimately, the Damami project illustrates how sustainability is not merely an environmental concern but a socio-cultural process rooted in justice, inclusivity, and identity. It reflects the evolving narrative of Indian rural tourism, where women-led initiatives serve as catalysts for transformative change. The present study, therefore, contributes to understanding how grassroots tourism models, when supported by NGOs like Suyathri and state agencies, can serve as replicable frameworks for community empowerment and sustainable living.

Literature Review

Empowering women in rural Montenegro: A pathway to sustainable rural tourism development (Rakočević et al., 2025)

The study looks at how empowering women can help build sustainable tourism in rural areas. It shows that women play a key role in developing their communities through tourism by creating jobs, preserving traditions, and protecting the environment. The research found that most women in Montenegro take part in rural tourism to earn an income, gain independence, and promote their cultural heritage. Tourists, on the other hand, are mainly attracted to rural destinations because of unique experiences, authenticity, and sustainability. These elements are closely linked, meaning that when one improves, the others also grow stronger. The study also points out some challenges, such as women's limited access to financial support, traditional gender roles, and lack of training opportunities.

However, the study has a few clear gaps. It mainly focuses on data and motivations but gives little insight into *how women practice sustainability in their daily tourism work*. It also does not explore *how cultural and ecological knowledge is shared with visitors* or *how local traditions shape sustainability*. These areas can be further studied in the Damami community in Yellapur, Karnataka, where women-led tourism already includes practices like foraging, herbal preparation, and responsible use of natural resources.

Connecting this to the present research topic "*Empowering Communities through Sustainability Initiatives: A Study on Women-Led Tourism Practices in Damami*," the Montenegro paper offers a strong base to understand women's empowerment in tourism. The Damami study can build on it by showing how sustainability is lived and experienced in real life, highlighting women as leaders who connect community, culture, and nature in meaningful ways.

10th International Conference on
Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

Empowering Communities to Act for a Change: A Review of the Community Empowerment Programs towards Sustainability and Resilience (Dushkova, D., & Ivlieva, O. (2024))

Across the world, there is a growing recognition that lasting sustainability begins with people rather than policies. Dushkova and Ivlieva (2024) discuss this idea in their review of global community empowerment programs, explaining how shared effort and local leadership can spark genuine social and environmental change. Their work shows that when people take responsibility for local initiatives, sustainability becomes something lived and experienced in daily life. This perspective strongly connects with the Damami community in Yellapur, Karnataka, where women have transformed tourism into a platform for empowerment. By combining local traditions with responsible tourism practices, they show how a community-led approach can nurture both livelihoods and nature simultaneously.

In their research, Dushkova and Ivlieva describe empowerment as more than participation; it is a continuous process of gaining confidence, skills, and independence. The programs they studied focus on education, collaboration, and the blending of traditional wisdom with contemporary sustainability needs. A similar spirit defines the Damami initiative, where women engage in foraging, herbal preparation, and eco-friendly resource management. These actions reflect key empowerment values such as community ownership and respect for indigenous knowledge. The reviewed literature also highlights the vital role of women's leadership in achieving inclusive progress. Projects like *EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies* demonstrate that women's involvement leads to more equitable and lasting outcomes. Likewise, the women of Damami lead their community with a shared vision—turning tourism into an avenue for both environmental care and financial independence.

Dushkova and Ivlieva further suggest that sustainable development grows strongest when it is rooted in local culture and knowledge. Integrating these traditions creates resilience, strengthens relationships, and encourages collective stewardship of resources. This principle is clearly seen in Damami, where the preservation of biodiversity and traditional ecological learning are woven into tourism experiences. Visitors not only witness but also learn from the community's way of life, bridging the gap between rural wisdom and urban curiosity. Altogether, the literature emphasizes that empowerment lies at the heart of sustainability. The Damami initiative stands as a living illustration of how women-led, community-based tourism can turn global sustainability goals into everyday actions that protect the environment and celebrate cultural heritage.

Sustainable City and Community Empowerment through the Implementation of Community-Based Monitoring: A Conceptual Approach (Muhamad Khair et al., 2020)

The work of Muhamad Khair and colleagues (2020) highlights that genuine sustainability depends on empowering communities to take part in shaping their own surroundings. Their study presents community-based monitoring as a participatory method that helps people build a sense of ownership and awareness about their environment. When residents are treated as active partners in observation, planning, and decision-making, they develop a stronger connection to their community and become more willing to act responsibly. This idea closely mirrors the practices in the Damami community, where women lead efforts to preserve local traditions, use resources responsibly, and promote eco-friendly tourism as part of daily life.

Similarly, the women of Damami embody the same spirit of collaboration and local leadership described in community-based monitoring. While the original framework was designed for urban sustainability, Damami translates these principles into a rural context turning tourism into a tool for

10th International Conference on
Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

empowerment, inclusion, and ecological care. Both perspectives stress that progress toward sustainability grows stronger when local people, especially women, are given the power to participate and make decisions. The Damami initiative therefore serves as a living model of how community-driven action can link cultural knowledge with global goals like SDG 11 and SDG 12, fostering both environmental balance and social well-being.

Book Chapter - Empowering Communities to Drive Sustainable Development: Reflections on Experiences from Rural South Africa (Pretorius, R., Nicolau, M. (2020))

The chapter *Empowering Communities to Drive Sustainable Development* reflects on South Africa's efforts since 1994 to reduce poverty and inequality through locally driven initiatives. It highlights the University of South Africa's work in rural villages like Koffiekraal and Brakkul, where a community-based asset program focused on tourism and handicraft development. By providing practical skills training and encouraging local ownership, the program enabled residents to take charge of their growth rather than relying on external support. The authors emphasize that true empowerment comes when communities recognize their own potential and resources, fostering self-reliance and sustainability.

These ideas resonate strongly with Damami, Karnataka, my research community, whose people are of African origin. Here, women-led tourism practices similarly nurture empowerment from within, blending traditional knowledge with sustainable tourism to protect the environment while supporting livelihoods. The African heritage of Damami makes the South African experience particularly relevant, as both communities share cultural roots that value resilience, collaboration, and local leadership.

Both cases show that when communities, especially women, are trusted to lead and innovate, development becomes more inclusive and lasting. The South African example underscores the importance of ownership and participation, principles that align closely with Damami's approach. Together, they demonstrate how local initiatives can translate global sustainability goals into practical, culturally rooted actions that benefit both people and the environment.

Community Empowerment and Sustainable Tourism Development: The Mediating Role of Community Support for Tourism (Khalid et al. (2019))

The paper explores how empowering local people can lead to sustainable tourism. Using data from northern Pakistan, the study shows that when communities have a voice in tourism planning and gain skills, knowledge, and leadership support, they are more likely to back tourism initiatives. This support helps protect culture, nature, and local livelihoods. The authors explain that empowerment builds trust and cooperation, which are essential for long-term tourism success. Their model highlights that sustainable tourism works best when residents are directly involved and share the benefits equally.

While the paper focuses on collective empowerment, it pays less attention to the role of women and traditional knowledge in shaping sustainability. The present study on *“Empowering Communities through Sustainability Initiatives: A Study on Women-Led Tourism Practices in Damami” * adds this perspective. In Damami, women lead tourism by using indigenous practices like foraging, herbal preparation, and responsible resource use. Their approach promotes both cultural preservation and environmental care, aligning with global sustainability goals such as responsible consumption and life on land. This research builds on Khalid et al.'s ideas but shows empowerment as a lived experience—

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

driven by women who connect community values with sustainable tourism in a more inclusive and practical way.

Objectives

To examine the geographic and cultural context of Damami.

To analyse Damami's contributions to sustainable tourism.

To document environmental sustainability practices and conservation measures.

Methodology

The research adopts a qualitative methodology, focusing on immersive fieldwork and participatory approaches. Data will be collected through:

Conducted on-site visits to the Damami tourism project to gain firsthand understanding of the community-based tourism model, its infrastructure, and local participation. These visits allowed for immersion in the community environment and observation of daily tourism operations, local livelihoods, and visitor interactions.

Engaged in in-depth interviews with Siddi community members, particularly women leaders involved in the Nisarga Sparsha Self-Help Group. These interviews provided insights into their motivations, challenges, and the transformative impact of tourism initiatives on social and economic empowerment.

Conducted systematic observation of ongoing tourism activities, cultural performances, and ecological practices such as forest treks and sustainable construction. This helped in analyzing how traditional knowledge and community values are integrated into tourism operations and visitor experiences.

Thematic Analysis

Women's Leadership and Empowerment

The Damami initiative clearly shows how women's participation in tourism can change community life. During the field visit, it was observed that women not only manage day-to-day tourism activities but also take leadership in planning, decision-making, and welcoming visitors. They guide forest walks, conduct herbal medicine workshops, and manage community meals. These actions have helped them build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of ownership over their work.

The women's leadership has also strengthened community bonds. They now support one another through shared work and collective income, creating a sense of unity and mutual respect. This observation matches the view of Dushkova and Ivlieva (2024), who said empowerment happens when people take charge of their local initiatives and gain confidence through shared action. The Damami case gives this idea a real-life example empowerment here is not an external policy but a daily practice.

At the same time, the women face small challenges like limited exposure to markets and less recognition from outside visitors. Still, their leadership shows that sustainable tourism can succeed when women are trusted to guide their own community.

Integration of Traditional Knowledge

A key theme that emerged is the strong link between traditional knowledge and sustainability. The women in Damami use their ancestral skills like foraging, herbal preparation, and organic cooking—as part of the visitor experience. They teach guests about local plants, forest foods, and the importance

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

of preserving biodiversity. These practices make tourism more meaningful while protecting the environment.

Such integration of culture and ecology supports SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). It also connects to Rakočević et al. (2025), who found that women help keep rural tourism authentic by preserving traditions and local identity. However, unlike the Montenegro case that focused on empowerment mainly for income, Damami shows how women use cultural knowledge to sustain both livelihoods and nature. This makes sustainability a lived experience rather than a theoretical goal.

Sustainability Practices

From the field observations, Damami promotes low-impact tourism through practical and responsible actions. The community avoids plastic waste, cooks using organic ingredients, and uses eco-friendly utensils and locally available materials. They encourage visitors to follow “leave-no-trace” principles during forest visits. Their tourism model depends on local resources without harming them.

This shows that sustainability is part of their daily life. The women believe protecting the forest means protecting their future. These practices strongly connect with the ideas of Khair et al. (2020), who discussed how local participation in environmental monitoring helps people feel responsible for their surroundings. Damami applies this principle naturally every woman becomes a caretaker of both culture and ecology.

Community Participation and Collaboration

The success of Damami also comes from the collective spirit of the entire community and their collaboration with Suyathri, the NGO partner. The organization provides training, connects them with visitors, and helps them build skills in communication and management. Yet, the decisions about tourism activities remain in the hands of the local women.

This partnership shows a model of shared governance. As Pretorius and Nicolau (2020) suggested in the South African context, empowerment grows strongest when communities own their projects instead of depending on external help. Damami mirrors this by maintaining control over its tourism operations while using external guidance for support. The community's collaboration reflects social inclusion, mutual trust, and respect for both people and nature.

Challenges and Future Opportunities

Despite many achievements, the Damami women face challenges such as limited visibility, lack of structured marketing, and few financial resources. The remote location and small scale of the project make it difficult to attract a steady flow of visitors. Some infrastructure improvements like better signage, online promotion, and small grants for homestay upgrades could help the initiative grow without losing its authenticity.

These gaps reflect what Rakočević et al. (2025) also noted: rural women often face barriers in access to funds and training. Addressing these issues can make Damami stronger and more sustainable in the long run. Importantly, any growth should maintain the community's eco-friendly and women-led approach.

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

Reflection

As a researcher who visited the community, it was inspiring to see how empowerment in Damami is lived out through small but meaningful actions. Observing the women confidently explain forest herbs or share their meals with guests showed pride and self-respect. The sense of togetherness and simplicity reflected how sustainability can be practiced even with limited resources.

The experience revealed that sustainable tourism is not only about conservation but also about identity, confidence, and dignity. The women of Damami have turned tourism into a way to express who they are and what they value. Their efforts demonstrate that true empowerment begins when communities believe in their own knowledge and strength.

Interpretive Summary

Overall, the analysis shows that the Damami initiative combines empowerment, tradition, and sustainability into one living system. Women's leadership has transformed tourism from an economic activity into a social and ecological movement. Through traditional knowledge and collaborative governance, they maintain harmony with nature while creating livelihood opportunities.

The findings confirm that sustainable tourism in rural India works best when it is community-owned, women-driven, and culturally rooted. Damami stands as an inspiring model of how small communities can bring global sustainability goals to life through local action.

Discussion

The findings from this study show that the women of the Damami community in Yellapur have created a strong example of how tourism can be both sustainable and empowering. Their work combines traditional knowledge like collecting forest products, making herbal medicines, and using natural resources wisely with tourism activities that protect the environment and share their culture with visitors. This approach not only supports global goals such as responsible consumption and protecting life on land but also strengthens their community and builds pride among women.

When we look deeper, it becomes clear that the Damami project is not just about earning money. It is about giving women a voice, keeping traditions alive, and showing that tourism can help both people and nature. The women act as guides, teachers, and protectors of their land, helping visitors understand the importance of living in balance with nature. This supports what other researchers like Dushkova and Ivlieva (2024) have said that true sustainability happens when local people take the lead instead of depending on outsiders.

The results also connect closely with other studies. For example, Rakočević et al. (2025) showed that women's participation helps rural tourism grow stronger, but the Damami example goes further by showing how women practice sustainability in daily life. Khair et al. (2020) talked about how local involvement builds responsibility, which is exactly what happens in Damami, where women work together to take care of their surroundings. The South African example by Pretorius and Nicolau (2020) also supports this idea both in Africa and in Damami, local women lead tourism projects that protect culture and nature. Likewise, Khalid et al. (2019) said that sustainable tourism works best when the community trusts and supports it, which is clearly seen in Damami's teamwork and unity.

Overall, these findings show that Damami is not just a small village story but part of a bigger global movement. It proves that sustainability can be achieved when communities combine traditional wisdom with modern tourism in a respectful and inclusive way. The partnership between the Damami women and Suyathri shows that tourism can create real change when it focuses on people, culture, and the planet together.

10th International Conference on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

In simple terms, the Damami project is a living example of how empowering women can lead to stronger, fairer, and greener communities. It shows that sustainable tourism is not just a goal—it's a way of life that connects local people with the wider world while protecting nature and tradition for the future.

Conclusion

This study looked at how women in the Damami village of Yellapur, Karnataka, are leading tourism in a way that supports both people and the planet. During my two-day visit, I observed how the women use their traditional knowledge—like foraging in forests, preparing herbal medicines, and using resources carefully to create tourism experiences that protect nature and celebrate their culture. Their work clearly supports global goals such as responsible consumption and protecting life on land (SDG 12 and SDG 15).

The research shows that when tourism is managed by local people, especially women, it builds confidence, teamwork, and pride in the community. Spending time in Damami helped me understand how sustainability is something they live every day, not just talk about. Overall, the Damami model proves that women-led tourism can protect culture, provide livelihoods, and care for the environment at the same time. It offers a great example for other rural areas that want to follow a similar sustainable path.

Scope for Future Study

While the Damami community presents a promising example of women-led sustainable tourism, the initiative is still in its early stages and remains relatively unknown to wider audiences. At present, visitor numbers are limited, and the experience offered continues to function as a niche product with low visibility. Therefore, future research can explore strategies to expand the reach and visibility of Damami's tourism model through effective marketing, partnerships, and policy support.

One major area for further study is the marketing and promotion of locally produced goods. The Damami women prepare herbal products, traditional foods, and crafts that reflect their cultural and ecological knowledge. Future research could examine how digital platforms, social media storytelling, and responsible branding can help these products gain recognition and generate steady income for the community. A stronger marketing approach could also attract visitors who are interested in authentic, ethical, and sustainable experiences.

Additionally, future research could focus on visitor perception and impact assessment, exploring how travellers experience and value the Damami tourism model. Gathering data on visitor satisfaction, awareness, and learning outcomes could help refine community experiences and develop sustainable visitor management strategies.

Thus, the future scope of this study lies in bridging the gap between local excellence and global recognition. Strengthening marketing, expanding partnerships, and documenting long-term impacts can help transform Damami from a niche initiative into a scalable, community-driven model for sustainable tourism and rural empowerment.

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10th International Conference on
Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025

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**10th International Conference on
Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends – November 27-28, 2025**

Images



Group Picture with Damami Community & Suyatri team

People Of Damami

Sathodi Falls, Yellapur Karnataka



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