

MASTER'S THESIS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Student's name: Semegn Feseha Desalegn

Master's Thesis Supervisor (MT): Mohsin Javed, Ph.D.

MT topic: The Role of Community Attachment and Residents' Empowerment towards Quality of Life and Support for Sustainable Tourism Development: An Application of RETS 2.0 in Ethiopia

Acad. year: 2024/2025

Notes on completing the report:

1. For the evaluation of each criterion, use the following scale: A - fulfilled very well, significantly exceeds the requirements; B - fulfilled with quality; C - fulfilled without reservations; D - fulfilled with minor deficiencies; E - fulfilled but with significant deficiencies; F - not fulfilled.
2. If any criterion is graded F, the thesis must be evaluated as unsatisfactory overall, not meeting the criteria for the MT defence, and such a thesis cannot be recommended for the defence
3. MT Supervisor must comment verbally on each evaluation criterion!

Assessment criteria:

Assessment

Assessment criteria:	Assessment
1. Thesis Objectives and Methods	C
<i>The commentary focuses on: clarity of the formulation of the thesis objectives and the methods used in the thesis elaboration; evaluation of the objectives of the thesis following the thesis theme; the methods and procedures chosen to fulfil the thesis objectives.</i> The thesis addresses an important topic related to the residents' empowerment in the tourism context, having high topicality and significance. Thesis objectives are mentioned on page 14, however, some clarity is needed in the explicit writing of the objectives. Methods used to achieve the thesis objectives are appropriate, however, the description and explanation of the used method is brief. Further explanation would add value.	
2. Theoretical Background	C
<i>The commentary focuses on: the content of the critical literature research; the appropriateness of the chosen domestic and foreign literature sources; the method of citing sources in an adequate manner.</i> Theoretical part of this master's thesis sufficiently explains the concepts of sustainable tourism development, community attachment, empowerment, and quality of life. Student mentioned the thesis is grounded 'empowerment theory', however, the student did not adequately explained this theory. Also, on page 26, while presenting gaps in the literature, the student didn't provide the relevant citations, which she presented before.	
3. Practical Application – Analysis	C
<i>The commentary focuses on: the use of knowledge from theory, its appropriateness of application; sufficient description of the process of application of the methods of work; overall assessment of the current state; sufficient substantiation of the conclusions of the analyses; the difficulty of data collection and processing.</i> The analysis part of the thesis included methodology, where the explanation of the methods used is missing. How the student collected the data, the details are missing. Which sampling method did the student use? How many responses were valid? The included explanation of measurement items for each construct is adequate. The empirical results of partial least-square-structural equation model, including the information about measurement model, and structural model is appropriate.	

4. Practical Application – Project/ Research	C
<i>The commentary focuses on: the connection of the solving part of the thesis to the theory and to the analyses results; supporting the proposals with appropriate arguments; meeting the objectives set. For research-oriented MTs, the focus should be on discussion of the results and their evaluation.</i> The discussion part of the master thesis included discussion of the findings and compared with the previous studies. However, such discussion and evaluation of the results is very brief, which is one weakness. It would be better if the student mention the hypotheses in sequence and compare with more than two studies in the previous literature. Also, it would be appropriate to mention the geographical context and industry of other studies by exploring deep. However, the current level of discussion is and conclusion, implications, and limitations are acceptable.	
5. Formal Layout	C
<i>The commentary focuses on: logical coherence of the text of the thesis; use of correct terminology; use of the prescribed standard of citation of sources; appropriate linguistic and graphic level.</i> The formal layout of the thesis is on a good level. Overall, the logical coherence of the text is praiseworthy. The student provided in-text citations adequately. Linguistic level is appropriate. Font style should be the same throughout the thesis, but in the thesis are discrepancies. However, the Introduction section still needs improvements and expansion with clear identification of research gaps by supporting relevant literature, not just a single line description. Many references are not in the standard format. The list of abbreviations, tables and figures used are mentioned on page 65, 66, 67. However, list of abbreviations is not complete. Some abbreviations are missing, such as, the abbreviations used for different dimensions of empowerments, VIF, HTMT, ECO, ENV, PE, SE, and PSY. In the appendix, the questionnaire should be given in the original outlook, with clear instructions related to anonymity and the purpose of the research, which is lacking despite the inclusion in the actual questionnaire. The general layout of the thesis is acceptable.	

Overall thesis assessment *	B
The selected topic of the master's thesis is accurate based on current trends of tourism. The presented research model and analysis are appreciable, which is based on the recently developed scale of RETS 2.0. However, the definitions of the statistical tools and explanation of the research methodology used (details missing) will help the readers to understand the results better. Despite great potential, the presentation of the thesis and final write-up has weaknesses. Overall, the thesis fulfils the requirements with quality. I strongly urge student to extract one journal publication from this thesis.	

* The final grade is not an arithmetic average of the individual criteria for assessing the thesis.

Questions for the defence:

1. Which sampling methodology did you use? Random sampling or purposive sampling? What was the percentage of responses and valid responses?
2. On page 33, student mentioned.....*All items were measured on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (agree) to 5 (neutral)*..... Is it the Likert scale? Is 1 for Agree? and 5 for Neutral?

The thesis **fulfils** the criteria for the defence of the MT. The thesis **is recommended** for the defence.

The thesis has been checked for the originality of the work in IS STAG. Based on the results of this review, it was concluded that the work **is not** plagiarism.