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Author: Musliha Ahmed

The Maldives National University, Maldives

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The impacts of Guest house businesses to local communities in the Maldives

Musliha Ahmed musliha.ahmed@mnu.edu.mv

Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies

The Maldives National University

Abstract

Permission to operate guesthouses in inhabited islands for the Maldives was only granted as 2009 was ending. In 2010, there were 479 beds in 23 guesthouses. The amount of operating guesthouses in the Maldives is increasing at a fairly rapid rate. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, guesthouses increased at the rate of two to three guesthouses every month. Currently, there are 1117 beds in 76 guesthouses. Already the proportion of guesthouse operators is catching up to that of resort owners. In three years, there can be more than 2000 guesthouses in the Maldives increasing the amount of tourists coming into the Maldives twofold.

Nevertheless, there are major implications in proceeding with the guesthouse businesses. This paper provides an overview of a research conducted in March 2015 in order to find out the opinions of the industry stakeholders regarding the booming guest house industry in the Maldives.

Keywords: Guest houses, Maldives, Tourism, Impacts

Introduction

Since the inception of Maldives tourism over 40 years ago, the country has seen the development of more than 100 islands into exclusive resorts which – by focusing on secluded luxury – are almost entirely cut off from local laws and politics.

However, the potential for expanding mid-market tourism in the Maldives through the "niche" guesthouse segment which was started in 2009, has been growing and is yet to show how best the country's inhabited islands can profit from visitors. A growing number of specialist operators have emerged trying to cater to the mid-market demand from tourists looking to experience the 'real Maldives' – a side of the country often unseen due to the prevalence of the lucrative 'one island, one resort model'.

While most Maldivians think it is right to open up the island to tourists to allow travelers to experience local customs and traditions and to help support local economy, they do not want to see islands inundated with travelers to the point that the best of the Maldives customs and traditions disappear. With a growing number of domestic airports anticipated to be developed across the country in the coming years, it is expected that a growing number of guesthouses would be established to meet demand.

'Guesthouses', in this context means providing vacation facilities to tourists in the Maldivian inhabited islands. The main factors that entice tourists to our isles are its climate and its natural exquisiteness. And it is not just the desert islands that possess these qualities. The entire country is blessed with the same beauty and climate. Providing guesthouse services to tourists from inhabited islands would be no less profitable than resort islands, because the capital costs are lower for the former. While it costs about US$300,000 to create a bed in a resort, it would not cost even US$10,000 per bed in a guesthouse business.

Rationale for the study

The general rationale for this study lies on the fact as the guest house business is booming in the Maldives whilst debates lie on all kinds of impacts that are arising from the inception. The negative impacts needs to be addressed sooner rather than later in order to ensure that the business increases with minimal negative impacts. Moreover, the positive impacts being more, definitely needs to be examined in order to maximize the benefits to the local communities from this type of tourism.

The results that will be gathered in this study would benefit the tourism industry on condition that the identified positive and negative impacts and the suggestions on how to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts are implemented by the local government authorities as well as the concerned government bodies like the Ministry of Tourism.

Litterature review

Perceptions of various impacts of tourism have been extensively researched since the 70s. Most studies have concentrated on how various segments of host communities react differently to tourism impacts.

According to Page (2003), one useful starting point in analysing the impact of tourism in a practical context is to establish how to measure visitation levels as a basis for calculating visitor numbers to a destination. Page (2003) however, states that their reliability is debatable since one of the ongoing problems with visitor surveys regards their value and that they are often undertaken at visitor attractions or based on accommodation occupancy rates or the ability to yield a representative sample of visitation at the destination.

Economic Impacts:

Among the most significant reasons cited by government and private sector tourism businesses for developing tourism is the associated economic gain. Tourism is cited as an industry that can assist in generating foreign exchange and can improve the economy and employment prospects of countries, regions and cities. While the economic advantages of tourism are certainly clear, many negative aspects are apparent.

As tourism stimulates economic activity in a destination, it assists in improving the overall economic status of a country. According to Page et al (2001), the measurement of economic production and national wealth is gross domestic product (GDP).

Employment:

According to Page et al (2001) there are three types of employment which may be generated by tourism:

Direct – jobs created as a result of visitor expenditure and directly supporting tourism activity, e.g. hotels.
Indirect – jobs created within the tourism supply sector but not as a direct result of tourism activity.
Induced – jobs created as a result of tourism expenditure as local residents spend money earned from tourism.

However, apart from the benefits, economic costs like *Inflation, Opportunity costs, Dependency, Seasonality and leakage should also not be ignored.*

Socio-cultural impacts: Impacts on local communities.

When tourism development occurs, economic benefits are usually unequally distributed amongst members of local communities.

Impacts on cultural values:

Tourism has a highly complex impact on cultural values. Tourism activities may lead to inter-generational conflicts through changing aspirations of younger members of communities who may have more contact with, and are more likely to be affected by, the behavior of tourists.

Figure 1 *The social and cultural impacts of tourism (Page, 2003).*

Environmental impacts:

According to Page (2003), fostering a beneficial relationship between tourism and the environment requires public sector intervention to plan and manage each element, whilst highlighting the benefits for the tourism industry.

Tourism in the Maldives – brief overview:
The Maldivian archipelago located 500 km from southern tips of both India and Sri Lanka. Is a beautiful string of 1,190 low-laying coral islands scattered across the equator in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, giving us a rare glimpse of what is aptly described as tropical paradise. Just consider this sparkling white sun- kissed beached, crystal-clear lagoons studded with profusely colored corals; azure warm seas with an undisturbed exotic marine life palm-fringed island the providing serenity all of it summarized by the famous Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta on describing Maldives as "one of wonders of the world"

The sun, the sand and the sea, these are just three simple realities beckoning tourist from far and wide to these little islets, giving as a result, a glorious sense of happiness and proving to be a heavenly getaway from the world and its worries. The Maldives teaches the visitors the pleasurable art of doing nothing, simply lazing around and enjoying some the most spectacular and colorful vistas offered by nature.

It is therefore no wonder that tourists flock in large numbers to the 100-odd self-contained island resorts provided with all the comforts and warmth exuded by traditional Maldivian hospitality. This is why Maldives is considered to be the ultimate destination, the perfect world for holiday-makers.

However, tourism in Maldives depends on environmental quality more than any other activity and a central precept that has been preached in tourism is not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. Yet, in general, it is characterized by rapid, short-term development which more often than not damages the very environment. Without careful attention, the balance between the volume and type of tourist activity, and the sensitivity and carrying capacities of the resources being developed, tourism projects can be not only environmentally harmful but also economically self-defeating.

Coming back to the main topic, in Maldives, guest Houses offer low cost accommodation for travelers visiting the local islands. Over the last five years number of guest houses increased at an average rate of 60% per year. In 2012, there were 75 guest houses with 1,101 beds registered in the Maldives, this number increased to 135 with 1,930 beds by the end of 2013 (Tourism year book, 2014).

Methodology

He study's main objective is to evaluate the perception of Maldivians on the blooming guest house businesses in the local populated islands. The questions asked are simple and varied to get an overall idea of the industry stakeholders as well as the general public.

The theoretical model of the research was based on Butler's theory on visitor and host influence. A quantitative questionnaire was used to gather the findings. The academic staff at FHTS mobilised to make telephone calls to ask the questions included in the questionnaire.

The sample population used are indicated below:

236 Guest houses are located in 55 islands). Thus 30 % of questionnaires were filled after interviewing guest house managers.

109 resorts and 52 tour operators exist. Thus 40% of the questionnaires were used to question this population.

15 people were questioned among the general public and 15 Local government councillors were interviewed. Thus, 30% of the questionnaires were filled by interviewing this population.

Data analysis

The data was analysed using the SPSS software and the T test values as well as the P values were calculated automatically and pie charts were generated based on the results.

1. **Age of respondents**
   a) 16 – 25 b) 26 – 35 c) 36 and above

One-Sample Statistics

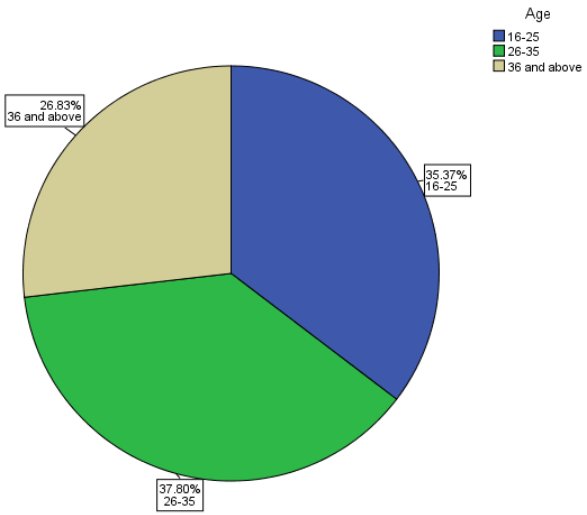
	N		Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Age	82	1.91	.789	.087

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Age	21.979	81	.000	1.915	1.74	2.09

Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	16-25	29	35.4	35.4	35.4
	26-35	31	37.8	37.8	73.2
	36 and above	22	26.8	26.8	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated are 16-25, 26-35 and 36 and above by percentage of 35%, 37% and 27% respectively.

1. **Gender of the respondents**
   a)Female b)Male

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Gender	82	1.62	.488	.054

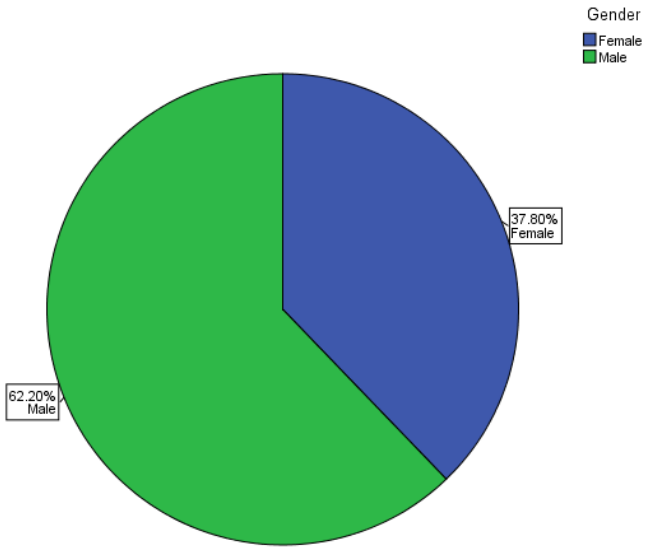
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
Gender	30.104	81	.000	1.622	1.51	1.73

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	31	37.8	37.8	37.8
	Male	51	62.2	62.2	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated are 38% females and 62% males.

2. Level of education of the respondents

a) Some high school or less b) High school c) Some college
b) Masters degree e) PhD and above

One-Sample Statistics

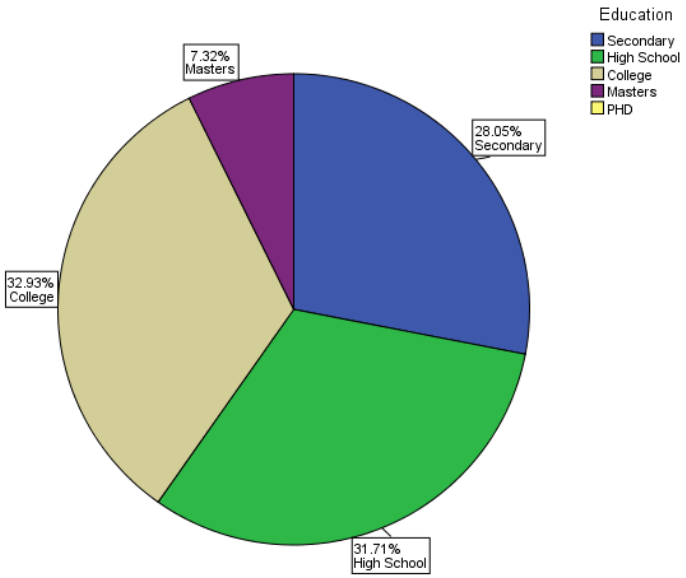
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Education	82	2.20	.935	.103

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Education	21.250	81	.000	2.195	1.99	2.40

Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Secondary	23	28.0	28.0	28.0
	High School	26	31.7	31.7	59.8
	College	27	32.9	32.9	92.7
	Masters	6	7.3	7.3	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated have completed secondary school, high school, college and masters by percentage of 28%, 32%, 33% and 7% respectively.

3. Employment status of the respondents:

a) Yes(employed) b) No (unemployed)

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Employment Status	82	1.12	.329	.036

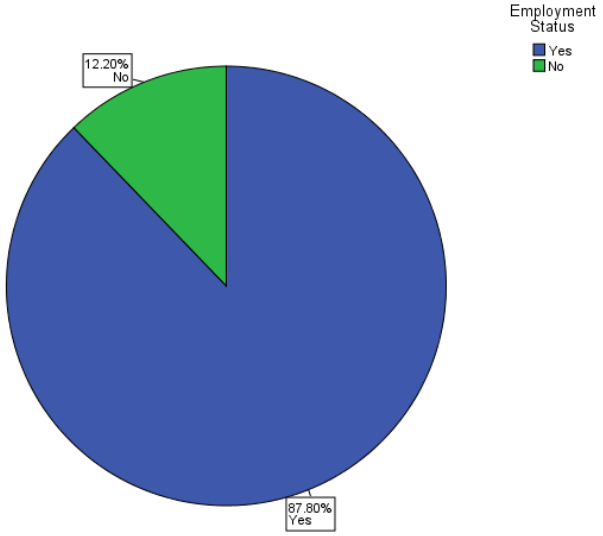
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Employment Status	30.858	81	.000	1.122	1.05	1.19

Employment Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	72	87.8	87.8	87.8
	No	10	12.2	12.2	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that employment status of answering population participated are employed and unemployed by percentage of 88% and 12 respectively.

4. Profession of the respondents

a) Work in a guest house b)Work in the tourism industry c)Other

One-Sample Statistics

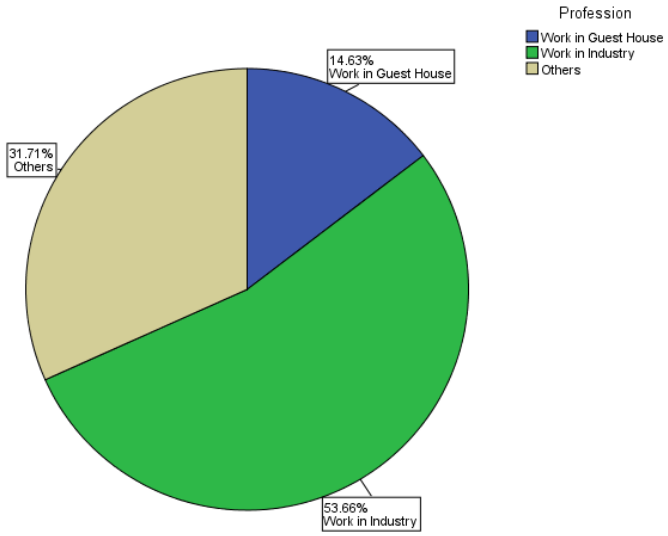
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Profession	82	2.17	.663	.073

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Profession	29.646	81	.000	2.171	2.03	2.32

Profession

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Work in Guest House	12	14.6	14.6	14.6
	Work in Industry	44	53.7	53.7	68.3
	Others	26	31.7	31.7	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated work in guest houses, works at the industry and in other areas by percentage of 15%, 54% and 32% respectively.

5. **Will you be able to give information on any guest house business in any place in Maldives?**

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you know any Guest House	82	1.44	.499	.055

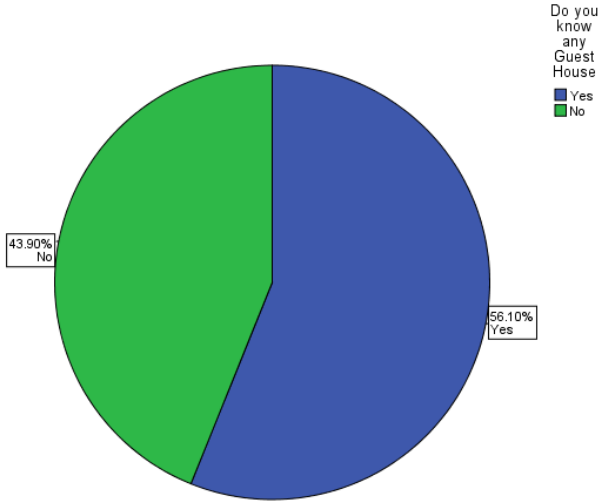
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper

Do you know any Guest House	26.097	81	.000	1.439	1.33	1.55

Do you know any Guest House

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	46	56.1	56.1	56.1
	No	36	43.9	43.9	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated knows about a guest house in Maldives by percentage of 56% and 44% respectively.

If yes to question 5,

i. Local population of the island

a) Less than 1000 b)1001 – 2000 c) 2001 – 3000 d) 3001 – and above

One-Sample Statistics

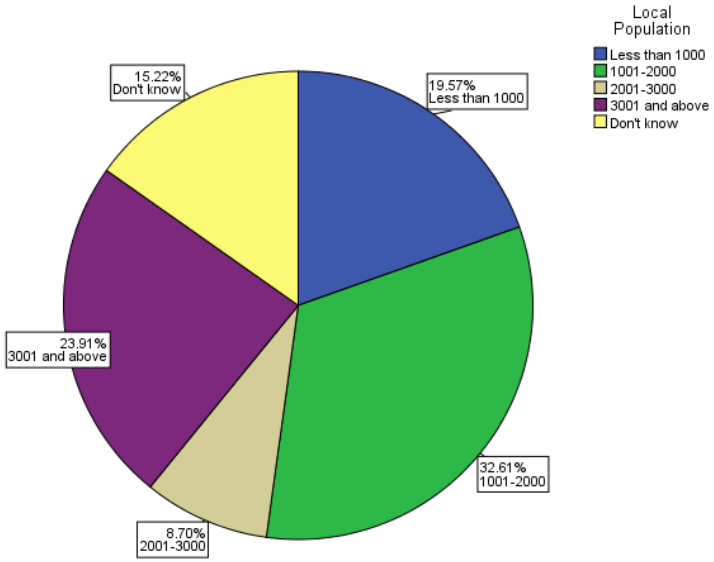
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Local Population	46	2.83	1.403	.207

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Local Population	13.659	45	.000	2.826	2.41	3.24

Local Population

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1000	9	11.0	19.6	19.6
	1001-2000	15	18.3	32.6	52.2
	2001-3000	4	4.9	8.7	60.9
	3001 and above	11	13.4	23.9	84.8
	Don't know	7	8.5	15.2	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated knows about a guest house in Maldives by percentage of 56% and 44% respectively.

If yes to question 5,

ii. Number of the guest houses in the island

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Guest House	46	2.83	1.539	.227

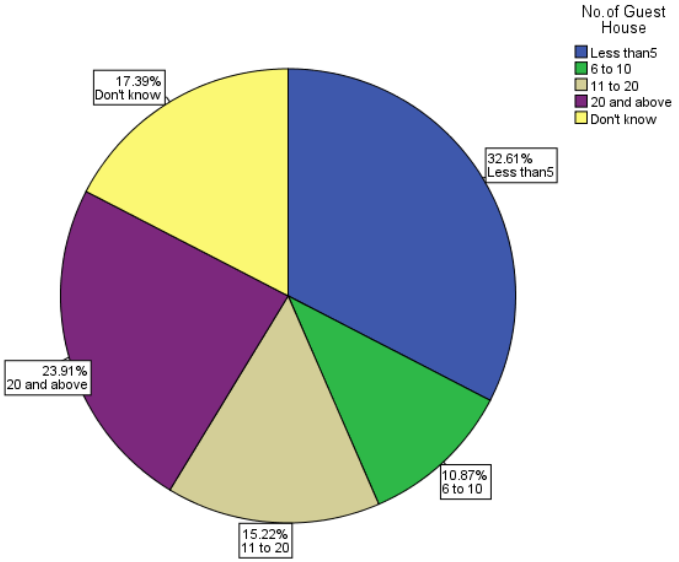
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
No. of Guest House	12.453	45	.000	2.826	2.37	3.28

No.of Guest House

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than5	15	18.3	32.6	32.6
	6 to 10	5	6.1	10.9	43.5
	11 to 20	7	8.5	15.2	58.7
	20 and above	11	13.4	23.9	82.6
	Don’t know	8	9.8	17.4	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of guest houses in the island that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 18, 6, 9, 13, and 10 respectively.

If yes to question 5,

iii. Total number of guest house rooms in the island

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above e) don't know

One-Sample Statistics

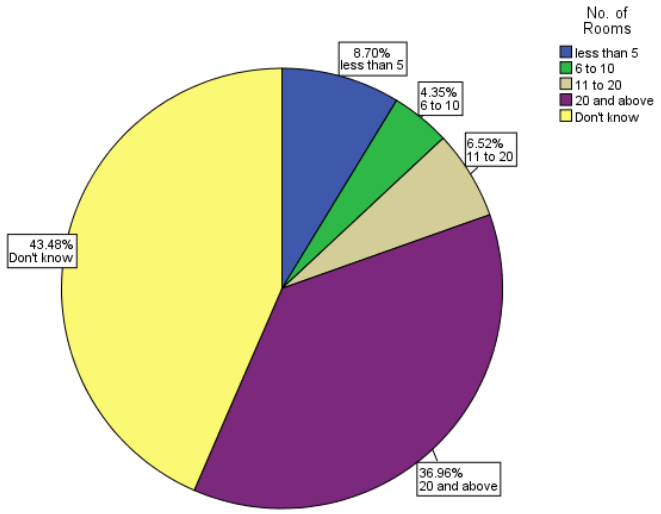
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Rooms	46	4.02	1.220	.180

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
No. of Rooms	22.358	45	.000	4.022	3.66	4.38

No. of Rooms

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5	4	4.9	8.7	8.7
	6 to 10	2	2.4	4.3	13.0
	11 to 20	3	3.7	6.5	19.6
	20 and above	17	20.7	37.0	56.5
	Don't know	20	24.4	43.5	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of guest house rooms in the island that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 5, 3, 4, 21 and 25 respectively.

If yes to question 5,

iv. Number of locally owned guest houses in the island

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above e) don't know

One-Sample Statistics

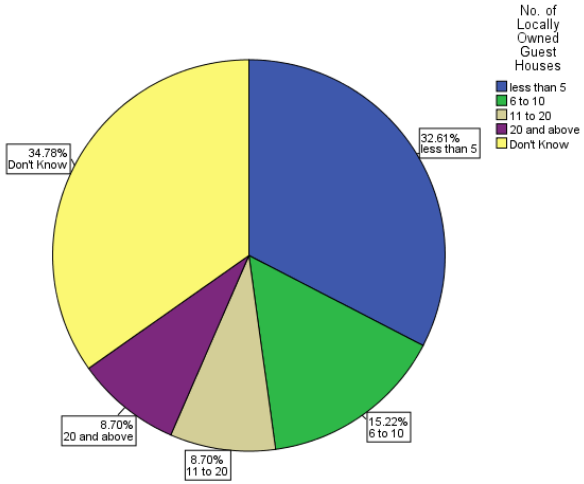
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Locally Owned Guest Houses	46	2.98	1.732	.255

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
No. of Locally Owned Guest Houses	11.663	45	.000	2.978	2.46	3.49

No. of Locally Owned Guest Houses

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5	15	18.3	32.6	32.6
	6 to 10	7	8.5	15.2	47.8
	11 to 20	4	4.9	8.7	56.5
	20 and above	4	4.9	8.7	65.2
	Don't Know	16	19.5	34.8	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of locally owned guest houses in the island that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 18, 9, 5, 5 and 20 respectively.

If Yes to question 5,

v. Number of guest houses owned by people from other islands

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above e) Don't know

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Guest Houses Owned by Others	46	3.52	1.798	.265

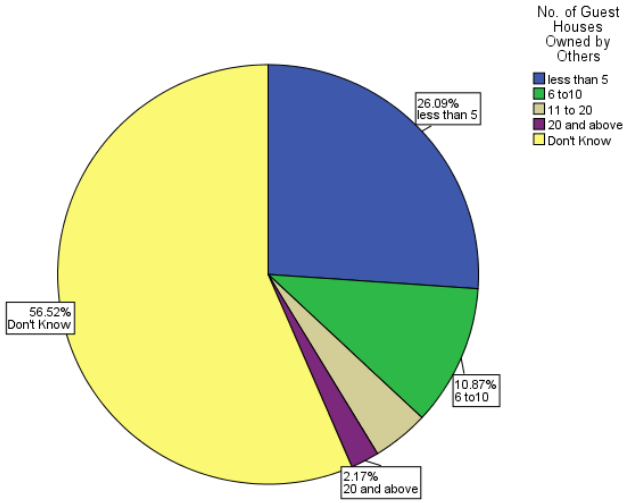
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
No. of Guest Houses Owned by Others	13.284	45	.000	3.522	2.99	4.06

No. of Guest Houses Owned by Others

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5	12	14.6	26.1	26.1
	6 to10	5	6.1	10.9	37.0
	11 to 20	2	2.4	4.3	41.3
	20 and above	1	1.2	2.2	43.5
	Don't Know	26	31.7	56.5	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of guest houses owned by people from other islands in the island that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 15, 6, 3, 1, and 32 respectively.

If yes to question 5,

vi. Local staff working in guest houses

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above e) Don't know

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Local Staff	46	3.65	1.509	.222

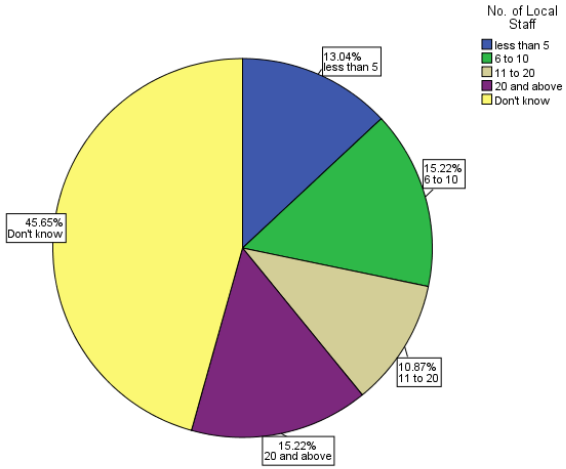
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
No. of Local Staff	16.418	45	.000	3.652	3.20	4.10

No. of Local Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5	6	7.3	13.0	13.0
	6 to 10	7	8.5	15.2	28.3
	11 to 20	5	6.1	10.9	39.1
	20 and above	7	8.5	15.2	54.3
	Don't know	21	25.6	45.7	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of local staff working in the guest house that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 7, 9, 6, 9 and 26 respectively.

If yes to question 5,

vii. Number of foreign staff working in guest houses

a) Less than 5 b) 6-10 c) 11 – 20 d) 20 and above e) Don't know

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
No. of Foreign Staff	46	3.57	1.655	.244

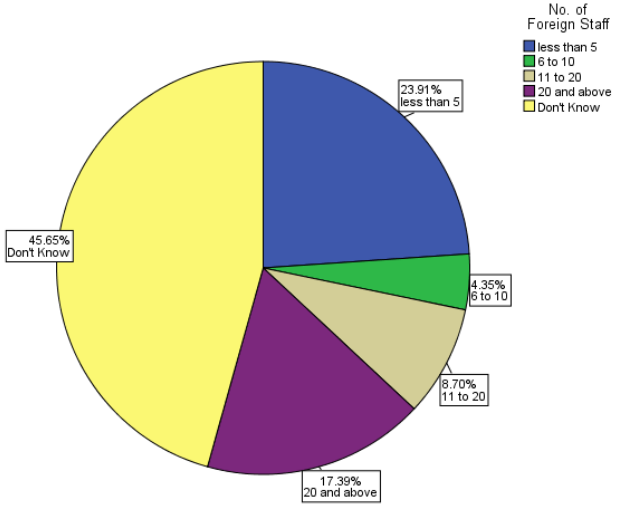
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
No. of Foreign Staff	14.608	45	.000	3.565	3.07	4.06

No. of Foreign Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5	11	13.4	23.9	23.9
	6 to 10	2	2.4	4.3	28.3
	11 to 20	4	4.9	8.7	37.0
	20 and above	8	9.8	17.4	54.3
	Don't Know	21	25.6	45.7	100.0
	Total	46	56.1	100.0	
Missing	99	36	43.9		
Total		82	100.0		



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has said that the amount of foreign staff working in the guest house that they know of has less than 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 20, 20 and above and don't know the amount by percentage of 13, 3, 5, 10, and 26 respectively.

6) Do you agree that the introduction of guest house business within the island has led to an increase in employment opportunities for the people of the island?

a) Yes b) No

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in employment opportunities?	82	1.07	.262	.029

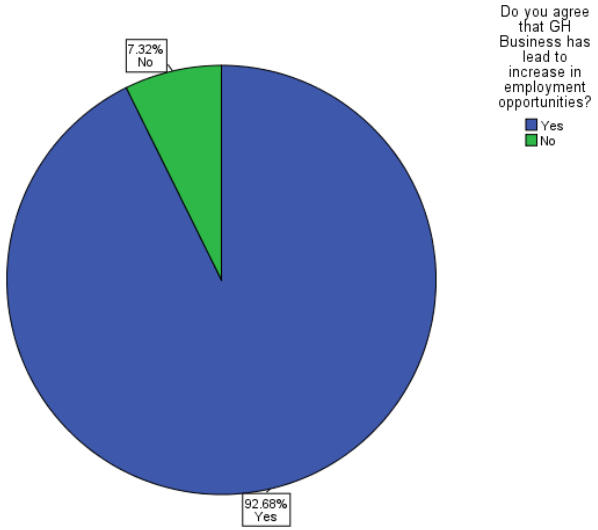
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in employment opportunities?	37.089	81	.000	1.073	1.02	1.13

Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in employment opportunities?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	76	92.7	92.7	92.7
	No	6	7.3	7.3	100.0

Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to the above question by a percentage of 93 and 7 respectively.

7) Do you agree that the introduction of guest house business within the islands has increased business opportunities for the locals?

a) Yes b) No

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in Business Opportunities?	82	1.02	.155	.017

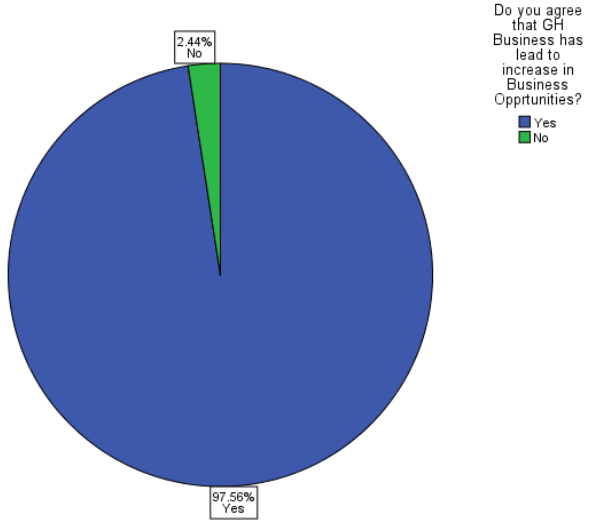
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in Business Opportunities?	59.767	81	.000	1.024	.99	1.06

Do you agree that GH Business has lead to increase in Business Opprtunities?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	80	97.6	97.6	97.6
	No	2	2.4	2.4	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated in answering this question has answered Yes or No by a percentage of 98 and 2 respectively.

If yes to question 7,

i. Shop business, restaurant and café'

One-Sample Statistics

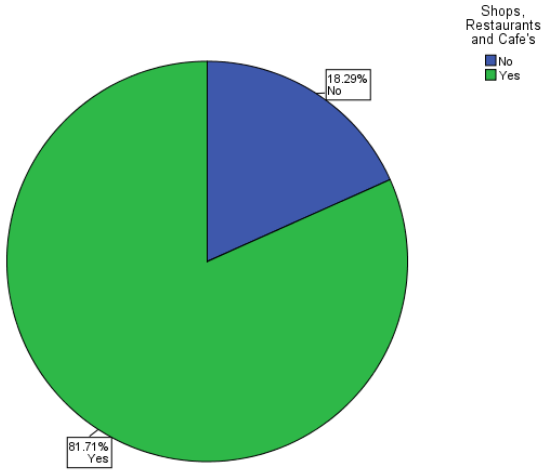
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Shops, Restaurants and Cafe's	82	.82	.389	.043

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Shops, Restaurants and Cafe's	19.021	81	.000	.817	.73	.90

Shops, Restaurants and Cafe's

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	15	18.3	18.3	18.3
	Yes	67	81.7	81.7	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to the increase in shops restaurants and café businesses by a percentage of 82 and 18 respectively.

If yes to question 7,

ii. Increase in fishing activities

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Fishing Activities	82	.23	.425	.047

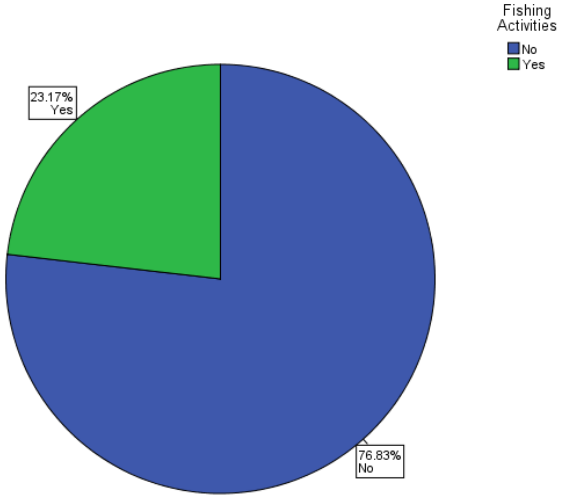
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
Fishing Activities	4.943	81	.000	.232	.14	.32

Fishing Activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	63	76.8	76.8	76.8
	Yes	19	23.2	23.2	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to the increase in fishing activities by a percentage of 23 and 77 respectively.

If yes to question 7,

iii. Increase in locally produced crafts business

One-Sample Statistics

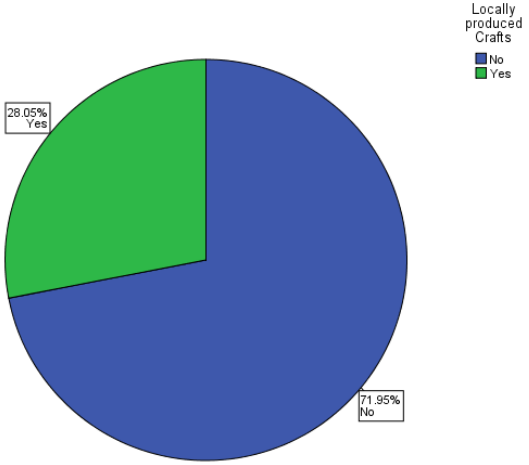
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Locally produced Crafts	82	.28	.452	.050

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Locally produced Crafts	5.619	81	.000	.280	.18	.38

Locally produced Crafts

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	59	72.0	72.0	72.0
	Yes	23	28.0	28.0	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to the increase in locally produced craft businesses by a percentage of 28 and 72 respectively.

If yes to question 7,

iv. **Increase in other businesses**

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Others	82	.05	.217	.024

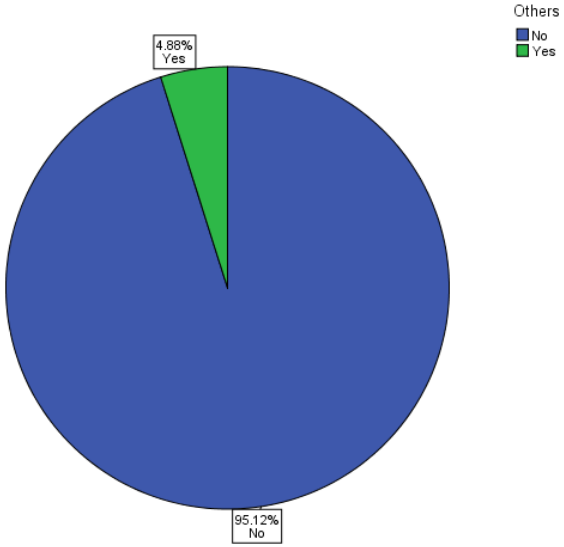
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
Others	2.038	81	.045	.049	.00	.10

Others

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	78	95.1	95.1	95.1
	Yes	4	4.9	4.9	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to the increase in other types of businesses by a percentage of 5 and 95 respectively.

8) Do you agree that the guest house business has an impact on local population?

a) Yes B) No

One-Sample Statistics

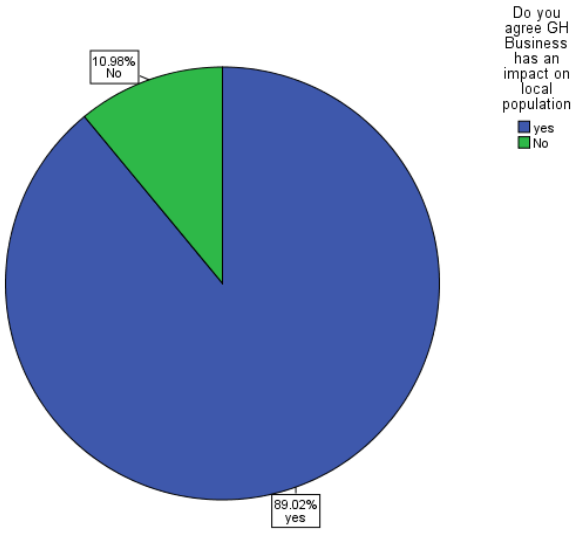
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you agree GH Business has an impact on local population	82	1.11	.315	.035

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Do you agree GH Business has an impact on local population	31.952	81	.000	1.110	1.04	1.18

Do you agree GH Business has an impact on local population

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	73	89.0	89.0	89.0
	No	9	11.0	11.0	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to whether they agree that guest house business has an impact on local population by a percentage of 11 and 89 respectively.

If yes to question 8,

i) Are you happy that tourists are staying in your island?

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Are you happy that tourists are staying in your island?	82	.68	.468	.052

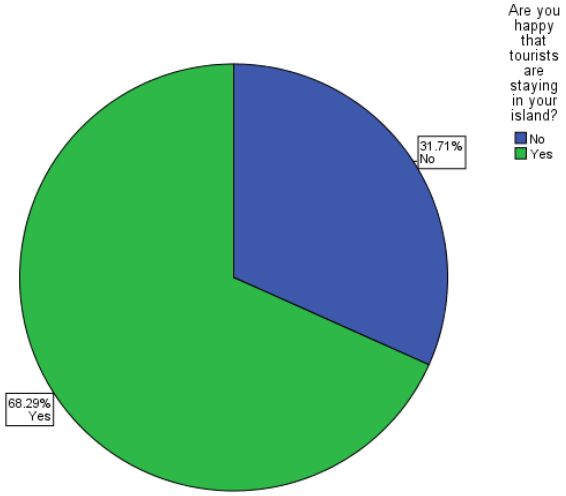
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Are you happy that tourists are staying in your island?	13.208	81	.000	.683	.58	.79

Are you happy that tourists are staying in your island?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	26	31.7	31.7	31.7
	Yes	56	68.3	68.3	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to being happy about tourists staying in their islands by a percentage of 68 and 32 respectively.

If yes to question 8,

ii. Are you keen to learn on tourists' way of living?

One-Sample Statistics

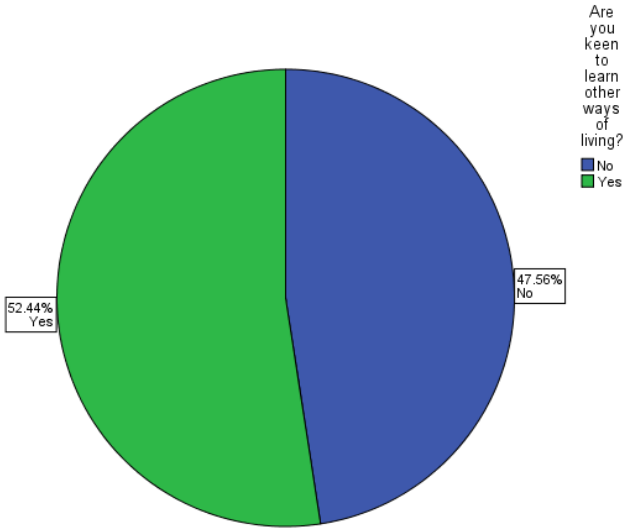
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Are you keen to learn other ways of living?	82	.52	.502	.055

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Are you keen to learn other ways of living?	9.450	81	.000	.524	.41	.63

Are you keen to learn other ways of living?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	39	47.6	47.6	47.6
	Yes	43	52.4	52.4	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to being keen on learning other ways of living by a percentage of 52 and 48 respectively.

If yes to question 8,

iii. Does the tourist's way of living impact your community's lifestyle (eg.dress code)

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Does the tourist way of living impact community way of living?	82	.49	.503	.056

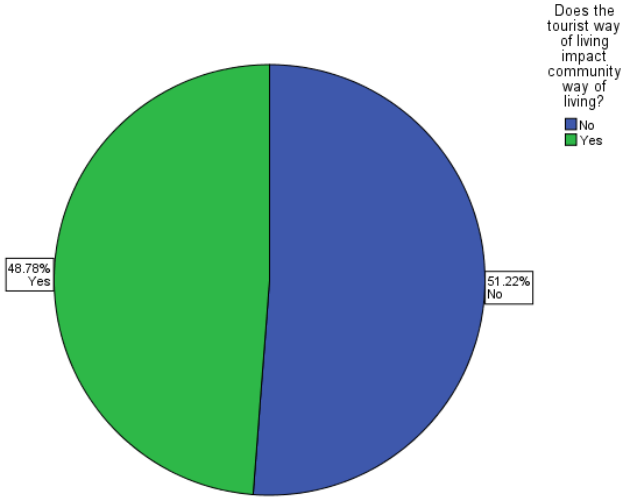
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Does the tourist way of living impact community way of living?	8.783	81	.000	.488	.38	.60

Does the tourist way of living impact community way of living?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	42	51.2	51.2	51.2
	Yes	40	48.8	48.8	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to having an impact on the local's way of living by a percentage of 49 and 51 respectively.

If yes to question 8,

iv. Do you think that the tourists eating habits has an impact to local's way of eating

One-Sample Statistics

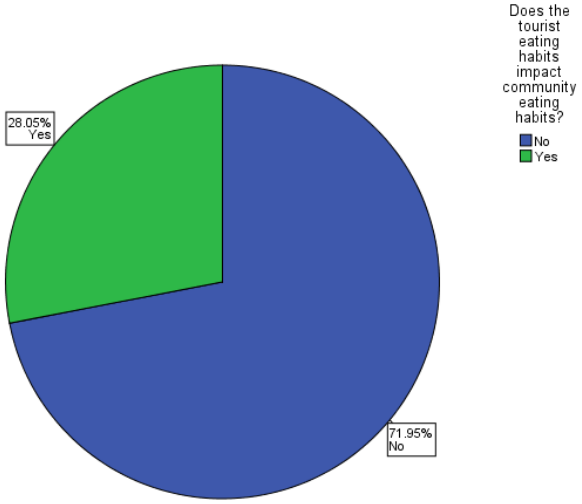
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Does the tourist eating habits impact community eating habits?	82	.28	.452	.050

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Does the tourist eating habits impact community eating habits?	5.619	81	.000	.280	.18	.38

Does the tourist eating habits impact community eating habits?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	59	72.0	72.0	72.0
	Yes	23	28.0	28.0	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to having an impact on the eating habits by a percentage of 28 and 72 respectively.

If yes to question 8,

v. Do you think that the tourists' activities have an impact to locals' activities?

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Does tourist activities impact local activities?	82	.65	.481	.053

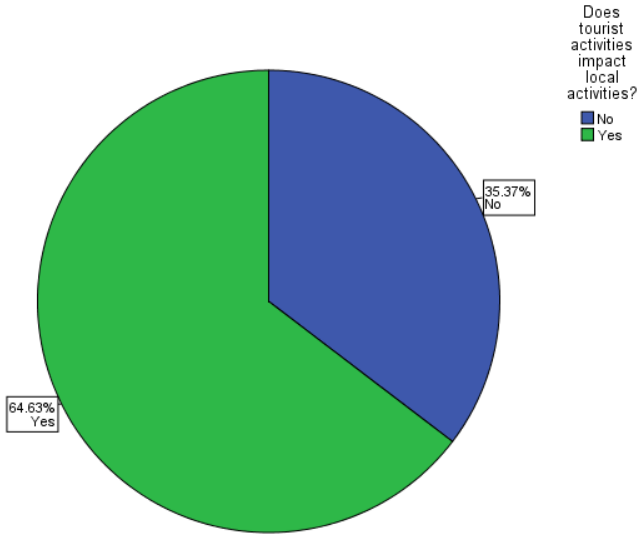
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Does tourist activities impact local activities?	12.167	81	.000	.646	.54	.75

Does tourist activities impact local activities?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	29	35.4	35.4	35.4
	Yes	53	64.6	64.6	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to having an impact on the locals' activities by a percentage of 65 and 35 respectively.

9. Do you agree that the local islands are better off with guesthouses?

a)Yes b)No

One-Sample Statistics

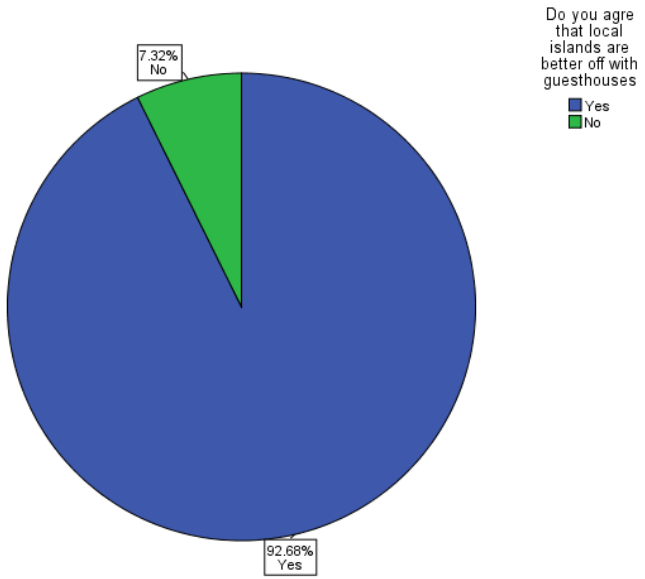
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you agre that local islands are better off with guesthouses	82	1.07	.262	.029

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Do you agre that local islands are better off with guesthouses	37.089	81	.000	1.073	1.02	1.13

Do you agree that local islands are better off with guesthouses

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	76	92.7	92.7	92.7
	No	6	7.3	7.3	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to being better off with guest houses by a percentage of 93 and 7 respectively.

If yes to question 9, do you believe that it

i. increases environmental awareness

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Increases Environmental Awareness	82	.70	.463	.051

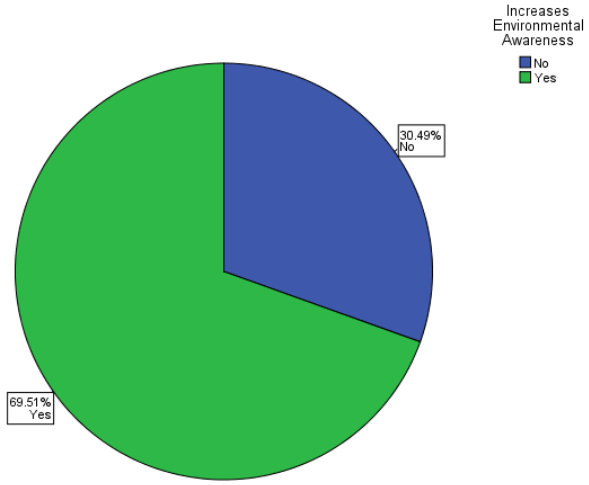
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Increases Environmental Awareness	13.590	81	.000	.695	.59	.80

Increases Environmental Awareness

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	25	30.5	30.5	30.5
	Yes	57	69.5	69.5	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to increase in environmental awareness by a percentage of 70 and 30 respectively.

If yes to question 9, do you believe that it

ii. Improves waste management

One-Sample Statistics

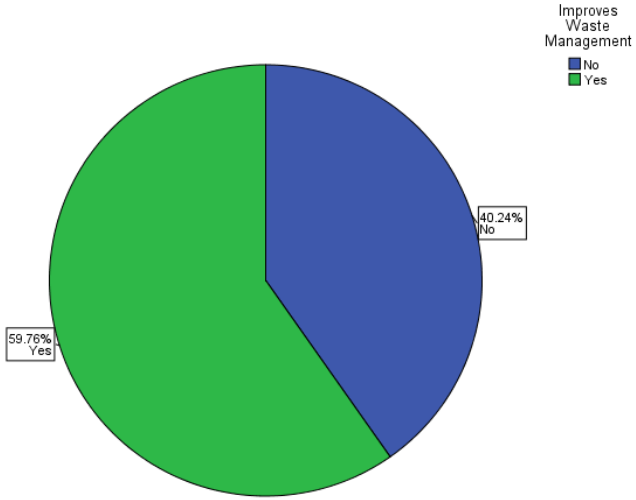
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Improves Waste Management	82	.60	.493	.054

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Improves Waste Management	10.967	81	.000	.598	.49	.71

Improves Waste Management

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	33	40.2	40.2	40.2
	Yes	49	59.8	59.8	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to improvement in waste management by a percentage of 60 and 40 respectively.

If yes to question 9, do you believe that it

iii. Improves sewage system

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Improve Sewage System	82	.51	.503	.056

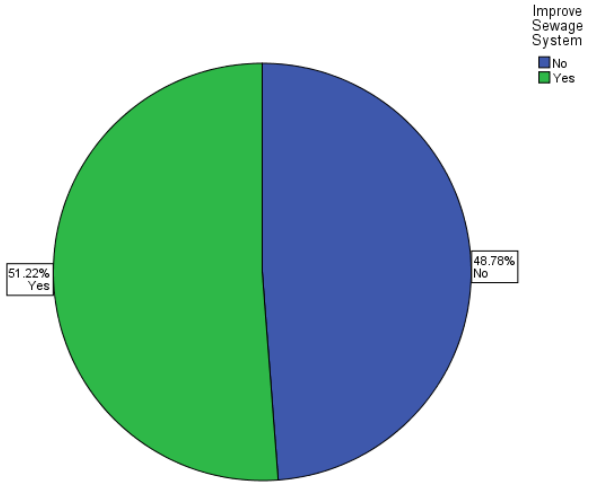
One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0				
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference

					Lower	Upper
Improve Sewage System	9.222	81	.000	.512	.40	.62

Improve Sewage System

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	40	48.8	48.8	48.8
	Yes	42	51.2	51.2	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to improvement in sewage system by a percentage of 51 and 49 respectively.

If yes to question 9, do you believe that it

iv. increases availability of more variety of commodities for locals to buy

One-Sample Statistics

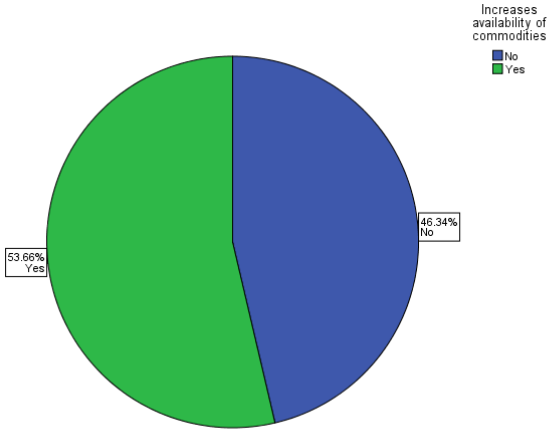
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Increases availability of commodities	82	.54	.502	.055

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Increases availability of commodities	9.684	81	.000	.537	.43	.65

Increases availability of commodities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	38	46.3	46.3	46.3
	Yes	44	53.7	53.7	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to increase in availability of commodities by a percentage of 54 and 46 respectively.

If Yes to question 9, do you believe that it

v. **Increases job opportunities**

One-Sample Statistics

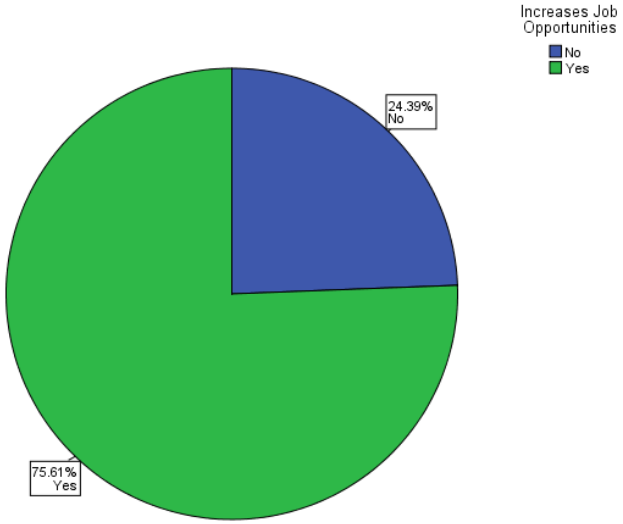
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Increases Job Opportunities	82	.76	.432	.048

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Increases Job Opportunities	15.846	81	.000	.756	.66	.85

Increases Job Opportunities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	20	24.4	24.4	24.4
	Yes	62	75.6	75.6	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to increase in job opportunities by a percentage of 76 and 24 respectively.

10) Do you think that the increase in guest houses has led to positive impacts to the overall tourism industry in the Maldives?
a) Yes b) No

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean

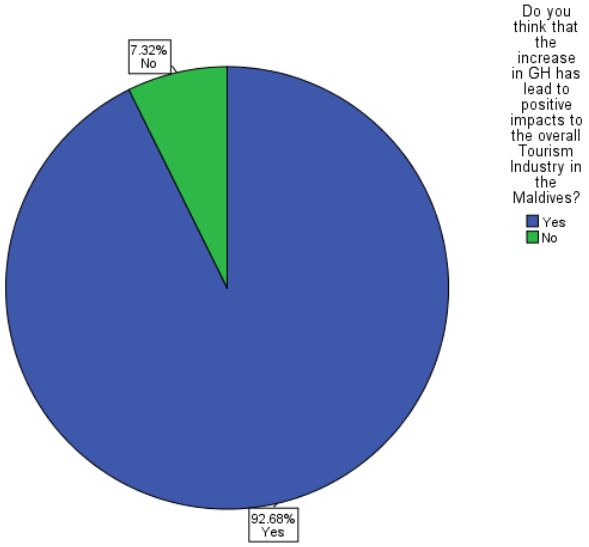
Do you think that the increase in GH has lead to positive impacts to the overall Tourism Industry in the Maldives?	82	1.07	.262	.029

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Do you think that the increase in GH has lead to positive impacts to the overall Tourism Industry in the Maldives?	37.089	81	.000	1.073	1.02	1.13

Do you think that the increase in GH has lead to positive impacts to the overall Tourism Industry in the Maldives?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	76	92.7	92.7	92.7
	No	6	7.3	7.3	100.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0	



The data analysis output indicates a t-test of 82.00 and a p-value of .0001, which is less than .05. There is significant in opinion that answering population participated that said Yes and No to positive impact to the overall tourism industry by a percentage of 93 and 7 respectively.

Discussion

The results of the study should be fairly accurate depending on the fact that 69% of the people interviewed were from the tourism industry itself and they are the people who would have the most knowledge on the topic. However, it showed that among the people interviewed there were many who still do not have enough knowledge about the guest houses in their islands. It could be because they were hesitant to give the answer as they might not be accurate.

If we take question by question, it is important to note that the majority apart from who does not know the answer thinks that there are less than 5% of foreigners working in guest houses in their islands. This is a good indication as this shows that employment opportunities introduced by guesthouse tourism are being used by locals and this should enhance the much needed Community Based Tourism in our island communities. As a matter of fact question6 of the study indicated that 93% of the population interviewed agreed that it is creating employment opportunities for locals.

On the other hand, the majority, apart from those who don't seem to know, indicated that only 5% of guest houses are owned by the islanders themselves in the islands. This is not a very favourable response considering the need for Community Based Tourism. It is definitely important that it is the islanders who need to invest in their islands in order to maximise the benefits to the islands. We can note that there are opportunities given by

the government in terms of loans and such to invest in tourism and the locals should make use of these opportunities. This can also be a question of how aware the locals are of these opportunities and how well the local government authorities in the islands are acting on encouraging and giving information to locals about these opportunities.

The question no.8, 'Are you happy that tourists are staying in your island' was asked to find out the perception of locals on the guest house business. The fact that 68% of the people interviewed thinks that they are happy does not however give a perception of all locals in this matter as 69% of the people interviewed are from the industry itself. Therefore, if an honest opinion of the locals living in islands are required this should be done as further research by interviewing islanders who are not directly employed in the industry. Furthermore, it should be noted that the majority thinks that there is an impact on the local's activities by the guest activities in the islands. What kind of impacts they are should also be explored in further research so that these impacts are minimized if desired by the islanders.

It is also important to note that the study highlights the importance of the fishing population, the arts and crafts people as well as the agricultural industry's need to work more in line with the guest houses to promote their businesses in the islands.

Nevertheless, it is good to note that environmental awareness is rising and waste management of the islands are improving due to the introduction of guest house businesses in the islands. This definitely is good news to the islanders and the government as well.

More good news comes at the end as 93% of the answering population said that the overall impact to the tourism industry by the introduction of guest house business is entirely positive.

Conclusion

The research done, howsoever small scale it was, shows that the majority of Maldivians are in favour of the blooming guest house businesses in the populated islands of the Maldives. They do have some reservations when it comes to mingling with tourists and adapting their lifestyle, however, Maldivians, being hospitable by nature, are very adaptable to every change.

The importance lies in making the locals aware of the opportunities created by tourism and also empowering the communities and explaining to them the opportunities available to create Community Based Tourism with the help of this business.

There will no doubt be an increase in surplus revenue and employment opportunities for locals, however, it is also important to minimise employing the amount of foreign expatriates who work in the guest houses as well as in other related businesses in these communities so that the maximum benefit comes to locals.