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Digital Transformation, Resilience, and Entrepreneurial Empowerment in Community-Based Tourism: A Systematic Literature Review

Sherly Raka Siwi Putri Utomo*
[1]Tour and Travel Business Program, Department of Business Administration, Politeknik Negeri Bandung, Indonesia

Corresponding: sherlyutomo@polban.ac.id

Abstract

Community-based tourism (CBT) is transitioning from passive local participation to active entrepreneurial empowerment amidst global crises and rapid digitalization. To address the fragmented understanding of this paradigm shift, this Systematic Literature Review (SLR) adheres to PRISMA 2020 guidelines, synthesizing 40 high-impact Scopus articles published between 2016 and 2026. This study explores the critical intersection of digital transformation, socio-economic resilience, and entrepreneurial empowerment within rural destinations. The findings reveal a dual-edged nature of digitalization: while e-tourism platforms empower micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by bypassing traditional intermediaries, they risk exacerbating the local digital divide without robust grassroots capacity building. Furthermore, the synthesis demonstrates that post-crisis destination resilience relies heavily on diversifying livelihood portfolios and leveraging cultural heritage rather than mere financial reconstruction. Ultimately, this review proposes the Regenerative Smart CBT Framework, establishing that technological adoption and sustainable leadership must be directly mediated by localized entrepreneurship. This structural mediation is essential to evolve CBT from a basic conservation strategy into a proactive engine for ecological regeneration and long-term socio-economic resilience.

Keywords: *Community-Based Tourism, Digital Transformation, Socio-Economic Resilience, Entrepreneurial Empowerment, Regenerative Tourism*

INTRODUCTION

Community-based tourism (CBT) has long been established as an innovative, participatory mechanism that centers local communities in destination development and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the eradication of poverty (Jackson, 2025). The fundamental premise of CBT lies in its capacity to generate localized community welfare, alleviate poverty in marginalized rural areas, and foster socio-cultural revitalization (Ngo & Creutz, 2022; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025b). Over the past decade, tourism village development has increasingly served as a strategic pathway for achieving sustainable rural development, enhancing local livelihoods, and preserving ecological heritage (Fafurida et al., 2026; Nizamiev et al., 2025). However, as destination environments face unprecedented macro-level shocks and rapid modernization, traditional CBT models are exhibiting significant structural vulnerabilities (Pramono & Juliana, 2025), necessitating a shift from passive community participation to dynamic entrepreneurial empowerment and technological integration.

Despite the widespread recognition of resident empowerment as a prerequisite for sustainable tourism (Joo et al., 2020), empirical evidence indicates persistent challenges in

translating policy into sustained local welfare. Research highlights that while CBT can positively impact livelihoods, its effective implementation is frequently hindered by inadequate community knowledge, unequal benefit distribution, and structural rigidities (Gayo & Katonge, 2025; McCall & Mearns, 2021). For instance, in coastal and socio-economically vulnerable areas, the intersection of ecological degradation and poverty requires robust community participation and direct tourism-related employment to function as viable mediators for sustainable livelihood frameworks (Luc et al., 2026; Nurlukman et al., 2025). This complexity underscores the urgent need to reconceptualize CBT not merely as an alternative tourism product, but as an integrated socio-ecological system requiring high resilience.

The concept of resilience in tourism destinations has thus transitioned from a post-disaster recovery phase—often heavily focused on hardware reconstruction—to an emphasis on the social, cultural, and economic capacities required to build back better (Lin & Lin, 2020). The vulnerability of tourism-dependent communities, starkly exposed by crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, demands cultivating community resilience through sustainable leadership and grassroots entrepreneurship (Pramono & Juliana, 2025). However, current studies addressing how sustainability leadership and entrepreneurial strategies influence the operational realities of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the bottom of the pyramid remain surprisingly sparse (Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022).

A critical gap in addressing this vulnerability is the fragmented understanding of digital transformation within the CBT context. While existing systematic reviews have documented the evolution of rural homestays and academic tourism paradigms (Janjua et al., 2021), the specific intersection of digital innovation, economic resilience, and regenerative socio-economic practices remains underexplored. Digital platforms and technological infrastructures are theoretically positioned to bypass traditional market barriers, thereby facilitating direct access for local entrepreneurs to global markets. However, the exact mechanisms by which digital transformation enables psychological, social, and political empowerment within tourism villages—while simultaneously mitigating the negative socio-environmental impacts of unchecked tourism (Ferdos et al., 2026)—remain to be systematically synthesized.

To address this substantive gap, this systematic literature review (SLR) synthesizes recent empirical evidence and theoretical advancements from 40 highly selected studies published between 2016 and 2026. By intersecting the domains of technological innovation, community resilience, and sustainable livelihood frameworks, this review seeks to answer the following research questions:

RQ1: How does digital transformation facilitate or hinder entrepreneurial empowerment and supply-chain resilience among MSMEs in community-based tourism?

RQ2: What are the foundational mechanisms driving socio-economic and ecological resilience in CBT destinations facing modern macro-environmental crises?

RQ3: In what ways do community participation and localized digital integration mediate the transition toward regenerative and sustainable tourism practices?

By addressing these questions, this study provides a comprehensive framework that elucidates the operational dynamics of contemporary CBT. The synthesized findings offer actionable pathways for policymakers, destination management organizations, and local stakeholders aiming to transition from conventional community participation toward resilient, digitally integrated, and socially empowered tourism ecosystems.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The foundational philosophy of community-based tourism (CBT) emphasizes local agency and the equitable distribution of socio-economic benefits (Murphy, 2013). However, contemporary discourse has shifted from passive community participation toward active entrepreneurial

empowerment. Empirical studies suggest that the success of CBT is increasingly dependent on the capacity of local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to transition into community-based social enterprises (Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022). This empowerment is not merely economic but also encompasses psychological and political dimensions, in which residents' perceived knowledge of tourism dynamics significantly influences their agency within the sector (Joo et al., 2020). Consequently, empowerment in modern CBT is defined by the community's ability to alleviate poverty through strategic cultural revitalization and inclusive growth (Ngo & Creutz, 2022; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025a).

Resilience in tourism is traditionally defined as a system's capacity to absorb shocks while maintaining its core functions (Holling, 1973). In contemporary CBT, this concept has evolved into building back better, in which post-disaster recovery prioritizes social and cultural reconstruction over mere physical infrastructure (Lin & Lin, 2020). The vulnerability of tourism-dependent regions, particularly exposed during global health crises, necessitates a shift toward regenerative tourism. Unlike conventional sustainability, regenerative models actively restore socio-ecological systems, utilizing community-based ecotourism as a catalyst for local development and environmental stewardship (Fafurida et al., 2026; Nizamiev et al., 2025). Resilience is therefore intrinsically linked to sustainable livelihoods, where community participation and diverse tourism-related employment act as critical mediators in maintaining ecosystem services, such as mangrove conservation in coastal settlements (Luc et al., 2026; Nurlukman et al., 2025).

Digital transformation represents a systemic shift in how community-based destinations operate, market themselves, and manage resources. In rural settings, the evolution of homestays and community-led initiatives is increasingly mediated by digital platforms and smart infrastructure (Janjua et al., 2021). Technological integration serves a dual purpose: it facilitates direct market access for rural MSMEs by bypassing traditional intermediaries and enhances the operational efficiency of regenerative practices (Ferdos et al., 2026; Pramono & Juliana, 2025). However, the literature identifies a critical digital gap in rural areas, where the lack of technological infrastructure and digital literacy can hinder the very empowerment it seeks to promote (McCall & Mearns, 2021). Thus, digital transformation in CBT must be understood as an integrated infrastructure that requires both sustainable leadership and grassroots capacity building to ensure long-term resilience.

METHODS

To ensure methodological rigor, transparency, and replicability, this systematic literature review was designed and executed in strict adherence to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 guidelines (Page et al., 2021). The objective of the methodology was to systematically identify, evaluate, and synthesize recent empirical and theoretical literature positioned at the intersection of community-based tourism (CBT), digital transformation, and entrepreneurial resilience.

The primary data retrieval was conducted using the Scopus database, selected for its comprehensive indexing of high-impact, peer-reviewed journals in tourism management, sustainable development, and the social sciences. A robust, Boolean-driven search string was deployed to capture the multifaceted nature of the research questions. The specific search query executed was: *TITLE-ABS-KEY ((community-based tourism OR CBT OR community tourism OR local community involvement) AND (tourism) AND (development OR evolution OR transformation OR impact OR sustainability)) AND PUBYEAR > 2015 AND PUBYEAR < 2027 AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE, j)) AND (LIMIT-TO (OA, all)) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, final)) AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, Community-based Tourism)) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, ar)) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, English)).* This initial extraction yielded 192 peer-reviewed open-access journal articles spanning 2016 to early 2026.

Following the identification phase, a rigorous qualitative screening of the abstracts and keywords was performed. The inclusion criteria necessitated that articles: (1) empirically investigate community or socio-economic aspects of tourism, (2) incorporate variables related to economic empowerment, technological integration, or regenerative sustainability, and (3) focus structurally on micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) or local actors within rural or protected destinations. Conversely, the exclusion criteria filtered out literature that superficially mentioned CBT without a core focus on the community (false positives), theoretical papers lacking empirical validation, and articles situated outside the socio-economic or technological context of the destination. This qualitative screening phase resulted in the exclusion of 29 articles, leaving a corpus of 163 highly relevant manuscripts.

Given the large volume of the remaining 163 articles, a composite scoring algorithm was applied to abstract metadata to identify the most scientifically impactful and intersectional literature. This algorithmic proxy was designed to measure the density of specific thematic markers across three conceptual pillars: 1) Digital & Innovation Matrix: Presence of terms such as digital, technology, smart, innovation, platforms, and e-tourism; 2) Resilience & Empowerment Matrix: Density of concepts involving resilience, empowerment, entrepreneurship, livelihood, MSMEs, and poverty alleviation; and 3) Regenerative Transformation Matrix: Focus on sustainability, ecological stewardship, conservation, and regenerative practices.

Articles were assigned a cumulative score based on their intersectionality across these three domains. A threshold was established to identify the top 40 manuscripts with the highest composite relevance, ensuring the final dataset represented the vanguard of contemporary CBT research. The step-by-step reduction process is visually detailed in the PRISMA Flow Diagram (Figure 1).

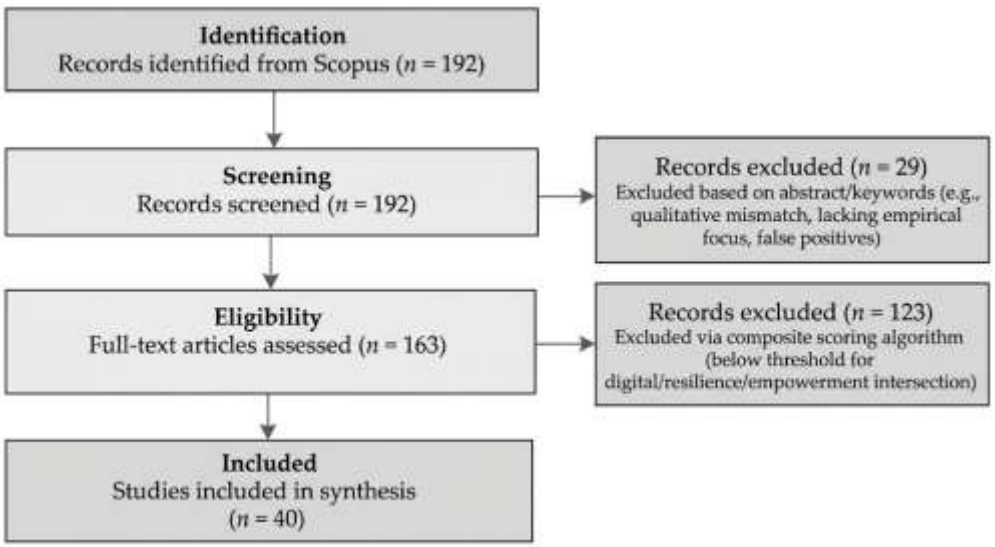


Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram
Source: Research data, 2026

For the final sample of 40 articles, full-text manuscripts were retrieved and subjected to an in-depth data extraction protocol. A comprehensive matrix (Table 1) was constructed to catalog key bibliometric and qualitative data, including authorship, publication year, the study's geographical context, the overarching methodological approach (e.g., qualitative case study, structural equation modeling), and the principal findings related to the three established research questions. Rather than summarizing the literature sequentially, a cross-sectional thematic synthesis was employed to integrate the findings, enabling the identification of systemic

patterns, contradictions, and critical gaps in the digital and entrepreneurial evolution of CBT destinations.

Table 1. Data Extraction and Thematic Synthesis Matrix

Reference (Year)	Geographical Context	Methodological Approach	Key Findings / Thematic Contributions
(Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022)	Thailand	Qualitative Case Study	Empowerment & Resilience: Highlights the critical role of sustainability leadership in transforming rural SMEs into community-based social enterprises. Demonstrates that leadership capacity directly determines the community's socio-economic resilience.
(Jackson, 2025)	Global Context	Conceptual / Qualitative	Regenerative Focus: Positions CBT as a participatory approach central to achieving SDGs (particularly No Poverty). Emphasizes that placing local actors at the center of development creates structural resilience against market fluctuations.
(Lin & Lin, 2020)	Taiwan	Qualitative Case Study	Resilience: Redefines post-disaster recovery in CBT. Concludes that building back better must transcend physical hardware reconstruction and prioritize the social and cultural aspects of recovery to ensure long-term community resilience.
(Fafurida et al., 2026)	Indonesia / Global	Quantitative Analysis	Regenerative Transformation: Identifies tourism village development as a strategic pathway for preserving cultural heritage and strengthening community resilience, shifting the focus from mere local welfare to holistic rural sustainability.
(Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025a)	Thailand	Qualitative Case Study	Empowerment & Innovation: Examines how CBT enterprises can strategically leverage creative tourism. Shows that cultural revitalization and innovative product offerings are key drivers for inclusive community empowerment.
(Ngo & Creutz, 2022)	Vietnam	Quantitative (Survey)	Empowerment: Validates CBT as a primary strategy for poverty alleviation in marginalized rural areas. Findings prove that structured CBT significantly increases community welfare when local participation is maximized.
(Luc et al., 2026)	Vietnam	Quantitative Analysis	Resilience & Livelihood: Utilizes the Sustainable Livelihood Framework to clarify the mediating roles of community participation. Finds that direct tourism-related employment is essential for absorbing socio-economic shocks.
(McCall & Mearns, 2021)	General / Global	Qualitative Analysis	Empowerment vs. Barriers: Focuses on the positive impacts of CBT on empowerment while identifying critical structural barriers (including technological deficits) that hinder local communities from fully capitalizing on tourism revenues.

Reference (Year)	Geographical Context	Methodological Approach	Key Findings / Thematic Contributions
(Nurlukman et al., 2025)	Indonesia	Quantitative Analysis	Regenerative Resilience: Examines the intersection of socio-economic vulnerability and ecological degradation in coastal slum settlements. Proves that community-based mangrove ecotourism serves as a dual tool for environmental restoration and economic resilience.

Source: Research data, 2026

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthesized data from the 40 selected studies reveal that the modernization of community-based tourism (CBT) is no longer a linear process of capacity building, but rather a complex intersection of technological adoption, economic survival, and systemic resilience. The findings are organized into three primary thematic pillars that address the research questions established in this review.

Digital Transformation and MSME Integration in CBT

The integration of digital technology into rural tourism destinations represents a fundamental paradigm shift in how local communities interact with the global tourism market. The literature consistently identifies digital transformation not merely as an auxiliary marketing tool but as a critical infrastructure necessary for reducing socio-economic disparities between urban centers and peripheral regions. The deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and smart tourism frameworks allows micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to transition from localized, informal businesses to digitally integrated community-based social enterprises.

A primary mechanism of this transformation is the disintermediation of the tourism supply chain. Through digital platforms, social media, and e-tourism applications, rural homestays and local artisans can bypass traditional tourism agencies and brokers. This direct-to-consumer model significantly enhances the community's retained profit margins, thereby directly supporting entrepreneurial empowerment and poverty alleviation (Jackson, 2025; Janjua et al., 2023). Furthermore, digital platforms facilitate the customization of creative tourism experiences, allowing local actors to monetize specific cultural or ecological niches that were previously inaccessible to broader markets (Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025b).

However, the literature also reveals a significant paradox inherent in the digitalization of CBT: the digital divide. While technology offers immense potential for empowerment, its implementation frequently exacerbates existing structural inequalities within the community. Studies show that the rapid introduction of smart village concepts often outpaces rural populations' digital literacy and infrastructural readiness. When local actors lack the technical capacity to manage digital platforms or interpret data analytics, the control over destination marketing frequently shifts back to external tech entities or more educated, urbanized elites operating within the region. Consequently, without targeted educational interventions, digital integration can inadvertently erode local decision-making power, contradicting CBT's foundational ethos (Torre et al., 2022).

Moreover, the transition toward a digitally integrated tourism village requires substantial initial capital investment, a barrier that many rural MSMEs cannot overcome on their own. The synthesis indicates that successful digital transformations in CBT are heavily reliant on robust multi-stakeholder governance models. Effective integration occurs when national technology policies are tailored to local socio-cultural contexts and supported by continuous grassroots digital capacity-building (Fafurida et al., 2026). Thus, to answer RQ1, digital transformation serves

as a powerful enabler of entrepreneurial empowerment by expanding market access and enhancing profit retention, but it simultaneously poses a severe risk of deepening systemic inequalities if not accompanied by equitable infrastructure development and sustained digital literacy programs.

Socio-Economic Resilience and Crisis Recovery

The literature reviewed in this paper demonstrates that the concept of resilience in community-based tourism (CBT) has undergone fundamental evolution over the past decade. Historically, resilience was often measured by a destination's capacity to return to a pre-crisis economic baseline. However, recent empirical studies, heavily influenced by the global disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and localized natural disasters, redefine resilience as a transformative capability. The vulnerability of tourism-dependent communities has starkly exposed the fragility of conventional tourism models, necessitating a strategic pivot toward adaptive governance and sustainable socio-economic frameworks (Pramono & Juliana, 2025).

A critical mechanism for building this resilience is applying resilience thinking as a core operational strategy rather than a post-crisis reaction. Resilience thinking emphasizes the continuous interplay between human activity and ecological limits, allowing communities to navigate the new normality of detrimental eventualities (Ruiz-Ballesteros & del Campo Tejedor, 2020; Zhang et al., 2022). Within this framework, post-disaster recovery in CBT is no longer strictly associated with physical or hardware reconstruction. Instead, achieving the goal of building back better requires a profound focus on the social and cultural aspects of recovery. Research indicates that integrating indigenous culture and local heritage serves as a vital psychological and socio-structural anchor, mobilizing collective action and reducing community fragmentation during severe systemic shocks (Lin & Lin, 2020).

Furthermore, the operationalization of resilience is deeply embedded in the concept of sustainable livelihoods. The vulnerability of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the bottom of the economic pyramid dictates that financial buffers alone are insufficient for survival. Instead, socio-economic resilience is driven by the diversification of community assets. Empirical evidence based on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework clarifies that active community participation and localized tourism-related employment act as crucial mediating variables. Communities that distribute tourism operations across a wider network of local actors—rather than centralizing them within a few dominant enterprises—exhibit a significantly higher capacity to absorb macro-environmental shocks without collapsing (Luc et al., 2026).

Finally, the success of these resilience mechanisms is highly contingent upon localized sustainability leadership. The transition of informal rural enterprises into cohesive community-based social enterprises requires leadership that prioritizes long-term socio-ecological stability over short-term profit maximization (Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022). To directly address RQ2, the primary mechanisms driving socio-economic resilience in modern CBT models are not merely financial interventions, but rather the strategic cultivation of social capital, the diversification of livelihood portfolios, and the integration of cultural heritage as a unifying post-crisis recovery tool.

Entrepreneurial Empowerment and Regenerative Tourism

The synthesis of the selected literature reveals a critical evolution from the traditional paradigm of sustainable tourism to the more proactive framework of regenerative tourism. While sustainability primarily aims to mitigate negative environmental and social impacts, regenerative community-based tourism (CBT) actively revitalizes both socio-cultural structures and ecological systems. Central to this transition is the operationalization of entrepreneurial empowerment. Rather than positioning residents as passive beneficiaries or lower-tier employees within the tourism value chain, modern regenerative models require community members to act

simultaneously as autonomous micro-entrepreneurs and environmental stewards. This dual role not only addresses immediate livelihood necessities but also aligns local operations with broader global objectives, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) regarding poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth (Jackson, 2025; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025b).

Empirical evidence within the dataset demonstrates that ecological degradation in highly vulnerable areas—such as coastal slum settlements or protected nature reserves—can be effectively reversed when conservation is intrinsically linked to localized economic incentives. Studies focusing on ecosystem-based models, such as mangrove ecotourism, indicate that community-managed natural resources can transition from being vulnerable ecological liabilities to high-value economic assets. In these contexts, environmental restoration and economic resilience function as mutually reinforcing mechanisms, with visitor spending generated by conservation efforts directly translating into community income (Nurlukman et al., 2025; Purwoko et al., 2023). Furthermore, the implementation of community-based ecotourism in state nature reserves serves as a vital catalyst for rural development, proving that regenerative practices are highly viable when local actors maintain operational and strategic control over their natural assets (Nizamiev et al., 2025).

Beyond physical ecological conservation, entrepreneurial empowerment in regenerative CBT is heavily reliant on cultural revitalization. Tourism villages increasingly use creative tourism as a strategic mechanism to manage and promote intangible cultural heritage ethically. It is within this intersection that localized digital integration plays its most crucial mediating role. Digital platforms and e-tourism infrastructure enable community-based social enterprises to directly market their unique regenerative and creative offerings to conscientious global travelers, effectively bypassing traditional intermediaries, often exploitative, that would otherwise handle the marketing (Fafurida et al., 2026; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025b).

To directly address RQ3, the literature confirms that community participation and localized digital integration are indispensable mediators in the transition toward regenerative tourism practices. Digitalization empowers local entrepreneurs to manage, monitor, and market their socio-ecological assets independently. Consequently, this digital-entrepreneurial nexus transforms CBT from a passive conservation strategy into an active, resilient engine for sustainable livelihoods and continuous ecological regeneration.

Discussion

The systematic synthesis of the selected literature underscores a fundamental paradigm shift in the conceptualization and operationalization of community-based tourism (CBT). The historical model of CBT, which primarily emphasized passive community participation and basic economic distribution (Murphy, 2013), is no longer sufficient to navigate the complexities of the modern global tourism ecosystem. The findings from this review collectively advocate for a transition toward a Regenerative Smart CBT paradigm, characterized by the profound integration of digital transformation, entrepreneurial empowerment, and socio-ecological resilience.

A critical point of discussion emerging from the literature is the dual nature of digital transformation. While technological platforms unequivocally dismantle traditional market barriers and facilitate direct access for rural micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (Jackson, 2025; Janjua et al., 2021), they concurrently introduce the risk of a widening digital divide (Torre et al., 2022). If digital infrastructure is imposed without corresponding advancements in localized digital literacy and sustainable leadership, the control over tourism narratives and revenues frequently reverts to external technological intermediaries, thereby undermining the foundational ethos of CBT. Consequently, digitalization must be viewed not merely as an operational tool, but as a socio-technical intervention that requires robust, decentralized governance (Fafurida et al., 2026).

Furthermore, the discourse surrounding post-crisis recovery highlights that resilience in CBT is intrinsically linked to entrepreneurial empowerment. Financial reconstruction alone fails to guarantee long-term survival in the face of macro-environmental shocks. Instead, the literature confirms that communities with the highest levels of resilience leverage digital platforms to diversify their livelihood portfolios and transition into community-based social enterprises (Lin & Lin, 2020; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022). This entrepreneurial pivot transforms local actors from passive beneficiaries into active environmental stewards. As evidenced by ecosystem-based tourism models (Nurlukman et al., 2025; Purwoko et al., 2023), when local empowerment aligns with ecological conservation, CBT evolves from a sustainable practice (minimizing harm) to a regenerative force (actively restoring socio-ecological systems).

To encapsulate the theoretical contributions of this systematic literature review, we propose the Regenerative Smart CBT Framework (Figure 2). This model conceptualizes the systemic pathways through which vulnerable rural destinations can transition into resilient, regenerative ecosystems. The framework illustrates that Digital Transformation and Social Capital/Leadership act as primary structural inputs (Drivers). However, these inputs do not automatically lead to sustainability. They must be actively mediated through Entrepreneurial Empowerment and the development of Diversified Livelihoods (Mediators). Only through this mediated process can destinations achieve the ultimate outcomes of Socio-Economic Resilience and Ecological Regeneration (Regenerative Outcomes).

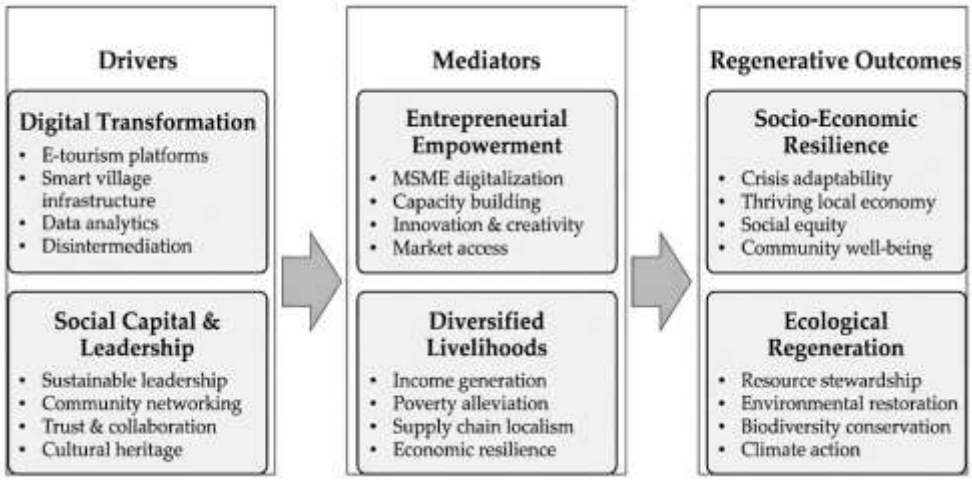


Figure 2. Regenerative Smart CBT Framework
Source: Research data, 2026

CONCLUSION

This systematic literature review contributes to the academic discourse by bridging three previously fragmented domains: digital tourism, socio-economic resilience, and entrepreneurial empowerment within community-based tourism. By synthesizing empirical evidence from 40 highly impactful studies published between 2016 and 2026, this review establishes that digital transformation and resilience are not parallel concepts, but mutually reinforcing imperatives for modern CBT. The proposed Regenerative Smart CBT Framework advances theoretical understanding by moving beyond the traditional sustainability paradigm toward a holistic model of regeneration, in which local MSMEs use digital platforms to restore their socio-ecological environments while actively ensuring economic viability.

For policymakers, destination management organizations (DMOs), and local governments, the findings provide clear, actionable imperatives. First, funding structures for tourism villages must shift from prioritizing physical hardware reconstruction toward sustained investments in digital

infrastructure and grassroots digital literacy programs. Without educational interventions, technological adoption will exacerbate the digital divide. Second, post-crisis recovery strategies should aggressively promote diversification of local livelihoods through MSME empowerment rather than relying on a single, dominant tourism attraction. Finally, community-based social enterprises should be incentivized to adopt regenerative practices, ensuring that global tourism revenues directly fund local environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.

While this review employed a rigorous PRISMA-compliant methodology and a composite scoring algorithm to identify the most relevant literature, it is inherently limited by its reliance on the Scopus database and English-language publications, potentially excluding valuable insights from regional journals. Future research should prioritize longitudinal empirical studies to test the operational validity of the proposed Regenerative Smart CBT Framework across diverse cultural and geographic contexts. Additionally, a quantitative investigation is required to assess the specific impacts of artificial intelligence and advanced smart-village infrastructure on the equitable distribution of revenues within indigenous tourism communities.

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