Chapter 8

The Relationship Between the Geographical Information Systems and Rural Development: Turkey Example

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ABSTRACT

Geographical data systems (GIS), which enable the creation of entities that are the subject of tourism, tourism planning, the identification of impact areas of tourism values, and the sustainable utilization of tourism entities, are data-collection and decision-making systems that can contribute to tourism planning and the development of tourism. Recently, tourists’ interests have shifted from sea-, sand-, and sun-focused tourism to alternative tourism types; one of which is rural tourism. With rural tourism, it is expected that economical and socio-cultural opportunities for people who live in rural areas can be improved. The realization of this provides the concept of rural development. Today, in Turkey, 36.40% of the whole population still live in rural areas and agricultural activities are the most important income sources. Therefore, it is possible to investigate rural tourism and rural development in the Turkish context. This chapter deals with suggestions in terms of rural tourism and rural development by using GIS.

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INTRODUCTION

The objectives of this chapter are:

- Giving information about geographical information systems,
- Explaining the rural tourism concept
- Giving informations about rural tourism potential of Turkey
- Explaining the relationship between rural tourism and rural development
- Giving strategies about rural tourism examples that were done or will be done with GIS in Turkey.

BACKGROUND

There are some researches about GIS or rural tourism and rural development concepts separately. But the there is no any research as book chapter or review, etc. So the main motive when preparing this chapter was fill the gap in the literature. So, this is a conceptual study.

Conceptual Analysis of Geographical Information Systems

Together with the developments in computer technologies and virtual world, at the beginning of the 21st century information systems started to be used to gather data related to the physical and cultural worlds, to investigate these, to solve the practical problems or use them today, available digital and analogue electronic devices facilitates to enable the inventories of the resources and the utilization of resources and facilitate the arithmetic or logical processes quickly. These data systems continue to develop fast and can form data, process them, store and use them in a far faster way when compared other ways (Raju, 2004).

Bringing together the computer hardware, software, personnel and methods in an organized way with aim of obtaining all kinds of data related to GIS, storing and updating them using, analyzing and monitoring them is called as Geographical Data System. The Primary aim of GIS is to convert the raw data into new that support the decision-making processes by means of location sharing and other analytic processes (Jensen and Christensen, 1986).

According to Fitzpatrick and Maguire (2000), GIS is a computer system which is designed to collect the geographical data related to human, location and facility together with their real references on earth within a database; carrying out several analyses in line with the aim; and the presentation of the results as maps, tables and graphs.
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