

HUMAN PARTICIPANTS RESEARCH CHECKLIST

Title: Disconnect for Competitiveness: Navigating the Smart Technology Paradox in Emerging Agritourism Destinations in Quang Binh, Vietnam

1. Response to Ethics Approval

Currently, the research team at Hue University, in accordance with its current regulations, does not require ethical approval from an ethics committee for studies in social sciences, behavioral research, or those not involving sensitive personal data, medical interventions, or vulnerable populations. However, this study fully adhered to ethical standards. Data collected from surveys and interviews did not include any sensitive or identifiable information, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of participants. All participants were provided with full details about the purpose of the research and gave their consent either verbally or in writing. The study posed no risks to participants regarding psychology, health, or rights. All data were securely stored and used solely for research purposes, following strict confidentiality principles and Hue University's research regulations, ensuring transparency and responsibility throughout the process.

2. Methods Section Response

- Recruitment Period: Participant recruitment was conducted from January to March 2025 through online surveys and face-to-face interviews. Detailed information about the recruitment process is presented in the article's Methods section.
- Informed Consent: Participants provided informed consent before participating in the study, and this process is clearly described in the Methods section of the article.
- Consent was obtained in two forms:
 - Written consent: For face-to-face surveys, signed consent forms were collected from participants.
 - Verbal consent: For online surveys, consent was documented through participants' completion of the survey after being fully informed about the study. This process is also explained in the article.
- Mention in the Article: The details of obtaining participants' consent were emphasized in the article to ensure transparency. The authors stated that the study fully adhered to ethical

principles, and no personal or sensitive information was used. This process is elaborated in the Research Design and Data Collection section.

3. Response to Retrospective Study

These data included archived survey responses and publicly available datasets related to the study's objectives. The authors did not have access to any information that could identify individual participants, either during the data collection process or after its completion. The data were anonymized before access, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of all participants in compliance with ethical research standards.

We are committed to strictly adhering to ethical standards, ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of participants.

Author group signature

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