A Community Resilience Motivation Model: integrating socio-economic and socio-emotional drivers for post-disaster recovery in cultural heritage destinations

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study develops a Community Resilience Motivation Model (CRMM) by integrating Tri-Reference Point (TRP) theory with Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) to examine post-disaster recovery in cultural heritage tourism contexts. It explains recovery as a sequential motivational process in which socio-economic and socio-emotional factors jointly shape community resilience and support for recovery

Design/methodology/approach: Structural equation modelling was applied to survey data from 1,548 residents of Gaziantep, Türkiye, a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy affected by the 2023 earthquakes. The model positions recovery trajectories within a motivational framework, identifying minimum requirements, resilience as status quo, and intentions to stay and invest as goal states.

Findings: Government support and economic dependency emerged as critical minimum conditions initiating an externally driven state of 'forced resilience'. Sustained recovery commitment depended on internalised socio-emotional bonds, including place attachment, place identity, and community solidarity. Community resilience fully mediated the effects of socio-economic and socio-emotional factors on recovery support, and the results challenge linear recovery assumptions by introducing Cultural Resilience Capital (CRC) as a conceptual extension capturing intrinsic, community-rooted motivations.

Originality: The study shows how tourism-dependent communities transition from externally driven forced resilience to sustained, agency-based recovery, extending TRP from individual to community level and integrating it with CBDRR in a tourism-specific framework. It positions CRMM as a process model in which socio-emotional and socio-economic drivers are converted into recovery action through the mediating mechanism of community resilience.

Research limitations/implications: The model was tested in a single cultural heritage city; cross-cultural applications would strengthen generalisability.

Practical implications: Policymakers should balance immediate economic support with strategies that build community resilience by strengthening local bonds, social capital, and cultural identity to enable self-directed recovery.

Social implications: Reinforcing community identity and solidarity is as essential as economic revitalisation for recovery, particularly in heritage destinations where livelihoods and cultural meaning are tightly interconnected.

1. Introduction

Cultural heritage destinations, celebrated for their contribution to social and cultural well-being (Godovykh & Ridderstaat, 2020; Baltaci, 2021), are highly vulnerable to natural disasters (Ravankhah et al., 2021. The destruction of historical sites, the displacement of residents, and severe economic disruption threaten the community's social fabric. After such events, government interventions and disaster risk reduction strategies receive substantial attention (Chan et al., 2020; Fong et al., 2021), but the crucial role of local communities in building resilience and leading revitalisation is still underestimated (Bec et al., 2016). Earthquakes, in particular, have a profound impact on local attitudes and behaviours (Feng et al., 2022) and, therefore, understanding the motivational factors that strengthen community resilience is essential.

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) strategies, which prioritise local knowledge, capacity building, and participation, have emerged as a key approach to strengthen resilience and recovery in the face of natural disasters (Shaw, 2016). However, the existing research still does not adequately explain the motivational processes behind community participation in post-disaster recovery. The community resilience frameworks describe capacity building, but not how capacity leads to sustained action whereas tourism resilience research describes outcomes without explaining the psychology of resident commitment. The gap is more evident in cultural heritage destinations, where emotional attachment and economic dependency create unique dynamics that require frameworks integrating both motivational and material dimensions.

This study addresses this gap by examining how socio-emotional bonds and socio-economic factors work together to motivate communities in cultural heritage destinations to move from reactive resilience to proactive recovery. The socio-emotional dimension captures the affective attachment, place-based identity, and community solidarity that create an intrinsic commitment for residents to stay and help rebuild (Guo et al., 2018a; Tsai et al., 2016; Sobhaninia et al., 2023; Gallay et al., 2022). The socio-economic dimension reflects livelihood dependency, material resources, and institutional support that sustain participation in tourism recovery (Partelow, 2021; Scarlett, 2021; Fong et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2024). Based on these two dimensions, the study proposes the Community Resilience and Motivation Model (CRMM) that conceptualises post-disaster recovery as an integrated process linking emotional belonging with economic feasibility (Anser et al., 2025; Li et al., 2024; Praptika et al., 2024). The conceptual novelty of the CRMM is that it does not treat community resilience as a final outcome but as a mediating mechanism which explains how resources enable sustained recovery action through psychological and social processes.

The research focuses on Gaziantep, a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in Southeast Türkiye, which was devastated by two catastrophic earthquakes (7.7 and 7.8 magnitude) in February 2023. The disaster left more than 50,000 dead, flattened towns and cities, and displaced hundreds of thousands. In the aftermath, many residents left, while others chose to stay and work to rebuild (SBB, 2023). To examine these stay-or-leave and investment decisions, the study adopts Tri-Reference Point (TRP) theory, which explains how individuals evaluate risky choices relative to their current situation, aspirations, and minimum acceptable conditions (Wang & Johnson, 2012). In this context, the socio-emotional bonds together with the socio-economic resources shape these evaluations and influence whether residents remain in Gaziantep and invest in post-earthquake recovery. How these evaluations

and recovery choices are shaped within the TRP framework remains empirically underexplored in cultural heritage destinations. Therefore, this study investigates the following research questions:

- RQ1: How do socio-emotional bonds and socio-economic resources influence residents' decisions to stay and invest in post-earthquake recovery?
- RQ2: How do these factors interact within the TRP framework in cultural heritage destinations?
- RQ3: What are the implications for CBDRR strategies fostering community resilience and sustainable tourism in earthquake-prone regions?

The study uses structural equation modelling on resident survey data collected in Gaziantep after the earthquake to test the proposed Community Resilience and Motivation Model (CRMM) and the relationships specified in the research questions. The results aim to provide actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners to design CBDRR strategies that support community-led recovery and build stronger resilience in cultural heritage destinations prone to disasters.

2. Theoretical Background and Hypothesis Development

2.1. A Tri-Reference Point Decision-Making Theory

Traditional risk decision-making theories usually focus on a single reference point, most often the status quo (Mellers & Yin, 2023). The Tri-Reference Point (TRP) theory developed by Wang and Johnson (2012) explains that individuals make decisions by considering three reference points: minimum requirements (MR), status quo (SQ), and goal (G). Decision-makers aim to stay above their minimum requirements, improve upon their current situation, and ultimately achieve their goals. Outcomes below MR are seen as failures, outcomes at or above G are considered successes, and outcomes between SQ and G are perceived as gains, while those between MR and SQ are seen as losses (Koop & Johnson, 2012). This study applies TRP theory beyond individual choices to community-level resilience (Harris & Wu, 2014). This application is grounded in multi-level theory, which recognises that social phenomena operate across interconnected scales (Kozlowski & Klein, 2000). Tourism research often involves multi-level problems but analyses them at a single level (Wong, 2017).

In post-disaster contexts, individual choices are influenced by community-level structures and shared perceptions (Hwang et al., 2016). The aggregation of these choices creates collective outcomes like coordinated recovery. This reciprocal relationship justifies treating communities as units with shared reference points like a collective minimum requirement, a common assessment of the status quo, and communal goals for restoration. Applying TRP at the community level therefore captures both the bottom-up influence of individual decisions and the top-down effect of community context and addresses the multi-level nature of post-disaster recovery (Wong, 2017).

In community-based risk reduction, especially after disasters, collective action and investment under uncertainty are essential (Shaw, 2016; Mayer, 2019; Cretney, 2016). Key factors shaping these decisions include place attachment, which reflects individuals' emotional connection to affected areas (Guo et al., 2018a), and place identity, which supports community resilience through shared cultural and historical meaning (Sobhaninia et al., 2023). Social solidarity enables people to work together and provide emotional support during crises (Littleton et al., 2022), whereas social capital, in the form of trust and networks, facilitates cooperation in rebuilding efforts (Partelow, 2021). Economic dependence on local industries influences recovery priorities (Zhang et al., 2019), and government support through policies and financial aid is essential for stabilising populations and infrastructure (Onjewu et al., 2023). Within the TRP framework, socio-emotional and socio-economic factors serve as minimum requirements (MR), resilience represents the status quo (SQ), and the intention to stay and invest in recovery is the goal (G).

This approach reflects established CBDRR frameworks emphasise social and economic factors in disaster recovery (Shaw, 2016; Sarabia et al., 2020). The Community Resilience Motivation Model (CRMM) integrates these components to explain post-disaster recovery as a sequential motivational process.

2.2. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

The recognition of communities as primary responders establishes the importance of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) for building resilient communities (Shaw, 2016). CBDRR prioritises local knowledge and engagement (Gero et al., 2011), involving community members in designing and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies (Sarabia et al., 2020). Evidence shows that trust, both interpersonal and institutional, increases participation in CBDRR, with place attachment and moral self-identity further enhancing engagement (Peng et al., 2020; Tan & Lin, 2023).

Community engagement in disaster risk management also supports sustainable tourism development (Cardoso, 2020). Communities can use their local knowledge to improve tourist experience or revive areas after a disaster (Chan et al., 2020). Community participation is key to tourism governance in disaster-affected regions, as it integrates community needs into recovery processes and strengthen resilience (Zhang et al., 2024; Wahyuningtyas et al., 2020). Considering the impact of disasters on communities' financial stability, job security, and overall well-being, there is limited understanding of residents' motivations for participating in CBDRR in post-disaster tourism destinations (Liu et al., 2024).

Although CBDRR aims for community resilience as a target for sustainable tourism development (Wahyuningtyas et al., 2020), TRP theory positions resilience as the status quo (SQ). Resident support for tourism involves active participation in the reconstruction of infrastructure and long-term investment rather than leaving the destination. Therefore, the intention to stay and invest is conceptualised as the goal (G) reference point.

The hypotheses that follow test how these minimum requirements, grounded in both emotional and economic dimensions of CBDRR, drive the transition from reactive resilience (SQ) to proactive recovery (G), as depicted in Fig. 1.

2.3. Evolution of Community and Tourism Resilience Research

Community resilience research has evolved significantly over the past twenty years with early frameworks that were looking at disaster response and recovery (Norris et al., 2008; Patterson et al., 2010), followed by work that identified social capital and community networks as foundational elements (Berkes & Ross, 2013; Mayer, 2019). More recent research has adopted adaptive capacity frameworks that integrate social and economic systems with environmental considerations (Koliou et al., 2020; Kruse et al., 2017) and increased emphasis on developing measurement tools and recognising conceptual diversity (Nguyen & Akerkar, 2020; Patel et al., 2017). Contemporary studies now take integrated approaches that combine infrastructure with social and institutional dimensions (Xu et al., 2018).

However, these frameworks remain quite general in scope and do not address the specific dynamics of tourism-dependent communities that face unique conditions like economic reliance on visitor flows (Bec et al., 2016), heritage-based identity, complex interactions between residents and visitors (Lew, 2014), and specific vulnerability to demand-side shocks (Calgaro et al., 2014). These conditions require different recovery pathways that are not always adequately explained by general resilience theory. This is why different streams of tourism resilience research emerged as well. The early studies conceptualised resilience as the ability of destinations to absorb and adapt to crises (Cochrane, 2010; Mair et al., 2016)

and then moved to work that integrated concepts of sustainability and resilience (Espiner et al., 2017; Calgaro et al., 2014). A stream of research have examined how tourism systems integrate risk management and recovery mechanisms (Filimonau & De Coteau, 2020; McLeod, Dodds, & Butler, 2021) whereas others use multi scalar frameworks that connect community behaviour with destination governance (Duro et al., 2022; Lew, 2014). More recent contributions define resilience as both a social and an economic process (Yang et al., 2024; Biggs et al., 2012) and there is growing recognition that post-disaster recovery involves psychological internalisation and meaning making practices (Korstanje et al., 2025; Cheer & Lew, 2017), while several studies have demonstrated the important role of social capital in community level tourism recovery (Partelow, 2021; Bec et al., 2016). Recent studies show that socio-emotional and socio-economic drivers interact to shape community responses to crises. Emotional attachment and identity-based belonging encourage residents to remain committed to their locality (Erul et al., 2024; Sobhaninia et al., 2023), whereas economic dependency and perceived institutional support enhance the perceived feasibility of recovery (Fong et al., 2021).

Despite the progress of these studies, neither community resilience nor tourism resilience research has successfully integrated emotional motivation with material resources as factors that jointly determine post-disaster recovery behaviour. The CRMM addresses this key shortcoming in the resilience literature by offering a testable, process-oriented framework that examines how socio-emotional and socio-economic factors drive recovery and uses community resilience as a mediating mechanism.

2.4. Minimum Requirements for Resilience and Recovery Support

In TRP theory, decision-making in risk contexts depends on three reference points: minimum requirements (MR), status quo (SQ), and goals (G) (Wang et al., 2021). MR represents essential survival elements, SQ reflects the current state, and G defines what individuals aim to achieve. In this framework, community resilience corresponds to SQ, whereas the intention to stay and invest is in line with G. Understanding the socio-emotional and socio-economic factors that serve as MR is central for achieving community resilience and long-term recovery.

2.4.1. Socio-Emotional Factors and Hypothesis Development

Place attachment strengthens community resilience by creating a psychological connection with the location that influences the choices of residents to stay and contribute to the restoration process (Guo et al., 2018a). It has two dimensions: place identity which is the meaning attached to a particular location, and place dependence which is the use of the location's resources for well-being and activities (Williams & Vaske, 2003). These are psychological and social mechanisms that encourage both individual and collective recovery efforts (Junot et al., 2018). Strong place attachment reduces the probability of migration and increases pro-environmental and community participation behaviours (Scannell & Gifford, 2017). Given its role in shaping community resilience and recovery participation, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H1. Place attachment positively influences community resilience.

H2. Place attachment positively influences community support for recovery.

Community solidarity strengthens the social cohesion and shared responsibility and improves resilience by encouraging collective action (Hawdon & Ryan, 2011). Communities with strong solidarity networks are more likely to collaborate in recovery efforts and provide mutual aid (Littleton et al., 2022). Based on this, it is hypothesised that:

H3. Community solidarity positively influences community resilience.

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H4. Community solidarity positively influences community support for recovery.

2.4.2. Socio-Economic Factors and Hypothesis Development

Social capital, which is the strength of social networks, civic engagement, and trust in institutions, is a key post-disaster resilience factor (Partelow, 2021). It operates through bonding (close-knit community relationships), bridging (connections across different social groups), and linking (ties to government and external support systems) (Sadri et al., 2018). It facilitates the mobilisation of resources, adaptation, and collaborative recovery (Guo et al., 2018b). Therefore:

H5. Social capital positively influences community resilience.

H6. Social capital positively influences community support for recovery.

The relationship between economic dependency and community resilience presents a theoretical paradox. The traditional resilience theory states that economic diversification builds resilience by reducing vulnerability to sector-specific shocks (Adger, 2000; Cutter et al., 2008). From this perspective, heavy reliance on tourism should reduce rather than enhance community resilience.

However, a paradox exists in post-disaster contexts. Deep reliance on tourism can strengthen resilience through heightened collective commitment and social cohesion, as communities have a stronger vested interest in rapid recovery (Matarrita-Cascante & Trejos, 2013; Yang et al., 2021). This creates a 'motivated resilience' which is driven by urgent collective purpose and focused action in crisis situations. In cultural heritage destinations, tourism dependency often merges with place identity and heritage stewardship. The economic reliance on tourism reflects, apart from financial dependency, also the residents' role as custodians of cultural assets that define both their livelihoods and their community identity (Erul et al., 2024). We therefore propose H7 although we realise that it tests competing theoretical perspectives:

H7. Economic dependency on tourism strengthens community resilience in the immediate post-disaster period.

H8. Economic dependency increases community support for recovery.

Government support through effective policies, financial aid, and disaster management is critical for stabilising the affected populations and ensuring sustainable recovery (Fong et al., 2021; Onjewu et al., 2023). Strong institutional support increases resilience and participation in reconstruction projects (Kim, 2016). Therefore:

H9. Government support builds community resilience.

H10. Government support promotes community support for recovery.

2.4.3. Community Resilience as a Mediator

Community resilience is a critical determinant of adaptation and recovery after a disaster (Tsai et al., 2016; Bec et al., 2016). Resilient communities are better positioned to participate in recovery and develop plans for long-term sustainability. Community resilience has a direct effect on recovery support and also mediates the relationship between socio-emotional and socio-economic factors and recovery efforts (Praptika et al., 2024). Therefore:

H11. Community resilience positively affects community support for recovery.

H12. Community resilience mediates the relationship between socio-emotional factors (e.g., place attachment, community solidarity) and community support for recovery.

H13. Community resilience mediates the relationship between socio-economic factors (e.g., social capital, government support, economic dependency) and community support for recovery.

2.5. CRMM as a Tourism-Specific Framework

The application of CRMM in tourism addresses an important gap in resilience literature. The generic community resilience frameworks focus on adaptive capacity and social capital (Norris et al., 2008) often miss tourism-specific factors like extreme exposure to global shocks and reliance on intangible heritage (Cheer & Lew, 2017). Tourism recovery depends not just on rebuilding infrastructure, but on restoring community pride and cultural identity which are factors that also affect a destination's appeal to visitors (Filimonau & De Coteau, 2020). The CRMM integrates emotional attachment and place identity into its motivation framework and captures a central dynamic of tourism-dependent communities. This integration places CRMM as a tailored adaptation of resilience theory that recognises that recovery in heritage destinations requires both economic restoration and safeguarding the place meaning which sustains residents and attracts visitors. Theoretically, CRMM is a tourism-specific extension of resilience theory which prioritises the role of motivation and mediation and moves beyond a view of resilience as a static endpoint.

Figure 1. Conceptual Model
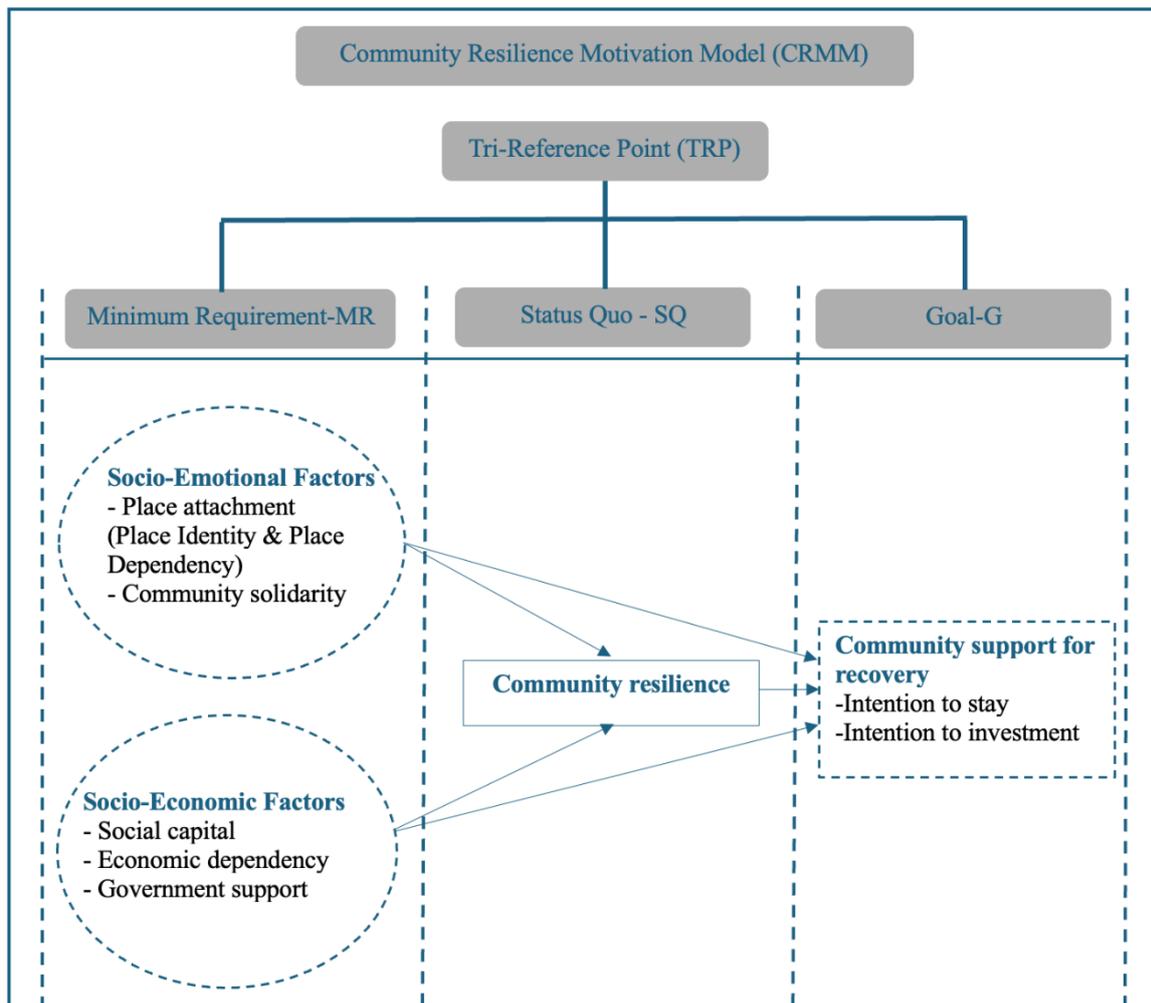
3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Sample and Data Collection

This study employed a multi-channel, mixed-mode sampling strategy to enhance representativeness and transparency. Data were collected between November and December 2024. The online survey was administered via Google Forms and distributed to earthquake-affected individuals in Gaziantep through the following channels: (1) email invitations distributed using the contact lists of the Food and Beverage Business Owners Council affiliated with the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce and Crafts; (2) social media accounts and mobile messaging groups (e.g., WhatsApp and BiP) managed by relevant professional associations (Chefs Association and Tourism Association); (3) QR code posters displayed in participating restaurants, hotels, and selected public spaces in the city centre; and (4) community-based dissemination through earthquake-affected students who shared the survey with family members and neighbours in their networks. Paper-based surveys were also administered in container settlements to mitigate potential limitations in digital access and reduce coverage bias among displaced residents. Participation was voluntary and anonymous, and no financial incentives were offered.

Given the difficulties of fieldwork in a post-disaster context, convenience sampling was employed. This approach enabled timely access to residents during a sensitive post-disaster period but also presents some notable limitations (Altinay et al., 2024). Participants who voluntarily responded may differ systematically from non-respondents in resilience levels, recovery engagement, or institutional trust, potentially limiting generalisability. The researchers conducted demographic comparisons with census data to assess representativeness. Future research using probability-based sampling would strengthen external validity.

Although the survey design enabled efficient data collection during a challenging post-disaster period, several methodological limitations should be acknowledged. The reliance on convenience sampling may limit the generalisability of findings beyond Gaziantep. Moreover, self-reported data can introduce social desirability and recall biases, and the cross-sectional nature of the study restricts the ability to capture changes in resilience and motivation over time.

The questionnaire was originally developed in English, translated into Turkish, and verified through back-translation and expert review to ensure linguistic and conceptual equivalence. A pre-test with 50 participants (excluded from the main sample) was conducted to confirm clarity and consistency.

Eligibility was screened with the question "Have you experienced the earthquake in 2023?". Only those responding "yes" continued with the survey. Data collection concluded upon reaching 2,000 responses. After removing 452 ineligible responses, the final sample comprised 1,548 valid responses. The response rate was 77.4%, with minimal missing data, reducing risks of non-response bias.

3.2. Measurements

The study model explored four main constructs: socio-emotional factors, socio-economic factors, community resilience, and recovery support. All items were adapted from established scales and rated on a five-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree).

Socio-emotional factors included place attachment (PA) measured via place identity and place dependence, each with six items from Williams & Vaske (2003) and community solidarity (CS) with six items from Hawdon et al. (2012).

Socio-economic factors comprised social capital (SOC) with 11 items from Grootaert et al. (2004) and Sadri et al. (2018), economic dependency (ECD) with five items from Chiang & Huang (2012) and Teng (2019) and government support (GOS)with 11 items from Al-Omar et al. (2024).

Community resilience (COR) was measured using a 10-item scale adapted from Abunyewah et al. (2023) and Cenat et al. (2021).

Recovery support (CSR) was operationalised as intention to stay (IS) with five items from Yang et al. (2021), and intention to invest (II) with three items adapted from Shehata et al. (2021). Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) verified that all items loaded significantly onto their respective latent constructs. Internal consistency was assessed using Cronbach's α, with all scales exceeding the 0.70 threshold. Common method bias (CMB) was addressed by procedural controls that included anonymous data collection and using different item formats. Harman's single factor test indicated that there was no single factor that accounted for most of the variance, thus reducing concerns regarding CMB.

All measurement items were adapted to the tourism and cultural heritage context of Gaziantep to ensure contextual validity. For example, items referring to "community" or "place" were modified to reflect residents' connections with gastronomy and cultural heritage districts (See Appendix-1)

4. Data Analysis and Findings

4.1. Descriptive Statistics

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS and AMOS. All participants were confirmed as earthquake victims, with 64.3% having lost at least one relative and 44.6% having suffered property loss. These figures confirm that the sample was in line with the study's objectives, representing individuals directly affected by the disaster. The gender distribution was nearly even (52.5% male, 47.5% female), and marital status was also balanced (55.5% married, 44.5% single) (see Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic Profile

Gender	n	%	Marital Status	n	%
Male	813	52,5	Single	859	55,5
Female	735	47,5	Married	689	44,5
Loss of Life in Earthquake	**n**	**%**	**Property loss in an earthquake**	**n**	**%**
One or more of my relatives died	996	64,3	I suffered property loss	691	44,6
We have not had any loss of life	552	35,7	No property damage	857	55,4
Age	**n**	**%**	**Education**	**n**	**%**
18-22	155	10	Primary education	46	3
23-27	424	27,4	High School	278	18
28-32	329	21,3	Associate degree	242	15,6
33-37	254	16,4	Bachelor's degree	811	52,4
38-42	136	8,8	Postgraduate	171	11
43 and above	250	16,1			

4.2. Reliability Analysis and Structural Validity

The reliability analysis showed that all scales achieved Cronbach's α values above 0.70 (range: 0.854 – 0.976), indicating strong internal consistency. Skewness (Sk) and kurtosis (Ku) coefficients were within acceptable ranges (Sk<3 and Ku<10) supporting normality (Kline, 2023). Structural validity was tested with confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and demonstrated good model fit (GFI:0,92≥0,90; CFI:0,94≥0,90; RMSEA:0,058≤0,080; x^2/df: 3,11≤5; p:0,004≤0,05). All Average Variance Extracted

(AVE) values for the factor structures exceeded 0,50 and Composite Reliability (CR) values were above 0,70, confirming convergent validity (Hair *et al*., 2014) (see Table 2).

Table 2. Reliability Analysis & Structural Validity

Scale	Factors	Mean	AVE	CR	Sk	Ku	α
Place Attachment (PLA)	Place Identity (PI)	4,02	,610	,777	,981	-1,142	,925
	Place Dependency (PD)	3,95	,564	,804	,964	1,485	,940
Community Solidarity (COS)	Community Solidarity (COS)	4,16	,525	,764	,849	,856	,931
Social Capital (SOC)	Contact with Neighbours (CN)	4,03	,650	,801	1,285	-,909	,862
	Government Trust (GT)	3,84	,695	,625	1,374	1,198	,958
	Civil Engagement (CE)	3,96	,676	,766	,956	1,367	,934
Economic Dependency (ECD)	Economic Dependency (ECD)	4,18	,680	,804	1,028	1,495	,929
Government Support	Policies and Regulations (PR)	3,93	,729	,836	-,931	1,159	,962
	Financial Support (FS)	4,17	,650	,801	1,389	-,991	,927
Community Resilience (COR)	Community Resilience (COR)	4,11	,638	,888	-1,247	1,051	,967
Community Support for Recovery (CSR)	Intention to Stay (IS)	3,57	,656	,708	-1,183	-,743	,865
	Intention to Investment (II)	3,62	,681	,767	,940	1,413	,817

4.3. Correlation and Discriminant Validity Test

Discriminant validity was established as all factors met the criteria MSV < AVE and ASV < MSV (Sürücü & Maslakci, 2020). Correlation coefficients among the 12 latent variables were positive, significant, and ranged from r = 0.269 to r = 0.695, with most above 0.50, indicating strong and linear relationships that contribute positively to post-earthquake recovery (see Table 3). Multicollinearity was not an issue (VIF ≤ 10, TV ≥ 0.10, Condition Index ≤ 30) (O'Brien, 2007; Oke et al., 2019).

Table 3. Correlations and discriminant validity test results

|	MSV	ASV	$\sqrt{AVE}$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PI	,480	,317	,781												
PD	,483	,336	,751	,693*											
CS	,446	,282	,725	,362*	,671*										
CN	,473	,309	,806	,683*	595,*	,377*									
GT	,438	,323	,834	,657*	,653*	,634*	654*								
CE	,458	,310	,822	,672*	,487*	,668*	,574*	,662*							
ED	,483	,319	,825	,641*	,695*	,577*	,541*	,654*	,589*						
PR	,473	,327	,854	,666*	,680*	,664*	,688*	,560*	,677*	,548*					
FS	,429	,280	,806	,549*	,648*	,435*	,655*	,581*	,562*	,637*	,578*				
CR	,310	,208	,799	,425*	,443*	,509*	,548*	,414*	,430*	,557*	,445*	,419*			
IS	,170	,143	,810	,312*	,316*	,394*	,321*	,309*	,319*	,321*	,316*	,308*	,412*		
II	,454	,141	,825	,303*	,302*	,397*	,290*	,279*	,297*	,301*	,283*	,269*	,380*	,674*	

Note(s): *p<0.01; MSV = Maximum Shared Squared Variance; ASV = Average Shared Squared Variance; Diagonal cells report correlations between factors.

4.4. Structural Model Testing

Structural equation modelling was employed to determine the relationships between variables and test the research hypotheses. A total of 13 paths were drawn between the variables. The model demonstrated good fit (GFI:0,91≥0,90; CFI:0,92≥0,90; RMSEA:0,074≤0,080; x^2/df: 4,93≤5; p:0,011≤0,05) (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Structural Model of the Study
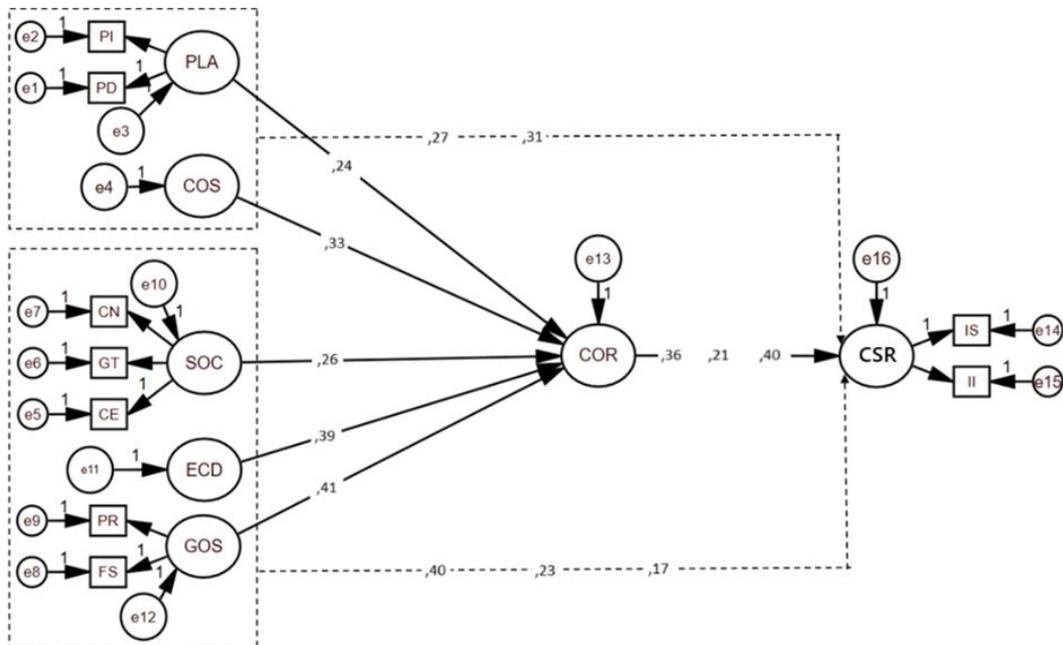
The large sample size encouraged the increase in degrees of freedom and chi-square, resulting in higher RMSEA but still below the acceptable threshold value (Xia & Yang, 2019). All regression paths were significant (see Table 3).

Government support was the strongest predictor for both community resilience ($\beta = 0.41$, $R^2 = 0.73$) and recovery support ($\beta = 0.40$, $R^2 = 0.41$), highlighting its critical role post-disaster.

Economic dependency was the second strongest predictor for resilience ($\beta = 0.39$, $R^2 = 0.56$) and also significantly influenced recovery support ($\beta = 0.23$, $R^2 = 0.32$).

Socio-emotional factors were also significant: place attachment ($\beta = 0.24$ for resilience, $\beta = 0.27$ for recovery support) and community solidarity ($\beta = 0.33$ for resilience, $\beta = 0.31$ for recovery support).

Social capital had positive effects on both resilience ($\beta = 0.26$) and recovery support ($\beta = 0.17$).

All hypotheses (H1–H10) were supported.

Community resilience fully mediated the effects of both socio-emotional and socio-economic factors on recovery support, as confirmed by the structural model and Sobel test. For both mediation analyses, the direct effects became statistically insignificant when the mediator was included, confirming full mediation (H12 and H13).

Table 4: Results from Hypothesis Testing

	Path			β	t value	p-value	Supported?
H₁	PLA	→	COR	,24	12,81	,002	**YES**
H₂	PLA	→	CSR	,27	15,32	,002	**YES**
H₃	COS	→	COR	,33	18,57	,001	**YES**
H₄	COS	→	CSR	,31	16,54	,001	**YES**
H₅	SOC	→	COR	,26	12,93	,002	**YES**
H₆	SOC	→	CSR	,17	5,75	,000	**YES**
H₇	ECD	→	COR	,39	23,58	,000	**YES**
H₈	ECD	→	CSR	,23	11,76	,002	**YES**
H₉	GOS	→	COR	,41	28,14	,000	**YES**
H₁₀	GOS	→	CSR	,40	26,87	,004	**YES**
H₁₁	COR	→	CSR	,36	20,04	,002	**YES**
H₁₂	COR	→ Mediator	CSR	,21	9,90	,003	**YES**
H₁₃	COR	→ Mediator	CSR	,40	25,39	,000	**YES**

5. Discussion

Government support was the strongest predictor of both community resilience ($\beta = 0.54$) and recovery support ($\beta = 0.47$). This confirms that institutional intervention is a core requirement for post-disaster recovery (Kim, 2016; Fong et al., 2021). Economic dependency showed the second-strongest effect on resilience ($\beta = 0.39$), while socio-emotional factors like place attachment and community solidarity had a more moderate influence. This pattern shows that in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake, material security and institutional stability are more urgent priorities than emotional connection which is a finding consistent with applying Maslow's hierarchy of needs to community contexts.

The results for community resilience as a mediator (H13, H14) validate the sequential logic of the TRP model. Essential requirements such as government support, economic dependency, and place attachment, must first build a foundation of collective capacity before this capacity can translate into active participation in recovery efforts. This dual-pathway structure shows that sustainable recovery requires both material resources and symbolic attachment, as socio-economic and socio-emotional factors converge through the mechanism of community resilience.

5.1. The Economic Dependency Paradox

The positive result for H7 (economic dependency leading to resilience) needs careful interpretation because it contradicts the diversification theory. Three contextual factors explain this unexpected finding. First, the study's timeframe of 6 to 12 months after the disaster does not capture long-term adaptive capacity but a period of crisis-driven mobilisation. In the short term, tourism dependency can create a strong common purpose that gives a focus to community efforts. Second, in Gaziantep, heritage status means economic reliance on tourism is tied to cultural identity. Tourism is more a form of cultural stewardship rather than just a livelihood. Third, the study's resilience measure focused on the community's belief in its efficacy to achieve specific recovery goals, instead of its general capacity to handle various future shocks.

This finding shows how existing conditions can motivate action within a short time window and not that economic dependency is an optimal long-term resilience strategy. The long-term destination sustainability still requires economic diversification (Duro et al., 2022). Therefore, policymakers should use the immediate motivational force of tourism dependency to drive early recovery but also plan for diversification to reduce future vulnerability.

5.2. Community versus Destination Resilience

Although the tourism literature normally focuses on destination-level results (Yang et al., 2024), this study shows that destination resilience actually begins at the community level. Community resilience (collective capacity, social cohesion) works with different mechanisms than destination resilience (tourism system functionality, market recovery). The CRMM shows that individual emotional attachment and perceived support shape motivation to participate in recovery efforts. When many individuals are motivated, their collective effort strengthens both the internal bonds of the community and the external functions of the tourism system. So, the community support for recovery mediates between internal community capacity and external destination functionality. Without this active community participation, institutional support alone is insufficient to restore a viable tourism sector (Onjewu et al., 2023).

6. Conclusion

This study focused specifically on the post-earthquake recovery in Gaziantep through the TRP framework. The findings establish the CRMM as an explanatory framework for how minimum requirements (socio-emotional and socio-economic factors) influence community resilience and recovery support. Government support was the strongest predictor of community resilience ($\beta = 0.54$) and recovery support ($\beta = 0.47$), followed by economic dependency ($\beta = 0.39$). Although socio-emotional factors such as place attachment had a more moderate immediate effect, they are essential for sustained, long-term recovery. Community resilience fully mediated the influence of both socio-economic and socio-emotional factors on recovery support and validates the sequential logic of TRP at a community level. These results show that immediate post-disaster recovery is driven by external institutional and economic support, but that long-term recovery relies on internal socio-emotional bonds within the community.

Theoretical Implications

The CRMM advances the tourism disaster recovery theory by integrating the TRP theory with CBDRR frameworks. This synthesis explains how communities move from reactive resilience (driven by external obligations like government support and economic necessity) toward a proactive recovery (fuelled by intrinsic agency and internal socio-emotional bonds The model extends TRP theory from individual to collective decision-making, and confirms its linear its linear progression from meeting minimum requirements to achieving goals It also incorporates CBDRR's core emphasis on community participation and balances the need for immediate recovery with long-term sustainability.

The full mediation by community resilience shows that resources such as government support, economic dependency, and social capital do not directly lead to recovery participation. These resources must first be converted into internal community capacity, including collective efficacy, social cohesion, and a shared identity, before they are able to catalyse external action. Therefore, post disaster recovery is a process of psychological and social transformation, not merely a logistical task of distributing resources. The mediation structure positions the CRMM as a process model of recovery motivation. It explains how recovery unfolds in a sequence from the initial input of resources, through a phase of collective psychological change, and finally into sustained community action. This moves beyond simply identifying which factors predict recovery.

The CRMM redirects the focus in disaster recovery from purely economic and infrastructural concerns to the motivational and emotional foundations that drive community action in tourism and cultural heritage contexts. Within this framework, socio-emotional bonds such as place attachment, community

solidary, and identity-based commitment, act as internal drivers needed for sustained recovery. Emotions like fear, hope, pride, and belonging serve as psychological anchors that help residents reframe a disaster as a shared challenge to be overcome collectively instead of individual loss. This process transforms the collective anxiety into purposeful agency (Korstanje, 2024; Korstanje & Ivanov, 2012). In this way, socio-emotional bonds form the motivational core of resilience and transform affective energy into the collective action need for long-term recovery.

However, the study also identifies an important limitation in recovery pathways, termed in this paper as 'forced resilience.' It occurs when external factors like economic dependency secure basic recovery without strengthening internal socio-emotional foundations. Communities may restore a basic status quo but then stagnate, as their participation is driven by necessity rather than genuine internal motivation. The study also highlights the potential utility of Cultural Resilience Capital (CRC) as a new boundary concept in tourism resilience scholarship that could represent a possible exit strategy from forced resilience. This concept positions cultural assets such as shared rituals and place-based identity as active drivers of sustainable, agency-led recovery (Fig. 3). Future research should investigate how these cultural assets function as intrinsic motivators. This work would explore the transition from communities that adapt under external pressure to those that build resilience from within their own cultural foundations. The operationalisation of CRC through qualitative indicators could reveal how cultural meaning systems transform post-disaster outcomes in heritage-rich destinations.

Figure 3 – The Community Resilience Motivation Model *(with tested structure and the theoretical refinements)*
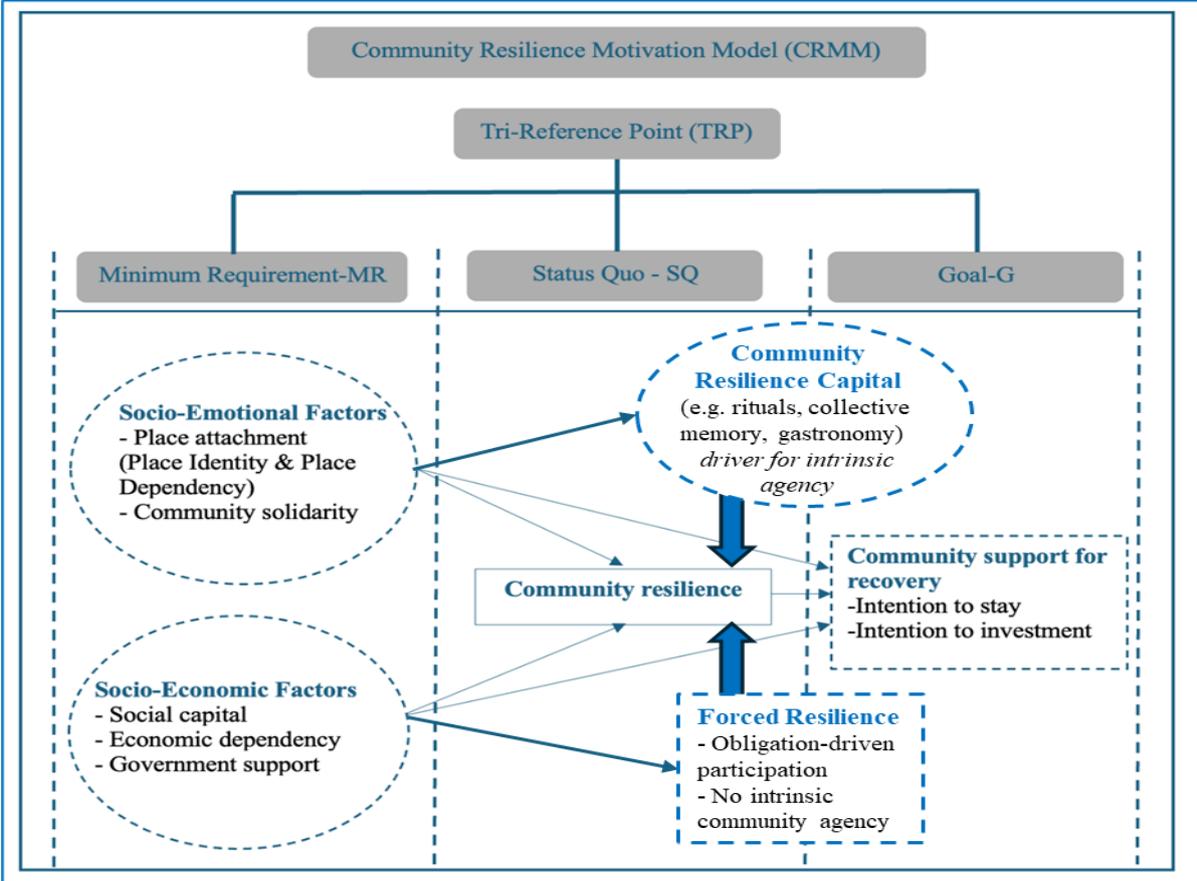
Implications for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

The findings support a phased approach for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction that takes into consideration how resilience mechanisms change over time.

Phase 1: Immediate Recovery (0–12 months)
Policymakers should use existing community strengths, such as emotional attachment and economic dependency, to drive quick participation and channel the collective motivation that arises from economic dependency on tourism directly into reconstruction efforts. Government support must be provided without bureaucratic delays to meet urgent needs. Destination managers should offer targeted economic aid to preserve tourism jobs and prevent residents from leaving the area.

Phase 2: Reconstruction and Transition (1–3 years)

In this phase, recovery efforts must balance community support with the gradual introduction of economic diversification. The focus shifts from continuing short-term interventions like financial aid and infrastructure restoration to building the long-term social capacity needed for self-sufficiency. Short-term aid should be gradually replaced with community-driven initiatives. Activities such as cultural heritage festivals, storytelling projects, and volunteer tourism programs can strengthen place attachment and collective identity. Skills development programmes are essential to help tourism workers transition into complementary sectors and reduce reliance on a single industry. Recovery plans should formally integrate intangible heritage such as local gastronomy and rituals, in line with UNESCO's framework for safeguarding living heritage. This approach transforms economic dependency into a form of shared cultural stewardship. It also builds the socio-emotional bonds and social capital needed for sustainable community resilience (Guo et al., 2018b).

Phase 3: Long-term Resilience Building (3+ years)

The final phase focuses on reducing structural dependency on tourism by creating alternative livelihoods but also preserving the cultural heritage values and place identity that define the community.

This phased approach recognises the mobilising potential of tourism dependency only during an immediate crisis and prevents its misinterpretation as a long-term resilience asset. For long term destination sustainability, economic diversification is needed to reduce the destination's vulnerability to future tourism-specific shocks like pandemics, geopolitical instability, and climate impacts.

The CRMM gives destination managers and policymakers a multidimensional framework that connects motivation, emotion, and community agency to guide tourism recovery. Resilience functions as a mediator between tourism and community quality of life (Yang et al., 2024) and requires strategies that address both socio-emotional and economic dimensions. The model translates psychological and cultural dynamics into practical recovery pathways and allows tourism to be both an economic engine and a mechanism for psychosocial healing within the community (Yang et al., 2021). For tourism education, CRMM provides theoretical frameworks for crisis management curricula and advances participatory governance approaches that address physical infrastructure and social cohesion as interconnected priorities.

Limitations and Future Research

As a cultural heritage destination, Gaziantep's specific context may limit the generalisability of the findings to other types of destinations. The use of a convenience sampling method could also have influenced the results, as it may have over-represented respondents who are highly engaged with their community and increased the perceived importance of socio-emotional factors and government support in the data.

The range of factors that were investigated was also specific. The analysis of socio-emotional dimensions was limited to community solidarity and place attachment. The socio-economic factors considered were government support, economic dependency, and social capital. The study also did not analyse socio-demographic variables, such as age or income, which could reveal important group differences in resilience and recovery motivation.

The most significant limitation, however, is the cross-sectional study design. This prevented causal inferences and cannot capture how relationships change over time. For example, the positive link found between economic dependency and community resilience might reflect short-term, crisis-induced mobilisation rather than a foundation for sustainable adaptive capacity. Future longitudinal research is needed to investigate whether this effect endures beyond the immediate 6-to-12-month recovery window or fades as the acute crisis passes and potentially leaves tourism-dependent communities more vulnerable than those with diversified economies. Comparative studies across different types of tourism destinations and disaster contexts would also test the boundary conditions of these findings. Such work would clarify when community resilience leads to genuinely sustainable development instead if just a temporary recovery.

Longitudinal and comparative designs would also help an examination of how 'forced resilience' persists or transforms in cultural heritage destinations after a disaster. A key question is whether participation driven by economic necessity evolves into really agency-based resilience, or if it diminishes once external pressures fade.

Qualitative methods are needed to investigate the mechanisms behind the relationship found in H7. This research should determine whether the crisis-induced resilience from tourism dependency leads to sustainable community capacity or simply perpetuates long-term vulnerability. The adoption of ethnographic observation, in-depth interviews, and participatory action research could explore in better depth the interaction between cultural meaning systems, emotional processes, and institutional structures throughout different stages of recovery.

Finally, the development of a theory that recognises both the mobilising potential and the structural risks of tourism dependency would help in more sophisticated and context-sensitive approaches to building destination resilience in an era of increased volatility and intense shocks.

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