

Research on Regional Differences of Perception of Safety of Tourists — Taking Potential Tourists as an Example

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Abstract: Choosing Xinjiang as a potential tourist destination and the residents from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu as potential tourists, the paper herein analyzes the dimensions of tourists' perception of safety to Xinjiang as well as the differences among them who come from different cities. What we found is as follows: (1) Tourists' perception of safety to Xinjiang includes five dimensions, such as elements of tourist activities, tourism services, social safety, natural disasters, and cultural conflict. (2) There are significant differences in five dimensions of perception of safety in Xinjiang among tourists from different regions. (3) There are differences in the perception of safety to Xinjiang among tourists from different regions while they share something in common in the four dimensions, such as elements of tourist activities, tourism services, social safety and cultural conflicts.

1 Introduction

Tourism safety is a matter of the utmost importance in the development of tourism industry and it's also the guarantee of normal tourist activities [1]. With the development of tourism industry, tourism safety has become increasingly prominent, which has also become a hot issue in the academic and industrial circles [2]. Majority of the researches on tourism safety focus on countries [3-4], cities [5-7], scenic spots [8,9], etc. And there are also some other researches that don't have specific purposes but focus on which aspect tourists care about of tourism safety based on their previous travelling experiences or potential willingness to travel [10,11]. Perception of tourism safety is the subjective cognition and evaluation of tourists on the safety of tourist destinations [4]. Previous researches have shown that there are differences in the perception of tourism safety among tourists of different age [5] and gender [12]. Moreover, the differences also lie in where tourists come from [3,5], their purposes for travels [5], the number of visits [8], travel experience [13] and so on. However, there is a lack of researches on domestic source of tourists on the provincial scale, especially the comparison of potential tourists.

Xinjiang is vast, which is the largest province-level administrative region in China. It boasts rich tourism resources and is an important tourist destination in the northwest of China. With the development of the Belt and Road, the tourism industry in Xinjiang is embracing a good opportunity. However, there're also many challenges. For example, there have been many tourism safety incidents in Xinjiang which had negative effects on the tourism development in Xinjiang. Tourists from Circum-Bohai Sea, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta are

the main new source of tourists to Xinjiang. Therefore, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu are selected as the representative cities in each region, and the potential tourists from the four cities will be investigated. In this paper, exploratory factor analysis is used to study the dimensions of tourists' perception of safety. Furthermore, and one-way ANOVA is used to compare the differences among potential tourists from different places.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Data Sources

The data in this paper are obtained from questionnaires. The questionnaire consists of two parts: the first part is about tourists' perception of safety, containing 28 items. And each item is scored by the Likert five-point scale. The higher the score is, the higher the scale of tourists' perception of safety will be. The second part is about the demographic characteristics of the respondents, including gender, age, educational background, occupation, monthly income, etc. In August and December 2019, field surveys were conducted in local places, such as libraries, malls, parks in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu. After the preliminary screening, a total of 903 valid questionnaires for potential tourists were obtained.

Among the samples, 51.16% of them are from males and 48.50% from females, which means the proportion of males and females is basically the same. 92.80% of the respondents are young and middle-aged, from 18 years old to 45. 90.92% of the respondents are from college or above. The proportion of each income level is relatively balanced, as the respondents come from all walks of life, so the questionnaire is representative. The samples from Beijing,

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Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu account for 26.69%, 26.80%, 24.92% and 21.26% respectively.

2.2 Research Methods

This paper uses SPSS 21.0 to conduct the exploratory factor analysis of the items of tourists' perception of safety. First of all, the reliability of the scale is tested by Cronbach's α ; Second, the feasibility of factor analysis is tested by KMO and Bartlett spherical test; Third, the common factors are extracted by principal component extraction and maximum variance rotation. Each common factor is named according to what it explains to determine the dimensions of tourists' perception of safety. One-way ANOVA is used to test whether there are significant differences in the dimensions and items of tourists' perception of safety among the four groups which are Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu.

3 Results & Discussion

3.1 Dimensions of Tourists' Perception of Safety

Cronbach's α Test is performed on the scale of the 28 items

of tourists' perception of safety, and the result is 0.967. It means that the questionnaire has good consistency and it can be trusted. Then KMO sampling measure and Bartlett spherical test are performed on the 28 items. The test result of the KMO test is 0.945, which is larger than 0.800. Meanwhile, the result of the Bartlett spherical test is 19112.321, which is significant at the level of 0.000. It means the 28 items are closely related and they're suitable for factor analysis. After preliminary analysis, 28 variables are reduced to 5 main factors whose cumulative contribution rate is 70.311%. Among them, the maximum load the item, "unfriendly locals", is less than 0.5. So the item is excluded to improve the result of factor analysis.

3.2 Comparison of Regional Differences in Tourists' Perception of Safety

One-way ANOVA is used to analyze the dimensions and factors of the perception of safety of tourists from the four regions. We want to know whether there are significant differences among the four groups, and the results are shown in Table 1.

Table1. Results of One-way ANOVA Analysis of Tourists' Perception of Safety

Factor	Beijing	Shanghai	Guangzhou	Chengdu	F	Sig	Conclusion
Elements of Tourist Activities	3.343	3.268	3.069	3.110	5.194	0.001	Significant
Swarm and Jostlement	3.544	3.471	3.212	3.342	4.456	0.004	Significant
Tourist Facilities	3.328	3.250	3.115	3.197	1.595	0.189	Insignificant
Traffic Accident	3.320	3.242	3.031	3.104	3.332	0.019	Significant
Fire and Explosion	3.282	3.232	3.057	3.026	2.817	0.038	Significant
Infectious Disease	3.208	3.180	2.938	2.891	5.061	0.002	Significant
Food Safety	3.342	3.205	3.004	3.052	4.800	0.003	Significant
Accommodation Environment	3.096	2.975	2.821	2.850	3.177	0.023	Significant
Tourist Conflict	3.611	3.579	3.357	3.399	3.256	0.021	Significant
Tourist Services	2.771	2.806	2.521	2.617	4.820	0.002	Significant
Defrauding Tourists	2.707	2.768	2.405	2.578	5.206	0.001	Significant
Shopping Fraud	2.754	2.806	2.467	2.542	5.102	0.002	Significant
Tourists' Complaints	2.738	2.847	2.551	2.620	3.442	0.016	Significant
Scenic Spot Services	2.979	3.050	2.718	2.819	4.920	0.002	Significant
Taxi Service	2.779	2.756	2.524	2.635	2.966	0.031	Significant
Rescue Ability	2.675	2.610	2.463	2.510	1.641	0.178	Insignificant
Public Security	2.655	2.463	2.423	2.364	4.076	0.007	Significant
Going Out At 11:00	2.477	2.279	2.374	2.150	3.505	0.015	Significant
Violent and Terrorist Events	2.425	2.299	2.235	2.161	2.252	0.081	Insignificant
Theft and Robbery	2.692	2.517	2.405	2.367	3.768	0.011	Significant
Police Presence	2.622	2.423	2.460	2.440	1.582	0.192	Insignificant
Pornography, Gambling and Drug	3.058	2.796	2.640	2.700	5.976	0.000	Significant
Natural Disaster	3.514	3.453	3.057	3.292	13.810	0.000	Significant
Snow Disaster	3.768	3.781	3.336	3.740	9.283	0.000	Significant
Mountain Landslide	3.558	3.535	3.199	3.352	5.597	0.001	Significant
Earthquake	4.062	4.037	3.681	4.047	8.260	0.000	Significant
Hot Weather	3.133	3.174	2.664	2.586	15.297	0.000	Significant
Adaptation to Climate	3.054	2.740	2.396	2.734	12.050	0.000	Significant
Culture Conflict	2.734	2.770	2.505	2.548	4.077	0.007	Significant
Offending Customs	2.638	2.608	2.352	2.400	3.951	0.008	Significant
Religious Taboos	2.558	2.558	2.313	2.337	3.520	0.015	Significant
Language Barrier	3.008	3.145	2.850	2.907	2.918	0.033	Significant

3.2.1 Tourists' Perception of Safety of Tourist Activities

According to Table 1, it shows that there are significant differences in the perception of the elements of tourist activities among the tourists from different geographical groups. It shows that as for the perception of safety of the elements of tourist activities, that of tourists from Beijing and Shanghai are much higher than that of tourists from Chengdu and Guangzhou. Seen from some specific safety factors, the mean values of "tourist facilities" are close, which means there is no significant difference among the results of one-way ANOVA. However, there are significant differences among the seven factors, "swarm and jostlement", "traffic accident", "fire and explosion", "infectious disease", "food safety", "accommodation environment" and "tourist conflict". Similarly, the values of Beijing and Shanghai are remarkably higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou.

3.2.2 Tourists' Perception of Safety of Tourist Services

Table 1 shows that there are significant differences in the perception of safety of tourist services among the tourists from different geographical groups. We know, as for the perception of safety of tourist services, the values of Shanghai and Beijing are significantly higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou. Seen from some specific safety factors, the mean values of "rescue ability" are close, which means there is no significant difference among the results of one-way ANOVA. However, there are significant differences among the five factors, "defrauding tourists", "shopping fraud", "tourists' complaints", "scenic spot services", "taxi service". Similarly, the values of Beijing and Shanghai are remarkably higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou.

3.2.3 Tourists' Perception of Safety of Public Security

Table 1 shows that there are significant differences in the perception of safety of public security among the tourists from different geographical groups. We know, as for the perception of safety of public security, the values of Beijing and Shanghai are significantly higher than those of Guangzhou and Chengdu. Seen from some specific safety factors, the mean values of the two factors, "violent and terrorist events" and "police presence", of different geographical groups are close, which means there is no significant difference among the results of one-way ANOVA. However, there are significant differences among the other three factors, "going out at 11:00", "theft and robbery" and "pornography, gambling and drug abuse". Among them, the values of "theft and robbery" and "pornography, gambling and drug abuse" of Beijing and Shanghai are significantly higher than those of Guangzhou and Chengdu. However, as for the value of "going out at 11:00", the values of Beijing and Guangzhou are higher than those of Shanghai and Chengdu.

3.2.4 Tourists' Perception of Safety of Natural Disaster

Table 1 shows that there are significant differences in the perception of safety of natural disaster among the tourists from different geographical groups. We know, as for the perception of safety of natural disaster, the values of Beijing and Shanghai are significantly higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou. Seen from some specific safety factors, there are significant differences among the five factors, "snow disaster", "mountain landslide", "earthquake", "hot weather", "adaptation to climate". As for the values of "snow disaster" and "mountain landslide", the mean values of Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu are close, all apparently higher than that of Guangzhou. In terms of "hot weather", the values of Shanghai and Beijing are close, both apparently higher than those of Guangzhou and Chengdu. The value of "adaptation to climate" of Beijing is significantly higher than those of Shanghai and Guangzhou while Chengdu witnesses the lowest value. The values of "earthquake" of Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai are close, all apparently higher than that of Chengdu.

3.2.5 Tourists' Perception of Safety of Cultural Conflict

Table 1 shows that there are significant differences in the perception of safety of cultural conflict among different geographical groups. We know, as for the perception of safety of cultural conflict, the values of Shanghai and Beijing are significantly higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou. Seen from some specific safety factors, there are significant differences among the three factors, "offending customs", "religious taboos" and "language barrier". And the values of these factors of Shanghai and Beijing are significantly higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou.

3.3 Comparison of Dimension Structure of Tourists' Perception of Safety

After analyzing the values of the safety perception of tourists from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu, we use the factor analysis method to compare the dimension structure of the safety perception of the tourists from the four cities. In the end, 28, 25, 28 and 26 factors of tourists' perception of safety are kept for Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu respectively. (As shown in Fig. 1)

As shown in Fig. 1, five common factors are extracted from the factors of the safety perception of the potential tourists from Beijing, and they are named as "elements of tourist activities", "tourist services", "public security", "natural disaster and climatic environment" and "cultural conflict". Moreover, the cumulative contribution rate of total variance of the five common factors is 72.544%, which means the five common factors can replace the original 28 factors of tourists' perception of safety. Six common factors are extracted from the factors of the safety perception of the potential tourists from Shanghai,

and they are named as “elements of tourist activities”, “public hygiene”, “tourist services”, “public security”, “natural disaster and climatic environment” and “cultural conflict”. The cumulative contribution rate of total variance of the six common factors is 73.065%, which means the six common factors can replace the original 28 factors of tourists’ perception of safety. Five common factors are extracted from the factors of the safety perception of the potential tourists from Guangzhou, and they are named as “elements of tourist activities”, “tourist services”, “public security”, “natural disaster and climatic environment” and “cultural conflict”. The cumulative

contribution rate of total variance of the five common factors is 71.043%, which means the six common factors can replace the original 28 factors of tourists’ perception of safety. Six common factors are extracted from the factors of the safety perception of the potential tourists from Chengdu, and they are named as “elements of tourist activities”, “climatic environment”, “tourist services”, “natural disaster” and “cultural conflict”. The cumulative contribution rate of total variance of the six common factors is 74.292%, which means the six common factors can replace the original 28 factors of tourists’ perception of safety.

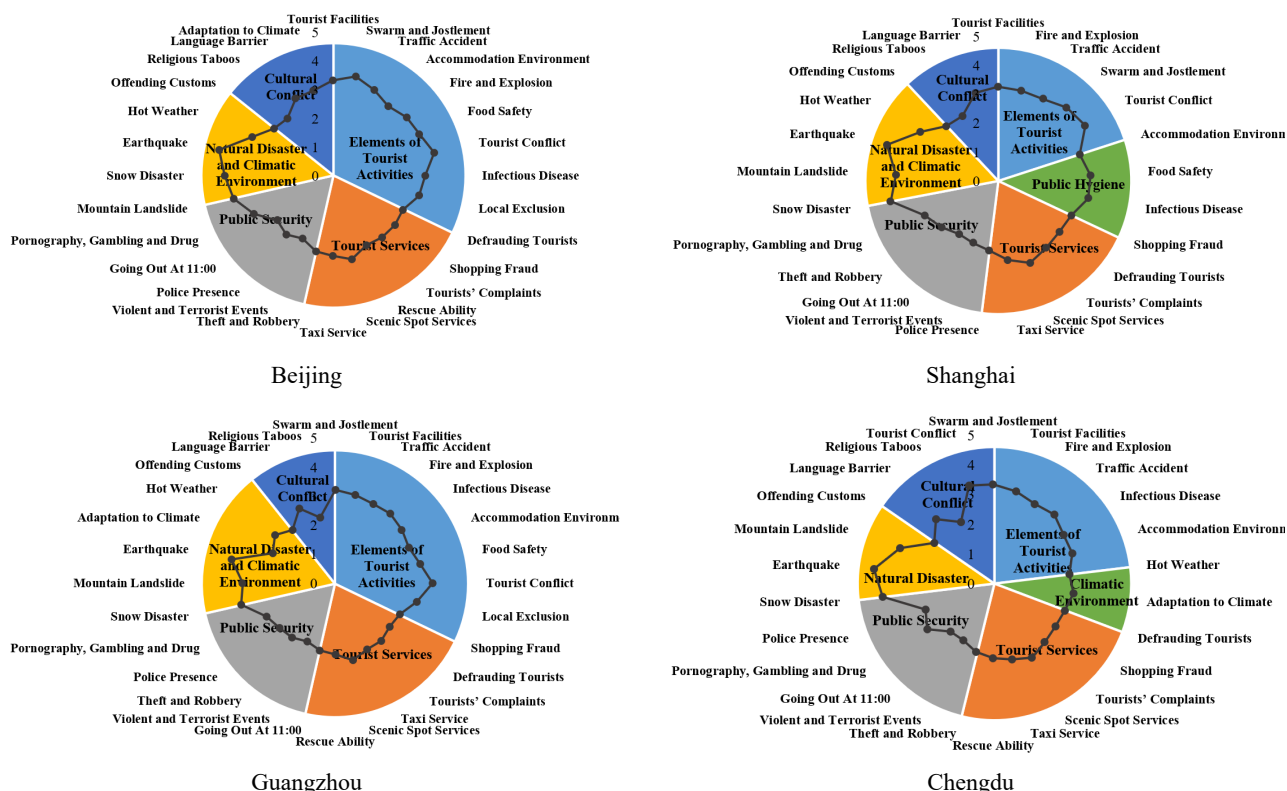


Fig 1. Dimension Structure of Factors of Tourists’ Perception of Safety

From the dimension structure of tourists’ perception of safety, there’re four same dimensions of tourists’ perception of safety among those of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu, which are “elements of tourist activities”, “tourist services”, “public security” and “cultural conflict”. As is analyzed above, there are regional differences in these four dimensions, but they are still regarded as the basic dimensions to measure tourists’ perception of safety. Besides, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou also share one more same dimension, which is “natural disaster and climatic environment”. However, the factors in the same dimension of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou belong to the two dimensions of Chengdu which are “natural disaster” and “climatic environment”. Maybe it’s because those who live in Chengdu suffered a severe earthquake and they have a different understanding of natural disasters. In addition, a new dimension is extracted among those of Shanghai, which is “public hygiene”. And there’re three factors in this dimension, which are “accommodation environment”, “food safety” and “infectious disease”, but they belong to “elements of

tourist activities” in the other three groups. It means potential tourists from Shanghai don’t treat public hygiene as a normal element of tourist activities but a single new dimension.

4 Conclusions

The results show that there are no significant differences in the four factors of potential tourists’ perception of safety of Xinjiang, which are “tourist facilities”, “rescue ability”, “violent and terrorist events”, and “police presence”, while significant differences lie in the other 23 factors. On the whole, as for the values of factors of tourists’ perception of safety to Xinjiang, those of Beijing and Shanghai are generally higher than those of Chengdu and Guangzhou. Besides, the values of that of Beijing and Shanghai are close while the values of that of Chengdu and Guangzhou are relatively close. There are similarities and differences in the dimension structure of the factors of safety perception of Xinjiang among the potential tourists

from the four cities. What they share in common is the four dimensions, which are “elements of tourist activities”, “tourist services”, “public security” and “cultural conflict”. Besides, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou also share one more same dimension, which is “natural disaster and climatic environment”. In addition, a new dimension is extracted among those of Shanghai, which is “public hygiene”. The four dimensions, “elements of tourist activities”, “tourist services”, “public security” and “cultural conflict”, are regarded as the basic dimensions to measure tourists’ perception of safety, while “natural disaster and climatic environment” is also an important dimension.

The research results of this paper only represent the subjective impression and evaluation of tourist safety in Xinjiang of the potential tourists, which can’t represent the real situation of tourist safety in Xinjiang. Perception of safety of a person relies on their subjective judgments made according to the information in their minds, the experiences, and their own personalities, so it can’t fully reflect the objective and real state of safety of a place.

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