

Travelling culture amongst teenagers

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Abstract— *This study explores the travel culture among teenagers. It focuses on factors that influence their travel habits, preferences and experiences. Using a survey approach, the key parameters were analysed with the assistance of Likert scale. The parameters included frequency of travel, desire for solo travel, concerns over hygiene and safety, and the impact of social media influencers on travel decisions. Keeping in mind the age range, where most of the teenagers are primarily dependent on their family additional factors such as parental support, budget constraints, cultural immersion interests and aspirations for international travel, were also considered. The findings reveal that while teenagers do demonstrate a strong desire for cultural exploration and global experiences, their travel choices are shaped by practical considerations like budget and safety. Social media plays a substantial role in shaping their travel aspirations, particularly through influencers who introduce them to diverse destinations and experiences. Parental support emerges as an influential factor, often dictating the extent of freedom and opportunities teens have in exploring new places. The study concludes by highlighting the balance teenagers seek between adventure and practicality, suggesting that they are both dream-driven and conscientious travelers. These insights offer a deeper understanding of the teenage travel culture and the ways in which this generation navigates the complexities of modern travel.*

Index Terms— *Teenage travel culture, Travel habits, Travel preferences, Travel experiences, Solo travel, Hygiene and safety concerns, Social media influencers, Parental support in travel.*

I. Introduction

Travelling has increasingly become an important part of the lives of teenagers, shaping not only their experiences but also their perspectives on the world. With the rise of social media, digital connectivity, and greater access to international travel, young people are more exposed to diverse cultures and lifestyles than ever before. This has sparked a growing interest among teenagers in exploring new places, seeking adventure, and engaging with different traditions, cuisines, and ways of life. Travel for teenagers today is not just about sightseeing; it is about cultural immersion, self-discovery, and expanding one's horizons. As a result, travel has become a vital part of teenage culture, influencing their values, interests, and even aspirations. In recent years, the cultural landscape of travel among teenagers has shifted, influenced by a variety of factors such as increased globalization, the rise of affordable travel options, and the pervasive influence of digital platforms. Teenagers are no longer just passive travellers; they actively engage in shaping their travel experiences. Whether it's through solo trips, group tours, or cultural exchanges, teenagers are seeking more than just relaxation—they are searching for deeper connections with the places they visit. The desire for cultural exchange has sparked a sense of curiosity about diverse traditions, languages, and lifestyles, often prompting them to travel to places they might not have considered in the past.

Additionally, teenagers' travel culture is greatly influenced by social media sites comprising YouTube, Instagram, & TikTok. These platforms allow them to share their journeys, discover hidden gems, and draw inspiration from influencers and fellow travellers. The ability to document and share their travel stories not only fuels the desire to explore but also helps teenagers feel more connected to a global community. Teenagers are encouraged to venture outside of their comfort zones examine their preconceptions, in addition to cultivating a more receptive perspective on the world through travel, which has become a crucial component of personal development. In addition, travel is increasingly seen as a way for teenagers to build independence, foster creativity, and develop a sense of responsibility. Whether travelling for educational purposes, internships, or volunteering opportunities, teenagers are discovering the transformative power of travel. Travelling has, therefore, changed from being a simple hobby to a cultural phenomenon that greatly influences the identities, values, & aspirations of today's youth.

II. Review of literature

The research of youth travel preferences (2020) – According to the study, the demands of young people in the tourism industry conflict with their interests. The article identifies the primary factors influencing young people's travel interests through statistical analysis as well as a sociological survey. By segmenting preferences across youth age groups, the study reveals each group's unique contribution to the value-motivational attitudes of the younger generation. It also examines how youth tourism preferences relate to the theory of needs, finding a disconnect between young people's actual interests and how these are perceived in the tourism market.

Travel behaviour changes among young adults and associated implications for social sustainability (2024). This study analyses data from 2019 to 2022 in the region of Hamilton Area & Greater Toronto to see how travel habits change their life and what it means for the environment. It was found that people who moved to urban areas preferred public transit or walking/bikes. The study highlights important considerations for planning and policy related to transportation.

Youth travel experience, an analysis of the relations between motivations, satisfaction and perceived change (2018) - The New Global Nomads: Youth travel in a globalising world (2015) - The paper examines the contexts in which teenagers have been classified as "nomads." Two themes are examined, including the expansion and evolution of youth travel niches, include volunteer tourism & backpacking. It also explores other areas where investigations have produced a detailed division of "nomadism" into three categories: global nomad, flashpacker, & backpacker. It talks about different types of lifestyle adopted by the three types of "nomads". It talks about their personalities.

Towards understanding youth travel experiences in cultural heritage destinations: an integrated framework of youth cultural tourists' behaviour (2013) - It emphasizes on how studies relating to the psychology behind people travelling which include culture (to explore) cultural destinations, is very limited. The research identifies the elements that influence youth cultural tourism, including marketing, education, family/social context, ethnicity, & individual background. This study also distinguishes between two types of travelers: general and specific. The research underscores that travel experiences can drive meaningful change, with motivation and satisfaction being critical to the transformation process. It looks for answers behind travel motivation & satisfaction with experience strongly influencing perceived personal, interpersonal, and environmental change. The paper highlights transformative impact of travel, suggesting that understanding this transformation requires considering both travel motivation & satisfaction with experience.

Teenagers' Travel Patterns for School and After-School Activities (Europe 2012)- This study focuses on travel patterns among 364 Greek teenagers (ages 12–18) from urban and rural areas. They found out that teens typically follow simpler routes (home-school-home). They engage in more complex activity chains, often involving outdoor activities. They were able to identify 17 travel patterns for morning activities and 43 for after-school. It was found that parental caregiving, along with attitudes toward active transport and environmental protection, significantly influence teens' mode choices. This paper makes several policy recommendations, including enhancing public transportation, identifying safer routes for after-school activities such as sports and recreation, as well as developing educational initiatives that encourage active transportation for both parents & teenagers.

A study of students' travellers values and needs in order to establish future patterns and insights (2015) - The paper shows that young people with biospheric value orientations associate travel with nature and view it as a way to relax, which aligns with sustainability. This group, especially women, holds strong sustainability values, suggesting they will be key drivers of sustainable tourism in the future. Women see travel as an opportunity for personal growth, reflecting their strong commitment to sustainable practices. The study highlights that sustainability values not only influence specific eco-friendly travel choices but also general tourism preferences among young travelers. This suggests that sustainability can be integrated into broader tourism practices, bridging the gap between individualism and sustainability for future tourism trends.

III. Need for study

The need to study travelling culture among teenagers is becoming more critical as travel continues for performing a significant function in shaping their identities & worldviews. As teenagers increasingly engage in travel, understanding the motivations, behaviors, and impacts of their travel experiences can offer valuable insights for various sectors, including education, tourism, and social development. Firstly, studying teenage travel culture helps to identify emerging trends in tourism, such as preferences for

sustainable or off-the-beaten-path destinations, the rise of solo travel, or the growing interest in cultural immersion. These insights are vital for businesses in the tourism industry to tailor services and experiences that appeal to the younger generation, ensuring that they meet their evolving expectations and values. Secondly, understanding how travel influences teenagers' personal growth, mental health, and social interactions is crucial. Travel often provides opportunities for self-discovery, greater empathy, and cross-cultural understanding. By studying these impacts, researchers can better assess the long-term benefits of travel for teenagers, including improved problem-solving skills, adaptability, and a broader worldview. Moreover, studying the ways in which travel culture intersects with digital media is essential. Teenagers could now share their experiences more easily due to social media, but it has also increased pressure to have "perfect" vacation. Analyzing these dynamics can help educators, parents, and policymakers better understand the potential risks of social comparison or the pursuit of superficial experiences, while also highlighting the positive aspects of digital storytelling in fostering global connections. Finally, understanding teenage travel culture can aid in developing educational programs that encourage responsible and meaningful travel. As young people become more globally connected, it is important to promote sustainable travel practices, awareness of environmental impacts, and the value of cultural sensitivity. By conducting studies on teenage travel habits, researchers can inform the creation of policies and practices that prioritize both personal growth and the well-being of the world they explore. Studying travelling culture amongst teenagers is important because it can help teenagers develop skills like adaptability, empathy and intercultural competence. It can also help enrich a student's experience as well as skills that can be useful in the professional world.

IV. The Objective Of The Study

The objective of the study are as follows:

1. To explore and understand travel preferences and habits;
2. To analyze how social media influencers and parental support impact one's travel plans and aspirations;
3. To evaluate key concerns and aspirations related to travel.

Based on above mention objective, following hypothesis has been formulated.

H0: There is insignificant relationship amongst individuals' travel preferences, habits, social influences, and their key concerns and aspirations related to travel.

H1 : There is a significant pattern in the travel preferences and habits of individuals.

H2: Social media influencers and parental support significantly impact an individual's travel plans and aspirations.

H3: Key concerns and aspirations are significantly related to individuals' travel decisions and preferences.

V. Research methodology

The present study is based on exploration in nature. The descriptive research methodology is based on primary data of 53 respondents while keeping in mind the objectives of the study. A convenient sampling technique which is suitable for exploring a specific target group; in this case, teenagers and young adults aged between 13 to 19 years. The survey primarily focused on individuals aged 17 to 18, who made up 71.7% of the total respondents, with gender distribution of 45.3% male and 52.8% female, while 1.9% preferred not to disclose their gender. The research included open-ended & closed-ended questions. Age and Gender had been employed as demographic variable. Ordinal Scale (explain). Period of study. Which variables and tools were used in the study.

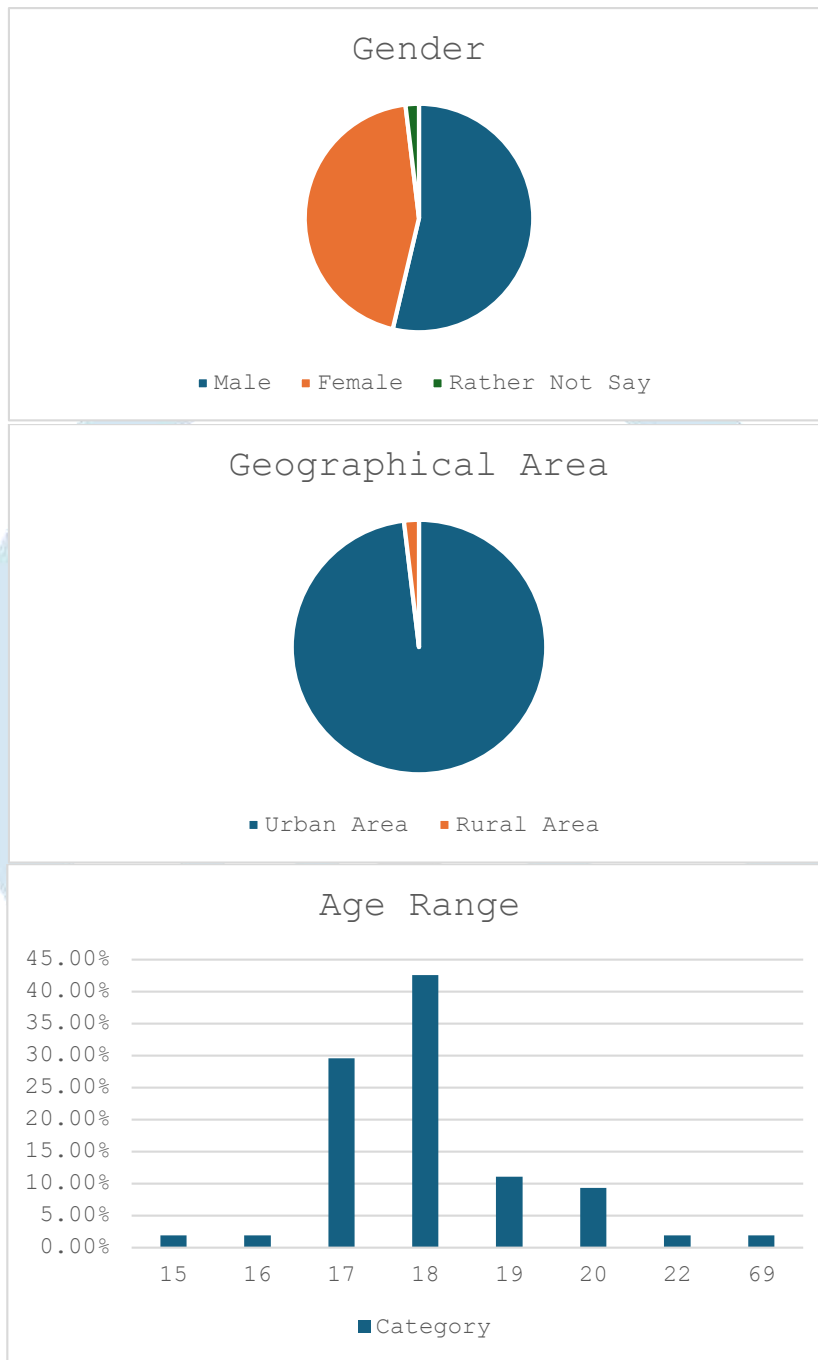


Fig 1.1 Demographic Information of Respondents

Questionnaire Structure

The questionnaire (Table 1.2) is divided into two sections: primary focus on respondents’ demographics, then second questions about their personal preferences and perceptions on travelling.

Table 1.2:

Section	Category	Content
Section One	General	General information like name of the person, age, gender, area.
Section Two	Personal preferences and perceptions on travelling	Focuses on respondents' views keeping in mind different parameters like frequency of travel, safety, budget, etc.

Interface:

Table 1.2: Section one collects demographic data, while section two gives us more insight into respondents' budget parameters, hygiene and safety, travelling choice influences, etc.

VI. Results and Discussion

The study acknowledges its limitations in determining results due to limited sample size & restrictions on the data source. Age and gender had been among the demographic factors considered.

Table 1.3 Gender Profile of Respondent

Gender	Per cent
Male	45.3%
Female	52.8%
Rather Not Say	1.9%
Total	100%

From Table 1.3, we know that out of the total respondents, 42.6% were 18-year-olds, followed by 29.6% who were 17-year-olds, 11.1% were 19, and the rest 15 and 16-year-olds 1.9%, respectively.

Table 1.4 Age of the Respondent

Age	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
15-16	1.9%	1.9%
17	29.6%	31.5%
18	42.6%	74.1%
19	11.1%	85.2%
Total	100%	

Table 1.5 Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
I travel frequently throughout the year	5.20	0.97	54
Do you prefer travelling alone	10.27	0.76	54
Hygiene and Safety is a major concern for me when travelling	4.5	0.81	54
Social Media influencers significantly impact my travel decisions	6.01	1.07	54
Are your parents supportive of your travelling choices	9.96	1.65	54
I have had mostly positive travel experiences	9.57	0.88	54
Budget is a major concern for me when travelling	9.90	0.87	54
I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels	5.29	0.86	54
I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future.	9.01	0.13	54

Table 1.6 Model Summary (Ob. 1)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	0.1235	0.015	-0.023	0.989

a. Dependent Variable: Travel Preferences and Habits

The R-Square value (0.0153) - indicates that only about 1.5% of the variance in the dependent variable (Travel Frequency) is explained by the independent variables. This is a very low value, suggesting that these predictors (dreaming of visiting multiple countries and age) do not significantly explain variations in travel frequency.

b. Predictors: (Constant) Age: I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future. The Adjusted R-Square suggests that the model does not provide any explanatory power. It often occurs when the predictors do not meaningfully improve the model fit, especially with small sample sizes.

Table 1.7 ANOVA Analysis (Ob. 1)

Model		df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2	0.387	0.395	0.675
	Residual	51	0.980		
	Total	53			

Sig. (0.675) is the p-value, telling us if the model is statistically significant. The high p-value (above 0.05) in this instance indicates that the model is statistically insignificant. Travel Preferences and Habits don't seem to have a meaningful impact on how often teenagers travel throughout the year.

Table 1.8 Correlation (Ob. 1)

	I travel frequently throughout the year.	I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future.	Age
I travel frequently throughout the year	1		
I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future.	0.112	1	
Age	-0.063	-0.117	1

Understanding more about correlation values: correlation values ranging from -1 to 1, where -

- A positive value (closer to 1) means the two factors tend to increase together.
- A negative value (closer to -1) means that as one factor increases, other tends to decrease.
- A value close to 0 indicates little to no linear relationship between the factors.

So here,

- "I travel frequently throughout the year" and "I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future" (0.112) shows that there is a very weak positive relationship. In layman language, it suggests that there's a slight tendency for teenagers who frequently travel to also dream of visiting multiple countries, but the relationship is very weak. So, dreaming about travel doesn't strongly predict how often someone actually travels.
- "I travel frequently throughout the year" and "Age" (-0.063) shows a very weak negative relationship. This means that as age increases slightly, the frequency of travel may slightly decrease, but this relationship is so weak that it's essentially negligible. Age doesn't seem to be an important factor in predicting travel frequency in this case.
- "I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future" and "Age" (-0.117) shows a slightly stronger negative relationship but still very weak. Just like the other correlations, this is not strong enough to indicate a meaningful relationship.

Table 1.9 Model Summary (Ob. 2)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
2	0.3067	0.094	0.058	1.122

- a. Dependent Variable: Age

The R-Square value (0.094) - represents variation in dependent variable (Age) explained by predictors (preference for travelling alone and interest in cultural immersion experiences).

- b. Predictors: Do you prefer travelling alone and I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels

Table 2.0 ANOVA Analysis (Ob. 2)

Model		df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
2	Regression	2	3.33	2.64	0.080
	Residual	51	1.26		
	Total	53			

Since **0.080** is greater than 0.05, it indicates that model is statistically insignificant at 5% significance level. This means that the predictors ("Do you prefer travelling alone" and "I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels") do not

explain age in a meaningful way. The relationship between the predictors and age is likely due to chance rather than any real influence.

Table 2.1 Correlation (Ob. 2)

	Do you prefer travelling alone	I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels	Age
Do you prefer travelling alone	1		
I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels	-0.070	1	
Age	0.305195306	-0.0512172	1

The relationship between "Do you prefer travelling alone" and "I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels" is extremely weak and negative, meaning they don't influence each other much. There's a weak positive correlation (0.305) between "Do you prefer travelling alone" and Age, suggesting that older individuals might slightly prefer travelling alone more than younger individuals, but it's not a strong effect. The relationship between "I am interested in cultural immersion experiences" and Age is very weak, with a correlation of -0.051, meaning age doesn't strongly affect interest in cultural immersion.

Table 2.2 Model Summary (Ob. 3)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
3	0.405	0.164	-0.006	0.542

a. Dependent Variable: Gender

The R-Square value (0.164) - indicates that these travel-related predictors are not very good at predicting gender. Most of gender variation is due to other factors not capsulated by model.

b. Predictors : (Constant) I travel frequently throughout the year, Do you prefer travelling alone, Hygiene and Safety is a major concern for me when travelling, Social Media influencers significantly impact my travel decisions, Are your parents supportive of your travelling choices, I have had mostly positive travel experiences, Budget is a major concern for me when travelling, I am interested in cultural immersion experiences during my travels, I dream of visiting multiple countries in the near future

Table 2.3 ANOVA Analysis (Ob. 3)

Model		df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
3	Regression	9	0.282	0.959	0.485
	Residual	44	0.294		
	Total	53			

Since **0.485** is much greater than 0.05, this demonstrates that regression model is statistically insignificant. This means that predictors (travel preferences, habits, etc.) have statistically insignificant effect on dependent variable(Gender). The data suggests that these variables are likely not influencing gender in any meaningful way, and the observed relationship could very well be due to random chance.

VII. Limitations and Scope for Further Research

There were a considerable number of limitations faced while making this study.

Sample Size and Representation: This study is limited urban areas only and could restrict the generalizability of the findings across diverse demographic groups or cultures.

Self-Reporting Bias: The data was collected through surveys, which relied on self-reported answers. This may lead to biases as teenagers may underreport or exaggerate their travel habits, especially under the influence of social media portrayals.

Age Range Variability: Teenagers' travel preferences can vary significantly with age, maturity, and independence level. This study might not capture this variability fully, as younger and older teens often have differing levels of autonomy and resources.

Parental Influence Measurement: Since parental support is a factor, the study might not comprehensively capture the influence of family dynamics or socioeconomic background on teenage travel choices.

Influence of Rapidly Changing Trends: social media trends and influencers constantly evolve, which might make some of the finding's time sensitive. Teenagers' preferences may shift as new trends emerge, impacting the study's relevance over time.

Limitations of the Survey Instrument: The use of a Likert scale, while useful for quantifying opinions, may oversimplify complex attitudes towards travel.

Travelling culture amongst teenagers is a topic that can be explored on various other parameters like; given the influence of social media, further research could examine the *specific* platforms and types of content (e.g., travel vlogs, influencers) that most impact teenage travel decisions.

Environmental and Social Awareness As environmental concerns grow, further research could explore teenagers' awareness of sustainable travel practices and their willingness to adopt eco-friendly travel habits. **Exploration of Travel Motivations:** Future studies could delve deeper into specific motivations, such as adventure, education, or social connections, to create a more detailed psychological profile of teenage travelers. **Effect of Health & Safety Protocols;** in a post-pandemic world, health & safety remain critical. Research could analyze whether heightened safety concerns influence teenagers' choice of destinations or travel frequency.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the three regression models, it is evident that predicting travel behaviour has been complex task that requires a more comprehensive understanding of underlying factors. Models presented in this study have limited predictive power, suggesting that other variables, such as socioeconomic factors, cultural influences, and personal preferences, may play a significant role.

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