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# The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Tourism Industry in Negros Oriental, Philippines

### Ryan O. Tayco <sup>⊠</sup>

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

#### Millard Vaughn Tubog

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

#### Ma. Leroz P. Rizada

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

#### Cynie T. Antique

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

#### Glennen Y. Zamora

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

#### Lyra B. Espinosa

Hospitality Management Department Negros Oriental State University, Dumaguete, Philippines

⊠ ryantayco@norsu.edu.ph

#### Abstract

The study tries to determine the effects of the pandemic on the tourism industry in Negros Oriental specifically on accommodation facilities and food and beverage establishments. This study is a descriptive method using the correlational technique. The results show that both accommodation facilities and F&B establishments strongly agree that the actions taken during the pandemic are the observance of government protocols. The study also finds out a significant relationship between human resources and operating

pressures with actions taken during the pandemic. While for the F&B establishments, human resources, operations, financial situations, operating pressures, and government policies shows a significant relationship to actions taken during the pandemic. It is also said that accommodation facilities that manage by women take action effectively during the pandemic, and accommodations facilities with more employees have more operating pressures compared to businesses with fewer employees. The same can be said with F&B establishments where sex and marital status is significantly related to human resource. This means that F&B establishments managed by single women experienced less effect on their human resources and single women can work effectively during the pandemic.

#### Keywords

Tourism Industry, Accommodation Facilities, Food And Beverage Establishments, Descriptive Method, Negros Oriental.

#### Introduction

Without a doubt, the tourism industry is among the sectors that have been greatly affected by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The closing of borders, airports, and hotels as well as restrictions on mass gatherings, land travel, and related services across the world put around 100 to 120 million jobs at risk, as estimated by the World Tourism Organization (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2020). So it is important to understand the effects of the pandemic on the tourism industry. Hence, this study tries to determine the effects of the pandemic on the tourism industry in Negros Oriental specifically on accommodation facilities and food and beverage establishments.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's economy was shut down almost overnight (UNWTO, 2020). The pandemic has confronted the hospitality industry with an unprecedented challenge. Strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve such as community lockdowns, social distancing, stay-athome orders, travel, and mobility restrictions have resulted in the temporary closure of many hospitality businesses and significantly decreased the demand for businesses that were allowed to continue to operate (Bartik et al., 2020). Almost all restaurants were asked to limit their operations to only take-outs. Restrictions placed on travel and stay-at-home orders issued by the authorities led to a sharp decline in hotel occupancies and revenues. However, the reopening process has slowly begun and authorities have started to ease restrictions, for example, allowing dine-in restaurants to reopen at a reduced

capacity with strict social distancing guidelines, and gradually reducing restrictions on domestic and international travel. Evidence shows that tourist development has made an important impact on the tourism trade in a certain locality (Tubog & Tayco, 2017).

COVID-19 has halted many economic activities short in their tracks. In the early stages of strict quarantine guidelines in the Philippines, people's movements were limited and mass gatherings have been prohibited to minimize the spread of the virus. Keeping this in mind, the impacts of COVID-19 on the events industry alone are far too great. The industry is expected to even face more challenges when it comes to coping with social distancing and a lot of new things with the new normal (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2020).

The tourism industry is vulnerable to threats posed by unexpected catastrophes such as epidemics, natural disasters, and terrorist attacks (Chan and Lam, 2013; Jayawardena et al., 2008; Hung et al., 2018; Lo et al., 2006; Paraskevas, 2013; Racherla and Hu, 2009). Different types of catastrophes bring distinct industry consequences and prompt the industry to take measures to tackle various challenges caused by crises. The study of Tayco and Sequiño (2014) demonstrated that on top of a typical tourist's destination criteria is a climate risk condition of the tourist's destination. For this reason, governments strive to attract tourists through various strategies aimed at establishing an image of a desirable tourist destination for the country.

According to the Department of Tourism, Negros Oriental has boasted numerous tourist attractions, which also helped boost the economy. Negros Oriental is also packed with many things to do, making it one of the top tourist spots in the country. Silliman University is the oldest American-founded University in Asia, and where the Silliman Anthropological Museum found, which is home to 2,000-year-old artifacts and information about the indigenous culture and history of the Philippines. Bais City is a popular tourist spot for whale and dolphin watching, due to its proximity across the Tañon Strait. The White Sand Bar in the Municipality of Manjuyod is dubbed the "Maldives of the Philippines" because of its spotless white sand. Tourists consider the Apo Island Marine Protected Area in the Municipality of Dauin as one of the best dive sites in the world. Festivals are also a significant tourist attraction in Negros Oriental, among the most notable, is the Buglasan Festival which is celebrated during the third week of October (tourism.gov.ph). The tourism industry of Negros Oriental is growing because Dumaguete City the capital city of Negros Oriental is the gateway to different popular tourist destinations not only Negros Oriental but also tourists going to Siquijor, the southern part of Cebu, and even Mindanao. However, there are still some

challenges that are being faced especially in the health and safety practices of the tourism industry.

There is no existing study in Negros Oriental that studies the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on accommodation facilities and F&B establishments. Hence, this paper aims to determine the effects of the pandemic on the tourism industry in Negros Oriental. The researchers aim to determine the effects of COVID-19 on the tourism industry and the actions taken by the tourism industry during the pandemic. As a result, this paper would hopefully guide especially the rightful authorities in possibly creating substantial emergency preparedness for any catastrophes affecting the tourism industry.

#### Method

This study is a descriptive method using the correlational technique. Descriptive research is defined as a research method that describes the characteristics of the population or phenomenon studied. While the correlational method was used by the researchers to discover the relationship between the variables and how strong it may be. The purpose of this is to determine the degree to which the movement of two different variables specifically on accommodation facilities and F&B establishments, and this study was limited to the owners or managers/supervisors of the tourism industry mentioned above.

Purposive sampling was used by the researchers to get information from the owners or managers/supervisors. Purposive sampling was used by the researchers to obtain a sample population that best represents the entire population being studied. The criteria for choosing the respondents are:

- 1. Those tourism industries that are still operating amidst the pandemic;
- 2. Accommodation facilities should be categorized as hotels and resorts that have 10 or more guest rooms.
- 3. For F&B establishments, they should be categorized as a restaurant, bistro, resto-bar, or fast-food that has 10 or more employees.
- 4. They should be legally registered establishments.

To gather the necessary information for this study, permission was requested from respondents. The researchers made a survey instrument used as the main instrument for data gathering. Questionnaires were distributed personally and online (google form) and retrieved by the researchers and research assistants from the respondents.

The method used in the investigation is a descriptive survey through a questionnaire using an interview schedule with some parts in scaled form rated according to the degree or extent of certain phenomena. In this case, it concerns the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry, as well as the action taken by the tourism industry during the pandemic. All items in the instrument asked the respondents to indicate their level of agreement by choosing from a 5-point Likert scale.

The researchers treat the data using the following statistical tools:

Frequency was used in the study to determine the distribution of each respondent's profile that was included in the question. The percentage was used to get the part of the respondents' distribution of each profile from its total population. Weighted mean was used to calculate the respondent's level of agreement and standard deviation was used to measure how dispersed the data is in relation to the mean.

To compute the significant relationship, Spearman rho correlation coefficient analysis and Chi-square test were used to show the association between the two (2) variables, one dependent variable, and two or more independent variables. A Spearman rho correlation describes the monotonic relationship between two (2) variables. It is useful for non-normally distributed continuous data, it is used for ordinal data. It is used for ordinal data, and it is relatively robust to outliers (Schober, Boer, & Schwarte, 2018). Spearman rho correlation is a nonparametric test that measures the strength and direction of the association between two variables that are measured on an ordinal or continuous scale. While the Chi-square test is a statistical test used to compare observed results with expected results. The purpose of this test is to determine if a difference between observed data and expected data is due to chance, or if it is due to a relationship between the variables you are studying. The Chi-Square test is a statistical procedure used by researchers to examine the differences between categorical variables in the same population, it is used for noinal data. Both statistical tools were used to examine the relationships between the respondent's demographic profile to the effects of COVID-19 and the actions taken by the tourism industry during the pandemic. And the relationships between the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken by the tourism industry.

Upon retrieval of the questionnaires from the respective respondents, the results were tabulated and the appropriate statistical tools were applied. The data then be presented using tables and graphs.

Below are the findings of the study after data were treated with the appropriate statistical tools. Table 1 displays the socio-demographic profile of the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments in Negros Oriental.

The data presented in Table 1 indicates that most of the respondents are aged from 20 to 30 years old for the accommodation facilities, and from 26-30 years old for F&B establishments. This age group was young professionals and mature enough to hold employment positions and engage in business. Alba (2019) explains that young employees can bring a fresh perspective and a different way of thinking to the business. The said results conform to the data by the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2021 that the largest number of employed persons was in the age group 25 to 34 years old which accounted for 28.2 percent of the total employed.

It is evident in this table that the majority of the respondents are female as they are usually tasked to run the business. Women are so reliant and can provide details in the decision-making and problem-solving aspect when it comes to service quality and doing clerical work. The presence of women in the industry is making the provision of services more complex because of their passive nature where they can address the caring needs of the customers (Asinas et. al, 2019).

Table 1 also shows that most of the respondents working in the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments are single. As revealed in the age range, they are mostly aged under 30 years old which means they are more focused on working or running their own business. According to Anapen (2016), single people can be hired immediately since they could comply when the management request for overtime and complicated shift of schedules.

It is also presented in Table 1 that the majority of the respondents are college graduates. This explains that hospitality industries are hiring college graduates to ensure that their personnel has the right skills and knowledge in providing service to their customers. The need for more competent workers would help attain customer satisfaction because professional workers could be developed when they can finish their studies (Asinas et. al, 2019). Other studies were able to prove the importance of degree holders as a requirement for job hiring and selection.

Furthermore, Table 1 also highlights the job position of the respondents. It shows that the majority of the respondents are working as managers in accommodation facilities and F&B establishments. Some owners usually do not stay in the office. Instead, they employ trusted people to run the business. Owners often delegate financial management to others, though

sometimes they maintain at least part of this responsibility themselves. In successful businesses, the role of the manager is held by professional employees chosen for their leadership role based on their education and proven competence.

Table 1. Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents

		ation Facilities		ablishments
Variable	(1	V- <i>39</i> )	(1	V- <i>52</i> )
	f	0/0	f	%
Age				
51 above	3	7.69	8	15.38
46-50	4	10.26	0	0.00
41-45	2	5.13	5	9.62
3640	3	7.69	8	15.38
31-35	4	10.26	5	9.62
26-30	11	28.21	14	26.92
20-25	11	28.21	7	13.46
prefer not to tell	1	2.56	5	9.62
Gender				
Male	6	15.38	15	28.85
Female	33	84.62	37	71.15
Marital Status				
Married	16	41.03	22	42.31
Single	17	43.59	23	44.23
Prefer not to say	6	15.38	7	13.46
Highest				
Educational				
Attainment				
College Graduate	34	87.18	32	61.54
College	4	10.26		
Undergraduate			13	25.00

Prefer not to say	1	2.56	7	13.46
Job Position				
Manager	20	51.28	33	63.46
Supervisor	13	33.33	12	23.08
Owner	6	15.39	7	13.46

Table 2 indicates the organizational profile of the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments in Negros Oriental. The results show that most of the respondents for accommodation facilities are resorts. This means that during the pandemic many resorts still attracts local tourist in visiting their place since they can offer other services such as swimming pools, other entertainment services, and they can observe proper safety protocols since their area are bigger, not like with hotels that have limited products and services can be offered to their customers. While for F&B Establishments many of the respondents are from restaurants. It is observed that during the pandemic, more restaurants in Negros Oriental were being established.

For the number of employees, the majority of the accommodation facilities have a number of employees that ranges from 11 to 20 employees, while restaurant ranges from 6 to 10 employees. The number of employees in an organization depends on the size and number of services the Accommodation Facilities and F&B Establishments are offering. The more products and services they are offering, the more employees are needed.

And for the years in business, most of the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments are ranges from 6-10 years, which means they have been in operation for quite some time.

Table 2. Organizational Profile of Accommodation Facilities and F&B Establishments

Variable	f	%	Variable	f	%
Type of Industry			Type of Industry		
Resort	21	53.85	Resto		
			Bar/Shop	3	11.54
Hotel	18	46.15	Fast-foods	10	19.23
			Restaurant	36	69.23
Number of Employees			Number of Employees		
41 and above	2	5.13	21 above	2	3.85

31 to 40	2	5.13	16 to 20	8	15.38
21 to 30	4	10.26	11 to 15	16	30.77
11 to 20	23	58.97	6 to 10	26	50.00
Variation Datases			Years in the		
Years in the Business			Business		
21- years above	5	12.82	21- years		
			above	1	1.92
16 - 20 years	7	17.95	16 - 20		
·			years	4	7.69
11 - 15years	5	12.82	11 -		
•			15years	9	17.31
6 - 10 years	9	23.08	6 - 10 years	15	28.85
2 - 5 years	8	20.51	2 - 5 years	14	26.92
months-1 year	5	12.82	months-1		
,			year	9	17.31
N - 39			N - 52		

From small to large businesses, no one has prepared for the large hit brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, accommodation facilities and F&B establishments are the ones being hit the hardest by the

fallout of the pandemic.

Table 3 presented the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry in Negros Oriental. Accommodation facilities neither agree nor disagree that the pandemic affects their human resources, operations, financial situations, and operating expenses. Jones & Comfort (2020) offers some reflections on changes in the relationships between sustainability and the hospitality industry following the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Their findings reveal the dramatic effect, the crisis has offered a vision of a more sustainable future, this vision may pose a major challenge for the industry and many of its traditional customers. In the COVID-19 business climate, hospitality businesses are expected to make significant adjustments to their operations to protect their staff and customer health and safety, as well as increase customer willingness to patronize their business (Gössling, Scott, & Hall, 2020). According to preliminary findings, the most important safety precautions that customers and employees expect from the service industry are visible sanitizing efforts (such as hand sanitizers at the entrance, and staff wearing masks and gloves), implementing social distancing, limiting the number of customers served, more rigorous and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces

in common areas, and employee training of health and safety protocols (Gursoy and Chi, 2020).

Respondents from the accommodation facilities also agree that government policies such as government regulations (travel advisory, travel ban, and health and safety guidelines), provide tax incentives and a grace period on tax payments, provide wage subsidies, provide flexible loans and payments, and lobbying efforts for government support has an effect on their organization. Many industries strongly looked for support from the government. This is because of the government restrictions and protocols established during the pandemic. During COVID-19, many world's most prominent multinational tourism organization has announced cost reductions in their operations across the world (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2020). Tsionas (2020) discusses post-COVID-19 problems and mentions that opening at a limited capacity of almost 33% is a good option. He proposes that government subsidies would be needed to support such lower capacities. There has been massive government intervention in the working and operation of the tourism industry during the COVID-19 crisis (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2020). In the Philippines, Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the tourism industry is ready to face the reality and daunting challenges of the new normal. Secretary Puyat said the DOT, in cooperation with national government agencies and stakeholders through the Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP), is currently formulating the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which will serve as the master plan to get the industry back on its feet (tourism.gov.ph).

Table 3. Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Accommodation Facilities in Negros

Oriental

Effects of the Pandemic	SD	Wx	Verbal Descriptions
Human Resources	1.23	3.33	Neither Agree/ Disagree
• Reducing the labor force	1.23	3.48	Agree
<ul> <li>Using unpaid vacation or increasing unpaid leave to reduce the labor force</li> </ul>	1.27	3.14	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Involuntary separation to reduce labor force</li> </ul>	1.10	2.62	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Reducing the number of workdays per week and</li> </ul>	1.43	3.75	Agree

performing flexible working schedules for the employees			
<ul> <li>Implement a staged flexible salary method</li> </ul>	1.14	3.66	Agree
Operations	1.14	3.28	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Reduce the level of operation hours</li> </ul>	1.16	3.72	Agree
<ul> <li>Temporarily stop offering products/services due to current restrictions</li> </ul>	1.07	3.40	Agree
<ul> <li>Temporarily stop offering products/services due to the lack of demand</li> </ul>	1.12	3.24	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Temporary housing for medical staff/front liners</li> </ul>	1.13	3.12	Neither Agree/ Disagree
Financial Situations	1.27	3.04	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Cash flow shortage</li> </ul>	1.37	3.61	Agree
<ul> <li>Decrease in profits</li> </ul>	1.36	3.54	Agree
Balance of income and expenditures	1.35	3.05	Neither Agree/ Disagree
Applied for financing/loans	1.09	2.76	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Delaying payment of accounts payable</li> </ul>	1.27	2.81	Neither Agree/ Disagree
Operating Pressures	1.28	3.18	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Employee benefits, salaries, and insurance</li> </ul>	1.40	3.63	Agree
<ul> <li>Postponements and cancellation of bookings/events</li> </ul>	1.41	3.20	Neither Agree/ Disagree
Difficulty in attracting customers	1.24	3.28	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Shortage of supplies and materials</li> </ul>	1.13	3.83	Agree
<ul> <li>Repayment of loans and payment of accounts payable</li> </ul>	1.22	2.96	Neither Agree/ Disagree
	1.21	3.95	Agree

Government Policies			
• Government Regulations (travel			
advisory, travel ban, and health	1.32	3.92	Agree
and safety guidelines)			
<ul> <li>Provide tax incentives and a grace</li> </ul>	1.28	3.95	A organ
period on tax payments	1.20	3.93	Agree
<ul> <li>Provide wage subsidies</li> </ul>	1.09	4.00	Agree
<ul> <li>Provide flexible loans and</li> </ul>	1.16	3.96	A organ
payments	1.10	3.90	Agree
• Lobbying efforts for government	1.31	3.88	A 00000
support	1.31	3.68	Agree

Legend:	4.21-5.00	Strongly Agree
	3.41-4.20	Agree
	2.61-3.40	Neither Agree nor Disagree
	1.81-2.60	Disagree

It is presented in Table 4 the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the F&B establishments in Negros Oriental. The F&B establishments agree that there is an effect of the pandemic on their human resources, operations, financial situation, operating pressures, and government policies. It means, the pandemic greatly affects the operation of their businesses.

To begin with, the F&B establishments agree on the effects of the pandemic on their human resources such as reducing the labor force. The tourism and hospitality industry is greatly affected by the pandemic causing the loss of jobs for many workers (Nicola et al., 2020; Hao, Xiao & Chon, 2020). The closing of borders, airports, and hotels as well as restrictions on mass gatherings, land travel, and related services across the world put around 100 to 120 million jobs at risk, as estimated by the World Tourism Organization. The restrictions and the risks associated with health and safety during this pandemic have resulted in lower demand in the tourism industry and consequently resulted in a change in staffing requirements (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2020).

In addition, respondents agree on the effects of the pandemic on their operations for example reducing the level of operation hours. The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the demand for the restaurant industry in the Philippines. Almost all restaurants were asked to limit their operations to only take-outs. Therefore the operation hours of the F&B establishments are affected due to the curfews implemented by the government. Hospitality businesses are expected to make substantial changes to their operations in the

COVID-19 business environment to ensure employees' and customers' health and safety and enhance customers' willingness to patronize their business (Gössling, Scott, & Hall, 2020).

Moreover, F&B establishments agree on the effects of the pandemic on their financial situations like cash flow shortage and balance of income and expenditures. The businesses that rely on social interactions like entertainment and tourism are suffering severely, and millions of people have lost their jobs. Layoffs decline in personal income, and heightened uncertainty has made people spend less, triggering further business closures and job losses (Ghosh, 2020). The Philippine economy has moved to the recovery stage six months after the March lockdown in 2020, but micro, small, and medium enterprise continues to face a sharp drop in demand and revenue (ADB Institute, 2021).

Furthermore, they also agree on the effects of the pandemic on their operating pressure including employee benefits, salaries, and insurance. F&B establishments don't possess enough resources, especially in terms of finances since these industries are highly dependent on their daily business transactions and with it guests. That's why they are a decrease in demand, supply chain disruptions, cancelation of reservations, and shortage of materials and they hardly continue to operate. According to the survey conducted by International Labour Organization (ILO), half of the surveyed have reduced their production of goods and services that can match demand reductions and constraints on their production, and over one-third of them are negotiating wage modifications with workers or revised payment terms with banks and suppliers (ILO, 2020).

Lastly, they agree on the effects of the pandemic on the government policies like government regulations (travel advisory, travel ban, and health and safety guidelines). The government has become a significant role player in the economy of tourism. The presence of COVID-19 pandemic has affected the demand for the tourism industry in the Philippines. Both foreign and domestic visitors in the country tend to be anxious to travel due to COVID-19. This is because of the government restrictions and protocols established during the pandemic. Strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve such as community lockdowns, social distancing, stay-at-home orders, travel, and mobility restrictions have resulted in the temporary closure of many hospitality businesses and significantly decreased the demand for businesses that were allowed to continue to operate (Bartik et al., 2020).

Table 4. Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on the F&B Establishments in Negros Oriental

Iuman Resources	1.01	3.82	Agree
Reducing the labor	.95	3.98	Agree
force			
Using unpaid			
vacation or	1.00	3.80	Λ αποσ
increasing unpaid leave to reduce the	1.00	3.00	Agree
labor force			
Involuntary			
separation to reduce	1.10	3.69	Agree
labor force			Ü
Reducing the			
number of			
workdays per week			
and performing	.96	3.77	Agree
flexible working			
schedules for the			
employees			
Implement a staged	1.02	3.85	Λ απος
flexible salary method	1.02	3.63	Agree
perations	1.08	3.88	Agree
Reduce the level of			
operation hours	1.08	4.09	Agree
Temporarily stop			
offering			
products/services	1.00	3.85	Agree
due to current			
restrictions			
<ul> <li>Temporarily stop</li> </ul>			
offering			
products/services	1.10	3.80	Agree
due to the lack of			
demand			
m			
<ul> <li>Temporary housing for medical</li> </ul>	1.04	3.89	Agree

Financial Situations	.90	3.75	Agree
<ul> <li>Cash flow shortage</li> </ul>	.99	4.13	Agree
<ul> <li>Decrease in profits</li> </ul>	1.05	3.84	Agree
<ul> <li>Balance of income and expenditures</li> </ul>	.89	4.00	Agree
<ul> <li>Applied for financing/loans</li> </ul>	1.19	3.25	Neither Agree/ Disagree
<ul> <li>Delaying payment of accounts payable</li> </ul>	1.25	3.46	Agree
<b>Operating Pressures</b>	1.05	3.87	Agree
<ul> <li>Employee benefits, salaries, and insurance</li> </ul>	1.03	4.20	Agree
<ul> <li>Postponements and cancellation of bookings/events</li> </ul>	1.07	3.68	Agree
<ul> <li>Difficulty in attracting customers</li> </ul>	1.07	3.89	Agree
<ul> <li>Shortage of supplies and materials</li> </ul>	1.01	3.73	Agree
<ul> <li>Repayment of loans and payment of accounts payable</li> </ul>	1.07	3.84	Agree
Government Policies	1.02	3.86	Agree
<ul> <li>Government         Regulations (travel         advisory, travel ban,         and health and safety         guidelines)</li> </ul>	.85	4.14	Agree
<ul> <li>Provide tax incentives and a grace period on tax payments</li> </ul>	1.02	3.78	Agree
<ul> <li>Provide wage subsidies</li> </ul>	1.01	3.87	Agree
<ul> <li>Provide flexible loans and payments</li> </ul>	1.06	3.81	Agree
Lobbying efforts for government support	1.15	3.71	Agree

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Legend: 4.21-5.00 Strongly Agree
3.41-4.20 Agree
2.61-3.40 Neither Agree nor Disagree
1.81-2.60 Disagree
1.00-1.80 Strongly Disagree
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Table 5 shows the actions taken during the pandemic by the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments in Negros Oriental. The results show that both accommodation facilities and F&B establishments strongly agree that the actions taken during the pandemic are the observance of government protocols such as providing alcohol/hand sanitizers at entry, staff wearing masks and gloves, implementing social distancing, and limiting the number of customers. Accommodation facilities strongly agree also on enhanced cleaning and safety training for staff-customer encounters, improve internet connectivity of the establishment, and improved environmental sustainability.

The government has become a significant role player in the economy of tourism. There has been massive government intervention in the working and operation of the tourism industry during the COVID-19 crisis (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2020). Nepomuceno et al., (2020), explained that following strict protocols lessens physical contact and prevents transmission of viruses as long as everyone strictly follows and obeys the quarantine rules. According to preliminary findings, the most important safety precautions that customers and employees expect from the service industry are visible sanitizing efforts (such as hand sanitizers at the entrance, and staff wearing masks and gloves), implementing social distancing, limiting the number of customers served, more rigorous and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces in common areas, and employee training of health and safety protocols (Gursoy and Chi, 2020). Jones & Comfort (2020) study describes the COVID-19 crisis, emphasizes the role of hospitality in economic and social life, and reviews how the crisis has changed the relationships between sustainability and the hospitality industry.

In the Philippines, to save the economy and at the same to prevent the transmission of the virus, the Inter-Agency Task Force against Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved the health protocols for dine-in operations following the findings of the Department of Trade and Industry (www.dti.gov.ph) and the guidelines of the implementation of minimum health protocols for accommodation facilities provided by the Department of Tourism (www.tourism.gov.ph). These guidelines will help the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments to keep going despite the challenges and should be complied with to operate in the new normal. To address the adverse

impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism industry started implementing adaptive business measures. Among these are, digitalization or the use of online platforms for their business transactions, utilization of noncash payment options, cost reduction, and diversification of products and services (UNDP, 2020).

Table 5. Actions taken during the pandemic by the Tourism Industry in Negros Oriental

Tuon 9. 2 tuons tarsen um			modation			7& B
Actions taken during the		Fac	cilities		Estab	lishments
Pandemic	SD	Wx	Verbal Descriptions	SD	Wx	Verbal Descriptions
<ul> <li>Utilized closing time for refurbishment and expansion of the premises in preparation for the recovery phase.</li> </ul>	.89	4.06	Agree	.74	4.13	Agree
Reduce tourists' risk perception, strong coordination with the government bodies to deliver consistent messages to guests.	.82	4.10	Agree	.75	4.10	Agree
<ul> <li>Promoting new products or services (such as family events, and small group catering at a discounted price).</li> </ul>	.82	3.90	Agree	.86	3.96	Agree
<ul> <li>Price drop on special offers and reducing the list price</li> </ul>	.79	3.82	Agree	.96	3.88	Agree
Observe government protocols (such as providing alcohol/hand sanitizers at the entry, staff wearing masks and gloves, implementing social	.68	4.46	Strongly Agree	.72	4.27	Strongly Agree

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,,	

	distancing, and limiting the number						
	of customers).						
•	Suspended or						
	retrieved their						
	investments in new	.83	4.00	Agree	.84	4.13	Agree
	projects to reduce investment risk.						
•	Enables digitalization						
	to reduce physical						
	interactions and						
	infection risks while						Agree
	still providing	.87	4.15	Agree	.79	4.04	rigice
	personalized care to						
	ensure guest						
	satisfaction (such as contactless service).						
•	Enhanced cleaning						
	and safety training for	.72	4.41	Strongly	.83	4.12	Agree
	staff-customer	./2	4.41	Agree	.83	4.12	
	encounters.						
•	Improve internet	40		Strongly	=0		Agree
	connectivity of the	.60	4.46	Agree	.79	4.08	O
	establishment.						
•	Improve						
•	Improve Environmental			Strongly			Agree
•	Environmental	.88	4.38	Strongly Agree	.80	4.10	Agree
•	•	.88	4.38		.80	4.10	Agree
•	Environmental Sustainability (e.g.	.88 .79	4.38 4.18		.80	<b>4.1</b> 0 <b>4.08</b>	Agree Agree
•	Environmental Sustainability (e.g. wellness services)  Composite Mean  Legend: 4.21-5.00	<b>.79</b>		Agree			
•	Environmental Sustainability (e.g. wellness services)  Composite Mean  Legend: 4.21-5.00 3.41-4.20	.79 )	4.18 Strongly Agree	Agree Agree	.68		
•	Environmental Sustainability (e.g. wellness services)  Composite Mean  Legend: 4.21-5.00 3.41-4.20 2.61-3.40	.79 ) )	4.18 Strongly Agree Neither	Agree	.68		
•	Environmental Sustainability (e.g. wellness services)  Composite Mean  Legend: 4.21-5.00 3.41-4.20	.79 ) ) )	4.18 Strongly Agree	Agree Agree Agree Agree nor Disag	.68		

Table 6 displays a significant relationship between the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken during the pandemic by the accommodation facilities in Negros Oriental. For a significant relationship to exist, the p-value must be equal to or lesser than the alpha/margin of error which in this study is set at 0.05.

The result shows that human resource and operating pressures are positively correlated with actions taken during the pandemic. This correlation is significant at 0.05 levels, suggesting that accommodation facilities that have effective human resources and handle their operating pressures properly have taken fewer actions during the pandemic. This means that accommodation facilities manage their human resource and operating pressures effectively has fewer actions taken during the pandemic to survive.

To address the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism industry started implementing adaptive business measures. Among these are, digitalization or the use of online platforms for their business and the diversification of their products and services (UNDP, 2020). In the survey conducted by ILO (2020), half of the surveyed have reduced their production of goods and services that can match demand reductions and constraints on their production, and over one-third of them are negotiating wage modifications with workers or revised payment terms with banks and suppliers. The businesses that rely on social interactions like entertainment and tourism are suffering severely, and millions of people have lost their jobs. Layoffs decline in personal income, and heightened uncertainty has made people spend less, triggering further business closures and job losses (Ghosh, 2020). The situation is particularly dire in hospitality-related sectors which are facing a reduction in business activity of more than 90% (Fernandes, 2020).

The accommodation facilities and F&B establishments have to institute health and safety protocols to respond to employee and consumer safety. Key additional considerations for the sector relate to operational constraints. The need to restructure operations to provide products and services in a safe, financial, and environmentally sustainable manner (Telukdarie, Munsamy, & Mohlala, 2020).

Table 6. The significant relationship between the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and actions taken during the pandemic by the Accommodation Facilities in Negros Oriental.

Variables Tested		r value	p-value	Interpretations	Decision Rule
	Human Resource	.36	.025	Significant	Reject Null
Actions taken	Operations	.25	.12	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Financial Situations	.30	.06	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null

Operating Pressures	.38	.02	Significant	Reject Null
Government Policies	.17	.29	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null

If the p-value is less than or equal to .05, the relationship is significant If the p-value is greater than .05, the relationship is not significant

Table 7 shows that the extent of the effects of the pandemic on human resources, operations, financial situations, operating pressures, and government policies is significantly related to actions taken during the pandemic. This correlation is significant at 0.05, thus, the null hypothesis of no relationship is rejected. The results suggest that F&B establishments that have effective human resources, operations, financial situations, operating pressures, and government policies have taken fewer actions during the pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's economy was shut down almost overnight (UNWTO, 2020). The pandemic has confronted the hospitality industry with an unprecedented challenge. Strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve such as community lockdowns, social distancing, stay-athome orders, travel, and mobility restrictions have resulted in the temporary closure of many hospitality businesses and significantly decreased the demand for businesses that were allowed to continue to operate (Bartik et al., 2020). The study by Kaushal & Srivastava (2021), describes the COVID-19 outbreak presented unprecedented circumstances before the fragile tourism and hospitality industry. Their study has two important concerns, first, pertains to the major challenges that the hospitality and tourism industry faces amid current conditions; and second, relates to the vital learnings for the industry.

However, the reopening process has slowly begun and authorities have started to ease restrictions, for example, allowing dine-in restaurants to reopen at a reduced capacity with strict social distancing guidelines, and gradually reducing restrictions on domestic and international travel. While the tourism industry is slowly recovering, the COVID-19 crisis continues to exert profound impacts on how hospitality businesses operate. Hospitality businesses are expected to make substantial changes to their operations in the COVID-19 business environment to ensure employees' and customers' health and safety and enhance customers' willingness to patronize their business (Gössling, Scott, & Hall, 2020). Jones & Comfort (2020) study describes the COVID-19 crisis, emphasizes the role of hospitality in economic and social life, and reviews how the crisis has changed the relationships between sustainability and the hospitality industry.

Table 7. The significant relationship between the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and actions taken during the pandemic by the Tourism Industry in Negros Oriental.

Varia	ables Tested	r value	p-value	Interpretations	Decision Rule
	Human Resource	.56	.000	Significant	Reject Null
	Operations	.37	.007	Significant	Reject Null
Actions	Financial Situations	.42	.002	Significant	Reject Null
taken	Operating Pressures	.44	.001	Significant	Reject Null
	Government Policies	.61	.000	Significant	Reject Null

If the p-value is less than or equal to .05, the relationship is significant If the p-value is greater than .05, the relationship is not significant

Table 8 presented the significant relationship between the profiles of the accommodation facilities to the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken during the pandemic. The result shows sex is significantly related to the actions taken and no. of employees is significantly related to operating pressures. This correlation is significant at 0.05 levels, suggesting that accommodation facilities that manage by women take action effectively during the pandemic, and accommodations facilities with more employees have more operating pressures compared to businesses with fewer employees.

The study of Bhatnagar (2014) confirms the results of the study. He explains that women are so reliant and can provide details in the decision-making and problem-solving aspect when it comes to service quality and doing clerical work. They are useful in the accommodation industry to make reports, do feminine job roles, and provide comfort with no malice to the customers. It explains that during the pandemic, accommodation facilities managed by women take proper actions effectively because of their passive nature where they can address the caring needs of the customers and handles situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The result also shows that accommodations facilities with more employees have more operating pressures, because during the COVID-19 pandemic businesses that rely on social interactions like accommodation facilities are suffering severely, and millions of people have lost their jobs. Layoffs decline in personal income, and heightened uncertainty has made people spend less, triggering further business closures and job losses (Ghosh, 2020). In this scenario, accommodation facilities especially those with more employees prioritize their expenditures and cut out those non-essential costs. That's why more businesses lobbying efforts for government support on the delayed payments of insurance, loans, taxes, and others in order the businesses can provide assistance to their employees instead of mass lay-offs and losing their jobs, others are reducing their labor force by offering limited work schedules to their employees.

Table 8. The significant relationship between the profiles of the Accommodation Facilities to the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and actions taken during a pandemic

Var	Variable Tested						
Dependent	Independent	x2 value & r value	p- value	Interpretation	Decision Rule		
	Age	r=.25	.12	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
	Sex	$x^{2}=5.94$	.05	Significant	Reject Null		
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 1.96	.74	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
Actions	Educational Attainment	$x^2 = 4.59$	.33	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
Taken	Job position	$x^2=2.56$	.63	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 3.84$	.15	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
	No. of Employees	r=.28	.08	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
	No. of years in business	r=.23	.17	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		
	Age	r=.19	.23	Not	Failed to Reject		
				Significant	Null		
Human	Sex	$x^{2=}$ 4.90	.29	Not	Failed to Reject		
Resource				Significant	Null		
	Marital status	$x^{2}=5.22$	.73	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null		

	Educational	$x^2 = 3.42$	.33	Not	Failed to Reject
	Attainment			Significant	Null
	Job position	$x^2 = 3.00$	.93	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	True of Ladvetor	$x^2 = 1.40$	.84	Not	
	Type of Industry	$x^2 - 1.40$	.04	Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No of Employees	12	.47	Not	Failed to Reject
	No. of Employees	r=.12	.4/	Significant	Null
	No of women in	22	.18	Not	
	No. of years in	r=22	.10		Failed to Reject Null
	business	- 20	0.0	Significant	
	Age	r=.29	.08	Not	Failed to Reject
	Corr	. 2=1 11	<i>(</i> 0	Significant Not	Null
	Sex	$x^{2}=1.44$	.69		Failed to Reject Null
	Manital status	$x^{2}=4.53$	.61	Significant Not	
	Marital status	X <sup>2</sup> - 4.33	.67		Failed to Reject
	Educational	. 2-155	<i>(</i> 0	Significant	Null
		$x^2 = 4.55$	.60	Not	Failed to Reject
<b>Operations</b>	Attainment	. 2—11 01	06	Significant	Null
	Job position	$x^2 = 11.91$	.06	Not	Failed to Reject
	T	. 2- 1 00	20	Significant	Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 1.89$	.39	Not	Failed to Reject Null
	NI CE I	_ 27	10	Significant	
	No. of Employees	r=.27	.10	Not	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of years in	r=.004	.98	Significant Not	
	No. of years in business	7004	.90	Significant	Failed to Reject Null
=		r=.28	.08	Not	
	Age	720	.00	Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Sex	x <sup>2=</sup> 1.05	.90	Not	Failed to Reject
	SCA	X- 1.05	.20	Significant	Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 11.84	.16	Not	Failed to Reject
	Maritar Status	X 11.0T	.10	Significant	Null
Financial	Educational	$x^2 = 3.49$	.90	Not	Failed to Reject
Situations	Attainment	X 3.12	.,,	Significant	Null
ondations	Job position	$x^2 = 9.78$	.28	Not	Failed to Reject
	Job position	N 7.70	.20	Significant	Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 1.39$	.84	Not	Failed to Reject
	-170 01 111440419			Significant	Null
	No. of Employees	r=.19	.23	Not	Failed to Reject
	1.0. of Employees	, ,,,	•=>	Significant	Null
				0181111101111	1 (411

	No. of years in business	r=.10	.53	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Age	r=.29	.07	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Sex	$x^{2=}$ 1.44	.84	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 8.37	.74	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
Operating	Educational	$x^2 = 4.78$	.78	Not	Failed to Reject
Pressures	Attainment			Significant	Null
Fiessules	Job position	$x^2 = 5.68$	.68	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = .72$	.95	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	No. of Employees	r=.33	.04	Significant	Reject Null
	No. of years in	r=05	.77	Not	Failed to Reject
	business			Significant	Null
	Age	r=.23	.16	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Sex	$x^{2}=1.85$	.61	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Marital status	$x^{2}$ 3.97	.68	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Educational	$x^2 = 3.11$	.79	Not	Failed to Reject
Government	Attainment			Significant	Null
Policies	Job position	$x^2 = 10,38$	.11	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = .79$	.15	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	No. of Employees	r=.19	.22	Not	Failed to Reject
				Significant	Null
	No. of years in	r = .05	.77	Not	Failed to Reject
	business			Significant	Null

If the p-value is less than or equal to .05, the relationship is significant

If the p-value is greater than .05, the relationship is not significant

The results of the correlational analysis as delineated in Table 9 above indicate that sex and marital status is significantly related to human resource. This correlation is significant at the 0.05 level. This means that F&B

establishments managed by single women experienced less effect on their human resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that single women can work effectively during the pandemic since they have no other obligations that could affect their performance and productivity. Single women could attend to the shifting of schedules at ease, especially in an industry where accommodation is provided 24/7, they would need employees who can cope with the changes in duty scheduling. As stated by Anapen (2016), single people can be hired immediately since they could comply when the management request for overtime and complicated shift of schedules. And women are usually tasked to run the business for they are known to have strong management and are considered to have a natural preference for these things and are also very good at engaging customers. A growing amount of evidence globally indicates that the increase in care work during the pandemic has fallen disproportionately on the shoulders of women (Bahn, Cohen, and Rodgers 2020).

Table 9. The significant relationship between the profiles of the F&B Establishments to the extent of the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and actions taken during a pandemic

Variable Tested		p-	Intomorations	Decision
Independent	& r value	value	interpretations	Rule
Λοο	r=.24	0.0	NI-t Circificant	Failed to
Age		.00	Not Significant	Reject Null
Sex	v2= 2 68	11	Not Significant	Failed to
SCA	x 2.00	.77	1 Vot Significant	Reject Null
Marital status	x <sup>2</sup> =2 93 82 1		Not Significant	Failed to
Maritar status	λ 2.//	.02	1 Vot Significant	Reject Null
Educational	$x^2 = 3.54$	.94	Not Significant	Failed to
Attainment				Reject Null
Job position	√2=11 78	07	Not Significant	Failed to
Job position	77.70		1100018111101110	Reject Null
Type of Industry	x <sup>2</sup> =9.97	.62	Not Significant	Failed to
				Reject Null
No. of Employees	r= 17	22	Not Significant	Failed to
r tot or Employees	,,	,	1100018111101110	Reject Null
No. of years in	r = 0.3	81	Not Significant	Failed to
business	, .02			Reject Null
Age	r= 24	08	Not Significant	Failed to
				Reject Null
Sex	$x^{2}=8.12$	.04	Significant	Reject Null
Marital status	$x^{2}=18.15$	.006	Significant	Reject Null
	Independent  Age  Sex  Marital status  Educational Attainment  Job position  Type of Industry  No. of Employees  No. of years in business  Age  Sex	Independent& r valueAge $r=.24$ Sex $x^2=2.68$ Marital status $x^2=2.93$ Educational Attainment $x^2=3.54$ Job position $x^2=11.78$ Type of Industry $x^2=9.97$ No. of Employees $r=.17$ No. of years in business $r=.03$ Age $r=.24$ Sex $x^2=8.12$	Independent         & r value         value           Age $r=.24$ .08           Sex $x^2=2.68$ .44           Marital status $x^2=2.93$ .82           Educational Attainment $x^2=3.54$ .94           Job position $x^2=11.78$ .07           Type of Industry $x^2=9.97$ .62           No. of Employees $r=.17$ .22           No. of years in business $r=.03$ .81           Age $r=.24$ .08           Sex $x^2=8.12$ .04	Independent& r valuevalueInterpretationsAge $r=.24$ .08Not SignificantSex $x^2=2.68$ .44Not SignificantMarital status $x^2=2.93$ .82Not SignificantEducational Attainment $x^2=3.54$ .94Not SignificantJob position $x^2=11.78$ .07Not SignificantType of Industry $x^2=9.97$ .62Not SignificantNo. of Employees $r=.17$ .22Not SignificantNo. of years in business $r=.03$ .81Not SignificantAge $r=.24$ .08Not SignificantSex $x^2=8.12$ .04Significant

	Educational Attainment	$x^2 = 7.21$	.62	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Job position	$x^2 = 6.68$	.35	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 20.65$	.06	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of Employees	r=.02	.89	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of years in business	r=02	.87	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Age	r=.01	.93	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Sex	x <sup>2=</sup> 1.51	.68	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2</sup> =10.22	.12	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Educational Attainment	x <sup>2</sup> =7.62	.57	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Operations	Job position	$x^2 = 3.73$	.71	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 9.73$	.64	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of Employees	r=.18	.14	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of years in business	r=16	.19	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Age	r=.19	.18	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Sex	x <sup>2=</sup> 3.15	.37	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 9.41	.15	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Financial situations	Educational Attainment	$x^2 = 7.66$	.57	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
situations	Job position	x <sup>2</sup> =10.04	.12	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 14.39$	.28	Not Significant	Failed to
	No. of Employees	r=.10	.46	Not Significant	Reject Null Failed to Reject Null

	No. of years in business	r=17	.22	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Age	r=02	.90	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Sex	x <sup>2=</sup> 3.79	.28	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 11.66	.07	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Operating	Educational Attainment	$x^2 = 16.9$	.65	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Pressures	Job position	$x^2 = 8.47$	.21	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 13.05$	.37	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of Employees	r-=.17	.21	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of years in business	r=15	.28	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Age	r=.09	.51	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Sex	x <sup>2=</sup> 5.20	.16	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Marital status	x <sup>2=</sup> 7.08	.31	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Government	Educational Attainment	$x^2 = 4.28$	.89	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
Policies	Job position	x <sup>2</sup> =10.61	.10	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	Type of Industry	$x^2 = 8.52$	.78	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of Employees	r=.12	.41	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null
	No. of years in business	r=15	.27	Not Significant	Failed to Reject Null

If the p-value is less than or equal to .05, the relationship is significant

## Conclusion

If the p-value is greater than .05, the relationship is not significant

Based on the findings of this study, the accommodation facilities and F&B establishments faced a lot of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and customer demand for high-quality service while observing the safety protocols is increasing. To survive during the pandemic, businesses make important innovations and changes to their operations to ensure employees' well-being and customers' health and safety and enhance customers' willingness to patronize their products and services.

The results showed that the accommodation facilities agree that government policies such as government regulations have a greater effect on their operations during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the restrictions and health and safety protocols established during the pandemic. While F&B establishments agree that there is an effect of the pandemic on their human resources, operations, financial situation, operating pressures, and government policies. The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the demand for F&B establishments in Negros Oriental. Most of the F&B establishments were asked to limit their operations to only take-outs which forced them to shift to digitization or the use of online platforms for their transactions. Both accommodation facilities and F&B establishments strongly agree that the actions taken during the pandemic are the observance of government protocols such as providing alcohol/hand sanitizers at entry, staff wearing masks and gloves, implementing social distancing, and limiting the number of customers.

This study offers evidence of the significant relationship between human resources and operating pressures with actions taken during the pandemic. This means that accommodation facilities manage their human resource and operating pressures efficiently has fewer actions taken during the pandemic to survive. While for the F&B establishments, human resources, operations, financial situations, operating pressures, and government policies show a significant relationship to actions taken during the pandemic. The results suggest that F&B establishments that have effective human resources, operations, financial situations, operating pressures, and government policies have taken corrective actions properly in response to the pandemic.

The study also shows that accommodation facilities that are managed by women take action effectively during the pandemic, and accommodations facilities with more employees have more operating pressures compared to businesses with fewer employees. The same can be said with F&B establishments where sex and marital status is significantly related to human resource. This means that F&B establishments managed by single women experienced less effect on their human resources and single women can work effectively during the pandemic.

#### Recommendations

The researchers proposed the following recommendations:

- 1. Accommodation facilities and F&B establishments continue to follow the given IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force) protocols which provide strict implementation and monitoring throughout the pandemic to ensure that their products and workplace are clean and maintained during this pandemic.
- 2. Accommodation facilities and F&B establishments in Negros Oriental should devise crisis response plans that are both short and long-term. It would be a good start to implement a set of proactive, comprehensive measures to stop the spread of the virus and create a better and safer environment for both customers and industries.
- 3. Further, studies can be conducted in a different setting to confirm the results of this study. The study did not compare results across different accommodation facilities and F&B establishments' locations. Future research work may look into how accommodation facilities and F&B establishments from varied locations show different results on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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