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Restarting tourism, travel and hospitality: The day after

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Creativity and Tourism in the Pandemic Period: The Case of the rural Community Chã de Jardim / Brazil.

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PURPOSE

The community of Chã de Jardim, located in the city of Areia/PB-Brazil, has been developing its activities based on principles of community-based tourism and during the pandemic in the year 2020, sought to adopt safe and creative strategies to develop local tourism and survive the isolation period. Given the above, the objective of this study was to identify the creative strategies used by the Chã de Jardim community to face the pandemic in the year 2020. To fulfill the proposed object, the specific objectives were: to characterize the community; to describe the main strategies to promote local tourism.

RESEARCH METHODS

To meet the proposed objective, a qualitative, bibliographic study was carried out on a case study. This research had as locus the Rural Community of Chã de Jardim, located in the state of Paraíba/Brazil. The study started as a bibliographical survey about Covid-19, Rural Community of Chã de Jardim, Community Based Tourism, and tourism marketing. Due to the social isolation, the data collection to identify the creative strategies was done in a secondary way in websites of the Empresa Paraibana de Turismo S/A-PBtur, the official site of the community, and other companies of tourism promotion that reported how the community adapted to the pandemic period, as well as semi-structured interviews with the community leader Luciana Balbino. All the strategies developed from March to December 2020 were catalogued. The data were analyzed using the content analysis method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main results showed that the community established several ways to deal with the period of isolation and restrictions that occurred at the beginning of the pandemic, adopting some strategies. Among them: the experience with m-commerce, adapting its service in the process of marketing by delivery in which the sale of meals, sweets, and baskets for commemorative dates was marketed through communication channels such as WhatsApp. Virtual guided tours:

the local coordinator promoted virtual tours in some specific points of the destination, such as the conservation unit, the restaurant, and the village, showing the attractions. There was also a financial incentive in partnership with the federal government and the private sector

IMPLICATIONS

Innovation and creativity were fundamental to face the health crisis that arrived unexpectedly in 2020. The community Chã de Jardim, opted for the use of technology to innovate the service and offer personalized services. Such initiatives helped the community to face the most restrictive period of the pandemic until it was able to receive tourists again. New studies are suggested to study the economic and social impacts on the community during the time of isolation, and it is also understood that the analysis of new events in the field of tourism may contribute to future research or to the observation and analysis of similar cases

KEYWORDS

Covid-19. Community-Based Tourism. Competitive Strategies.

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