

# Interaction in Hiking Between Children, Parents, and Ecology

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## Background

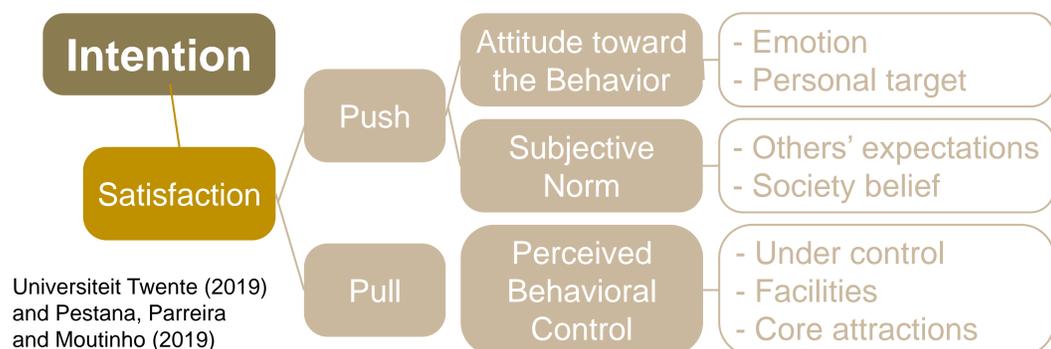
Family hiking is an emerging trend where parents and children can spend valuable family time together and interact with nature. Nature is a natural database for children, which they can view and have first-hand experience to interact with nature. Visitor Centres are built to support ecological education. However, low popularity and temporary education outcomes causes unsustainability and resource loss. The public tends to rely on the internet and Apps when faced with any ecological issues. Therefore, this study asks the following research questions:

**Is operating an app more sustainable and effective in educating ecological issues; and how can a Visitor Centre be improved to achieve sustainability?**

## Research Objectives

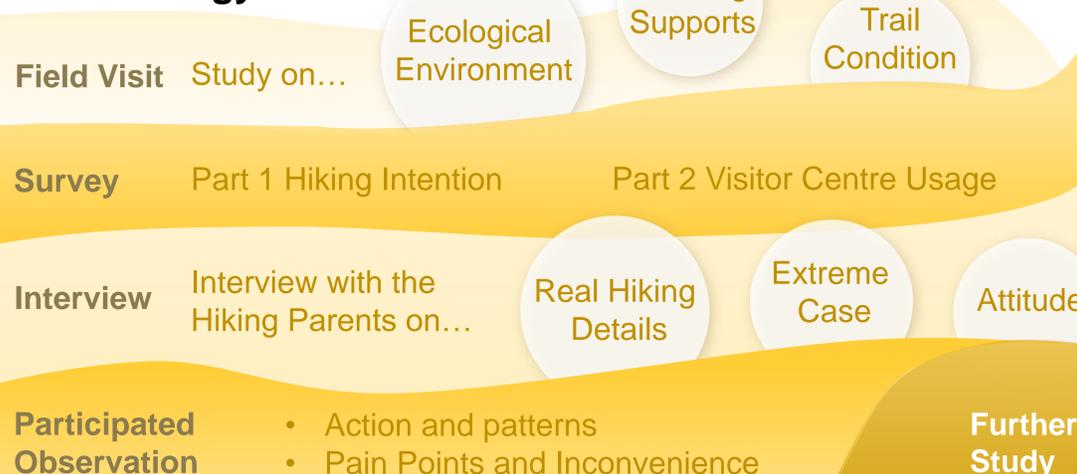
The research clarifies the current situation on family hiking content, especially when interacting with the biodiversity. Through understanding their values and intentions, design a solution to improve existing facilities to add interactions, which enhances their understanding of each other and raises awareness on ecological balance, thus increases the overall, long-term hiker satisfaction and sustainability.

## Literature Review



Attitude Towards the Behavior and Subjective Norms are about personal fulfillment that benefits personal development and the expectations from others. For the Perceived Behavioral Control, hikers make decisions by considering the feasibility. The existing facilities and supports also control how they intend to conduct the activities. These push and pull factors gain their satisfaction and thus intention for hiking and to explore the nature.

## Methodology



## Findings/ Expected Findings

The Reason Go for a Family Hike		
I want to motivate my child to be energetic	16	1
I want me and my child to stay away from screen	15	2
I want me and my child to alleviate stress	14	3
I would like to maintain good relationships	12	4
...		
I saw the news of hiking that attracted me	-7	10
I can explore new place no one ever visited	-14	11

### What difficulties did you ever have on the hikes?

- 25% Cannot find expected nature species
- 25% Kids get bored
- 25% No difficulties

### What factor will you consider the most on Centre?

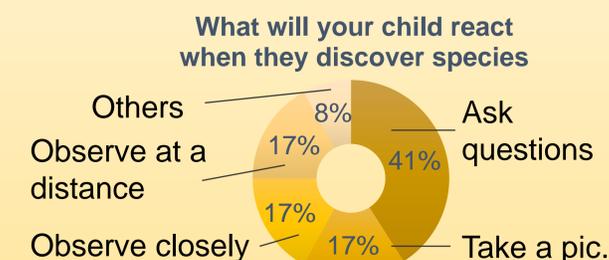
- 42% The interaction between nature and visitors
- 25% Accessibility
- 25% Creative presentation

### What did kid feel when notified to go on a hike?

- Hiking is boring as there is **not much things to see** but he loves photography, so he follows.
  - No big changes on emotions, **but I guess** she is happy
- Not every child loves hiking, but parents can provide intentions for them. A term 'But I guess' stands out, as children might not put their deepest emotions on their faces and pretend.

**Conduct Mock Application.** Test the differences of operating supportive mobile facilities and a visitor centre. Examine how to keep balance on gaining interactions while achieving sustainability.

Family hikers concern most on how to foster overall growth on themselves and kids, and fulfill kids' curiosity on nature issue. The data also highlights the impact on mobile such as convenient on ecological content searching, and social distraction.



**Give continuous space for kids to question, apply and reflect could benefit to their ecological issue learning.**

Good information centres should emphasize the interactions and tackle feasible difficulties. It is essential to keep a balance on launching an app that avoids potential distraction and adding supportive mobile facilities instead of operating more visitor centres. But what is the measurement of balance and what kind of product should be designed for this issue?

## Conclusion

Comparing geology, ecological characteristics, and human factors, e.g., intentions and continuous interest, having mobile facilities are more sustainable than a Visitor Centre. To retain the significance on the practical education and use less with 3C products, Visitor Centres should provide a gadget for hikers to carry or wear that will guide and tackle the issues they might face along their hikes. At the same time, existing signs should be upgraded.