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Analysis of Staycation Preferences of Egyptian Travelers Post COVID-19 Pandemic
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الملخص

أثرت جائحة كورونا على القطاع الاقتصادى وتعتبر السياحة واحدة من أكثر الصناعات تضررا . يرجع ذلك للعديد من القيود التى فرضت للحد من انتشار الوباء وتقليل حركة الأفراد. فى هذا السياق، ظهر مصطلح "العطلات المحلية " كشكل جديد من أشكال السياحة الداخلية وأصبح اتجاهًا مزدهرًا في صناعة السياحة والترفيه. هذا البديل للسفر يمكن أن يروج الإجازات المحلية بأسعار مناسبة للجميع . ومن ثم ، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف الاتجاه المتزايد للعطلات المحلية القصيرة فى مصر بعد جائحة كورونا.على وجه التحديد ، تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف الاختلافات في الخصائص السلوكية وتفضيلات المسافرين المصريين المرتبطة بهذه العطلات وفقا لخصائصهم الاجتماعية والديموغرافية خاصة بعد جائحة كورونا . تم جمع البيانات الأولية من خلال استطلاع للرأى عبر الإنترنت شمل 208 مشاركا، وتم إجراء اختبار كاى تربيع لفحص العلاقة بين الخصائص الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للمستجيبين وتفضيلاتهم لقضاء العطلات المحلية. أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أنه من بين جميع الخصائص الديموغرافية ، كان نوع المستجيبين وأعمارهم مرتبطين ارتباطا كبيرا بأغلب تفضيلات السفر الخاصة بهم لقضاء العطلات المحلية، بينما ارتبط التعليم والمهنة بعدد قليل من تفضيلاتهم بعد جائحة كورونا. لذلك ، يمكن أن تعتبر نتائج هذه الدراسة بمثابة دليل لهيئات السياحة المصرية لتصميم استراتيجيات تسويقية مناسبة لزيادة رضا المسافرين المصريين فى عطلاتهم المحلية . تختتم الدراسة ببعض التوصيات لأصحاب المصلحة في السياحة المصرية ، بما

في ذلك منظمى الرحلات ووكالات السفر والفنادق والمسوقون والهيئات لتطوير نماذج أعمال جديدة تتناسب مع شرائح السوق المستهدفة.

الكلمات الدالة: العطلات المحلية، تفضيلات السفر، المسافرين المصريين، جائحة كورونا، اختبار كاى تربيع

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the economic sector, and tourism has been one of the hardest hit industries. This is due to the numerous imposed restrictions to curb down the spreading of the pandemic and reduce the mobility. In this context, the "staycation" as an emerging form of domestic tourism becomes a booming trend in the tourism and leisure industry. This alternative mode of travel could promote affordable domestic vacations. Hence, this study aims to explore the growing trend of staycation in Egypt aftermath COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, it seeks to investigate the differences in behavioral characteristics, and preferences of Egyptian staycationers post COVID-19 pandemic based on their socio-demographic characteristics. Primary data were collected through an online survey from 208 participants and Chi-Square test was conducted to examine the relationship between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and preferences for staycation. The findings of the study showed that amongst all socio demographic characteristics, gender and age of the respondents were significantly associated with most travel preferences while education and profession were associated with only a few staycation preferences aftermath the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the findings of the study

could guide Egyptian tourism authorities in designing proper marketing strategies to increase Egyptian staycationers' satisfaction. The study ends up with some useful implications for Egyptian tourism stakeholders, including local tour operators, travel agencies, hotels, marketers, and authorities to develop new business models for target market segments.

Keywords: Staycation, travel preferences, Egyptian travelers, COVID -19 pandemic, Chi-square test.

Introduction

Traditional travel hypotheses suggest that tourists commonly seek places far from their homes to experience unique and novel experiences (Chen et al.,2022).However, within transformations in the form of mobility and changes in tourist behavior, there is an increasing trend toward local tourism and questing authentic experiences (Russo and Richards,2016).

There had been little research on home-based holidays until the first decade of the 21st century when high-carbon tourism practices and climate breakdown led scientists to consider home-based holidaymaking and short-haul travel as possible alternatives (Gössling & Higham, 2021).In the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, people started to decrease their expenditures and shorten vacations. Indeed, activities such as ; spending quality time with family, enjoying local activities, dining out, shopping, and taking advantage of the local area have become more important than expensive vacations(Smrutirekha et al.,2022). Proximity travel is one of the most likely outcomes of the crisis (Romagosa, 2020). The term proximity tourism is often referred to "local tourism" or

"peripheral tourism," focusing on short distances, closeness to home, and low-carbon travel (Jeuring &Haartsen, 2017). Staycation as a form of proximity travel has become increasingly popular, especially when travel options are limited during time of financial crisis (Doğan &Jelinčić, 2023). According to Papatheodorou et al. (2010) and Yesawich (2010), staycation refers to visiting a tourist destination close to home rather than traveling to distant locations. The concept offers a safe, affordable, and sustainable alternative to domestic travel(Wong et al., 2023)and allows for more accessible and instant vacation(Rosu,2020).Actually, the term "staycation" is not new , as residents often visit nearby attractions on holidays and weekends (Wong et al.,2023).Nevertheless, this phenomenon is gaining attention because of the COVID-19 pandemic (Stainton, 2021).The crisis has dramatically impacted the tourism and hospitality industry as many countries have imposed travel restrictions and closures (Salcedo et al., 2020).Many people around the globe sought safe travel alternatives as a result of this psychological distress (Yang & Wong, 2020). In this regard, Bhrammanachote and Sawangdee (2021) mentioned that the pandemic has altered tourist behavior and tourism consumption. It has been noted that the pandemic has had many adverse impacts on international tourism than the 2008 economic crisis (Muritala et al., 2022).

As a result of the perceived risk of COVID-19, tourists' intention to travel declined significantly (Liu et al., 2021), and they started to prefer traveling within their own countries (Das & Tiwari, 2021).Thus, staycation has received a considerable attention from both Western and Asian tourists as a form of "new normal" activity (Hong

&Lam, 2020).Miao et al., (2021) pointed out that staycation helps people to restore their mental health to cope with psychological stress. It became a prominent trend particularly during the pandemic since people seek safe places and customized entertainment close to home (Clavé, 2022).

In this context, Egypt along with other countries emphasized the importance of domestic travel for driving the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector in the short and mid-term (Tourism Economics, 2021). Staycation as a form of domestic and proximity travel became extremely popular during the pandemic in Egypt. However, the profile of this market, travelers 'needs, and preferences remain vague and unclear.

Staycation is a promising and new phenomenon but a largely unexplored topic among tourism studies (Madsen, 2022). Previous studies related to staycation have focused on factors affecting tourists' intention and attitudes toward staycation during and Post Covid19 (Keawarin, 2021; Pratiwi & Novani, 2022; Zhang et al., 2022), staycation motivations (Njoroge & Atieno, 2022), classification of staycation activities (Besson, 2017; James et al., 2017; Rosu, 2020), staycation experience during COVID-19 particularly for family (Kalista, 2020), Millennials (Moon & Chan, 2022),and developing staycation incentive packages and staycation vouchers by local authorities and lodging sector during COVID-19 (Cvelbar & Ogorevc, 2020; Wong et al., 2021).

In response to the increasing number of domestic tourists interested in staycation, the hospitality and tourism industry should adapt its services and products to meet tourists' needs, motivations, and preferences. Nevertheless, to date,

empirical studies on consumer behavior especially travelers' motivations and preferences regarding the staycation market are scarce. Thus, it is important to gain a deep understanding of the preferences and characteristics of this market to facilitate further research.

This study focuses on the growing trend of staycation in Egypt and analyzes the preferences of staycationers' aftermath the COVID -19 pandemic. Specifically, the study aims to investigate the differences in behavioral characteristics, and preferences of Egyptian staycationers post COVID-19 pandemic based on their socio-demographic characteristics. This could be the novel contribution of the study, which may serve as a basis for Egyptian tourism authorities, and marketers to conduct market segmentation, develop the suitable tourism products, create the customized packages, and design the proper marketing strategies. Hence, the study seeks to answer a number of key questions:

> ***RQ1***: What is the socio-demographic profile of the Egyptian staycationers?
>
> ***RQ2***: What are the key characteristics of staycation trips and future plans for Egyptian travelers?
>
> ***RQ3***: To what extent the socio-demographic characteristics determine the preferences of Egyptian travelers for staycation post COVID -19 pandemic?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The emergence of the staycation concept

Previous studies asserted that the term staycation has been used firstly by Terry Massey in 2003 (Hay, 2010; De Bloom et al., 2017; James et al., 2017). However, Merriam-Webster (n.d.), mentioned that the term staycation originated in a 1944 article in the Cincinnati Enquirer: "this

year, take a staycation instead of a vacation". Since then, the concept has gained more acceptance over the years (Madsen, 2022).

Marketers often neglect local tourism (Kay & Wang, 2010) but in the summer of 2008, during the global financial crisis, the concept of a "staycation" became increasingly popular. In light of this crisis, fuel prices have spiked, vacations have become unaffordable due to higher airfare, accommodation, and other costs (Molz, 2009; Li, 2022). As a result, most Americans from the middle class were not able to afford a distant vacation and started to reduce their expenses to go for staycations as an attractive alternative (Kay &Wang, 2010).They adopted several strategies and tactics to manage time and consume in a new manner (Sharma, 2009).Thus, numerous cities have begun to promote their services to local consumers through bloggers and newspapers, making this form of tourism more appealing (Molz, 2009; James et al., 2017).

Overall, several studies have attempted to define the term staycation, most of them have similarities and only a few have added different aspects. As mentioned by Wixon (2009) staycation is an indoor vacation where a person stays at home or close to home (neighborhood areas) for a short period, but creates a traditional vacation atmosphere. Furthermore, Vackova (2009) defined the term "staycation" as a vacation in which travelers stay at home instead of traveling to another destination and spend the time exploring their local environment; for example, staying in a hotel, in a city or discovering the countryside nearby.

Looking more closely at this definition, Jeuring and Haartsen (2017) argued that staycations as a form of proximity tourism are similar to day trips where travelers

may return home or stay overnight in a hotel. Likewise, De Bloom et al., (2017) explained that staycations refer to vacations taken at the person's usual place of residence. Moreover, Besson (2017) and Li (2022) added that staycations commonly take place on the weekends, giving people the opportunity to escape from their everyday routine and relax through organized recreational activities. From the perspective of Pawłowska-Legwand & Matoga, (2016) staycation can range from spending two days at a nearby resort to watching movies at home. Additionally, James et al. (2017) defined staycationers as individuals who go for a leisure vacation or trip within 50 miles of their residence and spend at least one night in their hometown. In the light of the U.S Travel Association restrictions, the radius of tourism has been set at 50 miles (U.S. Travel Association, 2020).As can be seen from the above mention discussion, staycations are defined and described in different ways; this shows that there is no consensus on what a staycation exactly is (Dissart, 2021).

Based on Pawłowska-Legwand and Matoga (2016), taking a staycation has become a popular tourism trend nowadays, mainly among city dwellers due to lifestyle changes and work-life balance preferences. People try to not consume much time in planning and waiting for taking a vacation all year, this makes them feel tired and focused on high expectations (Corvo, 2011; Smith & Diekmann, 2017).So, instead of taking one long vacation, they can take several shorter ones to improve their psychological health. This means that a staycation is not just for people with a limited budget (Li, 2022).

On the other hand, previous studies have mentioned that there is always an overlap between the concept of

staycation and other concepts such as domestic tourism, second home tourism, day trip, and vacation.

As stated by Hay (2010) staycation is simply domestic tourism. Nevertheless, some scholars such as De Bloom et al. (2017) discussed that there is a difference between staycation and domestic tourism. They relied on the UNWTO convention for domestic tourism and used the place of usual residence, and usual environment as parameters to distinguish between the two concepts (Muritala et al., 2022). According to UNWTO (2010), domestic tourism refers to activities undertaken by a resident visitor as part of an outbound or domestic vacation. The place of usual residence is the geographic location where an individual lives. A person's usual environment is the area in which he or she conducts their daily life routines. Indeed, staycations are tourism activities carried out within a person's usual environment, as shown in (Figure 1). Hence, staycation is a form of domestic tourism, though domestic tourism trips outside a person's usual environment may not be considered as a staycation (Muritala et al., 2022)

Likewise, other scholars pointed out that there is always a confession between staycation, second home tourism and day trip. In this regard, Rosu (2020) explained that second home tourism is a subcategory of domestic tourism; however, it differs from staycation in terms of frequency of visits and ownership. Meanwhile, a staycation is similar to a day trip since it allows the traveler the option of returning home and spending the night there.

A vacation is simply a trip to a distant destination within a certain period of time using a vehicle (e.g., a car, train, or plane) in order to relax and take a break (Fox, 2009).In

response to the economic recession of 2008, many travelers sought an alternative for their vacations. Therefore, they began taking short vacations closer to home, a practice known as "staycation" (Apatheodorou et al., 2010; James et al., 2017). For this reason, staycations become the best choice during times of crisis (Fox, 2009). In other words, staycations represent a radical shift from traditional vacations, which usually involve traveling long distances to visit new destinations (Madsen, 2022).
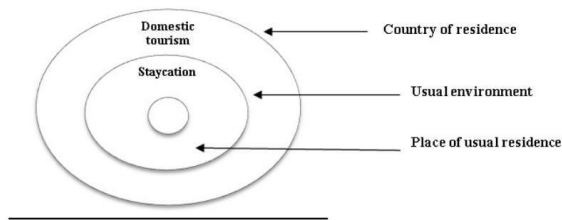
Figure 1. Domestic tourism and staycation (adapted from Muritala et al., 2022)

Travel preferences and the profile of the staycation market

The travel decision is usually affected by a variety of factors. In this sense, Abdillah et al. (2019) demonstrated that the internal factors are driven by the inner drive and desires of the individual, while the external factors are determined by cost, distance, accessibility, and authenticity. Commonly, individual preferences are influenced by three factors: first, socio- demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, educational level, income, marital status, and employment. Second, the product itself includes goods, services, or both of them. Third, the characteristics of the

environment (Krisnadevi et al., 2020). The most popular travel preferences include tourist attractions, accommodation facilities, activities, and transportation patterns (Agustina & Sharyputra, 2022).

Previous studies highlighted some insights to describe the profile of staycationers as a travel market. In this context, Yesawich (2010) explained that staycationers are mostly adults, single or married with children and prefer to take at least a staycation once a year. Based on a study conducted by (TripAdvisor, 2015) staycationers may have a limited budget and therefore, they prefer to plan for short trips, choose less expensive accommodations, and eat out less in order to decrease their expenses.

In a staycation, travelers have more time to enjoy the outdoors (Jacobsen et al., 2021), explore nearby landscapes, and reconnect with their friends and family (Gonçalves, 2020). In general, staycations could improve relationships between partners and spouses and strengthen family bonds (Jacobsen et al., 2021).According to De Bloom et al. (2017), a staycation includes a variety of leisure-related activities close to home and with limited travel time. Indeed, a staycation offers travelers the opportunity to experience activities they would never have the chance to do during the year, such as visiting local museums ,playing some sports in the nearby parks, cycling ,attending concerts or other practices related to slow tourism (Gonçalves, 2020; Dickinson et al., 2011). As claimed by Miao et al. (2021) leisure staycations are becoming more popular, and travelers prefer nature-based attractions, regional travel as well as driving to destinations. For instance, Lee and Leung (2021) noticed an increase in hiking and camping in rural areas in Hong Kong during the pandemic.

To sum up, staycation activities can be categorized as follows;

- Staying at home: watching TV, spending a day at the local parks, visiting sports facilities, swimming pools, going for walking, having a drink, going to a game or a barbecue
- Traveling for a day trip: fishing, going to the beach ,or visiting a local attraction
- Planning a short stay to reduce spending on gas, food, lodging, entertainment, and shopping (Dissart, 2021).

Socioeconomic and environmental impacts of staycation

As reported by Costa (2020), Rosu (2020), and Dissart (2021), staycation has several social impacts. It can boost proximity tourism, generate interest in local attractions and events, rediscover cultural activities, and encourage residents to discover their regions, especially people who act as tourists or day-trippers in their usual living space. For this reason, residents might feel proud, learn more about their local history and heritage or have a different perception of their territory (Dissart, 2021).

Furthermore, staycation could support local communities, revitalize local cultures and maintain the relationship between host and guest (Rosu, 2020). It is considered as slow travel that allows visitors to enjoy vacations in their environment (Besson, 2017). Moreover, staycation may provide an alternative for travelers who suffer from travel anxiety (Flaherty & Nasir, 2020).

On the other hand, during the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, governments also began to realize the importance of staycations for increasing economic activity. For example, in 2020, the Slovenian government provided residents with staycation vouchers that could be used to pay for accommodation (Cvelbar & Ogorevc, 2020).

There is no doubt that staycation leads to more domestic tourism. Some major economies including Germany, the United States and Russia are likely to benefit from the trend toward more domestic vacations. Due to their geography and language skills, these countries already rely heavily on domestic tourism (Madsen, 2022). Fotiadis et al. (2021) also found that there is an optimistic vision about the role of staycation in domestic tourism flows.

Indeed, governments can promote staycations as a sub-sector of domestic tourism to keep citizens' money in the country and stimulate the local economy (James et al., 2017). Staycation could help destinations to overcome the challenge of seasonality in tourism. The tendency of residents to stay closer to home and to take frequent staycations could result in lower tourist flows during the traditional peak season. This would promote a real four-season model of tourism (Dissart, 2021).

In addition, Muritala et al. (2022) highlighted that staycation has several environmental impacts, for instance, spending vacations at home or close to home could immediately decrease GHG emissions, and accordingly improve an individual's carbon footprint. In this regard, Gössling et al. (2010) asserted that shifting from long to short distance travel could obviously reduce the negative

impacts caused by tourism and create environmentally friendly practices.

In staycation, travelers avoid using polluting modes of transportation such as airplanes, cars, and boats and prefer to use bicycles, electric scooters, public transportation, or even walking (Dissart, 2021). In other words, staycation by staying in usual environments and excluding long distance travel could maintain eco-friendly habits (Rosu, 2020).

Proximity travel and Staycation in the COVID-19 era

As mentioned previously, the economic crisis that began in the USA in 2008 was one of the main reasons to increase the popularity of staycation as an alternative trend of traveling. Once again, the tourism sector has been strongly affected by the COVID -19 crisis which has had significant Impacts, particularly on tourists' behavior, mobility, consumption patterns, and leisure time (Romagosa, 2020) (Figure 2).

During COVID-19, many governments imposed various travel restrictions and lockdowns in order to control people's movement (Ritchie & Jiang, 2019). Due to these measures, people were forced to spend their leisure time at home and in the neighborhood (Pratiwi & Novani, 2022). As a result, proximity travel has gained more attention (Ritchie & Jiang, 2019).In this sense, Lew (2020) mentioned that post-crisis tourists would be more likely to choose destinations near their hometowns due to social and environmental concerns. Certainly, the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic has affected the purchasing power of many potential tourists who view nearby destinations as less risky than distant destinations (Lebrun et al., 2021).

As Cabello et al. (2021) explained, all forms of proximity tourism have been boosted by the COVID-19 crisis, whether within the country (i.e. domestic tourism), the region, or along the border between one's own country and neighboring states.

It is evidently clear that the COVID-19 outbreak has influenced tourists' attitudes toward travel intentions in terms of distance (Nazneen et al., 2020). Furthermore, the length of vacation has also been restricted to one day, a few days, or a week (Lebrun et al., 2021).In other words, proximity travel allows visitors to come from nearby areas to spend a weekend or short stay (Jeuring, 2017), an overnight stay ,or a day trip (Wynen, 2013).

It's very important to mention that staying at home can help people make informed decisions that improve their well-being and subjective health (De Bloom et al. 2017).Thus, staycation has become an ideal option for people to be away from crowded areas and get infected (Pratiwi & Novani, 2022).In this perspective, Cheung et al. (2021) found that staycations can help individuals cope with social isolation and immobility in the new normal, which was extremely relevant as many people were isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic .Further, some governments forced people to go into quarantine during the pandemic, so they began to spend their leisure time and take their staycations in hotels or lodging accommodations rather than staying at home (Pratiwi & Novani, 2022). In response, staycations in the hotel and other accommodations with family members or alone became increasingly popular during COVID -19 (Noorashid & Chin, 2021).

Besides, many governments have launched promotional campaigns to attract more customers to choose staycation

and encourage them to spend their money inside the country and boost the local economy (James et al., 2017). For instance, Malta offered five vouchers of €20 for every citizen over 16 to use it for staycations (Grech et al., 2020). Likewise, Belgium provided all citizens with ten free train tickets for staycations as part of a program to enhance their economy (Broom, 2020). Also, several resorts, luxury hotels, homestays, and other service providers offered staycation packages to help the tourism industry recover from its setbacks (Rosu, 2020).
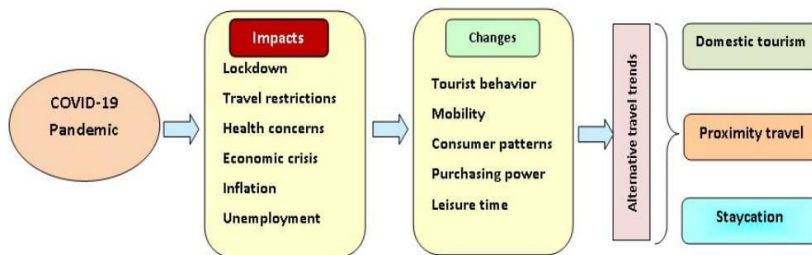
Figure 2.COVID-19 pandemic and alternative travel trends
(The author)

METHODOLOGY
Sampling technique and data collection

In this study, a quantitative approach was used to collect data, which is the most appropriate method. To achieve the study's objectives, the researcher designed a questionnaire, which includes both quantitative and qualitative variables. This questionnaire was sent online through social media such as Facebook pages of Egyptian travelers and tourism, Whatsapp groups, and Egyptian travel bloggers' pages. The questionnaire was sent online from 20 December 2022 to

30 January 2023.A total of 220 respondents participated in the survey, of which 12 responses were excluded for analysis purpose as they were incomplete. Finally, 208 valid questionnaires were retained for further analysis.

Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was firstly written in English and then translated into Arabic to reach to the largest number of possible respondents. The questionnaire was divided into four main sections. It consisted of 25 questions including; the socio-demographic profile of the respondents (gender, age, education level , marital status, Profession ,and monthly income), the characteristics of staycation trips(frequency of staycation , length of stay, travel distance, criteria for choosing the place of staycation, source of information about the place ,time of last staycation, reasons for going to staycation trips), the Egyptians' preferences for going to staycation Post COVID -19 pandemic (travel companion, organization form of staycation trip, mode of transportation, type of preferred places, type of visited attractions, types of activities and type of accommodations used during staycation), and finally, the respondents' future plans for staycation.

Data analysis

In this study, a cross tabulation analysis was used to examine the correlation between the preferences of the respondents for staycation and their socio-demographic characteristics. Accordingly, the preferences of the respondents for staycation (travel companion, organization form of staycation trip, transportation patterns, type of preferred places, type of visited attraction, type of practiced activities and type of accommodation during staycation)

were considered as dependent variables and their socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, education levels, marital status, profession, and levels of monthly income) were considered as independent variables. In addition, Chi-Square test was conducted on the observed value of the frequencies of the variables of the study to examine significance levels of the relationships between preferences for staycation and socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. A Chi-square test ($\chi2$) was conducted to examine the existence of correlation among the variables when the observed and expected frequencies are computed from a set of variables collected randomly (Kothari, 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Respondents' socio-demographic profile

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic profile of the respondents. It shows that most of the respondents were women (63.94%), aged between 31-40 years old (34.62%), most of them have a bachelor degree (71.15%) and (58.17%) are married with children. This comes in line with the finding of James et al. (2017) who argued that staycation travelers might be singles or families with children. Also, table 1 shows that the majority of respondents work in the private sector (55.29%) and most of them (44.2 %) has a monthly income between 5401-8100 EGP.

Table 1.Respondents'Socio-demographic profile

Variables		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Man	75	36.06
	Woman	133	63.94
Age	18-30	47.00	22.60
	31-40	72.00	34.62
	41-50	66.00	31.73
	More than 50	23.00	11.06
Education levels	High school	7.00	3.37
	Bachelor	148.00	71.15
	Post graduate	53.00	25.48
Marital status	Single	61.00	29.33
	Married with children	121.00	58.17
	Married without children	7.00	3.37
	Window	8.00	3.85
	Divorced	11.00	5.29
Profession	Private sector	115.00	55.29
	Public sector	61.00	29.33
	Retired	4.00	1.92
	Unemployed	28.00	13.46
Monthly income	2700 EP	36	17.3
	2701-5400 EP	21	10.10
	5401-8100 EP	92	44.20
	8101-10800 EP	18	8.7
	10801-13500 EP	12	5.8
	More than 13500 EP	29	13.9

The characteristics of staycation trips

Table 2 reveals that most respondents (73.08%) went to staycation last year and particularly 59.13% of them went within the last six (6) months. Furthermore, the majority of the sample (73.56%) took between one or two staycations as short breaks during the year, while 45.19% of the sample spent between 1-3 nights. This result corroborates the findings of Chirmulay and Kanitkar(2022)who noted that 43.5% of travelers post COVID-19 will take at least two staycations per year and 44.9 % will spend three nights or more at a hotel for staycation. Also, 40.4% of the sample traveled approximately between 10 and 30 Km in their last staycation trip. This result is similar to what was reported by U.S. Travel Association (2020) which set that the maximum travel distance of staycation is about 80 Km. Table 2 clarifies that 32.69% of the respondents depend on Friends/relatives recommendations as a source of information about the place they choose for staycation, while 24.04% use social media to collect information. In the literature, there is no clear indication of where staycationers get information about their vacations. However, Lacho & Kiefer (2008) and Bracco (2013) underlined that the recommendations of family and relatives and the internet are the main source of information for staycationers. Further, Pratiwi & Novani (2022) argued that staycationers depend on the opinions of their close friends and family before going to staycation.

The sample confirmed that 39.9% of respondents go for staycations for economic reasons, while 37.5% said that staycations are more relaxing because they are away from their daily routine. Concerning the determinants of choosing the satycation's destination, more than half of the

sample 53.85% depends on the price or the cost of the trip as a determinant to choose the place for staycation. These results align with Fox (2009) and Kruse (2009) who highlighted in their studies that price is a key factor that influences consumer decisions to take a staycation or local vacation instead of a traditional one.

Table 2. The characteristics of staycation trips

Variables		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Staycation during last year	Yes	152	73.08
	No	56	26.92
Number of staycation taken this year	1-2 staycations	153	73.56
	2-4 staycations	44	21.15
	5 or more staycations	11	5.29
Nights spent during the last staycation	1-3 nights	94.00	45.19
	4-6 nights	63.00	30.29
	7 nights	7.00	3.37
	More than 7 nights	5.00	2.40
	I did not spend night	39.00	18.75
Approximate Travel distance in the last staycation	10-30 Km	84	40.4
	30-50 km	45	21.6
	50-70 km	42	20.2
	70-80 km	37	17.8
Determinants of choosing the staycation's destination	Price	112	53.85
	Health & sanitary measures	23	11.06
	Availability of public transportation	9	4.33
	Proximity to tourist attraction	64	30.77

Source of Information about staycation place	Friends/relatives recommendation	68	32.69
	Engine Search	27	12.98
	Previously visited	43	20.67
	Travel websites	20	9.62
	Social media	50	24.04
The last time of staycation	Within the last three months	43	20.67
	Within the last six months	123	59.13
	Within the last month	42	20.19
Reasons for going to staycation trips	More Economic	83	39.9
	More Relaxing	78	37.5
	Less arrangement and less packages	16	7.69
	No language barrier	6	2.88
	Suiting with my free time	9	4.33
	Giving me an opportunity to rediscover my local culture	7	3.37
	More close to my home/more accessible	4	1.92
	A Good alternative for international travel	5	2.4

Respondents' future plans for staycation

Table 3 reveals that most respondents (58.17%) would like to wait before booking their staycation trips for next year. This means that they do not have a clear plan concerning their booking, this uncertainty imposed by COVID-19 pandemic, which increased the perceived risk related to travel.

This finding complements the previous studies that discovered that some people may consider or reconsider their holiday travel plans due to habit discontinuity (Verplanken et al., 2008), and cultivating mindfulness among holidaymakers might be the key to some vacationing changes (Stankov et al., 2020). Additionally, 50.00% of the respondents would definitely take another staycation next year, 52.40% of them will probably go to the same area where they have staycationed this year and most respondents (53.85%) will probably choose the same type of accommodation they used during their previous staycation.

Table 3. Respondents' future plans for staycation

Variables		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
When do you plan to book our staycation for next year	I plan to book in the next six months	57	27.40
	I plan to book in the next 2-3 months	20	9.62
	I will wait to see how the situation develops before I decide to go on staycation(s) for next year	121	58.17
	I have already booked	10	4.81
Would you	Yes, definitely	104	50.00

take another staycation next year	Probably	74	35.58
	Possibly	30	14.42
Will you go to the same area where you have staycationed this year	Possibly	38	18.27
	No, definitely	8	3.85
	Probably	109	52.40
	Yes, definitely	53	25.48
Will you choose the same type of accommodations you used during your staycation	Possibly	27	12.98
	No, definitely	3	1.44
	Probably	112	53.85
	Yes, definitely	66	31.73

Socio-demographic determinants of the preferences of Egyptian travelers for staycation Post Covid-19 pandemic

Staycation preferences according to the gender and age of the respondents

Chi-square test was performed to examine the association between the socio-demographic characteristics and the preferences of the respondents for staycation (Table4). The results of Chi-Square test showed that the gender of the respondents is significantly correlated to the travel companion for staycation ($p=0.002***$), organization for staycation trip ($p=0.008**$), transportation patterns ($p=0.035**$), type of visited attraction ($p=0.005**$), type of accommodation used ($p=0.001***$) and the practiced activities during staycation ($p=0.002***$). In addition, the cross table reveals that most women (51.9%) go for staycation with family/relatives, (77.4%) prefer to organize

their staycation by themselves and most of them (49.6%) prefer to go for staycation by personal cars. Also, the majority of women (69.9%) prefer to visit beaches.

Accordingly, the gender of the participants is one of the socio-demographic characteristics that significantly associated with most of their preferences for staycation. These results go in line with the observation of (Chandiramani et al., 2021) that male tourists likely use public transportation than female tourists who mostly use their personal cars. However, the findings of the current study contradict the same previous study which concluded that women prefer shopping and going to malls during their staycation trips.

 On the other hand, 50.7% of men prefer to stay in budget hotels and 32% of them prefer sightseeing during their staycation trips. Possibly, this is due to the fact that men do not care so much about health-related issues and they commonly allow women to choose the type of accommodations during travel. Likewise, Bae and Chang (2021) explained that gender is associated with risk and, women are much more cautious about various aspects of travel decisions during and after pandemic (Williams et al., 2022). Besides, Rosu (2020) argued that the majority of staycationers prefer natural environment based-activities such as relaxation, adventure, and sightseeing.

Yet, the age of the respondents is significantly associated with travel companion (p=0.021**), transportation patterns for staycation (p=0.002***),type of visited attraction (p=0.084*), type of accommodation (p=<0.001***), the most practiced activities during staycation(p=<0.001***), and type of preferred places (p=0.002***). Most respondents (60.9%) elder more than 50 years old go for

staycation with family/relatives, 34.8% of them prefer mostly social bonding with friends and family while 73.9% of them prefer seaside/coastal areas during their staycation. It can be observed that the age of the respondents is significantly correlated to six of seven staycation preferences.

These findings are supported by those of Jacobsen et al. (2021) who referred that most staycationers prefer traveling with families and relatives, and appreciate the importance of practicing social bonding for family cohesion.

Furthermore, 43.1% of respondents aged between 31-40 years go for staycation by personal cars, 68.1% of the respondents aged between 18-30 years old prefer to go to beaches, and 65.2% of respondents aged between 41-50 year old prefer to stay in budget hotels. Thus, young Egyptian staycationers enjoyed more than their counterparts who are elder. This result is also reinforced by Dogramadjieva (2022) who noted that young individuals are more open-minded compared to the elders and prefer different types of accommodation. In other words, young people are less likely to stay in luxurious hotels.

Table 4. Staycation preferences according to the gender and age of the respondents

Travelers preferences	Gender		Age			
	Woman	Man	18-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	More than 50 years
Preferred travel companion	χ=14.880; p=0.002***		χ =19.543; p=0.021**			
Travel solo	8 (6%)	4 (5.3%)	2 (4.3%)	9(12.5 %)	0 (0%)	1 (4.3%)
With family/relatives	69 (51.9%)	19(25.3 %)	22 (46.8%)	29 (40.3%)	23(34.8 %)	14 (60.9%)
With friends	33 (24.8%)	31(41.3 %)	17(36.2 %)	20 (27.8%)	23(34.8 %)	4 (17.4%)
With couple/partner	23 (17.3%)	21 (28%)	6 (12.8%)	14 (19.4%)	20(30.3 %)	4 (17.4%)
Organization form of staycation trip	χ=7.100;p= 0.008***		χ =5.713; p=0.126^{NS}			
Self-organization	103 (77.4%)	69 (92%)	43 (91.5%)	57 (79.2%)	51(77.3 %)	21 (91.3%)
Through travel agency	30 (22.6%)	6 (8%)	4 (8.5%)	15 (20.8%)	15(22.7)	2 (8.7%)
Transportation patterns	χ =10.377; p=0.035**		χ =31.569; p=0.002***			
Personal car	66 (49.6%)	23 (44%)	14 (29.8%)	31 (43.1%)	39(59.1)	15 (65.2%)
Train	4 (3%)	3 (4%)	3 (6.4%)	3 (4.2%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0%)

Private buses	44 (33.1%)	16(21.3%)	10 (21.3%)	24 (33.3%)	21(31.8%)	5 (21.7%)
Taxi	7 (5.3%)	5 (6.7%)	5 (10.6%)	6 (8.3%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0%)
Public transportation	12 (9%)	18 (24%)	15 (31.9%)	8 (11.1%)	4 (6.1%)	3 (13%)
Attraction visited during the recent staycation	χ =20.518; p=0.005[**]		χ =30.429; p=0.084[*]			
Wildlife attraction/zoo	0 (0%)	1(1.3%)	1 (2.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Parks	6 (4.5%)	2 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	3 (4.2%)	2 (3%)	3 (13%)
Beaches	93 (69.9%)	42 (56%)	32 (68.1%)	46 (63.9%)	42(63.6%)	15 (65.2%)
Castle/historic houses	6 (4.5%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.1%)	3 (4.2%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)
Any attractions	7 (5.3%)	3 (4%)	1 (2.1%)	6 (8.3%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (8.7%)
Recreational parks	11 (8.3%)	10 (13.3%)	1 (2.1%)	8 (11.1%)	10(15.2%)	2 (8.7%)
Farms	0 (0%)	5 (6.7%)	1 (2.1%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (3%)	1 (4.3%)
Archeological sites	10 (7.5%)	12 (16%)	10 (21.3%)	5 (6.9%)	7 (10.6%)	0 (0%)
Types of accommodation used during the recent	χ =25.823a; p=0.001[***]		χ =78.932; p=<0.001[***]			

staycation						
Hostels	4 (3%)	12 (16%)	14 (29.8%)	2 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Eco lodge	7 (5.3%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (4.3%)	5 (6.9%)	0 (0%)	1 (4.3%)
Budget hotels	49 (36.8%)	38 (50.7%)	13 (27.7%)	21 (29.2%)	43(65.2%)	10(43.5%)
Luxurious hotels	23 (17.3%)	5 (6.7%)	6 (12.8%)	9 (12.5%)	9 (13.6%)	4 (17.4%)
Campsites	0 (0%)	2 (2.7%)	1 (2.1%)	1 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Cruises	6 (4.5%)	2 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	4 (5.6%)	4 (6.1%)	0 (0%)
Rented houses	29 (21.8%)	9 (12%)	8 (17%)	19 (26.4%)	7 (10.6%)	4 (17.4%)
Own holiday houses	9 (6.8%)	3 (4%)	0 (0%)	8 (11.1%)	1 (1.5%)	3 (13%)
Airbnb/ guest house	6(4.5%)	3 (4%)	3 (6.4%)	3 (4.2%)	2 (3%)	1 (4.3%)
Most practiced activities during the recent staycation	χ =22.851; p=0.002[***]			χ =46.977; p=<0.001[***]		
Camping	10 (7.5%)	3 (4%)	6 (12.8%)	4 (5.6%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (8.7%)
Social bonding with friends	31 (23.3%)	9 (12%)	5 (10.6%)	16 (22.2%)	11(16.7%)	8 (34.8%)

Relaxing	31 (23.3%)	14 (18.7%)	5 (10.6%)	17 (23.6%)	16(24.2%)	7 (30.4%)
Outdoor recreation	21 (15.8%)	7 (9.3%)	7 (14.9%)	10 (13.9%)	10(15.2%)	1 (4.3%)
Health activities	4 (3%)	2 (2.7%)	2 (4.3%)	3 (4.2%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0%)
Adventures	1 (0.8%)	9 (12%)	0 (0%)	2 (2.8%)	8 (12.1%)	0 (0%)
Local tours	11 (8.3%)	7 (9.3%)	6 (12.8%)	8 (11.1%)	0 (0%)	4 (17.4%)
Sightseeing	24 (18%)	24 (32%)	16 (34%)	12 (16.7%)	19(28.8%)	1 (4.3%)
Type of preferred places	χ =11.634; p=0.113[NS]		χ =43.818; p=0.002[***]			
National parks	3 (2.3%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (4.3%)	2 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Countryside/rural areas	6 (4.5%)	4 (5.3%)	6 (12.8%)	4 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Desert	4 (3%)	1 (1.3%)	1 (2.1%)	4 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Village	1 (0.8%)	2 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.5%)	1 (4.3%)
Small town	15 (11.3%)	18 (24%)	12 (25.5%)	8 (11.1%)	13(19.7%)	0 (0%)
City/large town	17 (12.8%)	13 (17.3%)	9 (19.1%)	10 (13.9%)	8 (12.1%)	3 (13%)
Seaside/coastal areas	83 (62.4%)	36	17	41	44(66.7	17 (73.9%)

		(48%)	(36.2%)	(56.9%)	%)	
Neighborhood areas	4 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	2 (8.7%)

The symbols ***, ** and * refer to 1%, 5% and 10% significance level and NS states for non-significant

Staycation preferences according to the education levels and marital status of the respondents

Chi-square test revealed that the education of the respondents is significantly associated with preferences of travel companion (p=0.033**) and type of visited attraction during staycation (p=0.005***). Most respondents with high school (71.4%) go for staycation with family/relatives and 66% of respondents with postgraduate education prefer visiting beaches during the staycation.

Further, Chi-Square test uncovered that the marital status of the respondents is significantly correlated with the travel companion (p<0.001***), transportation patterns (p=0.017***), type of accommodation used (p<0.003***), the most practiced activities (p<0.001***), and the type of preferred places during the staycation time (p=0.017***). Also, 75% of married respondents without children prefer to go for staycation with a couple/partner and 54.5% of married respondents with children prefer to go for staycation by personal cars. Furthermore, most respondents married without children (63.6%) prefer to stay in budget hotels, 50% of widows' respondents prefer relaxation as activities during styacation and 75% of them prefer to go to seaside/coastal areas.

It can be observed that the marital status of the respondent is significantly correlated with many travel preferences for staycation. Surprisingly, this result contradicts the finding

of Dogramadjieva (2022) who found that travel preferences and intentions are not influenced by living with a spouse or children.

Table 5. Staycation preferences according to the education levels and marital status of the respondents

Variables	Education levels			Marital status				
	High school	Bachelor	Post graduate	Widow	Single	Married +Ch.	Married-Ch.	Divorced
Preferred travel companion	$\chi =13.749$; p=0.033**			$\chi =41.178$; p<0.001***				
Travel solo	1(14.3%)	7 (4.7%)	4 (7.5%)	0 (0%)	7 (11.5%)	4 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
With family/relatives	5(71.4%)	55 (37.2%)	28(52.8%)	**6 (75%)**	25 (41%)	50(41.3%)	3 (42.9%)	4 (36.4%)
With friends	1(14.3%)	55 (37.2%)	8 (15.1%)	2 (25%)	27(44.3%)	29 (24%)	0 (0%)	6 (54.5%)
With couple/partner	0 (0%)	31 (20.9%)	13(24.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.3%)	38(31.4%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)
Organization form of staycation trip	$\chi =1.560$; p=0.459^{NS}			$\chi =7.22$; p=0.125^{NS}				
Self-organization	7 (100%)	121(81.8%)	44 (83%)	8 (100%)	53(86.9%)	97(80.2%)	7 (100%)	7(63.6%)
Through travel agency	0 (0%)	27 (18.2%)	9 (17%)	0 (0%)	8 (13.1%)	24(19.8%)	0 (0%)	4 (36.4%)
Transportation patterns	X=13.718;p=0.468^{NS}			X=30.173;p=0.017***				
Personal car	**77 (52%)**	**1 (14.3%)**	**21 (39.6%)**	**3(37.5%)**	**24(39.3%)**	**6 (54.5%)**	**3(42.9%)**	**4 (36.4%)**
Train	0 (0%)	4 (2.7%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	4 (6.6%)	2 (1.7%)	1 (14.3%)	0 (0%)
Private buses	5(71.4%)	36 (24.3%)	19(35.8%)	4 (50%)	11 (18%)	36(29.8%)	3 (42.9%)	65(53.7%)

Taxi	0 (0%)	7 (4.7%)	5 (9.4%)	0 (0%)	8 (13.1%)	3 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
Public transportation	1(14.3%)	24 (16.2%)	5 (9.4%)	1(12.5%)	14 (23%)	15(12.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Attraction visited during the recent staycation	**χ =20.518; p=0.005*****				**χ =31.108; p=0.312^NS**			
Wildlife attraction/zoo	0 (0%)	1 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Parks	0 (0%)	6 (4.1%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.6%)	7 (5.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Beaches	4(57.1%)	96 (64.9%)	35 (66%)	6 (75%)	44(72.1%)	72(59.5%)	5 (71.4%)	8 (72.7%)
Castle/historic houses	1(14.3%)	3 (2%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0%)	3 (4.9%)	2 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
Any attractions	1(14.3%)	6 (4.1%)	3 (5.7%)	2 (25%)	3 (4.9%)	4 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
Recreational parks	1(14.3%)	17 (11.5%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	3 (4.9%)	17 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
Farms	0 (0%)	4 (2.7%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (4.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Archeological sites	0 (0%)	15 (10.1%)	7 (13.2%)	0 (0%)	6 (9.8%)	14(11.6%)	2 (28.6%)	0 (0%)
Types of accommodation used during the recent staycation	**χ =18.727; p=0.283^NS**				**χ =58.991; p<0.003*****			
Hostels	1(14.3%)	15 (10.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (23%)	2 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Eco lodge	0 (0%)	6 (4.1%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0%)	5 (8.2%)	3 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Budget hotels	3(42.9%)	59 (39.9%)	25(47.2%)	4 (50%)	21(34.4%)	52 (43%)	7 (63.6%)	3(42.9%)
Luxurious hotels	0(0%) 18	(12.2%)	10(18.9%)	0 (0%)	5 (8.2%)	19 (15.7%)	3 (42.9%)	1 (9.1%)
Campsites	0 (0%)	2 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	0.00%	1 (1.6%)	1 (0.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Cruises	0 (0%)	6 (4.1%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.3%)	5 (4.1%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
Rented houses	2(28.6%)	31 (20.9%)	5 (9.4%)	3(37.5%)	12(19.7%)	22 (18.2%)	0.00%	1 (9.1%)
Own holiday houses	0 (0%)	7 (4.7%)	5 (9.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (9.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Airbnb/ guest house	1(14.3%)	4 (2.7%)	4 (7.5%)	1(12.5%)	1 (1.6%)	5 (4.1%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (9.1%)
Most practiced activities during the recent staycation	**χ =13.758; p=0.467^{NS}**				**χ =57.347; p<0.001*****			
Camping	0 (0%)	10 (6.8%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	6 (9.8%)	5 (4.1%)	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)
Social bonding with friends	1(14.3%)	27 (18.2%)	12(22.6%)	3(37.5%)	5 (8.2%)	31(25.6%)	1 (14.3%)	0 (0%)
Relaxing	4(57.1%)	28 (18.9%)	13(24.5%)	4 (50%)	11 (18%)	26(21.5%)	1 (14.3%)	3 (27.3%)
Outdoor recreation	0 (0%)	19 (12.8%)	9 (17%)	1(12.5%)	7(11.5%)	17 (14%)	2 (28.6%)	1 (9.1%)
Health activities	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2.5%)	2 (28.6%)	1 (9.1%)
Adventures	0 (0%)	9 (6.1%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	7 (11.5%)	3 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Local tours	0 (0%)	15 (10.1%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	9 (14.8%)	7 (5.8%)	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)
Sightseeing	2(28.6%)	37 (25%)	9 (17%)	0 (0%)	16(26.2%)	29 (24%)	1 (14.3%)	2 (18.2%)
Type of preferred places	**χ =18.727; p=0.283^{NS}**				**χ =46.058; p=0.017*****			
National parks	0 (0%)	10 (6.8%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.6%)	3 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Countryside/rural areas	1(14.3%)	27 (18.2%)	12(22.6%)	0 (0%)	6 (9.8%)	4 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Desert	4(57.1%)	28 (18.9%)	13(24.5%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.6%)	4 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Village	0 (0%)	19 (12.8%)	17.00%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Small town	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	14 (23%)	18(14.9%)	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)
City/large town	0 (0%)	9 (6.1%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	10(16.40%)	14(11.60%)	2(28.60%)	4 (36.4%)
Seaside/coastal areas	0 (0%)	15 (10.1%)	3 (5.7%)	6 (75%)	29(47.5%)	73(60.3%)	5 (71.4%)	6 (54.5%)
Neighborhood areas	2(28.6%)	37 (25%)	9 (17%)	2 (25%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

*The symbols ***, ** and * refer to 1%, 5% and 10% significance level and NS states for non-significant*

Staycation preferences according to the profession and levels of income of the respondents

Chi-Square test was performed to examine the association between the profession and levels of income of the respondents and their preferences for staycation. The results demonstrated that the profession of the respondents is significantly associated with their preferences for transport patterns (p=0.099*) and the type of accommodation used during staycation (p=0.079*). Accordingly, 62.3% of respondents who work in the private sector prefer to go for staycation by personal cars and 57.4% of them prefer to stay in luxurious hotels during the staycation.

Hence, the profession of the participants is significantly associated with a few travel preferences for staycation. This finding is consistent with Dogramadjieva (2022) who stated that private and public sector employees prefer large and luxurious hotels to small hotels.

Yet, Chi-Square test revealed that the level of income of the respondents is significantly correlated to the organization form of staycation trip(p=0.034**), transportation patterns (p=0.016***), the type of visited attraction (p=0.048**), the type of accommodation used during staycation

(p<0.001***) and the most preferred practiced activities during staycation (p<0.001***).

Indeed, all the respondents with a monthly income between 10801-13500 EGP prefer to organize their own staycation, 69% of respondents with a monthly income more than 13500 EGP prefer to go for staycation by personal cars, and 72.2% of respondents with a monthly income of 2700 EGP prefer to visit beaches during the staycation. In addition, 65.5% of respondents with a monthly income of 5401-8100 EGP prefer to stay in budget hotels and 58.3% of respondents with a monthly income of 10801-13500 EGP prefer sightseeing as the most practiced activities during staycation.

As mentioned in previous results, the levels of income of the respondents determined mostly their preferences for staycation. Unexpectedly, these findings are in contrast to the results of Kifworoet al.,(2020) and Dogramadjieva (2022) who found that there are no significant differences based on the standard of living or income neither for general travel preferences nor for factors determining the choice of accommodation. Moreover, these findings are similar to those of Jain and Tiwari(2009) who observed that domestic tourists tend to stay in budget and mid-range hotels regardless of their income level.

Table 6. Staycation preferences according to the profession and levels of income of the respondents

Variables	Profession				Levels of monthly income					
	Private sector	Public sector	Retired	Unemployed	2700 EP	2701-5400 EP	5401-8100 EP	8101-10800 EP	10801-13500 EP	More than 13500 EP
Preferred travel companion		χ =10.601; p=0.304[NS]					χ =15.690; p=0.403[NS]			
Travel solo	8 (7%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	3 (10.7%)	3 (8.3%)	3(3.3%)	0 (0%)	2(11.1%)	0 (0%)	4(13.8%)
With family/relatives	45(39.1%)	28(45.9%)	3 (75%)	12(42.9%)	13(36.1%)	46(50%)	9(42.9%)	7(38.9%)	2(16.7%)	11(37.9%)
With friends	42(36.5%)	15(24.6%)	0 (0%)	7 (25%)	13(36.1%)	26(28.3%)	6(28.6%)	5(27.8%)	5(41.7%9	9(31%)
With couple/partner	20(17.4%)	17(27.9%)	1 (25%)	6 (21.4%)	7 (19.4%)	17(18.5%)	6(28.6%)	4(22.2%)	5(41.7%)	5(17.2%)
Organization form of staycation trip		χ =1.241; p=0.743[NS]					χ =12.063; p=0.034**			
Self-organization	96(83.5)	50 (82%)	4(100)	22(78.6%)	27(75%)	74(80.4%)	20(95.2%)	12(66.7%)	12(100%)	6 (93.1%)
Through travel agency	19(16.5%)	11 (18%)	0 (0%)	6 (21.4%)	9 (25%)	18(19.6%)	1(4.8%)	6 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	2 (6.9%)
Transportation patterns		χ =18.581; p=0.099*					χ =35.954; p=0.016***			
Personal car	38(62.3%)	45(39.1%)	2(50%)	14 (50%)	11(30.6%)	43(46.7%)	9(42.9%)	9(50%)	7(58.3%)	20(69%)
Train	4 (3.5%)	3 (4.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1(2.8%)	5(5.4%)	0(0%)	1(5.6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Private buses	34(29.6%)	12(19.7%)	2(50%)	12(42.9%)	11(30.6%)	31(33.7%)	10(47.6%)	4(22.2%)	2 (16.7%)	2 (6.9%)
Taxi	9 (7.8%)	2 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	7 (19.4%)	3(3.3%)	0(0%)	1 (5.6%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Public transportation	23 (20%)	6 (9.8%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	6(16.7%)	10(10.9%)	2(9.5%)	3 (16.7%)	3(25%)	6(20.7%)
Attraction visited		χ =20.050; p=0.518[NS]					χ =49.976; p=0.048**			

Wildlife attraction/zoo	1 (0.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1 (5.6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Parks	3 (2.6%)	3 (4.9%)	0 (0%)	2 (7.1%)	1 (2.8%)	4(4.3%)	1(4.8%)	2(11.1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Beaches	82(71.3%)	33(54.1%)	3 (75%)	17(60.7%)	26(72.2%)	61(66.3%)	11(52.4%)	12(66.7%)	5(41.7%)	20(69%)
Castle/historic houses	1 (0.9%)	4 (6.6%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	0(0%)	4(4.3%)	1(4.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Any attractions	3 (2.6%)	6 (9.8%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	1(2.8%)	7(7.6%)	1(4.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Recreational parks	10 (8.7%)	5 (8.2%)	1 (25%)	5 (17.9%)	4(11.1%)	8(8.7%)	2(9.5%)	2(11.1%)	5(41.7%)	0(0%)
Farms	2 (1.7%)	3 (4.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1(2.8%)	3(3.3%)	1(4.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Archeological sites	13(11.3%)	7 (11.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (7.1%)	3(8.3%)	5(5.4%)	4(19%)	1(5.6%)	2(16.7%)	7(24.1%)
Types of accommodation used	χ =34.303; p=0.079*					χ =90.939; p<0.001***				
Hostels	13(11.3%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	2 (7.1%)	5(13.9%)	7(7.6%)	2(9.5%)	2(11.1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Eco lodge	7 (6.1%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	5(5.4%)	2(9.5%)	0(0%)	1(8.3%)	0(0%)
Budget hotels	17(14.8%)	41(35.7%)	1 (25%)	10(35.7%)	6(16.7%)	44(47.8%)	19(65.5%)	5(27.8%)	5(41.7%)	8(38.1%)
Luxurious hotels	35(57.4%)	9 (14.8%)	1 (25%)	1 (3.6%)	2(5.6%)	11(12%)	5(23.8%)	4(22.2%)	2(16.7%)	4(13.8%)
Campsites	2 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1(2.8%)	1(1.1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Cruises	3 (2.6%)	2 (3.3%)	0.00%	3 (10.7%)	4(11.1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4(33.3%)	0(0%)
Rented houses	19(16.5%)	8 (13.1%)	2 (50%)	9 (32.1%)	13(36.1%)	16(17.4%)	2(9.5%)	6(33.3%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Own holiday houses	9 (7.8%)	3 (4.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2(5.6%)	6(6.5%)	0(0%)	1(5.6%)	0(0%)	3(10.3%)
Airbnb/ guest house	4 (3.5%)	2 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	3 (10.7%)	3(8.3%)	2(2.2%)	2(9.5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(6.9%)
Types of practiced activities	χ =20.524; p=0.488[NS]					χ =66.938; p<0.001***				

Camping	6 (5.2%)	5 (8.2%)	0 (0%)	7.10%	7(19.4%)	5(5.4%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Social bonding with friends	24(20.9%)	11 (18%)	1 (25%)	4 (14.3%)	1(2.8%)	24(26.1%)	6(28.6%)	1(5.6%)	2(16.7%)	6(20.7%)
Relaxing	20(17.4%)	14 (23%)	3 (75%)	8 (28.6%)	8(22.2%)	18(19.6%)	7(33.3%)	5(27.8%)	1(8.3%)	6(20.7%)
Outdoor recreation	17(14.8%)	10(16.4%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	8(22.2%)	13(14.1%)	3(14.3%)	3(16.7%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Health activities	5 (4.3%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	2(9.5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(10.3%)
Adventures	5 (4.3%)	4 (6.6%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	3(8.3%)	4(4.3%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(16.7%)	1(3.4%)
Local tours	11 (9.6%)	2 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	5 (17.9%)	2(5.6%)	11(12%)	0(0%)	3(16.7%)	0(0%)	2(6.9%)
Sightseeing	27(23.5%)	14 (23%)	0 (0%)	7 (25%)	7(19.4%)	16(17.4%)	3(14.3%)	6(33.3%)	7(58.3%)	9(31%)
Type of preferred places	χ =24.820; p=0.255^{NS}					χ =40.718; p=0.233^{NS}				
National parks	2 (1.7%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.6%)	2(5.6%)	1(1.1%)	1(4.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Countryside/rural areas	5.20%	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	3 (10.7%)	4(11.1%)	3(3.3%)	2(9.5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(3.4%)
Desert	5 (4.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(10.3%)
Village	2 (1.7%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	1(4.8%)	1(5.6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Small town	20(17.4%)	7 (11.5%)	0 (0%)	6 (21.4%)	5(13.9%)	14(15.2%)	0(0%)	4(22.2%)	2(16.7%)	8(27.6%)
City/large town	16(13.9%)	8 (13.1%)	0 (0%)	6 (21.4%)	4(11.1%)	14(15.2%)	4(19%)	3(16.7%)	0(0%)	5(17.2%)
Seaside/coastal areas	64(55.7%)	39(63.9%)	4(100%)	12(42.9%)	21(58.3%)	54(58.7%)	12(57.1%)	10(55.6%)	10(83.3%)	12(41.4%)
Neighborhood areas	0 (0%)	4 (6.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	3(3.3%)	1(4.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

From the above mentioned findings, the author proposed a framework of socio-demographic determinants of Egyptian preferences for staycation (Figure 3).
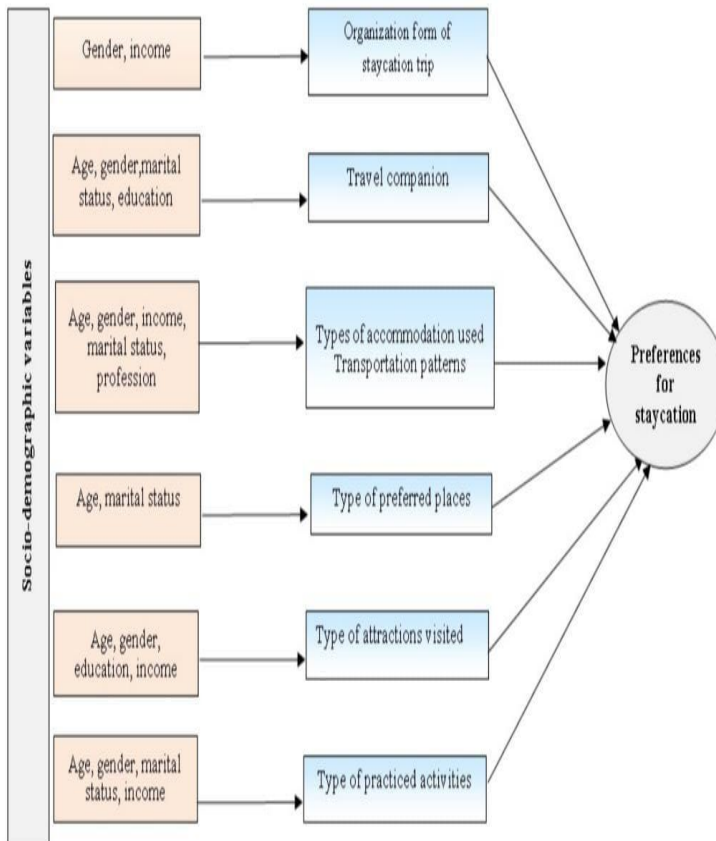
Figure 3. A framework of socio-demographic determinants of Egyptians preferences for staycation post COVID-19 (The author)

Conclusion and Implications

This study explores the growing trend of staycation in Egypt post COVID-19 era. Specifically, it investigates the differences in behavioral characteristics and preferences of Egyptians for staycation. The findings showed that most Egyptian travelers prefer to go for satyaction as an affordable and safe alternative for domestic travel. They prefer to take staycation close to home or neighborhood areas, this reflects the importance of distance and proximity travel. Moreover,the Egyptian staycationers chose the staycation destinations based on the recommendation of friends/relatives as well as economic considerations. From previous results, it is obvious that even though life has become normal and travel restrictions have been canceled, Egyptian staycationers still have some concerns regarding their travel plans.

The results of cross tabulation analysis and Chi -Square test revealed that the socio-demographic characteristics of the Egyptian travelers are significantly associated with numerous preferences for staycation. However, their gender and age are the major socio-demographic characteristics, which were significantly associated with most of the preferences for staycation. Similarly, Dogramadjieva (2022) mentioned that based on the significant correlations between age and the most variables investigated, age appears to be the most important factor of travel preferences for domestic tourism.

Consequently, the results of the study have some important practical implications for tourism managers, marketers and key stakeholders in Egypt to promote affordable and good quality products and services for staycations. In order to meet the needs of Egyptian staycationners, marketing

strategies should address tourists' needs for novelty and escapism. For instance, to provide greater opportunities for relaxation and a break from the city's lifestyle, tourism marketers should promote outdoor activities particularly post COVID-19 era such as; sightseeing on farms, hiking, and camping in mountains and forests.

Furthermore, it is critical for the hospitality and tourism industry to understand the characteristics, motivations, and travel behavior of Egyptian staycationers to formulate and develop the appropriate marketing strategies to boost the local economy.

In fact, marketers and tourism agencies in Egypt should attempt to give staycationners the sense of "being away" while staying in their own cities. Offering unique services, attractions and new entertainment will set a city apart from its competitors and will make locals feel like they are in vacation. Egyptian tourism authorities should adopt a new tourism policy to encourage staycation through staycation vouchers and incentive programs that can be used for accommodation or local restaurants. This tool was efficiently used in Taiwan, Ireland and Vienna during the COVID -19 crisis to stimulate tourist demand.

At the same time, hotels should collaborate with nearby attractions and local brands to develop various thematic packages regarding staycation experiences to attract Egyptian staycationners. For example, packages related to Egyptian dishes, food and other cultural themes. Lastly, there is an urgent need to improve the service quality in budget hotels in Egypt and encourage various forms of low cost accommodations such as hostels and guesthouses.

Future research

In light of the current results, several ideas for future research can be suggested in the area of staycation. Geographically, the study was partially limited to Egypt so the future studies on staycations could be conducted in other regions to generate different findings and add further contributions to the field and discussion.

Future research could examine other staycation segments such as couples with children, families and Generation X .In fact, considering tourist socio-demographic characteristics will help service providers to design tourism products that satisfy tourists' expectations and needs.

In addition, a quantitative approach based on large samples including a variety of nationalities will be useful to measure the antecedents and outcomes of staycations allowing for a generalization of findings. Finally, other studies should include more variables and large samples to explore other aspects of new forms of proximity tourism resulting from the normalization of epidemic control and prevention.

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