Demographic Transition in Rural Areas: The Relationship between Public Services and Tourism Development

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Tourism Development and Demographic Transition

Tourism development especially in rural areas is strongly influenced by the fundamental demographic transition.

Background:
- Especially rural northern Germany is strongly affected
- East-western migration led to substantial brain drain
- Lack of qualified employees especially in health destinations
Internal migration:
difference between influx and out flux / 1000 inhabitants

Source: BBSR (Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung) www.bbr.bund.de

Fertility Rate
in German Democratic Republic / East Germany

GDR / East Germany:

- 1980: 1.94
- 1990: 1.52
- 1994: 0.77
- 2004: 1.31

→ sharp decrease in young people

Inhabitants in Feldberger Seenlandschaft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inhabitants</th>
<th>Male / Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>82.0 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-V</td>
<td>1.66 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feldberg</td>
<td>4,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inhabitants in Feldberger Seelandschaft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ratio below 18 years</th>
<th>Ratio age 65 years and above</th>
<th>Average age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008 2030</td>
<td>2008 2030</td>
<td>2008 2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16.7 % 20.4 %</td>
<td>43.6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-V</td>
<td>12.9 % 21.7 %</td>
<td>44.5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feldberg</td>
<td>12.2 % 25.7 %</td>
<td>47.7 years</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic Power Feldberg

- High unemployment rate: 21.2%
  (M-V: 17.8%, Germany: 7.8%)
- Tax income: 246.50 Euro per capita (M-V: 402.60 Euro)

Feldberg as a Health Tourism Destination

- 1855: Establishment of institution for water treatments with 200 beds ("Sanatorium Feldberg")
- GDR (1972): certified tourism destination mainly for camping and day trippers
- 1998: new rehabilitation clinics with a total of 200 beds
**Educational Infrastructure Feldberg**

- Very low share of inhabitants with university degree: 12.2% (M-V: 15.2%, Germany: 21.2%)
- Little educational infrastructure (no academic upper secondary school)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per 1,000 inhabitants</th>
<th>Feldberg</th>
<th>Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</th>
<th>Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten / day care</td>
<td>0.634</td>
<td>0.624</td>
<td>k.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>0.148</td>
<td>0.200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary modern school (Hauptschule)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>k.A.</td>
<td>0.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary modern school (Realschulen)</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>k.A.</td>
<td>0.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school (Gymnasium)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult education centre (Volkshochschulen)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.011*</td>
<td>k.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Infrastructure Feldberg**

- 0.6 doctors / 1,000 inhabitants in Feldberg (M-V: 1.7)
- All of them are general practitioners
- Specialised doctors of rehabilitation clinics are not allowed to treat local community or tourists

**Conclusion**

- Decrease in population as a vicious circle:
  - decrease in labour force
  - less tax payers resulting in less money e.g. for infrastructure resulting in less attractiveness
  - less employment opportunities
- Educational infrastructure and high wages are important aspects for competitive strength
  - reducing minimum size of classes
  - lifting wages for employees in tourism
  - assisting doctors financially
- Regional and national politics need to be adapted
  - e.g. included the search for medical practitioners as one of the targets in the general project plan for the development of the health industry in the state
Thank you for your attention!

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