

THE ANALYSIS OF LOCAL RESOURCES POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE WELFARE IN KUCUR VILLAGE, DAU SUB-DISTRICT, MALANG DISTRICT, EAST JAVA PROVINCE

ANALISIS POTENSI SUMBERDAYA LOKAL UNTUK MENINGKATKAN KESEJAHTERAAN MASYARAKAT DI DESA KUCUR, KECAMATAN DAU, KABUPATEN MALANG, PROVINSI JAWA TIMUR

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INTISARI

Tujuan penelitian ini menganalisis pemanfaatan sumber daya lokal untuk peningkatan kesejahteraan masyarakat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif melalui wawancara mendapam kepada narasumber yang telah dipilih sebelumnya (*purposive sampling*) dengan tujuan memilih narasumber yang memiliki pengetahuan yang dibutuhkan peneliti. Hasil wawancara dan temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemanfaatan sumber daya lokal di Kawasan Wisata Kucur Sub district Dau Kabupaten Malang sudah tepat dan mampu memberikan dampak positif bagi kehidupan masyarakat lokal. Lebih lanjut, hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sumber daya lokal yang paling berpotensi memberikan manfaat bagi masyarakat desa adalah sumberdaya air dan keindahan alam. Pemanfaatan sumber daya lokal sudah dilaksanakan mulai tahun 2005 hingga sekarang berupa pemanfaatan distribusi air bersih dan wisata bagi masyarakat Kucur khususnya dan daerah sekitarnya.

Kata kunci : sumber daya lokal, potensial, perekonomian masyarakat, kesejahteraan

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the local resources utilization to improve community's welfare. This study employs qualitative research method by interviewing some informants who are chosen through purposive sampling in order to obtain some knowledge required by the researcher. The interview result and research finding are analyzed to identify the local resources in Kucur Village, Dau Sub district, Malang District Tourism Destination has been well-utilized and whether it brings significant effects to the local people. The research finding shows that the most potential local resources are water and natural scenery. The local resources have been utilized in the form of clean water distribution and tourism since 2005.

Key-words: local resources, potential, community's economy, welfare

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INTRODUCTION

The local resources are natural potentials owned by every region. Good utilization and management by the local government and local people will give positive effects to the economic and social condition of the region. The regional autonomy allows the local government to manage and determine what they are going to do with their local potential. One of the local potential developments is to establish and manage a natural-based tourism destination. There are several villages in Malang Regency that utilize their local potential and environment by making it a tourism destination that generates income for the local government and its community.

The community and local government play a significant role to develop and utilize the local resource in the tourism area. According Nasikh (2016) community-based tourism is a potential economic activity if it is well-developed. It can resolve some development challenges, including poverty eradication, local economic development, community harmony, natural resources management, and environmental continuity.

Some areas in Malang Regency have turned their rural potential to be a tourism object. One of them is Bendosari tourist village in *Sub district* Pujon. The natural beauty and unique culture become its products. Atmoko, (2014) states that tourist village is a village that has unique potential and distinguished attraction in terms of natural environment as well as social and culture displayed attractively and naturally with supporting facilities in a harmonic environmental order and well-planned management. Thus, it is ready to accept and move people to come to the village as well as encourage the economic activity that can

improve community's welfare and empowerment.

Agustini & Adikampana, (2014) explains that the community can participate and function in the planning. First, they are able to support the planning actors and their activities. Second, they can contribute to the policy and knowledge related to the planning as well as to identify the planning actors. The most important function is to become the supervisor of their own right in terms of policy planning and delegation. One of the tourism principles stated in the Law Number 10 year 2009 about tourism is to empower local people in which they are eligible to take parts in the tourism development process and in charge to keep and preserve the tourism attraction.

Community-based tourism is an important economic activity that can resolve some development challenges, including poverty eradication, local economy development, peace and harmony, and natural resources and environmental management sustainability. Inderawati et al, (2016) argue that the community-based tourism is an approach in the tourism development that emphasizes the direct and indirect involvement of the local community in the tourism industry.

Agustini & Adikampana, (2014) explain that the local economy development is a process in which the local government and community organization actively take part to encourage, stimulate, maintain the business activities to open new job vacancies. It involves the formation of new organization, development of worker skills to produce quality products, identification of new markets, and establishment of new businesses. In addition, Inderawati et al, (2016) explains that it is a process in which the development actors work collectively

with their partners from public, private, and non-government sectors to establish a better condition for economic growth and job opportunities.

The ideal development positions human beings as subjects, which means that the development is meant to develop them as the resources to achieve the equal welfare. One of the most acceptable definitions of development is a progress followed by increasing income per capita in a long period of time (Nasikh, 2016; Elizabeth & Rusdiana. 2011; Evi, 2017; Heriyanti, 2015; Inderawati, et al, 2016).

Local Economic Development is a fundamental change in the economic development activity. It is a theory of local government and community-based organization process. The local economic development is basically a partnership process among local government and stakeholders including the private sectors to manage the natural and human resources which aims to encourage the local economic growth and open new job opportunities (Nasikh 2017a; Nasikh, 2016).

The management of community-based tourism should involve all community members. As explained by Attar (2013) in their journal "The Analysis of Potential and Direction of Ecotourism Village Development Policy Strategy in *Sub district Bumiaji – Batu City*", the involvement of all parties to manage the tourism is very crucial to improve the community welfare. The local community empowerment is done optimally by increasing their understanding and education about the development of tourism and sustainable customer service, assistance provision, and discussion forum establishment that allows the community members to determine the direction of tourism development in their areas. Simanungkalit, et al. (2016) explains that

the developing tourist village is an embryo tourist village that is managed by the community and local government. It involves self-supporting management from the local community and attracts tourists to visit.

Hadiwijoyo (2012: 36) argues that community empowerment is a main requirement to implement the decentralization and local autonomy in which the community is involved in the planning until supervising process.

According to Nugroho (2011), ecotourism is a tourism trip activity that is made professionally and skillfully and it contains educational elements as an economic sector that considers cultural legacy, participation and welfare of local community, as well as natural resources and environmental conservation attempts.

METHODOLOGY

In order to obtain the information, the researcher employs the qualitative approach. The researcher observes the research setting to obtain the data by interviewing some chosen informants. He also intends to get the insight of the natural potential as well as economic and social condition of Lembah Gunung Sari Tourism Destination in Kucur Village. The case study research allows the researcher to explain and describe about how the local resources is managed and what product is generated from the local resources management in order to improve the community's welfare (Simanungkalit, et al. (2016; Buonincontri, et al. 2017; Campos et al. 2018).

The first process in this study is interview some informants who are chose through the purposive sampling. The interview result is analyzed to identify the effect of local resources management to the

community's economic and social condition.

The data source in this study is primary and secondary data. The primary data is obtained from the direct observation in the research setting (survey). It is carried out to identify the actual condition of the research setting, what natural potential is owned by the village, how the natural potential is managed, and how the local economy is developed. The interview with selected informants is conducted to get the primary data. In addition, the secondary data is collected by the secondary survey in which the researcher meets the related institutions to get the required data.

RESULTS

It was expected that the natural resources management and utilization was able to give positive impacts to the community's welfare in Lembah Gunung Sari tourism destination in Kucur Village. The management of water resources began in 2005 when the local government established a partnership with the World Bank to fund a program called WSLIC (Water and Sanitation for Low Income Community). The program was intended to improve the local community program. Prior to WSLIC, the community used to utilize the hydraulic pump to distribute water. The use of the hydraulic pump was not maximized because the community took turn to distribute the water due to the small power of the hydraulic pump.

Lembah Gunung Sari Area began to be recognized as an education tourism destination since the establishment of WSLIC and *Pembangkit Listrik Tenaga Mikro Hidro* (henceforth PLTMH) or Micro Hydro Power Plant. People and students started to visit Lembah Gunung Sari to see

how WSLIC and PLTMH worked. Besides known as the education tourism destination, Lembah Gunung Sari area was popular as a natural tourism destination because of its beauty and potential. Some natural potentials of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism destination were as follows; (1) Clean water. Lembah Gunung Sari had abundant natural springs. They were located in Kucur village, *Sub district* Dau. They had high water debit. Before managed to be a tourism destination, the water was utilized as drinking water, and rice field and crop irrigations; (2) Natural Spring. The natural spring was located below the tendon that was used to store the clean water before being distributed to the community's houses. The spring was unique because it had rocky base, natural scenery, and fresh and clean water. The rocks could be used as natural massage therapy; (3) River. In the west side of the tourism destination, there was a river. It flowed passing the crop and rice field so that it made the scenery more natural. The rocky structure and high stream made it suitable for rafting. Nowadays, it is used for rafting. Some natural potential above has been utilized and developed as the tourism product that was offered to the tourists.

The local resources management in Lembah Gunung Sari area has been started. Water as the main commodity in Lembah Gunung Sari was utilized as drinking water and hydro micro power plant that was used to fulfill the community's electricity need. In addition, it was also utilized to light Lembah Gunung Sari tourism destination and some stores around the place.

The tourism sector would give positive effects to the local government. Some of them were increasing regency PAD (Original Local Government Revenues), higher community's income, bigger labor requirement, wider business opportunity,

and so on. The tourism potential in Lembah Gunung Sari has been self-developed by the community since 2009. In 2012, they charged some entrance fee for visitors who came to the tourism destination. In 2015, they established official committees to manage the tourism destination under the supervision of local government. The community attempted to develop and manage the tourism destination with self-funding and empower the community as the committee.

From the interview result with some business actors in Lembah Gunung Sari area, it was revealed that the income distribution was still unequal. Most of the local people worked there with low income. They sold things and provided services there. It was side-job due to the inadequate income.

The natural and community-based tourism destination would not be well-developed if the community role was insignificant. The low involvement of Kucur community to the tourism activity would affect to the slow development of tourism destination. The community did not have enough knowledge, skill, and experience related to the community-based tourism. The role of related institution and government was very significant to encourage the community to have willingness and skill to participate in the tourism activity.

The most prominent environmental effect was the shift of function in the agricultural area. It changed to be stores and parking areas. Simanungkalit, et al. (2016) stated that it was inevitable for the agricultural area to change its function. It was caused by the domination of rice field in the rural area compared to the dry field agro ecosystem. Another cause was the rice field location that was close to the urban

area. Better infrastructure in the rice field area compared to the dry field also became one of the causes. Furthermore, the development of residential infrastructure and industrial area tended to occur more quickly in the plain topography area (especially in Java) whose dominant agricultural ecosystem was rice fields.

DISCUSSIONS

Local Resources Management. The management of natural and tourism-based tourism destinations could not be separated. They had to be managed together so that the development and natural resources could be harmonious. Lembah Gunung Sari area had many natural potential that could be utilized to become an attractive tourism product and destination. Nowadays, several villages in Malang Regency have started to develop their own potential, and tourism became one of the leading products. Human resources were the key aspect of the natural resources management. The regional government and community had the full access to the natural resources management (Hamri and Nawir. 2017; Hublin, et al, 2014; Oktavia & Firmansyah, 2016 ; Chathoth, et al. 2016; Campos, et al. 2017; Choo and Petrick, 2014).

When it began to start, the community had the important role regarding to the development of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area. In its development, the community played a role of planner, executor, and fund provider. Lembah Gunung Sari area had excellent natural potential with good environment and unique social and cultural conditions which made it possible to be a natural tourism destination. It was in line with Atmoko, (2014) who stated that there were four criteria of tourist

village: (a) It had unique potential and distinguished tourism attraction in a way of physical characteristic of the natural environment and social and cultural conditions; (b) It obtained support and tourism facilities that were related to the village tourism, such as accommodation/inn, interaction space for the community and tourists, and other supporting facilities; (c) It had interaction with the market (tourists) that was reflected from the tourist visit to the location; (d) It got support, initiative, and participation from the community related to development of tourist village and the tourism activity.

Unfortunately, not all community took active participation in the development of local economic activity. The low involvement of community in Kucur village became one of the obstacles to develop the natural resources. The limited knowledge, skill, and experience in tourism caused them to have poor participation. The role of local government and related institution was important to escalate their involvement. The community attempted to have self-management of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area, but support from other parties was welcomed as long as they had the prior consent.

Tourism became one of the leading potentials in Kucur village. It was expected that the tourism activity could bring positive effects to the social and economic condition of the community. The development of Lembah Gunung Sari area has been done since 2012 with self-funding. In 2015, the local government became the supervisor and assistant of the tourism development activity. Until these days, the community has been empowered to be the executor of tourism activity. The main product of Lembah Gunung Sari Tourism Area was the natural and education tourism. The natural

tourism relied on the water resources respources and natural beauty, whereas the education one depended on the WSLIC and micro hydro as its product.

The community empowerment in the local economic activity has been seen more clearly. Since its establishment, the community had already got some proportion to help managing the tourism area. They became the executor. There were 111 people from the community who were empowered to assist the operation and management of the tourism area.

The Effect of Tourism Area to the Community's Economic Condition and Environment. The development of a tourism activity became a potential income source for a region as it could welcome many visitors. The visitors would give direct impact to the community's life. Before the tourism activity was developed in Kucur village, people used to rely much on the agricultural sectors.

The tourism would effectively improve the community's welfare if it was developed in the small scale by increasing the community's participation. Lembah Gunung Sari area became a popular destination because of the community's role (Simanungkalit, et al. 2016; Dong and Siu, 2013; Coudounaris and Sthapit, 2017; Cheng and Jin, 2019). However, some people did not take active part in it, so the income distribution was not equal.

Lembah Gunung Sari Tourism Area was one of the community-based natural tourism destinations. It was in line with the statement by Simanungkalit, et al. (2016) who argued that tourism and community were one. The community took parts in the planning. First, they contributed in terms of support to the planning and its activities. Second, they could express their opinion to

the policy making and share information about the leading potentials in the planning. Last, the most important function was to be the supervisor of their own rights regarding to the planning and policy delegation. The existence of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area did not change the community's economic condition much. Most of the community worked as workers and executors. The lack of capital and skill made them unable to compete with the capital owner, such as landlord. Landlords with strategic land took the most benefits of the existence of the place (Widianingsih, 2014; Cho, and Lee, 2015).

Another effect of the establishment of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area was the decreasing amount of productive agricultural area. The shifted function of areas in Kucur village in each year made people triggered to change their agricultural area to become stores and parking areas. The advantage of the agricultural area should have been maintained to keep the ecosystem. The conversion of agricultural area also disturbed the social and economic condition of the farmers because the social and economic change tended to give disadvantage to them (Dewi, 2013; Rachmawati, et al, 2017).

CONCLUSION

The local resource management has not given positive effects to the community's life. They get easier access to clean water and they have wider business opportunity. Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area has not given significant impact in terms of social and economic condition due to the unequal income distribution. It is because most of the community only involve as the executor or worker. They also have limited knowledge and experience, so

they find it difficult to compete in the tourism. Those who have fund and strategic land will be the one who get the most benefit of the existence of Lembah Gunung Sari tourism area. The negative effect to the environment is including the shifting function of agricultural area to store and parking areas.

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