

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN NATURE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM PINDUL CAVE IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN NATURE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM PINDUL CAVE IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

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Abstract: Local community's participation is essential for a tourism development, especially in a nature tourism destination like Pindul Cave in Gunungkidul Regency, Yogyakarta. In addition to contributing to the sustainability of the nature tourism itself, community participation can empower the local community since they are usually benefited from the tourism activities running in their area. Considering the importance of the community participation, this study seeks to identify the level of community participation in nature-based tourism development and barriers to the community participation. The data was collected by conducting interviews with residents and village tourism management as well as distributing questionnaires to 60 residents. The results suggested that the level of community participation is averagely high in which there is no significant difference between age, sex, job, income, and education in the level of community participation. In addition, the local community still faces several barriers to participation, including ignorance of tourism field, poverty, management's policy, and lack of ability to speak English.

Abstrak: Partisipasi masyarakat lokal sangat penting untuk pengembangan pariwisata, terutama di destinasi wisata alam seperti Gua Pindul di Kabupaten Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta. Selain berkontribusi terhadap keberlanjutan wisata alam itu sendiri, partisipasi masyarakat dapat memberdayakan masyarakat setempat karena mereka biasanya mendapat manfaat dari kegiatan pariwisata yang berjalan di wilayah mereka. Mengingat pentingnya partisipasi masyarakat tersebut, penelitian ditujukan untuk mengidentifikasi tingkat partisipasi masyarakat dalam pengembangan pariwisata berbasis alam dan hambatan-hambatan terhadap partisipasi masyarakat. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara dengan warga dan pengelola wisata serta melalui penyebaran kuesioner kepada 60 warga. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa rata-rata tingkat partisipasi masyarakat adalah tinggi di mana tidak terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan antara usia, jenis kelamin, pekerjaan, pendapatan, dan latar belakang pendidikan dalam tingkat partisipasi masyarakat. Selain itu, masyarakat setempat masih menghadapi beberapa hambatan dalam berpartisipasi, yaitu ketidaktahuan tentang dunia pariwisata, kemiskinan, kebijakan manajemen, dan kurangnya kemampuan berbahasa Inggris.

Keywords: community participation, nature tourism development, Pincul cave

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is one of the most dynamic economic sectors in many countries. According to UNWTO Annual Report 2016, about 1.184 billion tourists worldwide visit different parts of the world in 2015 - an increase of 50 million compared to that in 2014 (UNWTO, 2016). The increasing number of tourists on a

global scale seems also to occur in Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta Special Region. This regency with diverse natural attractions has been currently experiencing an increase in the number of tourists in recent years.

The increasing number of visitors to Gunungkidul has brought significant economic benefit. This is proven by the amount of Regional Original Income (PAD) earned by the regency in 2015, i.e. IDR 20,436,975,531 (Yogyakarta Tourism Statistics Book, 2015). This amount is the highest among other regencies in Yogyakarta including Bantul (IDR 11,146,632,500), Sleman (IDR 4,526,405,500), and Kulonprogo (IDR 2,272,396,000).

The increasing amount of tourist visits to Gunungkidul cannot be separated from the massive opening of natural tourist objects like beaches and caves. In this case, Gunungkidul offers a natural tourist object that is very popular because of the uniqueness of its attractions, i.e. Pindul Cave. The cave which is located in the village of Bejiharjo, Karangmojo Sub-District, Gunungkidul offers exotic landscape with the main attraction of tracing the cave using a tube so that this attraction is called cavetubing.

One of the interesting things in Pindul Cave is that the tourism is managed by the local community. This is one aspect that is very clearly visible in the application of the concept of community-based tourism (CBT). Community participation is important because one of the keys to successful CBT is the involvement of local community (Timothy, 1999).

Taking into account some things above, a scientific study on the participation of local community in tourism development in Pindul Cave is necessary. It is important to obtain an empirical description of the contribution of the local community towards the development of tourism. Therefore, this study was aimed to identify the level of local community's participation in the Pindul Cave tourism development as well as the barriers to community participation

Literature Review

Community participation

Participation is a central concept and the basic principle of community development because, among many cases, participation is closely related to the notion of human rights (Ife, 2008). Specifically related to tourism, Drake (1991) explains that community participation is the ability of the local community to influence the outcome of development programs, e.g. ecotourism, which affects them.

According to Tikson (2001), participation is a process by which society, as a stakeholder, involves in affecting and controlling the development in their respective places. According to Cernea (1988), community participation can be obtained only by understanding the structure of the local community with their needs, communicating with the local community about their needs, communicating with the local community about the techniques used, and explaining the meaning of a program or project and the ways taken when dealing with local community in reaching a program's agreement. Meanwhile, Cohen and Uphoff (1980) stated that participation is one's involvement in a process of project activities. Thus, according to Cohen and Uphoff (1980), the participation of local community in all projects is classified as the total.

Drake (1991) claims that local community can participate in a tourism program/project in the planning stage, implementation stage, and in the sharing benefits. Stages in the community participation according to experts can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Stages of Community Participation

	Planning	Implementation	Sharing benefits	Evaluation
Drake (1991)	✓	✓	✓	
Cohen and Uphoff (1977)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kartasubrata (1986)	✓	✓		✓
Ericson in Slamet (1993)	✓	✓		✓

Source: author's analysis (2016)

In relation to the forms of local involvement, Steck *et al.* (1999) in Damanik and Weber (2006) classifies community involvement into three categories, i.e. direct, indirect, and no participation.

According to Slamet (1993), the factors that influence community participation include:

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Level of Education
4. Level of Income
5. Livelihood/Job

Community-Based Tourism

The community-based tourism (CBT) approach emerged in the 1970s and was influenced by two main factors. First, an increased recognition that tourism development was not benign and had negative socio-cultural, economic, and environmental impacts on some members of destination communities. Second, a realization in urban or regional planning that the community stakeholders often needed to be involved in decision-making if planning interventions were to be successful (Cooper and Hall, 2008: 200).

In addition to issues related to the success of a program/project in tourism, CBT is also very closely related to the issue of sustainable tourism. A development including tourism needs sustainability concept for the sake of its continuity, not only for the moment. Sustainable development is a new paradigm which has a diverse concept or action interpretations (Baiquni, 2002).

Community-based tourism, according to Häusler and Strasdas (2002), has multiple definitions:

1. CBT is a form of tourism that provides the opportunity for local communities to control and be involved in the management and development of tourism;
2. Communities who are not directly involved in tourism can also receive its benefits; and
3. CBT requires political empowerment, democratization, and distribution of benefits to disadvantaged communities in rural areas.

METHODS

This study was conducted in Gelaran II Hamlet, Gunungkidul Regency, Yogyakarta. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews and closed-question questionnaires. There were 31 questions compiled from a number of indicators in which the responses using the Likert scale were scored as follows: 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (doubt), 4 (agree), and 5 (strongly agree). The questionnaires were distributed to 60 residents.

The respondents' responses were accordingly classified into several categories from which the class interval value was 0.8. The level of community participation is illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. Category for the Level of Community Participation

Level of Participation	Score
Very Low	1.00 - 1.80
Low	1.81 - 2.60
Medium	2.61 - 3.40
High	3.41 - 4.20
Very High	4.21 - 5.00

The statistical analysis using Microsoft Excel was further supported by the analysis of data obtained from the interviews. This data was processed through three

21 steps of qualitative data analysis, including data reduction, data display, and conclusion (Miles and Huberman, 1984).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of 60 surveyed respondents, 51 ones (85%) were directly involved in the tourism activities and the remaining 9 ones (15%) were not involved. In general, there were two ways to participate directly in the tourism activities in Pindul Cave: (1) the community can participate by working as the staffs of the Secretariat of Wira Wisata as guides, photographers, and many others or (2) running various businesses/ becoming vendors like selling foods, soft drinks, clothing, and others.

Level of Community Participation

25 Overall, the community participation and its parameters in community-based tourism can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Parameters of Community Participation in Tourism Development

Stages of Participation	Parameters	Score
Planning	1 Identification of tourism potential	3.18
	2 Identification of problems	3.18
	3 Alternative development plan (resources)	3.27
Implementation	4 Involvement in attraction management	3.96
	5 Involvement in programs or activities	3.83
	6 Involvement in development of tourism services and access	3.50
Sharing Benefits	7 Economic benefits	4.12
	8 Environmental benefits	4.28
	9 Cultural benefits	4.20
Evaluation	10 Social benefits	4.25
	11 Assessment and monitoring	3.40
Average		3.74

11 From Table 3, it appears that the level of community participation in nature tourism development was averagely high (3.74). This is actually an ideal condition

which is necessary for a successful CBT project. For more detailed explanation, it can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Overall Community Participation per Participation Stage

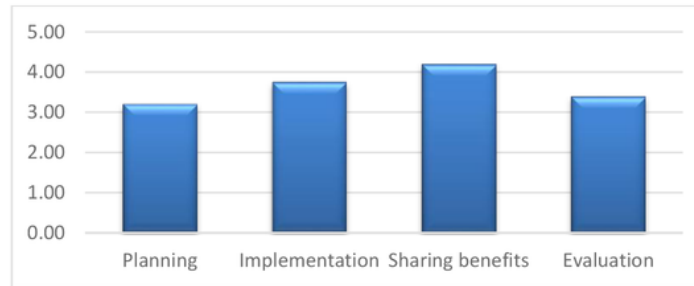


Figure 1 shows that the score in sharing benefits is the highest (4.21). This is not surprising, considering a lot of economic benefits generated from tourism activities in Pindul Cave. As it is known, from the rough calculation of revenue from tickets (IDR 30,000) multiplied by the number of visitors in 2015 (143,553 visitors) is IDR 4,306,59,000.

The high economic clappers are directly proportional to the height of community participation has been described by researchers. Sánchez (2009) said, “residents’ positive attitudes are essential for participating in tourism; economic benefits are the main reason behind the positive attitudes”. Feighery (2002) also said that there is a highly significant factor in making the minor level of community participation in tourism development, i.e. the skepticism that “tourism can deliver economic and social prosperity”.

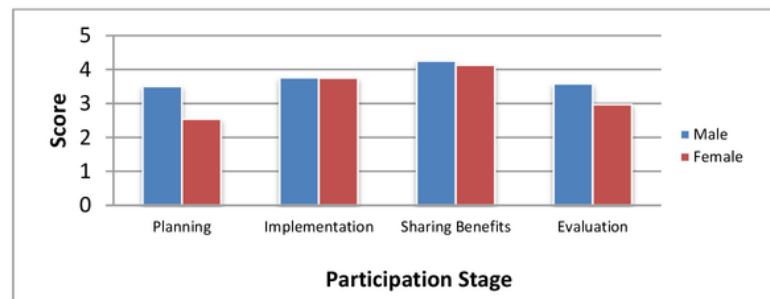
In addition, the study results of Van Breugel (2013) found that the two success keys to a CBT project are community participation and perceived tourism impact. This means the higher the positive impact of tourism, the higher the level of community participation. This also may explain the high participation of the

community in Pindul Cave whereby people perceived significant positive economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

Factors Affecting the Level of Community Participation

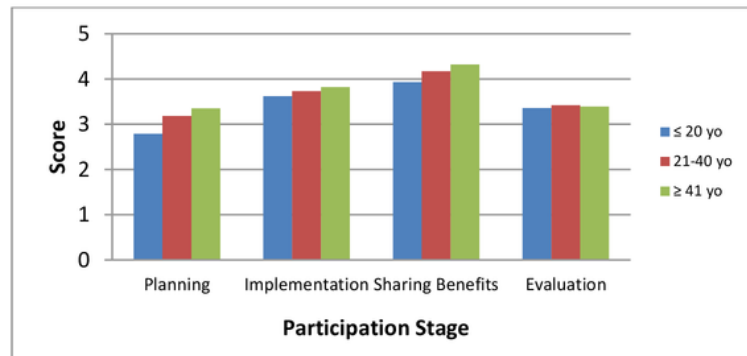
According to **the type of sex**, it is apparent that the high participation level is dominated by male respondents compared to female ones. This phenomenon confirms the opinion of Soedarno *et al.* (1992) that in the coating system on the basis of sexuality, men have privilege over women so that a group of men will be more inclined to participate. For more details, see Figure 2.

Figure 2. Level of Community participation by Sex



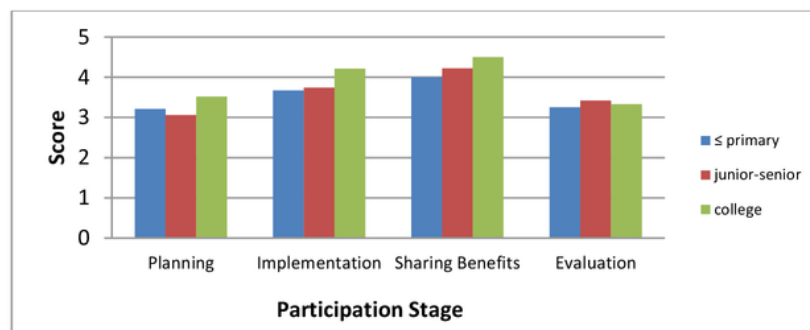
Based on **age**, public participation does not vary. All age groups have higher participation level. However, when viewed carefully, the high age level (≥ 41 years old) outperforms the low age level (≥ 20 years old) and medium (21-40 years old). This phenomenon makes sense considering, as claimed by Slamet (1993), the elderly (represented by groups of medium and high age levels) are considered more experienced or more senior so they will be given more opportunity to express their opinions in the decision-making. For more detail, see Figure 3.

Figure 3. Level of Community Participation by Age



Based on the **educational background**, residents with the **highest level of education** have **the highest level of participation**, and vice versa; residents with the lowest level of education have the lowest level of participation. This phenomenon tends to confirm the opinion of Litwin (1986) in Yulianti (2000), i.e. one of the characteristics of participants in participatory development **is the level of knowledge**. One **of the** factors that affect **the level of knowledge** is **education level**. The higher education, people will have a broader knowledge of construction, form and participation procedures. For more detail, see Figure 4.

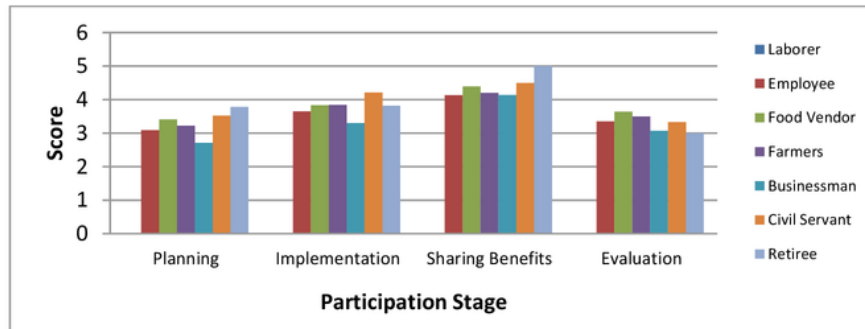
Figure 4. Level of Community Participation by Education Level



Based on **types of jobs**, businessmen have the lowest score, while the retired man has the highest score. The above results certainly give us information jobs are

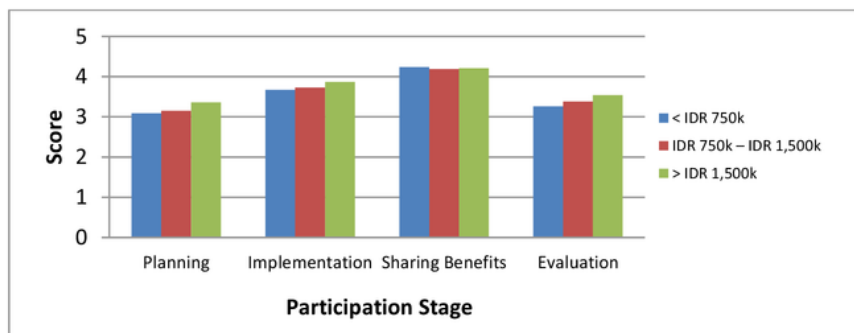
related to spare time, in particular, to engage in activities such as attending meetings, community service and so on. For more detail, see Figure 5.

Figure 5. Level of Community Participation by Job



Based on the **level of income**, residents with low, medium, high and incomes, all have a high level of participation. But the interesting thing is that for all stages of participation, those with high income actually have the highest participation level. This phenomenon confirms the opinion of Barros (1993) in Yulianti (2000), i.e. the level of income will provide more opportunities for people to participate because it is directly related to the financial ability of the public to invest. For more detail, see Figure 6.

Figure 6. Level of Community Participation by Income



Barriers to Community Participation

The first barrier is local community's ignorance of tourism field. Moswete (2008) and Timothy (1999) claim this problem as the main barrier to community involvement in tourism development. In Cave Pindul, this issue is reasonable since the residents are mostly farmers who have to engage in a tourism sector serving as a guest host.

The second barrier related to the tourism development is the poverty. Due to financial constraint, they cannot make their houses as a homestay or even run a business. So, only residents who are economically established have more chance to engage in the tourism sector.

The third barrier to community involvement in tourism is the village tourism management's regulation or policy. As the attraction manager, Wira Wisata Secretariat prioritizes the members of *Karang Taruna* (Youth Organization) to be recruited as their staffs. Thus, such a policy creates limited access to the whole community to participate in.

The last barrier is lack of ability to speak English. The residents have to speak English since many international visitors visit their village or Pindul Cave. In the case of the tourism industry in Pindul Cave, this is a serious problem.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The level of community involvement in tourism in Pindul Cave is averagely high. Referring to the concept of CBT key success (community participation and perceived tourism impact), tourism in Pindul Cave can be said successful. In general, the form of community involvement in Pindul Cave tourism is direct participation. The ways the community directly participates in are: (1) running a business or selling something for tourists and (2) being employees in the management.

3 Analysis of factors affecting the community involvement in tourism activities shows that there is no significant difference between sex, age, education, employment, and income in the level of community participation. This is a very positive signal for a CBT project because CBT requires equality and justice for all members of the community.

Although the level of community involvement in tourism is high, there are still some constraints on the community participation, i.e. lack of knowledge about the tourism industry, family economic condition, management's regulation/policy, and the lack of ability to speak English.

Recommendations

Despite the limited scope, this study can still be used as a basis to propose the following recommendations:

1. The need for strengthening community involvement in the evaluation phase. The way is to establish a special monitoring team consisting of government and local communities from various professions and social status.
2. The management should be more transparent in finance (revenue and expenditure) to the community and tourists. This needs to be done, for instance, to avoid conflicts in CBT due to an uneven profit distribution.

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