

Ecological justice-based tourism village governance in the area around Borobudur Temple

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Abstract

Tourism villages in the area around Borobudur Temple have great potential to support sustainable tourism development. However, tourism village management often faces challenges related to social inequality, environmental damage, and lack of local community participation. This study aims to formulate a tourism village governance model based on ecological justice that can support the balance between environmental conservation, community welfare, and economic sustainability. A qualitative approach was used with in-depth interview methods, participant observation, and document analysis to identify relevant ecological justice principles. The results of the study indicate that inclusive tourism village governance, based on local values, and paying attention to environmental justice aspects can increase community involvement in natural resource management and strengthen local ecosystem protection. This study recommends the integration of ecological justice principles into tourism policies and the involvement of various stakeholders to create sustainable and ecologically just tourism villages.

Keywords

Tourist villages, Ecological justice, Borobudur temple

Introduction

The area around Borobudur Temple is one of the tourist destinations that has extraordinary cultural, historical, and natural attractions. The existence of the temple, which has been recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, makes the surrounding area a center of attention for tourists, both domestic and foreign. To support this attraction, many villages around Borobudur Temple develop their potential as tourist villages with various activities, such as arts and culture, local crafts, and agrotourism. The development of tourist villages in this area not only functions as a strategy to increase local community income but also as an effort to preserve cultural and environmental values.

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However, the development of tourist villages often presents complex challenges. One of them is the threat to environmental sustainability due to the increase in uncontrolled tourism activities. Exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and land conversion for tourism needs can cause ecosystem damage. In addition, socio-economic inequality between local communities and business actors from outside the area is also an issue that needs attention. In many cases, local communities are less involved in the process of managing tourist villages, so that economic benefits are often not distributed fairly [1].

On the other hand, the ecological justice approach offers a solution to address this challenge. Ecological justice emphasizes the importance of balance between the utilization of natural resources and environmental conservation by considering the rights of local communities. This approach encourages the management of tourist villages that not only prioritize economic aspects but also social and ecological aspects in a sustainable manner [2].

Therefore, in-depth research is needed on the governance of ecological justice-based tourist villages in the area around Borobudur Temple. This study aims to explore the potential, obstacles, and formulate governance strategies that can answer the challenges of managing tourist villages fairly and sustainably. Thus, tourist villages in this area can develop as a tourism model that supports environmental conservation, strengthens the empowerment of local communities, and creates a balance between economic, social, and ecological interests [3].

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. This approach aims to explore in depth the governance of ecological justice-based tourism villages in the area around Borobudur Temple. The focus is on management practices, ecological impacts, and social justice applied in the development of tourism villages. The research location was conducted in tourist villages around the Borobudur Temple area, such as 1) Karangrejo Village, 2) Wanurejo Village, 3) Candirejo Village, 4) Ngadiharjo Village [4].

The selection of locations was based on tourism potential, local wisdom, and the level of community involvement in managing ecology-based tourism. Research subjects include: 1) Village Government; Village head, village apparatus, and Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes), 2) Tourism Actors; Tourism village managers, local guides, and tourism-based business actors, 3) Local Communities: Farmer groups, traditional leaders, and residents directly affected by tourism activities, 4) Related Institutions: Tourism Office, academics, and environmental organizations [5].

Data Collection Techniques consist of 1) In-depth Interviews; conducted on research subjects to explore, tourism village governance practices, views on ecological justice in tourism management, positive and negative impacts on the ecosystem and socio-economics of the communication [5]. 2) Participatory Observation is observing directly

tourism activities in the village, natural resource management, and interactions between tourists and local communities [6]. 3) Document Study. Document analysis in the form of; village regulations related to the management of tourist villages, statistical data on tourist visits, government policies on the development of Bor tourist areas. 4) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) involving community representatives, tourism actors, and village government to discuss shared perspectives on ecological justice in managing tourism villages [7].

Results and Discussion

Tourism village governance in the area around Borobudur Temple

The results of the study show that the management of tourism villages in the area around Borobudur Temple involves various parties, namely the village government, local communities, and Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes). Some of the governance practices found are:

1. Community-Based Tourism. Tourism villages such as Karangrejo, Wanurejo, and Candirejo empower local communities as the main actors in tourism management. This includes training tour guides, managing homestays, and local culinary businesses.
2. Village Institutions. BUMDes is an important factor in managing the economy of tourism villages, including regulating entrance tickets, promoting tourism, and distributing profits to the community.
3. Application of Local Wisdom. These villages integrate local traditions into tourism activities, such as traditional arts, traditional ceremonies, and the use of environmentally friendly products [8].

Implementation of Ecological Justice

Ecological justice in the governance of tourist villages in this area is realized through several strategies:

1. Environmental Conservation. Tourist villages have policies to maintain environmental sustainability, such as a ban on the use of single-use plastics, reforestation of critical land, and communitybased waste management.
2. Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources. The community utilizes natural resources wisely, for example by using bamboo for homestay construction and supplying tourists with organic agricultural products.
3. Equitable Distribution of Benefits. Profits from tourism activities are distributed evenly, both for village development, improving public facilities, and empowering poor communities [9].

Challenges in Implementing Ecological Justice

Despite efforts towards ecological justice, there are several challenges, including:

1. Overtourism. The increase in the number of tourists sometimes causes pressure on the ecosystem, such as damage to agricultural land and increased domestic waste [10].
2. Economic Inequality. There is still a disparity between community groups that are directly involved in tourism activities and those that are not.
3. Lack of Environmental Awareness. Some communities and tourists are not yet fully aware of the importance of protecting the environment [11].

Discussion

This study highlights several crucial aspects for sustainable tourism development, particularly concerning tourism villages. It advocates for strengthening tourism village governance through community-based approaches that enhance local welfare while preserving indigenous wisdom. This necessitates increasing institutional capacity via management and digital marketing training to broaden tourist reach [12]. Furthermore, realizing ecological justice is paramount, achievable through inclusive community participation ensuring all societal elements, including farmers and vulnerable groups, benefit from tourism [13]. It also involves implementing technology-based environmental management, such as biogas installations for waste reduction, and fostering environmental awareness through community-based educational programs like environmental education tours. The research also addresses challenges of overtourism by proposing visitor limits via online reservation systems and promoting alternative tourism in surrounding villages to alleviate pressure on main sites [14]. Crucially, these findings align with the National Tourism Development Policy for sustainable tourism, positioning tourism villages around Borobudur as a model for other regions through their implementation of ecological justice-based governance principles [15, 16].

Conclusion

Research Conclusion: Tourism Village Governance Based on Ecological Justice in the Area Around Borobudur Temple. This study reveals that tourism village governance in the area around Borobudur Temple requires an ecological justice-based approach to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This approach is able to answer the challenges of tourism management which often prioritizes economic profit without considering the impact on the ecosystem and local communities [16].

Ecological justice-based governance is implemented through several main principles, namely; **Local Community Participatory Involvement:** Local communities are empowered as the main actors in decision-making related to tourism village management. This provides a stronger sense of ownership and maintains the sustainability of culture and tradition. **Sustainable Natural Resource Management:** Tourism practices carried out do not damage the ecosystem, but rather support environmental conservation, such as maintaining the cleanliness of the area, utilizing

renewable energy, and managing waste properly. Economic Benefit Equity: Income from the tourism sector is distributed fairly to improve community welfare, especially vulnerable groups. Synergy Between Stakeholders: Collaboration between the government, community, tourism village managers, and the private sector is the key to the success of equitable governance.

From the research results, it can be seen that the implementation of ecological justice based governance is able to create a balance between environmental preservation and tourism development in the area around Borobudur Temple. This model can be used as an example for the management of other tourist areas, especially those with high ecological and cultural values. Thus, tourism is not only a tool for driving the economy, but also as a means of environmental preservation and empowering local communities.

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