LOKSADO TOURISM AS ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCOCIETY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Indonesia has a wide area consisting of land and sea. There are about 17,000 islands that are sprinkled on a vast expanse of ocean. On islands which are broad and narrow land. On these lands, there are mountains, lakes, forests, rivers, and beaches which have an attraction for tourists. In addition to Bali, which has been known to the world for a long time, other regions, including the South Kalimantan region, have agreed to be less than optimal in terms of what is discussed and in managing tourist destinations. Now only Loksado in South Kalimantan Province is gaining attention and is favored as a tourist destination. So far, Loksado has been visited by tourists, both local and foreign, to enjoy nature tourism, especially because of the pleasure of traveling along the fast river using Bamboo Rafts. Besides, tourists can also enjoy the natural beauty of the Amandit River which divides the Meratus Hill forest and becomes a river of torrential rivers. This Loksado Tourism, thus also has an impact on improving the community. Therefore, this article is an effort that explains the development of Loksado tourism in its discussion with the economic life of its people. Qualitatively related have been selected with the hope of being relevant and able to explain the above. Various information was extracted through observation, interviews, and documents to explain the development of tourism in Loksado and improve the economy for the community. Interviews were conducted with several people representing several professions, such as village heads, lanting jockeys, food stall owners, farmers, drivers, traders, and homestay owners. Loksado was pioneered and then opened by the government in 1980. Ease of access and variety of types of tours make Loksado increasingly attractive to local and foreign communities. The annual government agenda with the Lanting Festival (bamboo rafting) is a business opportunity and can improve the welfare of the people of Loksado.

Keywords: jockey, lanting, bamboo rafting, Lanting Festival.

1. BACKGROUND

Indonesia has an area consisting of land and sea that contains a variety of exotic natural beauty in the form of beaches and mountains and rivers. The natural beauty is the main attraction for tourists of both local and foreign. Tourism has an important role in the economic development of the nation. The tourism sector as economic activity has become a mainstay and priorities of the economic development of Indonesia.

The tourism sector had a positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of society. City such as

Yogyakarta, Bali and Lombok are among the areas that have become the target for tourists of both local and foreign tourists to enjoy the atmosphere of natural beauty (Muljadi, 2012).

There needs to be a collaboration between the public and the government in order to make the economic development of a region that has resource nature, including nature, to be more effective and sustainable. In this context, the strategic role of the government is to pursue broad opportunities for local communities to participate fully in every economic activity (Knight, 2009).

Loksado is an area in Hulu Sungai Selatan (HSS) which has natural attractions such as river rapids (Amandit River) flowing from Meratus and empties into the River Country in the Margasari village of Downstream District of Candi Laras Tapin district. The view and condition of this river is still beautiful, attractive, and natural that can attract the tourists. There are also activities in this river bamboo rafting tour. Besides, the Loksado area also has natural attraction such as the hot spring bath area. Those attractions essentially and economically helped increasing the revenues of local communities.

Increasing the income of local communities through tourism development has become commonplace in many places. In effect, the necessary regulations are clear and unequivocal on the part of the government to seriously involve the community in planning. Thus, people are not just being objects but being subject in developing sector tourism (Raharjana, 2012),

According to Lane (1994) that rural with a variety of unique, such as the natural environment, scenery and beautiful landscapes, diverse plants, people rural and their unique lifestyle is an alternative to provide other experiences to the tourists and at the same time to diversify the tourism product. Indirectly, tourism product diversification efforts will have an impact on the welfare of surrounding communities (Raharjana, 2012). In this context, Loksado communities with tourist destinations such as the river with bamboo rafting and hot springs attract tourists that every year the number of visitors is increasing.

A tourist area that is generally located in the village requires the cooperation and participation of the whole village to promote them in addition to local community planning (Permanasari, 2010: 64). In this context, the development of tourism in Loksado potentially increases the economic income of people who are supported by various efforts to attract tourists.

2. METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach with historical method to collect information and data on the development of tourism in Loksado. Observations were carried out by observing the conditions and economic activities around the tourist areas. Interviews were conducted to some subjects. The research represents some professions, such as the village head, jockey lanting, shopkeepers, farmers, drivers, traders and homestay. Data analysis technique followed the model of Miles and Huberman (1992). The presentation of data was done by using a narrative to describe the development of Loksado tourism. Data validity was through triangulation to obtain accurate data from many different sources about Loksado tourist developments which is affecting the local economy.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Village Community of Economic Life in Loksado

The government's efforts to obtain a foreign exchange in the era of this development is to rely on the tourism sector. To achieve that, it is necessary for readiness and improvements in various areas, including management and development. The government has established tourist destination areas in Indonesia. However, beyond that, there are many more areas that can be other potential of tourism. Thus, in order to reach the target, the planning and the assessment of the interest area should be done and the travel of its area should be also ensured.

Tourism plays an important role in the economic development of a country or region. The tourism sector as economic activity has become a mainstay and priorities for the development of Indonesia, which has the potential of vast areas with their sizeable tourist attraction, the amount of natural beauty and diversity of cultural-historical heritage and community life make the number of places for tourist destinations of Indonesia.

The presence of two attractions in succession of Loksado employment opportunities will contribute in improving the economical income of households in the area. This is because these two areas helped bringing jobs such as parking attendants, security guards, janitors, guard booth (retribution) attractions, jockey lanting bamboo and other opportunities for community handicraft objects for sale, wide-open stalls to meet the various needs of the tourists who come. Loksado attractions thus contribute in improving the economical independence of the region. The local government, in this case, the government of Hulu Sungai

Selatan District also receives revenue from the presence of nature in Loksado.

In 1980 was the beginning period of Loksado area used as a natural tourist area. Certain situation was not as busy as it is today. When the local government also appeared to be not serious about addressing and giving regulation on the Loksado nature tourism. Loksado community has long harnessed Amandit River in the region to transport and pass the merchandise from the region to the lower regions using bamboo rafts (Kompas, May 15, 1983). Over the years before entering the 1980s, the Amandit river activity has not attracted the attention of society to serve as a natural tourist attraction. And after the new local government, in this case, the Department of Tourism of Hulu Sungai Selatan, began to be interested in making Amandit River crossing in the Loksado area not only for the transportation of goods trading but also to be used for tourism activities. The activities at Amandit River are remained unspoiled and have a fairly challenging rapid which is bamboo rafting natural attractions.

Bamboo rafting in this case is activity or wading along the Amandit river using bamboo rafts as they are used to carry items of Loksado public trading. Nature tourism is the kind of nature that is commonly known as a tourist "rafting", but for it is to be a typical tourist of Loksado because the tools used to navigate the fast-flowing river with many rapids are not using a rubber boat but using a bamboo raft. Slowly but sure, Loksado becomes increasingly popular and widely known by utilizing nature of Amandit River with bamboo raft. This Loksado nature has not only been increasingly known and demanded by people in South Kalimantan but also by other Indonesian people even by the world community. Nowadays, this is not just nature bamboo rafts that have been developed but other natural attractions in this area also are being developed, namely nature Thermal Baths. Such situation certainly becomes an advantage for society of Loksado because it can actively participate in tourism activities so the effects helped in increasing their welfare.

Tourism is one of the industries that can improve the rapid economical growth, job creation, income generation and as a sector that includes industries of handicrafts and souvenirs, lodging and transportation. However, this situation is not optimally recognized and utilized by the local community. Limited capital and skills seem to be disadvantage of the local community. Nevertheless, the development of tourism is considered important because in addition to increase foreign exchange earnings, it is also able to support the country's economical strength. The diversity of attractions on offer makes the manager attractions vying to attract consumers.

They came to the area within a certain period, used resources and facilities and usually spent money for various purposes. If tourists who come to these destinations are very much spending money, it can not be denied that this would be an impact on the economical life of the tourist area. Hulu Sungai Selatan which has potential in the field of tourism is big enough to be developed with the presence of a variety of natural attractions, such as waterfalls, Aruh Dayak, a hero's grave, and bamboo rafting which is usually ridden by visitors for water sports as well as for going down to the river in Loksado.

Tourism uniqueness of Loksado is that the tourist using bamboo rafting when traveling. Goddess (2013) explained that the development of rural tourism depends on the local community because they have the resources and cultural uniqueness inherent. Loksado tourism is located in the village of Upper South River which has unique characteristics, which is including natural rivers for rafting bamboo, so that it becomes an attraction for local and foreign tourists which has implications on the economical level of society. In this Loksado area, it has been also discovered and utilized as a natural tourist attraction which is Thermal Baths. With those natural attractions which are bamboo rafting and thermal bath, it can be expected that Loksado tourist area not only can be a source of people's income but also can be a source of foreign exchange.

3.2. Lanting Rafts for Community Development in Loksado

Paring Balanting (Raft of bamboo, bamboo rafting) is a habit of Loksado residents to bring the results of their commodities, especially forest and gardens, leading to downstream or urban areas. In this case, it is not only the merchandise (commodities) they take it to be or salable but also including a raft bamboo they use, it also contributes as traded goods or sold at their final destination. Usually, the place of their final destination is the City Kandangan or farther from up to Nagara (Daha District of North and South Daha).

Thus, people in Loksado have been accustomed to use bamboo rafts as a means of transportation as well as a tradable commodity. They usually make a bamboo raft consisting of 30 to 50 old bamboo rod. Trade activities with these bamboo rafts have been done by them for a long time because at that time, the rivers were just the only way they can do for the means of transportation and communications. Besides, bamboo raft itself as a commodity, traders in Loksado also carried goods from other crops that they can sell such as rubber, cinnamon, types of tubers, and various other forest products using the bamboo raft. It seems that the activities along the river with a strong current and full of rapids attract some tourists to make a raft of bamboo as a means of nature.

Banjarmasin Post (2004) reported that foreign tourists have also increasingly been to Loksado to enjoy nature along the Amandit river using bamboo rafts. They can feel the sensation down the fast-flowing river using bamboo rafts in addition of enjoying the authentic good and natural inland of South Kalimantan. However, as more and more tourists who enjoy the fringe of the river by bamboo raft, since 2005 bamboo plants in the Loksado area shrinking. This has been a concern of society and especially by the local authorities to find the best solution for outdoor activities with a bamboo raft down the river so it can hold sustainable,

According to Thomas (52 years), at first, a bamboo rafting was known as a means of transportation to go to the city and transport equipment of Loksado results from Dayak community gardens through Amandit River. It was since old habits like these people lived in Loksado. They went to the city to trade and shop for the daily necessities of life. Arriving in the city, the traders used to sell goods and also sell the bamboo rafting that was used by them as a means of transportation. As for returning to Loksado, they were forced to reach by foot following the footpath road down the cliffs of Meratus hills. Now, there is asphalt roads which is linking Loksado and Kandangan city. Therefore, for the carriage of goods and passengers is not constrained to the people of Loksado because it can be reached by road. Bamboo rafting has been long ago used for transportation and infrastructure and nowaday it is still used, but only to meet the interests of tourism. In the year of 1980, if the tourists wanted to use bamboo rafting (*Lanting*), it costed around Rp. 75.000, -. When the road leading to the Loksado was completed around year of 2000, the price of a bamboo raft that would be used to down the Amandit river is slightly increased which was worth to Rp. 100.000, -. This is because up to that time tourists visiting Loksado was still limited. However, over time the current price per raft (*Lanting*) has reached Rp. 300.000, -.

The important thing of all, that there has been friction on society in terms of the use of a bamboo raft in Loksado, which is for the benefit of the transport of goods and passengers towards the city turned into for the benefit of nature fringe of the river rapids. As in the case of the first position, it has been replaced by the presence of ground transportation after the completion of the asphalt road that has been built up or pass through Loksado. On the other side, it was significantly that Loksado has come as a reliable tourist destination for South Kalimantan. Loksado as a tourist destination continues to equip itself with a range of facilities to attract tourists. Facilities and infrastructure continue to be built such as hotels, cottages, restaurants, as well as tennis courts. Paring Balanting is then in great demand as one of the tourist attractions.

Research on the economical impact of tourism on the local community is increased or the opportunities to improve the economy of households are available (Kurniawan, 2015). The tourism sector thus contributed to an increase in the local economy. Loksado society in this context has felt the importance of tourism to welfare their life. The presence of nature in the form of the fringe of the river rapids and thermal baths in the their area have encouraged the local community to participate in a variety of things that can support tourism activities as well make it as a source of income. Moreover, today the tourist area of Loksado has been increasingly known to many people. Each time, more tourists come from various places in Indonesia even been quite a lot also from various other countries.

Related to the bamboo raft that is now used as a means of this nature Loksado Amli (51 years old), a resident explained that, the manufacture of the rafts to use at least 16 bamboo sticks. Bamboo poles that had been old enough then assembled or arranged in such a way so that it can be used to cross along Amandit river that has the fast-flowing river. Such rafts are already quite different from the previous rafts used for transporting merchandise. Rafts are now far fewer (16 bars) in use the number of bamboo poles while the old raft used up to 50 rods. The shape of the raft was also not the same anymore because in the old bamboo, it was assembled using relatively complete bamboo starting from the base up to the tip of bamboo raft, so the front looked tapered, while the new, the section of bamboo shoots stem is removed. The making of the old raft or the new ones can be completed within a day.

Bamboo rafts which is used to Amandit river crossing tourism can be also used to carry up to four adults in addition to the two jockeys (raft driver). As it has been mentioned previously bamboo raft is used only once. The raft just reached the destination and not to be taken back to the place of origin in Loksado, because it is not posibble for the raft to cross along the river upstream of Amandit River. The bamboo raft in the purposed place is sold so it can be used for various purposes for people in urban areas. The time of the travelling this river is between two and a half to three hours. Nature tourism fringe Amandit river with bamboo rafts until now is completely natural because it does not use any equipment including the use of security tools in the form of afloat.

To control or steer a raft down the Amandit river is carried out by the so-called "jockey". In the operation of the bamboo raft, it was controlled by two jockeys. Each jockey stands in the position of one person in front

and the others are behind. The jockey who is on the front uses a tool (vault) in the form of a piece of bamboo about three meters in length which is used to control or direct the course of the raft. Jockey on a bamboo raft who is steering the bamboo to the river edge must be people who are trained and skilled and fully understand the flow of the Amandit river which become natural attractions. Both jockeys who control the bamboo raft also can repair or fix in case of damage to the raft. They also need to know where they should stop if damage occurs so that there is a bamboo raft to be replaced or added. Bamboo raft must remain in decent condition to be used since departed until reach the destination. Therefore, a bamboo raft must be in a state of comfortable and safe to use during the river edge. Both jockeys have a great responsibility towards those two things, therefore jockey is also tasked with providing guidance or directives to passengers on how to behave and act for inside activities of crossing down Amandit river. As it is known that Amandit River has a strong stream, many rapids and rocks, and it has varied depth. Some parts are just half a meter depth and many are reaching depths of up to more than three meters.

Besides the tourists can feel the sensation of the natural attractions that down raging rivers, they can also enjoy the beauty of the natural landscape hills Meratus, Dayak villages, rice paddies and field and occasionally by chance they can see the hills Meratus endemic animal species. When crossing down the river, tourists also can see a variety of vegetation that grows along with the river flow Amandit. If lucky, they can see orchids, whether grown in soil or tree trunk. Loksado and Meratus are known as a natural orchid habitat in Borneo.

3.3 Lanting raft in Community Cultural Festival of Loksado

The anniversary of Hulu Sungai Selatan District Government is December 2, 1950. This anniversary is used as momentum by the local government to revive and stimulate the culture and tourism sector in the region. Therefore, the Government of Hulu Sungai Selatan district has an annual agenda in the form of Cultural Festival held each December. At this festival, it is always displayed a wide range of cultural activities or results of Hulu Sungai Selatan. One of the few cultural agenda which is held during that time is the Festival Raft Lanting (Balanting Paring). At that momentum of celebrating this anniversary festival day, it could be followed by more than 100 ornamental lanting which is departed from Loksado to Kandangan, down the river rapids of Amandit river, it is the information delivered by the local residents, Khairul Sadikin (48) and Bob (53). On the other hand, Nana (48), another community member said that at the moment, there would a lot of tourists visiting the Hulu Sungai Regency, especially to the tourist attractions which is Loksado. They also participate in the activities of Balanting Paring. For the participants of this festival, they are charged by Rp. 1.000.000, -.

The implementation of the lanting festival over the last several years has not much changed. However, there are also shift functions and purposes, from the original to private interests (citizens of Loksado), it becomes to support the interests of the government's agenda, which is tourism. Lanting manufacture by the villagers of Loksado was done by way of cooperation, as required 100 more pieces lanting. According to a villager named Acun (54) that there is a difference lanting used as a means of festival activities with lanting used to tourists. Lanting used for festivals is less similar to that commonly used by Loksado people to trade in old times. Lanting for the festival is given various accessories to make it look more beautiful and attractive. Therefore, for the sake of lanting festival, it is made for a few days and it is worked together both men and women.

In addition to the socio-cultural impact, the lanting festival is able to grow and develop into one of the sectors that contributes greatly to the economy of the community. Increase in economical sector becomes a visible indicator to measure the benefits gained from the implementation of the festival community. The values contained in the cultural tourism lanting festival event be the main attraction for tourists, as well as beneficial for the development of tourism in Hulu Sungai Selatan. Every lanting festival is held, there are many Loksado villagers who came to watch. It is not only Loksado residents but also from outside the region, even inn or hotel aound the festival location is full of visitors. Some visitors spend the night in the hall and some stay at homes because these events usually held about two days. In addition to lodging, food stalls and stores are also benefited by this festival (Mardi, 52 years).

3.4 Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Tourism Development in Loksado

The development of tourism should be implemented in a consistent, sustained and enhanced way through the development and processing of various potentials or sources of locale tourism. Tourism's potential that is exploited and developed in the area of Loksado has helped adding to the national economy, expanded and evenly distributed business opportunities, as well as provided employment for the local population. Loksado tourist areas during development have received attention and support from local governments to the central government. The government has also managed to mobilize the participation of local communities to develop and improve the various needs related to tourism activities. Public awareness of the importance of tourism potential in their area also seems to have grown well. The locale society awares and understands that the tourism potential in the area has benefited and given profit for the welfare of their lives.

3.5. Supporting factors

The potential of an area to develop into a tourist destination depends on several factors, including the availability of aspects that will attract tourists. Access to area attractions that can be reached easily and smoothly is also a large part of the development of tourist destinations. The availability of various facilities and infrastructure thus becomes fundamental to progress sector tourism in the area. It is also important for the tourism sector to have the tourism organization that provides rules and undertake the development of tourism in the area (Soekadijo, 2000). The condition of local tourism like Loksado today are very conducive. Various facilities and infrastructures that provide convenience and comfort Loksado traveled to the area are very adequate. Travelers can advance towards Loksado by road in good condition from the City of Kandangan. Arriving in Loksado, tourists can enjoy the natural scenery and enjoy hill forest Meratus thermal baths. Traveler thereafter can travel fast-flowing river edge with a bamboo raft toward Kandangan if desired. Travelers can also stay a few days in the area Loksado.

3.6. Inhibiting factor

Loksado as a tourist destination with a variety of amenities is not perfect. Factors such as weather, accessibility, ownership, and use of land are still part constraint rather than inhibit the optimal development of tourist destinations of Loksado. Besides, labor and local political stability is sometimes quite disturbing activities in Loksado tourism. The factors that affect the tourism potential are as follows: 1) aspects that influence on the tourism in the form of climate, soil, rocks and morphology, hydrosphere, flora, and fauna; 2) Tourist attractions are all things that become an attraction for people to visit a particular area, for example, dance, song, local arts, ceremonies, and others; 3) accessibility is regarding on achieving a tourist spot. The easier it is a place to be attained it will increase the interest of tourists to visit; 4) Ownership and use of land in the ownership and tenure can affect the location of tourist attractions, form of development, and can also affect the development direction. The forms of land tenure is state or government land, public land, and private land; and 5) Facilities and infrastructure of tourism are companies that provide services to tourists, either directly or indirectly. This tourism transportations are in the form of travel agency, hotel or inn, and restaurant. The tourist infrastructures are such as transportation infrastructure, communications, electrical installations, drinking water supply, irrigation systems, banking systems and health services (Yoeti, 1980: 172 and 194).

Factors inhibiting the development of tourism is the decreasing of Loksado bamboo plants that is used to make raft lanting and it is not balanced with the efforts of cultivation independently. Bamboo which is taken is almost entirely from the nature that grows naturally. Trash which is thrown to the river as a result of tourism activities that also contribute to pollute streams and damage the beauty and the attractiveness of Amandit River. In this case, tourism businesses and tourists seem to not have good awareness. Though sooner or later, it will affect the level of tourist visits to Loksado. Thus, all interested parties will lose.

A tourist place is not just merely about the economical impact, but also need to consider the availability of facilities and infrastructures which indirectly also affect the attractiveness of the region and the revenue gathered from local and foreign tourists. Moreover, the government must improve the quality of the availability of the infrastructure so that tourists do not 'run' to other tourist attractions. Keeping sites that do not undergo a phase of stagnation especially setback (stagnation) (Hidayat, 2011) is very important, so that a tourist can survive and add to the number of tourists that have implications on the economic level of society.

Nature exploitation to improve the economy for local communities is not without problems in this country, such as the extension of regional coverage of Halimun Salak Mountain National Park (TNGHS) in Bogor Java West that created a conflict of interest that is a trade-off between the interests of TNGHS which has a primary function as a conservation area (ecological interest) and surounding society's interest that use the forest for economical needs. Then, the solution offered is through the payment of tourist services. The impact is in addition to obtaine the conservation fund to raise funds to maintain the natural conservation of various pollution and destruction of the environment by the public, it also can improve the economy of local communities through the provision of labor and other forms of service provision (Ekayani, et al., 2014).

4. CONCLUSION

In the beginning, around the 1980s, Loksado tourism had yet attracted many people and also the government. About 20 years later, in the early 2000s, it began to attract attention of Hulu Sungai Selatan

district government because the people getting interested. The number of visitors was very little in the 1980s grew up in the 2000s so that it gave impact on the local economy.

Thermal Bath in Tanuhi and Bamboo Rafting through Amandit river in Loksado, Hulu Sungai Selatan become tourist destinations for local and foreign tourists because of the exotic natural scenery. Local government then utilized this nature by improving the quality and amount of support facilities such as swimming baths of hot water, accommodation and *lanting* festival.

Government support for the development of tourism of Loksado provides fresh air for the local community because it gives impact on their economical life. Jockey workers, drivers, traders and house rentals for tourist accommodation are among profession benefited from the Loksado tourism. However, the development of Loksado tourism is not without problems because bamboo as the main material for bamboo rafting is increasingly decreased. Awareness among tourists about the cleanliness of the environment, especially rivers also lack attention so that it needs necessary policies related to it.

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