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Feasibility Study of Potential and Infrastructure of Lantebung Tourism Village as a Nature and Educational Tourism Destination

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Abstract

This research assesses the feasibility of Lantebung Tourism Village as a natural and educational tourism destination based on mangrove ecosystems. The main problem raised was the unoptimal utilization of natural potential as well as the limited infrastructure and supporting institutions. A qualitative approach was used through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies with purposive sampling techniques. The results showed that the village has educational tourism potential, such as mangrove trekking and utilization of mangrove-based local products. However, infrastructure such as tracking paths, toilets, and information facilities are inadequate, and the role of Pokdarwis has not been optimized. Local community support such as JEKOMALA and IKAL are quite active in environmental conservation, but still need capacity building and cross-sector collaboration. This study concludes that Lantebung Village has the feasibility to be developed as a sustainable tourism destination with a note of the need for infrastructure revitalization and institutional strengthening.

Keywords: nature tourism, education, mangrove, infrastructure, institutions.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menilai kelayakan Desa Wisata Lantebung sebagai destinasi wisata alam dan edukasi berbasis ekosistem mangrove. Permasalahan utama yang diangkat adalah pemanfaatan potensi alam yang belum optimal serta keterbatasan infrastruktur dan kelembagaan pendukungnya. Pendekatan kualitatif digunakan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi lapangan, dan studi dokumentasi dengan teknik purposive sampling. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa desa ini memiliki potensi wisata edukatif, seperti susur mangrove dan pemanfaatan produk lokal berbasis mangrove. Namun infrastruktur seperti jalur tracking, toilet, dan fasilitas informasi belum memadai, serta peran Pokdarwis belum berjalan optimal. Dukungan komunitas lokal seperti JEKOMALA dan IKAL cukup aktif dalam pelestarian lingkungan, namun masih memerlukan penguatan kapasitas dan kolaborasi lintas sektor. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa Desa Lantebung memiliki kelayakan untuk dikembangkan sebagai destinasi wisata berkelanjutan dengan catatan perlunya revitalisasi infrastruktur dan penguatan kelembagaan.

Kata kunci: wisata alam, edukasi, mangrove, infrastruktur, kelembagaan.

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of tourism villages is one of the strategies in sustainable tourism development that aims to improve the welfare of local communities without neglecting environmental preservation. Mangrove forests provide many benefits to the environment and society; mangroves also have the potential for ecotourism development, which can provide economic opportunities for local communities. The utilization of mangrove forests as a tourist object is believed to serve as a

driver for mangrove forest conservation (Ratnasari, et al., 2023). According to Ira & Muhammad (2020) in Hatoguan, et al. (2023), in the context of sustainable development, it is necessary to carry out sustainable natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and responsible tourism development to ensure the sustainability of coastal ecosystems and the welfare of local communities.

Lantebung Tourism Village, located in Tamalanrea District, Makassar City, is one of the destinations that has natural tourism potential, specifically a well-maintained mangrove forest. The main attraction of this village is the mangrove forest which allows tourists to enjoy coastal beauty while learning about the importance of mangrove ecosystem conservation. Similar findings were found in Utami's (2019) study which emphasized that mangrove areas are very potential to be developed into educational tourism due to their high conservation value. The shift in tourist interest from "old tourism" traveling without elements of education and conservation—to "new tourism"—traveling equipped with educational and conservation elements—is also a highlight in tourism development. The meaning of new tourism implies that mangrove forests as a tourist object, besides being a place for vacation, recreation, or photo spots, also provide opportunities for educational activities (Utami, 2019).

Thus, the potential of Lantebung Tourism Village strongly supports its development as a nature and educational tourism destination. However, to ensure the sustainability of this destination's development, a deep study regarding the feasibility of tourism potential and supporting infrastructure is required. According to Suwanto & Gamal (2018) in Ratnasari et al. (2023), tourism potential refers to all aspects present in a tourist destination that have the attraction to invite people to visit. Main factors affecting tourism potential include: physical conditions, objects and tourist attractions, accessibility, tourism facilities and infrastructure, and the community (Ratnasari, et al., 2023).

This study aims to analyze the extent to which the potential of Lantebung Tourism Village can be optimally developed as a nature and educational tourism destination. Furthermore, this research highlights the available infrastructure conditions, such as accessibility, public facilities, and institutional support, which are key determinants in the feasibility of a tourism destination. Through this research, it is expected to provide strategic recommendations for tourism village managers, local governments, and other stakeholders in efforts to develop Lantebung Tourism Village as a feasible and sustainable tourism destination.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data used for this research were collected through interview methods, field observations, and document analysis. Those involved in the data collection process were the head of the Lantebung Tourism Village management, the local community, and tourists. The data were collected during the 4th semester as part of a previous course project which then became the basis of reinforcement for this journal compilation. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling (aimed sampling), which is selecting informants considered to know and be directly involved in the management and development activities of Lantebung Tourism Village. The main purpose of using purposive sampling is to find samples that match specifically determined criteria by the researchers. Additionally, purposive sampling aims to explain a problem clearly because the representative samples have representative value. Thus, the main research objectives can be fulfilled. Purposive sampling is a suitable sampling technique for qualitative research because researchers likely already know the quality of informants or respondents, making the research more valid (Sampoerna University, 2024).

Qualitative analysis techniques were used for data analysis. Data analysis is the process of finding and systematically organizing data from notes, interviews, and observations or documents to increase a researcher's understanding of the topic being studied and to explain findings to others. Thus, qualitative data analysis is essentially an effort to examine qualitative data carefully and comprehensively with the aim of understanding the phenomenon under study (Qomaruddin &

Sa'diyah, 2024). Data were analyzed using Microsoft Word to assist in the writing process and organization of observation and interview results. Additionally, Google Scholar was used as a tool for searching scientific references to enrich the research theory and perspectives. The analysis aims to identify nature and educational tourism potential, infrastructure conditions, and community participation in the management of Lantebung Tourism Village. These findings were then interpreted in the context of sustainable tourism destination development to draw conclusions regarding the feasibility of potential and infrastructure in Lantebung Tourism Village as a nature and educational tourism destination.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Nature and Educational Tourism Potential Based on Mangrove Ecosystem

Observation results show that Lantebung Tourism Village has a main attraction in the form of a relatively well-maintained mangrove forest area. The existence of this forest is not only an ecological element but also holds economic and educational value that can be further developed. In practice, this village has utilized the mangrove ecosystem as a learning space for visitors, such as introducing types of mangroves and their functions in coastal disaster mitigation.

Mangrove trekking activities using fisherman boats are one of the attractions that provide direct experience to tourists in exploring the natural ecosystem. Besides providing a recreative experience, this activity also serves as a means of education related to mangrove functions and coastal community life. Local fishermen involved benefit economically, although they still require assistance in structured tourism management. Another identified potential is the utilization of mangrove products as tourism products. Developed products include mangrove coffee utilizing mangrove fruit (*Rhizophora mucronata*), as well as marine products such as mud crabs that can be processed into typical culinary items. However, the management and marketing of these products are still unorganized. Not all community members are actively involved due to a lack of training and sustainable institutional support. Yet, according to Mubarok, et al. (2022), a tourism village is the development of a village area that basically does not change what already exists, but rather leans towards developing existing village potential by utilizing the capabilities of elements within the village that function as tourism product attributes on a small scale into a series of tourism activities. These findings indicate that the potential for nature and educational tourism in Lantebung is massive, but its utilization is not yet maximized due to community limitations and community-based management that is not yet well-organized.



Figure 1. Utilization of mangrove fruit for mangrove coffee products)



Figure 2. Marine product potential that can be used as local culinary products

3.2 Infrastructure Conditions or Tourism Supporting Facilities

Infrastructure support is one of the important things in supporting the feasibility of a tourism destination. Based on field data, several supporting facilities in Lantebung Tourism Village still do not meet standards of comfort and tourism function.

3.2.1 Information Hut

The information hut, which should be the center of information for tourists, appears to be not functioning optimally. The building is poorly maintained and is not equipped with adequate information media, so its role in conveying knowledge or education to tourists is not maximized. This shows suboptimal management of interpretative information, which is an important component in supporting the creation of an educational tourism experience for tourists.



Figure 3. Actual condition of the information hut in Lantebung Tourism Village

3.2.2 Tourism Bridge Path

The wooden tourism bridge path which is the main access into the mangrove area is quite popular as it is equipped with photo spots like crab-shaped ornaments. However, this path is not yet equipped with directions, not all parts are safe to pass, and there are no regular maintenance efforts. This condition can decrease comfort and even endanger visitor safety. Limited funding is the main obstacle in tourism bridge path repair efforts.



Figure 4: Actual condition of the Bridge Path: Some damage has occurred

3.2.3 Toilets

Toilet facilities are a serious issue. several toilet units were found not functioning due to damage or lack of clean water. In fact, most of them have been repurposed as storage for fisherman tools. The lack of sanitation and clean water shows that facility management has not yet considered basic tourism comfort standards.



Figure 5. Actual condition of toilets

3.2.4 Gazebos and Trash Cans

Gazebos and trash cans are available in the area, but their numbers are still limited. Trash cans are only scattered at several points, risking waste accumulation if not addressed by adding units at strategic locations.



Figure 6. Actual condition of gazebos and trash cans

3.2.5 Parking Area

The parking area in this location is very limited. The available land is unable to accommodate a large number of vehicles. This hinders visits from large groups or family tourists using four-wheeled vehicles. Generally, supporting facilities in Lantebung Tourism Village are not yet functionally feasible. This finding reinforces that nature and educational tourism development efforts must be supported by adequate infrastructure, as emphasized by Abdul Azim (2020) that the more complete the facilities and infrastructure provided at a tourist attraction, the more comfortable and satisfied tourists will be.



Figure 7. Actual condition of the parking area

3.3 Institutional Support and Community Roles

In developing Lantebung Tourism Village as an ecosystem-based destination, institutional support and local community participation play an important role, especially in nature conservation, education, and economic empowerment. Observation results show that several community groups have been formed and carry out strategic roles, although most still face resource and funding limitations.

3.3.1 Jaringan Kelompok Mangrove Lantebung (JEKOMALA) and Fisherman Group
JEKOMALA (Lantebung Mangrove Conservation Community Network) is the main community that consistently participates in mangrove conservation activities. Their activities include periodic mangrove seedling planting, environmental education, and cooperation with external institutions. This group also synergizes with local fisherman groups, who participate in maintaining mangrove sustainability because the existence of this ecosystem directly impacts the sustainability of their marine catches. This involvement shows community-based conservation practices. By participating in environmental conservation efforts, they not only protect nature but also improve quality of life (Cikoneng Village Government, 2025).

3.3.2 Lantebung Youth Association (IKAL)

IKAL has an important contribution as a youth driver in ecosystem conservation activities. Besides being active in mangrove planting, IKAL also acts as environmental volunteers who voluntarily carry out area cleaning actions, organize educational activities for tourists, and serve as a communication bridge between youth and stakeholders. Youth as part of the community build the village together by contributing to managing and increasing village potential (Purwanti, et al., 2025).

3.3.3 Pokdarwis and Revitalization Challenges

The Tourism Awareness Group (Pokdarwis) in this village is currently not running actively. In fact, institutionally, Pokdarwis should have a strategic role in managing the destination and guiding community training. From an institutional side, the lack of innovation is caused by a lack of support from the village government or private parties in initiating creative programs (Aththoriq, et al., 2024).

3.3.4 Collaboration with External Parties

Several external institutions have contributed to supporting conservation and tourism development activities. One of them is Pertamina, through its CSR program, which has provided mangrove nurseries and assisted in environmental education. Meanwhile, Bank Indonesia has also contributed by building several photo spots in the mangrove area, which have now become visual attractions and strengthen destination branding.

3.3.5 Funding Limitations

Although institutional and community support has been formed, there are still major obstacles in the form of minimal funding, both for facility maintenance, updating educational tourism facilities, to organizational revitalization like Pokdarwis. Consequently, various existing potentials have not been maximized optimally. Aththoriq (2024) states that minimal access to funding sources, both from the government and financial institutions, limits the community's ability to build adequate infrastructure or develop supporting facilities. Furthermore, according to Suryaningsih (2019), available funding programs are often not utilized due to a lack of information and financial education among local communities. These findings clarify that the existence of institutions and communities like JEKOMALA, IKAL, and fisherman groups has become the engine of mangrove-based conservation and education. However, institutional strengthening, Pokdarwis revitalization, and increased cross-sector collaboration remain urgent needs to realize Lantebung Tourism Village as a sustainable and independent ecotourism destination.

3.4 Recommendations

To optimize the development of Lantebung Tourism Village, local governments should encourage partnership programs with private institutions through CSR to fund infrastructure improvements, such as repairing tourism bridge paths, providing clean toilets, and enhancing conservation facilities. This physical development must be aligned with integrated training programs for the community, focusing on community-based tourism management, educational guiding, and local culinary innovation, while involving students and NGOs to strengthen local capacity. Furthermore, a structural revitalization of Pokdarwis is essential, requiring support from the tourism office for institutional assistance and digital promotion. Every new facility should adhere to ecotourism principles by using local materials and educational designs that reinforce conservation functions. Ultimately, a multi-stakeholder collaboration involving the government, universities, environmental communities, and the private sector is needed to draft a unified roadmap, ensuring synchronized programs, clear roles, and consistent monitoring for long-term sustainability.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, Lantebung Tourism Village has strong potential to be developed as a nature and educational tourism destination, especially due to the existence of a well-maintained mangrove forest. Activities such as mangrove trekking, mangrove coffee products, and mud crab culinary items become main attractions that support educational and conservation-based tourism experiences. Additionally, communities like JEKOMALA and IKAL show positive local participation in environmental conservation. However, the development of this destination still faces several challenges, specifically in infrastructure and institutional aspects. Facilities such as toilets, tracking paths, gazebos, and information huts are inadequate, while the role of Pokdarwis as tourism manager is not yet optimal. Funding support is also still minimal. This study illustrates that

ecosystem-based tourism village development requires cooperation from various parties, from the community and government to the private sector. Moving forward, there is a need for facility improvement, community training, and strengthening of local organizations so that Lantebung Village can develop into a feasible, sustainable tourism destination that provides direct benefits to the community.

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