



Research Paper

## Local Wisdom-Based Welfare

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**ABSTRACT:** Each region has interesting natural characteristics, unique social and cultural life. The potential must be encouraged and developed in accordance with the socio-cultural characteristics of the community. Rural tourism development is a long-term and potential investment for the government, since the readily available human and natural resources. The study was aimed at demystifying in-depth depiction of local wisdom supporting the prosperous development of tourist villages. The current study was a literature review. The result was expected to enable local communities overcoming their economic problems as well as reducing poverty level.

**KEYWORDS:** welfare, tourist village, local wisdom

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Local wisdom is manifested in people's lives through harmony with nature and humans, in which the implementation is through wise usage of natural resources. According to Subadio (in Brata, 2016), local wisdom in the form of natural resource and environmental management is a form of community conservation. Furthermore, Subadio states that local wisdom is a part, even considered the same as cultural identity; the personality of a nation. Local wisdom is a local culture owned by certain communities and in certain places that are able to survive in the face of globalization, due to the value to maintain national character building (Yunus, 2013). Therefore, local wisdom is the truth that has become a tradition or is permanent in a community. The local wisdom has a high life value and deserves to be explored, developed, and preserved as an antithesis of socio-cultural change and modernization. Local wisdom is a cultural product of the past that is coherent and continuously used as a guidance for life. Although locally implemented, the values contained in it are universal. Moreover, local wisdom is the identity of an area in the form of ideas, traditions, and cultures that have certain values based on religion and community norms, which have been preserved continuously, passed through generations, and survive the social changes impetus. Pattinama (2009) emphasizes that the existence of local wisdom could overcome local communities' problems through exploration of the potential in increasing prosperity and decreasing poverty.

Understanding the concept of welfare cannot only be seen from the absolute side of economic welfare alone. Welfare has relatively various meaning due to various interpretation and understanding of the concept. The concept of welfare is inseparable from the community quality of life. The quality of life is influenced by the socio-political and economic conditions of the community. Therefore, the notion of welfare measure was initially measured through physical aspects and income. Nowadays, welfare is measured through more complex indicators such as health, education, and socio-economics. BPS suggests seven components to measure the level of welfare, namely population, health and nutrition, education, employment, level of consumption patterns, housing and the environment, socio-culture.

Gonner (2007) states that understanding the concept of welfare is the first step in reducing poverty. A meaningful definition is needed to identify the causes, the goals of poverty reduction, and the scope of what needs to be done. In a simple term, poverty means increasing prosperity. Prosperity and poverty are two interrelated terms; looking at the same problem from two different sides. The broad definition of poverty is 'lack of well-being'. For example, if someone is unlikely prosperous, it means he is poor. On the other hand, if they are in a very prosperous condition, then their life is marked with prosperity, happiness and contentment.

## II. METHOD

This research is a systematic literature review, which explains that the research and development methodology is carried out to combine and assess research that is tied to the core of a particular topic. The purpose of a systematic literature review is to examine, identify, assess, and interpret all research related to the topic of an interesting phenomenon with various questions in certain appropriate studies [8]). This research uses descriptive analysis, namely regular presentation related to the data obtained, then providing an understanding and explanation so that the reader can understand it. This research was conducted in five stages. First, reviewing data on local wisdom. Second, identify problems related to welfare of local communities. Third, formulating problems related to the focus of the problems being studied and analyzed. Fourth, collect data and material related to the focus of the problem in order to support the strength of the analysis of existing problems. Fifth, analyze and present strategies for at demystifying in-depth depiction of local wisdom supporting the prosperous development of tourist villages

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### **The Role of Local Wisdom in Supporting Community Welfare**

Nowadays, local wisdom is believed to have a healthy impact on the unity of community life. Along with the unification of all elements in the community, it is easier to share inspiration and ideas of how to solve economic problem, as one of the main life problems. The local wisdom can also establish a good neighbourly life, maintaining cohesiveness at work, created by the existence of mutual need bonds in the community (Sopa, 2018). Local wisdom is a sign of how people live their lives and get life experiences and all of that is applied in their daily lives and becomes a way of life in society in acting and making decisions. Moreover, the local wisdom is believed enabling enhancement of community prosperity, which inevitably decreasing the number of poverty (Pattinama, 2009).

Poverty alleviation through local-potential-oriented tourism development is considered important in increasing income and welfare (Biggs, 2008). Empowerment of the poor through community approaches and awareness is needed to give control access in the development of tourist villages. Tourism attraction utilizing local resources began to be developed based on sustainable economic goals, supporting environmental conservation efforts, and improving the welfare of local communities (Fandeli, 2001). Poverty occurs when the poor have no comprehensive involvement in the development process. Tourism village is one of the potentials that can be used as an alternative source of income for the community. Humans as microcosms and their environment as macrocosms are a unity in harmony of life (Amsikan, 2006; Anshoriy, 2008). Sustainable support for regional potential is an important capital in poverty alleviation through the development of local-wisdom-based tourism villages. Kamonthip (2007) stated that developing people's lives through local wisdom is very important. The interaction among the members of the community could enhance knowledge and experience sharing which may influence the surrounding and improve the economic life.

### **The Role of Government, Customs and Culture in Efforts to Improve Welfare**

Approaches to capacity building of local institutions (local governments and communities) have a varied spectrum of concepts and approaches. According to (Baiquni 2009), there are five approaches, namely:

- 1) Holistic approach, this approach looks at the overall/holistic dimensions of development. This approach seeks to integrate various elements or sectors of development in an integrated manner, so that problem formulation and solutions are carried out collectively and in a participatory manner. The method used is systems thinking as a way to open understanding and innovate in formulating an appropriate policy and development context.
- 2) Participatory learning, assistance in the development of local institutional capacity needs to be carried out in a participatory manner, exploring together needs and formulating priorities for handling in the collective learning process. In fact, it is the local actors (community and local government) who know best, not consultants or development contractors who come from outside and have their own interests. The consultant's role in strengthening the process of facilitating collective learning, so that problem understanding will be better and solutions can be worked out together according to the function of each institution in the management system. The methods used are lectures, workshops and learning by doing.
- 3) Empowerment of management, the learning process includes both individual and institutional. What Ki Hajar Dewantoro calls Triple A (Asih, Asah and Asuh) in the learning process will lead to enlightenment and empowerment. Strong institutions consist of actors who are also enlightened in learning and working. Institutional management that continues to build enlightenment and empowerment will provide improved performance in ecotourism development.
- 4) Action research, the manifestation of an enlightened apparatus and an independent institution can only be tested if it has taken real and beneficial actions for the environment. Action research is a complementary part

of assisting institutional capacity building. The action research method is carried out through a learning process that can be enriched by field experience.

5) Synergy and network, an important approach in increasing institutional capacity is the willingness to open networks and work in a network with all institutional components, both in the executive, legislative and judicial government, as well as community and business institutions. Synergy and networking are efforts to realize tasks and respond to development challenges together, create a balance of checks and balances, and build trust among ecotourism development actors.

### **The Role of Local Wisdom in Tourism Village Development**

The tourism village is one example of alternative tourism development that aims to build sustainable villages in the tourism sector. This tourism development is influenced by people's lifestyles, economic, physical, and social conditions of the rural areas such as cultural heritage, agricultural activities, landscapes, as well as history and culture. Thus, tourism village modelling must continue and creatively develop regional identities or characteristics. The development of rural tourism is driven by three factors. First, rural areas have natural and cultural potentials that are relatively more authentic than urban areas; rural communities still carry out cultural and topographical traditions and rituals that are quite harmonious. Second, rural areas have relatively pristine physical environments or have not been heavily polluted by various types of pollution compared to urban areas. Third, at a certain level, rural areas face relatively slow economic development, so that optimal utilization of the economic, social and cultural potential of local communities is a rational reason for developing rural tourism (Damanik, 2013: 69).

Locally-based tourism village management requires the care and participation of the community itself to continuously innovate and be creative in developing the village area as a tourist village. According to Cohen and Uphoff (1979) the role or participation carried out by the community can be seen from the stages of planning, implementation, management or utilization, monitoring, enjoying the results, and evaluation. The development of the tourist village must pay attention to the ability and level of acceptance of the local community. It is intended to determine the character and abilities of the community as well as to determine appropriate type and level of community empowerment.

Local inhabitants are familiar with their local wisdom, as a way of life and a habit. Clearing land for farming and planting rice in the fields is one example. It shows how these habits emerged and became traditions, becomes a local wisdom. The existed local wisdom has become a habit; they act, express feeling, and work accordingly (Azizah, 2017: 68). The habit then pass-through generations and become wisdom, a way of life, determining how they behave. In modern times, local wisdom has been believed to have a good impact on the unity of community life, solving community problems through ideas and inspiration sharing (Sopa, 2018:525). Local wisdom is a sign of how people live their lives and gain life experience and all of that is applied in their daily lives and becomes a way of life in society in acting and making decisions.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

Developing people's lives through local wisdom is very important, since the interaction of the inhabitants may form groups of community to share knowledge and experiences, influencing and creating supportive ecosystem. It will be beneficial for the community involved in improving welfare. Ecosystem management based on local wisdom and community welfare needs to be focused on socio-economic and cultural development strategies.

The emergence of local wisdom can help local communities overcome their problems through the potential that exists in the community and can be developed. It is expected that through local wisdom, the community welfare can be increased, and the poverty will be decreasing.

Ecosystem management based on local wisdom and community welfare needs to be focused on socio-economic and cultural development strategies. For this reason, the role of the government is needed, one of which is by using a holistic approach. This approach looks at the overall dimensions of development or holistically. This approach seeks to integrate various elements or sectors of development in an integrated manner, so that problem formulation and solutions are carried out collectively and in a participatory manner. The method used is systems thinking as a way to open understanding and innovate in formulating the context of appropriate policies and developments in an effort to improve people's welfare.

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