# THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOA TABUHAN AND ITS IMPACT IN PACITAN REGENCY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims at finding out the development of Goa Tabuhan and its impact as a tourist attraction. As an addition, this study also attempts to find out the effort taken by the Tourist Office in developing the tourism sector in Pacitan regency. This study also conducted an effort comparison between the Tourist Office and Wareng rural village of Punung sub-district, who manages the Goa Tabuhan tourist attraction in Pacitan regency. This study used a descriptive qualitative method; there were nine informants consisted of four tourist office representatives, two of the village representative, two of the Goa Tabuhan local people, and one visitor of Goa Tabuhan. Based on the result of the study, there is a significant impact on society in the surrounding area of Goa Tabuhan; its visitors also experience the impact. The impact that affects society is in the form of economic and social and cultural effects.

**Keywords**: Tourism development, the impact of development, Goa Tabuhan tourist resort

## INTRODUCTION

Tourism is one of the sectors that supports the economic development of a country. All works of literature in tourism explain that the sector can provide economic support in the form of income for the country (Suwantoro, 2003). Regulation number 10 the year 2009 on tourism stated that the management of tourism aims at increasing the national income to develop the people's prosperity and welfare, spreading an equal work opportunity, increasing the regional development, introducing and maximizing Indonesian the tourism objects, and strengthening the nationalism as well as good relation among nations.

Tourism development in Indonesia is closely related to the values of cultural identity and development of the country by using all potential of beauty and natural resources in Indonesia. The utilization of resources does not require total change, but it strives for the management and preservation of existing potential to unite and become a more significant tourist attraction. (Setyowati, 2002)

Tourism development also must choose an appropriate method by considering and

through the accessibility, infrastructure, and interaction among local society and the visiting tourists. Tourism development does not only requires physical building, but it also must improve the promotion of the resort, as well as design it to become a sustainable attraction. The development process is the responsibility of not only the government but also other parties in building the infrastructure to support the regional economy. (Ramadhan, 2016)

The increasing development of tourism in various places in Indonesia is the manifestation of a good partnership between the government and society. There has been quite an improvement in finding and developing many tourism objects in various areas in Indonesia. East Java is one of the provinces that is developing its tourism sector within a significant number of efforts. East Java province is currently developing a local-based tourist attraction and potential sectors. The attraction is the potential that drives tourists to visit the local tourism objects that prioritize the culture, nature, and historical heritage.

Pacitan Regency is one of the areas in Esat Java that is rich in natural resources, including the natural tourism object, as well as cultural and historical. Goa Tabuhan is a natural tourism object in the northern part of Pacitan Regency, precisely is located at hamlet of Tabuhan, Wareng rural village of Punung sub-district, around twenty-five kilometer west part of Pacitan city. Goa Tabuhan is one

of the excellent tourism objects of the Pacitan Regency. Nearby this resort, there are other similar objects of attraction, namely Goa Gong and Goa Putri. Goa Tabuhan itself is located next to Klayar beach, Sraun beach, Pidakan beach, and Watu Karung beach; all of them are included in one package of travel program in Pacitan Regency.

Pacitan Regency is a mountainous area and mostly is in the form of limestone hills at the southern part of Java Island. Not all its surface is slope; it is also rocky and having few canyons, which has its natural beauty to spoil the sight along the way. The Thousand Mountains is a rocky area that lies from west to east coast of Parangtritis beach in the southern part of Yogyakarta to the Pacitan bay in East Java (Abdurahman, 2015).

Beautiful scenery accompanies the journey along the way of Pacitan Regency. Down below within these hills lies thousands of years caves, which makes Pacitan Regency becomes well known as the City of Thousands of Caves. One of those caves is Goa Tabuhan.

The main attraction of Goa Tabuhan is the resonating stalagmites that produce sounds; therefore, it is well known as Goa Tabuhan, which means the cave of sounds. The stalagmites in Goa Tabuhan can produce sounds like a set of played gamelan. Goa Tabuhan also has several cultural inheritances, such as ancient human fossils and hermitage of several prominent leaders of Indonesia and old Javanese kingdoms, which now are still under exploration process. The

most particular attraction of Goa Tabuhan is the traditional music produced by the stalagmites has a wide variety of rhythm. Four musicians are playing a variation play of music using the cave's stalagmites as their media. These musicians play rhythmical patterns of music accompanied by Javanese drum (kendang) along with the traditional Javanese singer (Sinden), who sings classic Javanese songs. (Wahyu, 2012)

The tip of stalagmites function as personnel of the gamelan set played during the pay by people who live in the surrounding area. The plays usually have three sindens who always sing Javanese traditional songs. The plays in Goa Tabuhan has increased the income of local people. The visitors can enjoy the stalagmites music and dive through the cave that is rich with historical values. There is a facility that let visitors borrow flashlight to accompany their trip in the cave that has very limited lighting. The beauty and remarkable characteristics of Goa Tabuhan give it the chance to be a potential tourism object of introducing to a wide range of people.

Goa Tabuhan, as a tourist attraction, requires more attention from the regional government in improving its facilities and infrastructure to invite more visitors. More visitors will increase the regency's Local Own-Source Revenue. The improvement can be in the form of repairing road access to Goa Tabuhan and also the means of transportation to enable visitors to reach the site more comfortable and of ease-access.

Another significant aspect of the development of a tourist attraction is the location of the resort that is remotely from urban areas. The development of tourist attraction is not only in the form of facility and infrastructure, but also the government effort to empower society by providing training of entrepreneurship, tourism, and others. All those efforts prove that the government tries to enable society to contribute to the development of Goa Tabuhan as a potential tourism object. A tourism object can attract many visitors if the government works together with the local people in improving the quality of facilities and infrastructure in Goa Tabuhan as a tourist attraction. The government and local people maintain the tourism object wellmanaged and well-promoted from time to time. Resort promotion can also in the form of sharing information in events conducted by the government, both within the country and abroad. The promotion can be by billboards, advertisements in magazines, and other printed media such as brochures and other forms.

The establishment and development of tourism resorts will increase the region in terms of social economy, welfare of society, job opportunity, and regional income. A significant change in the socioculture sector is in the form of a high rate of participation and cooperation among society, also communication, education, and social norms. The current rate of participation and cooperation is low due to the lack of sympathy

towards the environment, which reduces the values of culture and social interaction. The cooperation sense in society is decreasing. The globalization and penetration of foreign culture have affected the unity and harmony within society. Based on the explanation, the statement of the problem of this study is the development of Goa Tabuhan and its impact in Pacitan regency.

#### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### **Tourism**

According to Regulation number ten the year 2009, tourism is an individual or a group of people who visit a particular resort for recreational purpose, self-development, or to learn some characteristics of its place during a specific time. Based on the explanation, tourism is a study to learn human trips from his/her place, which also includes an industry to respond to the need for traveling. Further, it also learns about the impact of the activity and industry towards the socio-cultural and economic environment, including the local physical environment. (Mahadewi 2012).

. Principally, the strategy is related to the policy of implementation, goal setting, methods to apply in the facility, and infrastructure. Strategy always relates to three main factors; they are goal, facility, and methods. Therefore, the strategy also requires the ability to anticipate any given chance and opportunity. The government, in its function and role for the development of regional tourism, must conduct various attempts to

improve the facility and infrastructure of the resort (Suryono, 2004).

## **Tourism Development Strategies**

The strategy relates to the implementation policy, goal setting, methods to apply by using a particular facility and infrastructure. Strategy always relates to three main factors; they are goal, facility, and methods. Therefore, the strategy also requires the ability to anticipate any given chance and opportunity. The government, in its function and role for the development of regional tourism, must conduct various attempts to improve the facility and infrastructure of the resort (Suryono, 2004).

There have been various models to develop the tourism sector. Tourist village, as an example, can be found in many places; apart from that, this concept has many options such as Eco Green Tourism. (Setyaningsih, et al., 2015).

The forest development as a tourism model based on green tourism is divided into two, namely: 1). the model focuses on the commitment of the stakeholders by establishing synergy among government, academics, tourism business actors, and media. 2). the model focuses on the developmental model by adding a promotion strategy to improve the designated tourism object. (Rulyanti Susi Wardhani, 2016)

Tourism development is firmly attached to the government policies, NGO, and conflict of interest or political issue in its practice to show the role of stakeholders during the process. (Mihalic, 2016)

Social-based tourism is not a firm concept. The implementation of the social-based development of the tourism concept must be following characteristics of a goal in terms of physical condition, as well as the society, stakeholders, and economic system. (Suasapha, 2016).

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study used the qualitative descriptive technique to collect data, apply the documentation, words, and images. Data collection derived from an in-depth interview result, notes, transcript text, field report, and other official documents that connect and intertwine one another related to the study by arranging theories from bottom to top. (moleong, 2014).

The study was conducted in Pacitan Regency, particularly at Goa Tabuhan in Wareng rural village of Punung sub-district. The researcher chose Goa Tabuhan because plenty of people already knew this site, yet many other caves took away the visitors' attention resulting in fame reduction of Goa Tabuhan. The data source of choosing the natural resort of this study was by using an in-depth interview, field observation, and documentation. Data achieved would be arranged to describe the impact of the tourism development of Goa Tabuhan as a tourist resort (Sarwono, 2006).

Informant Selection Technique is done by choosing individuals who know or directly involves in the research, those who are detail-oriented, and able to provide facts on a particular issue. The researcher selected the informants using purposive sampling by determining the number of informants purposely due to the particular characteristics of the samples. The informants were those who had a direct data source, which would benefit the society in the surrounding of Goa Tabuhan, the rural village government, and the Tourism Department. In conducting a study, the data collection method plays an essential role in ensuring data accuracy. Data collection must be in the form of information related to the research's title and other supporting data such as images and documentation. Therefore, to achieve the required data, the researcher used several methods, namely interview, observation, and documentation. The interview is to achieve as much data and information as possible to describe the research object clearly. (Gunawan, 2015). The interview is a method to collect data by conducting direct communication with respective informants on the object of the research (Bungin, 2001).

Observation is an activity by researchers to select a particular phenomenon, to formulate statements of the problem, to determine the scope and limitation of the research. (Azizah, 2018). The observation method enables a researcher to have a direct examination over the research object, the process where the researcher can employ all senses to examine. (Sugiyono, 2013).

Documentation is information derived from important records of an institution or organization as well as an individual. The

documentation of the research contains images taken by the researcher to support the research result. Documentation can be in the form of images or text. The data collection is continued by data presentation, conclusion drawing/ verification and (Idrus, 2009). Data analysis is a process to search for data and composing the finding systematically of an interview result, documentation, and data obtained from the field. The research finding can have a more profound interpretation to achieve its meaning for conclusion drawing; therefore, the result is comprehensive. (Burhan, 2003).

A qualitative description can provide a detail explanation, systematic procedure, and the accuracy of the problem taken and formulated for the need for the research. Huberman and Miles proposed an interactive model for the data analysis method. This interactive model consists of three main matters; they are data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/ verification. Those three matters are tightly intertwined before, during, and after an equal formation to form a general insight (Muhammad, 2009).

The data validity technique in the research is the data triangulation; it is a method to obtain valid data by using double method approach as comparison data. (gunawan, 2015).

The triangulation model is an idea proposed by Egon G. Guba to measure the validity of quantitative research. Guba wrote a book entitled Criteria for Assessing the Trustworthiness of Naturalistic Inquiries, published in 1981, a book that answers all doubts over qualitative research (Zamili, 2015)

Therefore, data triangulation is a data validation process using two or more methods as comparison data. This research compares data of each informant, which comes from the Tourism Office, village government, and the people who live in the surrounding area of Goa Tabuhan in Pacitan Regency; the data will then undergo an analysis of similarity or differences.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The development of Goa Tabuhan as a tourist resort consists of the improvement of its natural beauty as the main attraction of the cave. This effort employs the building and maintaining of the facility and infrastructure of the cave and its surrounding area such as gazebos, merchants stall, public toilet, mosque, etc. The road infrastructure to reach the cave is also one part of the improvement to enable visitors to get to their destination at ease. The Tourism Office also conducts promotion programs through the media of digital technology such as Instagram, go Pakistan application, and other similar media. Nevertheless, this promotion seems to be less efficient, as seen from the insignificant number of visitors. Goa Tabuhan management also includes the people who live in the surrounding of the resort area.

The tourism development in Goa Tabuhan has a direct impact on the society who live in nearby the cave. One example of the socio-cultural impact for the society in

the surrounding area of the cave after the development took place is the increase of people skills in producing souvenirs of the local heritage such as stone gems into rings, pendant, bracelet, brooch, etc. Another impact is the job structure change or job opportunity. Previously, society depended on farming and agricultural sectors; nowadays, they have a new chance by opening a new business and stall around the cave area. Besides the two impact examples above, the social norm change is also another proof of the effects of the development. Before the program took place, people were lazy to earn more living. Yet, Still, after the cave is restored and become a famous tourist resort, the surrounding people become more inspired to work due to a close distance between their houses and the cave, and also because the cave restoration provides new opportunity to work for in the Goa Tabuhan area. For the cultural impact, the development of Goa Tabuhan tries to maintain the local customs such as the way of life, culture, and traditional arts that have existed from back then.

The economic impact of the Goa Tabuhan development is the creation of new job opportunities or the local people they can start to sell souvenirs typically from Pacitan, become parking attendants, sell entry tickets, and other typical jobs at the tourist resort. Another impact is to provide entrepreneur support with innovation apart from their previous job. For example, homemakers and unemployed people with no or uncertain incomes have now been able to fulfill their needs properly; as a result of their new

business in the resort area. The study has proven that resort development also increases the income rate of local people. Nevertheless, tourism development always attached to supporting and resistance factors. The factor that supports cave development is the natural beauty of stalagmites and stalactites. These resources attract visitors to come to Goa Tabuhan resort. As for the resistance factor, there is a difficulty in developing the Goa Tabuhan resort due to the lack of focus from the Tourism Office of Pacitan Regency in promoting the cave resort and the lack of events conducted in the tourism area.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### CONCLUSION

The Goa Tabuhan resort with the management team of the Pacitan Tourism Office lies within an area od 3.5 hectares in Tabuhan hamlet of Wareng rural village at Punung sub-district. This cave only has two ample space of rooms. The development by the tourism office at the Goa Tabuhan resort is in the form of public facilities to increase the visitation rate of the cave. Besides the public facilities, the tourism office also adds other infrastructures such as a selfie spot for the visitors. Apart from that, the village government and pokdarwis (Tourism Awareness Group) also pay attention to the program.

The economic and socio-culture impact of the resort development is in the form of the job switch; from previously farmworkers and homemakers, the local people started to look for another job by selling stone gems and souvenirs. With a new opportunity for jobs, the local people have become more creative in making innovation of accessories and other kinds of products. The impact of road access development brings benefits not only for the visitors but also for the local people who live in the surrounding area of Goa Tabuhan.

The economic impact from the development of the Goa Tabuhan facility and infrastructure has significantly changed and improved the income of local people. Those who only worked in the farmland and private companies have now switched their profession to stone gems vendors because it gives a higher salary compared to their previous job.

The socio-culture impact affects the form of an emerging interaction between the local people and visitors. The local people who previously seemed to have less interaction among them have now then started to have more of that due to the development of the resort. One of the most prominent group interactions is the gemstone community.

# SUGGESTION

The tourism office needs to pay more attention to the development impact, whether it brings a positive effect on the people and visitors as well as the government itself. The office can provide a survey to measure the visit rate in

The rural village government needs to conduct a partnership with the tourism office and the tourism awareness group (pokdarwis) to promote better development in Goa Tabuhan resort. A good connection will enable all related parties to hold better events at the resort and eventually bring positive impacts for the local people. There is a possible chance to establish a partnership with the private sector as well to support this program.

The tourism awareness group of Wareng rural village needs to maintain the development established by the tourism office concerning the public facilities.

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