Strengthening the Capacity of Bonorejo Hamlet Residents in the Development of Ngesong Waterfall Tourism Object

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Abstract. This PPM KKN service program was carried out in Bonorejo Hamlet, Gulturejo, Lendah, Kulon Progo. PPM refers to community service empowerment, while KKN is a program accomplished by college students by involving in community activities. PPM KKN program in this case aims at developing a waterfall tourist destination in Bonorejo called Ngesong Waterfall. This program ran for 1 month from January 20th to February 19th, 2023 with a collaboration between KKN of group 173 and residents of Bonorejo. The implementation of the service program was accomplished using Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) through a number of stages namely: 1) observation and data collection, 2) programming, 3) socialization and preparation, 4) implementation, and 5) reporting. PPM KKN program succeeds in shaping and improving the institutional capacity of Bonorejo through a series of activities which include: 1) counseling on village-based tourism potential and development, and the formation of travel management group called Karsan Jaya, 2) preparation for the development of Ngesong Waterfall Tour master plan in the form of 2D drawings, 3) pioneering longan fruit garden as a supporting tour aspect in an area of 500m², 4) training for local craftsmen, 5) formation of women farmers group known as KWT called Lestari Makmur, 6) facilities and assistance to formed groups in the form of: a) equipment for craftsmen, b) provision of longan seeds as an initial effort to create a longan garden c) provision of hardwood seeds for the sustainability of Ngesong waterfall and its nature, and d) provision of vegetable seeds for women farmers group.

Keywords: empowerment, Bonorejo, Ngesong waterfall

1 Introduction

In Indonesia, tourism sector has become an important part of national development strategy in which it becomes one of priorities. Even since 2016, Indonesian tourism sector has been the second largest contributor of foreign exchange [1]. This sector also plays an important role in the regional development [2]. Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning village development is a new hope for rural areas in Indonesia. Among the content is that village is given discretion to manage and develop its potential to increase the prosperity of its citizens through public empowerment of productive business [3]. The village government has essential roles and functions in the process of public empowerment to increase the well-being starting from knowledge, attitude, skill, behavior, ability, awareness, to utilization of nature resource. Village government is the organizer of governance affairs and local public interests in the unitary state frame of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) [3]. Thereby, public empowerment can be interpreted as duties and responsibilities of village government as a
step to develop the potential to realize independent and prosperous village. By referring to the authority and responsibility of the village government to create an independent and prosperous village and optimize the tourism sector, villages can promote themselves with their own unique characteristics. The chairman of General Association of Indonesian Village Tourism, or known as Assidevi, Andi Yuwono, states that there are 1,838 tourism villages registered in Indonesia [4]. Village tourism is one effort to actualize even distribution development to village level and in various remote areas of Indonesia in hope that it can improve the economy of the community and encourage culture preservation, environment, and local wisdom [5]. Moreover, the United Nations of The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has also encouraged Indonesia to maximize its tourism potential, especially the village-based tourism [5]. The Ministry of Creative Economy Tourism, Ministry of Village, and Ministry of Cooperative Economy targeted the realization of 2000 tourism villages in Indonesia in 2020 [6]. In 2024, it is expected that 244 village tours with independent concept can exist [6].

The draft of village tour development is considered very suitable with the characteristics of public rural because public is demanded to have an active role in village-based tourism. The concept of village tour can bring profit at least in three sectors; economic, social, and environmental sectors. From the economy point of view, the village can benefit from multiplayer effect, and the economic conditions might improve [1]. The improvement can cover the income, settlement, education level, as well as health facility fulfillment [2]. The new development also creates job opportunity, provides a chance to maintain business, and generates profit for the government through taxes and rates [3]. In term of social perspective, the village tour can support public service, add new facilities, exchange culture, and revitalize traditions, customs and arts [4]. In term of environment sector, the advantage among other things is the nature and environment conservation. However, the village tour development concept is not exclusively defined; it is multisectoral and interrelated. Besides, not every village has the potential to be included in the village tour. A potential village must have the possibility for travel, tourist attractions, and accessibility [5]. Four specific criteria are used as a reference to determine that a village has a good opportunity to be included in the village tour concept: a) proximity with tour objects, b) tourism potential like the nature, culture, and agriculture, c) community’s open-mindedness, and d) access to supporting infrastructure [6]. Village development tour cannot be separated from the idea of profit-planet-people as a unity [7]. It also must be capable of fulfilling the needs of all stakeholders [8]. However, high potentials only are not enough to establish a village tour without active involvement of the inhabitants. Active participation from the respected residents is one of the deciding factors in the success of a village tour development and management. Other contributing factors include infrastructure and uniqueness of the tour object [1]. Therefore, optimizing the potentials of the public regarding its roles and capacities is compulsory towards the realization of this concept.

Bonorejo is one of 10 hamlets in Gulurejo, Lendah, Kulonprogo. Ngesong Waterfall is a destination candidate for the village tour development. The overall master plan includes 10 locations in Gulurejo. Viewed from its condition and location, Ngesong Waterfall is beautiful and has the potential to become a tourism object which can increase the economy of the surrounding community. However, limitations on knowledge and human resources make Bonorejo residents to expect assistance from related parties and authorities.

2 Methodology

The service program was aligned with the village program of Gulurejo during the master plan development of village tour. Activities were focused on reinforcing the resource
capacity and draft arrangement of Ngesong Waterfall. To ensure that the preparation reached the goal, the service program was held in a number of the stages, which is presented in Figure 1.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1. Map of Potential and Problems

Bonorejo Hamlet is one of the 10 hamlets in the Gulurejo, Lendah, Kulon Progo. Bonorejo is located on the southwest side of Gulurejo bordered by Klipuh on the west, Sidorejo on the south, Kragilan on the east, and Goosebumps on the north. Bonorejo is led by Mr. Teguh. Bonorejo has an area of ±33 Ha, consisting of ±23.5 Ha in the form of high plains, mountains, rock, and some lime as residents’ yard and ±9.5 Ha in the form of agricultural areas (rice fields). Bonorejo is currently inhabited by 404 residents with the level of education varies from elementary school to senior high school (Table 1). Residents have various occupations majority of whom works as farmers and labors (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Amount (Person)</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Master (S2)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bachelor (S1/D4)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diploma (D3)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Senior High School</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Junior High School</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elementary School</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kindergarten / Pre-Elementary School</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Under School Age</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>404</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
Data of Residents’ Education Level

Commented [AK1]: Pedukuhan apa yang dimaksud disini?
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Table 2
Data of Residents’ Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Amount (person)</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Private Employee</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Civil Servant</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Under School Age</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides the agricultural potential, Bonorejo owns interesting culture and nature resources to develop. Some of its special cultures are Gedrug Suromenggolo, Karawitan Ngudi Laras, and Jatilan Turonggo. Ngesong Waterfall is the other potential (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Ngesong Waterfall in Bonorejo, Gulurejo, Lendah.

A number of problems are identified: a) Bonorejo citizens are still confused about the development draft and their role, b) Ngesong Waterfall is still very plainly natural, and c) the concept of governance development area of the village is not yet clear. Referring to those problems, this service program aims at strengthening the capacity of Bonorejo community to support its Ngesong Waterfall as a tour object. However, due to time limitation, the program focuses on the capacity reinforcement of Bonorejo inhabitants during the development process. Ngesong Waterfall already has some of its potentials: 1) a tourism awareness group at district level, 2) village tourism council at district level, 3) one destination in the next upcoming village tour, 4) decent road leading to the waterfall, and 5) residents’ enthusiasm in developing Ngesong Waterfall.

3.2. Counseling of Village-Based Potential and Development and Formation of Tourism Management Group

The activity of counseling took place at Bonorejo hall and discussed the potential and development of the village-based tourism. The Tourism Office of Kulon Progo was initially scheduled to take part in this event, but as a sudden cancellation occurred, the counseling was performed by the chairperson of Pokdarwis and the chairman of Gulurejo village tour named...
Mr. Umbuk Raharjo. The activities focused on the drafting plan and development of the candidate object Ngesong Waterfall tour. Discussion was centered on the formation of management group to support the succession of Ngesong Waterfall development. Personnel are needed here as the driving force. Finally, the formation of Ngesong Waterfall management group is successfully carried out by involving the community figures, farmer group representatives, and youth organization (UKKT) of Insan Independent representatives. One of the counseling event outcomes is the agreement to name the Ngesong Waterfall Tour management group Karsan Jaya. Besides, it is also decided that Mr. Subandi as the administrator of the village tour village will become the chairman of Karsan Jaya. This forum also formulates the draft plan of the development by establishing that the entrance door will be on the south side, the road leading to the waterfall will become longan gardens, and the surrounding area will be better developed. As an initial effort, the visualization of the development plan is made into a 2D image as a guide of the development in the future.

3.3. Preparation for The Master Plan of Ngesong Waterfall Tour in 2D Image

Preparation for the master plan of Ngesong Waterfall tour is the realization of the previous draft as a result of the previous group discussion. This is made into a visual of 2D images. The visualization process is held together by the service team and the Karsan Jaya management in a number of staged activities namely: a) discussion and consultation with Karsan Jaya group administrator, b) measurement and mapping allotment for each location, c) visualization process in 2D image, d) the result of the draft realization, e) revision and presentation to Karsan Jaya administrators, and f) submission of the 2D drawings to the community and village government.

3.4. Pioneering Longan Garden as A Supporting Tour Facility

This activity aims at realizing longan garden as planned during the discussion and outlined in the 2D image plan. To ensure the realization, the members of Karsan Jaya group and Bonorejo public figures do devotional service and clean the location. The garden area was initially a 550 m² area abandoned by the residents. This area would be managed together. However, after the second and third meetings, residents and members agree to expand the area to 3000 m² which is the land leading to Ngesong Waterfall location.

3.5. Provision of Longan Seeds and Hardwood Plants

After the members of Karsan Jaya group and Bonorejo residents cleaned and prepared the longan garden location, the team provided the longan and hardwood seeds and planted them. Due to budget limitation and referring to the agreement with Karsan Jaya group, the 173 KKN group and PPM team agreed to plant 26 longan seeds in the garden area of 500 m². Furthermore, Karsan Jaya administrator helped preparing and submitting the seed procurement proposal to the Department of Agriculture Kulon Progo. Within the end of the KKN PPM program, the proposal submitted was already accepted and approved for being funded in the next budgeting.

As the land texture of Bonorejo is mountainous and full of wild plants, the team makes an effort to plant the seeds on the landslide-prone areas. Some other members focused at replacing plants surrounding the waterfall area. This new plantation is expected to make the area beautiful and safe from landslide. The team also got help from BPDAS DIY Province, or river basin management office, in the form of 300 of hardwood seeds including sengon, mahogany, and duvetet.
4 Conclusion

Based on the implementation of KKN PPM program, there are some activities we can highlight. First, Bonorejo residents are trained and motivated to make a change and be independent in terms of its economy aspect. They are trained to solve problems and improve their knowledge and skills. Second, educational efforts to increase the capacity are carried out with counseling about potential and development tour. Third, to strengthen the motivation, a tour management is formed at village level to direct an effective development process. Fourth, the concept of the development tour is manifested in a 2D picture. Fifth, the public and management work together to create a longan garden as a supporting facility in Ngesong Waterfall tour. The development program is expected to be a sustainable one. Various supports like infrastructure are very much needed to realize the potential of Ngesong Waterfall tour as a tourist destination which can positively impact the economy of the surrounding communities.

Gratitude is addressed to the village government of Bonorejo, Department of Tourism Kulon Progo, Pokdarwis of Gulurejo, Gulurejo Village Tour, Karsan Jaya Group, and Bonorejo Community.

References

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“Infrastructure, Disaster Mitigation, and Sustainability (IDMS)”


