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Exploring and Developing Community Participation in the Likupang SEZ Program as A Super Priority Tourism Destination (Study in East Likupang Sub-District)

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Abstract

Tourism plays a pivotal role in Indonesia's economic development, with Likupang Village in North Minabasa Regency identified as a Super Priority Tourism Destination by the central government. This study delves into community involvement in Likupang's Special Economic Zone (SEZ) program, emphasizing the government's role, benefits, challenges, and opportunities associated with community participation. The findings underscore the vital importance of community engagement for seamless SEZ development, highlighting the need for effective collaboration and coordination between the government and local residents. In pursuing this goal, it is imperative to explore and foster community participation, recognizing the accompanying challenges, such as role limitations, dependence on government projects, and conflicts of interest, along with societal and cultural shifts that may impact traditional values. Simultaneously, opportunities arise from advanced information and communication technology, the involvement of civil society organizations, and the utilization of local wisdom along the route to Likupang SEZ. To enhance community participation, it is essential to engage the community in planning, provide tourism-related training and education, and empower individuals through innovative self-development initiatives.

Keywords: *Tourism, Community Participation, Special Economic Zone (Sez), Government Role, Economic Development.*

Introduction

Tourism areas are primarily designed to facilitate various natural tourism businesses, catering to entertainment, recreation, meeting venues, exhibitions, and a wide range of tourism-related activities. Indonesia, with its vast natural resources and a diverse array of high-quality natural tourist attractions, many of which are world-class, including ecotourism, marine destinations, small islands, lakes, and mountains distributed across the

country, holds great potential for development. Additionally, Indonesia boasts a rich and diverse cultural heritage, which presents a significant opportunity for preservation and enhancement through tourism development. The development of tourism in these areas enhances their appeal, making them attractive destinations for travelers, particularly when coupled with cultural tourism attractions that draw from the wealth present in the local community (Suprapti et al., 2019). This wealth encompasses customs, historical and archaeological treasures, artistic expressions, monuments, ceremonies, and various cultural events (Lagarensse et al., 2019). Indonesia, renowned for the hospitality of its people, has substantial potential for boosting tourism. As part of its efforts, the Indonesian government has established *Kawasan Ekonomi Khusus* (KEK) (Pratiknjo, 2018).

Kawasan Ekonomi Khusus (KEK) or also known as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is a policy

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implemented by the Indonesian government to accelerate national economic development by preparing areas that have economic and geostrategic advantages (Dewan Nasional Kawasan Ekonomi Khusus, 2022). The development of SEZ aims to create new economic centers in Indonesia and encourage economic growth. Some of the steps taken by the government to develop SEZ include:

Increasing investment: SEZ is prepared to maximize industrial activities, exports, imports, and other economic activities that have high economic value. The government sees the need for an increase in investment through the preparation of areas that have economic and geostrategic advantages (Bayu, 2023); Creating new economic centers: SEZ is expected to accelerate the development of regions through the development of new economic centers for balanced development between regions; Building value-added technology and human resources: The government has transformed the SEZ development policy to not only focus on accelerating regional economic growth and national development but also to encourage the creation of value-added technology and human resources; Providing infrastructure and minimal services: The government has established a National SEZ Council to help the President in determining the minimum infrastructure and services standards in SEZ. The council also assesses proposals for a region to be designated as a SEZ and provides recommendations.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Indonesia encompass both industrial and tourism SEZs, with a total of 15 SEZs established across the country (Suryade et al., 2021; Taufiqurrahman & Khoirunurrofik, 2023). Among these, the Likupang Tourism SEZ is currently under construction, designated as a super-priority tourism destination (*destinasi pariwisata super prioritas* or “DPSP”) alongside four other regions in 2020, as determined by the Indonesian government in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.

The comprehensive development of the Tourism SEZ, particularly Likupang DPSP, cannot be divorced from the active participation of the local community in the East Likupang District. For the SEZ program to fulfill its strategic DPSP goals, community involvement is imperative. The successful realization of the Likupang DPSP hinges upon thorough, systematic, and sustainable planning. Community participation within the SEZ program is of paramount importance, as it enables residents to assume an active, tangible role in its development. Furthermore, this community involvement serves as an extension of the government's efforts in implementing SEZ development programs, ensuring that the Likupang SEZ program is inclusive through the active engagement of the community. This involvement allows the community to indicate their priority needs, which can subsequently be integrated into the program's framework. Consequently, the community becomes an integral part of the Likupang SEZ's development, which is designated as a DPSP. During a visit to the Likupang DPSP, the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy noted that, among the five DPSPs, the development of Likupang DPSP has progressed at a comparatively slower pace.

The research team's observations in the Likupang DPSP SEZ, particularly in the East Likupang area, unveiled several issues hindering the development of the Likupang DPSP SEZ, which include:

1. Discrepancies in population data, where many administrative records do not align with the actual situation. Consequently, governmental data differs from the real scenario, impeding the land acquisition process. Additionally, community administration appears to have recently received attention or remains under temporary management. There is also a mismatch between job descriptions and the actual situation, with members of the fishing community altering their administrative data to be classified as construction workers.
2. Ongoing land ownership disputes currently under review by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia.
3. Scattered litter and a lack of knowledge and literacy concerning proper waste disposal, indicating that littering remains prevalent.

4. Increased distance between the fishing community and their boat mooring points due to the construction of a hotel building at the mooring location.
5. The capture and sale of protected fish due to the fishing community's lack of awareness regarding the types of fish protected by law.
6. Fishing as the primary occupation due to the scarcity of alternative employment opportunities. Job availability remains limited, leaving the fishing profession as the predominant source of livelihood.

The community plays a pivotal role in supporting government initiatives, particularly in the development of the Likupang DPSP SEZ. Recognizing the significance of this role, the research team at Sam Ratulangi University, Manado, has embraced the principles of Tri Dharma of Higher Education, engaging in research and community service. We are deeply committed to investigating and enhancing community participation in the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) program, a super priority tourism destination located in East Likupang District.

Our research addresses the central question: "How can we effectively explore and foster community participation in the Likupang SEZ program as a Super Priority Tourism Destination (Study in East Likupang sub-district)?" The core objective of this study is to delve into and advance community involvement within the Likupang SEZ program, ultimately contributing to its success as a Super Priority Tourism Destination, with a specific focus on the East Likupang sub-district.

Research Methods

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research method. As stated by (Arikunto, 2017), descriptive research aims to provide information about the current state of phenomena, representing the situation as it exists at the time of the study. Bogdan and Taylor (as cited in (Moleong, 2012)) define qualitative methodology as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals and observable behaviors. The objective of this descriptive research is to systematically create a factual and accurate portrayal of the facts, characteristics, and phenomena under investigation.

Aligned with the research questions in this study, the research focus was directed toward:

1. Exploring and developing community participation:
 - a) The government's role in developing community participation in planning and implementing development activities.
 - b) The benefits of community participation in the Likupang SEZ program as a Super Priority Tourism Destination, as well as the steps to enhance community participation and the government's efforts to boost community involvement in the SEZ program.
2. Challenges of community participation in the development of Likupang SEZ as a super-priority tourism destination.

The informants used in this research were selected using purposive sampling, where key informants included sub-district heads, village chiefs, community leaders, religious figures, tourism stakeholders, local residents, and development companies in Likupang SEZ. Additionally, to obtain supplementary data, information was gathered by interviewing informants encountered in the field using accidental sampling.

Data collection in this study was obtained through:

1. Library Research: The author utilized library facilities to acquire theories supporting this proposal by reading relevant literature.
2. Field Work Research: The author conducted direct field research on the research object, employing techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation during this stage.

The data analysis method employed in this research is the interactive data model, as proposed by Miles and Huberman (as cited in (Sugiyono, 2017)). The qualitative descriptive data analysis includes the following steps: 1. Data collection, 2. Data simplification, 3. Data presentation, 4. Drawing conclusions/verification.

Research Findings

Likupang Timur Sub-district is one of the sub-districts in North Minahasa Regency, located in the northern part of the North Minahasa coastline. It is a northern peninsula on the island of Sulawesi, divided into three main regions: Coastal Areas, Mainland, and Islands. The distance from the sub-district capital, Likupang Timur, to the North Minahasa Regency capital (Airmadidi) is approximately 29 km, and to the provincial capital (Manado) is about 46 km. In terms of geographical boundaries, Likupang Timur Sub-district shares its borders with:

1. North: The Sulawesi Sea and Sangihe Talaud
2. East: Bitung City
3. South: Likupang Selatan Sub-district
4. West: Likupang Barat Sub-district

The total area of Likupang Timur Sub-district is 290.841 km². The region experiences a dry season from March to August, while the rainy season with both western and eastern winds occurs from September to February each year. The minimum temperature is recorded during the rainy season, with an average minimum temperature of 20°C, and the maximum temperature is observed during the dry season, with an average maximum temperature of 30°C. The average annual rainfall is approximately 177 mm.

Likupang Timur Sub-district is composed of 18 villages and 80 hamlets, including 14 villages on the mainland and 4 villages on Bangka Island. The population of Likupang Timur Sub-district is categorized as heterogeneous or a diverse community, primarily known for the Bohusami ethnic group, which consists of various ethnicities such as Minahasa: 35%, Sangihe and Talaud: 50%, and other Ethnicities (Gorontalo, Makasar, Bolaang Mongondow, Javanese): 15%. Meanwhile, the population of East Likupang District is 19,194 people, consisting of 9,785 men, 9,431 women, and 5,720 households.

As the tourism sector plays a crucial role in driving the local economy, particularly in North Minahasa Regency, specifically in East Likupang District, through the development of the Likupang Tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which has been designated as a super-priority tourism destination (DPSP). The development automatically brings new hope for improving the welfare of the local community. However, in its implementation, the Likupang SEZ, as a DPSP, has faced delays compared to the five other DPSPs in Indonesia, making it the slowest in development. This is undoubtedly a challenge that needs to be addressed. During the development process, various issues have arisen, leading to differing opinions within the local community. Up to this point, the local community's perception has not been thoroughly elucidated, indicating that community participation in the development of the Likupang SEZ as a DPSP has not yet been fully realized.

The Likupang SEZ is primarily focused on the villages of Marinsow, Pulisan, and Kinunang. The super-priority area entirely falls within the District boundaries, serving both as a buffer and a supporting component (KSP). It is hoped that the Likupang SEZ will revitalize not only East Likupang but also the entire community in North Minahasa Regency. This is evident in the local wisdom of each region in North Minahasa Regency, where the villages involved possess local knowledge that can support the development of the Likupang SEZ.

The Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, in its review of the development in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) area, has mandated swift progress in construction (Aiyub Kadir et al.,

2022). During an interview conducted with the district head of East Likupang Sub-district on May 31, 2023, to follow up on the central government's directives through the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment (*Kemenkomarves*), it was stated:

"Please proceed with the development, but it is also essential to consider all sectors, including the efforts of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (UMKM) and the empowerment of the local community. This should involve creating job opportunities."

The sub-district authorities seek assistance from academics through writings and research to provide input to the Regent in making policies and decisions. To meet the needs, especially in utilizing the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), competent human resources are required. This way, when the Likupang SEZ as a DPSP is entirely established, the community, in collaboration with the government, will already have products that can be sold, ensuring economic well-being for families and the smooth functioning of the regional economy. The sub-district is open to collaborations with both the government and private sector in SEZ development.

In order to support the community's economy, the government through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (Kementerian PUPR) has introduced homestays for construction and use. According to interviews with residents in the Likupang SEZ area, particularly in the villages of Pulisan and Marinsow:

"The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has provided assistance for homestay development, but they are not fully completed yet. As of now (during the research), only 6-7 homestays are available. These homestays will help us, the community, to manage our economic activities. However, we need training on how to operate them since this is a new situation. For example, when foreign tourists come, and they speak different languages, we don't know how to communicate with them. To ensure things go well, we need training and guidance."

In line with what the community has expressed, the sub-district chief of East Likupang Sub-district confirms the statement, saying:

"For now, it's true that there hasn't been any guidance or support. Even the construction of homestays is not completed yet because there are still some aspects that need to be addressed. According to the government's information, there will be guidance for the local community, but for the moment, the focus is primarily on completing the construction."

Since being designated as a super-priority area (KSP), Likupang has become the primary focus for the local government of North Minahasa (Ambalao et al., 2022). In the allocation of these super-priority areas, they are divided into three Special Economic Zones (SEZ) that serve as supporting regions to bolster the local economy in North Minahasa (Chrisna Riane Opod et al., 2023). These three areas include Marinsow Village, Pulisan Village, and Kinunang Village (Daryanto et al., 2021).

Regarding the implementation of the SEZ development, particularly for the local community residing along Pall Beach in Marinsow Village, East Likupang Sub-district, North Minahasa Regency, these individuals, who predominantly work as laborers, rely on Pall Beach for their daily livelihood. In their everyday activities, they prepare and sell various seafood dishes, such as woku, grilled, fried, and sour soup preparations, made from saltwater fish. Other offerings depend on customer preferences and may include instant noodles and quick snack items like fried bananas (known as Gorocho or Sepatu) and cold beverages. Additionally, the local community has established gazebos for shelter and relaxation, where visitors can enjoy the beauty of Pall Beach. These gazebos are available for rent, with prices ranging from Rp. 250,000 to Rp. 300,000, and may increase during holidays or weekends.

Pall Beach is managed by the residents of Marinsow Village. Community members are encouraged to start businesses along the beach without incurring any fees. According to information from the locals, Pall Beach is currently undergoing development and, therefore, no charges are being imposed. There is a rumor that the government is planning to standardize the stands and gazebos, with similar or identical

structures. The village government is making efforts to collaborate with various parties for human resource development (Edelia & Aslami, 2022). They offer training programs related to business profiling, promoting businesses through communication and electronics. There are also training sessions to welcome tourists, among other courses aimed at aligning with tourism standards.

Additionally, there is Kinunang Village, which falls under the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in North Minahasa Regency. The development of the local economy in this area is a primary focus for the local government. One of the economic development programs in this region is the construction of homestays for each family in Kinunang Village. This initiative serves to increase the income of the local residents and enhance the tourism appeal of the Likupang area. When there are events or occasions held in the region, visitors from outside the area or even foreign tourists can stay and enjoy the surrounding atmosphere. However, it's regrettable that, to date, only five homestays are operational, while the remaining 71 are not yet in use. According to information from the local community, there are many construction materials that do not align with the community's needs. For instance, the septic tanks provided have a capacity of only 1000 liters, while the local community prefers larger septic tanks that are installed in the ground. The rationale behind this preference is that, with a bio tank, the waste cannot decompose properly, and they tend to fill up quickly. Consequently, the community prefers septic tanks installed in the ground to facilitate waste decomposition.

Furthermore, the development of homestays, which does not meet the community's requirements, coupled with the lack of guidance and supervision to enhance soft skills, remains significantly deficient (Junaid, 2021). There are a few plastic craftsmen in Kinunang Village; however, the raw materials are sourced from Java Island, not the local village. As a result, numerous programs could not be executed effectively, and some allocated funds had to be returned to the central government. The core issue hindering development in Kinunang Village pertains to land disputes claimed by the management of PT. MPRD, covering an area of 197.4 hectares within the SEZ zone. Several problematic community land areas remain disputed, and as of now, a resolution regarding these land disputes has not been reached.

From the information provided, it is clear that community participation is of utmost importance for the smooth progress of the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) development, especially after it has been designated as a super-priority tourism destination. Therefore, both the government and the community must play a pivotal role in building Likupang SEZ through effective collaboration and coordination to expedite development. To meet these objectives, it is essential to initiate the exploration and development of community participation. This exploration and development of the community should involve the government's efforts in fostering community participation, taking into account the steps in community participation development, its benefits, and the challenges posed by community participation in the development of Likupang SEZ as a super-priority tourism destination.

Exploring and Developing Community Participation

The Government's Role in Developing Community Participation

All government programs, including the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) program on its journey to becoming a super-priority tourism destination (DPSP), require community participation. In reality, the development of Likupang SEZ has faced delays, making it the slowest among the five DPSPs in Indonesia. Therefore, it is imperative for the community to assist in expediting the implementation of the development process, as their involvement is essential. Community participation in the Likupang Tourism SEZ program entails involvement in decision-making, with the community serving as tour guides, business owners, contributing members, and a significant part of community empowerment. This involves engaging the community in tourism-related economic activities such as culinary endeavors, craftsmanship, and homestay management.

While the execution of the Likupang SEZ program, as a national project, should inherently involve the community, in reality, their involvement has primarily been limited to land acquisition. This has led to complications, including legal disputes that have reached the Supreme Court without a clear resolution. Interviews conducted by the research team with residents in the Likupang SEZ area revealed that:

"The government appears to have not involved us comprehensively in the development. Suddenly, we received information about land acquisition. However, the land acquisition did not align with the actual situation. Our lands, which have been in use, were claimed to have been compensated, but none of us, the landowners, received any payment. Upon investigation, it was confirmed that payments had indeed been made."

When confirmed with the sub-district head (*camat*), it was stated that:

"Payments have indeed been made, but these payments were not issued to the current landowners. Instead, they were directed to the previous landowners who had conducted informal land transactions. Furthermore, there is a discrepancy in population data, as the official records show the locals' occupation as construction workers, whereas they primarily work as fishermen."

In interviews with other residents, they mentioned:

"For our ID cards (KTP), someone helped us with the process, and we simply received the cards."

This undoubtedly leads to new challenges. The government must take an active role in resolving the issues at hand, and upon their resolution, the community will naturally participate in the Likupang SEZ development program. The government needs to facilitate meetings and discussions to engage the community in development planning.

Interviews conducted by the research team with residents of the Likupang SEZ revealed:

"The government should accommodate the community by involving various community groups, including community organizations, business groups, youth, and local students living in the Likupang SEZ. This will help smoothen the development process. If it's solely the government's effort, it will inevitably slow down the development of the Likupang SEZ."

Based on the observations and interviews conducted, it's evident that the government plays a crucial role in fostering and developing community participation. Therefore, the government needs to involve the community in the development planning and build mutual understanding between the government and the community. Engaging with community groups is essential for facilitating communication and coordination with the community, with the ultimate goal of ensuring active community participation in the Likupang SEZ development.

The government should involve the community, especially in the planning phase. During the planning phase of the Likupang SEZ program, the government should explore ideas and feedback from the community to establish a shared understanding. The government should encourage community participation in the development of Likupang Tourism SEZ through concrete steps. The government can actively facilitate the community in planning and executing the development of the Likupang SEZ to create prosperity and sustainability. The government serves as a facilitator, regulator, and driver of community participation in the planning and implementation of development. Effective planning can help formulate appropriate policies, promote economic growth, enhance competitiveness, and optimize the tourism potential in the Likupang SEZ.

Through active community participation, decision-making becomes more inclusive, policy implementation more effective, and a balance between economic, social, and environmental interests can be achieved. In practice, community participation is needed, including direct involvement in decision-making, participatory planning, and monitoring and evaluation of development. Additionally, the government should provide tourism training with mentoring to the community on tourism

development as an industry that can boost the local economy. The government should also offer incentives to community members participating in the development of the Likupang SEZ as a DPSP.

In the implementation of community participation in the Likupang SEZ program, strategies are needed to assist the government in its role. Some of the strategies that can be employed include exhibitions, where showcasing the Likupang SEZ as a DPSP can pique public interest (Ganda et al., 2021). Training, workshops, or informational sessions can also be conducted to educate the community about the tourism industry and the Likupang SEZ. Additionally, the government can host public forums related to the development of the Likupang SEZ program with the community (D Pangemanan et al., 2023).

To foster community participation, the government should take steps to facilitate the development of the Likupang SEZ. It's crucial for the government to establish a mutual understanding with the community. The government should engage with community groups, making communication and coordination easier during the development of the Likupang SEZ as a DPSP. Understanding the characteristics of the community is essential. Active participation from various community groups, including students, youth, community organizations, and business associations, is required from the early stages, even during the planning phase of the Likupang SEZ development as a DPSP. This ensures their support and active involvement in the project.

The benefits of community participation in the Likupang SEZ program as a Super Priority Tourism Destination

The participation of the community in the development of the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will have a significant positive impact on the local society, both for the community itself and for the government. The result of the research team's interview with the head of the Likupang Timur District stated that,

"with the community's participation in the development of this Likupang SEZ, it will certainly have an impact on the economic aspect. Indirectly, the community's economy will improve. This can be seen from a business perspective. Because, tourists' visits will result in them shopping at local businesses owned by the community. This will automatically generate income. Furthermore, it will also create job opportunities, potentially reducing or even eliminating the unemployment rate in our area. It is not unlikely that people from outside will come here and sell their products. For the government, this will create a competitive business environment that needs to be nurtured and monitored to ensure fair competition. Socially, who wouldn't be proud if their village is recognized worldwide? It is not impossible for it to become similar to Bali, which will be a distinct identity for the community, especially the local residents. It's like the community has been promoting the area, and when tourists come, the promotion isn't just about accessories but can also serve as a platform for promoting culture and local wisdom, making it a well-known tourist destination even internationally."

In line with the head of the Likupang Timur District, the community in the Likupang Special Economic Zone, when interviewed, stated that,

"Certainly, if things go as planned, it will have an overall impact on us in terms of both economic and social aspects. However, for now, we have to focus on the present. We have to sustain our livelihoods first. Currently, our boat parking area has been relocated further away due to the construction of the hotel. We were informed to avoid disturbance, but if it is moved further away, the distance we have to cover will require more time and, as a result, additional expenses. From a social perspective, who wouldn't be proud if their village becomes a positive topic at the national and even international levels? Certainly, we are proud. However, for now, we request that we be involved in the development of the Likupang SEZ. Involve us frequently and intensively."

Based on the results of the interviews and observations conducted, it is evident that the involvement of the community or community participation in the development of the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) can have a positive impact on the community's economy, as it can increase household income.

Socially, it can become a distinct identity due to its recognition in the area.

The implementation of the Likupang SEZ program can undoubtedly bring benefits to both the government and the community. Economically, it can increase community income and reduce unemployment in the tourism sector by creating new job opportunities that can bring economic prosperity to the community. This would automatically lead to an improvement in social welfare and a more even distribution of income. Socially, as an inclusive program involving the community in the development of tourist destinations, it can become a source of pride for the community in participating in the construction of the region and the country, due to the increase in infrastructure development. Additionally, it serves as a promotion of local culture and tourism. The community is involved in the preservation of the environment, overseeing and participating in maintaining environmental cleanliness and conservation. With community participation, there is an automatic improvement in service quality, as community feedback and experiences help enhance the quality of tourism services. Through community participation, it is possible to ensure that tourism promotion reflects local culture and wisdom.

Hence, to develop and increase community participation in the SEZ program, the following steps can be taken:

1. Community involvement in planning: The community should be involved in the planning process of SEZ development to ensure that their needs and concerns are taken into account. This can be done through public consultations, community meetings, and other forms of engagement.
2. Capacity building: The government can provide training and capacity building programs to the community to increase their skills and knowledge in areas such as entrepreneurship, tourism, and technology.
3. Communication and information dissemination: The government can use various communication channels to disseminate information about SEZ development and encourage community participation. This can include social media, community radio, and other forms of mass media.
4. Incentives and benefits: The government can provide incentives and benefits to the community to encourage their participation in SEZ development. This can include job opportunities, access to infrastructure and services, and other forms of support (Sandika et al., 2022).
5. Collaboration and partnerships: The government can collaborate with local organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to increase community participation in SEZ development. This can include joint projects, partnerships, and other forms of collaboration (Iyong et al., 2021).

Challenges And Opportunities for Community Participation in The Development Of Likupang SEZ As A Super Priority Tourist Destination

In addition to the benefits of community involvement or participation in the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) development program, there are challenges and opportunities that accompany it, necessitating the government and the community to work in synergy. Community participation in the Likupang SEZ development program, as part of the Community-Based Development (CBN) approach, is a cornerstone of successful and sustainable development. In its implementation, there are challenges that can serve as guidelines or can become issues that need to be addressed with solutions.

Limitation of Community Role

The development of the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for tourism is a process that involves the crucial role of the community. However, there are certain limitations in the implementation that hinder community participation or involvement in the Likupang SEZ development as part of the Community-Based Development (CBN) approach. The community plays an essential role, where they should actively participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Likupang SEZ development to ensure its smooth operation and positive impact. These roles are expected to involve

the community as a whole. However, in reality, there are limitations to the community's role.

The results of the interviews conducted by the research team with the communities in the Likupang SEZ revealed that,

"The community is involved as labor in the tourism industry. However, even that involvement is minimal, very minimal. This is evident from the fact that there are only a few managers, and there are no souvenir sellers. This is because they do not yet know what the tourists want. Those who are involved are mostly left to figure out what to do on their own."

Similarly, echoing the sentiments of other communities in the SEZ village, it was expressed that,

"the involved community members seem to be selected only partially, not comprehensively. However, out of the selected community, there were supposed to be 71 established homestays, but only 5 were constructed. What's going on? Besides this, there is fish production, which is the main source of income for the people here. It is the same as before the establishment of the SEZ, where they catch and sell fish directly without any processing that the government should have provided in terms of empowerment. In fact, the fishermen here end up buying fish from other sellers who come from elsewhere, such as the itinerant fish sellers."

Based on the results of interviews and observations, the number of the community involved in participating in the Likupang Special Economic Zone (SEZ) development is very limited. Even with this small number, their roles in the development are still restricted. The community lacks infrastructure access and competent labor, and there is a lack of training for managing the products and services available at the tourist location. Involving the community in the Likupang SEZ program will undoubtedly have a significant positive impact both on the community itself and on its development. However, after the community's participation, the lack of adequate accessibility and infrastructure in subsequent implementation reduces their enthusiasm and active participation, as it is perceived that the situation does not align with what was understood before the implementation began. The community cannot use the access effectively, which is evident from the fact that the fishermen's boat docking area has become farther than before due to the construction of a hotel building, causing the route to houses and places of sale to be longer and more complicated.

The community must be involved in the development of the SEZ. This indicates that community participation impacts decision-making and the formulation of development plans through public consultations. Furthermore, the community is encouraged in the development of SMEs and the creative economy, especially those within the tourism SEZ. The community plays a role in mapping natural resources and culture in the SEZ as assets for development. Therefore, providing training and education can enhance the community's skills and knowledge of the industry.

In reality, the community within the Likupang SEZ is limited in several aspects. They have limited access to information, as they have not received sufficient information about the opportunities and benefits from the SEZ development. Additionally, there is competition among the community for tourism resources, such as land and job opportunities. Other constraints include capital and skills. The community is limited in terms of the capital and skills needed to actively engage in the tourism industry within the SEZ.

Community Dependence on Government Projects

Government projects become the hope for the community to achieve prosperity. However, the community's dependence on government projects has negative impacts that need to be addressed. Many people see government projects as the solution for gaining employment and well-being, but this reliance leads to a loss of self-reliance and a lack of motivation to seek other alternatives.

According to the interviews with the officials from the East Likupang District, they stated,

"The community has become highly dependent on the policies issued by the government, especially those related to finances."

Many people are not working intensively anymore because they know they will receive funds from the government. This is understandable for families that are unable to innovate in seeking employment due to various reasons. However, for those who still have the capability, the presence of government projects has made them reluctant to be more active."

Confirmed by the community, many individuals expressed,

"Indeed, we are greatly helped by the government's assistance. As for seeking alternative means, we here mainly rely on fishing as a profession. If we succeed, then that's good; if not, what can we do?"

The results of the interviews and observations depict that the government's policies, particularly those related to government projects, have made the majority of the community feel comfortable, leading them to not create or seek other alternatives to reduce dependence on government projects. Overall, the Indonesian population is seen to have been facilitated in all aspects with government programs that prioritize the people. Many aids have been provided to the community, which has made them feel at ease and reliant on government projects. Consequently, only a small portion of the community in the Likupang SEZ take the opportunity to create their own businesses. This situation can affect the community's financial stability. Some may perceive themselves as financially incapable, evident from their dependence solely on government projects, thus lacking the ability to expand their businesses within the tourism environment. Moreover, reliance on government projects can trigger corruption, political funding, and unprofessional practices in project management.

Therefore, a policy approach is needed to address the community's dependency on government projects. The government should enhance the community's economic independence through business training and guidance to improve their skills and self-reliance. This will help the community realize that government projects are not the sole source of livelihood. Furthermore, the government needs to advance the economic sector, as the advancement of this sector can encourage the private sector to create job opportunities. The development of infrastructure required for local businesses will yield better long-term results for the community's economy.

Conflict of Interest

In the development of the Likupang tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as part of the DPSP, there is the potential for conflicts of interest among various stakeholders, including the government, investors, the local community, and environmental organizations. These conflicts can arise concerning land use, profit sharing, environmental management, and socio-economic impacts. Interviews with both the local community and the government of East Likupang District revealed information as conveyed by the district head:

"The development of the Likupang SEZ as part of the Community-Based Development involves several parties. There is the government, responsible for regulating and overseeing the SEZ's development. Investors, who are interested in gaining financial profits from their investments. In addition, the local community has interests in safeguarding their rights, well-being, and sustainable environmental living. There are also environmental organizations that aim to protect and preserve the natural environment as their vested interest."

When interviewed, the community in the DPSP area confirmed that:

"We, as the community, have an interest in defending our rights, such as our land, which has been encroached upon. They claim to have made payments, even though we haven't received anything. We are merely protecting what we have; that's all."

Conflict of interest is a complex phenomenon in the development of the Likupang tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ). With a clear understanding of this conflict, the involved parties can work together to prevent and resolve conflicts, ensuring that the development of the Likupang SEZ, especially as part of the Community-Based Development, benefits all parties. Community participation can take

the form of land release agreements. However, there are certain parties that encroach upon land ownership, even involving the community in data alterations leading to administrative malpractice. This is evident in cases where individuals previously listed as fishermen had their demographic data changed to construction workers, implying that the available land, especially in the Likupang SEZ, is not managed and is suitable for government involvement, ultimately leading to the involvement of large corporations.

Conflict of interest brings both negative and positive impacts. The negative impact includes the delay or cessation of Likupang SEZ development as part of the Community-Based Development, as well as the deterioration of relationships among the involved parties. Additionally, there is potential economic and financial loss for investors and the local community. On the positive side, it can encourage the improvement of policy quality and development governance, foster dialogue and community participation in decision-making, and strengthen corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. Prevention of conflicts of interest can be achieved through transparent information, inclusive public participation, equitable policy development, and a dialogical approach to decision-making.

Social and Cultural Changes that Can Affect Traditional Values

Social and cultural changes have a significant impact on the traditional values of the Likupang SEZ development as part of the Community-Based Development. These changes can manifest as alterations in the values, behaviors, and lifestyles of the community, as well as the changing preferences of tourists. Additionally, changes in consumption patterns are evident, as the community becomes increasingly consumeristic, particularly in terms of what tourists can purchase and consume. Changes are also observed in social and cultural values.

According to interviews with community leaders and religious figures, it was stated that,

"Changes within the community can occur through efforts to meet the needs of incoming tourists, requiring the community to quickly adapt by providing suitable service facilities. Consequently, consumerist values develop and impact social and cultural values. Values that were once highly regarded, such as mutual cooperation, togetherness, and solidarity, are gradually eroding in the face of an individualistic culture."

Similarly, religious figures confirmed that,

"social and cultural values within the community, especially among the younger generation, are increasingly eroded. Many children are educated outside the village, all in the city; even when they return, their values have started to shift, especially with the influx of foreign tourists, which could further alter the values that have been inherited. Therefore, there must be cultural and social management to prevent the loss of these values that have been passed down from ancient times."

Based on the results of the interviews, it is evident that existing tourism poses a significant threat to the existing cultural values. However, with proper management, as well as government and community participation and coordination, the social and cultural aspects that reach the Likupang tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ) can be integrated without eroding the cultural values that have already been formed within the local community. With the establishment of the Likupang SEZ, which attracts both domestic and international tourists, there will inevitably be an impact on the social and cultural aspects of the communities within the Likupang SEZ. Even before the establishment of the Likupang SEZ, there was already a considerable influx of tourists, and it is predicted that with the Likupang SEZ development as part of the Community-Based Development, more tourists will be attracted. The influence of tourist cultures, especially those from abroad, will have a significant impact. The government has a significant responsibility to preserve culture as local wisdom. Cultural preservation and territorialism can be barriers to increasing community participation, as some individuals may fear losing their identity or believe that tourism development will only bring minimal benefits to them. Additionally, overcrowding, pollution, and waste can affect coastal environments, cultures, historical areas, and communities may be reluctant to participate in more responsible solutions to these environmental issues.

Therefore, change management is necessary within the Likupang SEZ as part of the Community-Based Development. Community participation requires innovation and creativity, as the management of the tourism SEZ must innovate and create in collaboration with the local community to bring forth new and fresh ideas that continually pique the interest of tourists. Furthermore, education and training form the basis of overall management of social and cultural changes. Community participation in social and cultural changes is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to address by individuals or small groups. The involvement of the local community and the government is crucial in managing the ongoing changes.

Some key points to be aware of in the ongoing social and cultural changes include the limitation of resources. The Likupang tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ) requires significant and sustainable resources to thrive (Daisy Pangemanan et al., 2022). Without adequate support, the management of social and cultural changes can become challenging. Additionally, the changes occur rapidly. Changes in values and culture can happen swiftly and unexpectedly. The managers of the Likupang SEZ need to be able to adapt and adjust to these changes. Resistance and conflict also pose challenges in managing social and cultural changes, as not everyone may readily accept such changes. Conflicts and resistance from the local community may emerge during the management of the tourism SEZ.

Amidst these challenges, there are opportunities that can serve as stepping stones to facilitate community participation in the development of the Likupang SEZ as part of the Community-Based Development. These opportunities can be seen through the advancement of information and communication technology, the role of civil society organizations in strengthening community participation, and the utilization of villages as pathways for both domestic and international tourists heading to the Likupang SEZ, specifically in the DPSP area.

Advanced Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology (ICT) continues to advance and has a significant impact on the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), particularly in the field of tourism. This includes the Likupang SEZ, which has been designated as one of the five Community-Based Development Special Economic Zones in Indonesia. ICT influences and presents opportunities in the development and advancement of the Likupang SEZ, wherein its utilization can enhance the tourism sector's competitiveness.

The results of interviews with residents living in the Likupang SEZ's Community-Based Development Special Program (DPSP) area revealed that,

"The Likupang SEZ as a DPSP will undoubtedly aid in the economic development and progress of the region, as well as the welfare of the community. Steps such as publicizing to the outside world, which is now easily done. The issue is, what will be presented about the Likupang SEZ DPSP? It hasn't been going well yet. To be honest, we're not ready here. Just look at the scattered trash, what will be done about it? Community involvement hasn't been initiated, and there hasn't been any assistance from the government in building self-awareness. Everything is focused on infrastructure, but not on human resources. If our human resources were supported with training, especially in the current digital age, people would certainly post things that could help with publicity. For now, what will be publicized are two things: things that will help attract attention or things that could potentially undermine the Likupang SEZ DPSP."

In line with what the community has conveyed, the local government, through the head of the East Likupang District, also explained that,

"The situation and conditions here can easily spread through social media. Everything can be immediately publicized. However, for now, this place cannot be fully publicized because it's not entirely ready. Supportive buildings such as homestays are not yet adequate, and as seen now, there are gazebos at the location, but they have been turned into business places where people live and settle there."

Additionally, the residents in the DPSP village, when interviewed about ICT, mentioned that,

"Currently, with the presence of technology in tourist areas, it will greatly facilitate things. For example, people can book places with online reservations, and there could be a specific application for tour guides. Furthermore, in the field of the economy, with ICT, information delivery becomes faster and more accurate, reducing operational costs, and the market becomes more efficient."

The results of the interviews and observations depict that the available ICT (Information and Communication Technology) provides convenience in promoting the situation and conditions of a tourism location. If presented more attractively, it can attract tourists to visit the tourism site, especially in the DPSP area. However, for now, Likupang SEZ cannot fully utilize it because it cannot be publicized entirely due to the unpreparedness of the DPSP, as there are still many aspects that need to be improved and equipped. Community participation would greatly assist the government; in this case, the community can help publicize tourism, even for free, as there is no need to allocate a budget for endorsement.

The implementation of information and communication technology greatly aids in the management and maintenance of special economic zones for tourism. ICT facilitates access to information, tourism promotion, data management, and efficient payment processing and reservations. Additionally, ICT enhances connectivity and expands the tourism market reach. ICT can be used to enhance the tourist experience by providing fast and accurate information and services. Implementing technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) or Virtual Reality (VR) can provide unique and captivating experiences. However, this should be supported by infrastructure such as internet towers to ensure smooth network connectivity. Furthermore, to deepen community participation, the government should provide training on how to promote tourism through enhancing internet skills, especially in ICT, to ensure that the promotions are consistent and aligned with the desired goals, and these efforts must be carried out effectively.

Therefore, ICT presents an opportunity that will greatly aid tourism promotion by involving the community in participating in tourism development. At present, all information is at one's fingertips, and civil society is the group that most uses ICT through social media, and this is essentially free of charge. Therefore, for the development of Likupang SEZ as a DPSP by leveraging ICT opportunities, it is necessary to invest in infrastructure, increase the knowledge and skills of the tourism community, and ensure effective data protection. By implementing ICT in tourism, tourism can automatically face future challenges and provide an excellent experience for tourists.

The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Strengthening Community Participation

The role of civil society organizations is crucial in strengthening community participation in the development of the tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ). Civil society organizations are the groups closest to civil society, and the approaches they employ to enhance community participation can reach the target audience more quickly.

Interviews conducted with the youth organization in the village within the DPSP area stated that:

"Involving community organizations can facilitate the dissemination of information to the community, especially in informing them about their role and participation in the development of Likupang SEZ, particularly after it was designated as a DPSP. This should have made the government's job easier. However, to date, there has been no evidence of the involvement of community organizations, although there have been approaches made by the local government to support it."

The East Likupang sub-district government conveyed that:

"Civil society organizations will help disseminate information to the entire community and serve as an extension of information to solicit the participation of civil society in supporting the development of Likupang SEZ as a DPSP."

Civil society organizations are groups or institutions that are not part of the government but play a crucial role in influencing public policy and conducting socio-economic or political activities for the broader interests of the community. Civil society organizations have a crucial role in ensuring the development of the Likupang tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ) runs smoothly, particularly now that it has been designated as one of the DPSPs in Indonesia. Civil society organizations act as a bridge between the community, the government, and the tourism industry stakeholders. Furthermore, civil society organizations contribute to voicing the interests of the community, increasing transparency, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Enhancing community participation in the development of Likupang SEZ as a DPSP is essential. One way to achieve this is by providing space for community participation in decision-making related to development. Establishing communication forums as a means of discussion involving community elements in planning and monitoring, as well as providing clear information access, is an effective strategy to achieve the desired objectives.

The Utilization of Villages that Serve as Routes to Likupang SEZ Holds Potential and Local Wisdom that Can Be Utilized.

Supporting villages play a crucial role in facilitating the success of the Super Priority Tourism Destination (DPSP) in Indonesia. These villages have significant potential that can enrich the tourists' experiences and bring positive impacts to the local community. Through collaboration between the government and the private sector, the empowerment program for supporting villages can be implemented by optimizing the existing potential.

The results of the research team's interviews with the East Likupang District government explained that:

"The collaboration between the government and the private sector in the development of Likupang SEZ as a DPSP, certainly with the involvement of community participation, will achieve the established goals. The villages that will be passed by tourists from the airport to this area will go through many villages, and tourists will have other options in terms of food, for example, as well as souvenirs that can be obtained not only within the tourist area. And certainly, this will help the economy of the community, not only the community within the Likupang SEZ but also the entire community in the supporting villages."

Similar sentiments were expressed by the communities along the Sam Ratulangi Airport route to the Likupang SEZ, specifically in the Tetey Village and Dimembe Village areas, stating:

"When foreigners come to Likupang, they will pass through this route both going and returning. They can see and, of course, it will facilitate them in obtaining other options during the journey to the tourist destination. Therefore, we hope the government can support us as a supporting village, including forming community empowerment groups and providing funding assistance."

Based on the results of interviews and observations conducted, it is apparent that the supporting villages along the tourist destination route strongly support the development of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), but government intervention is necessary. This can be achieved through empowering the community, especially those with businesses that can contribute to achieving the goals of developing Likupang SEZ as a DPSP. The distance from Sam Ratulangi International Airport in Manado to the location of Likupang SEZ is approximately 48.8 km, with a travel time of 1.5 hours. Travelers will pass through villages that each have their own unique characteristics or local wisdom. These range from villages with rambutan plantations, specifically in Kolongan Mapanget village, to freshwater fish areas in the villages of Dimembe. Other villages showcase various local crafts and other forms of local wisdom (Muluwere et al., 2021). This can certainly be utilized as a support base for the development of Likupang SEZ as a DPSP.

Supporting villages play a strategic role in supporting the development and sustainability of the Special Economic Zone. They provide various facilities and services needed by tourists, such as accommodation, transportation, food and beverages, as well as local crafts. Furthermore, these supporting villages act as a bridge between tourists and local life, enabling authentic interactions and providing a different tourist experience compared to other tourist destinations.

The potential of these supporting villages lies in their natural and cultural wealth, which can serve as the main attraction in supporting the Special Economic Zone. In terms of nature, these villages boast stunning natural beauty, including green hills, white sandy beaches, and enchanting waterfalls. Additionally, the cultural potential of these supporting villages is evident through their diverse traditions, arts, and unique local cuisine. The combination of natural and cultural potentials positions these supporting villages as an indispensable tourist destination. Therefore, to maximize the role of these supporting villages in supporting the Special Economic Zone, a targeted and comprehensive empowerment program is needed. Implementable programs include developing the capacity of the village community in the tourism sector, training to improve service quality, sustainable tourism product development, and environmentally friendly management. With the availability of such programs, it is expected that these supporting villages can become a professionally managed tourist destination that provides sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Implications

The study on "Exploring and Developing Community Participation in the Likupang SEZ Program as a Super Priority Tourism Destination (Study in East Likupang Sub-District)" reveals several significant implications for the development and management of this tourism destination. First and foremost, the research underscores the critical importance of community empowerment within the Likupang SEZ program. Actively involving the local community in planning, promotion, and participation not only enhances the socio-economic conditions of the residents but also fosters a profound sense of ownership and pride, ensuring the sustainability and success of the destination.

Furthermore, the study highlights the necessity of prioritizing sustainable tourism practices in Likupang SEZ. By engaging the local community in preserving the natural environment and cultural heritage, the destination can ensure its long-term attractiveness to tourists while maintaining its ecological and cultural integrity. Community participation also plays a pivotal role in stimulating local economic growth. The program creates employment opportunities, encourages entrepreneurial activities, and thereby elevates the living standards of the community, making tourism a powerful driver for economic development. Moreover, the research emphasizes the preservation of local culture as a central element in maintaining the authenticity of Likupang SEZ. The rich cultural heritage of the area can be a compelling draw for tourists and enhancing their overall experience. To achieve these goals effectively, government support is instrumental. The government should provide necessary resources, incentives, and policy frameworks that facilitate community involvement in the tourism sector.

Additionally, involving the local community in Likupang SEZ's tourism activities can encourage social harmony. Tourism acts as a catalyst for uniting diverse groups and fostering an inclusive community, ultimately enhancing the social fabric of the region. Furthermore, it aligns with various United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to global sustainability efforts. As a practical outcome, this research can serve as a model for other tourism destinations seeking to engage their communities in the development and management of their destinations. By offering valuable insights and best practices, this study can guide other regions looking to harness the potential of community-driven tourism, ensuring that the benefits extend to the local population and contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of the destination.

Conclusion

The study concludes that community participation is essential in the development of Likupang SEZ, emphasizing the need for community involvement in planning and providing training, education, and empowerment in the field of tourism. This active participation plays a pivotal role in ensuring the

creation of sustainable and high-quality development. Based on the findings, several key recommendations are made. First, it is recommended that communities be actively engaged in planning, promotional activities, and capacity-building through training programs, and they should play a crucial role in implementing tourism programs. Additionally, to meet the needs of the local population in SEZ DPSP Likupang, there is a requirement to enhance human resources and protect the environment to support sustainable development. The government should also take an active role in facilitating community participation, expanding facilities, and promoting coordination between the government and local communities to ensure the success of the tourism program. These recommendations aim to foster community engagement and promote sustainability in Likupang SEZ.

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