

The Role of Social Capital in Tourism Development in Volcanic Disaster-Prone Areas in Indonesia

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Background

- Tourist attractions and destinations in Indonesia are developing quite rapidly as statistics indicates that there was a substantial increase of tourism-related infrastructures and arrivals as well.
- Two destinations in Java Island are located in the slope of active volcanoes making them prone to volcanic disaster.
- In addition to having fertile soil that produces good agricultural commodities, these two volcanic regions are also long recognized as main tourist attractions for both domestic and international travelers.
- Being located in hazardous, volcanic areas, people inhabiting their slopes, and all their activities including tourism, are in a constant threat of natural disaster. On the other hand, local people heavily rely on the volcanoes through agriculture and, more recently, tourism.

Research Problem & Objective of the Research

- This research is aimed at exploring the social dynamics of local residents living in slopes of volcanoes and are involved, directly or indirectly, in tourism-related businesses and activities.
- More specifically, this research is intended to describe: (a) stakeholders of tourism in the research sites and what their roles are in shaping tourism in volcanic disaster-prone destination; (b) social mechanism that lies behind local communities' interactions that help them manage tourism-related businesses in disaster-prone regions; and (c) roles of social capital in shaping resilience of members of local communities who make their living through tourism.

Epistemological Basis & Theory

- This research applies social constructivism as its epistemological basis, which states that "individuals seeks understanding of the world in which they live and work" (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 8).
- In practice, this study also assumes that activities, experience, and practices of the observed communities are the source of knowledge from which a research initiate (Bernard, 2013).
- By using social constructivism as an underlying approach towards the research problem, this study applies the theory of social capital in operationalizing its approach.
- Simply put, social capital theory assumes that within social networks contain values that can be turned into a kind of capital to improve productivity (Putnam, 2000).
- Social capital theory has been applied in tourism context, particularly in exploring how tourism impacts local communities and vice versa (e.g. Jones, 2005; McGehee et al., 2010; Soulard et al., 2018; Moscardo et al., 2017).
- However, how tourism, disaster, and social capital intersect still receive a little attention (Jones, 2016).



Methods

- **Research design:** intensive case study (Merapi and Bromo volcanoes, Indonesia)
- **Sampling method:** As an exploratory study, research participants in this study will be selected by using non-probability sampling. More specifically, research participants are chosen based on purposive or judgment sampling, where researcher will determine key informants by establishing criteria for the selection of participants.
- **Research participant recruitment:** Participants will be recruited from those who share similar core traits, views, and experiences (Bernard, Wutich, & Ryan, 2017) related to tourism activities where they are involved.
- **Data collection:** semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus groups (both wit protocols)
- **Data analysis:** First cycle coding (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014) by primarily using In Vivo, Descriptive, and Process coding technique. Second cycle coding: pattern coding to reveal themes extracted from initial, first cycle coding.
- The next step will be interpretation of themes by comparing them and describing them in thick narratives to answer research questions.

Potential Significance

- Conceptual model of developing tourism in volcanic disaster-prone destinations, emphasizing on the roles of local communities.
- Developing a better understanding of mitigation on how local tourism stakeholders respond to natural disaster threat to tourism in particular and to their community lives in general.

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