
**“Give What We Have”: Mutualism Symbiosis in Local Food and Tourism
(Review of conditions in Bali, Indonesia)**

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Abstract

The role of tourism in Bali's development is unquestionable. The absence of natural resources such as oil and gas, forest products and large-scale manufacturing industries make tourism a mainstay sector in development. However, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has opened the eyes of the Balinese people that this island has 2 legs to stand on. What is meant in this case is, the island of Bali does not only rely on the tourism industry sector. The island also has a reliable agricultural sector. Ecotourism implemented by the Bali Provincial Government seeks to create a symbiotic mutualism between local food and tourism. The role of all stakeholders is also needed to make it happen. Because the tourism industry is very lucrative but fragile, now it really can't be a mainstay anymore and we must be able to utilize and preserve what we have to generate Bali tourism and long-term food self-sufficiency.

Keywords: Local Food, Tourism, Mutualism Symbiosis, Corporate Social Responsibility

1. Introduction

The topic of ecotourism which is the destination of Bali's potential development has long been discussed and has been the subject of research by many experts and academics. Budiarta's research (2018) says that the rapid development of tourism in Bali has damaged the environment both physically and socially. The environmental impacts include conversion of agricultural land, unused land, water pollution, flooding, coastal abrasion, garbage, and waste. The social impact is the reduced tradition of mutual cooperation in the community, the reduced number and members of the *subak*, reduced the sacredness of Hindu religious symbols, expensive land, and increased social vulnerability (Ališauskienė, 2010). Steps to introduce ecotourism as a form of Bali tourism in the future that can provide solutions to environmental problems in Bali are steps for sustainable tourism. As an initial step to developing ecotourism, it is first important to find out whether there is a common will between stakeholders to develop ecotourism (Haribawa, et al. 2017).

The role of tourism in Bali's development is unquestionable. The absence of natural resources such as oil and gas, forest products, and large-scale manufacturing industries make tourism a mainstay sector in development (Jayawarsa et al., 2021a). The rarity of some animal species is also caused by the demand for expensive food for tourists as well as disturbances caused by human visits to a conservation area. Socio-culturally, tourism results in the commodification and exploitation of Balinese culture, causing the degradation of Balinese cultural values so that Balinese people become more individual and materialistic (Saputra & Sanjaya, 2019).

Basically, ecotourism aims to introduce Balinese local wisdom as a tourism object, but many teachers have not integrated local wisdom into learning so educational goals have not been achieved (Sudirgayasa, et al. 2021) because the first step to realizing ecotourism as a sustainable tourism plan should start from education bench. In principle, ecotourism has a concern, commitment, and responsibility for the conservation of nature, cultural heritage, and the economy of the local community (Jayawarsa et al., 2021b). The development of ecotourism is expected to be able to meet the needs of tourists with the needs of the area visited and to be able to maintain these two needs into the future.

Along with the rapid development of tourism, the culinary field, especially for local food, requires more serious attention and becomes very important as part of a series of tourism activities. The results of the author's observations indicate that recent tourism trends indicate that tourists visiting an area not only aim to see the natural beauty and unique culture of the local community but also culinary tours to enjoy a variety of local food products both as dishes at tourist sites and products. food made as souvenirs. For this reason, the availability of quality and safe local food in tourist areas is very necessary. The availability of quality and safe food will be able to stimulate tourists to visit and buy a variety of available foods, because consumers increase their demand for higher quality products.

2. Method

The design of this research is Literature Review or literature review. Literature research or literature review is research that examines or reviews critically knowledge, ideas, or findings contained in the body of literature academic-oriented literature, as well as formulating his theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. The nature of this research is situation analysis. Situation analysis is the stage of data collection taken by researchers before designing and planning the program. The situation analysis aims to collect information covering the types and forms of activities, parties or the public involved, actions and strategies to be taken, tactics, and the budget needed to implement the program.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Mutualism Symbiosis

Symbiosis Mutualism is a mutual dependence between two parties. That is, in the relationship between these two organisms, no party is harmed. This study discusses the relationship between local food and tourism. Local culture is very closely related to tourism because we can see from the definition of culture which is a symbol of the surrounding community in which there is a meaning that includes everything that is the result of creativity, and human work (Sara et al., 2020). Meanwhile, tourism is a series of trips carried out by a person or group of people outside their temporary residence for various purposes such as vacationing, enjoying the beauty of nature and culture, business, and others. Then we can know that the relationship between culture has a very close relationship with tourism and the cultural environment that can provide more value for tourists who come to visit the place. It can also be concluded that tourism and culture are activities of exchanging information and the symbols contained in them such as traditions, arts,

food, and other identities contained in these places to be enjoyed by every tourist who comes to visit (Sulistiyowati, 2021).

Tourist interest in the field of culture can be seen from various indicators. First, is the number of tourists who visit the destination of local traditional heritage buildings. Tourist curiosity about local tourist objects is based on curiosity about the cultural center in the area. Second, is the number of tourists who are interested in buying typical traditional objects. Third, is the number of tourists who are interested in learning about distinctive cultures such as dance, music, handicrafts, and local cuisine (Sara et al., 2021). These three things can be used as opportunities to synchronize food and tourism. If tourists want to learn about local Balinese culture, let them be Balinese during their trip by tasting and tasting local cuisine that uses the local food we have (Saputra et al., 2021). Of course, this is one way to create a symbiotic mutualism between local food and tourism. In the long term, the cultural sector is likely to dominate tourist motivation. This is closely related to the increasing scarcity of traditional nuances in developed countries. Because of this scarcity, many people want to know the original cultural forms of their ancestors (Mariyatni et al., 2020).

3.2 Corporate Social Responsibility

The interface between tourism and agriculture is described by Bowen, et. al. (1991) using a graphical conceptual model. According to this understanding, the home and external economies are connected through visitors who, while in the host country, eat agricultural goods and enjoy services both directly and indirectly. Although the clarity of Bowen, et. al. (1991) conceptual framework is unquestionable, it has been criticized by experts for being too general and does not describe all transactions between local farmers and foreign visitors in detail, and also needs to be updated to reflect the latest developments in agro-tourism (Fisher, 2019; Gibson, 2018).

The implementation of social responsibility in Indonesia is regulated in Law no. 40 of 2007 concerning limited liability companies, article 74 which states that there are social responsibilities that must be borne by limited companies. Corporate social responsibility/CSR is one of the tourism industry's efforts to increase awareness of the surrounding community. In implementing CSR, usually, the company will involve the surrounding community, this is a form of appreciation and concern of the company for the surrounding community. The form of appreciation and concern for the company aims to improve the welfare of the community through CSR programs run by the company (Larasdiputra & Suwitari, 2020: 13).

This does not mean that industry players do not implement CSR in their business, but based on observations made by researchers, the majority of the younger generation are currently reluctant to become farmers (Saputra et al., 2019). Lack of knowledge, concern, and community support for the agricultural sector is one of the factors causing on-farm agriculture (all processes that are directly related to the agricultural cultivation process) to be less attractive and make the younger generation reluctant to become farmers, thus hampering the agricultural sector to develop. On a macro level, the existing agricultural problems are that many farmers are oriented to off-farm (commercialization of agricultural cultivation products, such as traders, collectors, and others).

Overwhelmed by local farmers in meeting demand from the tourism sector, imported food products enter and replace most of the roles needed by the food industry (Ahmad et al., 2020).

3.3 Awareness of Abilities and Potential

The declining economic conditions in Bali due to the pandemic outbreak can be seen in the many layoffs of private employees, causing a decrease in the purchasing power of the Balinese people (Aryawibawa et al., 2018). This also affects the regional income of the province of Bali and Bali's local tax revenue which has decreased drastically. This condition is inseparable from the dependence of the Balinese economy on the performance of the tourism sector (Fu, 2020). The share of tourism supporting sectors such as accommodation and food and drink services, trade, and transportation are the main contributors to Bali's economic structure. Likewise with labor conditions (Atmadja, 2014; Saputra et al., 2021).

However, thanks to this pandemic outbreak, was able to open the eyes of the Balinese people that this island has 2 legs to stand on. What is meant in this case is, that the island of Bali does not only rely on the tourism industry sector. The island also has a reliable agricultural sector. Interviews conducted by researchers with ambassadors for young farmers in Bali during this pandemic situation found that the percentage of local vegetable sales increased by 30% due to increasing public awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Some local products that used to be defeated by imported products such as carrots and lemons are also getting more and more popular because of the increasing sales of local vegetables, price competition is also getting tougher. This is due to the decline in the tourism sector and residents who have experienced layoffs switch professions to become vegetable traders. Consumers also prefer local products that have lower prices and quality that can compete with imported products.

The community service program carried out by the research team in the last 3 years has also discovered the food potential of the local population. Several village potentials, such as laying hens, asparagus, and Crystal guava farmers, owned by several villages which are the object of the research team's dedication have enormous and reliable potential to meet food needs in the tourism sector (Larasdiputra & Suwitari, 2020; Putra & Larasdiputra, 2020). This pandemic can be momentum to see what we have but so far we have ignored it. Generating neglected resources such as agricultural land in villages where most residents have left to migrate to southern Bali because they are tempted by money from the tourism sector. It may seem very difficult, but if we work hard, we can realize the internal economic foundation from the potential of the food we have. It can be seen that currently many people are trading food on the side of the road around the city of Denpasar. The Balinese people do all of this to find alternative livelihoods due to the slowdown in the tourism industry caused by the corona pandemic. This can prove the potential we have, it just needs marketing and quality management as well as support from the government.

In order to encourage the realization of food consumption diversification as a basis for strengthening food security improving the quality of human resources and preserving natural resources, Presidential Regulation Number 22 of 2009 concerning the Policy for Accelerating Food Consumption Diversification based on Local Resources is issued, where the target of the regulation is the achievement of a pattern of consumption of diverse, nutritious, balanced and

safe food. To follow up on Presidential Regulation No. 22 of 2009 and encourage the realization of the provision of a variety of foods and an increase in food consumption based on the potential of local resources, the Ministry of Agriculture established the Movement for the Acceleration of Diversification of Food Consumption Based on Local Resources as outlined in the Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture No.43/Permentan/ OT.140/10/2009.

In order to realize the vision of "*Nangun Sat Kerthi Loka Bali*", where the mission is to realize food self-sufficiency, increase added value and competitiveness of agriculture, fishery, and artisanal handicrafts, it is necessary to have a synergistic arrangement between the tourism sector and the agricultural, fishery and handicraft industries, the Government The Province of Bali issued a strategic policy in the form of Bali Governor Regulation Number 99 of 2018 concerning Marketing and Utilization of Agricultural, Fishery, and Local Bali Industrial Products. To implement the Governor's Regulation has been followed up with its implementation guidelines (Rinaldi, et. al. 2020).

Several research results have also proven the food potential of the island of Bali and have a role in the internal economic foundation of the food sector. Corn (*Zea mays L.*) is a potential owned by local farmers and is one of the three main cereal crops in the world it occupies an important position in the economy and national food security because of its wide use, both as a source of food, animal feed, and raw materials. industry (Indrayana & Ricky, 2020). In addition, the economic potential of edamame soybeans has a large enough market opportunity, both for domestic and foreign market demand. The high market demand for edamame soybeans is an attraction for local farmers to continue to increase edamame soybean production (Resiani & Sunanjaya, 2020). Research and assistance were also carried out by Sukadana and Widyaningsih (2020) to improve the welfare of organic coffee farmers in managing wet waste processing coffee, coffee plants, and organic coffee productivity so that they have high selling power and economic value, from quality coffee. This presentation has proven the local food opportunities owned by the island of Bali. Agribusiness has become an opportunity and a challenge in today's business era. Stakeholders who play a role in the Balinese economy, especially in the fields of food and tourism, should be able to take advantage of all of this so that the symbiosis of mutualism can be applied as a generator of the tourism sector and the realization of sustainable self-sufficiency (Jayawarsa et al., 2021a).

4. Conclusion

All components of government, tourism players, universities, and academics are working on their new land called ecotourism. Bali is strived to be offered in the market as a tourism product. As a result, Balinese culture must be characterized by tourism. (Picard, 2006: 268). The term "self-reliant" or standing on one's own feet, could be used as a theme for the momentum of the economic revival of the Balinese people. The pandemic outbreak which seems to have killed tourism has made people confused about finding a way out on the financial side (Sigala & Dolnicar, 2017). An industry that is very lucrative but fragile, now really can not be a mainstay anymore.

Figuratively does not depend on other people, in this case, external factors, namely tourists in the tourism industry. Isn't it a logical thought that makes sense if an area that has abundant natural resources can use them as a foundation for internal income. Indeed, this will be just a discourse if we don't try to run it. It will come back like every event that hit tourism in the past, there is always a discourse about looking for other alternatives as an economic driver. But along with the revival of tourism after the slump, the discourse of looking for other alternatives has also sunk. It is hoped that this moment can be used as a generating story from the exclusion of local communities in the midst of global investment (Sigala, 2019).

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