

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In Indonesia the low interest and the decline of traditional industries nearly abandoned (such as village industries, agriculture, farming, etc.), some local communities must explore a new alternative to maintain their income. Community-based tourism can be a possible solution because tourism can provide benefits to the residents (Sebele, 2010) Community-based Tourism as tourism that considers environmental, social, and cultural ecosystem aspects. Community-based tourism is also a tool for developing the community and environment (Potchana, 2003) Community-based tourism is an alternative form of tourism that exposes the beauty of nature, social life, and culture, and offers direct interaction with the local community. Enhanced water supply, improved access to public transportation, a more developed road infrastructure, superior healthcare facilities, and increased safety and security are the benefit that are likely form in tourism (Nkemngwu, 2015).

Although tourism development does not have a significant direct influence on community welfare. However, through improving economic performance and changes in financial structure, tourism development indirectly causes community welfare to increase. By 2024, 835 million foreign visitors, 1.4 billion domestic visitors, and 434 million new jobs are expected to be created in the tourism and creative economy sectors (Kemenparekraf, 2023). Based on (Ernawati et al., 2018) tourism have a significant positive impact on the local community. Women empowerment, improving the residents' lives, and strengthening the traditional culture were other benefits of tourism (Nyaupane et al., 2006). Encompasses a

whole range of tourism strategies (e.g., 'appropriate', 'eco', 'soft', 'responsible', 'people to people', 'controlled', 'small scale', 'cottage', and 'green' tourism) all of which purport to offer a more benign alternative to conventional mass tourism in certain types of destinations. Alternative tourism is not an explicit idea, yet the notion is to expand different destination models: school outings, trekking holidays, and solo adventures by tourists, etc (Krippendorf, 1987). Alternative tourism can be defined by other names for example: Green Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, Eco Tourism and, etc.

As one of the most diverse countries in the world with over 17.000 islands and more than 300 ethnicities, with the beauty of nature Indonesia has a massive potential in the tourism sector. In December 2023, foreign tourists visited Indonesia with 1.14 million people. Visits by foreign tourists from January to December 2023 increased by 98.30 percent compared to the 2022 period. Meanwhile, the number of trips by national tourists in 2023 reached 7.52 million. This number increased massively by 112.26 percent compared to the previous year when it only reached 3.54 million visits (Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia, 2023). Tourism has been a crucial aspect in Indonesia and contributes 3,8 percent to the national GDP (Kemenparekraf, 2023).

Since the paradigm of alternative tourism has emerged, community-based tourism is the most suitable way to address it. Community-based tourism in Indonesia has massively been formed since the implementation of Law Number 6 2014 on village law. When a group of people collaborate to grow a small to medium-sized local tourism economy, it's known as a community-based tourism

initiative (Spenceley ,2008). As conceptual CBT is a tourism from the people, by the people,and for the people. particular options for tourism or event development if these do not enhance their lifestyle or, more importantly, if their quality of life is eroded”.Involvement by the local community in the decision-making process can make the associated redistribution of costs and benefits fairer and more widely accepted.It is essential that authority is granted to those who will experience the outcomes of such implementations, including any potential failures or adverse effects that may arise from the development of the tourism (M. H. U. Dewi, 2013).

When tourism initiatives are developed without the awareness and contribution of the local community, there is a significant risk of achieving ineffective outcomes or even complete project failure (Tosun, 2006). Therefore to ensure its success the local community skill, knowledges, and the local capacities are some important aspect in community-based tourism. Rocharungsat (2004) identify the success factors of CBT amongs the APEC countries as (a) cooperative support and active participation from the local communities, (b) visionary leader, (c) effective project management including (planning,marketing,controlling and evaluation), (d) synergy cooperation between the stakeholders, (e) the attractive from the spot (traditional dance ,natural spot,local foods etc), (f) natural zone.

Public participation is a cornerstone of successful Community-Based Tourism (CBT), promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Tosun & Timothy, (2003) assert that integrating local communities into the decision-making processes ensures that tourism initiatives reflect residents’ aspirations, fostering acceptance and minimizing resistance. Active involvement in planning,

implementation, and monitoring phases strengthens the legitimacy and outcomes of CBT projects. Capacity- building efforts are essential to enhance local participation. Aref & Redzuan, (2009) emphasize that equipping community members with skills and knowledge empowers them to engage effectively in tourism development, leading to better decision-making and sustainable practices.

However, some factors might neglect public participation regarding CBT, such as that most residents do not have the necessary funds to contribute and encourage active involvement in the business, which sometimes requires large amounts of business capital (Mogomotsi et al., 2018). Several Inequalities also exist in how the economic advantages of tourism are allocated between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups within host populations, with the Indigenous community having minimal direct participation in the tourism sector (Greiner, 2010). Unoptimal benefits also arise because of opportunistic behaviour by the members of the tourism-affected group (Pokdarwis), ultimately competing to attract as many visitors as possible (Azzahra et al., 2023).

Meanwhile, the tourism sector in Indonesia encounters several challenges, including conflicting regulations, insufficiently skilled human resources, inadequate promotional efforts, substandard infrastructure, limited investment, neglect of environmental considerations, and insufficient focus on religious tourism sites (Sumarjiyanto, 2020). Despite of the benefits a negative effect of tourism also arise for the local community, this can occur through the disruption of community cohesion, the escalation of noise levels, and overcrowding (Nugroho & Numata,

2022). Negative perceptions regarding environmental impact were also identified as significant predictors of residents' feelings of health and safety (Kim et al., 2013).

Mount Merbabu is a stratovolcano located in Central Java, Indonesia, standing at an elevation of 3,145 meters above sea level. It lies within the areas of Merbabu National park that covered Magelang, Boyolali, and Semarang Regencies. The name Merbabu comes from the words “Meru” meaning mountain and “Babu” meaning mother, which together signify “The Mother Mountain.” Although classified as a dormant volcano, Mount Merbabu remains one of the most popular peaks in Java, admired for its gentle slopes, lush vegetation, and breathtaking panoramas overlooking Mount Merapi to the south. With Numerous advantages, a massive number of tourists visited Merbabu mountain. In 2023 Merbabu received 31.116 visitors including 30.392 domestic and 724 foreign hikers (Badan Pusat Statistik Jawa Tengah, 2023).

Mount Merbabu National Park is one of the 50 national parks in Indonesia. Mount Merbabu National Park is a conservation area that holds significant importance for the sustainability of life. As a national park, it functions as a conservation area with ecological, economic, and social roles. In the management of national parks, community involvement is always emphasized, with local communities positioned as key stakeholders in the management process. Most of the residents are ethnic javanese who have a local wisdom link to the mount Merbabu.

With various natural tourism potentials, such as jungle tourism, mountain climbing tourism, educational tourism, historical tourism, adventure tourism, special interest sports tourism, and cultural tourism (Santoso, 2013). The mountain

holds great potential for tourism due to its diverse natural beauty, ecological richness, and variety of outdoor activities. There are at least five official route for climbing tourist destinations within Gunung Merbabu National Park (TNGMB) Selo, Wekas, Cuntel, Thekelan, Suwating, and each providing unique experiences through tropical forests, rolling meadows, and scenic ridgelines.

Covering much of the mountain's ecosystem, the Gunung Merbabu National Park serves as a conservation area that protects the mountain's unique biodiversity and natural landscapes. The park is home to numerous endemic flora and fauna species, including Javan langurs, deer, Javan eagles, and the rare edelweiss flower. It's mission is to balance conservation efforts with sustainable tourism, ensuring that the beauty and ecological importance of Mount Merbabu are preserved for future generations. With its captivating scenery, rich wildlife, and a mix of adventure and relaxation opportunities, Mount Merbabu and its national park represent one of Indonesia's most remarkable natural treasures.

Before the establishment of Merbabu National Park, Merbabu was a sanctuary area in the colonial era. Therefore, Mount Merbabu National Park (TNGMB) was established in 2004 based on the Minister of Forestry Decree No. 135/MenhutII/2004: 135/Menhut-II/2004 dated May 4, 2004. The National Park is divided into the Core zone 483,31 Ha, Jungle zone 2.577,65 Ha, Utilization zone 286,39 Ha, Rehabilitation zone 1.298,98 Ha, Traditional zone 1.172,92 Ha, Special zone 1,23 Ha, and Religious zone 45.80 Ha. Under the management of Merbabu National Park, local communities actively participate in the planning and decision-making process. Employment prospects encompass roles such as tour guides, retail

shop owners, lodge personnel, and vendors of souvenirs, traditional cuisine, and beverages. According to Ismail et al. (2017) tourism activities have an impact on the community directly with the absorption of labor, as well as indirectly such as business opportunities for the sale of goods and services.

Merbabu National Park, is one of the country's most significant protected areas, both ecologically and culturally. The park attracts thousands of trekkers each year, making tourism an essential part of the local economy. However, the influx of visitors has raised concerns over environmental degradation and the erosion of local cultures. To address these issues, the Indonesian government, along with local stakeholders, has initiated various CBT programs aimed at promoting sustainable tourism practices while empowering local communities to take an active role in managing tourism activities.

This research highlighted one of the most prominent villages in Merbabu National Park, namely Tarubatang Village, in Boyolali regency. The village is a gateway to start to climb the mountain one of the favorite route for climbers namely the selo route, because of its natural beauty and easy access. Hasan (2024) research on Selo hiking trail Village revealed that Community participation in the management of climbing tourism in Tarubatang Village characterized by active involvement in planning, management, and supporting activities related to tourism services. The community engages collectively through formal and informal organizations. Lee, (2013) suggest that the perceived advantages and disadvantages of sustainable tourism influence the level of support by the local communities for its participation.

Additionally, the perceived benefits and costs were important mediators in the relationship between community participation and involvement in and support for tourism development. Yet Brankov et al (2019) research indicated that education emerged as the most influential factor shaping the local communities perceptions in tourism implementation. Individuals with higher levels of education exhibited stronger support for tourism development and demonstrated more favorable attitudes toward the accessibility of information related to sustainable tourism. They also had a more accurate comprehension of tourism's impacts on their communities.

The global paradigm of protected area management has increasingly shifted from exclusionary conservation toward participatory models, with Community-Based Tourism (CBT) emerging as a primary mechanism for local empowerment. In theory, CBT is designed to decentralize economic benefits and political authority, ensuring that host communities are the principal architects of their local tourism development. However, implementing this decentralized model within the rigid, vertically integrated institutional structure of a state-managed National Park presents a profound governance paradox. The tension between the grassroots empowerment demanded by CBT and the top-down regulatory control inherent in state conservation policies forms the macro-level political context of this research.

Mount Merbabu National Park stands at the center of this institutional intersection. With Tarubatang Village serving as the primary gateway for a massive influx of visitors—exceeding tens of thousands annually—the village is geographically and operationally on the frontline of the tourism ecosystem. Yet,

within the architecture of public administration, the placement of a local community within a protected conservation zone raises critical questions about state-society relations and the distribution of sovereign authority. The core urgency of this study lies in interrogating whether the current governance framework genuinely integrates the host community into the institutional decision-making apparatus, or if it inadvertently creates a systemic imbalance.

Therefore, this research is fundamentally crucial to prevent the concept of "Community-Based Tourism" from being reduced to a hollow administrative label. If the political dynamics of this tourism model are not critically analyzed, there is a severe risk that the state apparatus will continually extract the operational labor, local knowledge, and environmental stewardship of the Tarubatang community without granting them commensurate institutional standing. Investigating this gap is essential not only for diagnosing the structural vulnerabilities of the Selo route Mount Merbabu National Park but also for providing an evidence-based critique of how public policy and participatory governance are executed within Indonesia's protected areas.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background that have been described previously, research question can be identified, as follows:

1. How was the participation by the local communities on Community Based-Tourism (CBT) implementation in Tarubatang Village Merbabu National Park?

2. What is the impact of tourism activities among local communities in Tarubatang Village Merbabu National Park, from the perspective of Community Based-Tourism (CBT)?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the problem formulation above the research objectives classified into two sections: General Research Objectives, that describe the general aims of the research & Specific Research Objectives that correlated with the Research Question.

1.3.1 General Research Objectives

1. To assess the broad impact of tourism among on local communities, economy, culture, environment, and the politics in Tarubatang Village.
2. To investigate the role of Community-Based Tourism in enhancing the economic welfare of the local communities in Tarubatang Village.

1.3.2 Specific Research Objectives

1. To examine the impact of tourism activities among the local communities in Tarubatang Village Merbabu National Park.
2. To examine the participation by the local communities on CBT implementation in Tarubatang Village Merbabu National Park.

1.4 Significance of Study

Based on the problem formulation above the significance of study classified into two section: Academic significance for the development of the Science & Practical Significance that use for problem solving efforts and recommendation.

1.4.1 Academic Significance

This study contributes to the academic field by providing a comprehensive analysis of Community-Based Tourism in Indonesia focusing Tarubatang Village, Merbabu National Park. It enhances understanding how CBT have a significance benefit for the local communities.

This study offering a theoretical and practical insights about the effectiveness of CBT initiatives which can be applied to similar context globally in future research. The detailed case study in Merbabu National Park, Tarubatang Village serves as a valuable empirical resource for future research.

1.4.2 Practical Significance

This study provides a viable insight for policymakers and tourism planners to design and implement more effective CBT strategies that align with local communities needs and capacities.

This study offers a practical solution for enhancing community participation in tourism, which can lead to improve economic welfare and increased the quality of life for the local communities.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

1.5.1 Literature Review

Community-based tourism (CBT) has emerged as a sustainable tourism model, emphasising the active involvement of local communities in the planning, development, and management of tourism activities. This literature review aims to consolidate existing research on implementing CBT, its effects on local communities, and the factors influencing community participation and support. The

review incorporates a variety of scholarly articles, case studies, and theoretical models to offer a comprehensive understanding of CBT.

The successful implementation of CBT depends on several factors, including community engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and establishing supportive policy frameworks. As (Patwary et al., 2019) highlight, CBT initiatives managed and owned by the community tend to produce more positive outcomes than externally driven ones. Buckley, (2009) further emphasizes the importance of local control in tourism management to ensure that the benefits of tourism are directed to the community. Kuntariningsih et al., (2023) notes that CBT functions as a tool for community empowerment, allowing residents to take control of tourism development. This empowerment is essential for fostering a sense of ownership and pride, strengthening their commitment to sustainable tourism. Additionally, the Pentahelix model introduced by Yuniati et al., (2023) emphasises the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration involving government, academia, business, and the community in tourism development.

The impacts of CBT on local communities are diverse, covering economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Han et al., (2019) argue that CBT can significantly enhance local economic development by creating job opportunities and income generation, particularly in rural areas where traditional livelihoods may be limited. Beyond financial benefits, CBT has been shown to promote social cohesion and cultural preservation. Sutresna et al., (2019) suggest that community involvement in tourism strengthens local identity and pride as residents share their cultural heritage with visitors. This cultural exchange enriches the tourism

experience and helps preserve traditional practices and values. Environmental sustainability is another vital component of CBT. Dodds et al., (2018) stress that well-managed CBT initiatives can promote eco-friendly practices and conservation efforts, reducing the adverse environmental effects often associated with mass tourism. Integrating sustainable practices into CBT can improve the resilience of local ecosystems and ensure the long- term sustainability of tourism destinations.

Community participation is essential to the success and sustainability of CBT. Prakoso et al., (2020) highlight that active community involvement in tourism planning and decision-making is crucial for ensuring that tourism development meets local needs and aspirations. This participatory approach fosters a sense of ownership, which is key to gaining support for tourism initiatives. However, challenges to community participation in CBT remain. Connelly and Sam (2018) note that external pressures, such as the influence of tourism developers and government policies, can undermine local control and decision-making. To overcome these challenges, it is crucial to establish policy frameworks that empower communities and enable their active participation in tourism development. The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the context of CBT (Umam et al., 2022). The pandemic has forced a reassessment of tourism strategies, focusing on resilience and adaptability. Communities engaged in CBT have shown greater capacity to navigate these challenges, using their local knowledge and networks to sustain tourism activities during difficult times.

Community-based tourism (CBT) offers a promising strategy for sustainable tourism development, with the potential to empower local communities and

improve their economic, social, and environmental well-being. The effective implementation of CBT necessitates a comprehensive understanding of local contexts, active community involvement, and the establishment of supportive policy frameworks. As the tourism sector continues to evolve, continuous research and collaboration among stakeholders will be crucial to optimizing the benefits of CBT for local communities. With these insights the research addresses these gaps by analyzing the extent and impact of Community-Based Tourism implementation and Local communities' participation on CBT activities in Sembalun Lawang Village. By investigating how perceived benefits and costs shape community engagement and evaluating participation through multiple dimensions, this study aims to contribute actionable insights to enhance policy frameworks and CBT practices in Indonesia. This work will not only fill existing research gaps but also provide a model for balancing stakeholder interests in tourism development.

1.5.2 Local Community Participation

Local community participation in tourism is pivotal for understanding the dynamics between local communities and tourism development. It posits that active engagement of residents can lead to more sustainable tourism practices, enhance community welfare, and ensure equitable distribution of tourism benefits. A critical aspect influencing this participation is the political environment, highlighted by Han et al., (2014) who argue that a top-down governance structure can significantly restrict local involvement in tourism decision-making processes. This underscores the necessity for transparent communication and participatory frameworks that

empower residents to engage meaningfully in tourism planning (Hatipoglu et al., 2016).

Moreover, local residents' perceptions regarding tourism impacts are closely linked to their level of information and involvement in the planning process. In Cyprus, many residents felt alienated from tourism planning, indicating a passive participation model primarily driven by top-down information dissemination (Boukas & Ziakas, 2016). This disconnect can foster negative attitudes towards tourism, as residents may perceive themselves as excluded from tourism development's benefits and repercussions. Thyne et al. further emphasise that creating opportunities for residents to voice their concerns and gain insights into tourism can cultivate a more informed and engaged community (Tagowa, 2015)

The significance of community involvement extends beyond mere participation it is essential for achieving sustainable tourism outcomes. Nguyen and Thanh discovered that active participation in decision-making correlates positively with social and economic sustainability in rural tourism contexts (Thang & Thanh, 2023). This finding aligns with Vélez et al., (2023) argues that community participation is vital for sustainable tourism management, particularly in protected areas where local knowledge can enhance conservation efforts.

By integrating local perspectives, tourism planning can better align with community needs and values, fostering a more sustainable tourism model. Socio-cultural factors also play a crucial role in shaping local support for tourism initiatives. Community attachment and awareness of sustainable tourism practices significantly influence support for tourism development. By fostering a sense of

community and enhancing residents' understanding of the benefits of tourism, greater participation and support for sustainable practices can be achieved. This notion is echoed by Tian et al., who assert that awareness of sustainable tourism practices is a key determinant of local community engagement in tourism (Tian et al., 2023). Local communities serve as a host and play an essential role throughout all stages

1. Participation in Planning stage, authentic participation starts with informing the community about the tourism project, followed by consultation, where their opinions are solicited. Still, the decision-making remains with developers or authorities. As the process advances to involvement, the community plays a more active role in shaping the plans, though the final decisions are still primarily controlled by external actors.
2. Participation in development stage, the community collaborates, working alongside developers, government agencies, and other stakeholders in co-creating the project. In this phase, community members may take on roles such as coordinating resources or integrating local knowledge into the project.
3. Participation in management stage, the community reaches empowerment, taking control over the tourism project's operations, including decision-making on resource allocation, marketing, and sustainability efforts. This stage emphasizes long-term self-sufficiency, with the community managing tourism in a way that respects local culture and ensures its economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Communities in tourism development areas should be encouraged to identify their own goals and guide tourism development in ways that address local needs and priorities. The active involvement of local communities in decision-making processes is essential, together with the participation of other key stakeholders, including government institutions, the private sector, and other members of society. Such collaboration is important to ensure that tourism development is inclusive and responsive to the interests of all parties involved

In addition, tourism education plays a crucial role in strengthening the capacity of local communities, particularly in enabling them to understand, manage, and benefit from tourism activities. Therefore, tourism development planning should accommodate the aspirations, capabilities, and interests of local communities to participate actively and obtain optimal benefits from tourism development. Community participation is particularly significant in the development of tourism villages, as residents are the primary owners and custodians of the tourism resources offered to visitors.

In this context, participation can be understood as the right of community members to be involved in decision-making processes at every stage of development, including planning, implementation, monitoring, and preservation. Consequently, communities should not be perceived merely as passive beneficiaries or objects of development, but rather as active subjects and key actors in the tourism development process. Community participation can be categorized into several levels. According to Sherry R. Arnstein (Suwignyo, 2009) community participation is divided into eight levels that represent different degrees of public involvement in

decision-making processes. The levels of participation, from the lowest to the highest, are as follows.

1. Manipulation

This is the lowest level of participation, where the community is used merely in name. Activities at this level are intended to manipulate information to obtain public support and to promise better conditions, even though such improvements may never actually occur.

2. Therapy

At this level, those in power attempt to justify proposals by pretending to involve the community. Although the community may appear to participate in certain activities, the main objective is to change people's attitudes rather than to obtain genuine input from them.

3. Informing

At this stage, those in power simply provide information to the community regarding proposed activities. The community is not empowered to influence the outcome. The information may include rights, responsibilities, and various options; however, there is no opportunity for feedback or negotiation. Information is usually delivered at the final stage of planning, leaving the community with very limited opportunity to influence the proposed plan.

4. Consultation

At this level, the community is not only informed but also invited to express their opinions. However, there is no guarantee that the views expressed by the

community will be considered in the decision-making process. Methods commonly used at this stage include surveys, community meetings, and public hearings.

5. Placation

At this level, those in power, usually the government, appoint several representatives from the affected community to become members of a public body. Although community proposals may still be considered, their influence remains limited because their position is relatively weak and their number is smaller than that of government representatives. As a result, they are generally unable to influence final decisions.

6. Partnership

At this stage, the community has the right to negotiate with decision makers or government authorities. Through mutual agreement, power is shared between the community and the government. Both parties share responsibilities in planning, decision making control, policy formulation, and problem solving.

7. Delegated Power

At this level, the community is granted greater authority to make decisions regarding certain plans or programs. In addressing problems, the government must negotiate with the community rather than impose decisions from above. This allows the community to exercise a higher degree of control over specific decisions.

8. Citizen Control

This represents the highest level of participation. At this stage, the community fully participates in and controls the entire decision-making process. The community has the authority to manage programs or institutions related to its

interests and can negotiate directly with external parties seeking to introduce changes. In addition, community initiatives may access funding sources directly without relying on third parties

Sherry R. Arnstein's "Ladder of Citizen Participation" is deliberately selected as the primary analytical framework for this study because it fundamentally elevates the concept of participation from a sociological metric to a political one. Within the discipline of Government Science, participation cannot be measured merely by the volume of economic activity or the frequency of communal meetings; it must be evaluated by the actual redistribution of power. While conventional tourism development typologies often categorize the operational methods of community involvement, Arnstein provides a critical lens that equates true participation with the extent to which citizens can induce significant social reform and share in the sovereign decision-making process.

This theoretical approach is uniquely suited to examine the research question because it distinguishes between the administrative processes of tourism and the actual locus of authority. In complex governance environments like Mount Merbabu National Park, state actors may frequently employ mechanisms of public consultation, information sharing, and localized task delegation. However, Arnstein's framework strictly separates these activities from genuine citizen control. By utilizing her sequential rungs—spanning from Manipulation to Citizen Power—this study can systematically analyze whether the National Park Authority's engagement with Tarubatang Village represents a genuine co-management partnership or a highly structured form of institutional pacification.

Furthermore, Arnstein's distinct category of "Tokenism" which encompasses Informing, Consultation, and Placation is the most precise theoretical tool available to diagnose the structural symptoms of asymmetric governance. It provides the academic vocabulary necessary to argue that allowing a community to speak, or requiring a community to perform the operational labor of tourism, is politically meaningless if the state retains the exclusive right to make final, binding decisions. By applying this framework, the research directly aligns with the core concerns of political science mapping how authority is monopolized, how public policy is dictated, and how local communities navigate hegemonic institutional structures.

1.5.3 Community-Based Tourism Theory

Community-Based Tourism (CBT) is a development model that prioritizes the active involvement of local communities in planning, managing, and benefiting from tourism activities. This approach is rooted in the belief that communities should play a central role in shaping tourism experiences in their regions to ensure alignment with their social, economic, and environmental interests (Dewi et al., 2019). The theoretical foundation of CBT is multifaceted, integrating principles of community empowerment, sustainable development, and participatory governance. At its core, CBT emphasizes a human-centered approach, ensuring that local voices are central to decision-making processes in tourism development. This aligns with the principles of sustainable tourism, which stress equity within current generations and the critical role of community involvement in shaping tourism policies (Butowski, 2021).

CBT seeks to empower communities by fostering their active participation in decision-making and encouraging local ownership of tourism initiatives (Ginanjar, 2023). Such empowerment strengthens community pride, identity, and social cohesion (Lemelin et al., 2015). Additionally, CBT serves as a potential tool for poverty reduction by creating employment opportunities and stimulating local economies through tourism-related businesses (Tasci et al., 2014).

A fundamental principle of CBT is its emphasis on sustainable practices that support both the community and the environment. By valuing local culture and natural resources, CBT aims to mitigate adverse impacts of tourism, such as environmental harm and cultural commodification (Umam et al., 2022). Research highlights that successful CBT initiatives can yield tangible outcomes, like increased employment and skill development, alongside intangible benefits, such as heightened community pride and stronger social networks. These benefits contribute to a more sustainable tourism model aligned with the broader goals of sustainable development (Yuniati et al., 2023).

Despite its advantages, implementing CBT presents challenges, including power imbalances, limited community participation, and risks of external exploitation (Trejos et al., 2008). Effective CBT requires collaboration among stakeholders such as governments, NGOs, and local communities to establish equitable frameworks for participation and benefit-sharing (Rosilawati et al., 2021). Additionally, continuous education and capacity-building efforts are essential to equip communities with the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable tourism management (Giampiccoli et al., 2014).

As Potjana (2003) provides a holistic framework for understanding the complex interplay between Community-Based Tourism and its impacts on local communities. It advocates for a balanced approach that maximizes economic, social, and cultural benefits while minimizing environmental and political risks. By integrating sustainable tourism practices and ensuring community participation, the theory emphasizes the importance of tourism as a tool for community empowerment and long-term development. This approach is particularly relevant in CBT contexts, where the well-being of local communities is prioritized in tourism planning and management.

Table 1.1 CBT Main Aspect

Community	Dimension	Indicator
	Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise income of the local people. 2. Community Development. 3. Create Jobs Opportunities.
	Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased quality of life. 2. Promote Community Pride. 3. Division of Tasks Between Men and Woman. 4. Build Community Organization.
	Cultural	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage Respect for Different Cultures. 2. Foster Cultural Exchange. 3. Embed Development in Local Culture.
	Environmental	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage Waste Disposal. 2. Raise the Awareness for Conservation.

	Social	1. Enable Local Community Participation. 2. Increase Community Power.

Source: Suansri (2003)

1. Positive Impact

a. Economic Growth and Job Creations

One of the most frequently cited positive impacts of tourism is its ability to stimulate local economies. Tourism generates substantial revenue from spending on accommodation, food, transport, and entertainment. This economic influx often leads to the creation of new jobs and business opportunities, particularly in sectors like hospitality, transportation, and retail in many destinations, tourism provides a crucial source of income for local businesses and small enterprises, which can enhance the financial stability of communities.

b. Improvement in Infrastructure and Public Services

Tourism often drives the development of infrastructure that benefits both visitors and residents. As destinations invest in new roads, public transportation systems, parks, and cultural amenities to cater to tourists, residents often enjoy improved living standards. For example, better roads and transportation networks can reduce traffic for locals and increase mobility. Similarly, the development of new public spaces or recreational areas funded by tourism revenues can enhance the quality of life for residents.

c. Stronger Place Attachment and Cultural Exchange

Tourism also fosters cultural exchange, offering residents the opportunity to share their traditions and heritage with visitors. This exchange can increase mutual respect and understanding between different cultures, contributing to social cohesion and peace. Furthermore, when residents see their culture being appreciated by outsiders, they often experience a sense of pride in their heritage. This enhanced community identity can result in stronger local support for tourism, as residents feel that their culture is valued and promoted through tourism activities.

2. Negative Impact

a. Economic Inequality

While tourism can generate significant wealth, the benefits are often unequally distributed. Large corporations and external investors often take a higher benefit from tourism activities than the local communities, leading to economic inequality. Residents may see their towns become increasingly dependent on tourism, yet feel excluded from the profits or employment opportunities provided by the industry. In some cases, the jobs created in the tourism sector are low-wage, seasonal, and lack of job security, which can exacerbate economic inequality and create a sense of unhappiness among residents.

b. Loss of Community Identity

A significant challenge in CBT is the risk of cultural commodification. To cater to tourists' expectations, local communities may alter or exaggerate their traditional practices, which can result in the loss of authenticity. This process called selling" culture for tourism may diminish the cultural value and significance of practices originally intended for community life rather than tourist consumption.

c. Dependency on Tourism

CBT can lead to an over-dependence on tourism as a primary source of income for local communities. This dependency makes the community vulnerable to external factors such as economic downturns, changes in tourist behaviors, or global crises like pandemics. When tourism declines, communities that rely heavily on it may struggle to find alternative sources of income, exposing them to financial instability.

In conclusion, the tourism activities reveals that both positive and negative impacts on residents support for tourism and their perceived quality of life. While tourism can bring economic growth, improve Infrastructure, and promote cultural exchange, it can also lead to overcrowding, environmental degradation, and cultural erosion. The balance between these competing factors ultimately shapes how residents perceive tourism and their willingness to support it. Therefore, effective management of tourism impacts especially through CBT perspective is essential for ensuring that tourism remains a force for positive community development and does not detract from residents well-being.

1.6 Operationalization

Operationalization is the procedure by which a researcher specifies how abstract concepts will be observed and measured in a study. It involves converting theoretical ideas into concrete variables that can be collected, analyzed, and interpreted using empirical data.

1.6.1 Local Community Participation

Community participation in tourism development can be understood as the extent to which local communities are actively involved in shaping, implementing, and managing tourism activities that affect their lives. This involvement encompasses various aspects, including participation in planning, access to relevant information, opportunities to express opinions and aspirations, influence over final decisions, engagement in the implementation process, participation in monitoring and evaluation, as well as control over resources and funding. These elements together provide a comprehensive picture of how empowered a community is in the development process.

The ladder of participation proposed by Sherry R. Arnstein offers a useful framework to conceptualize these different levels of involvement. According to Arnstein, participation ranges from symbolic forms where communities have little to no influence to full control, where communities actively direct and manage activities themselves. At the lower rungs of the ladder, communities may be informed or consulted, but their input has limited impact. As one moves higher, communities gain more substantive influence, eventually reaching stages where they share decision-making power or exercise complete control.

By observing these different aspects of participation, researchers can later measure the level at which a community operates on Arnstein's ladder. In other words, the indicators of planning involvement, information access, expression of aspirations, decision-making influence, participation in implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and control over resources and funding will serve as

tools to assess whether the community's role is merely symbolic or genuinely empowering.

1. Manipulation and Therapy

Participation is largely illusory. The community is not genuinely involved in planning, has limited or distorted access to information, and is not provided with opportunities to express its aspirations. Any involvement in implementation is merely symbolic, with no role in monitoring, evaluation, or control over resources and funding.

2. Informing

The community begins to receive information; however, communication remains one-directional. Despite the availability of information, there is no mechanism for feedback or negotiation. Consequently, the community has no influence over decision-making, and its involvement in planning, implementation, and resource control remains minimal.

3. Consultation

Opportunities to express opinions emerge through mechanisms such as public meetings or surveys. Nevertheless, these inputs do not necessarily influence final decisions. While some degree of involvement in planning, implementation, and monitoring can be observed, control over resources and funding is still not granted.

4. Placation/Tokenism

Community members are included as representatives in planning and decision-making forums. Information is relatively accessible, and channels for expressing aspirations are available. However, their influence remains limited due to an

imbalance of power. Participation in implementation and monitoring increases, yet control over resources continues to be restricted.

5. Partnership

Collaborative partnership emerges between the community and governing actors. Active involvement in planning is evident, supported by transparent access to information and open opportunities to express aspirations. Community exerts meaningful influence on decision-making, participates in implementation, and contributes to monitoring and evaluation. Control over resources and funding is shared.

6. Delegated Power

Decision-making authority shifts significantly toward the community. Planning processes are largely driven by local actors, supported by transparent information flows and broad opportunities for participation. The community plays a dominant role in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, while exercising substantial control over resources and funding.

7. Citizen Control

Full authority rests with the community. All aspects of tourism development from planning to evaluation are managed independently. Information is fully accessible, aspirations are freely expressed, and decision-making power is entirely driven by the community. Control over resources and funding is also completely in the hands of the community.

1.6.2 Community-Based Tourism

1. Economic Dimension

Community-Based Tourism is expected to drive local economic benefits by creating income-generating opportunities and reducing dependency on external actors.

Operationalization:

- a. Income Generation: Measured through the increase in local employment (tour guides, hospitality services, local artisans).
- b. Business Development: Monitoring the growth of locally owned businesses (guesthouses, restaurants, and handicraft shops).

2. Social Dimension

Community-Based Tourism is designed to enhance social cohesion, improve quality of life, and ensure that tourism benefits are distributed equitably across the community.

Operationalization:

- a. Social Cohesion: Evaluated through community surveys that assess the sense of pride, collective responsibility, and unity among residents regarding tourism development.

3. Cultural Dimension

Community-Based Tourism encourages the preservation of cultural heritage, ensuring that tourism supports the authentic expression of local traditions and wisdom without modifying them.

Operationalization:

- a. Cultural Promotion: Monitored through the number of cultural activities (festivals, performances) that incorporate local traditions.

- b. Cultural Authenticity: Measured through community perception regarding whether the tourism has led to the degradation of their local wisdom and tradition.

4. Environmental Dimension

Community-Based Tourism initiatives are designed to promote environmental sustainability through responsible resource management and conservation efforts.

Operationalization:

- a. Conservation Efforts: Measured through the implementation of local conservation programs and the community's involvement in maintaining natural landscapes.
- b. Impact on Environment: Measured by evaluating the local perception on the environment, such as waste, noise, and health due the implementation of CBT initiatives.

5. Polical Dimension

Community-Based Tourism promotes inclusive governance by encouraging local participation in decision-making processes and empowering communities to influence tourism development in their area.

Operationalization:

- a. Community Participation: Measured by the level of community involvement in tourism activities through all stages
- b. Institutional Support:Evaluated through the presence of supportive policies,local government engagement and collaboration between stakeholders in managing CBT initiatives

1.7 Framework of Thinking



The diagram presents a conceptual framework illustrating the impacts of community-based tourism on local communities and their participation in Tarubatang Village within Merbabu National Park. At the top, the framework identifies the main focus, namely the impact of community-based tourism on local communities and the extent of their participation. This indicates that the study examines both the outcomes of tourism and the role of local community involvement. At the center of the framework is local community participation, which functions as the key variable. This suggests that the level and nature of community involvement play a crucial role in determining the outcomes of tourism activities.

From this central point five dimensions of impact are identified, including economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental aspects. The economic impact refers to changes in income levels, employment opportunities, and local business development. The social impact concerns shift in social relationships, community cohesion, and overall quality of life. The political impact relates to local governance, decision-making processes, and community empowerment. The

cultural impact addresses the preservation or transformation of local traditions, values, and cultural heritage.

Finally, the environmental impact examines the effects of tourism on natural resources, including conservation efforts and potential environmental degradation. Overall, the framework emphasizes that local community participation is a central determinant influencing multiple dimensions of impact arising from community-based tourism.

1. Economic Impact

This refers to the effects of community-based tourism on local income generation, employment opportunities, business development, and overall economic welfare. It considers whether tourism contributes to improving the financial stability of households and the village economy.

2. Social Impact

This dimension examines changes in social relationships, community cohesion, quality of life, education, and social empowerment. It assesses whether tourism strengthens social networks or creates social challenges within the community.

3. Political Impact

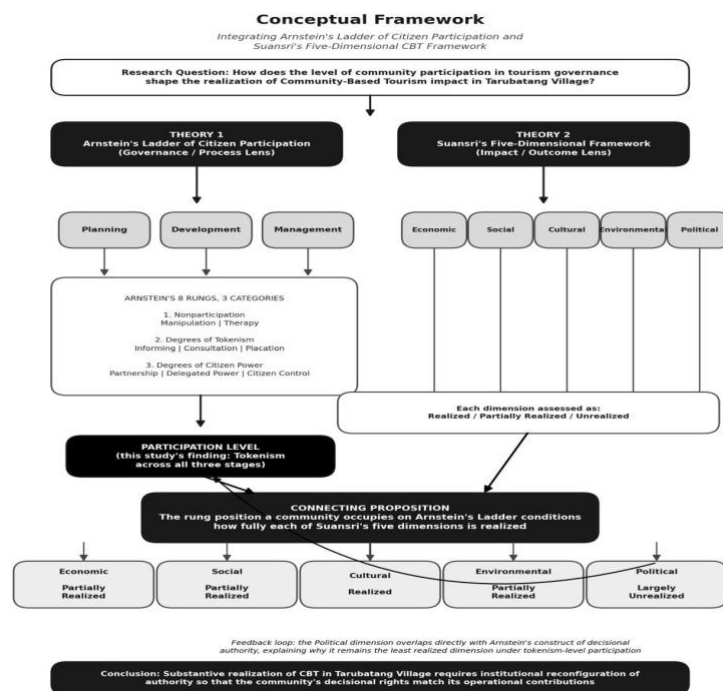
This relates to the influence of tourism on local governance, decision-making processes, power distribution, and community involvement in policy formulation. It evaluates whether community members have a voice in tourism planning and management.

4. Cultural Impact

This aspect concerns the preservation, revitalization, or transformation of local traditions, customs, and cultural heritage. It analyzes whether tourism supports cultural sustainability or leads to cultural commodification.

5. Environmental Impact

This dimension evaluates the effects of tourism activities on natural resources, biodiversity, environmental conservation, and ecological sustainability within the Merbabu National Park area.



This conceptual framework illustrates how the study integrates two distinct theoretical lenses to examine the research question of how community participation shapes the realization of Community-Based Tourism impact in Tarubatang Village. Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation serves as the governance lens, applied to the three stages of planning, development, and management. Each stage is assessed

against Arnstein's eight rungs, which collapse into three broader categories: nonparticipation, comprising manipulation and therapy; degrees of tokenism, comprising informing, consultation, and placation; and degrees of citizen power, comprising partnership, delegated power, and citizen control.

This assessment produces the study's central finding that participation remains within the tokenism category across all three governance stages. Suansri's five-dimensional framework serves as the impact lens, applied to the economic, social, cultural, environmental, and political dimensions, with each dimension assessed as realized, partially realized, or unrealized. The two lenses are joined by a connecting proposition stating that the rung position a community occupies on Arnstein's Ladder conditions how fully each of Suansri's dimensions is realized. This proposition explains the study's outcome pattern, in which the cultural dimension is realized, the economic, social, and environmental dimensions are partially realized, and the political dimension is largely unrealized.

A feedback loop links the political dimension back to the participation level, since political impact is itself measured through decisional influence, the same construct that defines tokenism on Arnstein's Ladder, which accounts for why this dimension remains the least realized. The framework concludes that the substantive realization of Community-Based Tourism in Tarubatang Village requires an institutional reconfiguration of authority so that the community's decisional rights match its operational contributions.

1.8 Research Methods

1.8.1 Type of Research

This research is using qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative descriptive research is a method that focused on providing a comprehensive summary of events, experiences, or phenomena in their natural settings. It is characterized by minimal interpretation and is designed to stay close to the data, often using interviews, focus groups, or observations to capture participants' views as accurately as possible. Unlike other qualitative methods that aim to develop theories or explore deep meanings, qualitative descriptive research aims to describe phenomena straightforwardly and factually.

According to Sandelowski (2000), qualitative descriptive research seeks to produce a rich, detailed account of a phenomenon without heavy theoretical interpretation. It is beneficial in healthcare, education, and social sciences, where understanding participants' perspectives and the context of their experiences is essential. Sandelowski emphasizes that this approach aligns with a naturalistic inquiry, adhering to the belief that reality is subjective and context-dependent. This method's primary goal is to remain faithful to the participants' voices, ensuring that findings are presented in a language accessible to researchers and practitioners. Its data collection and analysis often involve thematic analysis but with a focus on descriptive accuracy rather than conceptual abstraction.

1.8.2 Research Site

This study is conducted in Merbabu National Park, specifically focusing on Tarubatang Village, located in Boyolali Regency, Central Java, Indonesia. The

National Park is one of Indonesia's well known tourist destination due it is natural beauty and cultural heritage.

1.8.3 Research Subject

The subject of this research are the Merbabu National Park manager/staff ,head of village of Tarubatang and local communities residing in Tarubatang Village.The informant especially includes individuals who actively participate in *Community- Based Tourism* activities in that area such as: Tour guides, Local business owners, and community members that involved in tourism implementation. The study gathers data from these local communities and stakeholders and aims to understand how CBT initiatives impact these individuals.

The informants in this research were selected using the *purposive sampling method*. According to Creswell (2013) *purposive sampling method* involves selecting participants who are "especially knowledgeable about or experienced with the phenomenon of interest." This ensures that the data collected is highly relevant to the research questions. In this case, the informants were selected from both communities and stakeholders that expected to provide rich and detailed insights with this research objectivities.

1.8.4 Data Source

This research is using two type of data source namely the primary data and Secondary data that collected by using this method.

1. Primary Data

Primary data refers to the first-hand information collected directly from the local community in Tarubatang Village, located within Merbabu National Park. The

primary data sources include semi-structured interviews with key informants such as tour guides, local business owners (e.g., artisans, lodge operators), The Merbabu National Park staff, and community that involved in Community- Based Tourism (CBT). These interviews provide valuable insights into the participants' experiences, perceptions, and the impact of CBT on their community's economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects.

2. Secondary Data

Secondary data, on the other hand, consists of existing information that complements and supports the primary data. This includes government reports and tourism statistics from local authorities, such as the Tourism Department and Merbabu National Park management that relevant with this research objectivities. Literature reviews from academic sources, including research studies, articles, and books on CBT, and the broader impacts of tourism, also serve as secondary data. These secondary sources provide the theoretical framework and context necessary for understanding the more significant implications of CBT in the region and complement the qualitative insights gained from the primary data.

1.8.5 Data Type

This research is utilizing a qualitative data that from a description interpretation and narrative. This data was collected from interview that conducted to the research subject, observation in the research area, and document analysis.

1.8.6 Data Collection Technique

This research on Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Tarubatang Village, Boyolali Regency uses a qualitative approach to gather rich, detailed insights into

the impact of tourism on the local community. The primary data collection techniques include semi-structured interviews, observations, and document analysis.

1. Interview

Interview is a qualitative data collection method that involves direct, purposeful interaction between the researcher and informants through guided questioning in order to explore participants' experiences, perceptions, meanings, and interpretations related to a particular phenomenon. These interviews are conducted with key informants such as local business owners, tour guides, Merbabu National Park manager/staff, and communities that involved in managing and implementing CBT.

The semi-structured format allows for flexibility, enabling the researcher to investigate deeper responses while maintaining consistency across interviews. This technique provides direct, in-depth perspectives on the participants' experiences and opinions regarding CBT's economic, social, cultural, and environmental effects.

2. Observations

Observation is a qualitative data collection method in which the researcher systematically watches, listens to, and records behaviors, interactions, and events as they naturally occur within a specific social or physical setting. The purpose of observation is to gain firsthand, contextualized understanding of social phenomena from the perspective of the participants and their environment. The researcher observes the tourism activities directly. This includes monitoring the economic,

social, cultural, and environmental impact perceived among the local communities. Observational data provides context and insight into the real-time dynamics of CBT in practice.

3. Document analysis

Documentation refers to the systematic collection, organization, and analysis of existing written, visual, or audio materials that are relevant to the research topic. These materials are not produced specifically for the study but are examined as sources of data to understand social phenomena, meanings, practices, or contexts. Secondary data from existing sources, such as tourism reports, government documents, and tourism statistics (from sources like Merbabu National Park management and local government reports), are reviewed. This technique supplements primary data by offering quantitative insights into visitor numbers, economic impacts, and policy frameworks related to CBT initiatives. These data collection methods allow for a comprehensive understanding of the local community's role in and response to CBT, ensuring that the research captures both qualitative insights and relevant statistical data to assess the impacts effectively.

1.8.7 Analysis and Data Interpretation

This research is using the models developed by Miles and Huberman (1994) provide a structured approach to analysing and interpreting qualitative data. Miles and Huberman's model is particularly useful for organizing and making sense of the extensive data collected from interviews, observations, and documents to ensure accuracy and clarity.

1. Data Collection

Data that get from interview were classified based on the research objectivities, and utilize as model analysis at the first phase of the research.

2. Data Reduction

This is the process of simplifying and focusing the data by selecting, coding, and summarizing information. In this research, interview transcripts and field notes from observations are reviewed and organized into manageable data. The key themes (economic, social, environmental, and cultural impact) will be identified and coded to reduce the data into relevant categories. Document analysis (e.g., tourism reports, visitor statistics) will also be filtered and categorized to align with the study's key themes and objectives.

3. Data Display

Once the data is reduced, it is organized into a visual format for easy analysis. Miles and Huberman suggest that a narrative text is the most prominent way in qualitative method research. From this phase the data were identified to answer the research question.

4. Conclusion Drawing and Verification

This phase involves interpreting the data by making sense of the reduced and displayed data. It is a process of drawing conclusions based on patterns, themes, and relationships that emerge from the analysis. Miles and Huberman recommend continuously revisiting the data to ensure the conclusions are grounded in evidence.