

Self-Reliance with Nature: Development of Subak Ecotourism as an Effort to Empower the Local Community in Siangan Village, Gianyar District, Gianyar Regency

Putu Ayu Sita Laksmi ^{1*}, I Wayan Gde Yogiswara Darma Putra ², I Made Sara ³, I Made Setena ⁴, I Komang Putra ⁵, Mohd Raziff Jamaludin ⁶

^{1,2,3,4,5} Faculty of Economic and Business, Warmadewa University

⁶ Faculty of Hotel and Tourism, Universiti Teknologi Mara Malaysia

*Corresponding Author: ayusitatirtana@gmail.com

Abstract: The research endeavors to explore the potential of Subak ecotourism as a catalyst for community empowerment and sustainable development within Siangan Village. The research methodology adopts a comprehensive approach, delving into the Subak system, a traditional agricultural water management system, and its synergy with ecotourism activities. Data collection methods encompass interviews, surveys, and observations, strategically applied to amass insights into the current status of ecotourism development and its ramifications on the local community. The study's findings underscore the substantial role of Subak ecotourism in fostering community empowerment. Through the promotion of sustainable practices, preservation of cultural heritage, and active community engagement in ecotourism endeavors, the initiative aims to elevate the economic, social, and environmental well-being of Siangan Village's residents. Furthermore, it seeks to instill a sense of pride and ownership within the local community, subsequently stimulating increased community involvement and empowerment. The research also delves into the potential challenges and opportunities that may manifest during the implementation of the Subak ecotourism project. The results emphasize the necessity of collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders, including local governmental bodies, community members, and tourism organizations, to guarantee the success and enduring sustainability of the undertaking. Anticipated outcomes of this study are expected to augment the existing knowledge base on community-centered ecotourism development, particularly in the context of Subak systems. These findings are poised to provide valuable guidance to policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in formulating strategies for the sustainable advancement of ecotourism that effectively empowers local communities while safeguarding natural and cultural heritage. In conclusion, this research contributes to the growing body of literature on community-based ecotourism by providing insights into the unique dynamics and potential of Subak ecotourism in Siangan Village. By embracing sustainable practices and preserving cultural heritage, this initiative holds promise as a model for empowering communities while ensuring the preservation of their natural and cultural treasures.

Keywords: community empowerment, nature, self-reliance, Subak ecotourism, sustainable development, Siangan Village

Informasi Artikel: Submission 9 June 2023 | Revision 22 September 2023 | Accepted 28 October 2023

How to Cite: Laksmi, P. A. S., Putra, I W. G. Y. D., Sara, I M., Setena, I M., Putra, I K., Jamaludin, M. R. (2023). Self-Reliance with Nature: Development of Subak Ecotourism as an Effort to Empower the Local Community in Siangan Village, Gianyar District, Gianyar Regency. *Bhakti Persada Jurnal Aplikasi IPTEKS*, 9(2), 118-123.

Introduction

Siangan Village, located in the Gianyar District of Gianyar Regency, is endowed with rich cultural heritage and natural resources. One of its notable features is the Subak system, a traditional agricultural water management system that has been practiced for centuries (Mahayani et al., 2023). This system not only supports agricultural productivity but also plays a significant role in preserving the local culture and environment. Subak in Bali has several lessons. One of them is ecological wisdom. Subak's ecological wisdom is basically based on the Tri Hita Karana philosophy (Windia et al., 2018).

The development and growth of natural tourism (ecotourism) has two primary goals: increasing the income of local residents and preserving the surrounding natural environment (Wayan et al., 2023). In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the potential of Subak as a unique tourism attraction. The integration of ecotourism with the Subak system can provide opportunities for community empowerment and sustainable development in Siangan Village (Sudika & Sukanti, 2022). By capitalizing on the area's natural beauty, cultural traditions, and

agricultural practices, Subak ecotourism can contribute to the improvement of the local economy, social well-being, and environmental conservation (Maritin et al., 2023) .

The concept of "Self-Reliance with Nature: Development of Subak Ecotourism as an Effort to Empower the Local Community" aims to explore the potential benefits and challenges associated with the development of Subak ecotourism in Siangan Village. This research seeks to investigate how the integration of sustainable tourism practices can empower the local community, enhance their socio-economic conditions, and promote the preservation of the Subak system and its surrounding environment.

The objectives of this study are:

1. To assess the current state of Subak ecotourism development in Siangan Village and its impact on the local community.
2. To examine the potential of Subak ecotourism in contributing to community empowerment, socio-economic development, and environmental conservation.
3. To identify the challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of Subak ecotourism as a community-based initiative.
4. To provide recommendations for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners on strategies for sustainable Subak ecotourism development and community empowerment in Siangan Village.

By conducting this research, we aim to contribute to the existing knowledge on community-based ecotourism development, particularly within the context of Subak systems. The findings of this study will not only give the benefit for local community of Siangan Village but also provide valuable insights for other regions with similar cultural and environmental contexts.

The subsequent sections of this paper will delve into the literature review, research methodology, data analysis, and discussion of the findings. Finally, the study will conclude with recommendations for sustainable Subak ecotourism development and community empowerment in Siangan Village, Gianyar District, Gianyar Regency. Siangan Village, as a potential ecotourism destination, offers a unique opportunity to showcase the Subak system's intrinsic connection to nature and its cultural significance. Ecotourism, defined as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local communities, aligns perfectly with the values and goals of Subak. By developing Subak ecotourism, Siangan Village can harness its cultural and natural assets to create sustainable livelihoods for its residents while preserving the local heritage and ecosystems.

The empowerment of the local community is a crucial aspect of Subak ecotourism development. By actively involving the community in decision-making processes, capacity building, and benefit sharing, it is possible to create a sense of ownership and pride among the residents (Putra et al., 2022) This empowerment can lead to increased community participation, improved socio-economic conditions, and a heightened commitment to environmental stewardship (Darma et al., 2023)

However, the implementation of Subak ecotourism initiatives also presents challenges. Balancing the preservation of cultural traditions with the demands of tourism development requires careful planning and management. Ensuring that the benefits of tourism are equitably distributed among the local community, avoiding negative environmental impacts, and maintaining the authenticity of the Subak system are important considerations in this process (Purwita et al., 2023)

The data will collect by conducting interviews, surveys, and observations, on the current state of Subak ecotourism, the perceptions and experiences of the local community, and the challenges faced in its implementation. Through the analysis of this data, of identify opportunities for enhancing community engagement, improving socio-economic conditions, and promoting environmental sustainability within the context of Subak ecotourism.

The findings of this study will contribute to the academic discourse on sustainable tourism development and community empowerment. The results will serve as a valuable resource for local policymakers, tourism practitioners, and community leaders in designing and implementing Subak ecotourism initiatives that bring about positive and inclusive outcomes.

In the following sections, we will delve into the literature review to establish a theoretical framework, outline the research methodology, present the findings and analysis, and conclude with recommendations for the development of Subak ecotourism and the empowerment of the local community in Siangan Village, Gianyar District, Gianyar Regency.

Method

The methods used in this Community Service project "Self-Reliance with Nature: Development of Subak Eco-tourism as an Effort to Empower the Local Community in Siangan Village, Gianyar District, Gianyar Regency," include the following:

This stage involves conducting a comprehensive review of relevant literature related to Subak systems, eco-tourism, community empowerment, sustainable development, and similar topics.

Field observations are conducted together first-hand information about the existing state of Subak ecotourism in Siangan Village. This involves visiting the village, observing the Subak system, local tourism activities, and interviewing key stakeholders such as community members, local leaders, and tourism operators. Surveys and interviews are conducted to gather data and perspectives from the local community regarding their knowledge, perceptions, and experiences related to Subak ecotourism and community empowerment. The collected data from field observations, surveys, and three interviewees are analyzed using appropriate qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques. Workshops involving various stakeholders, including community members, local government representatives, tourism operators, and relevant experts, are conducted to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and co-creation of strategies for Subak ecotourism development and community empowerment. Based on the findings from the data analysis and stakeholder workshops, recommendations and an action plan are formulated.

Result and Discussion

The study revealed that the current state of Subak ecotourism in Siangan Village is in its early stages of development. A few local initiatives have been implemented, such as guided tours of Subak rice fields and cultural performances. However, the overall tourism infrastructure and services are still limited. The survey and interviews indicated that the local community in Siangan Village has a positive perception of Subak ecotourism. They recognize its potential to provide economic opportunities, preserve cultural heritage, and protect the environment. The majority of respondents expressed willingness to actively engage in tourism-related activities. The study found that Subak ecotourism has the potential to bring socio-economic benefits to the local community. It can generate income through the provision of tourism services, such as homestays, local handicrafts, and traditional cuisine. Additionally, tourism can create employment opportunities and stimulate the growth of local businesses. The findings highlighted the role of Subak ecotourism in promoting environmental conservation. The Subak system itself contributes to biodiversity preservation and sustainable water management. Ecotourism activities can raise awareness among visitors about the importance of environmental stewardship and encourage responsible behavior. The activities of community service can be seen in Figure 1-5.



Figure 1. Delivery of coconut seeds



Figure 2. Opening of community service

the study proposes several recommendations. These include improving tourism infrastructure, developing marketing and promotional strategies, establishing community-based management structures, providing training and capacity building programs, and fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders (Utama et al., 2023). These recommendations aim to support the growth of Subak ecotourism while ensuring the empowerment and well-being of the local community. Overall, the results and discussion highlight the potential of Subak ecotourism in empowering the local community in Siangan Village. By leveraging the natural and cultural assets of the Subak system, ecotourism can contribute to sustainable development, economic growth, and community empowerment while preserving the unique heritage of the area.

Conclusion

Siangan Village has significant potential to develop Subak ecotourism as a source of income and empowerment for the local community. The interconnection of Subak with nature, cultural heritage, and local wisdom offers a unique experience for environmentally and culturally conscious tourists. The local community in Siangan Village welcomes the development of Subak ecotourism and shows a high willingness to engage in tourism activities. Their participation in decision-making processes and fair benefit sharing are key to achieving sustainable community empowerment (Wiguna et al., 2023). The development of Subak ecotourism can bring socio-economic benefits to the local community. It has the potential to generate income, create employment opportunities, and stimulate the growth of local businesses, contributing to the overall economic well-being of the community. Subak ecotourism plays a vital role in promoting environmental conservation. The Subak system itself contributes to preserving biodiversity and sustainable water management. Through ecotourism activities, visitors can be educated about the importance of environmental stewardship and encouraged to adopt responsible behaviors (Togatorop et al., 2022). In conclusion, the development of Subak ecotourism in Siangan Village offers opportunities for community empowerment, sustainable economic growth, and environmental conservation. By leveraging the unique assets of the Subak system and actively involving the local community, Subak ecotourism can contribute to the well-being of both the community and the natural environment. It is essential to implement appropriate strategies, address challenges, and ensure the long-term sustainability of Subak ecotourism development while preserving the cultural heritage and values of Siangan Village.

Acknowledge

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the international community service program between Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Universitas Warmadewa. This collaboration has provided us with valuable opportunities to engage in meaningful community service and cultural exchange activities. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the local communities in which we have worked during this program. Your warm hospitality, cooperation, and willingness to engage with us have made our experience truly enriching and memorable. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate in this international community service program, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in making a positive difference in the lives of communities and promoting cultural exchange.

Reference

- Darma, I. G. K. I. P., Widana, I. K. A., Kristina, N. M. R., Nuriawan, I. N. A., Ariputra, I. P. S., Nirmalayani, I. A., & Risadi, M. Y. (2023). "Green Movement" di ekowisata Subak Sembung Desa Peguyangan, Kecamatan Denpasar Utara Kota Denpasar. *Sevanam: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 150-158. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25078/sevanam.v2i2.3023>
- Febrianto, Muh., Marsiti, C. I. R., & Damiati, . (2021). Identifikasi potensi subak sambangan sebagai daya tarik ekowisata di Desa Sambangan. *Jurnal BOSAPARIS: Pendidikan Kesejahteraan Keluarga*, 12(3), 118-127. <https://doi.org/10.23887/jppkk.v12i3.40526>
- Giri, N. N. A., & Adikampana, I. M. (2018). Partisipasi generasi muda dalam pengembangan ekowisata subak sembung di Desa Peguyangan, Denpasar Bali. *Jurnal Destinasi Parificata*, 5(2), 315-321.
- Putra, I. W. G. Y. D., Sumartini, A. R., & Indriyani, N. M. V. (2022). PKM implementasi sistem akuntansi sederhana dan digitalisasi pemasaran loloh daun terter pada KWT Dwi Tunggal Putri Desa Taro. *International Journal of Community Service Learning*, 6(3), 263-269. <https://doi.org/10.23887/ijcsl.v6i3.50635>
- Kristin, D., & Anom, P. (2017). Potensi eco-cycling ekowisata subak sembung, di Desa Peguyangan, Kecamatan Denpasar Utara. *Jurnal Destinasi Pariwisata*, 5(1), 150-155.

- Mahayani, N. K. I., Warnata, I. N., & Suariedewi, I. G. A. A. M. (2023). Rencana penataan ruang terbuka hijau di Desa Siangan, Kecamatan Gianyar, Kabupaten Gianyar. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bangsa*, 1, 1065–1072.
- Maritin, N. P. I., Parwata, I. W., & Kurniawan, A. (2023). Analisis model perencanaan jalan usaha tani subak latu terhadap perkembangan infrastruktur ekowisata: Studi jalan usaha tani subak latu Desa Abiansemal Kabupaten Badung. *Jurnal Indonesia Sosial Teknologi*, 4(2).
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.59141/jist.v4i02.559>
- Purwita, N. P., Permadi, K. S., & Denpasar, P. N. (2023). Persepsi masyarakat terhadap pengembangan ekowisata di Subak Sembung Kelurahan Peguyangan Denpasar. In *Jurnal Penelitian Agama dan Kebudayaan* (Vol. 1, Issue 1). <https://jurnal.stahnmpukuturan.ac.id/index.php/widyadana>
- Prabandari, N. R., Wiguna, M. M. S., & Triswandana, W. G. E. (2023). Pemberdayaan masyarakat dalam penataan air Terjun Gulung Tikeh Desa Siangan, Kecamatan Gianyar, Kabupaten Gianyar-Bali.
- Sudika, I. G. M., & Sukanti, N. K. (2022). Penataan dan promosi ekowisata subak uma lambing di Desa Sibang Kaja Kecamatan Abiansemal Kabupaten Badung. *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, 1(10). <http://bangjournal.com/index.php/J-ABDI>
- Togatorop, T. T., Wijayanti, P. U., & Anggreini, I. G. A. A. L. (2022). Aspek sosial, ekonomi, dan lingkungan ekowisata Subak Sembung, Kelurahan Peguyangan, Kecamatan Denpasar Utara, Kota Denpasar, Provinsi Bali. *Jurnal Agribisnis Dan Agrowisata (Journal of Agribusiness and Agritourism)*, 864.
<https://doi.org/10.24843/jaa.2022.v11.i02.p36>
- Utama, G. R. A. N., Wijaya, K. A. S., & Winaya, I. K. (2023). Collaborative governance dalam pengelolaan ekowisata subak di Desa Wisata Jatiluwih, Kecamatan Penebel, Kabupaten Tabanan. In *Ethics and Law Journal: Business and Notary (ELJBN)*, 1(2). Online. <https://doi.org/10.61292/ELJBN.V1I2.34>
- Wayan, I., Astara, W., Putu Budiarta, N., Rideng, W., Bagoes, M., Wesna, W., & Setiasa, M. (2023). Community empowerment in developing village potentials in ecotourism activities in Abiansemal Badung Bali. *Law Doctoral Community Journal*, 2(1), 43–47.
- Wiguna, M. M. S., Prabandari, N. R., Agustini, N. K. A., & Dewi, K. G. P. (2023). Pemberdayaan masyarakat dalam penataan bibir sungai sebagai pendukung jembatan bambu dengan metode struktur perkuatan alam eksisting di Desa Siangan, Kecamatan Gianyar, Kabupaten Gianyar. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bangsa*, 1(7), 1294-1305.
- Windia, W., Suamba, I. K., Sumiyati, S., & Tika, W. (2018). sistem subak untuk pengembangan lingkungan yang berlandaskan Tri Hita Karana. *SOCA: Jurnal Sosial Ekonomi Pertanian*, 118.
<https://doi.org/10.24843/soca.2018.v12.i01.p10>