



Community-Based Ecotourism in Strengthening Local Empowerment: A Case Study of Umbul Manten, Sidowayah Village, Polanharjo District, Klaten

Beti Nur Hayati

UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

betinurhayati12@gmail.com

Abstract

Community-based tourism has become an important approach to promoting sustainable tourism while improving local community welfare. This study analyzes the implementation of community-based ecotourism in strengthening local empowerment in the management of Umbul Manten tourism, Klaten Regency. The research uses a qualitative case study approach through observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The findings show that the management of Umbul Manten by the Village-Owned Enterprise (BUMDes) and local communities reflects the principles of community-based ecotourism through environmentally oriented management, active community participation, and the development of local economic activities. Environmental conservation is carried out by preserving spring water sources, maintaining surrounding vegetation, and implementing environmental protection regulations. Community involvement also contributes to employment opportunities, diversification of local businesses, and stronger participation in tourism development. Overall, the study demonstrates that community-based ecotourism supports environmental sustainability, local empowerment, and economic development simultaneously.

Keywords: community-based ecotourism; community empowerment; sustainable tourism; Umbul Manten

Abstrak

Pariwisata berbasis masyarakat telah menjadi salah satu pendekatan penting dalam mendorong pariwisata berkelanjutan sekaligus meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat lokal. Penelitian ini menganalisis implementasi ekowisata berbasis masyarakat dalam memperkuat pemberdayaan masyarakat lokal pada pengelolaan wisata Umbul Manten, Kabupaten Klaten. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif melalui observasi, wawancara mendalam, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengelolaan Umbul Manten oleh Badan Usaha Milik Desa (BUMDes) dan masyarakat lokal mencerminkan prinsip-prinsip ekowisata berbasis masyarakat melalui pengelolaan yang berorientasi pada lingkungan, partisipasi aktif masyarakat, serta pengembangan aktivitas ekonomi lokal. Upaya pelestarian lingkungan dilakukan melalui pemeliharaan sumber mata air, menjaga vegetasi di sekitar kawasan, serta penerapan aturan perlindungan lingkungan. Keterlibatan masyarakat juga memberikan kontribusi terhadap terciptanya peluang kerja, diversifikasi usaha lokal, dan meningkatnya partisipasi masyarakat dalam pengembangan pariwisata. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ekowisata berbasis masyarakat mampu mendukung keberlanjutan lingkungan, pemberdayaan masyarakat lokal, dan pengembangan ekonomi secara bersamaan.

Kata kunci: *ekowisata berbasis masyarakat; pemberdayaan Masyarakat; pariwisata berkelanjutan; Umbul Manten*

A. Introduction

Tourism is one of the strategic sectors capable of driving economic growth while simultaneously improving societal welfare. The development of the tourism sector not only contributes to regional income (Aliansyah & Hermawan, 2021) but also creates employment opportunities (Sukmana, 2018), encouraging the development of small and medium business (Prasetyo & Suryoko, 2018) and enhances economic activities among communities surrounding tourism destinations (Wibowo et al., 2017). This sector possesses unique characteristics in that it is able to involve various segments of society, allowing the economic benefits generated to be distributed not only to large business actors but also to local communities (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2017). Therefore, the development of tourism potential is often adopted as a regional development strategy aimed at improving community welfare while strengthening the local economy.

Tourism not only functions as a recreational sector but also has significant potential to enhance the welfare of local communities through their direct involvement in productive economic activities. Community participation in locally based economic activities demonstrates that such productive engagements can contribute to improving household welfare while simultaneously strengthening social cohesion within the community (Wafiroh, 2017).

However, tourism development also faces various challenges (Kurniawan, 2020), particularly in the management of nature-based tourism destinations (Sahara et al., 2023). In several cases, the increase in the number of visitors is not accompanied by adequate management systems, leading to various environmental problems (Nofriya et al., 2019), like damage to ecosystems (Siregar, 2019), increasing volume of waste (Sutrisnawati, 2018), and the decline in the quality of natural resources that serve as key tourism attractions (Sri Widari, 2021). This phenomenon indicates that tourism development should not solely focus on increasing the number of tourist visits but must also pay attention to environmental sustainability and the welfare of local communities.

As an effort to address these challenges, the concept of sustainable tourism has been increasingly adopted in the management of tourism destinations. This concept emphasizes the importance of balancing economic, social, and environmental aspects in tourism development, ensuring that the benefits of tourism can be sustained for both present and future generations (Budeanu, 2016). One of the key forms of sustainable tourism implementation is the development of community-based ecotourism. This approach positions local communities as the primary actors in the management of tourism destinations, ensuring that they are not merely passive objects of tourism development but active subjects involved in the management and utilization of existing tourism potential (Stone, 2015).

Community-based ecotourism is widely believed to generate positive impacts on local community empowerment by creating employment opportunities, increasing household income, and strengthening community participation in local development. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the tourism sector contributes around 10% of global employment and supports one in every ten jobs worldwide. In addition, the World Travel & Tourism Council reported that in 2024 the tourism sector contributed approximately US\$10.9 trillion to the global economy and supported 357 million jobs worldwide. Previous studies also indicate that community participation in tourism management can improve local economic resilience, encourage the growth of small-scale enterprises, and strengthen environmental conservation efforts. In many rural tourism destinations, ecotourism development has created business

opportunities in culinary services, handicrafts, transportation, and homestays, which directly contribute to community welfare.

Therefore, community-based ecotourism is considered an important strategy for promoting sustainable tourism development while simultaneously strengthening local community empowerment. Through community involvement in tourism management, local people have the opportunity to gain economic benefits from tourism activities while simultaneously increasing their awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability (I Putu Ananda, 2017). Furthermore, community participation in tourism destination management can strengthen social capacity within the community (Margaretha, 2024) and foster collaboration among community members in maintaining the sustainability of natural resources (Humairah et al., 2025).

In the context of community empowerment, this study adopts Zimmerman's empowerment theory, which explains empowerment as a process through which individuals and communities gain greater control over decisions, resources, and actions affecting their lives. Zimmerman emphasizes that empowerment can be reflected through several dimensions, including economic, social, psychological, and participatory capacities within the community (Perkins & Zimmerman, 1995). Economic empowerment refers to the community's ability to improve income and access to economic opportunities. Social empowerment is reflected in increased collaboration, participation, and social networks among community members. Psychological empowerment relates to the growth of self-confidence, sense of ownership, and community awareness in managing local resources. Meanwhile, participatory empowerment can be seen through the involvement of local communities in decision-making and tourism management processes.

These dimensions are relevant to the implementation of community-based ecotourism because tourism development not only aims to increase tourist visits but also to strengthen community capacity and local self-reliance. Therefore, Zimmerman's empowerment theory is used in this study as an analytical framework to understand how ecotourism management at Umbul Manten contributes to strengthening local community empowerment through community participation.

Klaten Regency in Central Java Province is one of the regions endowed with considerable natural tourism potential, particularly spring-based tourism, locally known as *umbul*. The regency is widely recognized for its abundance of natural springs and is often referred to as the "City of a Thousand Springs." These water resources are utilized by local communities for various purposes, including agricultural irrigation, fisheries, the

provision of clean water, and tourism development. In recent years, spring-based tourism in Klaten Regency has developed rapidly and has become one of the main attractions in the region.

A number of destination tours are based on sufficient spring water known in the Regency of Klaten including Umbul Ponggok, Pelem Spring, Spring Cokro Help, Spring Nilo, and Umbul Sigedang, as well as Umbul Manten. Each destination tour has its own characteristics and power to pull itself that makes it unique as an object of tour nature. One of the example success management tours based on the people in this area can be seen in the development of Spring Ponggok, which is capable of developing into a popular destination tour through innovative management by the community and village government. Success: The show that public involvement in management tours can be an important factor in supporting the success development of destination tours.

One of the ongoing tourism destinations developing in the Regency of Klaten is Umbul Manten, which is located in Sidowayah Village, District Polanharjo. Umbul Manten has potential natural spring sources with an environment that is still relatively awake. Along with increasing public interest to tour nature, society around starts to realize the potential tourism owned by Umbul Manten and strives to develop the area as a society-based tour destination. Various efforts done in the management tour said, starting from arranging tourism infrastructure and management facility supporters up to effort promotion and development Power pull tourism. Public involvement in management tour This expected capability gives economic benefit to the public around at a time of sustainable environmental tours.

A number of studies previously have discussed the development of ecotourism-based public as well as the impact on empowering local public. Research shows that public involvement in tourist management can increase public income as well as strengthen social public capacity in managing local power sources (Febriandhika & Kurniawan, 2019). However thus, some big study the more Lots highlight impact economy tourist or development strategy destination tour in a way general. Studies that are special discuss How practice ecotourism-based public contributions towards the strengthening process of empowering local public tourism-based source springs are still relatively limited, especially in the context of management tours of Umbul Manten in the Regency of Klaten.

Based on the conditions described above, a research gap remains regarding how community-based ecotourism management practices can contribute to strengthening local community empowerment while simultaneously ensuring environmental sustainability in tourism development.

Accordingly, this study offers a novel contribution by highlighting the relationship between community-based ecotourism practices and the process of strengthening local community empowerment in the management of Umbul Manten tourism in Klaten Regency. This research is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how community involvement in tourism management can foster socio-economic benefits while maintaining the sustainability of natural resources.

Based on this background, the objective of this study is to analyze the implementation of community-based ecotourism in strengthening local empowerment in the management of Umbul Manten tourism in Klaten Regency. Accordingly, this study offers a novel contribution by highlighting the relationship between community-based ecotourism practices and the process of strengthening local community empowerment in the management of Umbul Manten tourism in Klaten Regency. This research is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how community involvement in tourism management can foster socio-economic benefits while maintaining the sustainability of natural resources.

To provide a clearer direction for the study, this research is guided by the following research questions: (1) How are community-based ecotourism practices implemented in the management of Umbul Manten tourism? (2) How does community-based ecotourism contribute to local community empowerment in Umbul Manten tourism management? (3) What are the environmental and socio-economic impacts of community-based ecotourism on local communities in Umbul Manten tourism management?

B. Methods

This study employs a qualitative approach with a case study design to understand how community-based ecotourism is implemented in the management of Umbul Manten tourism, how it contributes to local community empowerment, and how it generates environmental and socio-economic impacts for local communities. The case study design allows researchers to explore these processes comprehensively within the real context of tourism management practices at Umbul Manten.

In-depth interviews in this study were conducted using semi-structured interview guidelines to obtain detailed information regarding the implementation of community-based ecotourism, forms of community participation, environmental conservation practices, local economic activities, and the impacts of tourism development on surrounding communities. Interviews with tourism managers focused on tourism

management systems, conservation efforts, and community involvement in tourism activities. Interviews with local business actors explored the economic benefits and business opportunities generated through tourism activities, while interviews with visitors focused on perceptions of environmental conditions, tourism services, and community participation within the tourism destination.

Field observations were carried out to directly examine tourism operational activities, environmental conservation practices, community involvement in tourism services, and local economic activities surrounding the tourism area. Observations also focused on the management of natural spring water resources, cleanliness of the tourism environment, supporting tourism facilities, and interactions between local communities and visitors.

To strengthen the credibility of the findings, this study applied source triangulation and technique triangulation by comparing information obtained from tourism managers, local business actors, and visitors, as well as cross-checking interview findings with observation results and documentation data. This process was conducted to ensure the consistency and validity of data related to the implementation of community-based ecotourism and its contribution to strengthening local empowerment at the Umbul Manten tourism destination.

The research was conducted in the Umbul Manten tourism area, located in Sidowayah Village, Polanharjo District, Klaten Regency, Central Java. This site was selected as it represents a spring-based tourism destination that has developed through active community involvement in both management and tourism development. In addition to its abundant natural spring resources, Umbul Manten also demonstrates efforts to strengthen the role of the community in tourism-related economic activities.

The subjects of this study consist of several actors directly involved in ecotourism management, including four tourism managers (B, I, I, A), three local business actors operating around the tourism area (S, H, T), and three visitors (S, F, U). To ensure research ethics, the identities of the informants are presented using initials. Informants were selected purposively based on their level of involvement and knowledge of the ecotourism management process at Umbul Manten.

The inclusion criteria for tourism managers included individuals who were actively involved in tourism management and decision-making processes within BUMDes Sinergi for at least one year. Local business actors were selected based on their active involvement in tourism-related economic activities around Umbul Manten, such as culinary businesses, equipment rentals, and other supporting services. Meanwhile, visitors were selected based on their experience visiting and interacting with tourism

services and environmental conditions at Umbul Manten. These criteria were applied to ensure that the selected informants possessed relevant knowledge and experiences related to ecotourism management, community participation, environmental conservation practices, and the socio-economic impacts of tourism development.

Data collection techniques were carried out through observation in the field, in-depth interview, and documentation (Moleong, 2018). Observations were conducted to directly examine tourism activities, environmental conditions, and the extent of community involvement in managing the tourism area. In-depth interviews were carried out with key informants to obtain detailed information regarding tourism management processes, forms of community participation, and the socio-economic impacts experienced by the local community. Documentation was also used to complement the data, including archives, reports, and other supporting materials related to the development of ecotourism at Umbul Manten.

The data obtained in this study were analyzed using a descriptive qualitative approach through stages of data reduction, data display, and conclusion (Susetiawan et al., 2023). The analysis involved organizing and interpreting data collected from the field to identify patterns, relationships, and forms of community empowerment emerging from community-based ecotourism management. Through this analytical process, the study seeks to explain how ecotourism management at Umbul Manten contributes to strengthening local empowerment.

In-depth interviews were conducted using semi-structured interview guidelines to obtain detailed information regarding tourism management processes, forms of community participation, environmental conservation efforts, and the socio-economic impacts experienced by the local community. Interviews were conducted with tourism managers, local business actors, and visitors. Each interview session lasted approximately 30–60 minutes, depending on the informants' availability and the depth of information obtained. Several informants were interviewed more than once to clarify and strengthen the consistency of the collected data.

During the interview process, the researcher first explained the objectives of the study and requested the informants' consent before conducting the interviews. Informants voluntarily agreed to participate in the study and were informed that their identities would remain confidential through the use of initials in the research report. With the informants' permission, several interviews were audio-recorded to facilitate data accuracy, while important points from all interviews were also documented through field notes. Documentation techniques were used to complement and validate the research findings

through the collection of photographs, tourism management archives, reports, and other supporting documents related to the development of community-based ecotourism at Umbul Manten.

To ensure data validity, source triangulation was applied by comparing information obtained from multiple informants and cross-checking it with field observation results, thereby enhancing the credibility and reliability of the findings.

C. Result and Discussion

Umbul Manten is one of the water-based tourism destinations that has been developing in Klaten Regency, specifically located in Sidowayah Village, Polanharjo District. This destination covers an area of approximately 6,000 m² and utilizes natural spring water as its main tourist attraction. The existence of Umbul Manten not only offers a natural and relaxing tourism atmosphere but is also supported by a strategically advantageous location, making it easily accessible to visitors. These conditions have positioned Umbul Manten as one of the emerging destinations that is increasingly recognized not only by local tourists but also by visitors from outside the region.

As a water-based tourism destination, Umbul Manten is equipped with various facilities designed to enhance visitor comfort. These facilities include swimming pools, gazebos for relaxation, a prayer room, a restaurant, parking areas, rinsing rooms, bathrooms, and a pavilion that can be used for various group activities. In addition, visitors can also utilize a range of supporting services such as swimming equipment rental, picnic equipment, and fish-therapy pools that provide a relaxing experience for tourists. The availability of relatively complete facilities combined with affordable ticket prices makes Umbul Manten an attractive alternative for family tourism in Klaten Regency.

The management of Umbul Manten is under the Village-Owned Enterprise (BUMDes) Sinergi, which was established by the community of Sidowayah Village, Polanharjo District, as an effort to optimize the village's tourism potential. Through this village-based institutional management, tourism activities are not solely oriented toward increasing the number of visitors but are also directed toward generating economic benefits for the local community. Community involvement in various tourism operational activities such as facility management, service provision, and supporting business activities indicates that the development of Umbul Manten also functions as a means of community empowerment, as well as an effort to improve the village's economic welfare in a sustainable manner.

The implementation of community-based ecotourism in the management of Umbul Manten cannot be separated from the principles of sustainable tourism, which emphasize a balance between economic, social, and environmental aspects. In essence, sustainable tourism aims to meet the needs of present tourists without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) defines sustainable tourism as tourism that fully considers its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts, while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities. This approach positions local communities as key actors in tourism development, ensuring that the economic benefits generated from tourism activities are more equitably distributed among local populations.

The implementation of these principles can be observed in the development of ecotourism at Umbul Manten. Initially, Umbul Manten functioned merely as a natural spring utilized by the community for domestic purposes such as washing and other daily activities. The area had not yet been systematically managed as a tourism destination. However, since 2016, the village community has begun to recognize the economic potential of the spring. Through village deliberations and local community initiatives, Umbul Manten has gradually been transformed into a community-based tourism destination, with the involvement of the Village-Owned Enterprise (BUMDes) as the managing institution. This transformation from a simple water source into a tourism destination reflects a process of community empowerment in utilizing local resources productively.

Within the context of community-based ecotourism implementation, the management of Umbul Manten also places environmental aspects as a central component of tourism development. Based on interview findings with managers and local communities, supported by field observations, it was found that various conservation efforts have been undertaken to maintain the sustainability of natural resources in the area. These efforts include maintaining the quality of spring water, controlling waste generated from tourism activities, and preserving vegetation and surrounding ecosystems. These measures indicate that tourism development is not solely oriented toward increasing visitor numbers but also toward maintaining a balance between economic utilization and environmental sustainability.

1. Water Conservation Practices as Part of Strengthening Community-Based Ecotourism

Water resource management is a key element in the implementation of ecotourism at Umbul Manten, considering that natural springs constitute the primary attraction of the destination. Unlike some other water-based tourism sites that use chemical substances such as chlorine to maintain water clarity, the pools at Umbul Manten are entirely supplied by natural spring water that flows directly from its source. This condition not only distinguishes Umbul Manten from similar destinations in the surrounding area but also reflects the management's commitment to preserving the authenticity of the water ecosystem as part of environmentally based tourism principles. In the context of ecotourism, sustainable natural resource management is an essential prerequisite to ensure that tourism activities do not cause environmental degradation that could threaten the long-term sustainability of the destination.

Efforts to maintain water quality at Umbul Manten are carried out through an ecosystem-based conservation approach. The management preserves vegetation and large trees surrounding the tourism area as part of a natural filtration system that helps maintain water quality and protect the springs from potential pollution. These trees not only play a role in maintaining ecological balance but also enhance groundwater absorption, reduce erosion risks, and maintain environmental stability around the water sources. Thus, the tourism area is not developed through large-scale environmental alterations but rather by preserving its natural characteristics as part of a conservation strategy that supports ecotourism sustainability.

In addition to physical environmental conservation, the management also enforces various regulations aimed at protecting water quality from potentially polluting activities. Activities such as washing clothes, disposing of domestic waste, and using hazardous chemicals are strictly prohibited within the tourism area. These policies demonstrate that tourism management is not solely oriented toward economic utilization of natural resources but also emphasizes ecosystem sustainability as the fundamental basis for tourism continuity. In practice, these policies are complemented by educational efforts directed at visitors regarding the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and conserving water resources.

Tourist awareness is a crucial factor in supporting sustainable water resource management. Therefore, the management of Umbul Manten actively encourages visitor participation in maintaining the cleanliness of the tourism area through various forms of outreach, both directly and through informational signage placed throughout the site. This approach indicates that ecotourism management not only involves managers and local communities but also invites tourists to participate in environmental conservation efforts.

Water resource management practices at Umbul Manten thus function not only to maintain environmental quality but also as a form of public education on the importance of conserving natural resources for sustainable tourism.

2. Local Community Empowerment through Community-Based Ecotourism Management

The social dimension is a crucial component in the implementation of community-based ecotourism, particularly in ensuring that tourism activities generate not only economic benefits but also strengthen the social capacity of local communities. In the context of Umbul Manten, community empowerment is reflected in the active involvement of local residents in various tourism management and service activities. The findings indicate that community participation not only contributes to improved economic welfare but also strengthens the community's sense of ownership over the sustainability of the tourism destination.

This involvement is manifested through various forms of empowerment, including the creation of employment opportunities for village residents, the engagement of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the development of community capacity through training activities relevant to the needs of the local tourism sector.

One concrete example of community-based ecotourism implementation at Umbul Manten is job creation for local residents. Most of the workforce involved in tourism operations comes from the local village community. They are engaged in various operational roles, including cleaning staff, facility managers, vendors, and tour guides. Recruitment is conducted openly, providing opportunities for various community groups, including youth and students residing in the surrounding area. Additionally, the work system is relatively flexible, allowing individuals with different backgrounds to participate. For instance, students can work part-time on weekends or during holiday periods. This flexible system not only provides additional income but also contributes to reducing unemployment at the village level.

Beyond job creation, the management of Umbul Manten also strengthens the local economy through the involvement of MSMEs as strategic partners in tourism activities. Local business actors are given opportunities to provide goods and services for tourists, such as food and beverages, swimming equipment rentals, and local products. The management also provides business spaces in the form of stalls for local residents, including facilities for selling traditional food products produced by the community. This collaboration expands market access for local businesses, given that Umbul Manten attracts visitors from various regions. Therefore, the destination functions not only as a

recreational space but also as a platform for strengthening the local economy through community-based enterprises.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the implementation of community-based ecotourism at Umbul Manten contributes to strengthening local empowerment through increased employment opportunities, the development of community economic activities, and enhanced community participation in tourism management. This model shows that positioning the community as the main actor in tourism development can generate more equitable economic and social benefits while supporting the sustainability of local resource-based tourism.

3. The Impact of Ecotourism on Strengthening the Local Economy

The development of community-based ecotourism at Umbul Manten makes a significant contribution to strengthening the local economic structure through the diversification of community income sources. Economic diversification is a crucial strategy in local economic development, as it reduces dependence on a single sector that is vulnerable to market fluctuations, climate change, and other external factors. In rural contexts, heavy reliance on agriculture often creates economic vulnerability, particularly during periods of price instability, seasonal change, and climate impacts. Therefore, the emergence of tourism based on local resources provides new opportunities for communities to develop more diverse and sustainable economic activities.

The findings show that prior to the development of Umbul Manten as a tourism destination, most local residents relied on traditional economic activities such as agriculture, informal labor, and employment outside the region. This condition compelled some residents to migrate to urban areas in search of more stable income. However, since the development of Umbul Manten as a community-based tourism destination, local communities have gained new economic opportunities beyond the agricultural sector. Tourism activities have created space for involvement in various economic activities related to tourism services, local product provision, and supporting services.

Economic diversification is evident in the emergence of various new businesses related to tourism activities, including culinary enterprises, swimming equipment rentals, parking services, and the sale of local products. The presence of visitors from different regions has created new demand for goods and services that were previously unavailable at a significant scale. This situation encourages communities to innovate in developing businesses that meet visitor needs while adding value to the local economy.

Moreover, economic diversification contributes to improving household economic capacity. Additional income from tourism enables communities to enhance their quality of life through better access to education, healthcare, and other basic needs.

This additional income also provides greater economic stability compared to reliance on a single income source. In the long term, this condition strengthens the economic resilience of rural communities in the face of broader economic changes.

The diversification driven by ecotourism development at Umbul Manten demonstrates that tourism can serve as an important catalyst for strengthening the local economy. The integration of natural resource conservation, community-based enterprises, and increased community participation creates a more adaptive and sustainable economic system. Consequently, ecotourism functions not only as a recreational activity but also as an inclusive local development strategy that enhances community welfare while preserving local resources.

Overall, the findings of this study indicate that the implementation of community-based ecotourism at Umbul Manten not only contributes to environmental conservation and local economic development, but also reflects the process of community empowerment. This finding is consistent with Zimmerman's empowerment theory (Perkins & Zimmerman, 1995), which explains that empowerment occurs when communities gain greater control over resources, participate actively in decision-making processes, and strengthen their capacity to improve collective welfare. In the context of Umbul Manten, local community involvement in tourism management through BUMDes, participation in economic activities, and collective efforts in maintaining environmental sustainability demonstrate how tourism development can function as a medium for strengthening community capacity and local self-reliance.

D. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that the implementation of community-based ecotourism at the Umbul Manten tourism destination in Klaten Regency contributes to environmental conservation, local economic development, and the strengthening of community empowerment through active participation in tourism management. The findings indicate that the management of Umbul Manten is characterized by three interconnected elements: community participation through BUMDes management, conservation of natural spring resources, and the development of local economic activities related to tourism services. These elements collectively support the sustainability of tourism management at the local level. The study also reveals that community-based ecotourism at Umbul Manten functions as a mechanism for transforming local natural resources into collective economic opportunities while maintaining environmental sustainability. Community involvement in tourism operations, small-scale businesses, and environmental

conservation activities has expanded alternative livelihood opportunities and strengthened local awareness of environmental preservation. Therefore, tourism development at Umbul Manten is not solely oriented toward increasing tourist visits but also toward enhancing community capacity and local self-reliance. The originality of this study lies in its focus on spring-based ecotourism management that integrates environmental conservation, local economic diversification, and community empowerment within a village-based tourism management system. The study highlights how collaborative management between BUMDes and local communities generates interconnected social, environmental, and economic benefits. However, this study has several limitations. First, the research was conducted only at one tourism destination, which limits the generalizability of the findings to other contexts. Second, the study employed a qualitative approach, which focused primarily on community experiences and perceptions without quantitatively measuring the long-term economic impacts of tourism development. Future studies are therefore recommended to apply quantitative or mixed-method approaches and to compare similar community-based ecotourism models in other rural tourism destinations.

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