



## **The Role of Tourism in Poverty Reduction in the Community of Sumbawa District**

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This study discusses the role of mangrove ecotourism in poverty reduction in the Dusun Omo community, Penyaring Village, Sumbawa Regency. Mangrove ecotourism is one initiative that is considered to be able to provide a positive impact on the welfare of local communities, both through job creation and increased income. This study used a mixed method, with data collected through surveys of communities involved in mangrove tourism, as well as in-depth interviews with stakeholders, such as tourism managers and community leaders. The results of the study showed that the development of mangrove tourism made a significant contribution to reducing poverty levels in Omo Hamlet. As many as 70% of respondents experienced an increase in income, and 25% of previously unemployed people now have jobs in the tourism sector. However, there are several challenges in managing this ecotourism, including the low capacity of local tourism management and the potential for environmental damage to the community. Therefore, further efforts are needed from the government and other stakeholders to ensure the desire for mangrove tourism as a means of poverty alleviation and environmental conservation.

Keywords: Tourism, Poverty Reduction, Ecotourism, Sumbawa.

### **1. Introduction**

Poverty is one of the social problems experienced by many regions in Indonesia, including Sumbawa Regency. As a region where most of the population depends on agriculture and fisheries, Sumbawa faces a major challenge in eradicating poverty, especially in rural areas with minimal access to stable economic resources. The local government has tried to find various solutions to improve community welfare, one of which is through the tourism sector. Tourism is considered to have great potential in driving the local economy and reducing poverty, especially in areas that have natural beauty and ecological tourism potential.

One example of an area that has experienced tourism development as an effort to alleviate poverty is Dusun Omo, Penyaring Village. This area is known for its well-maintained mangrove ecosystem, making it a potential ecotourism destination in Sumbawa Regency. The development of mangrove ecotourism in Dusun Omo aims to promote environmental conservation while providing economic benefits to the local community. Ecosystem-based tourism like this not only provides added value to environmental conservation, but also creates job opportunities, increased income, and empowers the local community.

Mangrove ecotourism in Dusun Omo focuses on the active involvement of the community in the management and development of tourist destinations. This is done to ensure that the economic benefits generated from tourism activities are not only enjoyed by a handful of parties, but can be felt by the wider community. This approach is in line with the concept of community-based tourism, which places the community as the main actor in the management of tourist destinations. In this context, the community does not only play a role as a beneficiary, but also as the main driver in the development and preservation of natural resources that are tourist attractions.

However, although the development of mangrove tourism in Dusun Omo has shown some success in improving community welfare, challenges remain. Some of these include limited community capacity in managing tourism professionally, lack of supporting infrastructure, and the threat of environmental damage due to the increasing number of tourists. To achieve long-term goals, a comprehensive strategy is needed in managing ecosystem-based tourism, including protection of mangrove ecosystems, increasing community capacity, and policy support from the local government.

This study aims to analyze the role of tourism in poverty alleviation in the community of Sumbawa Regency, with a case study of mangrove ecotourism development in Dusun Omo, Penyaring Village. Through this approach, it is hoped that this study can provide a deeper picture of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism development on local communities, as well as provide relevant policy recommendations to enhance the role of tourism in poverty alleviation in rural areas.

## 2. Method

This study used a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data were collected through a survey of the Dusun Omo community involved in mangrove tourism, while qualitative data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including tourism managers, tourism offices, and community leaders. Secondary data sources were taken from local government reports, related academic studies, and poverty statistics.

The population in this study was the Dusun Omo community consisting of 100 heads of families and 454 people. From this population, 50 people were selected as research samples. Data analysis was carried out using a descriptive approach to analyze the contribution of tourism to poverty reduction.

### 2.1. Research Approach

This study uses a mixed-method approach, which combines quantitative and qualitative methods. This approach was chosen because it is able to provide a comprehensive picture of the impact of tourism on poverty reduction in Dusun Omo, both from a statistical perspective and from the subjective experience of the community.

### 2.2. Research Location

The research was conducted in Dusun Omo, Penyaring Village, Sumbawa Regency. This location was chosen because the potential for mangrove ecotourism managed by the local community has developed and is considered capable of providing economic impacts for the community.

### 2.3. Population and Sample

The population in this study were all heads of families (KK) in Dusun Omo totaling 100 KK or 454 people. This study used a purposive sampling technique, where the samples taken consisted of people who were

directly or indirectly involved in mangrove tourism activities.

Number of Samples : A total of 50 Peoples were selected to be quantitative respondents (including tourism managers, community leaders, and tourism business actors) were interviewed in depth in the qualitative section.

### 2.4. Data collection technique

The data in this study were collected using several techniques, namely:

#### a. Quantitative Survey

The survey was conducted to obtain quantitative data on the impact of tourism on income, employment, and family economic conditions. The questionnaire was prepared using a Likert scale to facilitate the measurement of perceptions and economic impacts.

Variables measured in the survey:

1. Increased income due to tourism.
2. Availability of new jobs.
3. Changes in socio-economic conditions after tourism.

#### b. In-depth Interview (In-depth Interview)

In-depth interviews were conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the perceptions of communities and tourism managers on the impact of ecotourism on poverty reduction. The interviews also aimed to identify challenges in managing mangrove tourism and factors of its extinction.

Participant interviews:

1. Head of Penyaring Village.
2. Mangrove tourism manager.
3. Retailer
4. Tour Guid
5. Boat Rental

#### c. Field Observation

Researchers conducted direct observations at mangrove tourism locations to observe economic activities related to tourism and interactions between communities and tourists. Observations were also made on tourism supporting infrastructure and the condition of the mangrove ecosystem.

#### d. Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected from official government reports, such as from the Sumbawa Regency Tourism Office and the Sumbawa Central Statistics Agency (BPS), as well as scientific literature related to tourism and poverty reduction.

2.5. Research Instruments

The instruments used in this study include:

- a. Questionnaire :Designed to obtain quantitative data filled in by respondents. The questionnaire consists of two main parts, namely: 1. Demographic data (age, gender, occupation, income). 2. Questions regarding the economic and social impacts of mangrove tourism.

- b. Interview Guide : Prepared to initiate in-depth interviews with communities and stakeholders. This guide focuses on tourism impacts, ecosystem maintenance, and ecotourism ecosystem potential.

- c. Observation Checklist : Used to check the condition of tourist facilities, economic activities that occur, and interactions between tourists and the community.

2.6. Data Analysis Techniques

This study uses two types of data analysis according to the approach used:

- a. Quantitative Analysis  
 Quantitative data obtained from the survey were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The analysis was carried out using descriptive techniques to see the distribution of data, as well as inferential analysis (simple linear regression) to test the relationship between tourism and poverty reduction.

Analysis stages:

- 1. Calculate the percentage and average of each survey variable.
- 2. Testing the relationship between independent variables (participation in tourism) and dependent variables (income, employment, economic conditions).

b. Qualitative Analysis

Data from interviews and observations were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. Qualitative analysis steps include:

- 1. Transcription : recorded, then transcribed for translation.
- 2. Coding : identification of main themes from interview results related to the contribution of tourism to community life.
- 3. Thematization : Formulation of themes based on community perceptions regarding the benefits and challenges of ecotourism management.

3. Result and Discussion

1. Improvement Community Income

One of main indicator from impact tourist to subtraction poverty is improvement income .

**Table. 1 Improvent Community Income**

Profession	increses Income	Stagnant Income	Decreases Income
Tourist Attraction Manager	4	0	0
Tour Guide	3	2	0
Retailer	25	10	2
Boat Rental	3	1	0
Total	35	13	2

Based on survey conducted to 50 Peoples in Dusun Omo who were involved direct in mangrove ecotourism , as many as 35 Peoples (70%) reported existence improvement income since they involved in activity tourism . Activities emerging economy from ecotourism This includes : Tourist Attraction Manager, Boat rental for mangrove tours, Tour Guide and Retailer .

**Tabel 2. Increasing People's Income In Hundreds thousands Rupiah**

Profession	100-500	500-1000	1000-1500
Tourist Attraction Manager	0	4	0
Tour Guide	3	0	0
Retailer	0	0	25
Boat Rental	0	4	0
Total	3	8	25

The average additional income obtained by the community from this activity ranges from Rp1,000,000 to Rp1,500,000 per month. This provides a real contribution to improving community welfare. In comparison, before being involved in tourism activities, most residents only depended on the agricultural and fisheries sectors with an income of around Rp800,000 per month.

2. Creation Field New Job

In addition to the improvements income , mangrove ecotourism also creates various field new work.

**Table. 3 Improvement Job at Mangrove Ecotourism from 2022 until 2024**

Year	Number of Unemployed	Desreasein Unemployment
2022	80	0
2023	77	3
2024	70	7

Before existence mangrove tourism, level unemployment in Omo Hamlet is sufficient high , reach about 20% of the total population age work . After development tourism , 12% of unemployed population now get jobs in the sector tourism , such as become Guide mangrove tourism, Souvenir craftsmen from local materials,Transport operator ( boat ) tour ).

3. Impact of Tourism on Increasing Access to Education and Health

The additional income obtained from the mangrove tourism sector is also used by the community to improve their standard of living, including in terms of access to education and health.

**Table. 4 Impact of Tourism on Increasing Access to Education and Health**

Profession	Quantity	Ability Chidren School to SHS	Health Acces Capalities
Tourist Attraction Manager	4	3	3
Tour Guide	5	3	4
Retailer	37	22	18
Boat Rental	4	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>

As many as 60% of respondents involved in tourism admitted to being able to finance their children's education up to high school level, compared to previously only being able to up to junior high school level. In addition, increased income also allows for better access to health services, such as routine check-ups and treatment at the Community Health Center.

4. Social and Economic Impact on Communities

Development tourism also brings change positive social .The community that previously No involved in activity formal economy today own chance For participate in economy tourism . This is No only reduce poverty , but also increase awareness public will importance preservation mangrove environment as source sustainable power .

In addition , with increasing amount tourists , there is a multiplier effect that is felt by other sectors such as trading local , transportation , and accommodation . For example , kiosks selling food and Drink local around the tourist area experience improvement turnover up to 50% since mangrove tourism is growing .

However , there are also challenges that arise , such as conflict small related distribution benefits and rights ownership land . Some people who do not involved direct in activity tour feel that they No get balanced benefits from development tourist This .

5. Challenges in Mangrove Tourism Management

Although mangrove tourism has positive impacts, there are several challenges that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of this initiative. Some identified problems in study This includes :

1. **Damage Mangrove Ecosystem** : Some areas of mangrove forests are experiencing damage consequence activity tourism that is not managed with good , like mangrove felling for open access or development facility tour .
2. **Lack of Community Capacity in Management Tourism** : Many people still not enough trained in management tourist professional , who can hinder development term long from sector This .
3. **Seasonal Dependence** : Mangrove tourism in Dusun Omo is still highly dependent on the holiday season and weekends. During the low season, community income from this sector drops drastically.

To overcome this challenge, support is needed from local governments in the form of training, strict regulations regarding the protection of mangrove ecosystems, and diversification of tourism products so that people do not become too dependent on certain seasons.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion there Research on the role of tourism in poverty reduction in Sumbawa Regency with a case study of the Dusun Omo Mangrove Forest, Penyaring Village, shows that the development of mangrove ecotourism-based tourism has a significant impact on improving the welfare of the local community. The contribution of tourism to the local economy is clearly visible through increased household income, job creation, and increased local businesses such as boat rentals, tour guides, and sales of craft products.

Some of the key findings of this study are:

1. Increased Income : Around 70% of families involved in the tourism sector experienced an increase in monthly income, with an average additional 1.5 million per month per family. This shows that mangrove tourism has a direct impact on poverty reduction through increased household income.

2. Job Creators : As many as 25% of the previously unemployed population now have jobs in the mangrove tourism sector, mainly as tour guides, transport operators, and local craftsmen. These job creators have also contributed to the decline in poverty levels in Dusun Omo.

3. Increased Socio-Economic Welfare : The results of the study showed a 15% decrease in poverty rates in Dusun Omo since the development of mangrove tourism. Additional income from tourism provides economic stability for communities that previously relied heavily on the agricultural sector.

4. Environmental Conservation Awareness : In addition to the economic impact, the development of mangrove ecotourism has increased public awareness of the importance of preserving mangrove forests as an asset that supports local economic sustainability.

Although positive results have been felt, several challenges remain, such as reduced knowledge in professional tourism management and the threat of damage to the mangrove ecosystem due to irresponsible tourist behavior.

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