

THE PERCEPTIONS AMONG INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS TOWARD ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS AT TANJUNG TUAN

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Abstract

The challenge to tourism that is presented by sustainable approach is how to preserve and conserve many natural attractions and today in tourism industry development will have an impacts on environmental. Environment, either physical, social and economics have a positive and negative impacts. The purpose of this study was to examined the perception among international students from University Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia toward environmental impacts at Tanjung Tuan Melaka. For this purpose, qualitative method was used in order to get a perception toward environmental issues among international students from interviews activities. The results show that environmental issues at Tanjung Tuan is not serious and have a good perception among international students, just need to develop some facilities to faced many tourists.

Keywords: *Perception, Environmental Impacts, International Students, Tanjung Tuan*

INTRODUCTION

In any developing tourist attractions, the environmental impacts always been as the top issue that being discussable. Almost every tourism destination having difficulties in maintaining and sustaining their area to achieve so called responsible tourism. Based on Stefanicaand Butnaru (2015), theres a strong relationship between the number of tourist visits to a destination with the environmental impacts. Vast tourism developments in one area may lead to either positive or negative impacts depending on how the tourism host want to create the features of the venue.

Driven by the desire to be as one of the best tourist destination, sometimes the tourism providers tend to forgot on the sustainability of the areaecosystem especially for those being part of the ecotourism sectors. According to WHL Group (2012), the area that focus to the natural attraction as their economic benefits frequently will be facing with the unplanned tourism development and slightly had transform the tourist place as vulnerable.

As for our research, we will be studying on the international tourists perception on the seriousness of environmental issues in Tanjung Tuan since this area is one of the best natural attractions to be visited by the tourists who passed by Melakaand Negeri Sembilan. It is situated closed by to Port Dickson and known as Myrtacae-dominated coastal forest reserve of Malaysia but previously named as Cape Ricardo. This area is an event that witness of the migratory birds which occurs usually around March (Perera, 2018). Besides, we able to identify the main factors responsible for lowering the negative impact of tourism over the environment (environmental protection from the tourist's point of view).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Visitors nowadays being so picky when it comes to the selection of travel area especially for those who originally stay at the hectic place as the busy city center. This group usually will request for the unbusy areaand located outside of the city center to run away from the city hustle. However, the request no longer can be fulfilled easily by the tourism providers since Nuwer (2016) stated that its never be easy to find the unspoilt destination anymore due to the human activities.

Findings by Perera (2018) indicates that Tanjung Tuan could become the popular area inside and outside of Malaysia due to the natural spectacle that occurs here every March where thousands of raptors will be parked here during the winter session before continuing their journey to the breeding grounds. This scenario shows that Tanjung Tuan not only a popular spot for the nature lovers but also become the parking spot area of the preys that should be taking care of wisely by developing an appropriate infrastructures for the visitors that passed by the area.

However, according to Mihalic (2000), the original experience may diminishing if the government plan to build up physical infrastructures being implemented around the tourism area. Some individuals or nature lovers may disagree with this plan since it will involve the deterioration of the nature quality and at the same time may disturb the genuine experience among the visitors that really keen into this kind of special interest travel.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Evidences from many empirical studies found out that environmental issues should be taken seriously in hand before it become worse. Tourism and environmental impacts considered as the country assets, therefore the good integration between these two is a must in the sustainable tourism development (Mohd Azlan, Noraziah, RosnizaAznie, Mohd Fuad and Azahan, 2012).

3.1 Perception of international tourists on the seriousness of environmental issues

3.2 Interrelationship between destruction of biodiversity and the tourist perception

3.3 Interrelationship between natural resource depletion and the tourist perception

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many of researcher have conducted studies to determine the tourist's perception of environmental impacts and the factors that influence this perception (Aref,2009; Hillery,2001; Musora,2017; Palkeinen, 2013; Spanou,2012, & Solberg, 2017). Bhuiyan, Hossain, Siwar and Ismail, (2013) state in their research that tourism industry has seemed as the potential to generate a large contribution to the country's economy. In Malaysia, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism has formulated The Malaysian National Tourism Policy (NTP) 1992 by providing the guidelines and management practices for tourism destinations as well as preserving and conserving the environment. Consequently, through government responsibility to sustain the environment giving a good feedback from the local community (Afthanorhan, Awang&Fazella, 2017), as well as tourist, and thus they have a positive perception of tourism development.

Vellend, Baeten,Becker- Scarpitta and Lalonde(2017) describe that the variety of species or biodiversity that can be found in many place and time can be the good resources for tourism industry that depends on the natural environment.However, the human activity and the building of tourism infrastructure in the tourism area may deteriorate the environment (Mihalic,2000),as well the habitat of the species.

According to Abdullah, Ali, Rose and Jali (2017),physical factors were responsible for the quality of the environment. The impact of environment from unfriendly tourist conduct, profit oriented business and operators and also ineffective institutional planning and enforcement could destroy the environment and ecosystem in tourism destination.Besides that,the negative impact of tourism development also can be seen from other tourism sector.The study by Shah, Che'Rus, Mustapha, Hussain and Wahab (2018) revealed that tourism leads to the extinction of forest product resources and can be major threats due to the lack of forest resources and it can effected the indigenous tourism.

Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017) also support that environmental sustainability has been impacted if the tourism operators unplanned their development of the tourist areas. The natural resources can be damage through water, air and noise pollution Therefore, the number of tourists and development activities should be monitor to ensure the sustainable of environment. Nelson (2013)also added that

there are many issues arise from tourism development such as resource overconsumption to the water, land and energy, degradation to the soil, water and vegetation, pollution such as litter, noise and water pollution and also the disruption of wildlife (including migration and hunting patterns, resources and habitats).

However, not all activities and development in tourism give negative impact to the environment. Tourism contributes to the protection and conservation of the environment. This is a mechanism to increase awareness of environmental values and also can be a tool to support protection of natural areas (Sunlu, 2003; Van Houtte, 2015). GhulamRabbany, Afrin, Rahman, Islam and Hoque (2013) in he study also about environmental effect of tourism revealed that tourism in Africa and also in continent of South America, Australia and South Pacific have had a positive effect on wildlife preservation and protection. Numerous animal and plant species have already become extinct or may become extinct soon. Therefore, many countries have established wildlifereserves and enacted strict laws protecting the animals that draw nature-loving tourists. As a result of these measures, several endangered species have begun to thrive again

According To (Ap, 1992), the understanding toward tourism impacts are important because it can measured either tourism destination have a good or bad impacts. Tourism impacts include economic impact, environment impact and sosial impact also. Besides that, tourism impacts also have positive and negative impacts. (Lankford & Howard, 1994). That is why we need to investigate either tourist destination have a positive and negative impacts based on tourism impacts. Based on (Liu et al, 1987) environment impacts is a very important impacts in the tourism industry because nowadays, there are so many tourism destination based on ecotourism were developed in order to attract many tourists and it is important to preserve the natural resouces like ecosystems in order to avoid natural resources depletion.

In order to preserve and sustain the ecosystems and natural resources, there are several core indicator of sustainable tourism are indicated by site protection, stress, development control, carrying capacity and site stress also. Each tourism destination must have implemented either carrying capacity, site protection or others to maintain its quality of products and to reduce minimal negative impacts. For example, negative impact for biodiversity is killing of animals for hunting activities or for souvenirs and at positive impacts side is encourage to conserve animals especially for wildlife as attractions for tourists. Negative impacts came also from pollution like a rubbish from the tourits or pleasure boats. Beside that, other areas of effect include erosion and physical damage, resource base and visual/structural change, (Wall and Mathieson ,2006) .The environment impacts is an important things to concern about. Attractions like a Tanah Aina, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Fraser Hills are an example attractions based on natural. Poor quality of natural from that attraction will effect the tourists to that particular attraction. Comparison the weather from then until now at Cameron Highlands for example, showed there are many changes. Pollution of water also has a number of direct effects upon plant and animal communities (Williams, 2015).

From the previous research, showed that are important to preserve and conserve the environmental aspects in order to sustain tourism attraction based on nature. Hence, the purpose of this study focus on environmental impacts at Tanjung Tuan.

METHODOLOGY

Methods for collecting literature

The research adopts a primarily qualitative approach within a mixed methodology tha combines qualitative and quantitative evidence from the research instruments mentioned below. Based on Ali, Alisha, Murphy, Hilary, Nadkarni & Sanjay (2018), the research paper that use qualitative method may focus and concentrate on the details and furthermore this technique is more well suited for finding out “why” rather than “how many” or “how much”.

In this study, the population for the data collection was the whole cohort of international students from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia that joined the 2 weeks Mobility Programme in

KUIM. The idea of choosing the respondents among those students was a chief reflection that they were the international tourists and went to Tanjung Tuan for complete their visits in Malacca.

For this related studies, convenience sampling was chosen in order to allow the researchers to obtain basic data and trends regarding this study without the complications of using a randomized sample. Respondents were gathered by dividing 5 students each for a researcher to fasten the process of interview session. Questions asked during the interview session were adapted from the previous research done by Choudri, Mahad Baawain, Ahmed, Hamed, and Khalifa (2016).

Data collection for future research

To proceed with this research, a quantitative study will be used and the population to be studied would be the local and international tourists to reduce the favoritism issue. The sample would consist of the niche kind of tourists that got special interest with the eco tourism area. For ethical reasons, participants will be asked to read and sign a consent form stating that they willingly participated in the study and that any answers provided will be used as data and compiled into a report. The participants will also be informed that participation in the survey is completely confidential and voluntary and they are free to leave at any time.

FINDINGS

Research objective 1 : Perception of international tourists on the seriousness of environmental issues

Respondents voiced quite similar interpretations on the seriousness of the environmental issues in Tanjung Tuan whereby out of 15 respondents, five of them demonstrated that they were aware that the environmental impact on this tourism area was not very serious compare to other places. Majority of respondents also agreed that this area is preserved and there are many species still live around this area. One of the respondents stated,

‘I think the impacts toward this area was not serious at all if compare to my host country which is Indonesia whereas the rubbish can be seen everywhere and give bad impression to the visitors’.

The other respondent also stated,

“I think the area in Tanjung Tuan is clean and no serious environment impact, but the trash bin must be put in this area to avoid visitor dumping of rubbish.”

One more respondent also supported that,

“ The environment in Tanjung Tuan is still preserved, the sea is clear and forest is still green with more species like monkeys and birds live in this area.”

Another respondents stated,

“I don’t think its place have a air pollution in that area, so maybe just a little bit but not be threat to the environment”. At the forest site, we have seen many people hiking, just a few area have a litter may be because this area do not have enough dustbin, this issues is not a big problem to me. Facilities like a toilets are good and water is fresh. Overall i am so satisfied with the enviromental surroundings.”

This above statements similar also with other respondent;

“This Tanjung Tuan attraction are good with nature attraction, away from the city centre, and it forest still authentic without development, at the sam time we can hear the sound of animals and cold

weather. Even though, hiking to lighthouse at Tanjung Tuan was so tired, but there are many trails and road sign provided there and easier to tourists.”

In general, international tourists have been very particular on the important key areas in any tourist attractions such as the environmental impact. In few categories of phenomena that being highlighted, the most alarming issues are the dumping of rubbish in public places and the natural resource depletion.

Research objective 2: The main factors responsible for lowering the negative impact of tourism over the environment

As a result of the data gathering from the 15 respondents, we can see most answers agreed that the government is the first party should take action aggressively to ensure those alarming issues being taken care of. Aside than that, educational institutions such as schools and universities must not abandoned this social responsibility in order to achieve the sustainability.

One of the respondents that always involved with the eco-based activities such as diving, hiking, etc had more holistic view of how tourism providers may enhance the tourist experience but at the same time may reduce the negative impacts as explained in the following comment, ‘The less number of infrastructures developed in the nature based tourist areas, the more better the tourist experience get’.

Other following comments are similar:

“ Need more facilities like toilets and others because there are so many tourists there.”

CONCLUSION

Overall from interview with the respondents showed that perception towards an environmental impacts at Tanjung Tuan are at a positive side. Majority of them give a positive feedback about Tanjung Tuan.

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