



Social Cohesion and Community Participation in the Development of Historical Tourism Village: A Sociology of Development Perspective in Bangsri Village, Jepon Subdistrict, Blora Regency

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Article Info :

Received:

01-6-2025

Revised:

17-6-2025

Accepted:

29-7-2025

Abstract

This study examines the role of the community in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village, which is an example of a successful community-based tourism village. The study focuses on two main aspects, namely the process of establishing a tourism village involving forms and stages of participation, as well as the level and impact of community involvement in the development of the tourism village. The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. Data was collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation, with key informants selected based on their knowledge and experience related to the phenomenon being studied. The results of the study show that community leaders play a central role in mobilizing community involvement. Collaboration, openness, and coordination among parties are important factors in the success of the development of Bangsri Tourism Village. The community is actively involved in the decision-making process, the provision of resources, and the contribution of skills and ideas, reflecting the level of partnership participation according to Arnstein's ladder of participation theory. The impact of this participation is evident in social aspects, such as increased social cohesion and a sense of belonging to the village, as well as economic aspects, such as increased community income. This study emphasizes the importance of community involvement as the core of sustainable tourism development.

Keywords : Community-Based Tourism, Grassroots Participation, Local Empowerment, Social Capital, Sustainable Development.



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INTRODUCTION

Community participation is a fundamental element in a democratic system because it places citizens at the center of decision-making. In the context of development, community participation is not only a symbol of democracy, but also an essential strategy for the success of a program (Iskandar, 2017). One approach that supports this is participatory planning, which allows communities to be directly involved in setting the development agenda (Qolbiyah, 2023). This approach is especially effective when the project concerns public interests such as the development of a tourist village. Participation-based development models have high relevance to the development of tourist villages. Community participation creates a climate of deliberation to reach agreements and solutions together, reflecting collective values in social life (Lubis, 2009).

The community also determines the direction of development through discussion forums and community meetings. This ensures that tourism development does not deviate from local needs and character. A study (Prabowo, et.al, 2016) shows that community participation in the development of Pujonkidul Tourism Village is still intellectually passive, where community ideas have not been fully collected. This shows that the level of participation has not yet reached an active partnership, which should be the target in any participatory development. In the case of Bangsri, the forms of community participation are more concrete and multidimensional, ranging from planning to management. This difference shows that the development approach must be adapted to local socio-cultural conditions.

Participation is not just physical presence, but active involvement in the entire development process, including evaluation and utilization of results. The community has the right and obligation to access information and be involved at every stage. This approach creates a high sense of ownership of development projects, including tourism villages. This strengthens the sustainability and effectiveness

of the program (Suaib, 2023). Research (Fista, 2024) confirms that a tourist village is not just a destination, but also an entity that brings together local potential in the form of social, cultural, customs, and other supporting facilities. Community involvement is a crucial factor in optimizing this potential. In the context of Bangsri, the development approach is focused on the simultaneous utilization of historical and local economic values. This distinguishes it from previous studies that only looked at the empowerment aspect in general.

The successful development of tourism villages cannot be separated from the role of Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) as local economic managers. In Bangsri Village, BUMDes “Maju Mapan” manages the tourism sector through collaboration with the youth and youth organization. The programs launched such as Kampung Pelangi tourism, screen printing, convection, and catfish cultivation become a means of community empowerment (Kusuma, et.al, 2025). This involvement opens up new economic opportunities for local residents. The remote geographical and demographic conditions of Bangsri Village are both a challenge and an opportunity in developing a tourism village. Prior to empowerment, the majority of the community depended on agriculture with fluctuating results. The migration of young people to big cities is an indicator of the village's economic limitations. However, through the historical tourism approach, this village is able to transform the potential of underdevelopment into local excellence (Chatra, et.al, 2025).

The Central Java Provincial Government recognizes the importance of tourism village development as a poverty alleviation strategy. With 500 tourism villages targeted until 2024, Central Java is trying to utilize tourism potential for economic equality, especially in areas such as Blora, which is among the top ten poorest provinces in Indonesia (Lukito, 2023). Bangsri is a clear representation of this program with national achievements. The village was ranked 13th out of 2,007 villages in the national tourism village competition. History-based tourism villages provide a unique identity for the region because not all areas have strong historical values. The history of local struggles is a source of inspiration that can be packaged in the form of educational tourism. Historical tourism, such as that developed in Bangsri, tells the story of the struggle of local figures such as Naya Gimbal. This story became the main narrative underlying the construction of a tourist icon in the form of a statue of a local hero. Historical tourism not only provides historical knowledge but also has an impact on the local economy. Tourist visits create demand for local products and services (Siregar, et.al, 2025).

Bangsri Village capitalizes on this opportunity by providing complete facilities, including MSME stalls, children's rides, gazebos and VIP rooms. This has created new jobs and increased the income of the surrounding community. Social transformation in Bangsri occurred gradually after the leadership of the new village head, Mr. Yannanta Laga Kusuma. The empowerment programs have succeeded in shaping a new mindset of a more creative and independent community. Inter-generational collaboration, especially youth involvement, is the key to this success. The community is no longer just an object of development, but the main actor (Bambang, 2017). Bangsri's geographical characteristics and boundaries reflect its strategic position for the development of an integrated tourism village. The existence of four hamlets with a strong collective history is a source of cultural wealth that should be developed. Historical potential such as the Bangsri War led by Naya Gimbal makes this village unique among other destinations. The narrative of this struggle is not only preserved orally, but also embodied in monuments.

The concept of historical tourism developed by Bangsri is also education-oriented. The school visit program such as kindergarten, which is conducted every Monday to Friday, is an effort to form historical awareness from an early age. Children are introduced to local stories framed in an educational tourism experience. This is a long-term strategy to maintain the village's cultural identity. With affordable entrance fees and family-friendly facilities, Bangsri Tourism Village is an option for recreation as well as historical learning. Instagramable photo spots and a variety of amusement rides are added values that attract tourists from all walks of life. The integration of education, recreation and empowerment makes Bangsri a model of a sustainable tourism village. Community participation in daily operations ensures the sustainability of the local economy (Indria, 2024).

Based on this description, researchers are interested in examining the process of community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village. The focus of the study includes the level of participation, the forms of involvement, and the impact on the socioeconomic conditions of the community. Arnstein's theoretical framework on the ladder of participation becomes a reference in assessing the extent to which the community has control over development. Through a sociological

approach, this research aims to contribute to the study of village development based on historical and cultural participation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach with field research techniques, where researchers are directly involved in the field to explore information related to community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village. The main focus of this research is to identify the forms of community involvement, the factors that encourage their participation, and the social and economic impacts. The data collected came from two main sources: primary data obtained through observation, in-depth interviews, and questionnaires; and secondary data in the form of relevant written documents, journals, articles, and books as a complement when primary data was insufficient. The selection of informants was conducted using a snowball sampling technique, starting with key informants such as village heads and local community leaders (Nasution, 2024).

Data collection techniques included passive participatory observation, unstructured interviews and document review. Observations were conducted to directly observe community activities in the tourism development process, while interviews were used to extract in-depth information from resource persons who had direct experience of the research topic. Document review supported data validity through written evidence, such as village historical records, activity archives, and visual documentation. Data analysis was conducted using the Miles and Huberman interactive model that includes three stages: data reduction to filter out important information, data presentation in the form of narratives and tables, and conclusion drawing based on verification and interpretation of field data to fully understand the form and impact of Bangsri community participation in tourism village development (Khalim & Hernawati, 2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community Participation in the Development Process of Bangsri Tourism Village



Figure 1. Photo of Tourism Village Development 2023

Source: Research data, 2025

Community participation is an important component of tourism village development because it involves the active involvement of residents in various stages of development activities. In the context of Bangsri Tourism Village, the community is involved from the planning stage to management. This involvement shows that the community is not only the object, but also the subject of development. The collective awareness of the community becomes the foundation in advancing local potential. The process of developing Bangsri Tourism Village began with the initiative of Village Head Yannanta Laga Kusuma, who mobilized community participation through various empowerment programs. One of the flagship programs is the construction of Rainbow Village and the establishment of business units such as screen printing, convection, and catfish farming. These programs are directed at maximizing local potential and empowering village youth through the BUMDes Maju Mapan platform (Suryawan & Mahagangga, 2024).

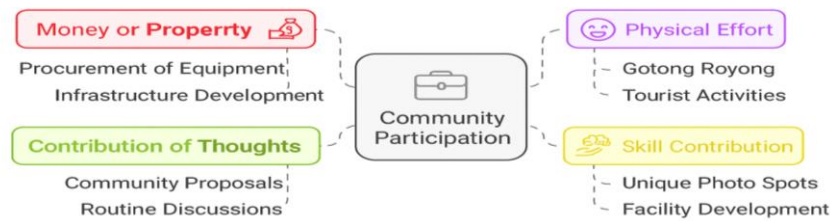


Figure 2: Community Participation in the Development of Bangsri Tourism Village

The people of Bangsri Village, especially the youth and youth organization, are involved as direct implementers in the development and management of tourism destinations. Their involvement shows an active participation in the village transformation process. The role of youth in organizing tourism activities is the backbone of the program's sustainability. It also opens up new employment opportunities at the local level. Community participation in the form of gotong royong is seen in cleaning activities, greening, construction of tourism infrastructure, and maintenance of public facilities. Gotong royong that is carried out regularly strengthens social solidarity and creates a sense of belonging to the developed tourist attraction. These values of togetherness are the social capital in community-based development. In addition to physical labor, community contributions are also made through ideas. Residents participate in the village deliberation forum (musdes), which is a forum for strategic planning of tourism villages. In this deliberation, the community is free to express their aspirations, criticisms and suggestions related to tourism development. This reflects constructive and democratic intellectual participation. Another prominent form of participation is the involvement of residents in educational activities such as local history education programs for children (Ajeng, 2025).

The program is implemented in collaboration with local schools and tourism managers, aiming to foster a love of local history from an early age. This historical education also strengthens the identity and character of the Bangsri community as guardians of cultural values. Women's participation in Bangsri Village is also quite dominant, especially in local culinary production activities and the management of MSME stalls in tourist areas. They take a strategic role in processing local products into commodities with economic value. The existence of MSME stalls managed by women has become a new source of income for their families. In addition to MSMEs, the community also participates by opening property rental businesses for tourists, such as simple houses or inns. This shows that tourism is not only enjoyed by a handful of parties, but also encourages economic growth evenly.

Household involvement in tourism fosters a culture of village entrepreneurship. Others act as local guides who introduce the history of Naya Gimal to visitors. This role not only provides a meaningful tourism experience for tourists, but also a means of transmitting historical values from generation to generation. This activity proves that participation is not always physical, but also symbolic and cultural. Local art and culture communities also contribute to the development of Bangsri tourism. They perform traditional arts in certain events held at tourist sites. This activity aims to preserve culture and attract tourists who have an interest in cultural aspects. Tourism becomes a space for the preservation of local values. Another form of participation is the community's participation in the waste management system and the cleanliness of the tourist environment. Awareness of the importance of a clean environment as a tourist attraction encourages residents to actively carry out independent management. This strengthens the ecological dimension of community-based tourism development.

Training programs provided by the village government to the community also strengthen participation in the capacity aspect. These trainings include tourism management, financial management, tourist services and digital literacy. With this provision, residents have knowledge and skills that support professionalism in managing tourist destinations. The development of history-based tourism villages requires strong narratives and documentation. In this context, the community contributes by contributing local stories and historical artifacts. This activity helps shape an authentic narrative that strengthens the village's identity and enhances the attractiveness of historical tourism. The Bangsri community is also involved in the creation and maintenance of tourist facilities such as gazebos,

photo spots, musholla and playgrounds. They participate in routine maintenance and repair of facilities if there is any damage.

This activity proves the existence of collective responsibility for the sustainability of tourism objects. Community participation is also realized in the form of monitoring and evaluation of village tourism activities. The community does not hesitate to submit reports or criticize the management if it is considered less than optimal. This supervisory function is a form of social control to ensure the development of tourism villages runs accountably. The emergence of community concern for the preservation of historical sites and cultural heritage is increasing as Bangsri Tourism Village develops (Andini & Rizk, 2024).

The community is beginning to realize the importance of preserving historical relics as long-term tourism assets. This awareness is reflected in the support for the conservation of the Naya Gimal statue and the Bangsri war narrative. In general, community participation in Bangsri reflects the principle of inclusive development. All groups from children, youth, women to the elderly have the space to be involved according to their respective capacities and roles. This inclusiveness is a major strength in the success of the tourism village development program.

Community participation also has an impact on improving the quality of life of residents. Additional income from the tourism sector strengthens families' economic resilience. The community becomes more independent and does not depend on the fluctuating agricultural sector. Tourism is a promising alternative economic source. In a sociological context, participation by the community shows a significant social transformation process. Social relations between communities become stronger due to frequent interactions in tourism activities. This process creates social cohesion that strengthens the local community structure. With active community participation, the development of Bangsri Tourism Village can be used as a model for sustainable community-based development. Community involvement in various aspects of tourism development shows a collective awareness of the importance of preserving culture, the environment, and improving the local economy. The success of Bangsri is clear evidence that community participation is key in driving independent and competitive village development (Nurhayati, et.al, 2025).

Levels of Community Participation in the Development of Bangsri Tourism Village

Community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village reflects the active involvement of residents in various aspects of development based on local potential. This involvement is not limited to physical activities, but also includes ideas, energy, and moral support that form the social foundation of village tourism. The participation process demonstrates a collective awareness of the importance of economic independence and the preservation of local culture. Community participation is influenced by information transparency and participatory village leadership. This level of involvement is a manifestation of the principle of democratization in village development. The level of community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village can be classified according to Arnstein's model, ranging from manipulation to community control. In this context, the community has moved from a tokenistic level to a partnership stage, indicating a more active and substantial role. Residents are involved in planning tourism activities such as gazebo construction, parking area management, and local SME management. This role reflects an increase in social capacity in making strategic village decisions (Sumardani & Wiramatika, 2024).

**Table. Levels of Community Participation in Bangsri Tourism Village Development
(Based on Arnstein's Ladder)**

Level of Participation (Arnstein)	Form of Participation in Bangsri	Examples of Community Activities	Implications for Tourism Development
Manipulation / Therapy (Lowest)	Symbolic involvement	Initial awareness programs by village leaders	Minimal influence; community begins to recognize tourism potential

Informing	Receiving information about village tourism plans	Information shared through forums, WhatsApp, Facebook groups	Improves transparency and builds trust
Consultation	Providing input and feedback	Surveys, interviews, discussion forums on tourism management	Residents' voices integrated into policy, aligning programs with community needs
Placation (Tokenism)	Limited involvement in decision-making	Occasional invitations to village meetings without strong influence	Prevents elite domination but still limited authority
Partnership	Shared responsibility between community & government	Residents co-manage BUMDes <i>Maju Mapan</i> , Karang Taruna, Pokdarwis	Equal role in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs; high trust in governance
Delegated Power	Community has stronger bargaining position	Financial transparency monitoring, volunteer budgeting teams, village deliberations	Strong accountability; minimizes conflict and corruption
Citizen Control (Highest)	Full decision-making and ownership	Independent tourism promotion on social media, local knowledge integration (Naya Gimbal stories), women & youth-led SMEs	Sustainable, inclusive, and community-driven tourism governance

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Community participation is also a measure of the success of community-based tourism development. Involving the community in strategic decision-making marks an increase in their capacity as key actors in development. The village deliberation process provides a space for residents to voice their opinions and agree on tourism development measures. This strengthens public trust in the village administration and minimizes the potential for social conflict. This level indicates that the community is not merely an object of development but also a subject of change. The inclusivity of this process ensures the sustainable democratic management of the village tourism. One form of tangible community participation is their involvement in youth groups and community organizations responsible for managing tourist attractions, cleanliness, and environmental safety.

The participation of this productive age group emphasizes the importance of regeneration in tourism destination management. In addition, cross-generational collaboration in mutual assistance activities creates strong social bonds between residents. Youth involvement also serves as a medium for character education through productive activities based on local potential. The development of tourism villages not only has a physical impact, but also strengthens the social quality of the community. At the consultative participation level, the community is involved in surveys, interviews, and discussion forums to express their aspirations and criticisms regarding tourism management. These activities demonstrate that residents have become strategic partners of the village government in the evaluative and reflective process of development. Consultative participation serves to align tourism programs with the dynamic needs and conditions of the local community. This approach enhances the legitimacy of village policies and enriches the planning database. Thus, consultation-based tourism development ensures fairness and representation (Isha & Hos, 2025).

The participation of the Bangsri community is also manifested in the form of labor contributions, such as the construction of tourist facilities through mutual cooperation. Residents take turns helping with the construction of facilities, ranging from gazebos and educational parks to tourist access roads. These activities strengthen the value of togetherness and accelerate the realization of infrastructure

development. Support in the form of volunteer labor reflects the maturity of the community's social attitude in supporting village programs. This indicates that their involvement has reached a stage of comprehensive active participation. In addition to labor, participation in the form of ideas and suggestions also plays a role in tourism development. Village deliberation forums are utilized as spaces for expression where residents can freely share their opinions. These aspirations are openly considered by tourism managers and the village government. This participatory approach prevents elite dominance in the development process. In this regard, the democratization of development is clearly evident.

The level of community participation also includes financial aspects, although not on a large scale. Some residents voluntarily donate funds or contribute through group fees for the improvement of tourist facilities. This demonstrates a collective awareness that tourism is a shared asset. Such contributions foster a strong sense of ownership toward public facilities. This financial participation serves as an indicator of self-reliance and the strengthening of community-based local economies. Residents also act as direct managers of tourist attractions through institutions such as BUMDes Maju Mapan. BUMDes serves as a formal platform facilitating community aspirations and labor in village economic development. The role of BUMDes as a village-owned enterprise enables the community to hold a strong bargaining position in managing local potential. An inclusive management structure ensures accountability and transparency.

This is a form of participation at the strategic partnership level. Women's involvement in the development of Bangsri tourism village has also increased significantly. Women are involved in managing small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) stalls, serving as tour guides, and providing traditional village culinary services. This demonstrates cross-gender participation that strengthens gender equality in village development. Women's participation also expands the economic impact on households. This equality reinforces an equitable and sustainable development approach.

Strengthening the participation of Bangsri Village residents is also carried out through training sessions organized by the village government and external parties. These training sessions cover entrepreneurial skills, tourism services, and small business management. Residents' participation in these training programs demonstrates the community's enthusiasm for developing together with the village. The willingness to learn is evidence that the community is not merely passive recipients but actively equipping themselves for development. This participation aligns with the empowerment level in Arnstein's participation model. The community's social control over tourism management also reflects a high level of participation. Residents act as supervisors of tourism activities to ensure they align with village norms and agreements. If there are discrepancies, residents will raise protests or suggestions through village forums. This mechanism demonstrates the residents' courage and collective awareness in maintaining the integrity of the program. This reaffirms the community's position as equal partners in tourism development governance. Information about tourism developments is actively disseminated by residents through social media, such as Facebook and WhatsApp community groups.

The community independently promotes tourism potential and local products through online channels. This activity indicates that participation has reached the realm of communication and advocacy. Widely disseminated information helps increase tourism appeal. This has become an efficient and participatory promotional strategy. Traditional and religious leaders in the village also play a crucial role in fostering collective awareness of historical and cultural values. They serve as a bridge between older and younger generations in preserving local wisdom. The involvement of these leaders expands the scope of participation, from ordinary residents to informal leaders. Synergy between formal and informal structures creates a strong social cohesion. This reflects a level of participation that is integrative in nature.

The village's identity as a historical village began to take shape as the community consistently participated in the narrative of Naya Gimbal's struggle. Residents actively brought this narrative to life through storytelling, performances, and physical symbols such as statues and the names of tourist areas. This identity gives Bangsri Village a distinctive character that sets it apart from other tourist villages. The creation of identity through participation strengthens the branding of the tourist village. This success is only possible if the community has awareness and a sense of ownership toward local history. The development of the tourist village also fosters the emergence of a network between Bangsri Village and other tourist village communities in Blora and its surroundings. In these meeting forums, active residents serve as village representatives and present their experiences. This provides external recognition of the quality of community participation in tourism development. The community is not

merely the subject of development but also an agent of knowledge. This is a form of reflective participation rarely found at the village level. Young people in the village also participate in tourism activities, whether as game operators, historical education guides, or social media content managers.

This involvement provides space for expression and productivity for rural youth. It creates regeneration in tourism management. The youthful spirit brings innovation and technology into the rural tourism work system. Youth participation is a hallmark of transgenerational participation. The formation of community working groups such as food stall managers, cleanliness, security, and guides is a concrete form of role sharing. This collective work system demonstrates a high level of community organization. Assignments are made fairly and transparently through village deliberation forums. This indicates that participation is now structured and no longer spontaneous (Ansori, 2021).

This type of participation leads to the sustainability of the village tourism program. In the financial management of village tourism, residents are involved in the budget planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes. Financial transparency is a key principle in maintaining the trust of residents. Residents who are members of the financial monitoring team work voluntarily and independently. This demonstrates a form of social control participation in financial matters. This participatory model minimizes the potential for conflict and corruption at the local level. Community participation is not only in the implementation stage but also in the planning and evaluation stages of the program. At the end of each month or holiday season, the community conducts a joint evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of tourism management. This evaluation is open and encourages residents to provide criticism and suggestions. This mechanism fosters a reflective and evaluative culture among the village community. This indicates that participation has reached a deliberative level. The community participation system is supported by a solid institutional structure, such as BUMDes, Karang Taruna, and Pokdarwis (Tourism Awareness Group).

This institution serves as a forum for community representation in every strategic decision regarding the tourist village. With a clear structure, the distribution of responsibilities becomes more effective. This institution proves that participation has become institutionalized in the village's social system. This is an indicator of a strong level of institutional participation. The local knowledge possessed by the community is used in compiling educational content for historical tourism. Stories about Naya Gimbal's struggles and traditional village life are packaged into educational materials for tourists. This knowledge is transmitted verbally as well as in written and visual media. This shows that the community is a source of information and not merely an implementer. This role reinforces the position of residents as key actors in knowledge-based development. Residents actively involved in village tourism activities also experience an increase in social status within the community. This recognition arises from their contributions to the village's progress and the success of the tourism program. This rise in status encourages others to participate, as they see the non-material benefits of involvement. Social incentives become a driving factor for sustained participation. Participation has become a symbol of social prestige within the village community.

The community participation system in Bangsri Village avoids exclusivity by creating an inclusive space for all segments of society, including vulnerable groups. Children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are involved in specific activities according to their respective capacities. This inclusivity strengthens social solidarity among residents. All parties feel valued and have a contribution to make to development. This is the ideal form of universal participation in village development practices. Based on a comprehensive analysis, the level of community participation in Bangsri Village has reached the "partnership" level on Arnstein's participation scale. The community is not merely consulted but actively participates in determining policy direction and managing the village tourism program. Their role is not symbolic but substantive and strategic. Community participation is integrated into the village's social, economic, and cultural systems. This demonstrates the success of a participatory approach in community-based development.

The Impact of Community Participation in the Development of Bangsri Tourism Village

Community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village has had a significant impact on the social and economic conditions of residents. Through active community involvement, various local economic opportunities have begun to emerge, such as small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) stalls, game equipment rentals, and parking services. The presence of the tourism village has created a multiplier effect that drives local microeconomic growth. Additionally, there has been a shift

in residents' livelihoods from agriculture alone to the tourism services sector. This transformation demonstrates the diversification of the village's economy as a result of active community participation. Socially, residents' involvement in tourism management fosters new solidarity that strengthens social cohesion among residents. Collaborative efforts in building tourism infrastructure, managing cleanliness, and welcoming tourists strengthen social bonds. Residents feel a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the preservation of the tourism environment. These collective activities strengthen collective identity and foster pride in the village. Participation creates strong social capital for sustainable development.

The positive impact of participation is also evident in the increase in household income. Many residents use their homes as homestays, open food stalls, or sell local souvenirs. This increase in economic activity has a direct impact on the welfare of residents. The presence of tourists has become a relatively stable new source of income for local residents. This shows that participation in tourism development can be a strategy for alleviating local poverty. In the education sector, community participation in tourism management has led to the creation of educational programs on history and culture for children and visitors. Collaboration between tourism managers and kindergarten schools serves as a means to instill national values and love for the homeland from an early age. Village residents act as educational facilitators for the younger generation and tourists.

This shows that participation also creates space for intergenerational and cross-community learning. Thus, the impact of tourism development is not only economic but also educational. Increased community participation in tourism activities also has an impact on the quality of the village's physical environment. Residents actively maintain cleanliness, care for gardens, and preserve the natural beauty of the village as a tourism asset. This ecological awareness arises because residents realize that the sustainability of tourism depends on environmental conservation. This behavioral change reflects a cultural transformation among residents from a consumerist mindset to a participatory and ecological one. A clean and well-maintained environment becomes an additional attraction for tourists (Lukito, 2023).

Another notable economic impact is the increase in transactions of local products such as specialty foods, handicrafts, and organic agricultural products. Tourists provide a new market for these products, which previously did not have wide access to sales. This activity not only benefits small and medium enterprises (SMEs) but also sparks creativity among residents in creating high-value products. This demonstrates that participation drives the growth of the village's creative economy. This transformation leads to an increase in the value added of local products. The presence of historical tourism in Bangsri also revives local cultural values that were nearly forgotten. Through the narrative of Naya Gimbal's struggle, residents and tourists are invited to deeply understand the village's history. This historical storytelling is conveyed through tour guides, iconic statues, and school education. Cultural preservation is an important social impact of community participation in the tourist village. These activities also contribute to strengthening local identity amid the tide of modernization.

Psychologically, community participation fosters a sense of pride in their village. The spirit of mutual cooperation that arises from participation gives residents a sense of being valued and meaningful. This has an impact on increasing motivation to maintain and develop the village in a sustainable manner. The emotional well-being of the community also improves as the village successfully manages tourism. Collective ownership of the village is an important foundation for sustainable development. Participation in tourism development also impacts residents' informal education patterns. Many residents learn to manage finances, customer service, and digital marketing for tourism promotion. This learning occurs independently or through training organized by the village government and external partners. This process shapes a community that is adaptive and innovative in responding to changes in the times.

Participation not only shapes tourist villages, but also builds learning communities. The presence of Bangsri tourism has triggered improvements in the village's infrastructure in general. Access roads have been repaired, the internet network has been strengthened, and public facilities such as toilets and prayer rooms have been built to a higher standard. These changes have had a broad impact on all residents, not only those directly involved in the tourism sector. Adequate infrastructure creates comfort for tourists and residents alike. Participation encourages the acceleration of physical development in the village.

In addition to the economic impact, the active participation of the Bangsri community has also created stronger social cohesion. Intergenerational interaction has increased through cooperation in tourism activities, such as training, cultural performances, and welcoming guests. These activities encourage a sense of togetherness and mutual trust among residents. This social solidarity is an important asset in maintaining social stability and the continuity of tourism programs. The village has become more united in facing development challenges. Community involvement in tourism activities also enhances individual and collective capacity. Many residents who previously lacked skills are now able to manage businesses, organize events, and lead workgroups. This process reflects an increase in human capital through social learning. These new skills are useful not only in the context of tourism but also in daily life. Participation opens access to sustainable empowerment processes.

Another noticeable impact is the emergence of a sense of ownership towards tourist attractions and village assets. Residents feel proud of the village's achievements and have a moral responsibility to protect them. This is evident in the residents' involvement in maintaining cleanliness, security, and the preservation of the tourist environment. This sense of ownership strengthens the community's loyalty to the village and its programs. This attitude forms the basis for long-term participation and sustainable development. Community participation also has a positive impact on informal education for children and teenagers. Children are introduced to the village's history and local values through educational visits and cultural activities. This education fosters a love for their homeland and strengthens local identity.

The younger generation no longer views the village as a backward place, but rather as a space for expression and the future. Participation in education is a long-term social investment. In terms of gender, participation in tourism villages opens up opportunities for women to be actively involved in economic and social activities. Women run stalls, sew souvenirs, become tour guides, and manage group finances. These roles provide economic autonomy and strengthen women's positions in household and community decision-making. This transformation demonstrates the transformative impact of tourism on gender relations in villages. It leads to greater social equity. Structurally, community participation reduces dependence on government aid. Communities learn to become self-reliant through collective business management and fair profit distribution.

Collective awareness is growing to create productive local resources. Villages are becoming not only recipients of aid, but also producers of prosperity. This shows a transition from a passive society to a productive society. In terms of environmental health, tourism activities encourage residents to maintain cleanliness and organize their environment. Awareness of the importance of sanitation and aesthetics is increasing because a clean environment is a tourist attraction. Residents work together to maintain public facilities and create parks or green spaces. These positive impacts extend to the daily habits of the community. As a result, participation contributes to a healthier and more dignified quality of life. Resident participation fosters the formation of social networks with tourism stakeholders outside the village, such as travel agents, tourist communities, and media. These networks serve as a bridge to expand opportunities for promotion, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. These relationships not only enrich residents' experiences but also broaden their understanding of tourism trends.

Residents are not isolated from the outside world, but rather become part of the regional tourism ecosystem. This demonstrates social inclusion and openness within the village community. Community participation also reduces unemployment rates in the village, particularly among the youth. With the availability of various business units such as game equipment rentals, SMEs, and guiding services, job opportunities become more accessible. Young people who previously had no jobs now have income and clear social roles. This helps reduce the potential for juvenile delinquency and early urbanization. The village becomes a place that offers hope for the younger generation (Siregar, et al., 2025).

The psychological impact of community participation in tourism development is also quite significant. A sense of pride, self-confidence, and optimism about the future of the village grows in the minds of the community. The success of development instills confidence that change can be achieved from the grassroots level. This change has a positive impact on the mental and emotional well-being of residents. This demonstrates that the impact of participation is not only physical and economic but also touches on the psychosocial dimension. The ongoing tourism activities have fostered a culture of consultation and collective decision-making. Residents regularly gather to evaluate and plan future activities. These forums strengthen local democratic practices and resident participation in the village's political processes. Decisions are no longer top-down but emerge from open dialogue and consensus.

This demonstrates that participation strengthens local social and political institutions. Participation also plays a role in preserving the village's cultural heritage, which was once nearly forgotten.

Traditional arts, folklore, and customs are being revived as part of the tourist attraction. These efforts provide a space for cultural expression that enriches local identity. The community becomes a cultural preservationist, not just an economic actor. The impact of participation is multidimensional and crosses sectoral boundaries. Changes in the economic life of residents are reflected in increased household consumption and the ability to finance children's education. Additional income from the tourism sector is used to meet primary and secondary family needs. Residents become more self-reliant in managing household economics. This impact creates concrete micro-level well-being. This demonstrates that tourism serves as a catalyst for improving living standards. Tourism villages also strengthen solidarity among social groups that were previously divided due to differing interests or status (Hidajat, 2025).

In tourism programs, all citizens have their own positions and contributions regardless of their backgrounds. Collaborative activities bring together various groups in harmonious cooperation. This strengthens inclusivity and reduces the potential for horizontal conflicts. Participation becomes a medium for social reconciliation. Local innovations begin to emerge as a result of interactions with tourists and entrepreneurs from outside the community. Residents create new products, such as local cuisine, handicrafts, and educational games based on local history. These innovations enrich the village economy and enhance competitiveness. Creativity becomes a hallmark of community-based development. This indicates that participation also fosters an innovative culture. The relationship between residents and the village government becomes more synergistic as development is carried out collaboratively. The government is no longer seen as the sole decision-maker but as a facilitator of community aspirations. This dynamic transforms the power dynamics in the village into a more egalitarian structure.

Residents feel valued and listened to in every policy. This reflects participatory and democratic governance. In the long term, community participation creates a replicable and inspiring model for village development. Many other villages have begun to learn from Bangsri's experience and adopt similar practices. Bangsri is a concrete example that success does not always have to start with large funds, but with a spirit of mutual cooperation. This expands the impact of participation to the inter-village level. Its effects reach the regional and systemic levels. Changes in residents' behavior regarding consumption, cleanliness, and social interaction indicate a constructive cultural shift. The community becomes more open to change, more aware of quality of life, and more tolerant of differences (Ajeng, 2025).

This transformation strengthens the community's adaptive capacity to external dynamics. In other words, tourism acts as an agent of cultural change. This creates a new progressive identity within rural communities. The existence of tourist villages has an indirect impact on other sectors such as agriculture and transportation. Demand for local products increases due to the consumption needs of tourists and MSMEs. Local transportation activities also increase as visitor numbers rise. This domino effect strengthens the village's multiple economies. Thus, the impact of participation extends to other supporting sectors. Based on the entire presentation, it can be concluded that community participation in the development of Bangsri Tourism Village has significant social, economic, cultural, and political impacts. Residents become the main subjects of development rather than mere objects. The success of the village is inseparable from the active involvement of all community members. This proves that participatory development is the most effective way to achieve a self-reliant and competitive village. Bangsri Village has demonstrated that inclusive participation can transform the village holistically.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research on community participation in the development of the Historical Tourism Village in Bangsri Village, Jepon Subdistrict, Blora Regency, it can be concluded that local residents demonstrate high levels of involvement in various stages of tourism village development. The community actively participates in planning meetings, decision-making, and the implementation of tourism activities, whether in the role of administrators, implementers, or supporting business operators. This participation is manifested in the form of contributions of labor, funds, creative ideas, and the implementation of collaborative activities. Community involvement is also evident in socialization

activities, evaluations, and the collective distribution of benefits, demonstrating that a participatory approach can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the progress of the tourism village. Thus, community participation serves as the cornerstone for achieving an inclusive and sustainable tourism village.

The form of community participation in Bangsri Village has developed to the level of partnership, where residents are not only objects but also the main subjects of tourism village development. The positive impact of this development can be seen in two main aspects. Socially, tourism village activities encourage cooperation between groups, strengthen social relationships, and increase community awareness and knowledge. Economically, the presence of the village tourism initiative has created new job opportunities, promoted the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and strengthened the local economy. However, there are still some residents who have not actively participated, resulting in the benefits of the village tourism development not being evenly distributed across all segments of the community. Further strategies are needed to expand the scope of participation so that the village tourism development truly reaches all elements of the community.

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