

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PATHEK BEACH TOURISM AREA

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to analyze the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourist area of Pathek Beach, Gelung Village, Panaurakan District, Situbondo Regency. The method used by researchers in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The results showed that the Pathek Beach tourist area experienced a major impact from the covid-19 pandemic. Tourist visits from this tourist area have decreased drastically by up to 50%. The economy of the community around the Pathek Beach area, especially the traders, experienced a 50-75% decline in turnover during the pandemic.

Keywords: Pandemic, Covid-19, Economy, Tourism

1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has been going on for a very long time. Since the beginning of 2020 until now, the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. This health disaster has caused a lot of global economic paralysis. In fact, several countries are reported to have experienced a fairly bad recession due to this pandemic. Moreover, the impact of the PSBB has worsened economic conditions in Indonesia. According to Hanoatobun (2020), there are 3 areas that have been disadvantaged by the Covid-19 pandemic, namely trade, investment, and tourism. Focusing on the last sector, namely, tourism, this field is one of the economic support fields in Indonesia. Nizar (2011) argues that tourism is something that cannot be separated from human life, especially regarding social and economic activities. Furthermore, Nizar (2011) stated that tourism has developed into one of the largest industries in the world. Seeing this statement, implies that the paralysis of tourism during this pandemic has directly resulted in a lot of people's economy originating from the tourism sector being weakened.

Based on data from Budiyaniti's research (2020), foreign tourist visits in Indonesia reached 16.11 million tourists. This figure increased by 1.88% from the number of tourist visits in 2018 which amounted to 15.81 million. However, due to this pandemic, which has reduced flight activities between countries and calls for always staying at home, the number of tourist visits in Indonesia according to BPS in January - July 2020 is only 3.25 million tourists. While the latest data in September 2019, according to the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, foreign tourist visits

were only 153,498 visits. This figure has drastically decreased by 88.95% from September 2019 where the number of tourist visits reached 1,388,719 visits.

Indonesia is one of the countries that relies on the tourism sector, especially in terms of beaches. The beach is one of the leading tourism in Indonesia. However, due to the PSBB and the Covid-19 pandemic, tourism activities in the maritime sector have been disrupted. The tourists who usually go on vacation, cannot go because of the PSBB, Bakar and Rosbi (2020) added that, due to these restrictions, many tourists canceled their trips for tours, which caused tourist attractions to become empty of visitors. Thus causing some sellers and craftsmen who sell in the beach area to be empty of buyers. This is exacerbated by the fact that several hotels which are usually a place to stay for tourists are in danger of going out of business.

Situbondo is one of the cities that has a fairly long coastline. Located in the Pantura area, making the city has a very good tourism potential. One of the famous beaches in Situbondo is Panthek Beach. The beach, which is located in Gelung Village, Panarukan District, is visited by local tourists on holidays. However, since the pandemic has certainly had an impact on tourism in the tourist area.

Based on the problems above, researchers are very interested in studying this phenomenon more deeply. This study aims to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourist area of Panthek Beach, Gelung Village, Panarukan District, Situbondo Regency. So with this research, it is hoped that it can help measure the impact that Covid-19 has had on these tourist areas.

2. Research Methods

The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Yusuf (2014) describes a qualitative descriptive method as a research method that can describe problems systematically, factually and accurately regarding a certain right, or it can be said that this method tries to provide a detailed description of a phenomenon. Meanwhile, according to Sugiyono (2012) descriptive research, namely, research used to determine the value of independent variables, either one or more variables (respondents) without making comparisons, or connecting with other variables.

Data collection techniques used in this study include interviews, questionnaires, and documentation. Moleong (2010) provides a definition related to interviews, according to him, interviews are conversations that are intended for certain purposes. The researcher in this case will interview several traders who are around the research location. In addition to interviewing, the researcher also used a questionnaire in this study. . Pujihastuti (2010) argues that the questionnaire is a tool for collecting primary data with a mixture of survey methods to get opinions from respondents. Documentation is also very important in a study, because documentation in the form of photos and videos is concrete evidence of a research. Suharsimi (2006) argues that evidence from a documentation is not only pictures and photos, but also video tapes, notes, memos, newspapers are also included.

The data analysis technique used is a qualitative approach. The data obtained both from interviews and questionnaires will be analyzed qualitatively. Haryati (2012) argues that the qualitative approach is an approach that focuses more on general principles that underlie the manifestation of problems or symptoms contained in human social life.

3. Results and Discussion

The Impact of Covid 19 on Pathek Beach Tourism

The Pathek Beach tourist area has very promising potential to drive the economy. Every weekend, Pathek Beach is always crowded with visitors. However, since this pandemic the impact on the Pathek Beach tourist area has been very significant. Especially at the first research location, precisely in the Grand Pathek tourist area. When the researcher conducted an interview with the manager named Mr. H. Jasmoto, he said that the impact of COVID-19 on the Grand Pathek tourist area was felt.

In addition, the results of the interview also stated that visitor visits decreased by 30-50% during the covid-19 pandemic. If before Covid-19 Grand Pathek was able to attract more than 1000 tourists every week. However, during this pandemic per week only 500-800 people can afford it. The management also stated that the effort or strategy to attract tourists during this pandemic was only to implement health protocols, so that the place could still be open during the pandemic.



Picture1. Interview with Grand Pathek Manager

The decline in tourists from the Grand Pathek area was also experienced by several tourist areas in South Africa. Rogerson and Rogersen (2020) in their research said that in some small cities in South Africa, the tourism conditions were very poor. The study also explains that small cities get a very big impact compared to big cities. The Pathek Beach tourist area itself is located in Situbondo Regency, which incidentally is also a small district or city.

Meanwhile, research by Hoque et al (2020) in China stated that the impact of Covid-19 was very large on China's declining foreign exchange earnings. Grand Pathek itself is a tourist area owned

by the local government of Gelung Village. The existence of this tourist area is very important for the income of the Gelung Village government. So that the decrease in tourist visitors due to Covid-19 will definitely affect the income of Gelung Village. The impact experienced by Gelung Village can be said to be the same as what happened to China.

During this Pandemic, tourist areas in Gelung Village, both Pathek Beach and Grand Pathek never closed. Because the manager is worried about the impact caused by the closure of the tour. The same thing was also expressed by Zielenski and Botero (2020) who said that the closure of tourist attractions during a pandemic, especially beaches, would greatly impact the community's economy. In fact, European countries that have carried out regional quarantines have reopened tourist areas to restore economic activity.

The strategy to restore the area taken by the manager himself is currently only relying on the implementation of health protocols. However, if only that step was not enough. Yeh (2020) argues that the management needs to involve the government in dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, by establishing good communication, and discussing various problems that occurred during the pandemic. So that with this, a solution is reached to overcome the problems that are currently happening. Uğur and Akbıyık (2020) have different solutions to attract tourists to want to visit, namely by carrying out promotions such as hiring influencers or increasing several tourist attractions around tourist areas.

The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Economy of Communities Around Pathek Beach

As one of the tourist attractions, Pathek Beach is certainly a place that affects the economy of the local residents. This is evidenced by the many traders who sell around the beach. During the observation at Pathek Beach, researchers interviewed five traders who were selling in the Pathek Beach area. The following is data from interviews with several traders in the tourist area of Pathek Beach.

Table 1. Income from Traders at Pantai Pathek Every Weekend.

No	Trader	Income (Rupiah)		Government Assistance
		Before the Pandemic	During the Pandemic	
1.	Merchant 1	1,000,000	500,000	Have not got it yet
2.	Merchant 2	2,000,000	1,000,000	Have not got it yet
3.	Merchant 3	300,000	150,000	Have not got it yet
4.	Merchant 4	2,000,000	500,000	Have not got it yet
5.	Merchant 5	800,000	400,000	Have not got it yet

Source: Research 2020

Based on the data that has been taken during the observation, it is known that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy of the people who trade in the tourist areas of Pathek Beach and Grand Pathek is very significant. Of all the traders interviewed, the earnings of all these traders decreased by almost 50 percent on each weekend. In fact, the income of merchant 4 has fallen drastically to 75%. The five traders also stated that they had not received financial or capital assistance from the regional or central government during this pandemic. In fact, according to Yeh (2020), the government is the party that has an important role in overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If this situation continues, it will seriously threaten the economic activities around the tourist area. Whereas the ultimate goal of economic activity or activity is to improve welfare and quality of life (Dwina, 2020).



Picture 2. Interview Process to Merchant.

Thaha (2020) argues that MSMEs are currently receiving a major shock due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which could cause 50% of Indonesian MSMEs to be in danger of going out of business. For some MSMEs with limited capital it will be very difficult to rise from Covid 19 (Syriopoulos, 2020). Therefore, MSMEs located in the Pathek Beach area need to get assistance from the government in the form of capital or convenience in applying for loans with small interest. Meanwhile, Karim (2020) stated that there are other efforts to restore the economic condition of a village affected by Covid 19. Namely, by empowering human resources, so that the community can overcome the impact of Covid-19 independently and can rebuild the economic foundation.

4. Conclusion

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Pathek Beach tourist area is very much felt. This happened at the first research location, in the Grand Pathek tourist area, visitors decreased by 50 percent per week during the pandemic. In addition, the impact of the pandemic on the economy of the

people around Pathek Beach, especially the traders, was also felt. From all samples taken, traders experience a 50-75% decrease in turnover on every weekend day. All traders also admitted that they had not received financial assistance from the government.

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