

# Youth Participation in Geopark Kaldera Toba Tourism and Economic Development (Case Study: Toba Samosir)

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## Abstract

*The aim of this study to analyze the influence of the economic status, education, working experience, and participation in organization on the economic development of youth (16 to 30 years old) in Toba Samosir. The research used descriptive analysis and the result shows that the potency of Toba Caldera Geopark as Global Geopark Network provides an opportunity for the revenue of the government and the local community indicated by the appearance of a lot of industry in tourism and job opportunities, the development of supporting facilities and infrastructures of Toba Caldera Geopark tourism.*

*Keywords: Youth, Toba Caldera Geopark, Regional Development*

## Introduction

One of the natural resources that should be relied upon in Indonesia is its unique landscape and unique cultural diversity which is also widely used as a tourist destination. This is a very good potential and must be further developed. So far the diversity of

tourism potential is in demand by millions of travelers and tourists who come from various countries. Data obtained from the Ministry of Tourism shows that there is an increase in the number of foreign tourists every year. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) (2018) stated that the number of foreign tourists coming to Indonesia in 2016 totaled 11,519,275 people compared to 2012 the number of foreign tourists coming to Indonesia amounted to 8,802,129 people. That means that within a period of 5 years there was an increase in the number of tourists by 30.8%.

In the Master Plan for National Tourism Development (RIPPARNAS), it is stated that in 2025, Indonesia is targeted to have 50 tourist destinations that become a mainstay in the tourism sector. In addition the Ministry of National Development Planning / Bappenas in December 2014 through the Deputy for Economic Affairs has issued a 2015-2019 Tourism

Development plan. At the Deputy for Economic Affairs, there were several targets that had to be achieved in 2019. Among them were growth targets, especially in the world of tourism until 2019. One of the priority tourism objects to be built was the tourism object of Lake Toba.

Development of Lake Toba Tourism is one of the government's priorities in tourism development. Lake Toba Tourism Authority Agency (BOP) is based on Presidential Regulation No. 49 of 2016. BOP serves to accelerate the development and construction of the Lake Toba tourist area, which is chaired by the Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and led directly by the President. Lake Toba will be used as the Government as a Global Geopark Network through UNESCO with Caldera as the formation of Lake Toba due to volcanic eruptions.

The participation of local people is very important to be involved in the tourism development efforts of the Toba Caldera Geopark which means that it is related to

economic development. Youth are part of the community that plays a role in the development process, both as entrepreneurs or business owners supporting tourism as well as those who act as employees or workers. And it is expected that the role of the youth can help the tourism development of the Toba Caldera Geopark.

**Statement of the Problem**

Does youth participation in organizations influence economic development through tourism of the Toba Geopark Caldera?

**Objectives of the Study**

To analyze youth participation in organizations partially towards the economic development of youth.

**Research Methodology**

The research location was purposively conducted in Tobasamosir Regency in Balige Subdistrict and Lumban Julu District, North Sumatra with consideration that Tobasamosir Regency was one of the Toba Geopark Tourism Locations with a quantitative approach.

**Table 1. Youth by Gender in Toba Samosir Regency**

Age Group	Population			Percentage
	Male	Female	Total	
15-19	9.188	7.973	17.161	46,18%
20-25	5.019	4.202	9.221	25,82%
25-29	5.611	5.165	10.776	29,00%
Total	19.818	17.340	96.158	100%

Source: Processed from the Central Statistics Agency, Toba Samosir Regency in numbers, 2018.

**Table 2. Youth based on gender in Lumban Julu Sub-District**

Age Group	Population			Percentage
	Male	Female	Total	
15-19	372	288	660	45,99
20-25	195	152	347	24,18
25-29	225	203	428	29,83
Total	792	643	1435	100%

Source: Processed from the Central Statistics Agency, Lumban Julu Sub-district in numbers, 2018.

To determine the number of respondents or samples, Frank Lynk formula and random sampling are used. The number of samples needed for this study as following:

$$n = \frac{(11.208) (1,96)^2 (0,5) (1-0,5)}{(11.208) (0,1)^2 + (0,5) (1-0,5)}$$

$$n = \frac{(11.208) (3,8416)(0,5)}{(11.208) (0,01) + (0,5) (0,5)}$$

$$n = \frac{(11.208) (3,8416)(0,25)}{(11.208) (0,01) + (0,25) (0,5)}$$

$$n = \frac{10764,1632}{112,33}$$

$$n = 96 \text{ Orang}$$

Data collection using questionnaires and Likert scale measurement scale. In addition secondary data was obtained from institutions / agencies or government such as the Office of Culture, Tourism and Sports of the Toba Samosir Regency, the Toba Geopark Information Center and the Toba Samosir Regency Statistics Center.

### Literature Review

Regional development is various types of development activities, both those included in the government sector and in the community, implemented and regulated in the framework of efforts to improve the welfare of the community. These efforts are basically to improve the fulfillment of various needs, both through products and through various types of activities that provide regional improvement (Samosir, 2000).

Regional development planning is increasingly relevant in implementing economic policies in regional aspects. Hoover and Giarratani (Nugroho and Dahuri, 2004) conclude three important pillars in the process of regional development, such as imperfect mobility

of factor, imperfect divisibility, imperfect of good in services.

An individual visualized his social status only from his role in daily life (Ali, 2006). According to Ahmadi (1982) the role is a complex of human expectations on how individuals must behave and act in certain situations based on their social status and function.

Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 40 of 2009 concerning youth article 16 to 17 discusses the role of youth in aspects of national development. Article 16 states that there are three active roles of youth. First, as a moral force, second as social control and third as an agent of change.

The role that must be owned by youth in the economic sector according to Ginandjar (2007), as follows:

1. Take a big role in the economic sector policy making process
2. Supervise economic programs.
3. Empowering, mentoring, and making economic development efforts to reduce poverty.
4. Provide economic advocacy to reduce poverty

Menurut Butler dalam Budiastawa (2009) ada 5 tahap pengembangan pariwisata yang membawa implikasi serta dampak yang berbeda, secara teori diantaranya adalah:

1. Exploration
2. Involvement
3. Development
4. Stagnation
5. Decline and rejuvenation

According to Marpaung (2002) the development of tourism aims to provide benefits for both tourists and local

residents. The purpose of tourism development according to Soekadijo (1996) is to encourage the development of several economic sectors, such as:

1. Increase urbanization due to the growth, development and improvement of tourism facilities.
2. Changing new industries related to tourism services. For example,

transportation business, accommodation (hotels, motels, tourist huts, campsites, etc.) that require expansion of several small industries such as handicrafts.

3. Expand the local goods market.
4. Give a positive impact on the workforce, because tourism can open up new job opportunities

## Results and Discussion

### Descriptive Analysis of Youth Participation in Organizations

Participation in research is measured by five questions with the following frequency distribution:

Table 3. Distribution of Respondents about Participation

No	Statement	Response									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Youth play an important role in the economic development of the community through tourism activities	23	24.0	60	62.5	13	13.5	-	-	-	-
2	Youth participation in tourism activities can encourage people to be more active in improving their economy	11	11.5	58	60.4	27	28.1	-	-	-	-
3	Youth participation in the tourism sector determines the success of community economic development	12	12.5	63	65.6	18	18.8	1	1.0	2	2.1
4	Youth participation in the tourism sector can open up new economic opportunities for local communities	10	10.4	62	64.6	22	22.9	1	1.0	1	1.0
5	Youth participation in the tourism sector makes it easy for people to develop real sectors for the economy	13	13.5	55	57.3	28	29.2	-	-	-	-

Source: 2018 research results (data processed)

Table 3 shows that in terms of participation, the majority of respondents (62.5%) agreed to the first statement that Youth plays an important role in the economic development of the community through tourism activities. The majority of respondents (60.4%) agreed to the second statement that youth participation in tourism activities can encourage people to be more active in improving their economy. The majority of respondents (65.6%) agreed to the third statement that youth participation in the tourism sector determines the success of community economic development. The majority of respondents (64.6%) agreed to the fourth statement that youth participation in the tourism sector can open new economic

opportunities for the surrounding community. The majority of respondents (57.3%) agreed to the fifth statement that youth participation in the tourism sector made it easier for people to develop real sector sectors for the economy. This means that in general respondents acknowledge that their participation is fairly enough to participate in the economic development of the community through tourism.

Furthermore, based on the respondents' answers to the recapitulation of participation, the level of participation can be categorized as good (> mean), fair (= mean) and poor (<mean) with the following frequency distribution:

Table 4. Categories of participation in organizations

No	Partisipasi	Amount (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Good	41	42.7
2	Fair	40	41.7
3	Poor	15	15.6
Total		96	100.0

Source: 2018 research results (data processed)

Table 4 shows that of 96 research respondents, 41 people (42.7%) had good participation, 40 people (41.7%) had fair participation and 15 people (15.6%) had less participation. Thus, the majority of respondents had good participation 41 people (42.7%).

### Discussion

#### **Pengaruh Partisipasi dalam Organisasi Terhadap perkembangan ekonomi pemuda**

Based on the results of research observations, youth participation in the tourism sector opens up new economic opportunities. But in the field of promotion, researchers assume that youth have not participated in the promotion of tourism based on online or digital. Innovations must be applied in developing tourism.

#### **Tourism Analysis of the Toba Caldera Geopark in the economic development**

#### **of the community in Toba Samosir Regency**

The role of tourism in community economic development needs to be improved. This is in accordance with the concept of regional development which includes the development or improvement of the community's economy, expansion of transportation, communication networks and so on. These factors will bring changes to regional spatial planning, both physically and non-physically, as a place for human activities.

Functionally, a location of business concentration or industrial branch which has dynamic elements can stimulate economic life. The contribution of the tourism sector to regional development, especially the economic community is on the economic aspects (sources of foreign exchange, taxes), social aspects (job opportunities) and cultural aspects (Hartono, 1974: 45). Tourism as one of the development sectors that can spur economic growth in a region is considered as a strategic asset to encourage development in certain areas that have potential tourism objects. With the development of the tourism industry in a region, the flow of urbanization to big cities can be suppressed. This is due to the existence of the tourism sector should get the support of all parties such as the local government as the manager, the people who are in the location of tourism objects and the participation of the private sector as developers. In addition to its role, tourism is also a sector that is not much different from other economic sectors in its development process which also has social and economic impacts.

The role of the tourism sector has an important influence on regional economic development even in the country's economic development. Besides that, the role or participation of the local community to continue to improve the quality of tourist attractions in order to keep visiting is also very needed, so that economic improvement and job opportunities are not only at certain times but continuously. Thus the unemployment rate from the community will decrease because one of the advantages of the tourism sector is to increase income and welfare of the community

In the development of tourism is needed, the collaboration between the government

and the local community to improve local economic development in addition to increasing income and also can reduce unemployment. Tourism is a potential that must be developed and preserved not only by the government, but also the community must take part in the effort so that its benefits can be shared.

Community-based tourism can be used as a solution to increase participation and involvement of local communities. However, before the implementation begins, planning is the main thing that must be done by all parties and stakeholders involved. Analysis of needs and listening to community aspirations in planning and developing community-based tourism is very fundamental because the community is the driving force and the main aspect of community-based tourism.

Law No. 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism in Article 4 explained that tourism aims to increase economic growth, improve people's welfare, eradicate poverty, overcome unemployment, preserve nature, environment and resources, promote culture, elevate the nation's image and foster a sense of love homeland and, strengthen the identity and unity of the nation; and strengthen relations between nations.

The tourism sector is a sector that has the potential to be developed as a source of regional income. Efforts to increase local revenue, the program of development and utilization of resources and regional tourism potential can contribute to economic development. Tourism is seen as an activity that has a multidimensional set of development processes. The development of the tourism sector concerns the socio-cultural, economic and political aspects (Spillane, 1994: 14).

Therefore, the activities of the Toba Caldera geopark must be supported by an increase in the use of Tourism Destinations (DTW) so that the tourism industry will develop well. The country of Indonesia which has beautiful natural scenery is very supportive for the development of the tourism industry sector in Indonesia. As an archipelago, a great potential for Indonesia to develop the tourism industry.

Toba Samosir tourism industry activities that are expected to support the Toba Caldera geopark activities are:

- Geosite TB Silalahi is a museum containing ornaments which explain the Batak culture.
- Geosite of the Garden of Eden. The basic rock exposed around the Eden Park is Meta sedimentary rock which consists of Permo-Carbon mudstone units

Toba Caldera Geopark as an icon of tourism in North Sumatra will increase tourist visits and is expected to improve the economy of the local community. The presence of the Toba Caldera geopark will provide education to the public in order to foster a sense of concern and awareness of the importance of earth preservation.

The positive impact of the tourism sector on the regional economy is

1. Foreign Exchange Earnings
2. Contributions To Government Revenues
3. Employment Generation
4. Infrastructure Development

The tourism sector can also cause negative impacts, especially such as the impact of tourism development on the environment. The tourism industry has a close and strong relationship with the physical environment. The natural environment is a tourism asset and has an impact because

the nature of the physical environment is fragile and inseparable.

In theory, the relationship between the natural environment and tourism must be mutual and beneficial. Tourists enjoy the natural beauty and the income paid by tourists is used to protect and preserve nature for tourism sustainability. Environmental and tourism relations are not always mutually supportive and profitable. Therefore, conservation, appreciation and education efforts are carried out so that the relationship between them is sustainable.

### **Conclusion**

Youth participation in the organization partially has a significant effect on the economic development of youth.

### **Suggestion**

Toba Samosir community is expected to participate in tourism development by implementing a friendly culture to tourists visiting Toba Samosir.

### **Reference**

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