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Illegal Levies as a Negative Element Contributing to The Decrease of The Tourism Potential on Madura

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Abstract

As revealed by the World Economic Forum, there is a correlation between corruption and tourism: the higher the level of corruption of a state, as reflected in the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International, the lower the number of foreign tourists visiting the state. As such, a very strong correlation exists between the community development index, tourism, and the community's legal awareness on the journey to the eradication of illegal fees. Illegal fees have to date been regarded as something normal in society. Illegal fees have become a regular in every sector, which must be ceased, and this holds true to the tourism sector as well. It is thus become essential to study the correlation between illegal fees in the tourism sector and the undermined tourism potential on Madura. Illegal fees have become part of the systems applied in Indonesia, including in the tourism sector. One of the reasons behind visitors' disinterest in visiting a tourist attraction is the illegal fees someone imposes there, whether they be in the form of entrance fees or in the form of parking fees. The absence of a price standard allows so me irresponsible persons to collect such fees as entrance and parking fees at tourist attractions variably according to the situation that arises in a given time. This paper uses a socio-legal research method to investigate directly into the relationship between illegal fees in the tourism sector and the undermined tourism potential on Madura. Primary data, collected through interviews, survey, and observation, were analyzed descriptively. The main finding is low correlation between illegal fees and the undermined tourism potential on Madura and there are some indications that illegal fees are charged to tourist locations that have small popularity in each regency or that, conversely, these illegal fees cause these tourist locations to lose their visitors.

Keywords: Tourism, Corruption, Illegal Fees

1. Introduction

Prior to 1970, development was viewed as none other than just an economic phenomenon. However, as time passes by, it may come to one's mind as realization that a high degree of economic development does not necessarily guarantee an improvement to the standard of living of the greater part of a population. Empirical data suggest that some states that have arrived at an elevated point in economic development still face unemployment, poverty, and other social issues pertaining to human beings. In 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) elaborated that human are the real assets of a nation. Human development places humans as the ultimate goal of development as opposed to just an input of development (Hamzah et al., 2012; Kusharjanto and Kim, 2011). Therefore, the primary aim of development is to create an environment that allows the society to enjoy longevity, health, and productive life. In the same year, the UNDP established three dimensions that make up the human development index in describing human life quality, namely 1) a long and healthy life, 2) knowledge, and 3) decent standard of living (Sofilda et al., 2015; Fattah and Muji, 2012).

The human development index is a critical indicator in the measurement of success to build human life quality (society/population). This index is capable of determining the level of development of a region/state. For Indonesia, this index represents strategic data as in addition to being a measure of government performance it is also used as an allocator in the determination of the General Allocation Fund (DAU) of a region/locality (Niswaty et al., 2015; Rahmat et al., 2021; Amaluddin et al., 2018).

As revealed by UNDP data, in 2019 Indonesia belonged to the High Human Development group at the 107th spot, higher than the Philippines and Vietnam but well behind Malaysia, Brunei, and especially Singapore, all of which were in the Very High Human Development group. Indonesia's human development index trend in 1990, 2000, 2010,

and 2019 shows that in approximately three last decades the state has been undergoing a stable increase. This trend of human development index of the state can be seen in more detail in the Figure 1.

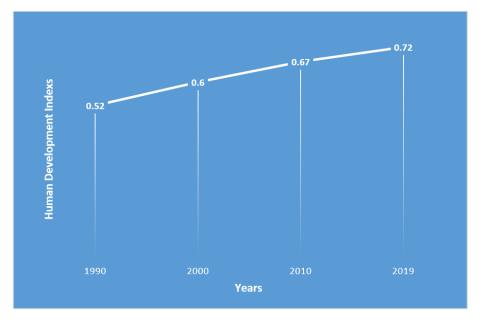


Figure 1. Indonesian Human Development Index 1990 - 2019

On a narrower scale, that is province- and regency-wise, East Java ranks 15th in Indonesia's human development index. Within the last ten years, Surabaya City tops the index in the scope of East Java, while, in the same time frame, Sampang Regency rests at the bottom. As broken down by the UNDP, the indicators of the measurement of the human development index seen from the three dimensions —a long and healthy life, knowledge, and decent standard of living— include the number of people in poverty, the number of working people, open unemployment rate, and per capita income, to name just a few. Other than Sampang Regency, three other regencies on Madura are also among the lowest 10 on the human development index in East Java (Susilowati et al., 2019; Idialis, 2020).

Madura Island is one of the major islands off Java Island which is still part of East Java Province. There are also 126 other small islands scattered around Sumenep Regency. The fact that all the regencies on Madura are directly bordered by the sea gives those regencies an undeniable coastal tourism potential (Sudarmo, 2020). Every regency on Madura has a natural tourism potential that needs to be optimized. However, the tourism riches on Madura are not only limited to the nature; they also extend to historical, cultural, and religious tourism categories. These riches may constitute only a minor part of the immense tourism potentials remaining to be massively explored. Constructive measures are required to manage and develop some of those potentials to meet the central government's goal to strengthen local wisdom and cultures as Indonesia's local wealth that must be conserved (Farida et al., 2019; Windari and Effendi, 2021; Nugraha, 2020).

Sampang Regency, a region with the lowest community development index score in East Java, in fact has a fair tourism potential. The Culture, Tourism, Youth, and Sports Service of Sampang Regency divided tourism into three major categories, namely natural, cultural, and archeological tourism, each with a sizeable potential. Nonetheless, the tourism sector in Sampang Regency is insignificant in its contribution to Sampang Regency's Locally Generated Income. The main reason is that tourism is not a strategic issue in the eye of the committed stakeholders of Sampang Regency, who see many other programs and sectors as possible development options and priorities. Moreover, the response and awareness of society as well as investors in the tourism sector regarding tourism are low. Attracting investors from beyond Madura or even from another country may serve as a way to increase the regional income of Sampang Regency as well as other regencies on Madura for the purpose of improved community development index positioning of the Madura area (Rahayuningish, 2021; Ekawati et al., 2021).

When it comes down to investment in the tourism sector, there is another matter in need of a closer look: corruption potential in the tourism sector (Pusra et al., 2021). In 2019, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) was focused on disseminating a guide to prevent corruption in the business world to improve corruption prevention awareness, abilities, and skills in Indonesia. The collaboration with the business realm can strengthen and improve the anti-corruption network in taking collective actions and making contributions to the attainment of the targets of corruption prevention strategies in the private sector. There are eight priority sectors aimed by the Corruption Eradication Commission: 1) forestry; 2) financial services; 3) oil and gas; 4) telecommunications; 5) health; 6) food; 7) infrastructure; and 8) air transportation & logistics. Although there is no specific mention of the tourism sector among the Corruption-Eradication-Commission-targeted priority sectors, investments made in relation to tourism development always involve financial services and infrastructure. One of the instances of corruption in the tourism

sector is the extortion involved in the proposal of a tourist area development permit for a golf course in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, in which the then incumbent Regent of Lombok Barat was implicated (Fallon, 2001).

Related to the recovery of the tourism sector that has been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, not only investments are increased, but corruption potential too is elevated, given that the government has allocated a tourism grant fund. On Bali, the tourism grant fund disbursed to business players and local governments is also subject to corruption. Other than the big-scale corruption that has the shape of extortion involved in investment permits as well as the tourism grant fund corruption, there also takes place corruption on the small scale that involves the bottommost structure in society, namely village governments. This smaller-scale corruption takes the form of illegal fees. These illegal fees have to date been regarded as something normal in society. Illegal fees have become a regular in every sector, which must be ceased (Wantara and Irmawati, 2021).

Indications of illegal fees practice are also present in some tourist attractions on Madura. Preliminary information indicates that illegal fees are charged at tourism attractions in Lombang Beach in Sumenep, Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan, and Arosbaya Cave in Bangkalan. It shows that the tourism sector has also been exposed to illegal fees. However, according to the Police or the Illegal Fees Eradication Task Force in each region, including Bangkalan, Sampang, Pamekasan, and Sumenep Regencies, there have been no reports on illegal fees at tourist attractions filed. The illegal fees imposition cases the local Police or the Illegal Fees Eradication Task Force has handled are those that took place on marketplaces or other services (Funna, 2020).

As revealed by the World Economic Forum, there is a correlation between corruption and tourism: the higher the level of corruption of a state, as reflected in the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International, the lower the number of foreign tourists visiting the state. Article 4 of Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism explains the goals of tourism to be a) to boost the economic growth, b) to improve the people's prosperity, c) to eradicate poverty, d) to tackle unemployment, e) to conserve the nature, environment, and resources, f) to nurture culture, g) to lift the image of the nation, h) to foster the love of the motherland, i) to reinforce the identity and integrity of the nation, and j) to strengthen the relationship between nations. Based on that provision, a strong correlation exists between the community development index, tourism, and the community's legal awareness in the effort to eliminate corruption and illegal fees.

To lift Madura's position on the community development index, one can provide sound education, including education on anti-corruption, and enable a decent standard of living through the increase in the community's income, which can be realized in a variety of avenues, including tourism. Both may happen if the community shares the awareness to develop tourism as one of the focuses of community development as well as legal awareness to get rid of corruption and illegal fees. According to the background description above, the focus of this research is studied of the correlation between illegal fees at top tourist locations and the causes of undermined tourism potential on Madura.

2. Research Methods

This research is a socio-legal study with an alternative approach to examining a doctrinal study into the law. In this research the correlation between illegal fees at top tourist locations and the causes of undermined tourism potential on Madura is to be examined. Serving as research locations here are the four regencies on Madura. Madura is chosen as a model in this research especially because it has a marine tourism potential that tends to be comparable to areas that have gained popularity earlier such as Bali and Lombok. The data collected are primary data. These data were collected using the data collection methods of interview, questionnaire survey, and observation. The data collected are analyzed evaluatitatively, and the results are justified by the researchers. In this research, the data collected are to give justification to whether there is an effect of corruption and illegal fees on the development of the tourism potential on Madura.

3. Results and Discussion

Madura, a major island in East Java whose long coastline runs not only west to east but also south to north, is outlined with beaches with varying characteristics. Given such a geographical condition, the island is akin geographically to Bali and Lombok, which render their beaches top tourist destinations. Aside from its beaches, religious tourism is a tourism potential attractive to tourists visiting the island, especially to those who adhere to Islam.

Based on the Table 1, there are a total of 77 tourist destinations officially licensed by the Culture and Tourism Services on Madura, including 16 marine tourist attractions and 18 religious ones, which make up 44% of the total tourism potentials on the island. Based on the data aforementioned, nearly half of the tourist destinations on Madura are in the marine and religious tourism categories. The concepts underlying these two types of tourism are poles apart, thereby requiring tourism potential development concepts that are distinguishable from one another.

Regency	No	Tourist Destinations
Bangkalan	1	Kokop Waterfall
	2	Galis Waterfall
	3	The Natural Flame of Konang
	4	Jaddih Limestone Hill
	5	Mount Geger
	6	Sepulu Mangrove Forest
	7	Kerapan Sapi Attraction
	8	Kolla Langgundih
	9	Aer Mata Ebu Cemetary
	10	The Tomb of Sultan Abdul Kadirun
	11	The Tomb of Sunan Cendana
	12	The Tomb of Syeichona Cholil
	13	Sembilangan Lighthouse
	14	The Museum of Bangkalan
	15	Pantai Biru
	16	Bumi Anyar Beach
	17	Maneron Beach
	18	Rongkang Beach
	19	Siring Kemuning Beach
	20	Pelalangan
	21	Bangkalan Urban Recreation Park
Sampang	1	Toroan Waterfall
	2	Lebar Cave
	3	Nepa Forest
	4	Mandangin Coral Reef
	5	Aji Gunung Fishing Ponds
	6	Sumber Oto' Swimming Pool
	7	Tujuh Panji Laras Cemetary and Well
	8	The Resting Place of Sayid Utsman
	9	Camplong Beach
	10	Lon Malang Beach
	11	Rato Ebu Site
	12	Trunojoyo Site
	13	Klampis Dam
Pamekasan	1	The Eternal Flame of Pamekasan
	2	Brukoh Hill
	3	Kehi Hill
	4	Salt Edutourism
	5	Mangrove Ecotourism
	6	Toron Semalem Village
	7	Durian Village
	8	Mandhilaras Museum
	9	Jumiang Beach
	10	Talang Siring Beach
	11	Batu Ampar Cemetary
	12	Ratu Summit
	12	Avalokitesvara Temple
	13	Rice Field Tour
Sumenep	14	Asta Gumuk
Juniencp	1 2	Asta Jokotole
	23	Asta K. Faqih
	4	Asta K. Faqin Asta Katandur
	4 5	
		Asta Panaongan Asta Savid Yusuf
	6	Asta Sayid Yusuf

Table 1. Recapitulation of the Tourist Destinations on Madura

	7	Gili Iyang
	8	Gili Labak
	9	Goa Kuning
	10	Soekarno Cave
	11	Asta Tinggi
	12	Kedatim Mangrove Tourism
	13	Jami Mosque Sumenep
	14	The Museum of the Palace of Sumenep
	15	Mutiara Tirta
	16	Badur Beach
	17	E Kasoghi Beach
	18	Lombang Beach
	19	Sembilan Beach
	20	Slopeng Beach
	21	Kampung Kasur Pasir
	22	Batu Gong Site
	23	Kalimo'ok Fort
	24	Tektona Waterpark
	25	Tirta Sumekar Indah
	26	Sumekar Waterpark
	27	Limestone Tourism
	28	Kalompek Hill
	29	Bukit Tinggi
Total	77	

Data Source: Abstracted from the Culture and Tourism Services of the four regencies on Madura

From the 77 tourist attractions on Madura listed above, the top three destinations of each regency with the most numbers of visitors within the time period 2017–2019 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) based on the data from the Culture and Tourism Service of each regency can be seen in Table 2.

Regency	No	Tourist Destinations	Number Visitors	of	%
Bangkalan	1	The Tomb of Syeichona Cholil	3,279,307		52%
-	2	Aer Mata Ebu Cemetary	2,575,979		41%
	3	The Tomb of Sultan Abdul Kadirun	147,592		2%
Sampang	1	Lon Malang Beach*	672,566		52%
r c	2	Toroan Waterfall	219,416		17%
	3	Nepa Forest	145,839		11%
Pamekasan	1	Batu Ampar Cemetary	152,679		33%
	2	Jumiang Beach	133,953		29%
	3	Talang Siring Beach	109,036		24%
Sumenep	1	Asta Tinggi	828,599		23%
	2	Asta Sayid Yusuf	616,433		17%

 Table 2. Recapitulation of the Numbers of Visitors at the Tourist Destinations on Madura in the Period 2017–2019 (Top Three/Regency)

Data Source: Abstracted from the Culture and Tourism Services of the four regencies on Madura Note: *Lon Malang Beach was first opened in 2018

283,789

8%

Based on the Table 2, the tourism in Bangkalan Regency is dominated by the religious tourism sector with the Tomb of Syeochona Cholil, Aer Mata Ebu Cemetary, and the Tomb of Sultan Abdul Kadirun making up the 95% share of the total visits. In Sumenep Regency, visits to Asta Tinggi, Asta Sayid Yusuf, and Asta Panaongan account for 48% of the total visits to the regency, whereas 33% visitors to Pamekasan Regency are singly headed to Batu Ampar Cemetary. Only Sampang Regency is not under the domination of religious tourism; 80% of the visits to the regency fall into the natural tourism category, and a meagre 4% does into the religious tourism category.

Asta Panaongan

3

After a questionnaire survey was conducted, a contrasting set of data was collected. This difference is caused by the presence of some specific predetermined variables:

- a. Respondent Age and
- b. Respondent Domicile.

In the variable Respondent Age, 75% of the respondents are in the age range 15–21 years, 23% are in the age range 22–27, and only 2% are beyond 28 years old. In the variable Respondent Domicile, 60% of the respondents are domiciled on Madura, and the rest live outside Madura. According to the data derived from 320 respondents through a questionnaire that uses open-ended and close-ended questions, the respondents' three most visited tourist attractions on Madura among those included on a provided list of tourist attractions are as follows: Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan (39.8%); 2) Slopeng Beach in Sumenep (35.4%), and 3) Camplong Beach in Sampang. The data are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Recapitulation of the Tourist Destinations on Madura Based on the Questionnaire Survey

No	Tourist Destination	Percentage*
1	Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan	39.8%
2	Slopeng Beach in Sumenep	35.4%
3	Camplong Beach in Sampang	35%
4	The Eternal Flame of Pamekasan in Pamekasan	33%
5	Lon Malang Beach in Sampang	29.6%
6	Sembilan Beach in Sumenep	28.9%
7	Talang Siring Beach in Pamekasan	25.2%
8	Tlangoh Beach in Bangkalan	21.1%
9	E Kasoghi Beach in Sumenep	17.4%
10	Bangkalan Urban Recreation Park in Bangkalan	17.3%
11	Ratu Summit in Pamekasan	14.3%
12	Lebar Cave in Sampang	9.2%

Data Source: Abstracted from the Questionnaire Survey

Based on the answers to the open-ended question, the three tourist attractions most frequently visited by the respondents are Lombang Beach in Sumenep (17%), Jumiang Beach in Pamekasan (9%), and Padelegan in Pamekasan (4%). Seventy percent other respondents visited a variety of other destinations from Bangkalan to Sumenep. Other than measuring the popularity of the tourist destinations on Madura, the questionnaire that was distributed to the respondents also measures two other aspects: the respondents' knowledge of illegal fees at the tourist locations on Madura and the frequency at which the respondents visit a tourist location on Madura. The data from the questionnaire survey are to be compared to the data of the numbers of visits from the Culture and Tourism Services and the results of the interview with representatives of the Culture and Tourism Services of the four regencies on Madura.

The measurement of the perception on illegal fees is limited only to the illegal charging of entrance fees and parking fees at tourist locations. As mentioned in the discussion of illegal fees in the previous chapter, illegal fees in this research are restricted to illegal fees in the category of the criminal act of extortion according to Article 368 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code and the illegal fees as part of the criminal act of corruption according to Article 12e of the Corruption Law.

As revealed by the questionnaire survey results, 61% of the respondents admitted to know of illegal fees imposition at tourist locations in the form of either entrance or parking fees. Three locations the respondents mentioned as having indications of illegal fees charging are 1) Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan, 2) Lombang Beach, and 3) Camplong Beach. In an interview, the representative of the Culture and Tourism Service of Bangkalan Regency stated that Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan is a tourist attraction in which there is a high indication of illegal fees imposition as it is managed by three different parties: 1) local residents in whose area some pathways run to provide an access to the tourist attraction; 2) a company managing the limestone mine; and 3) managers of the swimming pool in the Jaddih Hill tourist area.

Camplong Beach is another tourist attraction showing indications of illegal fees practice, especially on special occasions such as the Eid al-Fitr, New Year's Eve, and other holidays. According to the Culture and Tourism Service of Sampang Regency, approximately 11 entry points to Camplong Beach that are managed by local people, in addition to the official gateway, are opened over the Eid al-Fitr holiday period. Meanwhile, the illegal fees practice at Lombang Beach is not confirmed as the Culture and Tourism Service of Sumenep Regency states that of the 29 tourist destinations in Sumenep, 3 are managed directly by the service, namely 1) Slopeng Beach, 2) Lombang Beach, and 3) The Museum of the Palace of Sumenep. Instead, according to the Culture and Tourism Service of Sumenep Regency, the most advanced Tourism Awareness Groups (Pokdarwis) are found around the Lombang Beach and Slopeng Beach

tourist areas. Since these Tourism Awareness Groups run several programs outside Lombang and Slopen tourism, and since the two tourist attractions are not directly managed by the communities, the communities open up supporting alternatives around the Lombang and Slopeng tourist areas.

From the questionnaire survey responses of the respondents and from the interviews with the representatives of the Culture and Tourism Services of the four regencies on Madura, have confirmed that illegal fees practice does exist around the tourist locations on Madura. Regarding the effect of illegal fees practice at tourist locations on the popularity of the tourist locations, the following questions are posed in this research: 1) Is the more popular a tourist location the higher the potential of illegal fees practice; and 2) Does a tourist location lose its popularity because of the practice of illegal fees there. The four tourist destinations with the highest number of visitors in each regency according to the data from the Culture and Tourism Service of each regency are not referred by the respondents as having the potential of illegal fees practice. The four tourist destinations aforementioned are 1) the Tomb of Syeichona Cholil in Bangkalan, 2) Lon Malang Beach in Sampang, 3) Jumiang Beach in Pamekasan, and 4) Asta Tinggi in Sumenep. Based on these data, the increase in popularity of a tourist attraction as marked by the number of visitors to that tourist attraction is not followed by an increase in the illegal fees practice potential at the tourist attraction.

The second question is to be answered according to the same criteria as those of the first question, that is, by using the visitor's data from the Culture and Tourism Services of the four regencies on Madura. Based on the available data from the respondents, the three locations in which illegal fees are charged —Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan, Lombang Beach in Sumenep, and Camplong Beach in Sampang— have visitation performance can be seen in Table 4.

No	Tourist Destination	%	Visitors Data 2017–2019		
			2017	2018	2019
1	Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan	1%	4,767	22,411	18,601
2	Lombang Beach in Sumenep	5%	60,564	74,236	45,417
3	Camplong Beach in Sampang	11%	29.,438	32,383	79,312

Table 4. The Visitation Performance at the Tourist Locations Having Indications of Illegal Fees

Data Source: Abstracted from the data on the number of visitors of the Culture and Tourism Service of each of the four regencies

Based on the Table 4, the respondents perceived as showing indications of illegal fees practice are not the favorite tourist destinations in their respective regencies. The percentage of visitors of each of the aforementioned tourist destinations did not exceed the 12% share of visitors in each regency. Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan, which is most indicated with illegal fees practice, only contributes 1% of all the visitors to Bangkalan Regency. Similarly, Lombang Beach in Sumenep and Camplong Beach in Sampang contribute only 5% and 11% of the whole numbers of visitors to Sumenep and Sampang Regencies, respectively.

In comparison, the data from the questionnaire survey show that 48% of the respondents said they visited the said tourist locations only once, 12.6% twice, and 39.1% more than twice. Two conclusions can be drawn from the two sets of data abovementioned. First, the tourist locations indicated with illegal fees practice are not favorites to the respondents and do not contribute a substantial number of tourists to each regency. Second, it is likely that the illegal fees practice at the tourist locations discourages tourists to return to the tourist locations as shown by the high percentage of respondents stating they only came to the tourist locations once. However, these conclusions are too shallow, and further research to a greater depth is required, given that these conclusions are not supported with data of the number of visitors. Only Camplong Beach in Sampang never experienced a decrease in the number of visitors in the three years' period prior to the pandemic, while the opposite is true for Jaddih Limestone Hill in Bangkalan and Lombang Beach in Sumenep. The decreases in the numbers of visitors to the latter two do not necessarily issue from the illegal fees practice. Other variables unexplained in this research may have their parts in these decreases.

4. Conclussion and Suggestions

The conclusions of this research are as follows. First, there is a low correlation between illegal fees and the undermined tourism potential on Madura. Second, there are some indications that illegal fees are charged to tourist locations that have small popularity in each regency or that, conversely, these illegal fees cause these tourist locations to lose their visitors. This is based on the data of the share of visitors that makes up less than 12% of the total number of visitors in each regency although these data are in contrast to the popularity levels of the tourist locations indicated with illegal fees practice based on the respondents' questionnaire responses, that among the three tourist locations indicated with illegal fees practice, two are the most frequently visited by the respondents.

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