

# LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NATURE TOURISM SECTOR CLIMBING MOUNT MARAPI IN NAGARI AIE ANGEK X KOTO TANAH DATAR DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT:** The purpose of this study is to determine the implementation of local economic development contained in natural tourism climbing Mount Marapi in Nagari Aie Angek, X Koto District, Kabupaten, Tanah Datar. Local economic development (PEL) through natural tourism Climbing Mount Marapi in Nagari Aie Angek has been going well and running with existing rules. High community participation is the key to the survival of tourism and also the economic improvement of the surrounding community. The results showed that local economic development in Nagari Aie Angek has fulfilled six aspects contained in the first PEL target group. The PEL target group in developing the local economy of the Nagari Aie Angek area involves local communities, Second, the factor of Mount Marapi climbing tourism location has been well developed by connecting the main road with easily accessible tourist sites, Third, the synergy of Mount Marapi climbing tourism is an alternative to achieve the welfare of its community. Fourth, sustainable development where the development of natural tourism is the main long-term to improve community welfare. Fifth, partnerships with local governments and BKSDA with the community, Sixth, the management of the natural tourism sector of Mount Marapi Climbing is carried out in a mutual cooperation manner by involving all community stakeholders, traditional leaders and the Nagari government.

Keywords: *Marapi Mountain Climbing, Local Economic Development, Nagari Aie Angek*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

X Koto Subdistrict, Tanah Datar Regency is one of 14 sub-districts in Tanah Datar Regency. X Koto District has an area boundary where the North is bordered by Agam Regency, the South is bordered by Padang Panjang City, the West by Batipuh District and the East by Padang Pariaman Regency. Nagari Aie Angek is located in X Koto District, Tanah Datar Regency with an area of 11.19 square kilometers or 7.36 percent of the area of X Koto District with an altitude of 1167 meters above sea level.

One of the attractions in Nagari Aie Angek is climbing Mount Marapi which is visited by the Tourism Awareness Group (Pokdarwis) and has quite complete facilities. To improve regional development, especially rural areas which are mostly agricultural areas, the local government strives to improve community welfare by exploring and developing the potentials that exist in the region through Local Economic Development. Local economic development (PEL) is one of the regional development strategies based on local resources[3]. PEL (*Local economic*

development) is one approach to the concept of regional development from the middle (Development from *within*), which is a combination of regional development from above (Development from above) and regional development from below (*Development from below*).

From the community side, Local Economic Development is defined as an effort to free the community from all limitations that hinder its efforts to build its welfare. Such welfare can be interpreted specifically as a guarantee of salvation for his customs and religion, for his business, and for his dignity as a human being. All these guarantees cannot be obtained from outside the community system because they are not sustainable, and therefore must be sought from the community itself[9]. Thus, local economic development is an effort to empower economic communities in an area by relying on local strengths, be it the strength of location values, natural resources, human resources, technology, institutional management capabilities (capacity of institutions) and experience assets.

## 2. METHODS

The research method used in this study is a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research is research that intends to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc. holistically and by means of description in the form of words and language in a special natural context and by utilizing various natural methods) [13]. Based on this understanding, it can be seen that qualitative research is research that is what it is or natural with the results produced in the form of descriptive.

The criteria for research subjects used by this researcher are those who are involved in the activities studied, know and understand information related to research. In this study, the subjects studied were Nagari Guardian Office Staff Aie Angek, Head of Pokdarwis and Traders on the Mount Marapi hiking trail. The three were chosen because they have different professional backgrounds but have something in common, namely both are native residents of Nagari Aie Angek.

The data collection techniques used in this study are: (1) Interview. The interview first asked a series of structured questions then one by one deepened by seeking further information. The

purpose of interviews is to obtain information directly from the informants involved [2], (2) Observation. The research begins by recording, analyzing, and then making conclusions about the implementation and results of the program as seen from the presence or absence of business development owned by learning residents [18], and (3) Documentation. Documentation is used to collect data in the form of recordings and photographs.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research was conducted in Nagari Aie Angek, X Koto District, Tanah Datar Regency. The results of interviews with communities that have a direct role in Mount Marapi climbing tourism are that the existence of Mount Marapi climbing tourism helps people in Nagari Aie Angek in improving the local economy by selling in the hiking trail area that helps climbers not to find it difficult to buy or rent climbing equipment. In addition, those who manage the climbing of Gunung Marapi are local youths who together maintain the preservation of Mount Marapi by standing guard as *shelter guards*, *Tour Guides* and others. (Table 1).

**Table 1** Data Informers

No	Name	Information
1	FB	40-year-old middle-aged father, Nagari Guardian Staff job, last education S1
2	AD	38-year-old middle-aged father, occupation Chairman of Pokdarwis (Tourism Awareness Group), last high school education
3	GA	28-year-old male, occupation Climbing equipment merchant, last high school education

Local Economic Development (PEL) is a concept centered on locality in carrying out development in an area (region). From the community side, local economic development can be interpreted as an effort to free the community from all limitations that hinder its efforts to build its welfare [3]. Local economic development plays a role in the community as a guarantee for itself, its business and for its customs. Thus, local economic development is an effort to empower communities in an area that is centered on local strengths both the strength of location values, natural resources, human resources, technology, institutional management capabilities and experience assets [5]. PEL through the natural tourism of climbing Gunung Marapi is an effort

made to improve a better economic life for the community. PEL is concerned in planning activities and maintaining tourism sustainability by organizing businesses through local potential, job creation and sustainability [6]. Tourism climbing Mount Marapi in Nagari Aie Angek is the result of community initiation where to develop the tourism potential of Nagari Aie Angek. The Nagari Aie Angek community itself mostly works as vegetable farmers with abundant vegetable products because it is supported by a location on the slopes of Mount Marapi so that the vegetables produced are good and have high selling value in markets other than the Koto Baru market which is closest to Nagari Aie Angek.

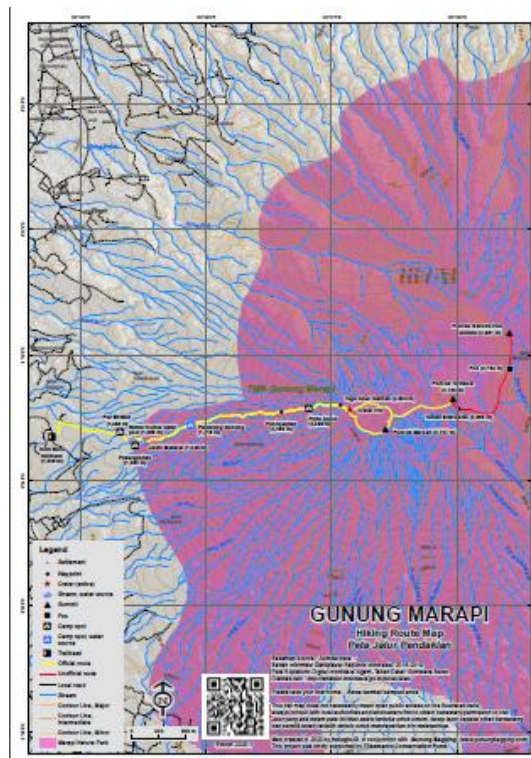


Fig 1. Map Mount Marapi Hiking Trail.

Based on the map of Mount Marapi's hiking trail, there are several other paths besides the Nagari Aie Angek route (Fig 1). In its development, the natural tourism potential of Mount Marapi Climbing has become an icon of Nagari Aie Angek. From year to year visitors to Mount Marapi increase not only from among the people of the West Sumatra region but also from outside the city and foreign tourists who come to see the charm of Mount Marapi.

The youths work together in managing Mount Marapi tourism with various *jobdesc* that have been held by each person. Each young man has his own duties that have been arranged together. Like being a road guide for tourists, especially foreign tourists who need a road guide. Not just anyone can be a special road guide on Mount Marapi. They go through training as a result of which they get a certificate that they have graduated to become a road guide. Before climbing to Mount Marapi, tourists are welcome to choose whether to be guided or if those who are used to climbing can be unguided to the top of Mount Marapi.

If anyone needs a road guide, before guiding the tourists, these tour guides must first show the road guide certificate that has been obtained to the tourists. The goal is that the tourists who are guided can trust the authenticity and truth that the road guide who guides them is a professional road guide who is not just anyone who can get the certificate.

Climbing Mount Marapi is never empty of visitors who come. Even on normal days climbers still come to climb, but on big days such as independence day August 17 many climbers climb to raise the red and white flag over the peak of Mount Marapi.

The increase in mountaineering tourists encourages the availability of jobs for local communities because nature tourism managers continue to increase the number of employees. For local people who use places in the area around the hiking trail to trade by offering mountain climbing equipment rental services, it is very helpful for the community to improve the economy and can reduce unemployment in Nagari Aie Angek in addition to being a vegetable farmer.

In addition to being a community manager, they also jointly supervise and evaluate the development of natural tourism by regularly holding meetings with nagari officials and local communities to provide information and ask for advice on the development of the Mount Marapi climbing tourism sector which has become an icon for Nagari Aie Angek.

Cooperation between local governments and communities results in the development of natural tourism which is a source of livelihood for local communities and opens opportunities for people to have additional sources of income for people who have hobbies in building the tourism sector.

The implementation of PEL can be seen from six aspects, namely the first target group of PEL. The PEL target group in developing the local economy of the Nagari Aie Angek area involves local communities assisted by local governments to develop tourism value. Second, the factor of Mount Marapi's climbing tourism location has been well developed by connecting the main road with tourist sites that are easily accessible to tourists. Location factors represent the extent to which the place of development is accessible and the location to access development resources itself in the framework of local economic development [7].

Third, the synergy of Mount Marapi climbing tourism is an alternative to achieve the welfare of its people. Fourth, sustainable development where the development of natural tourism is the main long-term to improve community welfare. Fifth, partnerships with local governments and BKSDA with communities that are beneficial for tourism management that can be assisted by a number of parties who can support regional economic values and improvement. Sixth, the management of the natural tourism sector of Mount Marapi Climbing is carried out in a mutual cooperation manner by involving all community stakeholders, traditional leaders and the Nagari government. Community participation is useful for the process of identifying problems, identifying existing potentials, choosing decisions and solutions as well as community involvement in the process of evaluating changes that occur [1].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Local economic development (PEL) through natural tourism Climbing Mount Marapi in Nagari Aie Angek has been going well and running with existing rules. High community participation is the key to the survival of tourism and also the economic improvement of the surrounding community. The results showed that local economic development in Nagari Aie Angek has fulfilled six aspects contained in PEL. Based on the results and discussion above, the author recommends several things related to the development of the local economy, natural tourism, Gunung Marapi Climbing in Nagari Aie Angek. First, cooperation with parties outside Nagari will accelerate the development of tourism in Nagari Aie angek. Second, support from the local government or Nagari needs to be increased so that the benefits of tourism development can be felt by all groups.

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