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Tourism in Belitung Island, Indonesia: Strategies and Approaches for Sustainable Development

Master's thesis in Globalization: Transnationalism and Culture

Supervisor: Ståle Angen Rye

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ABSTRACT

Belitung Island in the east of Sumatra was previously a tin mining-based Island in Indonesia. This island is now moving towards various forms of economic activities other than tin-mining among which tourism has become one of the most prominent economic activities. In order to understand the potentiality of the tourism industry in Belitung Island, this study on understanding strategies and approaches for sustainable tourism was conducted in November 2019. Critical observations and in-depth interviews were the main methods used alongside the review of necessary documents. This study highlights tourism-related various activities that are taking place in Belitung Island especially after the decline of the tin mining industry. Further, it is tried to analyze how these activities contribute differently to sustainable development through tourism. This study primarily deals with the economic, social, and environmental aspects of tourism as the main basis of Sustainability. It has identified four major kinds of approaches related to tourism which are; i) eco-centric tourism focused on conservation of nature and natural resources, ii) community-focused tourism focusing on participation and improvement of livelihood of local people, iii) blue tourism that focuses on the beauty of the blue sea and the stunning islands and finally, iv) development of infrastructures-based tourism to invite more local as well as foreign tourists. These tourism approaches were broadly grouped into two categories that are mainstream tourism and alternative tourism. The sustainability aspects of these two categories of tourism differed as the mainstream tourism strategy was found to contribute more to the influx of tourists ensuring better economic outputs in the destination whereas, the alternative tourism strategy was related to environmental, social, and ecological balances. Though these categories of tourism development approach varied in terms of beneficiaries, this study analyzes that local inclusion is a key that contributes to economic growth and sustainable development through tourism.

Key Words: Tourism, Special Economic Zone, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Development

PREFACE

When I visited Belitung in November 2019, I was excited to see such a beautiful island with gorgeous beaches, surrounded by other smaller islands grouped near each other and eye pleasing blueish-green sea. For someone from Nepal, a landlocked country like mine seeing blue-green sea, white sand or an island is a rare view, unless I travel to locations as such. Belitung Island was a very exotic place for me, also one of the best I had ever seen. I was amazed that the beautiful island of Belitung was known by only a few. I realized Belitung is not explored by many people around the world. I was lucky to be in Indonesia for my internship, and I am very glad to have been in Belitung as a part of a study visit. During my visit to Belitung, I became interested to research more on tourism and its potential in the island and hence, I decided to choose this topic to write my master's thesis.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBT	Community Based Tourism
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CitRes	Citizen Engagement, Transparency and Transnational Resources Governance
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NSD	Norsk senter for forskningsdat
NTNU	Norges teknisk-naturvitenskaplige universitet
NTSZ	National Tourism Strategy Zone
PolGov	Department of Politics and Government
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SEAR	South-East Asia Region
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TTCI	Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index
UGM	Universitas Gadjah Mada
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

Tourism is considered as one of the important areas contributing to economic growth of a country. It is of major concerns of the governments of industrialized as well as resource constraint countries around the world. One of the favorite hobbies usually people express is travelling. People like adventure and explore places that attract them or visit places they have heard about. Some people travel for fun, some for acquainting oneself with the histories and others for knowing culture of different communities in various parts of the world. Based on financial affordability, some people travel to nearby places creating internal tourism, while others travel distant places and countries for gathering firsthand experience of the culture, natural beauties, exotic places, historical places, wildlife adventures and many more. In this 21st century, the development of science and technology has enabled people to travel to any part of the world in a day or two. The world has become so small that people now talk about space tourism, travelling to moon and other planets being possible in near future. Tourism is associated with the concept of leisure, entertainment and hospitality (Yu, KIm, ChEN, & Schwartz, 2012), and requires a certain pull factor in a destination for visitors to come to a host community. The destinations around the world are in constant competition to attract more tourists in their land and thus the pull factor is very important as it is the main feature that attracts the visitor. Along with the interesting attractions, the ability to host the tourist with a pleasant hospitality determines the strength of a destination.

Tourism is multidimensional and multifaceted activity that touches various economic activities and therefore, it has been growing as an industry in many countries of the world. Tourism is often appreciated for its multiplier effect on employment generation and economic growth, but the sustainability aspects of tourism are often questioned. Mass tourism has been criticized for many of its drawbacks such as pollution, marginalizing local people and cultural adversities (Choi & Sirakaya, 2006). Tourism can bring lots of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), but often benefits are enjoyed by handful of people, mostly elites or international business holders. The local people sometimes are left behind or get minimum benefits from this industry. In such case the tourism industry will hardly contribute to overall development and prosperity. Unplanned growth of tourism has damaged the natural and socio-cultural environments of many tourism

destinations (Choi & Sirakaya, 2006; Frueh, 1986; Hall & Lew, 1998; Hidinger, 1996; P. E. Murphy, 2013; Singh, 1979). These undesirable side effects have led to the growing concerns regarding conservation and preservation of natural resources, human well-being and the long-term economic viability of communities (Cater, 1993; Healy, 1994; Place, 1995; Richards & Hall, 2003). Therefore, the concept of Sustainable Tourism has surfaced which is a strategic approach to create fairer environment in tourism sector. According to United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), sustainability should have a balance of three primary dimensions that are environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects, so that long term sustainability could be guaranteed (D. B. Weaver, 2006)

According to UNWTO sustainable tourism must

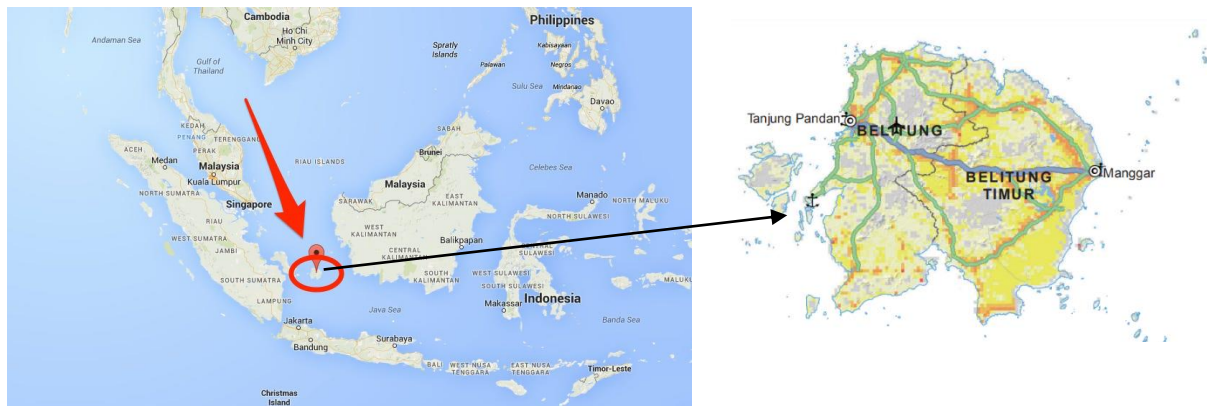
1. make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
2. respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
3. ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.
4. maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction, and ensure meaningful experience to the tourists, raising their awareness about sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practices (D. B. Weaver, 2006)

Sustainable tourism is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate future employment for local people. The positive aspect of sustainable tourism is to ensure development as a positive experience for local people, tourism companies, and tourists themselves. As sustainable tourism aids proper and fair development, it is a part of sustainable development (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) defined sustainable development as

development that “meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”(Brundtland, Khalid, Agnelli, Al-Athel, & Chidzero, 1987, p.43). This concept of sustainable development through sustainable tourism is a key focus of this study.

1.2 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA: BELITUNG, INDONESIA

Figure 1: Map Representation of Belitung Island, Indonesia



Source: Google map images

Indonesia is a country of more than 17,000 tropical and volcanic islands in South-East Asia Region (SEAR). The biggest islands are Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi. Belitung is one of the most beautiful islands in the north east of Indonesia. It has an area of 4,800.6 km² and a population of approximately 271,868 in 2014 ("Bangka-Belitung Island," 2020). Belitung is surrounded by Natuna Sea in the North, Java Sea in the south, Karimata Sea in the east and in the west, there is the Strait Bangka. Close to Belitung, there is one more island “Bangka”. These two islands located between Sumatra to the west, and Kalimantan to the east forms the Bangka-Belitung province. There are several other smaller islands scattered within the proximity. Belitung has exceptionally beautiful beaches, blue-green sea making it extraordinarily attractive. The beaches are surrounded by a stretch of white sand and striking granite rocks. Location wise, Belitung is near to Jakarta and Singapore and has huge potential for development of tourism industry. However, in present time tourism is in a rudimentary stage because one of the reasons being Belitung a tin mining-based island for a long period of time. Its potential as a tourist destination had not been explored to the fullest.

Both tin and tourism are the comparative advantages that Belitung holds against many places in the world, previously tin mining had been a more dominant sector of economy of this Island. It is believed that majority of tin in the world had been coming from Belitung and its neighboring Island Bangka of Indonesia. Both islands have been a very prominent tin mining areas exporting huge tin nationally and internationally. Indonesia exports large amount of tin and most of it come from this province (Sutedjo Sujitno, 2007; S Sujitno, 2007). This region has richest tin deposits and therefore large-scale extraction of tin has occurred in Bangka and Belitung. Tin has been extracted from these Islands even prior to Dutch colonization of Indonesia. Both the Islands Bangka and Belitung had been mining tin since a very long time and tin mining has also has been associated with local people's identity (Erman, 2008; Sutedjo Sujitno, 2007).

Apart from tin, clay, iron ore, silica sand, as well as production of pepper, fishery and palm oil contribute to the economy of Belitung. But mostly, tin mining stands out from here in the region of South-East Asia as it had large quantity of tin reserves. However, nowadays tin is not extracted at the scales of its heydays. Formerly rich deposits of tin have now considered to be depleted(Lehmann, 1990); the economic growth of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province experienced a slowdown during the period 2011-2014. This was due to the decline in the mining sector and decrease in the selling price of tin (Oktaviana & Amalia, 2018). While the province was previously the largest producer of tin in the world, second to China, new strategies and approaches are needed for a sustainable economy in Belitung (Latunreng & Wibowo, 2018). However, the Bangka Island still concentrates on both onshore and offshore tin mining, while there are very little mining activities in Belitung Island. Only artisanal mining is currently seen in Belitung. Artisanal mining is operated on a smaller scale, using local technologies and these types of activities are often outside the framework of the law. There are debates on whether such mining activities should be stopped or continued. In one hand they generate employment for society and on the other hand artisanal mining activities cause a huge negative impact in environment (Irawan, Sumarwan, Suhardjo, & Djohar, 2014). It can be found that artisanal mining is often termed as "illegal". PT-Timah is the state-owned company which holds control over tin on both Islands of Bangka and Belitung. For about last two decades it has massively reduced tin mining in Belitung confirming that there was no tin reserve anymore.

Furthermore, tin mining industry is considered to have caused environmental damage especially to the lands, therefore tin mining permits are increasingly tightened by the government. Based on data from the Regional Environmental Agency (BLHD) 2012, In 2006, Bangka-Belitung province had recorded 991 ponds, which had been created from mining activities. In 2010, about 65 percent of forest had been categorized as critical and damaged. The forests were destructed even in the protected areas by illegal mining. Also, major rivers are polluted mainly due to the turbidity of soil particles from washing tin ore into the rivers (Irawan et al., 2014). There can emerge a new offshore tin mining era in Belitung if the offshore areas are discovered. Discussions suggest that it has been a great dilemma for the state whether to exploit sea for offshore mining or to develop tourism industry. Some political parties supported for tin mining exploration while others were against it. Additional, tin mining and the thought of exploring offshore area is criticized by many environmentalist and sustainable development advocates.

Overall, the economic areas of Belitung are plantation of pepper, palm oil, fishery, mining and tourism. Among which tourism is primarily prioritized in present time. The sea and offshore areas of Belitung is protected considering the tourism development. As tin mining becomes a “sun set” economic activity, there is slow and gradual emergence of tourism. The tourism-related studies in Belitung has been limited, while there are plenty of researches on other tourism destinations of Indonesia such as Bali, Lombok, Komodo island and others. The popularity of Belitung is still lacking. From my study visit, I found that Belitung was not known to many people across the country and regions and therefore it remains to be explored.

Recently, the government has declared Belitung as a tourism focused Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Indonesia. Latunreng and Wibowo (2018), states that the decision of the Belitung local government focus its policy more on the development of inclusive and sustainable tourism is a significant decision. With regards to the attempt of government to prioritize tourism in Belitung, available articles mention Belitung to be the “*next Bali*” for tourist attractions (Latunreng & Wibowo, 2018). The success story of Bali remains as an example to Belitung and other potential tourist destinations in Indonesia.

1.3 THE AIM OF THE STUDY AND THE RESEARCH QUESTION

The main aim of this study is to identify potential areas of tourism industry as an alternate measure to tin mining for sustainable development of Belitung. Tin mining which has been a long tradition of Belitung is no longer able to sustain the economy. On the other hand, mining and extractive industry have degraded the land, air and the environment. Previous mining-based industry has now questioned about its benefit in terms of economic sustainability as the people of Belitung are now in need of alternative economic activity and employment. The development of tourism as an industry is seen to be a viable alternative for sustainable development of Belitung. In this study my objective is to find out the tourism-based strategies and approaches in Belitung and its sustainability. Further, the study will also identify the categories of the tourism activities and analyze the pros and cons of tourism development approaches. In order to achieve these objectives, research question is formulated which is presented below:

“How can Tourism as a strategy in Economic transition be considered in terms of sustainability and local inclusion in Belitung, Indonesia?”

While the preceding is the chief research question, below is the additional question that helps as a guideline in analysis of the research:

“What kind of Approaches in tourism is emerging as Belitung is transitioning from Mining based Economy?”

These research questions are vital as there is sharp decline of mining industry and gradual increase of tourism industry in Belitung. Responding to these questions will help understand how tourism might or might not provide an option for sustainable development.

1.4 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

One of the questions that keep striking in my mind is why people particularly in third world countries still strive for livelihood? We are witnessing that “No Poverty” and “Zero Hunger” are the first two of the 17 goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030. Before that the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) had also dealt with hunger and poverty-related goals to be achieved by countries (Griggs et al., 2013; Nilsson, Griggs, & Visbeck, 2016). Still, development keeps being the prime agenda of 21st century. As a student of social science and

humanities, I have been curious to understand what stops a community or a state to develop when there is no conflict or war or famine? Is it because lack of resources? or insufficient resources? or the lack of opportunities, while governments push for better life of their people the development target are still difficult to achieve. I am sure that human carry huge potential of doing physical as well as mental works to contribute in national development. Similarly, there are geographical distribution of lands or territory as a state, country or provinces which are unique and quite different from each other by locations, climates, forest and vegetation and all sorts of resources. Wise utilization of such natural resources can contribute for sustainable development at a community and at national levels. That is what I found while making a study tour of Belitung Island during my internship program in Indonesia in November 2019. I found Belitung is in a state of waning tin mining industry, where people needed an alternative way of earnings. At the same time, Belitung also had an enormous potential of tourism industry as the island is blessed with exotic locations, beautiful blue sea and beaches by the Mother Nature. However, when I wanted to gain further understanding on Belitung, I found that literatures were limited. The possibility of tourism industry needed further exploration. Hence, the prime reason of conducting this study is identifying alternative livelihood strategy in Belitung. It was felt that a proper approach and strategy of tourism is needed to be developed. Studies on various aspects of tourism are very important for the formulation of strategies in tourism and sustainable development, especially when Belitung is in the initial stage of tourism planning.

1.5 THESIS OUTLINE

The thesis consists of six chapters with sub section in each chapter. The first chapter consists of brief introduction of tourism, sustainable development and sustainable tourism. It also describes about the study site Belitung, research question and justification of the study. Following the introductory chapter, the thesis will continue with the theory section in chapter two, discoursing on what is required for developing sustainable tourism. The third chapter consists of methodology of the thesis. Following this, the fourth chapter consists of empirical section where findings from the research are put forward. The chapter five presents the analysis from the major findings. In this chapter, strategies and approaches that suit with the local conditions are discussed to develop a Conceptual Framework for sustainable tourism development. Finally, chapter six presents concluding remarks with some recommendations.

2. THEORIZING CONCEPTS OF TOURISM

2.1 TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, tourism has drawn attention as a low-impact, non-consumptive development option for countries around the world. Sustainable tourism has been considered as one of the major contributors to sustainable development. People generally travel to or visit a place for a certain kind of activities such as business, fun and exploration or for adventure. People receive information about various interesting places through different sources that generates desire in a person to visit those places. Tourism strategies such as advertisement and tourists inviting policies endorse tourism industry. This is what supports the application of branding theory of tourism where destination promotes itself as a brand (Hosany, Ekinici, & Uysal, 2006). This explains that even though traveling is a rather natural phenomenon, tourism to a great extent is created or generated. Tourism can bring new economic opportunities to the destination place or to the actors involved, therefore it is an inviting strategy for economic growth and development much needed in developing countries. The direct and indirect impacts of tourism attract significant foreign exchange, investment, technical know-hows and stimulates the local economy with a significant multiplier effect on many other areas of the economy.

According to stakeholder theory, sustainability has become an important concept in relation to tourism planning and development. For a successful tourism development, the stakeholders must be involved since the very beginning of planning process. Sustainability must be linked with present visitor, future visitor, present host community and future host community. In order to gain local support, it is important to understand how the public perceives tourism. The community attitudes toward tourism, its socioeconomic and spatial factors, and perspectives of community attachment are the major factors for tourism development (Harrill, 2004).

The dynamics of tourism industry is based on principles of demand and supply determinants; the demand determinant pushes a tourist into a decision to travel, while the latter pulls the tourist towards a destination. To realize the benefits from tourism, there remains a competition among the many tourist destinations. The size and preferences of global tourism are determined by several factors in tourism-generating countries, whereas the spatial distribution of tourist flow will be influenced by the competitiveness of various tourist destinations. According to Liu (2003), for a place to be as a product, tourism requires three levels of resources; i) tourist

attractions including natural, cultural and purpose-built environment, ii) infrastructure and superstructure to support tourism-related activities, and iii) the physical and social settings including the hospitality of the community (Liu, 2003).

“Tourism and hospitality sector with supporting industry provide diversified employment opportunities” (Aynalem, Birhanu, & Tesefay, 2016). According Harrison’s report (2015), travel and tourism is a key sector for economic development and job creation throughout the world and is considered as a very sustainable process for development (Harrison, 2015). Aynalem (2016) states that the economic impact of tourism is measured in terms of its effect on income generation, employment, investment, and balance of payment (Aynalem et al., 2016).

Nevertheless, tourism also can have some other impacts which may not be positive. For example, tourism-related activities can increase the use of plastic bottles, precooked and fast food items packed in plastic bags and containers which can cause environmental pollution and threaten the biodiversity. Similarly, cultural encroachment, marginalization of the local people, unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities, degradation of natural resources leads to dissatisfaction of local community. There is a need for more justified ways of making process through tourism that can minimize the negative impacts and lead to a sustainable development.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization describes “*Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems*” (“World Tourism Organization,” 2020).

According to Liu (2003), ‘sustainable development’ is process-oriented and associated with managed changes to bring improved conditions for those involved in such development. Likewise, ‘sustainable tourism’ is conveniently defined as all types of tourism that are compatible with or contribute to sustainable development. According to him, Sustainability in tourism is viewed as holding considerable promise as a vehicle for addressing the problems of negative tourism impacts and maintaining its long-term viability. He also mentions that, Tourism is an interaction between the tourist and the host community which is a constant dynamic process

of demand and supply. It requires matching tourism resources to the demands and preferences of actual or potential tourists (Liu, 2003). In this study we try to evaluate the tourism development from a standpoint of host community or the destination.

2.2 CONCEPTUALIZING TYPES OF TOURISM

Tourism can be of different nature depending upon several focus areas, some tourism concepts are focused on the traveler whereas some are focused on the destination. “Conventional Tourism” and “Alternative Tourism” are two broad type of tourism. Conventional tourism is mostly designed with focus on traveler rather than the destination. It is related to mass tourism as well, where large number of people visit popular holiday destinations for recreations. Examples of conventional tourism can be family trip to Disney World, or a honeymoon in Bali.(Jaunter, 2017). It is also understood as mass consumption of leisure products. (Naumov & Green, 2016) . According to David Waever , there is a need for this form of tourism to be more sustainable (D. B. Weaver, 2006).

Alternative tourism on the other hand is focused on the destinations. When there were negative impacts from tourism, especially from mass/convention tourism, a different form of tourism had emerged as alternative tourism. In this type of tourism, the wellbeing of destinations is also considered. This is more associated with sustainable tourism and sustainable development. It focuses different activities where there is more interaction with nature, ecology and local communities. It also related with eco- tourism and community-based tourism. eco-tourism is basically focused on environment and ecology whereas Community Based Tourism (CBT) is focused on community development (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015) .

2.3 SUSTAINABILITY OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

Carter (1993) has identified three key objectives for sustainable tourism which are: i) meeting the needs of the host population in terms of improved living standards both in the short and long term; ii) satisfying the demands of a growing number of tourists; and, iii) safeguarding the natural environment in order to achieve both of the preceding two aims (Cater, 1993). Similarly, Farrell (1999) also emphasized this by stating that there is trinity when it comes to tourism and sustainability which he termed as the ‘Sustainability Trinity’. It aims at the smooth and transparent integration of Economy, Society and Environment (Farrell, 1999). Likewise, Garrod

and Fyall (1998) propose two approaches to sustainable tourism: the macro and micro approaches. Macro involves the use of environmental balance sheets to measure sustainability conditions, while micro entails the use of social cost-benefit analysis at the level of the individual tourism development project (Garrod & Fyall, 1998).

According to Meuser & Von Peinen (2013), there are three dimension of sustainable tourism which are ecological, economic and socio-cultural (Meuser & Von Peinen, 2013). Bramwell and Lane (1993) gives more diverse explanation that is, sustainability reduces the tensions and friction created by the complex interactions between the tourism industry, tourists, the environment and the host communities so that the long-term capacity and quality of both natural and human resources can be maintained (Bramwell & Lane, 1993). According to Liu (2003), who performed an critical analysis on sustainable tourism development believes that it requires both the sustainable growth of tourism's contribution to the economy and society, and the sustainable use of resources and environment (Liu, 2003, p. 459-475).

From most discussions, it is obvious that the development of sustainable tourism consist care for Economy, Community and the Environment. Thus, Figure 2 reflects the Trinity of the three elements which can create Sustainable tourism.

Figure 2: Trinity of Sustainable Development



Source: Sustainability Trinity (Farrell, 1999)

2.4 TOURISM AND STAKEHOLDERS

The roles of stakeholders are highly prioritized in many tourism studies. According to Middle and Hawkins (1998), there are four actors in tourism which are Government, Private sectors(business sector), Host Community and Visitor (Middleton & Hawkins, 1998). Similarly, Mowforth and Munt (1998), also points out the same actors with an additional of Education institute as an additional fifth actor (M.-M. I. MOWFORTH & Munt, 1998). In studying the sustainability, the importance of inclusion of local community has been most focused. The alternative tourism has been promoted in recent years because it aims to interact and engage the local community in tourism activities, and as a result it enhances environmental, economic and social development. The more local residents gain from tourism, the more they will be motivated to protect the natural and cultural heritage and support tourism activities (Liu, 2003).

Bras and Kamsma (2000) shared similar views on stakeholders and have put more emphasis on the role of local community. Most often when local community inclusion is hindered, the tourism industries become more business oriented and profits to only few people contributing to degradation of environment and marginalization of the locals. It is often thought that such tourism will not contribute in poverty reduction or inclusive development (Bras & Kamsma, 2000). The poverty and social deprivation necessitate a great need for the local community to benefit from tourism development. If the host population be able to participate in the development of tourism, it can greatly contribute to sustainable tourism development. It is thus emphasized that “a greater level of local involvement in the planning and development of tourism is an essential prerequisite of sustainable tourism” (Hitchcock, King, & Parnwell, 2018).

The community involvement in tourism development is often difficult to implement because of heterogenous composition of power and status of the people. One of the major issues is that it is difficult to manage the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and other investments from Big Companies. Enhancing tourism sector increases more business, entrepreneurship and FDI in host community. However, it can also create economic disparity in the society. It is argued that wealth is accumulated by big companies, local and international elites. Similarly, Oktaviana and Amalia (2018) explain that tourism industry in developing country is often owned by big foreign companies where major portion of profit is made by those companies and local business are left with relatively little benefit (Oktaviana & Amalia, 2018). There is an important role of FDI and

companies to create employment, but it can also grab away the local community's control over resources and makes them dependent. This further marginalizes local people and creates more inequality.

Bianchi (2004) explains that economic globalization together with attempts by the government making feasible policies can enhance the power of mobile investment and large tourism corporation but at the expense of local suppliers, small firms and workers and further entrenches their role in as peripheral web of corporate production. The local people only become a peripheral actor rather than performing the role of chief actors. This study highlights the importance of participation and inclusion of local community. Without participation, the power relation among big companies and local people shows implication of Dependency Theory. It was found that when transnational companies were very strongly present, the local elite and foreign interest were mostly the beneficiaries of tourism. This results to increase in gap regarding income distribution (Bianchi, 2004)

2.5 LOCAL INCLUSION AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The earlier section presented the drawback on how tourism can leave the locals in host community with more harm than benefit. These drawbacks have caused the emerging new concept tourism such as community-based tourism (CBT), eco-tourism, and other alternative forms of tourism. Such approaches are assumed to have positive impact to both environment and society. However, CBT, ecotourism and other alternative tourism is debated on whether these approaches are beneficial to the community and environment or are they a tactic of marketing. Scholars also argue that conventional tourism is the major source of tourist and alternative tourism such as community-based tourism and eco-tourism can only thrive in the presence of mass tourism (Lansing & De Vries, 2007; Sharpley, 2000). Nevertheless, it is needed to understand how to make tourism more sustainable and contribute to sustainable development. To achieve sustainability in tourism, the negative impacts of tourism are needed to be removed. For example, the FDI needs to ensure that it does not create concentration of wealth, resources and ownership to few populations, rather it should promote local ownership of resources and must ensure local inclusion in tourism development activities. Community participation plays a vital role in sustainable tourism development, and therefore local inclusion needs to be considered as

a key towards achieving sustainability. This concept is presented in the conceptual framework in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Conceptual Framework of Sustainable Tourism Development



Source: Shrestha. S, 2020

The Figure above reflect that with any form of tourism if there is local inclusion, it can contribute to sustainable tourism. The analysis of the empirical findings from study of tourism development in Belitung will be based on this conceptual framework. The local people should be involved in the planning process from the beginning of tourism development projects. The conceptual framework forms the basis of the thesis. Local inclusion and community participation are considered as key to sustainable tourism. It is aimed that the framework will not only to answers the research question but also support the analysis section of the study.

2.6 APPLICATION OF THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

Belitung is a potential place for sustainable tourism development. It is important to consider theories and concepts discussed above in relation to promotion of tourism to benefit the people of Belitung and the country as a whole. Economic transition in Belitung from tin mining to tourism, can result in emergence of different tourism activities such as conventional and alternative tourism. When analyzing different forms of tourism, it helps to understand how each form can relate to sustainability of tourism and development. The government has earmarked Belitung as Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for tourism (R. Hidayat, Anduarima, Wesnina, & Possumah, 2019). The SEZs are based on the comparative advantage of a location. Tourism-focused SEZs in Indonesia aim at making travel and tourism more inviting to these sites (C. Hidayat, 2018).

Sometimes, such strategies are also debated for its pros and cons of its negative impacts against benefits. People can have difficulty in understanding new programs that replace traditionally

accepted economic activities. As a result, ownership and local inclusion can be hampered. However, SEZ policies can play a catalytic role in planning and promotion of tourism and development, it is likely to ease FDIs and other investments resulting acceleration of tourism and infrastructural development. Other potential benefits of tourism industry are skills upgrading, government revenue, employment generation, technology transfers, foreign exchange earnings, diversification of exports and enhancement of trade efficiency of domestic firms (Wardhana, 2019). Will these attempts create synergy between economic, social and environment development? To answer this question, in this study a relationship is tried to establish to find a suitable condition to generate sustainable tourism leading to sustainable development in Belitung. If tourism activities result in short term and long-term benefits, Belitung can make a sustainable transition from tin mining to tourism industry. The next chapter will describe how the study was done and the methods involved in it.

3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In this chapter, the methodological framework of how the thesis was conducted is presented. Firstly, the topic research design consists presentation of field study in Indonesia and working with CitRes research network. Following it will present the justification on the qualitative methods and development of research question. It will then discuss the process of data collection, construction of empirical section, access to field and selection of informants. As the research deals with cross-language interpretation and analysis, a section addresses this process as well. Additionally, there are sections on ethical consideration and explanation of the methodology and quality of research.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

FIELD STUDY IN INDONESIA AND INTERNSHIP WITH CITRES

As part of my master program, I had to do my internship for the third semester. In this process I got an opportunity to do Internship under CitRes research network in Indonesia. CitRes stands for the Citizen Engagement, Transparency and Transnational Natural Resource Governance. My internship falls under the CitRes exchange program. CitRes exchange program aim “to develop a high quality research-based and work life relevant educational partnership between NTNU and UGM focusing on the dynamics between transnational natural resources governance and local citizen engagement” (“CitRes,” 2020). As I had a keen interest in Natural Resources Governance and inclusive development, this was perfect for me. I had two of other fellow students who joined with me in this internship. I spent five months in the research center at the Department of Politics and Governance (PolGov) office at the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta. Resourceful and experienced researchers and colleagues gave me advices and recommendation for my internship project. They also helped me learn the day-to day life in Yogyakarta. Every activity with CitRes-Edu led me to a better understanding in issues of natural resources governance. In one of the discussion sessions, I learnt about ex-mining sites being restored into beautiful tourism attractions, this initiation greatly grabbed my interest. I began analyzing how tourism can be a strategic approach of natural resources governance and management.

I was also very lucky to make a trip to Belitung Island as part a of study visit during my internship. The visit in Belitung was focused on observing the present scenario of tin mining, studying the other areas of natural resources management and livelihood study of the Island. As Belitung is beautiful Island with lots of natural resources, I became interested to explore more on potential of tourism in the Island. Even after the visit, I decided to stay some more time in Belitung to do my separate field study and continue my research for my master's thesis.

QUALITATIVE METHOD

My research deals about sustainability, resource management, tourism, community participation and livelihood, and huge amount to observations, such features are not easily quantifiable and are nonnumerical which is why I decided to utilize the qualitative approach. My research topic was identified unexpectedly on field visit to Belitung, Although I was growing interest in understanding relationship between natural resources management and tourism, only when I visited Belitung I finally decided on the topic. My interest towards understanding natural resources and community's perception on resources utilization grew stronger. Therefore, I decided to extend my stay for more observation and data collection. It was most suitable thing to do but wasn't planned before-hand. Like how the research idea and the topic emerged, there were other several aspects of uncertainty involved in the process. Being flexible towards the process is what helped to me complete the research. In such research where there are uncertainties and flexibilities involved, researchers explain that qualitative methods are more preferred (Crang & Cook, 2007, p. 2; Thagaard, 2013, p.18; Wadel, 1991, p. 129). There can be various kinds of research design in qualitative research, this research is more of a descriptive kind and it describes what people think, say and do (Stratford & Bradshaw, 2016, p.118).

Among qualitative researches, the order of stages in research can vary and these stages also sometimes overlap. Crang and Crook emphasizes and recommends that there is no linear way to do research. We cannot be attached to a straight "read- then do – then write" model (Crang & Cook, 2007). Therefore, I chose to follow a non-linear research process that included a continuous combination of writing, doing, reading and merging of theory, methods and data throughout the process. Furthermore, it involved identifying sustainability aspects in various tourism activities and understanding different underlying theories to coming up with my own conceptual model.

FORMULATION OF RESEARCH QUESTION

My study during internship helped to narrow down the research topic for the thesis. My internship was focused on study of overall sustainability of livelihood in Belitung. For the thesis, I further identified different strategies and activities of tourism in Belitung which could lead to sustainable development. In this process I analyze these activities and compare sustainability in each case. My aim has not been to prove one form of tourism to be better than other but to find strength and weakness in each case. Although, I decided my topic during the internship, only when I finished collecting my data and did some analyzation through studying helpful literatures, I was able finalize the research question.

The research question was continuously evolved through the process of study. My initial research question was to identify sustainable development in tourism. This lead as foundation for to guide my initial interviews. The information from the informants made me realize the important issues and sectors in Belitung regarding mining, transition, tourism, participation and sustainability. My field work suggested that they are rather various forms and approaches even within tourism. Therefore, my supervisor guided my research in appropriate direction and helped to redefine my research question according to the type of data obtained from the field work. Although the research question was modified and revised few times, my topic for the research and background of the study remained the same.

Scholars have highlighted on environmental and community justice in tourism industry. Most of the studies were focused on community-based tourism and eco-tourism (Okazaki, 2008; Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). These literatures were found appropriate and well suited in my collected data, and these literatures were the bases of foundation of the conceptual framework presented in this study. I often found researchers emphasizing one of several forms of tourism rather than pointing pros and cons in different cases. Therefore, in this research I have tried to address this aspect and put forwards how different approach could have both strength and weakness, this is reflected on the research question.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION OF EMPIRICAL DATA

Through all the process involved in the research, I was determined to collect meaningful empirical data for the study and therefore all these processes can be considered as a part of empirical material. This section will focus on how the data collection was made possible, how I had access to the field, selections of the informants and methods of research. It also discusses the aspects of doing a cross-language research and highlights the quality and other consideration of the research.

ACCESS TO THE FIELD AND SELECTING INFORMANTS

As I was an intern under CitRes network, I was lucky to be around other researchers who had previous experiences, and therefore, I got a lot of helpful advices from them even during the initial stage when I was narrowing down my research topic. Further they had wider networks for access and selection of informants and hence they also facilitated me during my fieldwork. As Indonesia was a new place for me, it was rational for me to get help and I was very fortunate to receive support from my CitRes network. Most importantly, I was able to be a part of Belitung visit as a part of CitRes study excursion, the trip which lead me to decide on my research topic.

My selection of Informant was based on “Purposive Sampling”, as I specifically wanted informants relevant for the study. Those were informants who were related to tourism-based activities in Belitung and then those who have been related to tin mining in Belitung in some ways. The selection started when Ms. Indah Surya Wardhani introduced me to some respondents. Ms. Indah is researcher at PolGov and PhD student at Department of Politics and Governance UGM. Ms. Indah used her networks and put me in touch with locals in Belitung who were most relevant to my research. Most of them were involved in tourism-related activities, among which some of their activities were environmentally driven, some community based and some working for livelihood.

During fieldwork, the initial respondents also provided information on more potential informants. Therefore, this strategy of purposive sampling also leads towards “Snowball Sampling” where a person identifies other relevant informants (Hamre, 2019; Noy, 2008). I have also applied “Criterion Sampling” method, where it involved selecting informants to meet certain criterion (Stratford & Bradshaw, 2016, p.124). I also utilized “Opportunistic Sampling” while I

was on the group visit to tourism and mining sites with the team from CitRes. This was before I started my independent study, but I considered it to have a major contribution on construction of empirical material. Opportunity sampling is being flexible with the environment and taking advantages of the unexpected and favoring situations. I faced another favoring situation when a university guest from UGM, who had great knowledge upon the tourism and mining in Belitung joined my internship report presentation. This became another resourceful informant for my study. Tables below is presentation of respondent who were actors in various level of tourism activities, mining and natural resources management in some ways. Table 1 shows 13 respondents in semi structured interview and Table 2 is the information regarding group the discussion with additional three respondents.

Table 1: Research Participants in semi-structured Interviews

Category	Number of Respondent	Association/ Type of organization
Bureaucrat	One Representative	Belitung local Government
Ranger	One Representative	Open Pit mining/ Geopark
Conservationist/Entrepreneur	One Representative	Tarsius Sanctuary
Tour guide/ coordinator	One Representative	Tourism Association
Conversationalist/ Entrepreneur	One representative	One Representative Bukit Peramun, Digital Forest Tourism Center
Tourism service sector staff and, a tour guide	Two Representative	Bukit Peramun, Digital Forest Tourism Center
Freelance tour operator	One Representative	Tourism Industry
Tourism and environmental activists	Two Representative	GAPABEL Organization
Travel and Tour Operators	Two Representative	GAPABEL Organization
Academician	One Representative	University of Gadjah Mada (UGM)

Source: Shrestha. S, Field visit, 2019

Table 2: Research Participants in Group Discussion

Research participants	Group Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — One respondent (previous miner) working as environment activist — One respondent still on mining related job, also part of environment protection — One Freelance tourist guide 	<p>GAPABEL Organization</p>

Source: Shrestha. S, Field visit, 2019

These tables show that respondents are from many sectors and still correlated to important aspects of the study. With semi-structured interviews and group discussion most empirical data were obtained. There were people who had been or still currently involved tin mining sector, people involved in tourism sector and those who were working towards local development and environmental conservation. They consider themselves as important representative in the issues related to economic shift in Belitung, tourism, sustainability and Development of Belitung. According to Fridaus and Endah (2016) stakeholders are most important agent when it comes to development and these respondents were important stakeholders and representatives of Belitung (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). While discussing sustainability of tourism, the local actor's response is very significant (Fletcher, 2009). There was also an academician from Bangka-Belitung province linked with tourism study who provided the experience and understanding of mining, transition and tourism in the province, As a student concerned with tourism and being a from Banka-Belitung, I consider this knowledge, view and perception became important to my empirical material.

RESEARCH METHODS

For qualitative understanding of present transition of Belitung from tin mining, emergences of tourism activities and sustainability aspects, interview along with group discussion was the main method of empirical data construction, which was complemented by observation and document analysis. Observation and document analysis were also very crucial to fill the gaps from interview, support the information and guide further analysis in thesis (Hamre, 2019). These methods are briefly described below.

Interview: The data collection consisted semi-structured interviews and one group discussion. Semi-structured interviews were chosen because it is a very flexible technique for small scale research (Drever, 1995), plus it is the main method used in studying qualitative data, experiences and perceptions (Tjora, 2017, p.114). I had a general structure of interview that in advance decided the grounds to be covered and main questions to be asked but also allowed open response from the respondents. Thus, semi structured pattern was required that would unfold interview in a conversational manner offering participants the chance to explore issues they felt important (Drever, 1995; Longhurst, 2003, pp. 143-145). Semi- structure questions provided an order with flexibility in the interview. Interviews were also allowed to be unstructured because there was many valuable information that came up with the flow which were not considered before. The interview questions sometimes triggered other important information which I had no thought before. This was helpful for the study as I had limited knowledge on mining issues, economic transitions and tourism in Belitung. Most importantly I didn't know about the sustainability perception of the local people. This perception was brought by the participant indirectly and directly through this such structured questionnaire. Hence, I was flexible enough to allow when new information was brought. However, I certainly had an interview guide, that gave a certain direction, order and boundary so that I don't deviate and move far from my research topic. The interview guide helped me to compare among all the interviews with pre-determined grounds. It also kept me on track on what topics and issues I needed to discuss during my interview (Hamre, 2019, pp. 50-51).

The interview guide pointed out the important topic to be discussed and highlight the objective and research question of the study which was to understand the decreasing activities of tin mining, local people's shifting from tin mining to other economic activities mostly tourism

related, and the perception of sustainability in both aspects of mining and tourism. Depending upon the area and background of the respondent, there were different interview guides. However, there were overlapping themes in these guidelines as these issues in Belitung often overlap with one another. The first part of guideline was the introduction of respondents, where they described about themselves and about their work involvements. Second part of it consisted of their knowledge on Belitung's mining activities and transition of economy from mining to other activities. The interview then went to third section where respondent discussed about the tourism activities and their involvement in these activities. This section also discussed pro and cons of choosing tourism in their livelihood, challenges in it and their ideas on sustainability. Finally, respondent shared other issues or information that they considered important in discussion. Sometimes the sequences of this pattern were changed depending on the requirement and environmental setting of the interview. This led the interview to be unstructured but as there was more flexibility. This approach also provided some insightful information and examples from respondents experiences (Kothari, 2004).

Another part of interview was a group discussion which was proposed by one of the respondents who acknowledged to have formed an organization (GAPABEL), working towards environmental conservation and eco-centric tourism. This was an interesting group of participants from different background who were working together. One of the participants still participated in mining of tin and kaolin. There was a previous tin miner too and other members of the organization were doing freelance tourism activities of boating and tour guide. The focus of the organization was preservation of sea, and greenery of Belitung. I could discuss and compare different views regarding my concerned topics in this discussion. It helped achieve more data and deeper understanding. Being flexible allowed me to obtain more material through such discussion, this is therefore the strength of qualitative, non-linear and mixed research design which opens to new paths while doing research.

Observation: My research area involved tourism, and tourism activities are very visible part of any place. The impact of tourism might be difficult to understand in first view, but the tourism activities are always identifiable in a place. Though, observation was an inevitable part of my study, it became more of my research tool once I decided upon my study topic. After this, observations became subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability. Even though I

had a limited time, observation method allowed me to gather information on current happenings and moreover I could verify the statements made by the respondents in the interview (Kothari, 2004, pp.96-97). The initial observations helped me to have an interpretation of Belitung. And, throughout my field study observation helped me to provide complementary evidences and contextual understanding (Hamre, 2019, p.51). Observation was therefore very important method used in this research as through direct experiences it provided added value from the fieldwork.

Observation became a part of my research method as soon as I landed in Belitung. For instance, there were previous tin mining sites that reflected on Belitung's mining history, also some artisanal mining activities could be seen around Belitung. There were many beaches, views of small islands, souvenir shops and tourism festival advertisements. With my team, I participated in few touristic activities such as going to the famous beaches, doing island hopping, snorkeling, grabbing crabs for lunch at the small island middle of the sea. I could directly observe the practice of tourism culture in Belitung and have conversations with the local business vendors, guides, tour operators, other tourism staffs and as well as with local people. From this, I could have better understanding on tourism activities in Belitung relating to my research topic. I not only had a wholistic view on Belitung as a tourist destination, but also had first-hand experience from a tourist point of view at the same time. Furthermore, when observing the nature, natural resources, local tourism sites and local community, I could reflect tourism activities through the magnifying lenses of sustainability.

Especially when visiting the field sites where the respondents were involved, I could see the activities of eco-tourism and forest conservation more clearly. In one of the interview sessions I saw the rare and endangered animal species; Tarsius. It is one of the biggest attractions of Belitung. Along with interviews with respective respondents, observation was also very important in these sites. It allowed me to visualize everything that was happening and opened follow-up questions during my interview. Apart from my interview guidelines, I was able to discuss on what I was observing right in the moment. This made my field visit worthwhile even though it was of short duration. Another important site of observation along with tourism sites was the tin processing units where the basic procedure of tin collection and separation was done. This site helped me to understand where Belitung currently stood in tin mining and how these activities still contribute to livelihood of local people in some places.

Document Analysis: Documents and literatures were used to gain further understanding on mainly two areas; firstly, on tourism and its relationship with sustainability and secondly, the background of Belitung as described and explained by other researchers and scholars. It was a complementary but very necessary research method used to support the data obtained from interviews and observations (Hamre, 2019, p.52; Tjora, 2017, p.183). Initially document analysis was used to learn and achieve necessary background on sustainable tourism and background on Belitung. Further, it was used to learn scholar's view on sustainability, transition, livelihood and tourism development. Literatures and documents such as reports, articles, books related to tourism and sustainability were studied. As soon as I had drawn my attention towards community development, tourism and its part in resources management, I started analysis such related literatures. And, when I identified Belitung as my research destination, I looked up on documents to understand the scenario of Belitung. It was also during formulation of conceptual framework; I analyzed the different related studies to solidify my perspectives. Later, after the field work was completed, documents were used to compare, contrast and validate the findings from empirical data(Hamre, 2019, p.52). Apart from my own search for literatures and documents, I also received other relevant documents related to community development, participation and tourism from my colleagues from CitRes network. Additionally, the movie "Laskar Pelangi" also known as "The Rainbow Troop" became a key source of information as it is based on Belitung and its historical contexts during 1970s. The movie also showed me glimpses of Belitung's history, and many of its features which helped me to learn a lot about the society, lifestyle, traditions and values of people which I might have missed to understand within my brief visit. I could also compare how much it had changed over time.

CROSS-LANGUAGE AND CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

An important aspect that needs to be presented in this study and especially in construction of empirical data is that, this research is a cross-language research. Most of the Interviews were carried out in *Bahasa Indonesia*, the official language of Indonesia. I had a limited knowledge of the language. Though I was self-learning, the language in online platforms, my language skills were barely helpful for me to perform some day-to-day task such as buying grocery, getting taxi or ordering food. I could hardly conduct interviews for collecting data. Thankfully, I got provided a translator from my CitRes network and I was therefore reliant on my translator for my

interviews. Nevertheless, there were also few English-speaking informants whose interviews were conducted in English. Even in this case, there were some parts or words that needed to be translated from Indonesian, whereas in some case participants partially spoke English with large part in needing translation. When having a translator, it has been suggested to provide a description of translator to ensure the trust worthiness of the qualitative data while doing cross-language qualitative research (Hamre, 2019, pp.52-53; Squires, 2009, pp.279-280). Therefore, I want to briefly introduce my translator in this study, Ms. Tadzki Nurshafira. Ms. Nurshafira is a master's degree student of Politics and Governance at University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), and she also has a bachelor's degree in International relation from UGM. She is working as research assistant in CitRes- network and PolGov UGM. Ms. Nurshafira is originally from Depok in west Java province near the capital Jakarta and she has a strong oral and written proficiency in both Indonesian and English languages. In addition to language translation, she helped me to coordinate with all the respondents, plan the field work and also provide valuable interpretation in empirical data.

The empirical material first went through my translator before the information came to me. This made information to be already interpreted when it reached me (Hamre, 2019, p.53). According to Crang and Crook (2007), the translation in the study produces hybrid in between form of cultural understanding where some aspects are highlighted while other barely mentioned (Crang & Cook, 2007, pp.24-25). The filtering of information was found during the interpretation from the interview; at times the respondent took several minutes to respond questions, but the translation often took only half the time. Ms. Nurshafira had already interpreted the answer through her own set of assumption, knowledge, values which she through was most relevant for my topic (Hanne, 2019, p. 53). She passed me a more filtered information and sometimes gave me the summary of informant's answer. Though her thought process is involved during the interview data collection she has tried to provide information as accurately as possible. I tried to minimize the information biases while capturing the information provided.

Apart from being a cross-language study, my research is a cross- cultural study as well. It was performed in a very different culture and setting than my background. I am a Nepali student at Norwegian university which already had my master's degree exposed in a new culture. And doing fieldwork in Belitung, it again opened a new cultural setting for me. I had so much to learn

about the people, the language, their tradition and different lifestyle habits. However, I was very careful to the local surroundings and respected the local people. I followed the local trend and formalities to meet and greet the local people. Even during the interview and group discussions sessions, I tried to stick to the local protocol of carrying out those activities. I was lucky to be with CitRes team as they helped me to learn the culture and local way of life. As I was a non-native, there were more ethical consideration than normal conditions. This is explained more in the ethical consideration section under the topic of Critical Reflection of Methodology.

THE ANALYSIS

All the interviews collected were recorded. I was also taking notes of the key points during the interview such as little memos, or note to myself for reminder of certain important and interesting information, connection and patterns between the data to reflect on it later from the interview (Cope, 2016, p.374). These short notes reflecting patterns and connections were important especially for the initial phases of analysis of empirical material. Additionally, I was writing a daily summary containing the itinerary of field work which was also helpful for organization of the data collected. After I finished my stay at Indonesia, I was back home in Nepal and here I transcribed all my recordings, processed my notes including my daily summary from field work. When there were some confusions regarding empirical data, I could easily communicate and clarify it with Ms. Nurshafira through email and other online networks. After transcribing and processing my interviews and notes, I started systematically organizing the data, and analyzing it by thematic coding and then categorizing it. A lot of it was done on table with paper and pen by making highlights of information, comparing and grouping into topics. I had a lot of data, that needed to be systematically ordered, grouped and reduced therefore coding was very necessary, and according to Cope (2016), it is the very purpose of coding (Cope, 2016, p.377). Further, I used the method of coding to answers to my research question and justify my conceptual framework. During this I was using deductive-inductive method (Tjora, 2017). I was able to deduce the vague information into more precise ideas and know how it applies to forming a theory. Also, the other way around. I was able to understands and induce meaning and theory behind subtle information.

3.3 CRITICAL REFLECTION ON THE METHODOLOGY

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Defining “ethics” while doing research focuses on the disciplines standards during conducting the study. During the research, ethics were applied as a method, procedure, or perspective for deciding how to act, how to collect information and how to analyze the data. These considerations promoted the aims of research primarily by avoidance of error in knowing the knowledge. Secondly, ethical standards promoted the values that are essential to collaborative work, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness (Gajjar, 2013). My study was a cross-cultural study, it was performed in a very different culture and setting than my usual working background. It involved other people’s perception and construction of space and landscapes (Howitt & Stevens, 2005, p.46). And therefore, certain special formalities had to be followed to for ethical considerations especially before all the interviews. All the interviews were taken with pre-informed consent. Pre-informed consent refers that informants had to consent to being part of the research and they are also well informed about the aim of the research (Dowling, 2005, p.32). There is certain ethical requirement according to the Norwegian Center for Research Data (NSD), to approve research proposal and give permission to gather data. It needs researchers to present a pre-informed consent to the informants in a form of written document. However, when this was discussed with my colleagues and researchers at PolGov, it was recommended not to bring any sort of paper to sign during the interview as this was not a normal practice. This was also reasoned due to the bad experiences the local people had in the past of signing legal documents related to land and property. The hesitation of the informants would also increase as I am a non-native person doing the research. I was told that it was rather preferred that I asked for verbal consent, and therefore a verbal consent was obtained from each respondent. This situation was an ideal example that shows doing cross-cultural research, a non-local researcher should be held accountable to local protocols which can often go far beyond university research protocols (Hamre, 2019, p.54; Howitt & Stevens, 2005).

The Key elements of ethical consideration such as confidentiality, privacy and anonymity were addressed so that the informants are not exposed to any harm. This was especially important as conversations sometimes touched sensitive issues and areas (Dowling, 2005). In Belitung, there

were two views regarding tourism and mining. People were found to be divided in their views regarding either favor or against these activities. There were also political attachments and affiliations regarding these topics. Even in tourism, there is conflict on whether to facilitate mass consumption-based tourism or community and environment-based tourism. These opinions often raised sensitivity while discussions. I consider my research is sensitive to a certain extent, and hence all the names of the respondents are kept anonymous. This was also what the respondents desired however, they were willing to keep their affiliated organization and working areas mentioned. Moreover, I was careful with where and how I stored my recordings and notes. I had to make sure that nobody could access the information and identify the informants (Dowling, 2005). I was also cautious about it when presenting empirical findings and analysis in this thesis. The participants were given information on the aim and objective of research, and where and how their data will be used and discussed. Honesty and Integrity was always a part during data collection, processing and making results. I was careful not to fabricate or falsify the information. Proper acknowledgement and credit for literatures, scholars and all contributors to the research is given (Gajjar, 2013).

QUALITY OF RESEARCH AND LIMITATIONS

The quality of the study rests on a credible researcher, involving valid and reliable information in research. The validity and reliability of the research depend on the choices made throughout the research process and if these choices made the construction of valid and reliable data and the findings (Hamre, 2019, p.55; Thagaard, 2013, p.193-194). In this section I will discuss some of the choices made throughout my research and if these choices could have been done in other ways. I will also try to analyze benefits and disadvantages of my choices and how this might impact the research credibility(Hamre, 2019).

There were three key methods in the research namely Interview, Observation and Data Analysis. The interviews and observations were conducted during an educational excursion taken by CitRes network including some students from UGM. It was not planned that I would start my field work of data collection for my thesis in the same visit. Even though I extended the trip to collect data for my research, I felt that a prior planning would benefit to make my field work more organized. This also resulted in time limit for finding respondents. The selection of informants was mainly made through three different gate keepers, Primarily, respondents were

contacted through the CitRes-network. Another key source who helped in finding relevant respondent was a resident of Belitung who also was part of the famous Belitung based movie: “The Rainbow Troops”. Finally, other respondents were identified through the networks from snow bowling incidents. According to Crang & Cook, critique of using the snowball sampling is that the informant or gate keeper may just put you in contact with similar people as the person which may be creating a one-sided point of view of the topic. I still believe that a better study on background and stakeholders in Belitung could have resulted in finding other actors in tourism industry of the area, an example is I felt the government agencies and educational institutions have been missed in the process of data collection. I had considered to re-visit Belitung to do more study, but the amount of data obtained pointed out that there was enough information that could be extracted to form a valuable analysis. Nevertheless, I do consider it has been a limitation on my part to meet several and different informants, in line with the importance to developing a wide network of contacts when doing fieldwork (Crang & Cook, 2007, p.18). Limitation in this case would also be that the study was conducted in limited amount of time; and therefore, it might not be able to cover all areas of the vast topic which is tourism. As, the number of respondents from the interview might not be able to address the overview of tourism of the whole Belitung community.

Another challenge identified was using semi-structured interviews in combination with cross-language conversations. The interviews were generally unstructured as respondents had several things to share which related to the field of my study. It was at times difficult to follow the interview guide and stick to the time allocated. The interview sessions were too flexible and allowed the respondents to lead the direction and simultaneously there was challenge of not being able to speak Indonesian. This resulted to interview being carried out for a long time between respondents and my translator. My task was to quickly catch up on notes when my translator presented me a summary. At times, I was too busy to note everything from the summary and at times I had nothing to do. This might have made me appeared as a weak moderator in some instances. To reduce this challenge, I realized that I had to have more preparedness and organization while I should have also discussed more with my translator regarding the pattern of interview.

Regarding my third method of research which is Document Analysis, the knowledge on current tourism scenarios in Belitung and the status of tourism planning is very limited, but I have tried to incorporate them in my study. There were plenty literatures on tourism and sustainable tourism discussed in global context, but very limited on local context of Belitung. Further some articles were in 'Bahasa Indonesia', the national language of Indonesia which could not be translated into English and hence these articles couldn't be analyzed and comprehended in the study.

Finally, the quality of the research also relies on the transferability of it (Halldórsson & Aastrup, 2003). The transferability is that the findings from the present study could be transferred to other similar cases. I do consider this research relevant in studies relating tourism and sustainability and in studies relating to Belitung at local levels. The finding presented in the study I consider is valid and reliable and as mentioned earlier the information has not been fabricated or falsified. I have done it with honesty and integrity though there may be some shortcoming due to discussed challenges and limitations. Nevertheless, in all approaches in methodology the quality tries to ensure credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability (Halldórsson & Aastrup, 2003). I do understand that tourism in Belitung is relatively new and there has been a gradual initiation on the studies on related fields. I recommend that there needs to be plenty more study regarding how to achieve a sustainable development through tourism, but I also do hope there are audience for this research, and it can be a part of their further study.

RESEARCHERS POSITION

I have been a student of development studies for almost a decade now, and I have always been interested in researches about local development and sustainable development. I have had many opportunities to involve myself in field works starting from my under-graduate schooling and did field works mostly in the rural areas of my home country Nepal. When interacting with local people and understanding situations from a grassroots level, most of the times I realized that the local people were marginalized in the development process. My bachelor's degree thesis was also concentrated on livelihood analysis of how locals can benefit from entrepreneurship through production using native fruits. My standpoint has always been viewing things from the perspectives local people as beneficiary. Similarly, in tourism industry as well, I had observed conditions where there were scenarios of injustice treatment for locals. These personal

experiences may have led to some pre-conceptions, opinions and pre- assumption even while conducting this research. Therefore, it is important to be understand my positionality in the research and possibility of its' impact that it might have had in the overall study and shaped my ideas of understanding (Waite, 2010).

I have tried to have a wholistic perspective in my study rather than limiting myself to pre-existing ideas or just putting my ways of thinking. This was done by understanding the perspective of other researchers, colleagues, friends and students from Indonesia, and thus the whole process has been reflective. Reflexibility analyzes personal, intersubjectivity and social process allowing researcher to acknowledge their role and the nature of research (Maso, 2003). Therefore, my ideas were being constructed, formed and re-formed continuously through social interactivity of different perspective (Hamre, 2019, p.59).

Ideally, while doing a research, the objective is to conduct a research where there is non-personal involvement between the researcher and the researched (Dowling, 2005; Hamre, 2019, p.59). However, it is impossible to achieve such pure form especially while doing qualitative research, because my thought process, values and beliefs may affect the methodology, interactions, filtration of information and analysis to some extent. Though, I tried to put my prejudices aside, I would sometime find myself giving more attention and interactions towards those ideas that were more in line with my perspective. I had to quickly remind myself and take hold of those situations. Nevertheless, I have also learned that it was more important to identify myself in such pattern rather than trying to examine the impacts. As Crang and Cook suggests, once such activity is identified, subjectivity and intersubjectivity are less a problem, but a way of deeper understanding. Therefore the key was to recognize and acknowledge such personal engagement and, and once it was done, I was able to navigate my activities and it outcomes in rational directions (Crang & Cook, 2007, p.13; Dowling, 2005).

4. EMPIRICAL FINDINGS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

In this chapter, the empirical findings will be presented and discussed. Based on the interviews, Observations and document reviews, these findings are presented and further classified. The first section provides the findings on Belitung regarding the current scenarios on tourism. Further based on thematic coding, the tourism activities of Belitung are categorized into four different forms. Each category describes the tourism activities as well as the discussions on the sustainability of the tourism. The empirical findings will follow deductive and inductive analysis of information later in the next analysis chapter.

4. 1 TOURISM SENARIOS IN BELITUNG AT PRESENT

Belitung has been like a hidden treasure where there were tourists and travelers but only few knew about this place. This island had been a tin mining island since the Dutch colonial era and therefore only locals were aware of the natural beauty. Recently, after “Laskar Pelangi” also known as “The Rainbow Troops” an award-winning novel by Andrea Hirata showing life in rural Belitung (Hirata, 2007), the popularity of the island has immensely increased mostly nationally and also internationally. More specifically after the novel was made into the movie in 2008, it highlighted beautiful nature of Belitung and resulted to bring more and more visitors to the island. Almost all the respondent had mentioned the movie when speaking about Belitung and increase in the number of visitors. They said some visitor specifically wanted to see prime locations where the movie was shot. According to many respondents, it was an important reason which marketed Belitung as a Tourist destination. A respondent from the interview stated as:

“Even though the tourism potential of Belitung was realized in as early as 1980’s, it wasn’t really working. But the novel and movie really made an impact. Specially, the movie became a new identity of Belitung. Aftereffect of the movie, Belitung gained recognition as a beautiful tourism destination in Indonesia”.

After the decline of the tin mining, Belitung developed into a more tourist destination spot in Indonesia. Earlier, tin mining had been huge part Belitung and almost everyone in the island were in some way related to tin mining activities. State-owned company PT Timah operated in the island and mining tin was the most prominent economic activities that support the livelihood

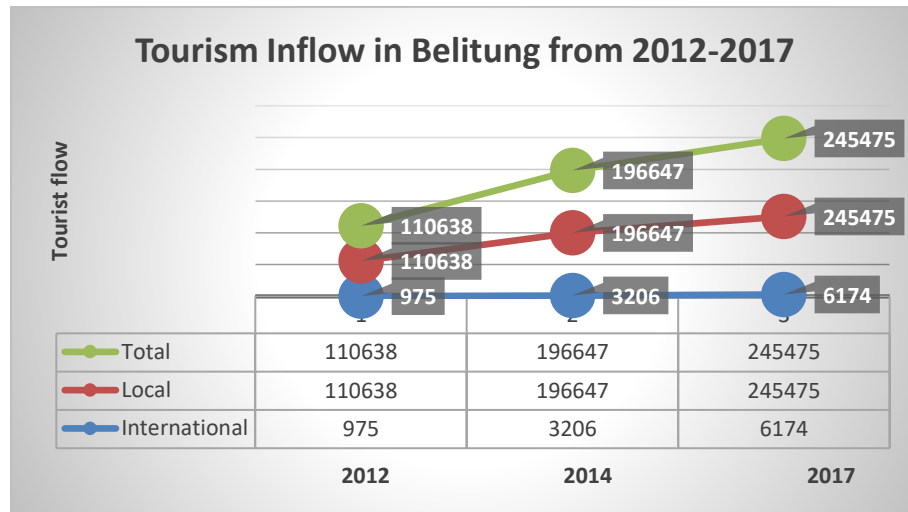
of people. The tin reserve onshore is now considered depleted in Belitung. At present only artisanal mining exists in Belitung without any smelting companies.

“There is no further industrialization of tin and the few extracted tin is taken to neighboring Bangka island for further processing, which is very limited to sustain the local community economy” - A respondent stated in the interview. It is considered that though there are offshore tin reserves, the idea of extracting tin from offshore has been extremely criticized by environmental activist and tourism participants. Apart from tin, there are other economic areas such agriculture, fishing, plantation of pepper, planting palm tree and tourism. Among these alternatives, tourism has emerged out as a chief activity. The potential of tourism was referred as higher than other while other were considered as complementary activities. Tourism in Belitung has been recognized at National level as policies are made for boosting more tourists in the Island. The central government had designated Belitung as tourism destination in 2012.

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) of Tourism in Government Regulation Number 6 was announced in Year 2016 (C. Hidayat, 2018) which also included Belitung. Belitung Regency Regional Regulation Number 13 concerns Tourism in the area and Number 12 concerns the Master Plan for Tourism Development in Belitung Regency 2015 – 2025 (as part of 10 year National Development Plan) (R. Hidayat et al., 2019).

The Special economic zones aim at making travel and tourism to the potential areas more inviting. Belitung along with other destinations are promoted in “Wonderful Indonesia Campaign” programs. (C. Hidayat, 2018; R. Hidayat et al., 2019). It was found from the interview that after government had prioritized Belitung as tourism area, the tourist inviting activities such as infrastructure and building road had geared up being done more actively and more exclusively. In recent years, there has also been an increasing numbers of travel agencies and other tour providers in Belitung. This has resulted in gradual increase in the number of national and international tourist. Figure 4 shows the number of tourists’ arrival in Belitung.

Figure 4: Tourism Inflow in Belitung from 2012-2017



Source: Department of Tourism of Belitung (2018), (R. Hidayat et al., 2019)

The chart above shows that the tourism in Belitung has gradually grown in these years between 2012-2017. It shows an upward trending graph in case of total, local and international tourists. The inflow of international visitors is rather very less compared to that of the local but still it is gradually rising (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). It was realized that tourists are mostly local, native Indonesian and then are from neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. I visited Belitung for the first time, and my finding was that Belitung is still not known to wider audience in international platform.

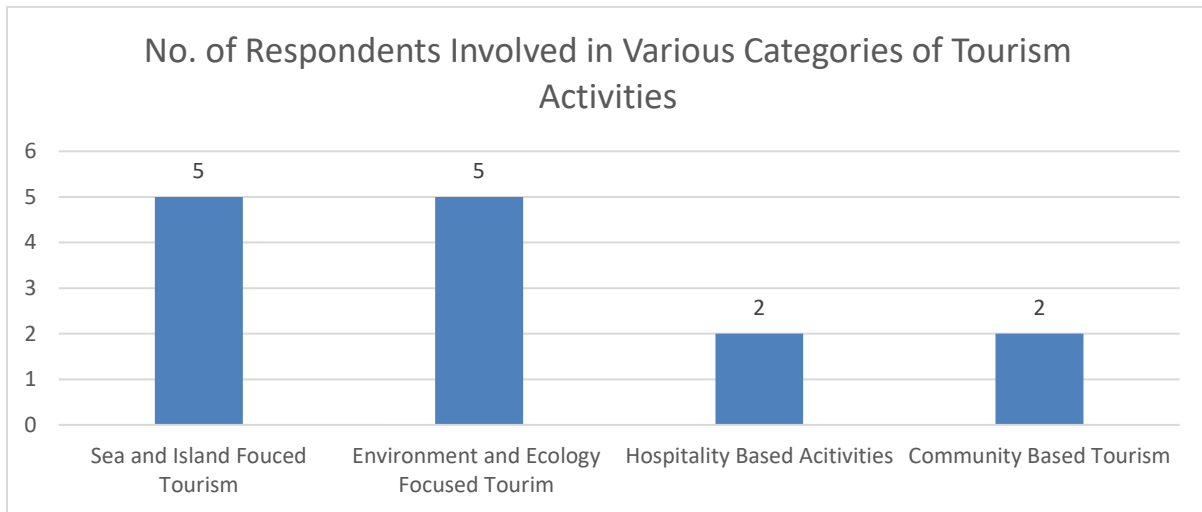
According to data provided by Local owned source, the revenue from the tax of tourism business combining total tax from hotel and restaurants, entertainment, advertisement has increased from 5.125.307.391 in 2013 to 15.84 5.974. 641 Indonesian Rupiah in 2017, which shows the rise in economic growth by around three folds. Recent study from University of Bangka Belitung, suggests that from 2015 to 2018, the rise in tourism has been 85.9% including both international and domestic tourist in these four year. The study also examined on performance and satisfaction status where it was found that domestic tourists were more satisfied than international tourists in terms of physical facilities, services and prices (Valeriani & Putri, 2020). According to Data obtained from Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of the province of Bangka-Belitung Islands, the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) presented a very optimistic forecast for the province. It forecasted an increasing trend of GRDP growth from the year 2018 to 2020. This analysis was

also based on previous findings of GRDP from 2010 to 2017 which showed an upward trend. This study was presented in “Journal Ekonomi & Studi Pembangunan” and suggests that by prioritizing the tourism sector, the economic growth will increase and can reduce GRDP dependency on mining sector (Oktaviana & Amalia, 2018).

Even though these findings suggest that tourism industry is growing in positive directions, the interviews conducted with the respondents revealed that some politician believe that mining is still the best approach to improve the local economy. However, the environmentalist, conservationist and tourism entrepreneurs believed that some people were reluctant to change and could not see anything beyond tin mining for development. The large magnitude of development from tourism is yet to be realized in Belitung, which is also making locals skeptical. This conflict in thought was found even among the respondents in the interview in this study. But as most of the respondent were involved in tourism related activities, they believed that tourism should be focused with more attractive programs to include local community. It was observed that tourist attractions were scattered and unequally development in Belitung, while some areas were clearly noticeable as touristic spot with regards to attraction and infrastructure, other spots weren't very visible.

During the interview process, it was observed that mostly the respondents were involved in tourism related to environmental and ecological conservation. Among the sixteen respondents, five respondents were contributing to this form of tourism, two were involved in hospitality sectors and two were involved in community-based tourism. These respondents also worked in the overlapping sectors of tourism such as respondents involved in environmental protection were also involved in community-based tourism. Hence these numbers that represents the working area of the respondents are not mutually exclusive. However, it was found that almost half of the respondents were involved in tourism activities that focused on the beauty of sea, Island and water-based tourism activities. The Figure 5 shows the representation of how the respondents were found to be involved in various tourism activities.

Figure 5: Representation of Respondents based on Tourism related Activities



Source: Shrestha. S, Field Work, 2019

The interview highlighted that many respondents were involved in sea and Island focused tourism and similarly in environmental and ecology focused activities. There is less involvement in Hospitality sector and community-based tourism sector. During observation this was largely visible, it was seen that most tourist attractions in Belitung was based on the enjoying the natural beauty of Belitung; the sea, islands and the beaches. There were also conservation focused tourism destinations in a significant number. However, the infrastructural development and hospitality sector was seen to be in a primary state. Similarly, evidence community- based tourism development was not very identifiable. Interactions with local community revealed that they have little idea of tourism industry as an alternative strategy for economic growth against tin mining. Also, to a large extent, people were not aware about the government declaration of Belitung being as a SEZ for tourism development. Moreover, the local community were found to be practicing traditional ways of economic activities such as fishing, plantation of pepper, wood collection from forest, and illegal tin mining for their daily lives. Boating was found as one of the major occupations where many people were engaged to transport tourists to several nearby Islands. In addition to the interviews, these critical observations further helped to identify different areas of tourisms, which are illustrated in the following section.

4.2 TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN BELITUNG

During my field visit it was found that there were several tourism activities taking place in Belitung. From the interview and observations, it was obvious that tourism activities in Belitung was growing in sea beaches and surrounding Islands. This finding was similar in other studies conducted on tourism in Belitung. It was found that the local community had limited knowledge of environmental conservation and protection in relation to tourism however, the interviews conducted showed that the respondents had good knowledge of environmental protection and some of them were entrepreneur of eco-tourism. The basic infrastructures for tourism such as airport and roads have been constructed, however other there were limited resorts, hotels and other hospitality requirements. Similarly, the potentiality of community-based tourism was not fully explored. These areas of tourism are further elaborated below. The findings are also based on literature analysis apart from the interviews and observations.

4.2.1 BLUE TOURISM

Blue tourism can be understood as a concept that emphasizes the beauty of the beach, the sea and the marine ecosystem that are expected to create opportunities for tourism and the subsequent impact on increasing the number of tourist's visit (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). 'Blue tourism' as the name suggests "Blue", can be understood as the tourism that is mostly focused around the blue sea, and its surrounding beauty which is the primary and main tourism strength of Belitung. In Belitung, it was clearly seen that tourism attractions were much concentrated to Blue tourism. There are several attractions involving beach, sea water, big white granite rocks in the sea and beautiful small islands arounds and in the sea. In Belitung all the major tourism destinations are surrounded around these blue tourism spots. These spots are also the found in every tour package provided by the tour and travel agencies. Also, the travel website 'TripAdvisor' mentions these attractions in their lists highlighting as 'Attractions of Belitung', 'Things to do in Belitung', 'Things not to be missed'. In 2020, the study by Valeriani and Putri highlighted Blue Tourism of Belitung. According to the study, 93% tourist visiting Belitung are due to white sand, beaches, large granite rocks and sea water (Valeriani & Putri, 2020).

Tourism activities mostly included sight-seeing and island hoping. The main attractions are considered as beaches. The sea beaches are surrounded by a stretch of white sand and beautiful granite rocks. The Tanjung Kelayang beach has been the main preference for many tourists for

"Island Hop" to visit Islands around Keciput village in Belitung. The "Island Hoping" means that tourists can travel from one island to another using boats and travel around the sea. Some islands are very small, while others are big enough to land boats for various tourism activities. This activity is bringing more tourist than other activities in Belitung. There are tour companies making packages and trips around these exotic Islands. There are several activities that are connected to Island hopping. Snorkeling is also one of the activities seen in Belitung. There are several points around the Islands, sea and beaches to watch turtle or beautiful coral reefs. Also, there are several caves in the Islands as an attraction for most of the tourist (R. Hidayat et al., 2019). There are several beautiful beaches in Belitung of which Tanjung Kelayang beach and Tanjung Tinggi beach were video graphed in the famous award-winning movie of Indonesia; 'Laskar Pelangi'/'The rainbow Troops' (R. Hidayat et al., 2019). It was clearly seen that the greatest number of tourists were present around these locations even during my field visit. Study done on Blue tourism in Belitung island highlights the following major spots listed in the table below.

Table 3: Tourist Destinations in Belitung from Blue Tourism perspectives

District	Tourist Destinations (Beaches and Islands)
Belitung	Tanjung Tinggi Beach, Tanjung Kelayang Beach, Tanjung Pendam Beach, Pantai Tanjung Gembira, Pantai Tanjung Kiras, Pantai Panyaeran. Pantai Mabai, Pantai Penyabong, Pantai Bukit Batu, Pulau Batu, Pulau Lengkuas, Pulau Pasir, Pulau Burung, Pulau Kepayang
Belitung Timur	Pantai Nyiur Melambai, Pantai Serdang, Pantai Burong Mandi, Bukit Batu

Source: (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015)

Further, these blue tourism destinations are separated based on the two districts of Belitung Island (Belitung and Belitung Timur). These areas are mostly beaches and Islands of Belitung. ‘Pantai’ in Indonesian language refers to beach and ‘Pulau’ refers to island. Therefore, the name Pantai or Pulau are seen in the above table. ‘Pulau Lengkuas’ island is also a center icon of Belitung. It is the image seen in many Belitung promotive activities. The picture along this text represents is Pulau Lengkuas. It has a tall white light house built during Dutch colonial era. Visiting this island is generally a part of island hopping. There were more



Source: Shrestha. S, Field visit, 2019

tourists in this Island compared to the other parts of Belitung enjoying the view and taking lots of pictures in this Island. Apart from this Island, the Island hopping takes tourist to other islands where one can grab lunch such as crab and fish and other local cuisine. These destinations especially around the sea is often used for various events such as ‘Sail Indonesia’. ‘Sail Indonesia’ is a part of an event where many visitors sail through Indonesia, they also stop by Belitung. Belitung has become a hub for those travelers. Therefore, the Island has been promoted in campaign such as ‘Wonderful Indonesia’ and other festivals and events, where yachts and ferry come from many countries to sail across Belitung (R. Hidayat et al., 2019).

4.2.2 ECO-CENTRIC TOURISM

Eco-centric tourism is defined as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education” (“TIES,” 2015). Eco-centric tourism considers the preservation of natural environment and natural eco system along with promotion of tourism. It is also known as ecotourism. Belitung has several tourism attractions and activities that focuses on conserving nature either by observing from far or by actively participating in nature. Even in comparison to other destinations, most tourist spots had nature preservation activities rather than those activities seen in major tourism destinations. There were natural attractions such as forest, sea beaches than man made attraction such as amusement parks or shopping malls. Many tourism areas are part ecotourism or eco-centric tourism. Also, many of the ecotourism destinations are collectively

part of Geo Park; a geological park with wide areas and interesting tourism center where each location is a part of nature conservation. These areas consist of previous tin mining sites and forests as well. Following is the map representation of many tourist spots inside the Geo park in Belitung.

Figure 6: Map of check points in Belitung Geo park



Source: Adapted from Belitung Geopark Agency, ("Geopark," 2020)

These tourist locations are focused on initiating tourism through conservation of ecology and environment of Belitung. Below are the descriptions in detail of tourism destinations that were discussed in the interviews, where I had an opportunity to visit.

Open Pit, a previous Tin mining site

I was able to observe one of the main eco-centric tourism attractions of Belitung, an underground tin mining site opened in 1880 by the Dutch. I was able to learn more on this from the interview I conducted with a working staff of this site. This area was also explored by Australian Company (BHP) in 1969. This mining site started as an open pit in 1975 and did Diamond drilling in 1980. Eventually, the operation of the mining in the site stopped since 1993. Now, we can still see that the pit is 350 meters deep and have 9 levels with a depth of 80 meters. In total the pit had extracted about 594,000 kilo tons of tin. During my visit, I was able to see greenish water at the base of the pit. The respondent told the color of the water was green due to presence of Silver and Zinc minerals. However, mining of any mineral is totally stopped now. Presently this area is

a part of Geo park and functioning as an open museum of tin mining in Belitung reflecting to its history. While going inside in one of the tunnels, I could see some old processing channels and wooden lifts to carry the tin from core to the surface. According to the respondent, mostly students and academicians from geography and geology were found to be more interested in this location. The frequent visitors here were students from colleges, researchers, academicians and tourists. Therefore, it is also identified as a study site for tourism and academic purposes. The respondent further added that this site can be a Community-Based Tourism destination too. The national government was responsible for the transformation of the land from its old forms and design it to make as tourist attraction which involved active network of developers and transformers. Mining companies provided training on how to restore the area in natural form. The support from government also include providing necessary equipment, educating and training people involved in the operation of the site, and contributing in other CSR (Corporate Service Responsibility). This mining site also provided examples by replanting vegetables and growing plants on the mining land using compost and other special techniques. Below is the picture showing plantation of vegetables such as chilly and eggplant done in a previously mining area.

Figure 7: Plantation in Previous Tin Mining Land



Source: Shrestha. S, Field Visit 2019

Visitor can witness all these developments and there is always someone to provide information and act as site guide. This Open Pit mining site is considered as an important example of eco-tourism. Following is the picture showing Open Pit tin mining site.

Figure 8: Open Pit Site of Previous Tin mining Area



Source: Shrestha. S, Field visit 2019

Protected Forest and Tarsius Sanctuary

A small group of local entrepreneurs in Belitung have developed a tourism spot inside a forest. It was initiated and is still flourishing under the leadership of an environmental enthusiast and conservationist, who was also a respondent in the study. This group of local people primarily started conservation of the forest to prevent illegal logging of the forest in Belitung. It was found that logging of great number of trees, valuable herbs and rare trees were happening in Belitung where even powerful people were involved. This forest conservation activity was a self-initiated approach started as a need to combat this illegal logging. According to the respondent, as a result of their conservation action, the illegal logging was reduced, and the area also developed as a tourism destination. There are plenty attractions on this site, among which one of the exciting

activities is Tarsius watching. Tarsius (*Tarsius bancanus*) is a very rare and endangered animal only found in few places in the world. It is a nocturnal animal also known as Tarsier and found in southeast Asian islands of Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia (Bernard, Bili, Wearn, Hanya, & Ahmad, 2014; Wright, Simons, & Gursky-Doyen, 2003).

Tarsius are among the smallest known primates, they have a small body covered in soft, velvety fur. They are usually gray or buff-grey in color. The head and body are 9.5 to 14 cm. and, the tail is 20-26 cm. in length. They have very large eyes and the eyes are immobile due to the size, but they have a special ability to rotate the head 180 degrees ("Wikipedia," 2020). It is considered as an exceptional feature of Tarsius (Mogk, 2012). The picture along this text show how Tarsius looks like. It is one of the main attractions of Belitung. As



Source: ("Wikipedia," 2020)

Tarsius is gradually getting more recognition, there are visitors who come to Belitung just for the reason of witnessing Tarsius. This forest has made possible for every tourist to observe Tarsius easily. They have made a sanctuary were Tarsius are kept and can be observed anytime.

Apart from Tarsius watching, other activities in this forest include trekking, hiking, cannoning in the river and crocodile watching. The forest also facilitates camping and night stays in beautiful small wooden cottages. Inside the forest, there is a community owned shop for lunch and refreshments. I was also able to purchase mascot toys of Tarsius, this was one of the strategies of the local people to promote Tarsius among visitors. Additionally, there are activities where tourist can get involved in agricultural process around the forest. Belitung has lots of pepper plantation, and visitors can take part in observing the plantation, study the processing of pepper, get involved with the locals, harvest and as well purchase the pepper from the farm. According to the respondent, 90% of the river were dirty because of past mining and current artisanal mining activities. Therefore, the forest staff also conducted various programs involving local community participation such as cleaning the rivers and oceans.

The respondent said that about 30% of the income from this forest was used for educational programs of locals and kids which also included awareness on environmental conservation and eco-tourism. Annually, a target is set to reach 1000 kids for educational programs, and

sometimes they exceed this target. The interview revealed that, the respondent wanted the local people to learn alternative ways of livelihood instead of tin mining. The respondent expressed his view as below statement:

“I always think how can I do something so that the local people can earn money in a friendly way? I never stopped to work to create more opportunities for them as the people know just tin mining as a means of earning”

It was noted that the respondent expected that the idea of supporting local people needed to be replicated in other locations of Belitung as a model of community education, conservation and tourism development in rural set ups. It was also expected that educational and awareness programs will make difference in this endeavor. The respondent’s expression to this point was as this sentence; *“My deep feeling for kids is that they be in touch with nature directly not just see it on TV or hear stories about the beauty of Belitung if lost. My fear is that the big companies can grab the land restricting local people’s access and share in the course of development”*.

Bukit Peramun, the Digital Forest

The Bukit Peramun is another forest conservation site with immense potential of eco- centric tourism in Belitung. The forest is in the Peramun hill of Belitung which is also a trekking and hiking route. There are different flora and fauna in the forest and visitors can learn about the name, scientific name, Latin names and other information about the trees. This forest was different from other forest as it was connected to smartphones to create a location-based holographic audio-visual activity. The respondent of the interview appeared to be one of the activists and mastermind behind this forest and its projects. According to the respondent, five digital applications for promotion of eco-tourism were planned to be launched by 2020. So far Bukit Peramun has launched three mobile application programs. The names of applications are; i) Virtual Zoo, Bukit Peramun, ii) Kepo Peramun and, iii) Peramun Hill virtual Guide. The visitor could download these applications from Google Play store before starting the tour of the forest. These are interactive activities which allows the visitors to go around the forest and learn about any tree and animal they interested with the use of the application in real life scenario. According to the respondent, most of the people did not read description or information written in the paper or on the board. Use of such mobile application was supposed to increase visitor’s

interest and can be more effective in learning processes enabling promotion of eco-tourism. The motive of development of these digital applications are to educate the people about the importance of conservation of forest and animals. The respondent's expression stated in words as *"The message we want to convey is the existence of forest is important for mankind. One has to know about the forest, it's trees from where people get food and wood."* Further, the applications provide game-like platform for kids so that they learn about forest conservation and protection of animals in an enjoyable way. Not only for kids, such application can be interesting for everyone. I found this forest as a best example that combines nature with technology. According to the respondent, use of such digital application in tourism was the first and only one of its type in the world.

Bukit Peramun is also a protected area where tourist can watch Tarsius. The difference in this forest from Tarsius Sanctuary is that here Tarsius are left on their natural habitat whereas in Tarsius Sanctuary, they are kept within a protected boundary. According to the respondent, leaving Tarsius on its natural habitat is also considering as a plus point of this Forest. The other activities in the forest includes involvement of local people to guide the tourist and work as guard to go around for patrolling. Many of these people were previous tin mining works. From my visit, I could learn that Bukit Peramun is getting more attention of the government as well as Indonesians.

These were some of the identified popular tourist sites in Belitung focusing on eco-centric tourism. Besides these spots, there are rooms to identify other sites that remains to be explored. In addition, one of the tourist attractions I could identify was walking around the Mangrove plants. Mangroves are special plant found around the sea. They also protect the land from big waves of sea. An organization called GAPABEL is a formed by group of environmental enthusiast and nature conservationist who provided conservation-based tourism packages such as including Mangrove related activities, tours to destinations of geo parks rather than other general activities that are provided by most travel agency. From the group discussion with members of GAPABEL, their main activities were found to be walking along mangrove covered lane and canoeing through the canals covered by mangroves. GAPABEL has been planting new mangrove plants in many areas to promote such tourism activities. This activity was also found in some of the tourism packages in Belitung (Travelingyuk, 2020).

4.2.3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Belitung is in starting phase of tourism. The national strategy for tourism development has recently prioritized tourism in Belitung. In 2011, National Tourism Strategy Zone (NTSZ) had policies to make Belitung a tourism destination. Similarly, in 2016 Tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ) further emphasized development of tourism in Belitung. According to Hidayat (2019), the local, regional and National government has been trying to make Belitung as international and world class tourist destination. This also mean that there is going to be more Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and big companies investing in Belitung. The areas of Tanjung Kelayan and Keciput village in Belitung were more developed infrastructurally and these areas are the prime locations focused in NTSZ and SEZ. These areas has the most beautiful beaches, Island and traditional villages and thus are part of the project title as “10 New Bali” (R. Hidayat et al., 2019, p.2).

The “10 New Bali” are new tourism destinations in Indonesia. The study done on travel and tourism competitiveness of these 10 destinations show how well they are doing in terms capacities to host tourism. This study primarily focused on aspects such as infrastructure and accommodation. It also provided information on where Belitung stands in current tourism development. This study was based on the indicators of The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI). TTCI are the set of factors that enable the sustainable tourism which, in turn, contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country (Blanke & Chiesa, 2013).

TTCI is used for examining the context of tourism in different parts of the world. Similarly, the indicators have also been used to investigate context of the 10 new SEZs in Indonesia (C. Hidayat, 2018). According to this report of TTCI, Belitung stood in second lowest position among the 10 regions in term of business environment. It stands somewhere in the middle in terms of environmental sustainability, and safety and security. Belitung is little above average in terms of communication, technology and policy that prioritize travel and tourism. However, it ranks in 7th position for air transport and infrastructure. The overall comparison shows that Belitung lies on the 7th position among the 10 SEZs. This result shows a lot is needed to be done in improving tourism development in Belitung especially in infrastructure sector and business environment sector (Blanke & Chiesa, 2013).

According to Liu (2003), capacity of the tourism industry is determined by the capacity of the weakest components; the bottleneck of tourism. The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) showed that the weakest component in Belitung is the infrastructure capacities and its business environment. Liu also emphasized that the number, quality and size of tourist attractions decides the maximum potential of tourism attracting capacity of a destination. However, infrastructure and amenities determine the actual or effective flow of tourist in a destination (Liu, 2003).

During my initial observation, I found that there were not many multinational chains of hotel and private companies involved in tourism business. One would assume to see these amenities easily in a tourism destination, but they are not seen very vividly in Belitung. Later interviews relieved that the case was not how it looked. As Belitung is in initial stage of tourism development, the vividly and visibility are not very distinct. According to respondents, many of natural attraction sites especially beaches and islands were in control of big business companies. These resources were bought by foreign companies, most of which were from are the United States. According to the regulations of Indonesia, foreign people cannot buy but only do the business. But it was found that even if foreigner couldn't buy lands themselves, they manage to do through trusted local brokers. The respondents said that, by doing so these companies are limiting locals from accessing the resources. Such examples presented by respondent were, when the investors buy beaches, they prohibit the locals from fishing around in the area, they also cut down all the mangrove plant to make the views look more photogenic. Further there are many private islands which are owned by big company as luxurious destinations. When these investors buy lot of land, forest, beaches and islands, they restrict local people in the surrounding resort area. Some of the respondents noted the owners of those resorts saying, *"Don't go there, don't come here, Guests do not want to see locals here"*. Further the respondent in his word added as, *"The local people had to move, move and move backwards"*. One of the respondents face a huge conflict in this regard. A crocodile & turtle conservational Island was forcefully made to shut down by a big investor company. When big hotels and restaurants open, they do not only limit local people, the community becomes just a smaller worker in their business, without having reasonable share of income. Mostly, environmental conservationist and local entrepreneur find this as threat as they find that in Belitung many lands and even offshores are owned by big companies. They believe that in this process local people becomes more marginalized. According to respondents, tourism

might need capital to some extent, but on the other hand it is important to think about ownership of local people in this process. Therefore, I found that, even though FDI and big investment could develop huge infrastructures and it might look like catalyst to boost tourism, but it can have less positive impact if local community and their needs are neglected.

4.2.4 COMMUNITY-FOCUSED TOURISM

In this category of tourism, the communities get involved directly in the tourism development process. In this type of tourism, the major part of benefits is directed for the local community development. Community participation in the tourism planning process is advocated as a way of implementing sustainable tourism (Okazaki, 2008). This approach of tourism is also known as Community Based Tourism (CBT). CBT activities and program are community focused, community owned and community driven. In this kind of tourism projects, tourists have more interaction with the local people and vice versa.

It is also to be noted that a lot of eco-centric tourism can be interlinked with community development. The Geo parks, protected forest discussed above aim to not only protect environment but also contribute local development. Eco-centric tourism activities mostly were initiated by local people and they automatically become part of CBT. Community-focused tourism can have other areas apart from eco-tourism. For examples, cultural tourism activities, locally owned business, business of local products, and cottage and small industries can be part of CBT activities. During my field visit, I could find that there were some of the CBT activities taking place in Belitung. These finding were also consistent with interviews conducted and literature reviews (R. Hidayat et al., 2019). These findings of CBT initiatives and activities are described in examples below.

Homestay Program and Tourism Village

Homestays in villages of Belitung is being developed as a part of tourism business. Tourists can stay in local communities instead of hotels and experience a taste of local life. For promotion of tourism, there is also a tourist village, Keciput where tourists can visit and learn what the original life in Belitung looks like. The Keciput village is considered as an icon of Belitung in this aspect(R. Hidayat et al., 2019, p.2). This village is near to the prime tourist location of Belitung; the Tanjung Kelayan beach. Keciput is also ideal local for Island hopping.

Study of Local Tourism Development and Socio-Economic Change in Belitung says a lot about community-based tourism in Belitung and in Keciput village. People in this village are mostly fishermen who owned private boats used for fishing. Later with gradual increase in tourism they also used the boat as transportation means for tourist. Additionally, the harvested fish started being used as raw material for different products in community-based small industries. This community of fishermen, initiated homestay business which later grew into a permanent business. Now the community has activities such as homestay, selling of crafty souvenirs, local food and snacks businesses. These activities have supported the tourism inflow in this village. Now there are 35 homestays in Keciput village alone. These are Non-permanent and Semi-permanent houses with traditional architecture that maintain the cultural values of Belitung. The village is said to been changed in terms of social and economic aspects after community tourism began. Community's lifestyle was seen to be improving which was specially noticed with villagers being able to afford two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicle (R. Hidayat et al., 2019). This village is also listed in 'Traveloka' which is a very famous online Indonesian Travel Application. (Nugroho, Bakar, & Ali, 2017).

Local Business and Enterprises for Tourism

Development of tourism industry further provided the platform to flourish local business and enterprises to meet the need of tourists. According to Hidayat (2019), the national and local governments have prioritized to focus on tourism related activities in Belitung, which easily permits and provide license for local people to do business. The provincial government's policy has been to wave the tax payment; if the local don't get profit from the business. This policy is also made towards making local people more involved in tourism related business. There are some special products unique to Belitung and so there is also emerging local initiated enterprises. Based on study of Local Tourism Development and Socio-Economic Change in Belitung (2019), there are following Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These enterprises are scattered and spread around Tanjung Kelayan and Tanjung Baru settlement of Belitung (R. Hidayat et al., 2019).

Table 4: Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises in Belitung, 2019

Types of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	Number
Workshops on Tourism and Business	2
Production of handicrafts from paper sheets	2
Production of brooms handicrafts	2
Production of charcoal	1
Production of chicken floss	2
Production of sea-shell items	1
Production of Cassava Chips	1
Production of fish chips and crackers	14
Production of fish cakes	3
Production of woven bags	1
Production of woven hats	4
Production of crispy food	1
Production of peanuts chips	1
Production of banana chips	1
Convenience Stores	34
Restaurants	5

Source: (R. Hidayat et al., 2019)

Most of these MSME's are grocery store, food stalls and products based on fish such as fish crackers and fish cakes. As Fish is easily obtained, it is used as a main ingredient in many products. Apart from these enterprises, local Coffees are the specialty of this region. Therefore, there are many coffee shops seen around Belitung selling local and traditional coffees.

One of the studies conducted near Tanjung Kelayang suggests that tourism development have an impact on the livelihoods of the local people and has led to a new tourism-based economy and opportunities which were previously handful. Now, with the existence of tourism, the local community had become motivated to open their own small business such as making souvenirs, snacks, crackers, and so on (R. Hidayat et al., 2019; Latunreng & Wibowo, 2018). The respondent in the interview also pointed told that the local communities are trying to gain more

control over their surroundings and resources by getting involved in the MSME's. During my interaction with locals of Belitung, they expressed that several small and medium industry are booming with their participation in businesses. However, I observed that attractions for tourists such as cafes, restaurants, and souvenir shops where tourists could buy the local products were still limited, and even if they were available, it was seen only in some particular places.

5. ANALYSIS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND ITS' SUSTAINABILITY

The analysis primarily is based on literature reviews, interaction with local people and critical reviews of the findings through field observations and interactions with respondents.

“We will become the worker of tourism but not the owner, I want us to be owner of it”. This was heard from a respondent while collecting data about their perception on future of tourism in Belitung. The other respondent from travel agency said; *“Even if locals don’t have proper education, they are excited to work in tourism”*. These views reveal that the local people wanted to be benefitted from tourism industry. However, in the process of tourism development there were concerns of locals expressed as; *“The fear is that, what if we become marginalized in the process.”*

The following chapter provides sustainability analysis and discussion of each tourism activities that were listed in empirical section. Further a wholistic analysis is done and finally put into a model. This model has been achieved from the conceptual framework discussed in Chapter 3 and through analysis from the findings of empirical data.

5.1 BLUE TOURISM ANALYSIS

It was found that the tourism activities surrounding the sea, beaches and Islands were maximum in number in compared to other activities in Belitung. It was also identified that 93% tourist visiting Belitung was to see the white sand, beaches, large granite rocks and Islands (Valeriani & Putri, 2020). This concept was identified as Blue tourism concept. The beautiful nature surrounding the sea and its resources are the pull factor of Belitung and is main contributor for attracting majority of tourists. These resources are also the basis of mainstream form of tourism in Belitung. Mainstream tourism is holiday based, recreational tourism which are also known as conventional and mass tourism. Blue tourism is a similar example of mass tourism. According to the study by Valeriani and Wardhani (2015), Blue tourism is an important asset in Belitung where the tourism potentials and opportunities such opportunities related to economic growth and long-term employments are based on. Further, it can also contribute to balance of ecology and creation of community based economic growth. Therefore, the study argues that Blue

tourism can also be considered as part of eco-tourism or alternative tourism strategy (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). On the other hand, though the Blue tourism is contributing to economic of locals to some degree, my findings suggest that, few of the activities involving sea, beaches and islands caused pollution and harm to marine ecology. For instance, it was identified from an interview that tourist wanted to see the star fishes and therefore tried to pick them up from the sea. Star fish normally cannot survive few minutes after it is taken out from water. As a result, this activity caused number of star fishes to decrease to a large extent. Now the starfishes are taken to a protect region of sea where there are no tourists. Moreover, Sea based tourism can be seasonal. During monsoon season, Belitung experiences periodic rainfall and the sea water can turn muddy and not as clear or blue as before. These drawbacks can question the sustainability of blue tourism. Therefore, my analysis suggests that, the blue tourism-based activities are seen to contribute to increase the number of tourists but might not contribute to overall sustainability of tourism industry and conservation of natural eco system.

Blue tourism when combined with other alternative tourism approaches, it could bring more positive outcomes. Similar is the example of Nusa Lembongan Island in Bali Indonesia. Belitung has been promoted as one of the “10 new Bali” destinations in Indonesia. Therefore, it is advantageous to learn how Bali adopted tourism during its initial stage. During 1990s, when Bali was still developing new ways of tourism strategies, Nusa Lembongan adopted an approach of combining the water tourism with community-based tourism. Within Nusa Lembongan Island there is Desa Jungut Batu village where the cruise “Bali Hail” used to bring passengers from central Bali and other areas to this location. The cruise entered in the bay of the village at around 11am and leaved at 3pm. Passengers (usually around 200) stay in the village for approximately 4 hours. During these 4 hours, they get involved in different activities. Water based activities were swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, submarines ride, coral reef viewing tour and many more. Village tour of Desa Jungut Batu offered visitors an opportunity to see a Balinese village. There were also activities such as observation and involvement in seaweed farming, tour of temples, fabric weaving demonstrations, boat making, and coconut harvesting. The villagers and cruise company both benefited from this approach. Initiative was also taken by the boat and cruise companies to involve villagers in activities such as planting trees, waste management, training on craft production and coral reef protection (Long & Wall, 1996).

The concept as such described above can be copied in Belitung as well. This tourism promotion activity in Bali is somehow similar to Island hopping activity of Belitung, but the island hopping does not comprise many community-based activities in Belitung. In the islands that the boat takes tourist in Island hopping activity, it was found that there few restaurants and food stalls owned by the locals, but products such as local crafts and fabric, local cultural product or events that attract were not seen. One of respondents gave the idea of involving tourist in pepper plantation and harvesting. Similarly, Belitung has tradition of boat making. The boats are completely made up of woods and the process of boat making can be exiting for tourists to observe. Further study suggests that tourist are interested in seeing more of historical heritage and cultural of Belitung (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). Such varied tourism activities can attract and bring more tourist. This combination of blue tourism concept with community-focused tourism is not vividly seen in Belitung, but it can be learnt from other successful tourist destinations such as Nusa Lembogan.

Blue Tourism is an important concept for Belitung especially in terms of bringing more visitors. In order to develop sustainable tourism industry, finding enough tourists to fill capacities is extremely important since tourist demand usually fluctuates more frequently and abruptly than tourist resources (Liu, 2003). In this aspect the concept of Blue Tourism can be a better option. In order to do it more socially and environmentally acceptable manner it needs to be collaborated with community-focused and ecologically sustainable tourism approaches.

5.2 ECO- CENTRIC TOURISM ANALYSIS

Belitung had been a Tin mining island for long time and explored its onshore areas. Tin mining has received a lot of criticism for its environmental concerns. It was informed from the respondents that 90% of river water was polluted. Mining also destroyed some of lands and vegetations. Further, it also hampered the ecosystem of sea and marine life. Most of the respondents from interview were against exploring tin in the offshore region of Belitung and they did not want to start a new tin mining era. Respondents also believed that tourism can certainly be more sustainable approach for development than tin mining. Tourism in general is considered a better opinion for Belitung especially eco-centric tourism, in terms of environmental sustainability. There were reasonable number of activities in Belitung that were based on environmental protection. The site such as Open Pit of previous tin mining area has been an

excellent example for illustrating how such sites can be restored and developed into a green vegetation area and tourist destination. However, it was noticed that these locations had difficulties in attracting reasonable number of tourists. It was observed that most tourist visited to commercial areas and beach locations of Belitung. Even the tour packages had concentrated their services on beaches, islands and water-based programs, resulting low number of visitors in eco-centric destinations. The respondents also acknowledged that the eco-centric tourism approach was challenging and could be less tempting than commercial tourism. A book by Martin Mowforth and Ian Munt, *Tourism and Sustainability: New Tourism in third world* mentions that promoting locally rooted, more equitable and environmentally responsive forms of tourism in the past twenty years has been painfully slow. (M. Mowforth & Munt, 2015).

The problems arising from conventional tourism such as pollution, land degradation, poor management and degradation of natural resources have resulted the ideas of eco-centric tourism to evolve. Therefore, sustaining resources base on which tourism depends must be the central focus of any discussion surrounding sustainable tourism development (McKercher, 1993). Nevertheless, there have been many ideas from scholars relating to sustainability factor from eco-tourism. Questions have been raised at times, if ecotourism is really a path to sustainability.

According to Liu (2003), many academics and practitioners enthusiastically always promote ideas of eco-centric tourism as an 'ideal' form of tourism. These forms are also known as alternative tourism, appropriate tourism, soft tourism, responsible tourism, low-impact tourism, and ecotourism as the means of achieving sustainability in tourism development. Liu also says that, as sustainability has its origin in environmentalism, many researchers show a kind of 'nature worship' phenomenon and are somewhat reluctant to change and adapt to modern tourism strategies (Liu, 2003). However, close examination shows that these 'sustainable forms' of tourism are 'far from fulfilling their promise' to transform the way in which modern, conventional tourism is conducted (Liu, 2003, p.470). Most importantly, some scholars believe that alternative forms of tourism cannot offer a realistic general model for tourism development. For instance, even in the high profile 'eco-tourism destinations', like Costa Rica, Kenya and Thailand, eco-tourism is negligible in size and is directly dependent upon the existence of well-developed mass-tourism sectors (D. Weaver, 1998). This pattern was also visible in Geo parks, forest and natural tourist attraction in Belitung. The capacity of appealing more visitors were

often found to be relatively low in case of eco-tourism in Belitung and its dependency to mass or conventional tourism also existed.

Liu described that; eco-tourism is mostly a part of “Marketing Strategies” to make sound tourism more sustainable than in the practice. According to him eco-tourism is mainly promoted not for the purposes of resource conservation, but for marketing reasons. It is often an attempt by destinations to diversify their tourism products, where a mass tourism industry is already in existence, to attract more tourists or increase their length of stay (Liu, 2003, p. 471). Johnston (2000) had further mentioned that through exploitation, dislocation and desecration, eco-tourism is arguably the prime force today threatening indigenous homelands and cultures. This might be a situation on some tourist destinations if not everywhere (Johnston, 2000). In case of Belitung, Tarsius was kept in a protected area in one forest while in the next, it was left in its own natural habitat. The manager of the later forest did not agree the concept of former forest manager. Of the two forest managers, the later believed putting Tarsius in limited area would be a threat to the Tarsius species.

While eco- tourism can be a better approach to protect the nature and natural resources, it can have few limitations as well. The sustainability in tourism must ensure a good flow of tourist in the host community. Therefore, Butler (1998) highlights saying; “what we really need in seeking sustainability is not to develop small-scale tourism in undamaged areas, but to repair the damage caused by earlier tourism initiatives”. He further explains in his words as; “more fundamentally our task is to develop conventional mass tourism sustainably and supplement it with all sorts of alternative forms of tourism where and when appropriate” (Butler, 1998). In this case, eco-centric tourism can play more of a complementary role. Sustainability in Tourism is a said to be macro problem, to which eco-tourism can only be a micro solution (Wheeller, 1991).

5.3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

As described in the empirical section, the development of Infrastructure in Belitung is been growing gradually. As Belitung only started focusing into tourism after 2011, these developments are in its initial stage. Sometimes, infrastructure development can have negative impact on environmental and socio-economic sustainability. Firstly, infrastructure development and construction can harm or destruct natural resources. Similarly, the Investment companies when they make hotels or resorts, can damage the natural resources and wildlife habitat. As a

part of infrastructure development, deforestation and threatening of wildlife often occurs. Also, Foreign as well as national investments are known to collect more profit for themselves rather than benefiting the communities. This is a common problem related to infrastructure development in most tourists' destinations around the world.

Study on tourism, especially of developing countries often put forward the idea of social inequality arising from tourism development. While enhancing tourism sector increases more businesses, entrepreneurships, infrastructural development, foreign direct investments in host communities, it also creates economic disparity in the society. The wealth is mostly accumulated by big companies, local & international elites, leaving community people hardly benefitted from it. Like the respondent said, "*they will just become the worker, never the owner*". This whole process marginalizes the poor people, local community, put them in a loop which will be difficult to break. This can create more and more inequality in the society.

According to the respondents, 60% land of major tourism destinations in Belitung like Tanjung Tinggi, Tanjung Palanyang have already been owned by Private companies, which are mostly investors from overseas. Investor can easily come and grab resources. This situation creates difficulties in development of community and difficulties in raising the welfare of people. Further the respondent added if people continue to support such culture "*the Pride and Dignity will be gone*". The fear they have is that in few years' time (likely in 2 or 3 or 5 years), they might not be able to walk in beach freely or fisherman would not be able to do fishing in some areas anymore. It will eventually compel the local people to move away for giving space to build new infrastructure. This is also explained by Bianchi (2004), saying that economic globalization together with attempts by the government can enhance infrastructure development, mobile investment and large tourism corporation, but at the expense of local suppliers, small firms and workers and further entrenches local community's role in as peripheral web of corporate production (Bianchi, 2004).

For infrastructure development to be more socially and environmentally friendly, the approach of Public Private Partnership (PPP) can be applied. This concept has been applied in successful tourism destinations of which Bali is an example. In Bali, local community participated in development of infrastructure building necessary for tourism. This initiative enhanced development of infrastructure with strong partnership of local community.

5.4 COMMUNITY-FOCUSED TOURISM ANALYSIS

Community is a prime focus of all developmental plans, therefore in tourism as well community is a chief stakeholder. It is necessary that local community are primary beneficiaries from the tourism. The rationale behind sustainable tourism development rests on the assurance of renewable economic, social and cultural benefit to the community (Richards & Hall, 2003). When the locals are actively involved in tourism, community is benefited from it. However, many researchers, have doubted the possibility of implementing community participation. Taylor has criticized that ‘communitarianism’ as romanticism that is not rooted in reality, rather participatory approach is time-consuming (Taylor, 1995).

One of the respondents from my interview said that when the tin mining operating company stopped its operation in Belitung, the company had provided compensation money to the locals. The respondent expressed that locals were unaware of how to properly utilize the money. People in Belitung made new houses, bought new cars and motorbikes, and didn’t quite invest in sustainable livelihood activities. But later when they had to pay tax for their expense, they realized they should have better invested on other income generating activities. They lacked understanding on sustainable livelihood. Most of the respondents believed that the local community must have good knowledge on advantages and disadvantages of tourism so that they can fully be involved in tourism industry.

Further, in all tourist destinations, it was seen that there were less participation of women and work force were mostly dominated by men. Though it is still early to determine the outcome of community participation in Belitung, lower participation of women was vividly visible. Even all the respondents for this study were men. All the guides in tourist locations were men not a single woman. The fishing and boating were done by men, the travel agencies were run by men and entrepreneurs and conservationist were men too. Only in some restaurants and food stalls there were women. Therefore, mostly in cooking-based jobs more women participation was identified. As presented in empirical finding section, there are community- focused activities such as small-scale food businesses. In this type of activities women participation could be observed. This situation is not only of Belitung but in most tourist destinations. When analyzing sustainability of community-focused tourism, gender equality should also be considered (Aynalem et al., 2016).

Community-focused tourism is considered as principal factor for sustainable tourism and development of tourism destination. According to Hidayat (2019), who studied on the local community-focused tourism development in Belitung identifies that balance and coordination among the local actor are important for tourism development. When analyzed the findings from Keciput Village of Belitung, local participation has enhanced community-based tourism activity. It was seen that there were different levels of participation; from local fisherman, tourism managers, homestay managers as well as local government consisting staffs of Keciput village and Belitung regency. They were also identified as the agents of social change contributing to community focused-tourism development. All stakeholders played their respective roles in the endeavor. As an example, the fishermen had used their boats to transport tourists into the village. They also brought fish to use as raw material for Micro, Small and Medium enterprises. There were indigenous people who preserved the indigenous culture of the village and provided homestays. The tourism industry managers provided safety and cleanliness measure of the places. The staffs in the local government bodies played the role of controlling and accommodating the interest of the community as well as development of tourism. Also, the Tourism Office of Belitung played an important role to manage and develop tourism in Belitung Regency and facilitated local community people who were interested in regional tourism activities (R. Hidayat et al., 2019).

However, from the empirical findings, it can be identified that there was an unequal development of community-focused tourism in Belitung. Activities that take place in community such as Homestays were concentrated mostly in Keciput village and surrounding areas. Other potential areas where tourism involving local community could be developed are not well explored.

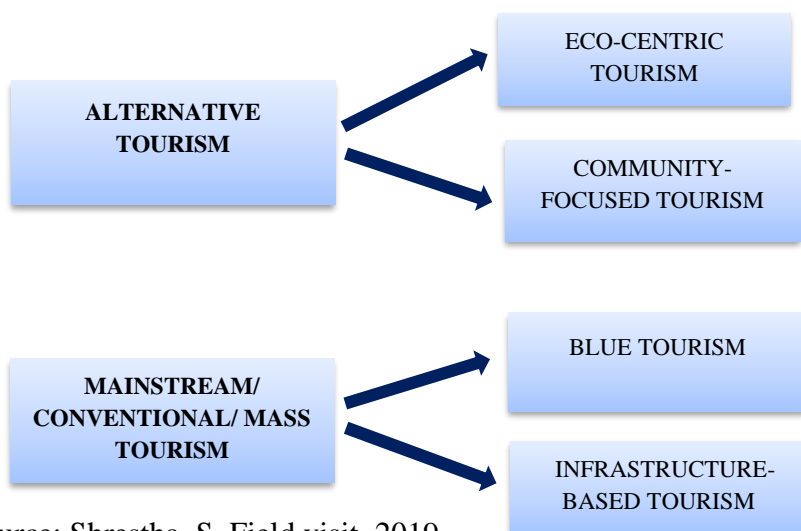
5.5 LOOKING ACROSS DIFFERENT STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

As mentioned previously in this study, I have identified four categories of tourism activities in Belitung described in empirical section and in preceding discussions. These activities can be further classified into two broad groups namely: Alternative Tourism and Mainstream Tourism or Conventional/ Mass Tourism.

Alternative Tourism: Alternative tourism is tourism that offers a different way of traveling. Alternative tourism is related to sustainable tourism, environmental tourism, community-based tourism and cultural tourism. Developing alternative tourism involves awareness and responsibility towards stakeholders (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). According to the analysis made in this study, eco-centric and community-focused tourism fall under this category. These concept of tourism are relatively new and have emerged as a response to mitigate the consequences caused by conventional and holiday-based tourism.

Mainstream Tourism: Mainstream tourism or conventional tourism is a tourist-focused tourism approach. It is determined by a person’s interest to travel a certain location. Holiday, theme park and amusement park are based on such tourism approach. Mainstream tourism tries to invite more and more tourist in the destination. It has been also identified as mass tourism as it results in mass exchanges of tourism activities and mass consumption. According to Jaunter (2017), conventional travel is a kind of tourism centered more on the tourist doing the traveling, whereas alternative travel, usually refers to a journey where the focus is on the destination and the traveler(s) get involved, either physically, educationally, or consciously (Jaunter, 2017). From my analysis, Blue tourism concept and infrastructure-based tourism development aim to increase the inflow of tourist in Belitung. Therefore, I have categorized them as components of Mainstream and conventional tourism.

Figure 9: Classification of Alternative and Mainstream Tourism

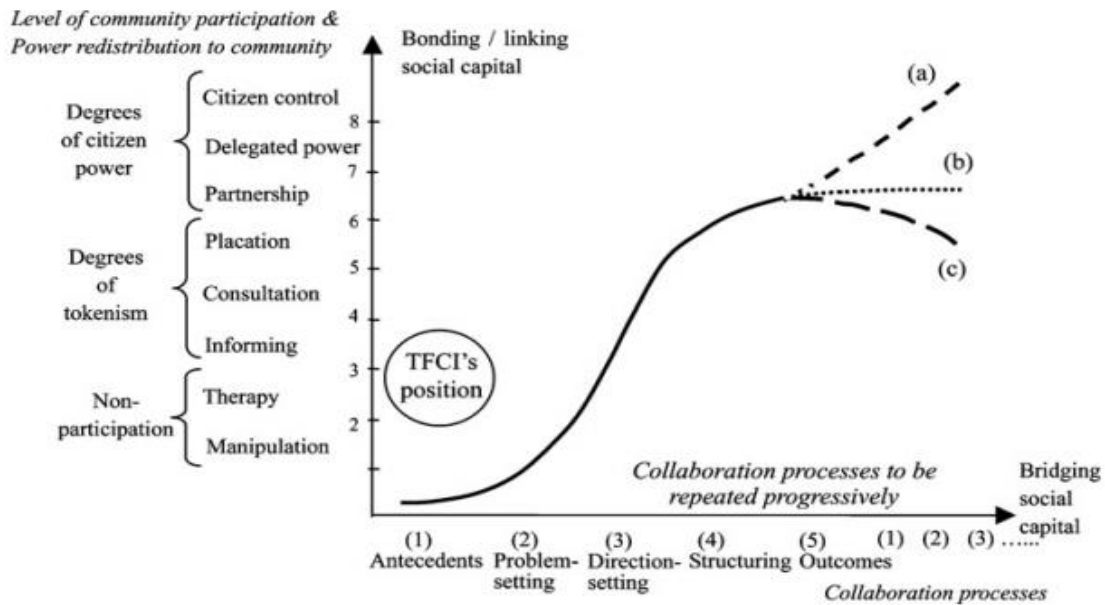


Source: Shrestha. S, Field visit, 2019

Alternative tourism aims for more balanced environmental and socio economy system in the tourism destination. It has often been identified as approach to create sustainable tourism and sustainable development. But from analysis section I identified that it can also have some drawbacks, which is mainly the difficulty to attract more tourists. Alternative tourism might need to depend on mainstream tourism specially to continue the flow of tourist. Only focusing on Alternative tourism could be an idealistic phenomenon. As scholars suggest the key to achieve sustainable tourism is to insert sustainability conditions and approach in mainstream tourism as well rather than only relaying for sustainability from alternative forms (Liu, 2003; D. B. Weaver, 2006) .

The movie “Lasker Pelangi”/ “Rainbow Troops” had highlighted that due to the presence of tin mining company in Belitung, people’s imagination to look outside the box had been limited. It also referred tin mining company as a wall that blocked the hopes and opportunities. Now, after the large-scale tin mining era has ended, establishing and continuing the mainstream tourism only will be like repeating the same thing again. This will make people just the worker and again limit their imagination. The results from such tourism approach might be the same as tin mining though these are two different cases. If community participation is negated, repeating such patterns might not contribute to either environment or socio-economic sustainability. When local people want to be the owner of tourism not just the worker, we need to understand that local ownership is very important. Community participation in the tourism planning process must be advocated as a way of implementing sustainable tourism. Study by Etsuko Okazaki on Community-Based Tourism presented a model suggesting correlation of tourism and local participation. This model by Okazaki was based on “A Ladder of Citizen Participation” by Arnstein (1969). Findings of this model was also based on study on “Developing an Evolutionary Tourism” by Selin and Chavez (1995) (Arnstein, 1969; Okazaki, 2008; Selin & Chavez, 1995).

Figure 10: A Model of Community-Based Tourism Facilitating Conditions and Steps, 2008



Source: (Okazaki, 2008)

The model suggests that as the degree of participation increase, the role of local people in development process also accelerates. When the participation moves upward from Non - participation to degree of participation and finally to citizen power, the empowerment and citizen's control are increased (Arnstein, 1969; Okazaki, 2008; Selin & Chavez, 1995).

According to Connell (1997), participation is 'not only about achieving the more efficient and more equitable distribution of material resources, it is also about the sharing of knowledge and the transformation of the process of learning itself in the service of people's self-development'(Connell, 1997). Arnstein (1969) states that the purpose of participation is power redistribution, thereby enabling society to fairly redistribute benefits and costs (Arnstein, 1969). In the context of tourism planning, Haywood (1988), defines community participation as 'a process of involving all stakeholders (local government officials, local citizens, architects, developers, business-people, and planners) in such way that decision-making is shared' (Haywood, 1988; Okazaki, 2008, p511). Even though some researchers have doubted the possibility of implementing community participation, it is still considered the best way for sustainability for following reasons:

First, local issues have a direct influence on the tourist experience: a backlash by the locals results in hostile behavior towards tourists. Thus, tourist environments should be created in harmony with the social climate, where residents will benefit from tourism and not become the victims (Pigram & Wahab, 2005).

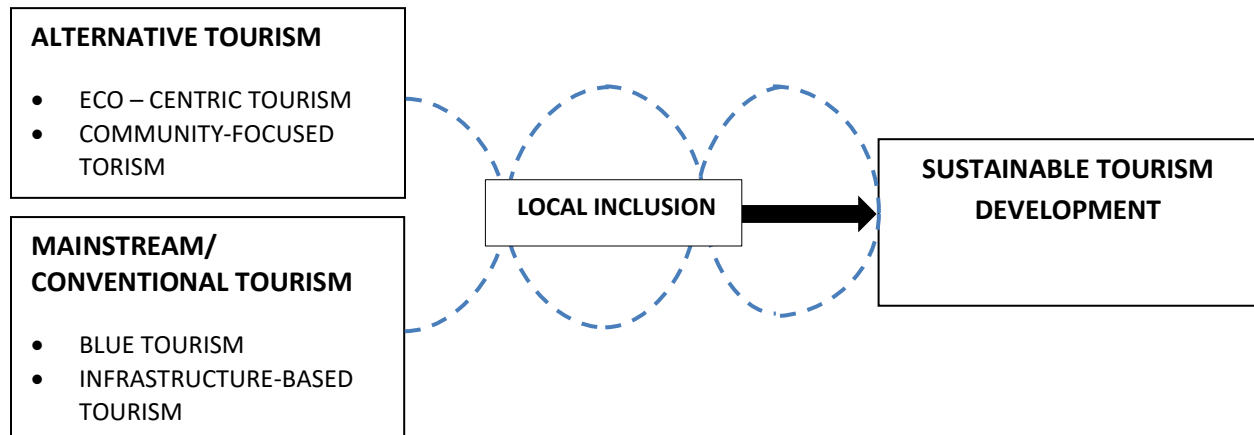
Second, the image of tourism is based on the assets of the local community, including not only the local people but also the natural environment, infrastructure, facilities and special events or festivals; therefore, the cooperation of the host community is essential to access and develop these assets appropriately (P. Murphy, 1985).

Third, public involvement functions as a driving force to protect the community's natural environment and culture as tourism products, while simultaneously encouraging greater tourism-related income.

Fourth, because the tourism industry is sensitive to both internal and external forces, many tourism development plans are often only partially implemented or not at all (Baud-Bovy, 1982). Moreover, even those that are fully implemented are not always sustainable. Thus, to increase the feasibility and longevity of projects, all plans should be linked with the overall socioeconomic development of the community.

The analysis put forward by Okazaki (2008), helps to understand why the local participation is the most important aspect for a decent tourism development (Okazaki, 2008). Therefore, I have identified that if local inclusion is ensured in all forms of tourism, sustainability in tourism could be achieved which can contribute to sustainable development. Figure 11 is the model representation of this concept.

Figure 11: Model Representing Approach for Sustainable Tourism Development



Source: Shrestha. S, Field Visit, 2019

Local community inclusion is the key to ensure the sustainability of tourism activities. People can act as agent of change. Hidayat (2019) in his words states; ‘The agent or actor of change are concrete people in continuous flow of action in the world of tourism’ (R. Hidayat et al., 2019, p. 6). He further explains that if the participation increases, it creates empowerment and ownership of the community. Gradually, this social practice of tourism if carried out continuously to establish a repetition, it will soon become new routine for community. The relationship between the different tourism stakeholders who are grounded in community values and the system they create will eventually continue to legitimize the new structure of Tourism (R. Hidayat et al., 2019, pp 7-8). This is how Belitung can transition from old economic system to new tourism-based economy. The Island needs to consider applying sustainability conditions not only to alternative forms but also to mainstream forms of tourism in tourism industry development strategies.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

6.1 SUMMARY

The operation of state-owned tin mining enterprise had closed its operations in Belitung Island since 1997, and thereafter it has opened opportunities for new forms of economic activities to develop. There are several livelihood activities such as fishing, farming and tourism. Among these, tourism is one activity that has been thriving in recent years. The natural beauty of Belitung Island has been gradually gaining popularity among national and international tourism market. An award-winning novel which was later converted into movie in 2008, “Lasker Pelangi” or “The Rainbow Troops” has presented beauty of Belitung in the story which resulted increased number of tourists visiting this Island. Belitung, which was previously identified as tin mining spot, now got a new identity as a tourism destination after the movie. The government has identified Belitung as a Special zone of tourism, and included tourism strategies and policies in the developmental plans (Latunreng & Wibowo, 2018). Belitung has also been promoted as one of the “10 New Bail” tourist destinations.

In current years the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Bangka-Belitung province has been in increasing trend as revealed by Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of the Province. The findings suggested that the prioritization of tourism is expected to further increase GRDP in this province (Oktaviana & Amalia, 2018). However, it was analyzed that there is a bottleneck scenario regarding carrying capacity of tourists in Belitung which must be addressed. The findings have suggested that, there is more potential than the outcome or result in Belitung tourism industry (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015). According to research of Travel and Tourism Competitive Index (TTCI), Belitung is far behind in terms of physical facilities to host tourism. It ranked in 7th place among other 10 Special Tourism Economic Zone (SEZ) in Indonesia (Blanke & Chiesa, 2013). It was also observed that tourist attractions were scattered and unequally developed in Belitung.

Nevertheless, in Bangka- Belitung province, it is seen that Belitung is a step ahead than Bangka in case of tourism. A study suggests that Bangka island is inspired from Belitung, and they also want to move in the same direction in tourism (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). The same study indicated that the development of tourism in the province was more concentrated in Belitung Island than Bangka. Bangka is still concentrated mostly in tin mining activities. The study further

explains that the tin mining has caused pollution in Bangka, and, the tin commodity is currently not profitable as the cost of tin mining is higher. Rather than tin, Bangka can have economic benefits from tourism, pepper and clove farming. More than that the cost of land degradation, pollution, social conflict, decline of health and quality of life are concerns of many Bangka people. In Bangka, the study indicated that the government and the local people are yet to realize the potential of a sustainable source for regional income. Also, the government's coordination and environmental conservation of Bangka is a sharp contrast to that of Belitung (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). As the future of Belitung seems to be highly dependent on the strategies of tourism development, these strategies if become successful in Belitung, it can also be helpful and applicable in Bangka.

Tourism related several activities have been increasing in Belitung in recent years. Based on my analysis, the tourism activities were of four categories namely; Eco-centric tourism, Community-focused tourism, Blue Tourism, and Infrastructure-Based tourism. It was seen that there was rising influence of big companies and FDIs in Belitung, which also created conflict among local community. Further, it has been noticed that there is threat of environmental degradation, and depletion of natural resource. Therefore, sustainability has been a concern for some locals if not all. Consequently, there were emerging entrepreneurs and conservationist in Belitung. There is also a growing realization of the importance of local inclusion, ownership, and long-term growth and progress. People are generally hopeful that tourism would be more sustainable to Belitung than tin mining. They believe that, unlike tin mining, tourism resources wouldn't be depleted, and many generations can depend on it for very long time. Tourism would also have less environmental impacts than mining. To understand the sustainability in tourism, analysis of the different tourism activities in Belitung was done in this study.

The eco-centric tourism and community-based tourism were identified as alternative tourism approaches that has positive impacts to the local community, local economy, social equality, and environment and natural resources. This approach can result in tourism that benefits the community and environment. All forms of sustainable tourism development should result in improvement of the community, economic growth, employment, ecological preservation, poverty reduction, welfare improvement, cultural preservation and empowered community (Firdaus & Endah, 2016). But, Mainstream forms of tourism that highlight the main feature of

Belitung which is the beauty of sea and its surrounding attracts more tourism than alternative forms. Similarly, the hospitality sector and infrastructure development help to manage the tourism industry. The drawback of mainstream tourism is that it can marginalize local people and only benefit big investors, foreign companies and local elites. It can also cause more hazard to environment and natural resources.

The balance between alternative and mainstream tourism will be an ideal situation. For this, if local inclusion, participation and representation of community is achieved in all sectors and level of tourism management, sustainability aspects can be inserted to not just in alternative tourism but also in mainstream tourism. This strategy will help to ensure long term tourism development in Belitung. It is still too early to say whether tourism activities and tourism industry in Belitung is sustainable or not. For now, tourism might be the next better opportunity after the sunset of mining. It can also be taken as a more sustainable approach in term of longevity, sustainable nature resources management and for healthier community participation. It is important to study more on how to enhance and flourish sustainable tourism in Belitung. As tourism is in its initial stage, with proper planning, Belitung has an opportunity to develop strategies on sustainable tourism development. Beside tourism, there are other opportunities in Belitung such as the opportunity of planting palm oil, fishing and other mining activities. But these can be taken as complementary economic activities. In my study I have tried to figure out the appropriate strategies and approaches as a model for Belitung, where community empowerment is ensured. This has been the main outcome analysis of my study, which is based on the conceptual framework that combines theories and concepts of sustainable tourism development.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to periodically examine the tourism in Belitung, and the implication of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) policies. There needs to be more studies on how to achieve sustainable tourism outcomes. Further, the role of stakeholder needs to be strengthened and it should be tried to incorporate local citizen's control and power regarding tourism activities, management, planning and policy making. The educational sector of Belitung should focus itself in prioritizing tourism-based education to generate more skilled manpower to function in tourism industry. Additionally, research and studies on tourism and overall sustainability must be prioritized. It is

comprehensible that the study on tourism development in Belitung can be beneficial primarily for Belitung and for other potential tourism destinations as guidelines.

With existing potentiality of tourism development, the local community should be encouraged in to participate in all aspects of tourism, as some locals were quite skeptical regarding tourism industry and more habituated to work on artisanal tin mining. Mostly, the previous generation who have had lots of experience with mining activities are having difficulty to change their mindset and be open to other economic activities. In such cases education, local awareness and community involvement for tourism development and management are advisable (Valeriani & Wardhani, 2015).

Further, it is necessary ensure quality check of tourism services to meet the requirement of the tourists. Similarly, attention should be paid on well-being of the host community. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and International Labor Organization (ILO) provides certification and standardization that ensures environmental and social performances of activities. Similarly, International Standards Organization (ISO) provides certification such as ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 for quality management. These certification can promote environmental management and can help maintain workers conditions in tourism sector as well (Aynalem et al., 2016). Therefore, these certifications and standards should be implemented in tourism activities in Belitung.

I strongly recommended that the respondents of study who have immense knowledge of eco-tourism, community-based tourism and blue tourism need to share their knowledge with community people regarding the positive as well as negative aspects of tourism. Finally, this thesis opens door for researchers to do more studies to answer questions that have not been covered in this study.

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