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DOI : https://doi.org/10.33373/jtp.v9i1.7242

JURNAL TRIAS POLITIKA

2025, Vol 9. No.1 : 55 – 68

e-ISSN: 2597-7423 / p-ISSN: 2597-7431

Journal Homepage : https://www.journal.unrika.ac.id/index.php/jurnaltriaspolitika

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY IN BINTAN REGENCY

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Abstract: : *Quality of life of the community is an important indicator of well-being. The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between community participation in tourism development and community quality of life in framework of economi cooperation area. Importance of this research is to find out whether the government's efforts to improve the quality of life of the community through tourism have had an impact on the quality of life of the community. This study involved a sample of 354 respondents. The samples were taken from 10 districts within Bintan Regency using multistage random sampling, and data collection was conducted through systematic random sampling methods.After conducting the validity and reliability tests, the results indicated that the research instrument is both valid and reliable. Subsequently, a correlation test was performed using the Pearson Correlation method, which yielded an r-square value of 0.283. The result that show community participation in tourism development has a weak yet positive relationship with the quality of life of the community. The positive relationship indicates that the higher the level of community participation in tourism, the better their quality of life is likely to improve. Based on these results, the conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that the government's efforts to improve the community's economy based on tourism have not been successful even though there is an economic cooperation framework in the Bintan Regency area.*

Keywords : *tourism; participation; bintan; community; quality of life.*

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between tourism and quality of life (QOL) has been extensively discussed in the literature. Many studies have examined the connection between tourism activities and quality of life. Although existing research focuses on how quality of life and well-being should be integrated as key aspects in tourism policies and strategies, the available literature still lacks an integrated and comprehensive approach to incorporating quality of life into tourism decision-making (Berbekova et al., 2023). Tourism academics have explored in detail the contribution of tourism to various aspects of the quality of life of residents in tourism destinations. However, this exploration is limited by the social representations held by the academics regarding tourism (Carneiro & Eusébio, 2011; Moscardo, 2009).

Ganji studied the relationship between tourism development and the tourism-friendly behavior of local residents, with the mediating role of overall quality of life (QOL). The study found that tourism development has a positive relationship with both the quality of life of residents and their tourism-friendly behavior (Ganji et al., 2023). QOL (Quality of Life) partially mediates the relationship between tourism development and tourism-friendly behavior. Additionally, the social and economic impacts of tourism development have a

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Article History :
Received : (26122024)
Revised : (05032025)
Accepted : (02042025)

stronger relationship with the quality of life than the environmental and cultural impacts. Furthermore, the social and environmental impacts of tourism development have a stronger influence on tourism-friendly behavior than the economic impacts.

Dolnicar developed a model that highlights the varying importance of vacations for individuals, with some people considering vacations to be very important for their quality of life (Dolnicar et al., 2013). Uysal (Backer & Weiler, 2018;) Dolnicar found that tourism experiences and activities can significantly affect the overall life satisfaction of tourists and the well-being of residents (Backer & Weiler, 2018; Uysal et al., 2016). Backer also emphasized the role of travel, particularly visiting friends and family, in maintaining or improving quality of life, especially for individuals who are less fortunate in terms of socio-economic status (Backer & Weiler, 2018).

The study by Puczko and Smith states that tourism development enhances the quality of life (Puczkó & Smith, 2011). This study identifies that residents of the Gold Coast strongly agree that the quality of life of the population is linked to the improvement of facilities such as recreation, shopping, and services. Recently, research has shown that infrastructure, through employment opportunities and educational benefits, enhances the quality of life for residents of China and Pakistan.

Tourism development is an effective tool to improve the quality of life of communities in rural areas (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2010; Kanwal et al., 2019; Uysal et al., 2016). When residents feel that the costs of tourism promotion development and the profits gained are not proportional to the expenses incurred, they may become angry and frustrated with tourists. This leads to dissatisfaction among the community, which ultimately results in a decline in tourism (Brown, 2015; Ko & Stewart, 2002; Woo et al., 2015). This explains that the local community's perception of the outcomes of tourism development can influence their level of understanding of quality of life (Mamirkulova et al., 2020). According to research, tourism development carried out by the government without community participation is a dominant factor that influences the negative attitudes of the community toward tourism (Choi & Murray, 2010).

Community Participation in Tourism

There are two forms of local community participation in tourism according to (Su & Wall, 2014) as explained below:

Table 1. Form Of Local Community Participation In Tourism

	Official	Unofficial
Within the tourist area	- Operating small business outlets - Operating restaurants - Employed by Mutianyu tourist area	- Providing transportation services to downtown Huairou
Outside the tourist area	- Running family hotels and restaurants - Running agricultural tourism programs, e.g. local produce picking and selling, fishing and dining.	- Providing transportation services, which are shared with local people in Huairou district

Source: (Su & Wall, 2014)

Improvement of community welfare in the Riau Islands Province (Kepri) is carried out through enhancing investment competitiveness. Increased investment inflows into Kepri bring a multiplier effect, such as the creation of more job opportunities, increased purchasing power of the community, and the revitalization of the regional economy (Sanopaka et al., 2019). urrently, tourism has not yet become a leading sector to support regional development because the economic size of the tourism sector is ranked 10th in its contribution to the economy of the Riau Islands (Kepri). This is reflected in the indicator "Accommodation provision and consumption," with a contribution to the GRDP (Gross Regional Domestic Product) in 2023 of 1.94% of the overall economy of Kepri (Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Kepulauan Riau, 2024.).

The role of tourism in Indonesia's economy, especially in terms of increasing income, has become more pronounced after the weakening of the oil and gas sector. The revenue from the tourism industry plays a very important role in Indonesia's development, particularly in terms of national income, aside from exports (Putra Wijaya & Setyadhi Mustika, 2014).
In line with this, the GRDP (Gross Regional Domestic Product) of Bintan Regency has shown that the tourism sector plays a role in driving the economy and regional development. The contribution of the tourism sector to the economy of Bintan Regency is 4.75%. This is quite significant compared to the other six regions in the Riau Islands. However, the development of tourism has led to disruptions in the fishing communities' activity areas, as the increasing exploitation of coastal land by private parties for resort development has interfered with their livelihood (Ferizone & Prastiyo, 2020).

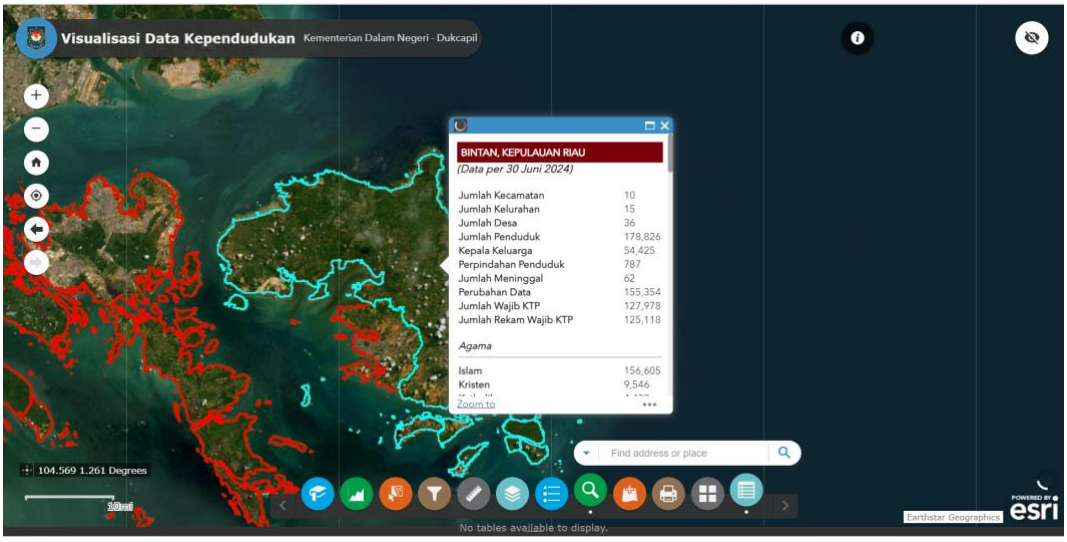

Figure 1. Bintan Regency Maps By GIS
Source: GIS Kemendagri 2024 (https://gis.dukcapil.kemendagri.go.id/peta/)

Scheyvens, 2002 designed several indicators to assess whether a tourism community is economically empowered or not. The indicators considered are: tourism providing sustainable economic benefits for local communities; financial gains being shared among many families and the community; and visible signs of improvement from the money earned (e.g., better water systems, better housing conditions with higher-quality materials, and more children attending school).

Meanwhile, signs of disempowerment include: tourism generating little money for the local community; most of the profits going to government institutions, local elites, and external operators; only a few individuals or households receiving direct financial benefits from tourism; and other communities not having the opportunity to share in the economic benefits due to a lack of capital, experience, and/or skills. Additionally, there are several factors that may hinder communities from participating in the tourism industry, such as culture, government support, and capital (Rachmawatia et al., 2021). Setiyorini has tested eight variables that can influence community participation, namely: Place attachment; Perception of negative consequences; Community involvement; Infrastructure development; Resident satisfaction with the place; Economic benefits; Government support; and Community collaboration (Setiyorini et al., 2019).

Although existing research focuses on how quality of life and well-being should be incorporated as key aspects in tourism policies and strategies, the available literature still lacks an integrated and comprehensive approach to how quality of life can be included in tourism

decision-making (Berbekova et al., 2023).Tourism academics have explored in detail the contribution of tourism to various aspects of the quality of life of residents in a tourism destination. However, this exploration is limited by the social representations held by the academics about tourism (Moscardo, 2009, Ganji et al., 2023).

Ganji (Ganji et al., 2023) The study examines the relationship between tourism development and local residents' behavior, with the mediating role of overall quality of life (QOL), indicating that tourism development has a positive relationship with the quality of life of residents in tourist destinations.

Referring to the description above, the research problem can be formulated as follows: How does the community's participation in tourism development relate to the quality of life of the residents in Bintan Regency?

Hypothesis. Null Hypothesis (Ho): Community participation in tourism is not related to the quality of life of the residents in Bintan Regency. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): Community participation in tourism is related to the quality of life of the residents in Bintan Regency.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted using a quantitative method through the implementation of a survey. The survey instrument was developed based on a construct. The population in this study was the population of Bintan Regency, totaling 165,781 peoples. Sampling was done using the Slovin formula with an assumed error rate (e)² of 0.05. Sample total 354 peoples. The data analysis method used in this study is quantitative analysis with the assistance of SPSS Version 29.

Table 2. Population and Sample

No.	Kecamatan (Subdistrict)	Penduduk (Population)	Percentage (%)	Sampel (400)	Final Sample
1	Teluk Bintan	12.078	7,29	29,1	32
2	Bintan Utasa	23.118	13,94	55,8	59
3	Teluk Sebong	18.962	11,44	45,8	49
4	Seri Kuala Lobam	18.221	10,99	44,0	47
5	Bintan Timur	48.078	29,00	116,0	119
6	Gunung Kijang	15.625	9,43	37,7	41
7	Mantang	4.275	2,58	10,3	13
8	Bintan Pesisir	6.954	4,19	16,8	20
9	Toapaya	13.510	8,15	32,6	35
10	Tambelan	4.960	2,99	12,0	15
Kabupaten Bintan		**165.781**	**100,00**	**400,0**	**430**

The questionnaire consists of two parts: Part A contains sociodemographic variables, and Part B includes constructs related to community participation in tourism and the measurement of the quality of life of the community. The data collection technique used a questionnaire. The respondents of this study were randomly selected from the population of Bintan Regency who were 18 years or older and had lived in Bintan Regency for at least the last 3 years. In total, 354 completed questionnaires were successfully distributed and returned. The data analysis method used in this study is quantitative analysis with the assistance of SPSS Version 29.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Intruement Validity Test

Validity is defined as the measure of how accurately a test performs its intended function. A test can only perform its function accurately if there is something being measured (Norfai, 2021). The validity test using the Pearson correlation method involves correlating each item score with the total item score. The total item score is the sum of all items. If the correlation

value (r calculated) is greater than the r table value, the questionnaire item is considered valid. Conversely, if the r calculated value is smaller than the r table value or if the correlation is negative, the item is considered invalid (Norfai, 2021).

Table 3. Validity Test Result On Variable X

Correlations

		X1	X2	X3	X4	Partisipasi_masyarakat_dalam_pariwisata
X1	Pearson Correlation	1	,439**	,478**	,466**	,788**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,005	,002	,002	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40
X2	Pearson Correlation	,439**	1	,493**	,210	,711**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,005		,001	,192	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40
X3	Pearson Correlation	,478**	,493**	1	,251	,803**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,002	,001		,118	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40
X4	Pearson Correlation	,466**	,210	,251	1	,633**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,002	,192	,118		<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40
Partisipasi_masyarakat_dalam_pariwisata	Pearson Correlation	,788**	,711**	,803**	,633**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001	
	N	40	40	40	40	40

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Result SPSS Test

Table 4. Validity Test Result On Variable Y

Correlations

		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Kualitas_hidip_masyarkat
Y1	Pearson Correlation	1	,428**	,579**	,515**	,451**	,256	,691**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,006	<,001	<,001	,003	,111	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Y2	Pearson Correlation	,428**	1	,496**	,436**	,344*	,383*	,656**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,006		,001	,005	,030	,015	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Y3	Pearson Correlation	,579**	,496**	1	,642**	,743**	,447**	,854**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	,001		<,001	<,001	,004	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Y4	Pearson Correlation	,515**	,436**	,642**	1	,555**	,519**	,816**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	,005	<,001		<,001	<,001	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Y5	Pearson Correlation	,451**	,344*	,743**	,555**	1	,594**	,822**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,003	,030	<,001	<,001		<,001	<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Y6	Pearson Correlation	,256	,383*	,447**	,519**	,594**	1	,715**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,111	,015	,004	<,001	<,001		<,001
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Kualitas_hidip_masyarkat	Pearson Correlation	,691**	,656**	,854**	,816**	,822**	,715**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001	
	N	40	40	40	40	40	40	40

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Result SPSS Test

The results in the table above can be interpreted as follows: Based on the table, all questions were compared with the r table, where the r table value for 40 samples and an alpha value of 0.05 is 0.312. Based on the measurement items, it can be stated that all the questionnaire items are valid.

Instrument Realibility Test

Cronbach's Alpha is used to measure the reliability of an instrument when the scores are not just 1 or 0. It assesses the internal consistency of the items in the questionnaire or scale, indicating how well the items measure the same underlying construct. A higher Cronbach's Alpha value (typically above 0.7) suggests that the instrument has good reliability (Arikunto, 2010).

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	40	100,0
	Excluded[a]	0	,0
	Total	40	100,0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,707	4

Figure 2. Instrument Realibility Test On Variable X

Source: Result SPSS Test

Based on the results of the reliability test conducted, the Cronbach's Alpha value obtained for variable X is 0.707. This means that the value for variable X falls into the reliable category. Meanwhile, the reliability test for variable Y yielded a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.853, which indicates that it is highly reliable. Therefore, it can be concluded that the measurement instruments for both variable X and Y are reliable and trustworthy (Hidayat, 2021; Janna & Herianto, 2021)

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	40	100,0
	Excluded[a]	0	,0
	Total	40	100,0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,853	6

Figure 3. Instrument Realibility Test On Variable Y

Source: Result SPSS Test

Normality Data Test

n order to meet the requirements for performing regression, a normality test was conducted using a descriptive approach as outlined by Dahlan (Norfai, 2021). There are two methods for testing data normality: the analytical method and the descriptive method. In this study, the descriptive method was used with the coefficient of variation parameter. The criterion for normal data is if the coefficient of variation is < 30%, using the following formula:

Coefficient of Variation (CV)= Standard Deviation (SD) / Mean ($\bar{X}$) ×100%

"If the CV value is less than 30%, the data can be considered normal".

Calculation of descriptive statistics Std. Deviation and Mean with SPSS V29 are illustrated in the table below:

Table 5. Normality Data Test Result By Descriftive Varians

Variabel	Nilai Koefisien Varians	Keterangan
X	23,96	Data Berdistribusi Normal
Y	16,70	Data Berdistribusi Normal

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Source: Field Survey Data

Characteristics Of Respondent

In general, the characteristics of the respondents in this study are described as follows:

Table 6. Respondent Characteristics by Gender

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	180	50,8	50,8	50,8
	Female	172	48,6	48,6	99,4
	No. Response	2	,6	,6	100,0
	Total	354	100,0	100,0	

Source: Field Survey Data

From the total 354 respondents, the majority were male, with 180 individuals, or 50.8%. Meanwhile, the female respondents totaled 172 individuals, or 48.6%. Additionally, there were 2 respondents, or 0.6%, who did not provide an answer regarding their gender. Therefore, this data shows that the gender distribution in this study is nearly balanced between males and females, with a slight predominance of male respondents.

Table 7. Respondent Characteristics by Age

Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 - 27 Years Old	45	12,7	12,7	12,7
	28 - 37 Years Old	51	14,4	14,4	27,1
	38 - 47 Years Old	117	33,1	33,1	60,2
	48 - 57 Years Old	82	23,2	23,2	83,3
	> 58 Years Old	55	15,5	15,5	98,9
	No Response	4	1,1	1,1	100,0
	Total	354	100,0	100,0	

Source: Field Survey Data

From the total 354 respondents, the majority were in the age range of 38-47 years, with 117 individuals, or 33.1%, making it the largest age group. The next group was the 48-57 years range, with 82 respondents or 23.2%. Respondents aged 28-37 years totaled 51 individuals or 14.4%, while the 18-27 years group had 45 respondents or 12.7%. Respondents aged over 58 years totaled 55 individuals or 15.5%.

Additionally, there were 4 respondents, or 1.1%, who did not provide information regarding their age. Cumulatively, up to the age of 47, the data includes 60.2% of the total respondents. These findings indicate that the respondents in this study were predominantly individuals in the productive age range, particularly between 38-57 years.

Table 8. Respondent Characteristics by Education Background

Education_background

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Elemntary School	65	18,4	18,4	18,4
	Jonior High School	53	15,0	15,0	33,3
	Senior High School	163	46,0	46,0	79,4
	Academy	11	3,1	3,1	82,5
	Undergraduate	28	7,9	7,9	90,4
	Master	6	1,7	1,7	92,1
	Didn't finish school	27	7,6	7,6	99,7
	No Response	1	,3	,3	100,0
	Total	354	100,0	100,0	

Source: Field Survey Data

From total 354 respondents, the majority had a Senior High School (SMA) education, with 163 individuals or 46.0%. The second largest group was those with an Elementary School

(SD) education, totaling 65 individuals or 18.4%, followed by respondents with a Junior High School (SMP) education, with 53 individuals or 15.0%.

Respondents with an Academy education totaled 11 individuals or 3.1%, while those with an Undergraduate (Sarjana) degree were 28 individuals or 7.9%. The smallest group was those with a Master's (Magister) degree, consisting of only 6 individuals or 1.7%. Additionally, 27 individuals or 7.6% did not finish school.

There was 1 respondent or 0.3% who did not provide an answer regarding their educational background. Cumulatively, up to the Senior High School level, the data covers 79.4% of the total respondents. This indicates that the majority of respondents have completed up to Senior High School as their highest level of education.

Table 9. Respondent Characteristics by Job

Job

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Government Staff	20	5,6	5,6	5,6
	Own Business	24	6,8	6,8	12,4
	Private Employees	78	22,0	22,0	34,5
	Fisherman	18	5,1	5,1	39,5
	Farmer	16	4,5	4,5	44,1
	Other	196	55,4	55,4	99,4
	No Response	2	,6	,6	100,0
	Total	354	100,0	100,0	

Source: Field Survey Data

From the total 354 respondents, the majority, or 196 individuals (55.4%), have occupations categorized as "Other." The second-largest group consists of respondents who work as Private Employees, totaling 78 individuals (22.0%). Respondents with their own business totaled 24 individuals (6.8%), while those working as Government Staff were 20 individuals (5.6%).

Other groups included Fishermen (18 individuals or 5.1%) and Farmers (16 individuals or 4.5%). Additionally, 2 respondents (0.6%) did not provide an answer regarding their occupation (No Response).

Cumulatively, up to the Farmer category, the data covers 44.1% of the total respondents, while the remaining respondents are mostly in the "Other" occupation category. This data indicates that the majority of respondents do not have occupations that fall under the primary categories such as employees, government staff, fishermen, or farmers.

Table 9. Respondent Characteristics by Take Home Pay

Take_home_pay

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1.5 milion rupiah a month	105	29,7	29,7	29,7
	1.5 – 2.5 milion rupiah a month	73	20,6	20,6	50,3
	2.5- 3.5 milion rupiah a month	82	23,2	23,2	73,4
	Lebih dari 3.5 milion rupiah a month	84	23,7	23,7	97,2
	No Response	10	2,8	2,8	100,0
	Total	354	100,0	100,0	

Source: Field Survey Data

From the total 354 respondents, the majority, or 105 individuals (29.7%), fall into the income category of less than 1.5 million rupiah per month, making it the largest group. The next group consists of respondents with an income of more than 3.5 million rupiah per month, totaling 84 individuals (23.7%). Respondents with an income between 2.5 – 3.5 million rupiah per month totaled 82 individuals (23.2%), while those earning between 1.5 – 2.5 million rupiah per month accounted for 73 individuals (20.6%).

There were 10 respondents (2.8%) who did not provide an answer regarding their income (No Response), which is understandable considering that income-related information is sensitive.

Cumulatively, up to an income of 2.5 million rupiah per month, the data includes 50.3% of the total respondents, with the remaining respondents earning higher amounts. This indicates that the majority of respondents have an income below or around 3.5 million rupiah per month.

Descriptive Analysis

Table 10. Descriptive Statistic Analysis Result

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Take_part_in_ownership_of_tourism_enterprise_management	354	4	1	5	3,10	,885
Participation_in_tourism_development_planning	354	4	1	5	3,16	,892
Participation_in_tourism_development_decisions	354	4	1	5	3,11	,929
Participation_in_preserving_tourism_areas	354	4	1	5	3,36	,851
Health_condition	354	4	1	5	3,74	,843
People_have_long_lives	354	4	1	5	3,29	,780
Available_health_facilities	354	4	1	5	3,35	,863
People_can_read_and_write	354	4	1	5	3,56	,867
Melanjutkan_pendidikan_ke_tingkat_menengah	354	4	1	5	3,47	,825
Continuing_education_to_secondary_level	354	4	1	5	3,45	,851
Valid N (listwise)	354					

Source: Field Survey Data

Community participation in tourism activities is measured from several aspects, with the key findings as follows:

1. Take part in ownership of tourism enterprise management (Mean: 3,10, Std. Deviation:0,885)
   Participation in the ownership and management of tourism businesses is at a moderate level. The variation in values is not very large, indicating that the distribution of respondents' answers is relatively uniform. Referring to the frequency of respondents' answers cumulatively, it can be interpreted that, in general, the local community in Bintan Regency feels that they have been involved in the ownership and management of tourism businesses.
2. Participation in tourism development planning (Mean: 3,16, Std. Deviation: 0,892) Participation in tourism development planning is slightly higher compared to business ownership, with a moderate level of participation.
3. Participation in tourism development decisions (Mean: 3,11, Std. Deviation: 0,929) The community shows a nearly equal level of participation in tourism development decision-making, with a slightly higher variability in the responses.
4. Participation in preserving tourism areas (Mean: 3,36, Std. Deviation: 0,851) Participation in preserving tourist areas received the highest average score among other participation dimensions, indicating greater community concern for the sustainability of tourist destinations.

Community participation in tourism aspects tends to be moderate, with average scores above 3.0. However, participation in preserving tourist areas becomes the primary focus for the community compared to ownership or development planning.

The indicators related to public health show the following findings:

1. Health condition (Mean: 3,74, Std. Deviation: 0,843)
   e community assesses their health condition as being at a good level. The low standard deviation indicates consistency in the assessments among respondents.

2. People have long lives (Mean: 3,29, Std. Deviation: 0,780) The community's perception of life expectancy is lower compared to their overall health condition.
3. Available health facilities (Mean: 3,35, Std. Deviation: 0,863) Access to healthcare facilities is considered sufficient, although there is room for improvement.

The community has a positive perception of overall health conditions, with access to healthcare facilities and life expectancy at a moderate level. Meanwhile, the indicators related to education can be described as follows:

1. People can read and write (Mean: 3,56, Std. Deviation: 0,867) The literacy level of the community is at a good level, reflecting the success of basic education programs.
2. Melanjutkan pendidikan ke tingkat menengah (Mean: 3,47, Std. Deviation: 0,825) and Continuing education to secondary level (Mean: 3,45, Std. Deviation: 0,851) The community gives a positive assessment regarding access to and the ability to continue education to the secondary level.

The basic education and literacy skills of the community are very good, while secondary education also shows positive results, although slightly below literacy skills. The overall average of the responses to the indicators above is 3.0, indicating a generally positive perception from the community towards tourism, health, and education. Meanwhile, the standard deviation for all variables is relatively low (below 1.0), indicating consistency in respondents' answers across all dimensions.

This average suggests that the level of community participation in tourism falls under the moderate category (assuming a 1-5 scale on the variable indicators). The standard deviation value shows a considerable variability in respondents' answers, reflecting differences in participation levels among the community. The average quality of life score indicates that the community's quality of life is at a good level (assuming a 1-5 scale on the variable indicators).

Table 11. Pearson Correlation Test Result

Correlations

		Community_Participation_In_Tourism	Quality_of_life
Community_Participation_In_Tourism	Pearson Correlation	1	,283**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		<,001
	N	354	354
Quality_of_life	Pearson Correlation	,283**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	
	N	354	354

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey Data

1. Pearson Correlation value:
   Corellation between Community Participation in Tourism dan Quality of Life is 0,283. This value indicates a weak to moderate positive correlation. This means that the higher the community's participation in tourism, the higher their quality of life, although the relationship is not very strong.
2. Significance (Sig. 2-tailed):
   The significance value (p-value) is < 0.001, which is smaller than 0.01. This indicates that the correlation is statistically significant at a 99% confidence level. In other words, the relationship between these two variables is not due to chance.

Discussion

Theoretical Convergence of Community Participation in Different Regional Contexts

The finding that community participation in tourism yields similar results between economic co-operation and non-economic co-operation regions indicates that local factors (such as community leadership, social capital, and access to resources) may be more dominant in determining quality of life than the macro status of the region (Beer dkk., 2019; Imbulana Arachchi & Managi, 2023; Trigilia, 2001; Vanderleeuw & and Sides, 2016). This reinforces the community-based tourism (CBT) theory that emphasises local autonomy, while shifting the assumption that institutional frameworks (such as regional economic policies) are always the main determinant (Fan dkk., 2023; Kontogeorgopoulos dkk., 2014; Zielinski dkk., 2020).

Participation-Quality of Life Relationship: Mechanisms Unbound by Regional Context

The similarity of results across the two regions suggests that the causal mechanism between participation and quality of life (e.g. income generation, cultural identity strengthening, or women's empowerment) is universal (Benckendorff dkk., 2009; Gautam, 2023; Guo dkk., 2023). This supports the sustainable development theory that active community participation in tourism can create spillover effects on health, education, and social cohesion, regardless of macroeconomic policies (Gautam, 2023; Khalid dkk., 2019).

Policy Implications: The Need for a Consistent Bottom-Up Approach

The findings criticise tourism policies that focus too much on macroeconomic incentives (such as foreign investment or large infrastructure) in economic cooperation areas Instead (Fletcher, 2023; Khan dkk., 2020; Kuščer dkk., 2024). Governments should prioritise local community capacity training (entrepreneurship, destination management) in all types of regions (Kummitha dkk., 2021; Zhu dkk., 2024), Establish inclusive dialogue platforms to ensure community voices are heard in tourism planning (Partanen dkk., 2025; Sánchez-Soriano dkk., 2024) and develop community-based quality of life indicators (e.g. local happiness index) as evaluation tools for tourism projects (Berbekova dkk., 2024; Giampiccoli dkk., 2022).

CONCLUSION

The two variables have 354 valid samples, which provides reliability for the analysis results. This finding indicates that community participation in the management and development of tourism can improve the quality of life. However, the strength of the relationship is weak to moderate ($r = 0.283$) with a positive relationship. The significance value with $p < 0.001$ indicates that this result is highly significant. Therefore, we can reject the null hypothesis (H0) stating that there is no relationship between the two variables.

Based on these results, it can be concluded that increasing community participation in tourism management and development can positively impact the quality of life of local communities. Local governments and stakeholders in the tourism sector should consider strategies to actively involve the community in tourism-related decision-making, planning, and management to ensure both the sustainability of tourism development and the improvement of the community's well-being. Strengthening community participation may also help address concerns related to resource allocation, environmental sustainability, and equitable distribution of benefits from tourism.

Similarity of results does not mean there are no contextual differences. Further research needs to test whether participation in economic co-operation areas tends to be co-opted by corporate actors, resulting in different long-term benefits and The role of informal institutions (such as adat or local wisdom) that may be stronger in non-economic co-operation areas in moderating the participation-quality of life relationship. Future Research Directions to deepen

these findings, longitudinal and comparative studies could comparing the resilience of communities in the two regions in the face of shocks (e.g. pandemic or economic crisis) and analyse the role of digital technology in strengthening or weakening community participation in both regional contexts.

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How to Cite This Article:

Ferizone, Siam, N. U., & Sanopaka, E. (2025). *The Relationship Between Community Participation In Tourism Development And The Quality Of Life Of The Community In Bintan Regency*. JURNAL TRIAS POLITIKA, *9*(1), 55 - 68. https://doi.org/10.33373/jtp.v9i1.7242