

The Role of Social Capital in Strengthening Forest Farmer Group Networks in Kapitan Village, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency

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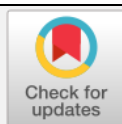
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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on a village in Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency, Kapitan Village. This research uses descriptive qualitative methods and a literature review with observation and documentation data collection techniques. The study's results found that social capital plays an important role in strengthening the network of the Forest Farmers Groups, where one of the efforts is the Karang Lintang Festival. The community in Kampung Kapitan has been built with a social capital system based on trust, norms, and network relationships. This festival activity is one of the efforts to encourage participation and increase community social capital through bonding, bridging, and linking social relationships. The theory used in this research is Woolcock's social capital theory. As stated by Woolcock, the types of social capital become this research's reference to analyze the role of social capital in the community. The strength of this network is obtained through wide-scale or national relationships that the Forest Farmers Group has achieved with government agencies. Of course, strengthening the network of this group is accompanied by an increase in tourism potential in Kapitan Village.

Keywords: Forest Farmer Group; Network Strengthening; Social Capital; Social Relationship

1. Introduction

The panoramic beauty of Bangka Belitung, of course, cannot be avoided from the social facts that exist in the community. Bangka Belitung has a variety of tours that can be visited; of course, it is a highlight for visiting tourists. For example, the northern island of Bangka has many beautiful beaches, such as Batudinding beaches, Lepar beaches, Penyusuk beaches, and many more. However, it is unfortunate among these beaches because there are still very few promotional activities and management of beaches as tourism potential. Few people are interested in joining nature lover groups or tourism awareness groups. Precisely in Kapitan Village, Mantung, Belinyu Sub-district, a community group oversees the environmental sector and is formed into the Forest Farmers Group. This group is already attached to the people in Kampung Kapitan, and their presence is expected to become a driving force for the community there to protect the surrounding environment and further strengthen the bonds of social capital between communities. The low level of community participation in maintaining the beauty of the environment, especially the coastal area, certainly presents a challenge for the author to examine further the role of social capital in strengthening the network of the Forest Farmer Group in Kapitan Village, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency.

Society always has values that have become part of the existence of life in a society which are implemented in action. The various societal values include customs, norms, beliefs, culture and others. In a value, there is a meaning that encourages the growth of a sense of belonging, mutual trust, a high level of cooperation, and the formation of reciprocal relationships wrapped in the role of social capital. According to Aldler & Kwon, as cited in Cahyono & Adhiatma (2012), social capital describes the existence of internal attachment. This attachment is characterized by a collective structure and cohesiveness between one another through dynamic processes that occur in the community. Indirectly, the explanation of social capital above illustrates that there is influence both financially and non-financially in social life. The level of intense interaction determines how much bond is owned and the built-in community. This bond is formed through small groups that influence the formation of an increasingly broad social network which is an indicator of social capital.

Community social capital will always present dimensions of social relations that support the orderly life of community members through social values and norms. According to Dasgupa & Serageldin, as cited in Cahyono & Adhiatma (2012), the dimension of social capital describes everything that makes people allied to achieve common goals based on togetherness and is bound by values and norms that grow and are adhered to. That's how the dimension of social capital should flow in the community. The strength of this dimension of social capital cannot be separated from the influence of the social conditions of a society, for example, from geography and demography. Bangka Belitung, an Archipelago Province, certainly has the strength of social capital based on these two things, both geographically and demographically. As an Archipelago region, the social life of the people of Bangka Belitung departs from a strong bond of trust. The community's sense of trust encourages the higher preservation of the customs and culture of the community. The geographical conditions of Bangka Belitung allow many people to make a living as fishermen, farmers, and traders. Therefore it is interesting to study how far the relationship between the Forest Farmers Group has contributed to survival in Kampitan Village, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency.

2. Literature Review

Several articles discuss the mechanism of the role of social capital that develops in the community. Among them is research by Cahyono & Adhiatma (2012) explains that the average

frequency of interaction patterns carried out by the people of Wonosobo, Kretek Sub-district is 35 days, known as *Selapanan*. Interaction patterns that are routinely carried out tend to indicate that social capital is formed very well. This condition occurs and becomes routine every month; of course, the background is the common goals and interests to be achieved. The actors involved in the routine activities include Village Consultative Council, Cooperatives, Farmer Groups, Family Welfare Empowerment and Village Owned Enterprises. [Tiyasmono et al. \(2019\)](#) use the literature review method to build a social capital-based tourism village development model. The results of this study indicate that community social capital based on trust, norms, and networks can realize village community participation so that the concept of developing a tourism village is formed, which can improve the performance of a tourism village. The two previous studies are references for this research, of course, seeing the uniqueness of the research or novelty. This research explores social capital's role in strengthening the Forest Farmer Group network in Kampung Kapitan, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency. This research uses the theory of social capital by [Woolcock \(1998\)](#), which explains that the dimension of social capital grows in a society that contains a series of values and norms as well as patterns of social interaction in regulating the daily lives of the members of the community. The main dimension of social capital lies in the ability of people to work together to build a social network to achieve common goals. The human ability to establish and build a life together depends on the willingness of all members of the community or society to share common values and norms, which then, in turn, makes all individual interests subordinate to collective interests, such as loyalty, honesty, and dependability, all of which can only be realized with mutual trust.

[Woolcock \(2001\)](#) mentions three social capital types: social bonding values, culture, perceptions, and traditions or customs. Social bonding is a type of social capital with the characteristics of a strong bond in a social system. This bond is certainly based on the trust built in the community. Through the strength of this trust, people have a sense of sympathy/empathy, reciprocity, and a sense of obligation or responsibility. Furthermore, Social bridging can be in the form of institutions or mechanisms. Social bridging is a social bond that arises as a reaction to various characteristics of the group. Social bridging can also be seen with general involvement as citizens, associations and networks. Like a bridge built to connect one access to another, social capital also plays a role in building networks between social groups through community members who have interrelationships with other groups. The aim is to increase the capacity of networks between groups by utilizing natural and human resources in the community. Finally, social linking (relationship/social network) is a social relationship characterized by a relationship between several levels of social power and social status in the community. These three types of social capital are, of course, interrelated with one another. These types can also be used to identify the strength of the role of social capital in the community, which can bring about certain changes.

Based on the explanation above, Woolcock's theory of social capital has something to do with the problems studied in Kampung Kapitan. The three types of social capital (bonding, bridging, and linking) have relevance to the role of social capital in strengthening the Forest Farmer Group network in Kampung Kapitan, which is implemented by the local community. These include a high sense of trust, solidarity, participatory community attitudes, and general institutional involvement with social groups. The types of social capital above are a reference for writers to analyze the role of social capital in strengthening the Forest Farmer Group network in Kampung Kapitan, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency. The researchers used previous research as an additional reference.

3. Research Methodology

This study uses qualitative research methods with descriptive data analysis. According to Sukmadinata, as cited in Rahman & Ibrahim (2009, p. 44), qualitative research is a study aimed at describing and analyzing phenomena, events, social activists, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and thoughts of people individually and in groups. This qualitative descriptive research is intended for careful measurement of certain phenomena with various data collection techniques such as interviews, document analysis, focused discussions or direct field observations to facilitate researchers in researching the object under study. In addition, the authors also use the method of reviewing the literature as a primary data source. The data collection technique used in this study is by observation, namely collecting data through observation, which means that researchers go directly to the research location. This observation is also intended so that researchers know the field situation at the research location. Researchers document the implementation of research activities through photos, drawings, and documents as a form of physical evidence from the data obtained. According to Arikunto (2006, p. 132), documentation techniques look for data on things or variables in the form of notes, a thesis with the same research topic, books, newspapers, magazines and so on.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Potential Tourism Resources in Kampung Kapitan

Tourism is one of the potential resources that can be increased, especially in areas with archipelagic geographical conditions, such as tourism potential on Lepar beach, Kampung Kapitan, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency. According to Rusyidi & Fedryansyah (2018), Tourism development is one of the leading programs in regional development. Therefore regional development is based on the adequate local potential to be developed, especially in the tourism sector. Various local potentials exist in Kapitan Village, and various efforts to develop local tourism have been carried out. Developing local potential has encouraged a group of Belinyu youths to form a community group netted in the Tourism Awareness Group in Bangka Regency. This aims to hegemony public awareness of how important it is to utilize the local potential and maintain the beauty of the environment. Implementation in realizing tourism development in Kapitan Village is by looking for alternative efforts. However, the alternative efforts undertaken are, of course, accompanied by high awareness from the community regarding tourism that has the potential to be developed within the community.

Restoring public awareness of the importance of maintaining the beauty of this local potential has received support from the local community. This is inseparable from the bonds of cooperation, trust, and reciprocity in the Kampung Kapitan community. Making the beach area a good tourist location is a joint task for the community, accompanied by the participation of sub-district officials. The presence of the Forest Farmer Group can increase the community's active participation in working together and establishing relationships with the public (local and central government). Participation carried out by each actor involved in the activity, of course, begins with the formation of mutual trust. This condition is in line with what was conveyed by (Deviyanti, 2013), explaining that community participation in carrying out development is needed as a stage of development itself which starts from planning, implementing and evaluating various development programs carried out by the community.

This group was formed to realize proper beach management and take advantage of the participation of youth living around Kampung Kapitan to help manage and promote the beach. Before the formation of the "Kapitan Hijau" Forest Farmers Group, many problems arose around the beach area, including juvenile delinquency and where prostitution was illegal.

What's more, the process of raids by officials who were less assertive made residents uncomfortable. Juan Apriansyah, as head of the "Kapitan Hijau" Forest Farmers Group, was also assisted by young people from Kampung Kapitan who actively promoted the beach. The activity they do every week is to make photo spots. Juan, who is a member of the Belinyu Nature Lovers and Tourism Awareness "Greenboys" group, collaborates with his colleagues to create innovations so that their work can be enjoyed by visitors who take tours to Lepar Belinyu Beach. In line with what was conveyed by (Ismail, 2020), tourism promotion and innovation should be supported by various facilities that support and attract visiting tourists. Therefore, management is needed to implement innovation rather than existing tourism (Sari, 2019).

Good management has been carried out by the local community, where every visitor who comes is treated to musical performances by local children. This can be seen by establishing the Ikhlas Coffee Stand at Lepar Beach. According to Juan's statement, every week, young people who are good at music will appear to entertain the visitors and then the visitors can voluntarily give charity. The performance results will be donated to residents who are less well-off financially. The average number of visitors has increased on certain days, such as New Year's Eve, holidays, and Ramadan. Of course, this will greatly help increase the income of residents.

Meanwhile, stalls were also built in the beach area; on average, there were residents from Kampung Kapitan, especially housewives. With this stall, of course, they can sell and at least be able to supplement their daily income. For the residents of Kampung Kapitan, Lepar Beach is a very valuable asset because those who play a role in managing and promoting this local potential are the residents of Kampung Kapitan. Even more so after the existence of the "Kapitan Hijau" Forest Farmers Group, which encouraged community participation in developing their local potential. Of course, tourism development is carried out based on the community. The community is a resource that can become an asset to developing tourism in Kapitan. The type of community-based tourism development certainly has stages, including the initial stage (beginning), the implementation stage (middle), and finally, the advanced stage (advanced). This condition shows the tourism development carried out by youth in Kapitan Village through a series of long and gradual processes. Of course, it involves both internal and external stakeholders. Top-down and bottom-up synergy is needed in tourism development. In addition, at this early stage, the role and participation of the community and government are still visible. In addition, the community development approach still uses a directive (instructive) strategy. This directive approach will be directed at forming a tourism culture in the community.

Furthermore, in the implementation stage, the synergy that has been formed begins to be seen with the involvement of various actors, both from the government and NGOs working in the environmental and tourism sectors, who are increasingly active in carrying out promotional activities on various social media. The community began to feel the benefits of various tourist visits and held various events on tour to attract visitors. Socio-economically, the community is starting to feel the impact, and many are carrying out economic activities, MSME activities, etc. Furthermore, at the advanced stage, it has begun to be seen that there is a balance of roles between the actors involved in the tourism industry. The relationship between the government, the private sector, and the community are getting closer and more balanced between one and the other. However, at this stage, the tourism sector has also provided benefits to the general public. The tourism culture has also been embedded in the activities of people's lives, as well as the awareness of the community to maintain the sustainability of the surrounding natural resources. So, in the end, the approach taken is based on community participation.

4.2. The Role of Social Capital in Strengthening Forest Farmer Group Networks in Kapitan Village, Belinyu District, Bangka Regency

Social capital states that it can provide order in people's lives because social capital is based on trust, norms, and network relations. To strengthen the network of Forest Farmers Groups in Kapitan Village, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency, there is relevance to the types of social capital stated by Woolcock (2001), including:

- 1) Social Bonding values, culture, perceptions, and traditions or customs. Social bonding is a type of social capital with the characteristics of a strong bond in a social system. This bond is certainly based on the existence of trust that is built in the community. As well as the sense of trust that has been built in the lives of the people in Kampung Kapitan can encourage public awareness to unite to overcome environmental problems by participating in every activity that maintains the beauty of Lepar beach as one of the tourism potentials.
- 2) Social Bridging can be in the form of institutions or mechanisms. Social bridging is a social bond that arises as a reaction to various characteristics of the group. Social bridging can also be seen with general involvement as citizens, associations and networks. The involvement of the public can be seen through the running of the Festival program titled Karang Lintang as a form of tourism promotion in Kampung Kapitan. Since the formation of the Forest Farmers Group, which is part of the Tourism Awareness Group, it has succeeded in building broader relations, as can be seen from the success of cooperative relations between tourism awareness groups, one of which is the Forest Farmers Group and government agencies which are in charge of cultural and tourism promotion activities.
- 3) Social linking (relationships/social networks) is a social relationship characterized by a relationship between several levels of social power and social status in the community. The ability of Forest Farmer Group members to collaborate with the government can increase the group's network relations even more broadly.

The Karang Lintang Festival is a promotional field for local tourism potential in Lepar Beach, Belinyu and an effort to increase the network of Forest Farmers Groups nationally. This festival was first held on October 27 2018, as an event initiated by the Indonesian Enchantment Movement and the Bangka Regency government. The Karang Lintang Festival is an event to promote tourism in Bangka Regency, especially Belinyu. Last year, the event was held for two days and presented a culinary festival, photo competition via smartphone, blood donation, band festival, ornamental boat festival, and Color Run. This series of events was carried out in such a lively manner and attracted the enthusiasm of the people around Belinyu to witness this tourist performance. The formation of this promotional program is inseparable from the role of members of the Forest Farmers Group, who have succeeded in establishing relationships with agencies outside the group, such as the Department of Culture and Tourism. Continuing the following year, on 25-27 October 2019 to be precise, this is a follow-up event from the previous festival. Still, with the same series of events, something more interesting is presenting the Lom Mystical Zone Tribe, the oldest tribe in Bangka. In its second year, a festival is a form of consistency for the younger generation in Belinyu because there has been an increase in participants, not only among teenagers but also adults. Through this festival, the name Lepar Beach is now well-known nationally. This is proven by the award received from the Anugrah Pesona Indonesia (API) Award as the Most Popular Tourism Festival in 2019. Of course, this award is inseparable from the role of the "Kapitan Hijau" Forest Farmers Group and the Kapitan Village community as the most active participants in supporting the management of Lepar Beach. The Kapitan Village community also had the opportunity to become a committee

in this event. The Karang Lintang Festival is one of the programs to empower people in the tourism sector and support community social capital.

5. Conclusion

The role of social capital in Kampung Kapitan, Belinyu Sub-district, Bangka Regency has significantly impacted the quality of the Forest Farmers Group network, which is proven by the success of the tourism awareness group in establishing relationships with agencies outside the group. This success is evidenced by the running of the Karang Lintang Festival, which has been carried out for the past two years. Instead of promotional activities for Lepar beach tourism, this activity can also increase participatory attitudes, cooperation, and an attitude of responsibility by the community. People living in Kampung Kapitan with various livelihoods can build strong bonds of solidarity to strengthen their social capital. This is formed due to a sense of trust between the community and social groups to build tourist sites that can boost the community's economy. In addition to this, the existence of the Forest Farmers Group can become an organizer that utilizes the social capital of the community through bonding, bridging and linking relationships. This is consistent with the types of social capital stated by Woolcock.

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7. Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors have declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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