

Orang Asli Kuala Boh Capabilities Development In Sustainable Eco-Tourism

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ABSTRACT: This paper wishes to highlight the development of the Orang Asli community of Kampung Kuala Boh in sustainable eco-tourism. The problem of poverty and setbacks is a major problem among the Orang Asli communities. Hence, eco-tourism is an approach that is expected to help restore the economy of the society to get out of the hardcore poor. Ecotourism activities are believed to have a positive impact on various aspects of the economic, physical and social aspects of a local community. Hence, this study is conducted to study internally through the experience of Orang Asli Kampung Kuala Boh community which has been receiving tourists. This study is to deepen the capabilities of Orang Asli Kampung Kuala Boh community through their involvement with eco-tourism activities.

Keywords: *Orang Asli community, eco-tourism and capabilities development*

1. INTRODUCTION

Malaysia intends to move towards a developed nation from various aspects including national income, economy and so on in Vision 2020. Orang Asli is part of the country's economic contributor. However, the income of the Orang Asli is still at an alarming level. According to findings from the Malaysian Administrative Modernization and Management Planning Unit of MAMPU (2014), 4,102 Orang Asli live below the poverty line and 7,321 Orang Asli live at the hardcore poor level. The hardcore poor level means lower monthly household income than half of the poverty level.

In the past, the Orang Asli community was synonymous with a society living in poverty, relying heavily on the government, shy, humble, selfless, non-practicing productive work culture, less resilient to face challenges and competition from outside (Hasni et al., 2016). The poverty level affects the level of the decline of a community. Thus, poverty and setbacks are the biggest challenge of the government to help develop the Orang Asli community effectively.

Table 1 Number of Poverty Populations by State, 2014

State	Head of Household (KIR)		Total of Poverty
	Poor	Poor Hardcore	
Pahang	1,710	3,335	5,045
Perak	1,299	1,529	2,828

Selangor	361	385	746
Kelantan	274	1,282	1,556
Johor	233	360	593
Negeri Sembilan	170	342	512
Melaka	30	43	73
Terengganu	22	39	61
Kedah	3	6	9
Total	4,102	7,321	11,423

The poverty level surrounding this group has contributed slightly to other problems. Therefore, the problem of poverty is the first agenda that must be resolved. Hence, sustainable employment opportunities need to be provided for future income guarantees. The largest potential can be seen in this Orang Asli community through the platform of environmental tourism activities and the uniqueness of Orang Asli culture.

The fact is that an Orang Asli settlement has various sources of tourism such as the culture of the community itself, the uniqueness of the language, and its very calming location (Seow et al., 2013).

2. CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND ORANG ASLI ECO-TOURISM

Capabilities development also focuses on the community members willingness to be involved in decision making and discussion as well as in the implementation of work. As members of the community who are the main pillars of work, the community members should be able to develop their ability to take advantage of work such as job opportunities as well as entrepreneurial opportunities. However, all such capabilities require other support such as the need for capital, information as well as influence. This study found that capability development on Orang Asli eco-tourism activities is important so that Orang Asli communities themselves can generate benefits through them. In addition, this Orang Asli eco-tourism activity is a tourism activity that can attract tourists who have a particular interest. For this tour package, tourists are interested in learning about the culture and livelihood of the Orang Asli and want peace from the busy city.

Then, from the perspective of conservation, this eco-tourism activity will provide incentives and benefits to

natural habitats that become their main platform for food sources, medicines traditional herbs and so on. The strength of this eco-tourism is believed to attract tourists, thereby enhancing the economy of the Orang Asli to conserve their natural habitat with flora and fauna.

3. ORANG ASLI CAPABILITIES IN ECO-TOURISM AT KG. KUALA BOH

In Cameron Highland there is also a Aboriginal village famous for its unique customs and culture. Hence, tourists coming to Cameron Highland are advised to go to the Orang Asli settlement to experience the tranquil and uniquely holiday phenomena. The potential Orang Asli villages in Cameron Highland are Kampung Kuala Boh. The Orang Asli community of Kampung Kuala Boh is an Orang Asli ethnic group from the Senoi group, the Semai tribe (Sholehah, et al., 2018). This statement is supported by an Aboriginal Orang Asli Exploration Missionary program Mohamad Izzat (2018):

... to get some peace, to bridge friendship, I suggest this is the place because here the relationship is very precious. And I ask any agency or corporate body, if you want to run team building, togetherness, loyalty and affection program, then choose Kampung Kuala Boh as the accommodation and training platform...

For this eco-tourism activity in Kampung Kuala Boh, this Orang Asli community offers a nature-based holiday offering where tourists will be taken by Orang Asli tourists to enter the jungle to climb hills, trekking jungle, camping, show hunting, bathing and river, observing habitat and species of flora fauna, photography and visiting gardens. The special at Kampung Kuala Boh, the Kampung Kuala Boh Orang Asli teenager, agreed to shoulder the 'titi' that would be placed on their shoulders to be used by tourists to cross the river. The 'titi' is made of bamboo connection. There is another advantage along the jungle trekking in Kampung Kuala Boh which is the meeting with Sungai Jelai. The Jelai River is a river that collides between cloudy water and clear water.

Many activities can be carried out with the members of the Orang Asli community including cleaning up the area, cooking together, nightlife activities, telematch activities with tourists and Orang Asli communities, exercise activities and visits to the Orang Asli community. Especially when Tok Batin village will cut bamboo trees into short cuts, used to cook rice in them. Earlier the Orang Asli community was synonymous with a very shy attitude, but now they are more open and more friendly in accepting and welcoming visitors arriving. It is supported by Tok Batin Kampung Kuala Boh (2018) statement:

... I received this visit and congratulated the telematch winner. Next year come again and it will be more lively...

For the Kampung Kuala Boh Orang Asli community, their ability to grow is positive by practicing natural

forest trails and learning through experience. The experience of empowering the Kampung Kuala Boh Orang Asli to be more open to receiving and providing good services to tourists. Nature-based eco-tourism activities at Kuala Boh Orang Asli Village will continue to sustain and focus on habitat conservation efforts. Assistance and cooperation with local authorities in the efforts to preserve Kampung Kuala Boh will always be given to making these eco-tourism activities continue to be a major contributor to the economy of the Orang Asli community. The involvement and support of the public are expected to build the capacity of this eco-tourism industry to continue to sustain and economic development and conservation of natural wildlife habitats.

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