

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.

Manuscript Title

Determining the Economic Value of Recreation for the Development of the Tanjung Kelayang Tourism Destination, Belitung Indonesia

Authors

Please provide your comments and suggestions considering the following points for 'publication in Journal.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Is the topic of the article suitable for publication? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the article original with new and important results? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the title of the article appropriate? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Are the abstract and keywords appropriate? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the quality of the illustrations and tables appropriate? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are the references up-to-date and adequate with journal style? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the article well organized and clearly written? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the English language satisfactory? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are the conclusions sound and justified? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Did the author confuse the summary with conclusion? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

What is your overall grading of the manuscript?

At least 3 to consider publication after revision 0 1 2 3 4 5
(worst) (best)

COMMENTS:

This manuscript assesses the economic value of recreational activities at Tanjung Kelayang, a prominent tourism destination in Belitung, Indonesia. The authors employ the Travel Cost Method (TCM) and Contingent Valuation Method (CVM) to estimate the economic benefits derived from tourism and suggest strategies for sustainable development. The study's findings aim to inform policy decisions regarding infrastructure investments, pricing strategies, and conservation initiatives. However, there are quite some rooms for the authors to improve this paper. Please check my comments as follows:

Abstract:

The abstract provides a concise summary of the study's aim, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. However, it could be improved by quantifying the economic value obtained from the study and briefly mentioning the implications or recommendations for sustainable development.

Introduction:

1. The introduction provides a good background on the importance of tourism development and the need to consider economic, ecological, and social aspects for sustainability. However, it lacks a clear research gap and specific objectives of the study.

2. The authors should explicitly state the research problem or knowledge gap that this study aims to address and provide a more focused rationale for assessing the economic value of recreation at the Tanjung Kelayang tourism destination.

3. The specific objectives of the study should be stated clearly at the end of the introduction section.

Materials and Methods:

1. The authors provide a detailed theoretical background on economic valuation methods, which is commendable. However, the section could be more concise and focused on the specific methods used in this study.
2. The authors should clarify why the Travel Cost Method (TCM) was chosen for this study and provide a brief explanation of the method's underlying assumptions and limitations.
3. The sampling procedure and data collection methods should be described in more detail, including the sample size determination, survey instrument, and any potential sources of bias or limitations.
4. The authors should provide a clear explanation of how the economic value (consumer surplus) was calculated using the TCM, including the specific equations or models employed.

Results and Discussion:

1. The results section presents the key findings related to the average tourist expenditure, budget allocations, and consumer surplus. However, the presentation could be improved by using tables or figures to summarize the data more clearly.
2. The discussion section provides insightful interpretations and implications of the findings. However, it could be strengthened by relating the results more explicitly to the existing literature and theoretical framework presented in the introduction and methods sections.
3. The authors should consider addressing potential limitations or assumptions of their analysis and discuss how these may affect the interpretation of the results.
4. The discussion could also be expanded to provide more specific recommendations or strategies for sustainable development based on the economic value findings.

Conclusion:

The conclusion summarizes the main findings and emphasizes the economic potential of the Tanjung Kelayang tourism destination. However, it could be improved by:

1. Reiterating the specific objectives of the study and how they were addressed.
2. Highlighting the study's unique contributions or implications for theory and practice.
3. Suggesting future research directions or avenues for further exploration.

References:

The references are generally up-to-date and relevant to the study's topic. However, some references (e.g., Muttaqim et al., 2021; Tung, 2020) appear to be conference proceedings or book chapters, which may not be considered as highly credible sources in some academic journals. The authors should consider replacing these with peer-reviewed journal articles or published reports from reputable sources.

Overall, the manuscript addresses an important topic and contributes to the understanding of economic valuation in tourism development. The authors have provided a comprehensive theoretical background and employed appropriate methods for assessing the economic value of recreation. However, the paper could benefit from a clearer articulation of the research objectives, a more concise description of the methods, and a more focused discussion and conclusion section that explicitly links the findings to the existing literature and provides actionable recommendations for sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THIS MANUSCRIPT:

Minor Revisions Major Revisions Reject Another Conference/Journal

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- At least 3 to consider publication after revision 0 1 2 3 4 5
(worst) (best)

COMMENTS:

Here are my suggestions to improve this paper:

This manuscript aims to estimate the economic value of recreational activities at Tanjung Kelayang, a prominent tourist destination in Belitung, Indonesia. Using both the Travel Cost Method (TCM) and the Contingent Valuation Method (CVM), the study provides an economic valuation that is intended to guide sustainable tourism development and policy-making in the region.

The title is not good, I tried to help you, please refer to the following refined Title:

"Economic Valuation of Recreational Services at Tanjung Kelayang Beach for Sustainable Tourism Development in Belitung, Indonesia"

Rationale for the refined title:

1. "Economic Valuation of Recreational Services": The study primarily focuses on determining the economic value of recreation, which is a key ecosystem service provided by the Tanjung Kelayang beach tourism destination. This phrase highlights the central objective of the study.

2. "Tanjung Kelayang Beach": Including the specific name of the tourism destination makes the title more precise and informative.
3. "for Sustainable Tourism Development": This phrase emphasizes the broader context and relevance of the study, which is to contribute to the sustainable development of tourism in the region. It aligns with the authors' emphasis on considering economic, ecological, and social aspects in tourism development.
4. "in Belitung, Indonesia": Specifying the location (Belitung, Indonesia) provides geographic context and makes the study more relevant to stakeholders and policymakers in the region.

Here is a refined abstract:

Sustainable tourism development requires a comprehensive consideration of economic, ecological, and social aspects. This study aims to determine the economic value of recreation at the Tanjung Kelayang tourism destination in Belitung, Indonesia, using the Travel Cost Method (TCM). Based on a survey of 105 tourists, the results indicate a consumer surplus of 14.4 million rupiah per tourist. With an annual number of 34,074 tourist visits, the recreation value of Tanjung Kelayang is estimated at 122.7 billion rupiah. This substantial economic value represents the potential for developing the destination while integrating economic, ecological, and social dimensions. The findings highlight the importance of sustainable destination development strategies that balance economic benefits with environmental conservation and community involvement.

Introduction Section:

1. The introduction provides a good overview of the importance of tourism development and the need to consider economic, ecological, and social aspects. However, it lacks a clear statement of the research problem or gap that this study aims to address.
2. The authors mention the development of tourist destinations focusing on economic aspects and neglecting ecological and social aspects (lines 32-35). However, this point could be further elaborated and supported with relevant citations from the literature to establish a stronger rationale for the study.
3. The authors should explicitly state the specific objectives or research questions that the study aims to address at the end of the introduction section.

Research Methodology and Results:

1. The authors provide a detailed explanation of economic valuation methods and the Travel Cost Method (TCM) in the Materials and Methods section. However, the specific application of the TCM in this study could be described more clearly.
2. The authors should clarify how the sample size of 105 tourists was determined and provide details on the sampling technique used (e.g., random sampling, convenience sampling, etc.).
3. The authors mention that the analysis method used is the Travel Cost Method, but they do not provide a clear explanation of how the consumer surplus and economic value were calculated using this method. More details on the specific equations, models, or assumptions used in the TCM analysis would be beneficial.
4. In the Results section, the authors present the findings related to average tourist expenditure, budget allocations, and consumer surplus. However, these results could be presented more clearly using tables or figures to summarize the data.
5. The authors state that the economic value of Tanjung Kelayang's recreation is 122.7 billion rupiah (line 217). However, they do not provide a clear explanation of how this value was derived from the consumer surplus and

the number of tourist visits.

Examples for Improvement:

1. In the introduction section, the authors state: "The development of tourist destinations currently focuses on economic aspects in the form of opening employment opportunities and increasing economy region. Many tourist destination developments still focus on economic growth (Heagney et al., 2019)." (lines 32-33)

This statement could be supported by additional citations from the literature to establish a stronger argument for the research problem or gap.

2. In the Materials and Methods section, the authors provide a detailed explanation of economic valuation techniques and the Travel Cost Method (lines 124-141). However, the specific application of the TCM in this study is not clearly described.

The authors should include a subsection or paragraph explaining how the TCM was applied in this study, including the data collection process (e.g., survey design, sampling method), the variables considered (e.g., travel costs, visitor characteristics), and the equations or models used to estimate the consumer surplus and economic value.

3. In the Results section, the authors state: "Survey results of 105 tourists, show that the average budget allocation prepared by tourists amounting to 3.9 million rupiah. Meanwhile the budget used during travel is an average of 2.4 million rupiah excluding air transportation costs." (lines 186-188)

These results could be presented more clearly in a table format, showing the mean and standard deviation (or other relevant measures) for the budget allocation and actual expenditure.

4. In the Discussion section, the authors state: "By economy, area tour Tanjung Kelayang own potency Which Enough big, Because from results analysis using TCM, it was found that there was a consumer surplus of 14.4 million rupiah per tourist. If we calculate the total consumer surplus with the number of tourists who come to Tanjung Kelayang, we get an economic value of 122.7 billion rupiah." (lines 202-205)

The authors should provide a clear explanation of how the economic value of 122.7 billion rupiah was calculated, including the equation or formula used, and any assumptions or limitations associated with this calculation.

Overall, the manuscript addresses an important topic and contributes to the understanding of economic valuation in tourism development. However, the paper could benefit from a clearer articulation of the research objectives and problem statement in the introduction, a more detailed description of the methodology and calculations used in the Travel Cost Method, and a more focused presentation of the results and discussion sections. By addressing these areas, the authors can enhance the clarity and rigor of their study, making it more valuable to the academic community and relevant stakeholders in sustainable tourism development.

Suggested Revised Conclusion:

"This study assessed the economic value of recreation at the Tanjung Kelayang tourism destination in Belitung, Indonesia, using the Travel Cost Method. The results revealed a substantial consumer surplus of 14.4 million rupiah per tourist, translating to an annual recreation value of 122.7 billion rupiah based on the number of tourist visits. These findings underscore the significant economic potential of the Tanjung Kelayang destination, which should be harnessed through sustainable development strategies.

The study contributes to the understanding of economic valuation in tourism development, particularly in the context of Indonesia's natural tourism destinations. The economic value estimates can inform decision-making processes and support the development of policies and strategies that strike a balance between economic growth,

environmental conservation, and community involvement.

Future research could explore the ecological and social dimensions of the Tanjung Kelayang destination, as well as the preferences and perceptions of local communities and other stakeholders. A comprehensive assessment of economic, ecological, and social factors would provide a more holistic understanding of sustainable tourism development in the region.

It is recommended that destination management and policymakers utilize the economic value findings as a basis for developing sustainable tourism strategies, infrastructure planning, and resource allocation. Additionally, efforts should be made to promote community-based tourism initiatives, environmental conservation measures, and continuous monitoring of the destination's carrying capacity to ensure long-term sustainability."

Recommendation:

The manuscript has the potential to make a significant contribution to the literature on tourism economics and sustainable development. However, it would benefit from revisions that address the depth of theoretical engagement, expand the literature review, and provide a more nuanced discussion of stakeholder perspectives.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THIS MANUSCRIPT:

√Minor Revisions Major Revisions Reject Another Conference/Journal