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Exploring the Potential of Sumedang Walkers as a Community-Based Sport Tourism Destination

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Exploring the Potential of Sumedang Walkers as a Community-Based Sport Tourism Destination

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Abstract

This study explores the potential of Sumedang Walkers as a community-based sport tourism destination in Sumedang Regency, Indonesia. A qualitative phenomenological approach was employed to understand the experiences and perceptions of community members and stakeholders involved in the development of sport tourism activities. Data were collected through observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation involving community organizers, participants, local residents, MSME actors, and representatives of the Tourism Office. The study applied the MSPDM framework consisting of marketability, sustainability, participation, and disaster mitigation. Data analysis was conducted using thematic coding supported by NVivo 12 through data reduction, categorization, triangulation, and interpretation. The findings indicate that Sumedang Walkers possesses strong tourism potential supported by natural attractions, unique walking routes, community participation, and local economic involvement. In addition, disaster mitigation awareness and environmental sustainability practices contribute to the safety and continuity of tourism activities. This study proposes an Integrated Community Sport Tourism Sustainability Framework that integrates tourism attractiveness, environmental sustainability, participatory governance, and disaster preparedness in developing sustainable community-based sport tourism.

Keywords: Sport tourism; community-based tourism; Sumedang Walkers; sustainability; participation

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A. Introduction

Physical activity is one of the important parts in maintaining health and improving the quality of life of the community. According to (Nadzifah et al., 2024) sports health, physical activity is not only limited to structured exercise, but also includes various daily activities that involve body movements and energy use, such as walking, cycling, gardening, and other activities. In the context of modern life today, walking is a form of physical activity that is easy to do, cheap, and has many benefits for physical and mental health.

The existence of the pedestrian community is one of the tangible forms of increasing public awareness of the importance of physical activity. This community not only serves as a forum for exercising together, but also as a means of building social interaction, strengthening solidarity, and encouraging a healthy lifestyle in the community. Through regular walking activities, members. communities can create a more active, healthy, and productive environment. In the global tourism business, sports tourism has grown rapidly as a strategic area. According to (Fauzi et al., 2025) sport tourism is a form of special interest tourism that is able to increase regional economic growth and regional image. The merger of sports and tourism has driven local economic growth and cultural preservation in addition to an increase in the number of visitors in recent years (Halim, 2024). defines sports tourism as individual travel with the aim of actively or passively participating in athletic events as spectators or athletes. The increasing public interest in recreation, experiences, and healthy lifestyles makes this phenomenon even more relevant. Indonesia has enormous potential for the development of sports tourism, given its rich natural and cultural heritage. Destinations such as trekking trails, nature tourism, and community sports activities are the main attractions for domestic and

international tourists. Developmen Sports tourism is a national priority to increase tourism competitiveness Indonesia. This shows the significant potential of this sector for development sustainable (Aldhila, 2026).

Walking tourism, carried out by the local community, is a type of community-based sports tourism development. The application of an active lifestyle has an important role in improving physical health and individual development. In this case, (Sudirjo & Sudrazat, 2024) explained that an active lifestyle is an approach that emphasizes the importance of doing regular physical activities. Konsep tersebut berkaitan erat dengan perkembangan Sports tourism, because through sports tourism, people can adopt an active lifestyle while obtaining a healthy tourism experience, so that a balance is created between the needs of recreation, health, and physical fitness. Apart from being a recreational activity, this activity also encourages community empowerment, education, and environmental conservation. Community involvement in sports tourism can increase the sustainability of the program and the sense of ownership (Nadhifatur Rifdah & Kusdiwanggo, 2024). In this case, Adang Sudrazat explained that "An active lifestyle is an approach that emphasizes the importance of doing regular physical activity.

The Sumedang Pedestrian Community provides a vivid illustration of how participatory methods can be used to advance sports tourism in the local environment. Along several tourist routes with historical value and natural beauty, our city started a walking activity. (Sumitro, 2025) emphasized that local identity and social cohesion can be strengthened with community involvement in community-based tourism management. In addition, a key factor in the growth of sports tourism is sustainability. Every tourism activity must consider environmental carrying capacity, disaster

mitigation, and safety education. To generate long-term profits, sustainable tourism must maintain a balance between economic, social, and environmental factors, according to (Sana, 2025). To make sports tourism locations more attractive, accessibility and supporting facilities are also very important. Easy access and adequate infrastructure will influence the decision of tourists to come. (Supriadi & Roedjinandari, 2024) emphasizes that accessibility and quality of facilities are important factors in determining the success of a tourism location. In addition, in the development of sports tourism routes, safety and risk mitigation are important considerations. To create safe tourism, it is important to identify disaster-prone areas, design safety procedures, and prepare local communities. (Zumaro et al., 2023) affirm that risk management in tourism is essential to reduce the likelihood of adverse impacts.

This description is the basis for the analysis of the study on the growth of community-based sports tourism using Sumedang Walkers as a case study. A tourism development strategy known as "community-based tourism" (CBT) places local communities at the center of destination management and development. CBT strongly emphasizes community involvement in the development, implementation, and assessment of tourism-related initiatives. CBT is a tourism concept that focuses on environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and improving the well-being of local communities through direct participation in tourism operations, according to (Young et al., 2026). The strategy also highlights the importance of local community empowerment and equitable distribution of economic benefits. Because CBT involves communities as owners and managers of tourism resources, this strategy is considered a successful technique for maintaining the sustainability of tourist sites, according to other research.

Because it can increase the community's sense of ownership and responsibility towards the location, CBT is essential for the growth of community-based sports tourism such as Sumedang Walkers

The growth of community-based sports tourism relies heavily on community engagement. Engagement community enhances the sustainability of the program and promotes social cohesion and local identity. Since community plays an important role in destination management and development (Sumitro, 2025), research by (Fadilla, 2024) According to the theory of social exchange, communities will drive the growth of tourism if they believe that it will benefit them economically, socially, and culturally. According to a study by (Development et al., 2025), social connections and perceived benefits have an impact on community support for sports tourism. Therefore, community involvement is critical to the success of community-based sports tourism, not just as an additional component.

A key component of the growth of contemporary tourism, particularly sports tourism, is the idea of sustainability. In the management of tourist sites, sustainability involves a balance between social, economic, and environmental factors. Sustainable sports tourism has been recognized as a tactic to boost tourism while protecting local ecology and culture, according to recent research. To prevent ecological damage, the development of sports tourism must also consider the carrying capacity of the environment. According to a study by (Industry, 2023), local community engagement and wise management of natural resources are essential for the sustainability of community-based tourism. To guarantee long-term profits, the idea of sustainability is an important cornerstone for the growth of community-based sports tourism.

The prosperity of the local and national economy is greatly aided by sports tourism. These activities can increase local income, provide jobs, and support the growth of

small and medium-sized businesses. (Wibowo et al., 2017) Stated that by increasing tourism and encouraging local economic activity, sports tourism serves as a catalyst for the local economy. Tourism-related sports activities improve public health and strengthen social bonds between individuals and communities. As a result, sports tourism affects the social and cultural aspects of the community in addition to the economic sector.

Although previous studies have discussed sport tourism, sustainability, and community-based tourism separately, limited studies have specifically examined the integration of community participation, environmental sustainability, tourism attractiveness, and disaster mitigation within a community-based walking tourism context. Furthermore, studies focusing on local walking communities as emerging sport tourism destinations in Indonesia remain scarce. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the development potential of Sumedang Walkers using the MSPDM framework.

B. Methods

This study aims to analyze in depth the potential of the Sumedang Walkers community as a new sports tourism destination in Sumedang Regency, as well as identify factors that support and hinder its development. The approach used in this study is qualitative with a phenomenological design, which allows researchers to understand subjective experiences, perceptions, and meanings built by actors who are directly involved in Sumedang Walkers activities. The phenomenological process involved bracketing the researchers' assumptions, identifying significant statements, clustering meanings into themes, and interpreting participants' lived experiences regarding community-based sport tourism activities. The phenomenological approach is considered appropriate because it focuses on the interpretation of individual experiences of a social phenomenon in

depth (Khasanah et al., 2024). The participants in this study consisted of 15 informants selected through purposive sampling techniques. The informants included 3 community managers, 6 active members of Sumedang Walkers, 3 MSME actors, 2 local residents, and 1 representative from the Sumedang Regency Tourism Office. The selection of informants was based on their direct involvement and experience in sport tourism activities. Data collection continued until data saturation was achieved. Through this approach, researchers can obtain a more comprehensive picture of the social reality that develops in the community, including motivations, beliefs, and the dynamics of interaction between members and the surrounding community (Riyadi et al., 2025).

This study examines the potential of community-based sports tourism using the MSPDM (Marketability, Sustainability, Participatory, Disaster Mitigation) analysis framework. The first dimension, marketability, is related to tourist attractions, the uniqueness of the trails, and the potential interest of tourists in walking activities as part of sport tourism. The attractiveness of the destination is the main factor in determining the decision of tourists to visit (Supriadi & Roedjinandari, 2024). The second dimension, sustainability, emphasizes environmental, social, and economic sustainability in the management of community activities. The concept of sustainability in sports tourism demands a balance between resource utilization and environmental conservation.

The third dimension, participatory, refers to the level of involvement of local communities and community members in the development and implementation of tourism activities. Community participation is an important element in ensuring the success and sustainability of community-based tourism programs (Rifka Alkhilyatul Ma'rifat, I Made Suraharta, 2024). The fourth dimension, disaster mitigation,

focuses on security aspects, preparedness for disaster risks, and mitigation efforts carried out in nature-based tourism activities. The integration of disaster mitigation in tourism planning is an important factor in increasing destination safety and tourist trust (Manitu et al., 2025). These four dimensions are used to provide a complete picture in assessing the potential development of Sumedang Walkers as a sustainable sports tourism destination.

The research instruments used in this study include observation, interviews, and documentation. Observations were carried out to directly observe the activities of the Sumedang Walkers community, the patterns of social interaction between members, and the environmental conditions where the activity was located. The interviews were used to dig up in-depth information from various informants, such as community managers, members of the Sumedang Walkers, MSME actors around the location, and representatives from the Sumedang Regency Tourism Office. In-depth interview techniques allow researchers to obtain rich and contextual data from the perspective of the informant (Setia Nugraha, 2025). Meanwhile, documentation is used as supporting data that includes field records, photos of activities, and relevant archives to strengthen research findings (Aimah, 2023).

Data analysis in this study was carried out through triangulation techniques by integrating observation, interviews, and documentation results. Triangulation is used to increase the validity and credibility of data through the comparison of various

sources of information (Malik et al., 2025). The data obtained is analyzed through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing in a systematic manner. The analysis process is carried out by grouping data based on themes that are in accordance with the MSPDM framework, resulting in an in-depth and structured interpretation (Management et al., 2026). With this approach, the research is expected to be able to provide a comprehensive picture of the potential and challenges in the development of Sumedang Walkers as a community-based sports tourism destination.

C. Result and Discussion

Based on the results of field observations carried out on the activities of the Sumedang Walkers community, it was found that the walking activities carried out have great potential as community-based sports tourism in Sumedang Regency. Observations were carried out on several routes used by the community by paying attention to aspects of tourist attractions, community participation, environmental sustainability, and disaster mitigation.

The results of the observation show that the path used by the community has a fairly good natural attraction. The environmental conditions around the trail are still beautiful, have cool air, and present interesting natural scenery so as to provide a comfortable recreational and sports experience for participants. In addition, some routes have distinctive characteristics in the form of a combination of village roads, rice fields, and hills which are unique values for walking sports tourism activities.

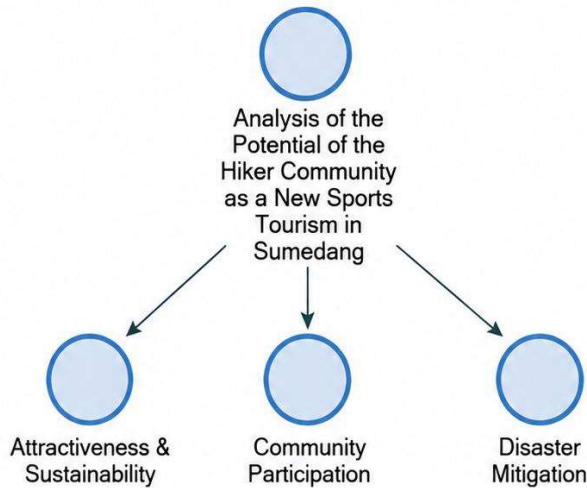


Figure 1. The Potential of Sumedang Walkers Sports Tourism Reviewed from the Aspect of Marketability

Source : Nvivo Data Processing 12 (2026)

Based on the results of data analysis using the NVivo 12 application, the main theme was obtained regarding the potential of Sumedang Walkers as a new sports tourism in Sumedang Regency. The theme shows the relationship between aspects of attractiveness and sustainability, community participation, and disaster mitigation. The results of the study show that these three aspects are the main factors in supporting the development of community-based sports tourism.

The aspect of attractiveness and sustainability shows that the walking activities carried out by the community

have tourism potential because they are supported by natural beauty, a comfortable environmental atmosphere, and attractive walking paths. In addition, environmental sustainability can be seen through efforts to maintain the cleanliness of the path and the responsible use of tourist areas. In the aspect of community participation, Local MSMEs experienced increased income during community walking events” (MSME Actor 2). Meanwhile, the disaster mitigation aspect shows that the community has implemented safety measures and safety education in the implementation of sports tourism activities.

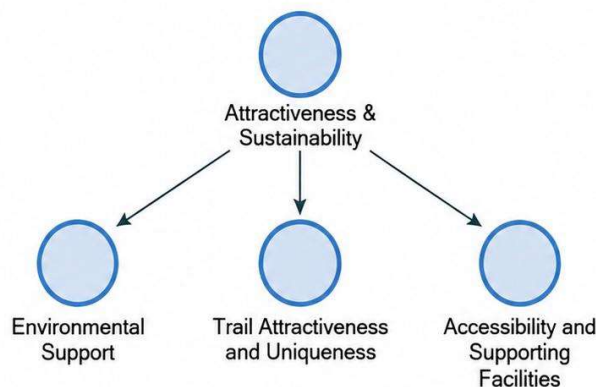


Figure 2. The Tourism Management Strategy of Sumedang Walkers Reviewed from the Sustainability Aspect

Source : Nvivo Data Processing 12 (2026)

The results of the analysis show that the theme of attraction and sustainability is closely related to the carrying capacity of the environment, the attractiveness and uniqueness of the path, as well as accessibility and supporting facilities. The natural beauty and characteristics of the walking path are the main attractions that are able to increase public interest in participating in Sumedang Walkers activities. The trails used have a natural atmosphere and provide a recreational and sports experience for participants.

In addition, the results of observations show that accessibility to the

location is quite easy to reach and supported by supporting facilities such as rest areas and gathering points for participants. The carrying capacity of the environment is also a concern of the community through efforts to maintain cleanliness and environmental sustainability during the activity. Participants feel more motivated to exercise because the walking activities also provide social interaction and natural tourism experiences” (Participant 4). These findings show that the success of sports tourism development is influenced by the balance between tourist attractions, facility comfort, and environmental sustainability.

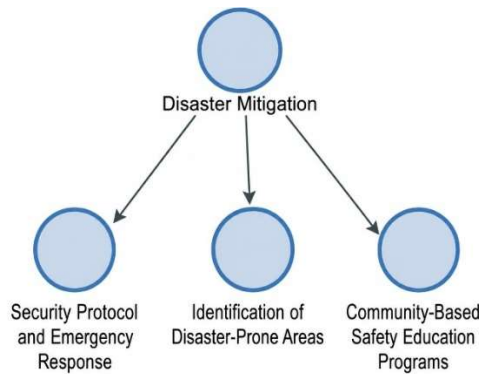


Figure 3. A Survey of the Population of the Province of Scotland, Reviewed from the Perspective of Disaster Mitigation
Source : Nvivo Data Processing 12 (2026)

Based on the results of NODs data processing using NVivo 12, it can be seen that the main theme formed is disaster mitigation as a core concept that connects several supporting aspects. Disaster mitigation serves as a strategic framework that directs risk reduction efforts through three main components. First, security protocols and emergency response that emphasize the importance of preparedness and clear procedures in dealing with emergency situations. Second, the identification of disaster-prone zones that

function to identify risk areas so that more precise and targeted planning can be carried out. Third, community-based safety education that shows that community involvement is an important factor in increasing collective awareness and capacity in dealing with potential disasters. Overall, the results of this analysis indicate that the effectiveness of disaster mitigation is largely determined by the synergy between technical planning, operational readiness, and active community participation.

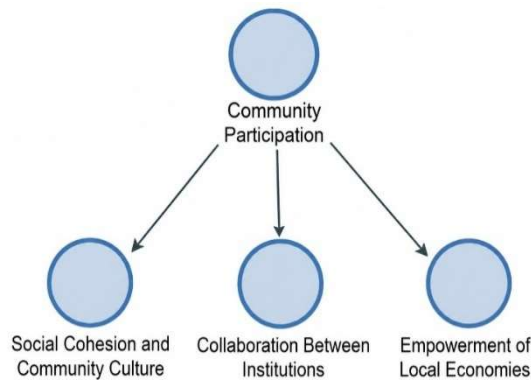


Table 4. The Impact of the Urban Renewal Movement on Government and Community Participation

Source : Nvivo Data Processing 12 (2026)

The results of data processing using the NVivo 12 application show that community participation has an important role in supporting social capacity building and community-based development. Based on the data mapping that has been carried out, several main aspects are found that are interrelated in forming active community involvement. These aspects include social and cultural cohesion of the community, inter-institutional collaboration, and local economic empowerment. These three elements emerged as dominant themes that have a close relationship with the success of community participation in various development activities and handling social problems in the surrounding environment. More than 70% of participants were actively involved in organizing routes, safety monitoring, and environmental cleaning activities.

The data findings also show that social and cultural cohesion of the community is the main foundation in creating harmonious relationships between community members. The value of togetherness, mutual cooperation, and social concern are factors that encourage people to be actively involved in various collective activities. In addition, inter-institutional collaboration shows that there

is a connection between the community, government, and organizations social, and other related parties in supporting the implementation of the community programs.

This form of cooperation is considered to be able to increase the effectiveness of coordination and expand the scope of the implementation of activities at the local level. On the other hand, local economic empowerment is also an important part in strengthening community participation. The development of community-based economic potential is considered to increase community independence while opening up business opportunities that have an impact on social welfare. Based on the results of the analysis, it can be understood that community participation is not only influenced by social factors, but also by institutional support and strengthening of the local economy that runs continuously.

Discussion

The results of the study show that Sumedang Walkers has a strong potential to be developed as a community-based sports tourism in Sumedang. This potential can be seen from the linkage between tourist attractions, environmental sustainability, community participation, and disaster

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17 mitigation in supporting the development of sustainable sports tourism. The findings of the study show that walking activities are not only a means of sports and recreation, but are also able to have a social, economic, and environmental impact on the surrounding community.

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In terms of attractiveness and sustainability, the results of the study show that natural beauty, environmental atmosphere, and uniqueness of walking paths are the main factors that attract tourists. The trail that combines villages, rice fields, and hills provides a different tourist experience and increases the value of the destination's attractions. These findings are in line with research by Higham and (Higham & Vada, 2025) which states that the quality of the tourist experience and the unique characteristics of a destination are important factors in the development of sport tourism. The research explains that nature-based sports tourism has more value because it is able to provide physical experiences as well as emotional experiences to tourists. In addition, research (Rangkuti et al., 2024) also shows that environmental sustainability is a key element in maintaining the quality of sports tourism destinations so that they remain in demand in the long term. Thus, the results of this study reinforce that the attractiveness of sports tourism must be balanced with sustainable environmental management.

In terms of community participation, the results of the study show that the involvement of community members, local communities, and MSME actors contributes greatly to the success of the development of community-based sports tourism. Community participation can be seen through support for activities, provision of supporting facilities, and involvement in the management of tourism activities. This finding is in line with Mutiani's research. (2022) which explains that community participation is able to increase the sustainability of tourist destinations and strengthen social relations

in the community. Another study by (Young et al., 2026) also confirms that the Community Based Tourism approach can increase the community's sense of belonging to tourist destinations so that people are more active in maintaining and developing the potential of their area. In addition, the research of Nadhifatur Rifdah and (Nadhifatur Rifdah & Kusdiwanggo, 2024) shows that community involvement is an important factor in creating sustainable tourism development. This shows that the community is not only a tourist attraction, but also the main subject in the development of community-based sports destinations.

Furthermore, in the aspect of disaster mitigation, the results of the study show that safety and preparedness are an important part of the development of nature-based sports tourism. The implementation of safety protocols, identification of disaster-prone zones, and community-based safety education are steps to minimize risks during the activity. These findings are in line with the research of Hsu, J. L., & Sharma, (2023) which states that risk management and disaster mitigation are important elements in creating safe and sustainable tourist destinations. In addition, the research (Zumaro et al., 2023) also explains that the readiness of the community and managers in facing potential risks can increase tourists' confidence in nature-based tourist destinations. Thus, security and disaster mitigation aspects are important supporting factors in maintaining the sustainability of sports tourism.

Based on the relationship between the results of the research and various previous studies, it can be concluded that the development of community-based sports tourism requires the integration of destination attraction, environmental sustainability, community participation, and disaster mitigation in one mutually supportive system. The relationship between these four aspects resulted in a new finding that can be called the Integrated

Community Sport Tourism Sustainability Framework. This theory explains that the success of community-based sports tourism is not only determined by the potential of natural tourism alone, but also by community involvement, sustainable environmental management, and integrated risk mitigation readiness. With this integration, sports tourism destinations can develop safely, participaly, sustainably, and provide social and economic benefits for the local community. Unlike previous studies that mainly focused on economic impacts, this study highlights the integration of disaster mitigation and community-based governance as essential dimensions in sustaining walking-based sport tourism destinations.

D. Conclusion

This study concludes that Sumedang Walkers has significant potential to develop as a sustainable community-based sport tourism destination. The development potential is supported by four interconnected dimensions: tourism attractiveness, environmental sustainability, community participation, and disaster mitigation. Community involvement and local economic participation strengthen the sustainability of tourism activities, while safety awareness and environmental management enhance destination resilience. The study proposes an Integrated Community Sport Tourism Sustainability Framework as a conceptual approach for developing sustainable community-based sport tourism destinations.

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E. Conflict of Interest

The author stated that there was no conflict of interest in this study.

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