

HARIF AMALI RIVAL, Dr. SE, MSI
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Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Republic of Indonesia
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Nelvia Iryani, SE.,M.Si

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Dekan,

Efa Yonnedi, Ph.D., CA, CRGP
NIP. 197205021996021001

Dr. Mohamad Fany Alfarisi
Conference Chair

A Descriptive Study: An Evaluation of the Availability of Facilities and Infrastructure at the “Kayu Kolek” Tourist Attraction in Lima Puluh Kota Regency

Nelvia Iryani

nelvia.iryani@gmail.com

Faculty of Economics, Andalas University, Campus II Payakumbuh

Abstract. The availability of facilities and infrastructure is one of the most frequent issues encountered in tourist attractions that are still developing, one of which is the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction located in Nagari Sikabu-kabu, Tanjung Haro Padang Panjang, Luak district, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. This research therefore aims to identify and evaluate the availability of facilities and infrastructure on that tourist attraction. A descriptive method with a qualitative approach was used. Primary data was obtained through observation and structured interviews conducted to the managers and the government of Nagari SITAPA. The research result shows that the tourist attraction was lack of facilities and infrastructure limiting the activities of tourists visiting the place. Several facilities and infrastructure that must be developed include: accessibility to the location, electricity, telecommunication and internet network, a welcome gateway, trash cans, public transportation, medicine and health care facility, the availability of recreational facility and play area, gazebo as well as benches or places to sit for visitors.

Keywords: tourism, availability of facilities and infrastructure, “Kayu Kolek”.

1 Introduction

Lima Puluh Kota Regency is one of the regencies in Sumatera Barat Province. This regency has a considerable number of natural magnificence that becomes its distinctive appeal such as rivers, mountains, waterfalls, valleys, as well as forests with its various types of flora and fauna. This natural potential is spread almost equally in all districts in Lima Puluh Kota regency. This situation becomes a good opportunity to develop tourist attractions in the regency. There is at least a total of 66 tourist attractions, 33 of which are natural attractions, 5 cultural attractions, 18 historical attractions, and 5 educational attractions in Lima Puluh Kota regency (Department of Youth and Sport, Lima Puluh Kota Regency, 2016).

Due to the potential that the regency brings, the government gives a constant support to develop the regions in the area. It is in accordance with the vision upheld by the Department of Youth and Sport of Lima Puluh Kota regency, that is “realizing a distinguished quality and competitiveness of culture, tourism, youth, and sport”.

One of the tourist attractions currently developed by the government of Lima Puluh Kota Regency is “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction situated in Nagari Sikabu-kabu Tanjung Haro Padang Panjang (SITAPA), Luak district, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. Since its establishment in 2014 using the village fund, some basic facilities which could support the tourist attraction

have been built by the local authority. However, making this attraction known and visited by many tourists is not easy. One of the constraints faced is the availability of facilities and infrastructure. Lacking government consideration, especially the relevant authorities managing the tourist attraction is one of the inhibiting factors for the development of the “Kayu Kolek” attraction. As a matter of fact, it has many prospects. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct a research to review and identify the condition of facilities and infrastructure at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction. The result of this research is expected to be beneficial for those developing the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction (i.e the government of Lima Puluh Kota Regency and particularly the government of SITAPA).

2 Research Method

This research is a descriptive study, attempting to describe solutions to the current issues based on the presented data that are analysed and interpreted (Narbuko and Achmadi, 2004). It used a qualitative approach; that is an approach normally used to examine an object in its natural condition where the researcher is the key instrument (Sugiyono, 2017). A qualitative research aims to reveal qualitative information, thus emphasizing the process of a problem and meaning by describing the existing problem as it is when the study is carried out. Moreover, it does not truly focus on number and variable measurement nor a test using statistical method. A qualitative research is elaborative in nature, where the researcher is allowed to scrutinize in-depth information or data towards the research object.

This research conducted at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction, Lima Puluh Kota Regency used primary data. Primary data were used and collected through direct observations in the tourist site, interviews with the managers of the attraction, and documentation of direct observation collected using an observation sheet. On the other hand, secondary data were obtained from the related institutions, internet, as well as books relevant to the research topic.

The analysis technique employed in this research was a qualitative data analysis done by presenting data gained and analysing the previous problems. The data were then analysed based on the reasoning ability in connecting facts, data, and information so that a clear insight of the object under study can be attained.

2. Research Results

“Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction is situated in Nagari Sikabu-kabu Tanjung Haro Padang Panjang (SITAPA), Luak district, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. Having natural beauty of panorama at the height of Mount Sago over 1100 meters above sea level (AMSL), “Kayu Kolek” possesses stunning natural views that is attractive to appreciate. A view of Payakumbuh city covered by morning mist transforms “Kayu Kolek” into a “land above the clouds” with cold water from small rivers and the cool air of the mountains. Linked by the district road and Payakumbuh city border, this tourist attraction is located 12 km from Payakumbuh city and can be reached either using two-wheeled or four-wheeled vehicles. This tourist attraction offers astonishing landscape making it well-known on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram.

From the peak, the visitors could witness a scenic landscape of some corners of Payakumbuh city and Lima Puluh Kota regency both during the day and at night. A kilometer before the highpoint, visitors could enjoy the natural beauty of scenery along the way such as hills with rice fields and listen to the sound of water that will make the trip becomes more pleasant. A large “Kayu Kolek” writing sign greets its visitors. This mark is a famous and central photo spot where visitors usually take pictures.

1. Facilities supporting the activities in the tourist attraction

Table 1. Facilities supporting tourist activities in “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction.

Facilities and Infrastructure	Description	Documentation
Attraction	<p>“Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction presents panoramic beauty of mountains and tiered rice fields. The air is very cool and fresh, far from the hustle and bustle of noisy vehicles. In the tourist site, visitors can take pictures with “Kayu Kolek” writing sign as the background. This is a central icon of the site. Myriad tourism events, either local or international, have been held there. In August 2019 for instance, there was “Kayu Kolek” mountain bike excursion event attended not only by mountain bikers from several areas such as West Sumatera, Jambi, Riau, and Bengkulu, but also participants from other countries. In the same year, for the first time in Sumatera, the 5th Indonesian <i>Endurocs</i> Round mountain bike racing was held at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction. It was the third bike event conducted at the site and became one of the tracks outside Java and Bali that should be organized annually at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction.</p>	

The availability of clean water

There is fairly sufficient availability of clean water as it can meet the needs of tourists for clean water.



Public toilet

At present, there are two units of public toilet at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction with adequate condition and clean water.



Prayer room


A representative prayer room with good toilet condition has been built.



Cafe



There are at least three cafes or stalls that provide food and beverage for visitors at the tourist site. Not far from the site, there is also a café called “Bumi Sikabu”. This café is quite famous as it appears on social media several times.



Ticket Booth	The entry ticket booth is already in good condition.	
Signpost	There are several signposts built on the way to the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction. Visitors could follow the signposts to go to the tourist site location. The tourist attraction itself has also been equipped with signposts.	 
Security and Information Booth	There is a security booth that is also functioned as an information centre at the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction.	
Parking Lot	There is a decent parking area already covered by paving blocks.	

2. Facilities that need improvements

Table 2. Facilities that have not yet supported “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction

Facilities and Infrastructure	Description	Documentation
Accessibility	The road to the tourist attraction is poor. Only 2 kilometers of road nearly close to the site has been casted with cement. The width of the road is far from the standard; that is only 2.5 meters. The road is winding and sloping. Hence, it is very unlikely to be crossed by four-wheeled vehicles like cars because the driver will have difficulty if	 

another car passes by.

Telecommunication and Internet	Because the cell site (cell tower) is far from the tourist site, the telecommunication and internet network in the location are very bad.
Electricity and Street Light	At the “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction, there has been no electricity for food stalls, canteens, cafés and no street lighting to the location. Though, there is a café namely “Bumi Sikabu” that attempts to get the electricity by borrowing it to the café’s owner house not far from the café.
Trash Cans	It is unfortunate that there is no trash bin around the tourist site. Consequently, trash can be found everywhere in the location.
The availability of recreational facilities such as pool and play area	Recreational facilities such as swimming pools, playground, gazebos, and benches to sit for visitors cannot yet be found in the site.
Public Transport	There is no public transportation operated to the location, thus visitors must use their own private vehicle.
Medicine and Health Care Facility	There is no clinic that can serve first aid needs for 24 hours for visitors.
A Welcome Gate	An entrance gate as a mark of the tourist site to welcome the visitors is not yet available.



4. Conclusion

Overall, it can be concluded that the problem confronted by “Kayu Kalek” tourist attraction is the lack of tourism facilities and infrastructure. Consequently, there is limited tourism activities that can be done. As a matter of fact, this tourist attraction has many potentials to develop. Some of the infrastructure and facilities that need to be developed identified from the research result are road accessibility, electricity and lights, telecommunication and internet network, trash bins, public transportation, medicine and health care facility, recreational facility and play area, gazebo as well as places to sit for visitors.

5. Suggestions

The followings are some recommendations to improve “Kayu Kolek” tourist attraction:

1. The government of Lima Puluh Kota Regency should immediately create a structured scheme to increase visits to the tourist site.
2. The development of facilities and infrastructure of the tourist site should involve the society surrounding the site and private company, especially in the planning and implementation process.

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