

# **Economic Condition of The People of BromoTengger Semeru as International Tourism in Indonesia During The Pandemic**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The tourism and agriculture sectors are important aspects of economic life for the people of Bromo. However, since the pandemic that almost destroyed the economic sector in almost all corners of the world, it also affected the BromoTengger Semeru area. This study aims to determine the effect of the pandemic on the economic sector of the BromoTengger Semeru community before and after the pandemic. This study will use a qualitative method by distributing questionnaires and direct observations in order to find out the economic condition of the Bromo community before and after the pandemic and analyze how the Bromo community deals with these conditions. The results of this research and observation are that the majority of the tengger people in the Sukapura sub-district affected by the pandemic experienced a decrease in income. However, the economy in general can still face this pandemic because people have income in the agricultural sector. So that the decline in social welfare does not change drastically.

**Keywords:** *Economy, Income, Human Resource, Pandemic, Tourism.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Tourism is one sector that has a very important role for economic growth in Indonesia. What's more, Indonesia has a lot of islands that have tourist and cultural attractions. The existence of this attraction makes the tourism sector has a great opportunity to attract consumers from various countries. Recognizing this attraction, the government is now paying more attention to the tourism sector with the aim that the tourism sectors in Indonesia are growing and recognized by foreign tourists. One of them is a tour on Mount Bromo.

Mount Bromo is one of the tourist destinations that are part of the BromoTengger Semeru National Park which is located in Pasuruan Regency, Probolinggo Regency, Malang Regency and Lumajang Regency. Mount Bromo tourist area is quite famous whether it's for domestic tourists and foreign tourists. Mount Bromo is very famous for its natural beauty and therefore Mount Bromo is always used as a destination to spend vacation time. According to [1], the number of tourist visits both from within and outside the country to BromoTengger Semeru National Park reached 690,831 people. A total of 669,422 people are

domestic tourists, while the other 21,409 are foreign tourists. Total Non-Tax State Revenue (PNBP) from tourist visits reached Rp 22.86 billion in 2019.

However, during the pandemic period (2020) the amount of PNBP deposited to the state was only Rp 6.41 billion. The decrease in the amount of PNBP occurred due to the limitation of the number of visitors. During the pandemic, this visitor quota restriction was carried out by the BromoTengger Semeru National Park Center (TNBTS), with a maximum number of 30 percent or 1,001 people per day from 28 December 2020 to 8 January 2021.

However, since the government imposed PPKM (Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities), the people around Mount Bromo in Probolinggo Regency have suffered considerable losses considering that almost all of the people there rely on tourism as their main source of income. This is not only experienced by local people, but also affects several hotels, homestays, places to eat or cafes and other tourist attractions. Due to the lack of visitors, some inns were forced to close and lay off some of their employees.

This study aims to see whether the economic life there continues to run well without the contribution of the tourism sector and to compare economic activities before and after the pandemic. The function of this research is to analyze whether there are solutions that can be submitted related to the economic condition of the people of BromoTengger Semeru before and after the pandemic.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this study is a qualitative method using a phenomenological approach. This approach was chosen in order to be able to explore data from the object of research and the meaning of the things that are the basis for the phenomenon or experience of the object of research. In this study, data collection will be carried out through surveys and observations as well as interviews or distributing questionnaires to the community in Sukapura sub-district.

Researchers chose to use qualitative methods because qualitative methods are closely related and can interpret social phenomena and physical phenomena. With this method, the phenomena that occur in the surrounding environment can be understood by being seen directly using the eye senses and the existing problems can be analyzed as well as possible. This research will focus on: first, the economic condition of the people of BromoTengger Semeru, precisely in the Sukapura sub-district, before and after the pandemic. Second, the way the people of BromoTengger Semeru survive during the pandemic.

Data analysis in the qualitative method is carried out using data analysis techniques using the Miles and Huberman model, which will be divided into 3 stages, namely: data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. Data reduction can be obtained from the results of interviews and field surveys directly.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on [2] with the title "Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Bromo Tourism Area Community as Development of Living Welfare" concluded that in this study, which was carried out in The Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park area found its own uniqueness, namely the people who are in the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park area have a very large income, which can reach 30-70 million per harvest for farmers and for jeep drivers can reach Rp. 500,000 per day [1]. People's incomes such as in Bromo are very rarely found in national parks or other places, this very large income is supported by the tourism potential of Bromo Tengger National Park which has excellent natural beauty that can attract

tourists. Local and foreign tourists and the presence of andisol soil located in around the Bromo National Park which has a high level of soil fertility very good so it is very supportive to be used as a means Agriculture. Not only the very beautiful natural potential and the potential of the land but there is the carrying capacity of the Tengger community who have a strong work ethic very high compared to other areas so that a very wide job field that supports at least the unemployment in the Bromo tengger semeru National Park area. And In the Bromo area, it is expected that human resources will be able to develop or improve the economy of the community around the Bromo area.

The data analysis technique used in this study is a qualitative method, namely by distributing questionnaires. This method will produce the data needed by researchers. This study aims to determine the economic condition of the Tengger people who live in the Bromo Tengger Semeru tourist area and how the community overcomes the problems caused by the pandemic.

The population in this study is all people who live around the Bromo Tengger Semeru tourist area. The sample used in this study came from the Tengger community who live in the Bromo Tengger Semeru tourist area, precisely in the Sukapura sub-district, Probolinggo district. Meanwhile, the respondents in this study were the people of the Sukapura sub-district as many as 15 people with the sampling technique using the Cluster Random Sampling technique.

In the process of research and observation, researchers distributed questionnaires to determine the condition of the tengger community in the Sukapura sub-district. The distribution of questionnaires is done by coming directly to the Sukapura sub-district and distributing the questionnaires that have been randomly available to the surrounding community. The following are some of the questions in the questionnaire for the tengger community in the Sukapura sub-district.

**Table 1.**Results of distributing questionnaires

No	Researcher	Source person
1.	How much income can the Sukapura sub-district community generate in one month before the pandemic?	People in Sukapura sub-district rely a lot on the tourism sector to make a living. The average income of the community before the pandemic was around 3-5 million rupiah. This amount was obtained from the jeep rental business, rental of climbing equipment, trading, and stalls around the tourist area. In addition, some communities also depend on the agricultural sector. Fertile soil allows people to grow vegetables which can later be marketed to other areas.
2.	Has the work of the people in the Sukapura sub-district been affected by the pandemic?	The majority of people in the Sukapura sub-district have been severely affected by the pandemic. People's lives in Sukapura sub-district depend a lot on the tourism sector.
3.	How can the pandemic affect the work of the people in the Sukapura sub-district?	The number of BromoTengger Semeru tourists has decreased due to the pandemic. The pandemic has made the number of visitors who take advantage of public services decrease because Bromo Tengger Semeru tourism was forced to close. The decrease in tourists makes people's income also decrease. In addition, the agricultural sector has also been affected by the pandemic as vegetable prices have decreased.
4.	Do people in Sukapura sub-district have other jobs after being affected by the pandemic?	The pandemic forced people to change professions. From renting a jeep to being a driver for loading vegetables, traders around tourist areas become online traders, some even surrender and become unemployed.
5.	How much income can be generated in one month after the pandemic?	The decrease in tourist visits has an impact on the decline in people's income in the Sukapura sub-district. Before the pandemic, people could earn up to more than 5 million rupiah in one month. However, currently the average income of the community is only around 0 - 1 million rupiah. Very much different compared to earnings before the pandemic.

No	Researcher	Source person
6.	Does the pandemic really have an impact on the condition of the people in the Sukapura sub-district?	The decline in people's incomes makes it difficult for people to meet their daily needs. The community must be able to maximize existing income and save a little so that all needs can be met. This causes a decline in economic conditions and the welfare of the people in Sukapura sub-district.
7.	How do people in Sukapura sub-district deal with problems caused by the pandemic?	People in Sukapura sub-district choose to switch professions to get other income. The community also uses social media to promote Bromo Tengger Semeru tourism in the hope that later tourist visits can return to normal so that the community's economy will also return to stability.
8.	Have people in the Sukapura sub-district experienced financial losses due to the pandemic?	Some people claim to have suffered financial losses due to the pandemic. Lack of income makes people have to do other ways to meet their daily needs.

#### 4. CONCLUSSION

Economic growth in Indonesia is influenced by income or foreign exchange. One of the sectors that contributes the largest foreign exchange is the tourism sector, which has now developed and become one of the largest industries for economic growth in Indonesia, this can be seen from the increasing development of the number of domestic and foreign tourist visits. So that the pandemic affects the decline in the country's foreign exchange. Based on the table above, the data shows that the majority of people in the Sukapura sub-district are entrepreneurs because the area is located in the Bromo Tengger Semeru tourist area, so that people's lives depend a lot on the tourism sector. In addition, many people make a living as farmers, this is because the land in the Sukapura sub-district is fertile and very supportive for agricultural facilities. People's income from the tourism and agricultural sectors is also very promising. People can meet their needs from this income. However, the pandemic has made the community face several obstacles. Society has been greatly affected by the pandemic. The tourism sector which was forced to close and also the agricultural sector which experienced a decline in prices had an impact on the community. Many people experience a decline in the economy due to lost jobs.

In general, the community's economy has not changed drastically because people still have other jobs. However, when viewed individually, some communities experienced a drastic decrease in income and even lost their jobs.

Overcoming some of the obstacles faced, the Sukapura sub-district community did various ways. Starting from changing professions, selling online, promoting the Bromo Tengger Semeru tourist area, and others. However, there are also people who are just resigned to the situation at hand. The decline in income also makes people suffer financial losses. Even though there is not enough income, the community must still meet their daily needs. With this, it can be concluded that the pandemic has indeed had a social and economic impact. The community's economy has also experienced a decline due to declining incomes and job losses. It is hoped that the community can recover faster from the effects caused by the pandemic.

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher gives the following suggestions: first, it is expected that the government will provide assistance funds such as food staples or funds in the form of money as business capital (online business). Second, the government can also provide counseling or hold useful seminars such as how to start an online business and how to market it. Third, Mount Bromo tourism is reopened by complying with existing procedures and visitor restrictions so that Bromo Tengger Semeru residents can still earn income, although not as much as before the pandemic.

#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

In the preparation of this article, we divide the tasks so that the completion of the article can run well. First, Anastasya Kristi is in charge of compiling abstracts, introductions, materials and methods as well as distributing questionnaires and observations in the Sukapura District area. second, Annisa Ilman Nafia is in charge of compiling a list of questionnaire questions, abstracts, tables and results and discussion. Last, Mr. Handriyono is in charge of providing suggestions, comments and criticisms of our work if errors or parts are found that are not clear.

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