



EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF KARST TOURISM AREA IN RAMMANG – RAMMANG, MAROS REGENCY

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ARTICLE INFO

ISSN: 2716-4837
Vol. 6, No. 1, June 2024
URL: <http://usnsj.id/index.php/geographica>

Suggestion for the Citation and Bibliography

Citation in Text:

Rusdi, et. Al (2024)

Bibliography: Rusdi., Hasan, H., & Syahrudin, D. J. (2024). Educational Aspects of Karst Tourism in Ramang-Ramang, Maros Regency. *Geographica: Science & Education Journal*, 6 (1, June), 1-6.

Abstract

This research examines about how educational aspects of the karst tourism area in rammang - rammang maros district. The purpose of this study was to determine the educational aspects of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang, Maros district. This type of research is qualitative. This research was carried out in Mars County. The stages in this study were the pre-field stage, the field work stage, the data analysis stage, and the reporting stage. Source of data in research is managers, government, visitors, and the local community. Data collection procedures in the form of observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques in the form of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. The results showed that in the educational aspect of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang, Maros Regency, information about tourist areas is now considered clear, because there is an official website and location officers who are ready to provide information to visitors. Access is relatively long and requires initial planning, especially for those who live outside Maros Regency. The quality of service in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, was considered quite good by visitors.

Keywords: *Geography Information System; Geomorfology; Education*

A. Introduction

Tourism, a dynamic engine of the economy, offers more than just leisure; it opens up avenues for education, particularly in regions like the Karst landscapes of Rammang-Rammang in Maros Regency (Putra et al., 2023). Here, amid the towering limestone, lies a natural repository of knowledge, ripe with lessons in ecology, geology, and the symphony of culture interwoven with nature (Asriady, 2011). It is a place where recreation and education can coalesce, transforming a

simple visit into a profound learning experience for children and adolescents (Dahlan, 2016). Recognizing this, stakeholders, including the government and site managers, must prioritize educational programming to enrich the visitor's journey and foster a deeper understanding of the region's cultural and environmental narratives (Agusyanto, 2007).

Yet, the present situation reveals a lack of emphasis on such educational endeavors. Many sites in Indonesia, including those in Maros, primarily focus on the commercial aspect, overlooking the transformative power of integrating educational experiences (Ahmad, 2014). While there are pockets where educational programs exist, they often require enhancement to achieve the desired impact and efficiency (Dowling, 2011). It necessitates a thorough analysis of the educational offerings, the proficiency of educators, the use of media and technology in teaching, and the assessment of existing educational programs (Bojovic, 2014). Such an analysis aims not just to elevate the quality of educational experiences but also to bolster the overall development of Indonesian tourism (Hutabarat & Pratiwi, 2022).

Envisioning a future where tourists leave the Karst region of Maros enriched with knowledge and appreciation, we see the need for strategic improvements. Enhanced educational programs, more effective use of media and technology, professional development for educators, and a rigorous evaluation process are but a few of the initiatives that could reshape the educational landscape of these tourist sites (Alfiyanti, 2018). In the long run, these enhancements could render a twofold benefit: they would not only elevate Indonesia's tourism profile but also foster a societal awareness of cultural and environmental conservation (Elizondo & JL Crompton, 2010).

The ultimate goal of examining the educational facets of tourism in the Karst regions of Maros is to provide well-founded recommendations to the local government, site managers, and the community. The aim is to refine the educational quality and thereby fortify Indonesia's standing in the global tourism arena. Maros, with its unique and unreplicated attractions, has the potential to become a coveted destination for both international and local tourists (Agus Mandong et al., 2023). However, the Karst mountains of Maros are not yet a household name, and more proactive involvement from both the government and local communities is essential to unlock this potential (Rezki Pratama Putra et al., 2022). By spotlighting the educational value and enhancing visitor engagement, Maros can shine on the world stage, not just as a beacon of natural beauty, but as a crucible of learning and cultural richness (Syani, 2007).

B. Methodology

In the upcoming study on the educational aspects of tourism in the Karst region of Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, we will implement a qualitative descriptive research method that is meticulously designed to capture the complex interplay between education and tourism. The data collection phase will be conducted with precision and sensitivity to the local context (Suharsaputra, 2012). Semi-structured interviews will be arranged with an array of stakeholders, including government officials, tourism operators, educators, and tourists, ensuring a comprehensive collection of perspectives (Thamhain, 2014). Observation techniques will also be employed, allowing for the recording of educational interactions as they naturally occur within the tourism environment (Widodo, 2015). This will be complemented by the examination of educational materials and signage in situ, to assess their communicative effectiveness and alignment with educational goals. Additionally, we will scrutinize visitor feedback, both formal and informal, to gauge the reception and perceived value of educational programs currently in place.

Following the thorough gathering of data, the analysis phase will begin with a rigorous coding process. The collected data will be broken down into manageable units that can be examined for recurring themes and patterns (Werner & Souder, 1997). Through this detailed analysis, insights will emerge regarding the effectiveness of current educational initiatives and areas needing improvement. Special attention will be given to identifying the educational methods that resonate most with visitors and the elements that facilitate meaningful learning experiences (Roessner, 2000). This phase is critical as it will lead to the formulation of actionable recommendations tailored to enhance the educational impact of tourism in Rammang-Rammang (Wei, 2012). The end goal is to produce a set of strategic guidelines that can be implemented to elevate the educational offerings, ensuring that they not only inform and enrich the visitor experience but also encourage sustainable tourism practices that respect and celebrate the unique Karst environment and the cultural heritage of Maros Regency.

C. Findings and Discussion

1. Findings

1.1 The condition of the educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

That information about tourist areas is now considered clear, because it can be an official website and location officers who are ready to provide information to visitors. Access is relatively long and requires preliminary planning, especially for those who live outside Maros Regency. The quality of service in the karst tourist area in Rammang-Rammang Maros Regency is rated quite well by visitors (Hatibu et al., 2018).

1.2 Problems that occur in the educational aspect of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

That the existing facilities in the area are considered quite complete and adequate by most visitors, the information available in the karst tourist area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency. Still a concern for some visitors, all parties have a role in maintaining and increasing awareness of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency. Education of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang is considered important and still has room to be improved.

1.3 Solutions that can be done to improve the quality of educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

Increase understanding of nature sustainability and support sustainable tourism development. The implementation of technology in the karst tourism area in Rammang-Rammang Maros Regency will provide significant benefits in improving visitor experience, operational efficiency and effectiveness of educational programs. Local community participation has a very important role in the development and management of karst tourism areas in Rammang-Rammang.

This step can have a positive impact in various aspects, including environmental conservation, economic empowerment, and improving the tourist experience of visitors, cooperation involving the government, private sector, and the community is very important in developing and managing the karst tourist area in Rammang-Rammang.

The common goal of preserving nature, building good facilities, and providing unique experiences to visitors can be achieved more effectively and sustainably.

2. Discussion

2. 1 Educational Aspects of Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

a. Tourism Information

The karst tourism area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, has a history of management that was initially poorly understood by visitors. Although the area has been around for a long time, information about the history and explanations at each attraction is still limited, causing visitors to feel confused. The development of the area began in 2014 by the people of Salenrang Village and opened to the public in the same year. In recent years, the development of this region has been rapid, mainly due to access to information through the internet.

b. Education Programs

The educational aspect of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in the education program that the karst tourism area in RammangRammang, Maros Regency, has great potential as a means of tourism education. Visitors, especially students and university students, can gain valuable knowledge about the history of the formation of karst cliffs in the region.

c. Accessibility

The educational aspect of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in accessibility that the karst tourism area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, has relatively long access and requires preliminary planning, especially for those who live in Makassar. Although the road to the area is quite far and involves traveling to villages in Maros Regency, road access is quite good, especially after entering the tourist area.

d. Quality of Service

Based on the educational aspects of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in the quality of service that the quality of service in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, is considered quite good by visitors. Visitors are satisfied with their experience in this tourist spot, where the area is not only clean and beautiful, but also has adequate toilet facilities.

2.2 Problems That Occur in the Educational Aspect of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

a. Lack of Facilities

Based on the educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in the lack of facilities that exist in the area are considered decent, complete, and adequate by most visitors. Some of the facilities mentioned include seating, interesting spots, cafes, worship facilities, and others.

b. Lack of Information

Based on the educational aspects of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in the lack of information that is available in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, is still a concern for some visitors. There are several views that reflect the need for improvement in terms of information provision to visitors.

c. Lack of attention

Based on the educational aspects of the karst tourism area in Rammang - Rammang, Maros Regency in the lack of attention that attention to concern for the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, is an important focus for visitors, managers, and related parties. Nature sustainability, cleanliness, and environmental protection are central themes in their view of this tourist area.

d. Lack of Integrity Between Education and Tourism

Based on the observations of interviews from all informants above, it was found that the problems that occurred in the educational aspect of the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang - Rammang, Maros Regency in the absence of integrity between education and tourism are tourism education in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, considered an important aspect that needs to be improved to provide a more meaningful experience for visitors.

2.3 Solutions That Can Be Done to Improve the Quality of Education Aspects of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency

a. Propose a Sustainable Education Program

Based on solutions that can be done to improve the educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in proposing a sustainable education program is sustainable tourism education in Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, considered an important step to improve visitor experience and awareness.

b. Using technology to improve the effectiveness of educational programs

Based on solutions that can be done to improve the educational aspects of the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in using technology to improve the effectiveness of educational programs is the application of technology in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, is considered an effective solution to improve visitor experience and efficiency in various aspects.

c. Encouraging Local Community Participation

Based on solutions that can be done to improve the educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency in inviting local community participation is to involve local or local communities in the management and development of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, considered a very important and profitable step.

d. Establishing Partnerships with Government and Private Institutions

Based on solutions that can be done to improve the educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang - Rammang, Maros Regency in establishing partnerships with government and private institutions is cooperation between the government and the private sector in the development and management of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency, is an important factor to promote and maintain the sustainability of tourist areas.

D. Conclusion

The findings of this study are as follows from the results of data analysis and debate presented in chapter IV on Educational Aspects of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang - Rammang, Maros Regency, while the conclusions are as follows:

1. Educational aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang - Rammang Maros Regency that information about tourist areas is now considered clear, because there are official websites and location officers who are ready to provide information to visitors. Access is relatively long and requires advance planning, especially for those who live outside Maros Regency. The quality of service in the Karst Tourism Area in Rammang-Rammang, Maros Regency is considered quite good by visitors.

2. The problem that occurs in the educational aspect of the karst tourist area in Rammang-rammang Maros Regency is that the facilities in the area are considered quite complete, and adequate by most visitors. Information available in Karst Tourism Area in RammangRammang, Maros Regency.
3. Solutions that can be done to improve the quality of education aspects of karst tourism areas in Rammang-rammang Maros Regency that are important steps to maintain visitor interest by increasing understanding of nature sustainability, and supporting sustainable tourism development. The application of technology is believed to provide significant benefits in improving visitor experience, operational efficiency, and the effectiveness of educational programs. The participation of local communities also has a very important role in the development and management of Karst Tourism Areas in Rammang-Rammang.

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