

# Efforts to Regenerate Local Tourism: Using Empty Land as a Fishing Spot

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**ABSTRACT** Kesugihan Village is an area located in the highlands, approximately 5.6 km from the sub-district government center. Kesugihan Village has a spring that is located not far from residential areas. However, due to the lack of public concern for the environment of the spring, it is not used as a tourist attraction. Kesugihan Village has a tourist destination, Sekar Wilis Park, which is not far from residential areas and water sources, so the village and community should utilize existing facilities and natural resources. However, the park is no longer operational due to a lack of maintenance by the community, youth organizations, and the village government. The 01 KKN UMPO 2023 team in Kesugihan Village wants to revive empty land by changing the swimming pool into a fishing pond so that this effort can increase the motivation of residents and the village government to improve the residents' economy.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Kesugihan Village is one of the villages in Pulung sub-district, Ponorogo district. Kesugihan Village has a mountainous geographic location. Kesugihan Village and the sub-district government center are approximately 5.6 km away. Most work as traders and farmers. One of the potentials of Kesugihan village is the Sekar Wilis Park tourist destination (Nafisah et al., 2023; Sudiantini et al., 2023; Zahroh & Hartiningtyas, 2023). This destination offers several facilities such as a swimming pool (Aziza & Purwanto, 2022; Berybe et al., 2021), playground (Farrukh et al., 2022), coffee shop (Subarkah, 2019), and volleyball court. In 2018, the Sekar Wilis Park tourist destination was officially opened. Sekar Wilis Park also offers natural beauty (Howell, 2020), supported by its strategic geographical location (Cherepovska et al., 2021).

Sekar Wilis Park offers pristine views of mountains, rice fields, and forests. The location of Sekar Wilis Park is also close to residential areas, and access to the park can be accessed by 2-wheeled vehicles. Unfortunately, the lack of management and support from the village government and the surrounding community has made Sekar Wilis Park less known to the public (Eriyanti et al., 2022; Sungkawati et al., 2022; Yuniwati & Afdah, 2021). Sekar Wilis Park, which should be a tourism potential for Kesugihan Village, has received little attention from

the government in the village itself. The swimming pool, which used to be one of the pools in Kesugihan Village, is no longer used. The coffee shop, which was supposed to be a place for village youth to exchange information, is no longer available. The government should pay attention to the long-term effects that will arise if Sekar Wilis Park is appropriately managed. Professional. The long-term effects that can be caused include: supporting the economic growth of the Kesugihan Village community (da Fonseca, 2022; Olajos, 2019), increasing the income of Ngrayun Village (Bohlin, 2020; Russell, 2020), as well as other positive impacts (Broch, 2023; Kreier, 2022). Village governments must be more creative (Fly, 2023; Meekaew, 2019) and innovative in utilizing village potential (Gustavsson, 2021). So that this potential can be implemented and benefit the community, especially Kesugihan Village (Gedal, 2018; Houssay-Holzschuch, 2018).

The service team created a work program for cultivating catfish and catfish fishing by utilizing swimming pools that were no longer in use (Bobsaid, 2021; Song, 2020). This activity was formed to revive Sekar Wilis Park by holding a catfish fishing competition in collaboration with youth organizations and village officials in Kesugihan Village, Pulung District, Ponorogo Regency (Enault, 2021; Pothukuchi, 2017). The catfish fishing

competition was held because most Kesugihan Village residents like fishing in their spare time (Riono et al., 2023; Sugianto et al., 2022; Wulandari et al., 2022). By holding this catfish fishing program, it is hoped that the community will participate in running and reviving Sekar Wilis Park.

Inspired by an abandoned swimming pool, our group took the initiative to create a fishing pond because, judging from the conditions in the field, it was impossible to repair and reuse it as a swimming pool. Not only did we turn the swimming pool into a fishing pond, but we also revived the coffee shop as a supporting facility.

The improvement efforts we carry out do not always run smoothly; there are several obstacles and challenges that we have to overcome to help build the potential of this village (Abidin et al., 2023; Safitri et al., 2023). The first problem is internal as an example of differences of opinion by some group members, but we can solve internal problems wisely. For external problems, we encountered several difficulties. Firstly, in terms of funding, all costs incurred were purely group costs. The lack of enthusiasm from the community is also an obstacle for us. It can be seen that the community only helped build it by filling the fishing pond with water. With determination and intention, we can overcome all obstacles. With the fishing pond that we pioneered, we hope it will be the starting point for Sekar Wilis Park to become a tourist asset in Kesugihan Village so that later, we will be able to help encourage economic growth, especially for MSMEs in Kesugihan Village.

## 2. METHOD

One of the essential components in writing service journal articles is method. As part of exploring the problem, researchers conducted site surveys and analyzed the situation. This was done by direct observation by interviewing residents as resource persons.

As a result of the analysis of this problem, members of the Community Service team who work in Kesugihan Village together with the local Karang Taruna were moved to utilize the empty land in Sekar Wilis Park as a solution to utilize the land, so that in the future it can be used as an entertainment venue and can help revive the economy—Local communities.

In implementing these activities, several planned steps have been successfully achieved. In general, the steps taken are (1) Study of Geographical Conditions, (2) Utilization of vacant land for fishing spots, (3) Creation of facilities and infrastructure, (4) Socialization of fishing spots in the Sekar Wilis local tourist area, (5) Community Response.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Study of Geographical Conditions*

The village is a village located in the Pulung sub-district, Ponorogo Regency. The Kesugihan Village area consists of four hamlets: Krajan, Kebun Agung, Sisir, and Plaosan. The four hamlets are divided into 11 Rukun Warga (RW) and 23 Rukun Tetangga (RT). The area of this village is recorded at around 397,118 Ha with a division of agricultural and non-agricultural land, namely 65 hectares of rice fields, 296,620 hectares of land for tegal, and 35,498 hectares of other land.

Through these figures, it can be seen that the vast area of Kesugihan Village contains abundant natural resources. Unfortunately, local communities often cannot utilize existing natural resources for profitable businesses. Because residents prefer to sell natural products directly without processing, the income generated is not much. Apart from plantations, residents also created a tourist attraction called Taman Sekar Wilis, which opened on August 12, 2018.

### *Utilization of Vacant Land for Fishing Sites*

Even though Sanggarloka Sekar Wilis has been open for more than four years, some undeveloped land still needs to be utilized so that this tourism can be enjoyed optimally and attract many visitors. Apart from that, with the beauty of the rice fields and mountains, this tour looks lovely, and the good views attract visitors.



*Figure 1. Vacant Land in Sekar Wilis*

Moreover, it looks beautiful along the road because rice fields and mountains surround it. This beautiful view is also an attraction in itself. In addition, the Sekar Wilis Park tourist attraction in Kesugihan Village has abundant water sources, but residents mostly use it to irrigate sand mining and rice fields. If the idle land is used for other tourism developments, such as fishing ponds, it will generate several financial benefits for residents.

### *Creation of Facilities and Infrastructure*

Empty land that will later be used as a fishing spot certainly needs repairs to make it suitable. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare facilities and infrastructure that can make things comfortable, increase satisfaction, speed up and simplify the process of building a pool, and increase productivity so that the results obtained are also of higher quality.



Figure 2. Preparation of Facilities and Infrastructure

In connection with this, the facilities and infrastructure used in improving the fishing pond are (Manasikana et al., 2023; Mustikasari & Relawati, 2021; Ridwan, 2022; Sah et al., 2022):

- a. Cleaning area around the pond by trimming wild plants.
- b. Provision of seating for fishing participants.
- c. Numbering around the pond for fishing participants.
- d. Improve electricity and provide lamps for lighting at night.
- e. Rearrangement of the coffee shop located next to the pool.
- f. Irrigation of the swimming pool, which will be used as a fishing pond

#### Socialization of fishing spots in the local tourist area of Taman Sekar Wilis

Before it officially opened, the Service Team in Kesugihan Village, along with the local village Karang Taruna, held an outreach regarding the opening of a fishing spot in the Taman Sekar Wilis tourist area (Andrews, 2018; Faridah, 2020; Widodo et al., 2023). This socialization was carried out to plan the development and implementation of a swimming pool, which was converted into a fish pond for fishing, by collaborating with the Kesugihan Village youth organization. Notification about the revitalization of Sekar Wilis Park was carried out through word of mouth and by distributing pamphlets on social media. This information is known to the public.



Figure 3. Socialization with Karang T Aruna

Holding advertising through pamphlets that researchers and the team have distributed can help to introduce Sekar Wilis Park, which currently has fishing tours available for the general public. This will

positively impact Sekar Wilis Park so that the wider community knows it and will increase the income of the surrounding community.

#### Community Response

After the activity was reactivated, Sekar Wilis Park and a fishing spot in the Sekar Wilis Park tourist area caused a positive response from the surrounding community. This is motivated by changes in people's lifestyles who are starting to be able to use their free time and land that has been empty for a long time to revive the economy of residents. Sekar Wilis Park is a fishing spot that the general public can visit. The public can visit Sekar Wilis Park free of charge and can take advantage of the existing facilities.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of community service activities has been able to revive Sekar Wilis Park by converting an unused swimming pool into a fishing pond. The existence of this fishing pond can help the community to utilize empty land and can revive the economy of the surrounding community.

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