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Local Community Perceptions and Participation in Mangrove Ecotourism Development: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to analyze local community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development through a systematic literature review (SLR) approach. This study used the PRISMA 2020 guidelines in a systematic and transparent literature selection process. A total of 69 articles were identified in the initial stage. After removing duplicates and filtering based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, 22 articles were selected for further analysis.

The results indicate that local community perceptions of mangrove ecotourism are generally positive, particularly regarding economic benefits and environmental conservation. These perceptions play a significant role in encouraging community participation in various activities, such as tourism management, conservation, and community-based economic activities. The level of community participation varies, influenced by economic, social, and institutional factors. Furthermore, there is a strong relationship between perceptions and community participation, with positive perceptions tending to increase community involvement in ecotourism development.

From a sustainability perspective, mangrove ecotourism has a positive impact on improving community welfare while supporting environmental conservation. However, suboptimal management has the potential to put pressure on the mangrove ecosystem. This study also identified research gaps, particularly regarding the lack of integration between perceptions and participation within a comprehensive analytical framework.

This research contributes by systematically integrating community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development. The results are expected to serve as a basis for developing community-based policies and guiding future research in the field of sustainable mangrove ecotourism.

KEYWORDS: Mangrove ecotourism; community perception; community participation; sustainable tourism; coastal management

INTRODUCTION

Mangrove ecosystems play a vital role in coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. Furthermore, mangroves serve as effective carbon sinks and natural barriers against coastal abrasion and disasters (Mardianton et al., 2024). In recent years, the utilization of mangrove ecosystems has expanded beyond their ecological function to include economic potential through ecotourism activities.

Mangrove ecotourism has emerged as an approach capable of integrating environmental conservation with improving the welfare of coastal communities. Through nature-based tourism activities, mangrove ecosystems can be utilized sustainably without compromising their ecological function (Azzahra et al., 2023; Mardianton et al., 2024). Mangrove ecotourism development has also been shown to stimulate local economic growth through job creation and community-based business development (Fistiningrum & Harini, 2021; Tambunan et al., 2024).

However, the success of mangrove ecotourism development depends heavily on the involvement of local communities. Local communities are key actors with knowledge, experience, and direct ties to mangrove resources (Helmi et al., 2025). Therefore, community perception and participation are crucial factors influencing the sustainability of ecotourism management (Zulkifi et al., 2025; Rahmi et al., 2025).

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Community perceptions of mangrove ecosystems and ecotourism activities will determine their support or rejection of tourism development. Positive perceptions of economic and environmental benefits tend to increase community support for ecotourism activities (Hadiprayitno et al., 2023; Arkwright & Kaomaneng, 2018). Conversely, negative perceptions or a lack of understanding can hinder community involvement in ecotourism management. Community perceptions of mangrove ecosystem development can increase employment opportunities and lead to economic sustainability for local communities (Mardianton et al., 2024).

In addition to perception, community participation is also a key factor in the success of mangrove ecotourism development. Community participation can take the form of involvement in planning, management, and tourism-related economic activities (Muda, 2025). The community-based tourism approach emphasizes the importance of community involvement in decision-making to ensure sustainable and equitable management (Tolkach & King, 2015).

Although various studies have examined community perception and participation in the context of tourism and mangroves, most of these studies address these two aspects separately. This indicates a research gap in understanding the relationship between community perception and participation in integrated mangrove ecotourism development (Pratama & Muda, 2025).

This research not only addresses the gap between community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development but also provides input and future directions in this field. By identifying areas for further research and exploring the factors influencing mangrove ecotourism development across different contexts and populations, this study can also be generalized and provide additional insights for application.

To address this gap, a research approach capable of synthesizing various empirical findings systematically and comprehensively is required. The systematic literature review (SLR) method is relevant because it allows researchers to identify, evaluate, and integrate previous research results in a structured, transparent, and replicable manner. This approach provides a systematic framework for selecting literature based on clear criteria, thereby enhancing the validity and reliability of research findings.

Furthermore, SLR plays a crucial role in minimizing subjective biases that often arise in traditional narrative studies, as the process follows standardized and well-documented procedures. Thus, the resulting synthesis is more objective and scientifically sound (Muda, 2025). SLR also enables researchers to identify patterns of relationships between variables, research development trends, and possible inconsistencies in findings across previous studies.

Furthermore, the use of SLR in this study aims not only to summarize previous research results but also to uncover conceptual and empirical gaps that remain largely unexplored. Thus, SLR can contribute to building a more integrated framework for understanding the relationship between community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development. This approach is expected to provide a strong foundation for formulating future research directions and supporting evidence-based policymaking.

This research focuses on answering the following questions:

1. RQ1: What are the characteristics and trends of research related to community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development?
2. RQ2: What are local community perceptions of mangrove ecotourism based on previous research?
3. RQ3: What are the forms and levels of community participation in mangrove ecotourism development?
4. RQ4: What factors influence community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development?
5. RQ5: What is the relationship between community perceptions and levels of participation in the context of mangrove ecotourism?
6. RQ6: What are the socio-economic and environmental impacts of community involvement in mangrove ecotourism?
7. RQ7: What research gaps remain in studies related to community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism?

Based on the background description, it is clear that mangrove ecotourism development relies not only on ecological and economic aspects but is also significantly influenced by the perceptions and participation of local communities. However, previous studies still show fragmented research, with perceptions and participation often analyzed separately, and few studies comprehensively examining their relationship.

Furthermore, the development of research on mangrove ecotourism shows variation in approaches, focus, and findings, necessitating a systematic synthesis to understand existing research patterns and trends. Furthermore, there remains uncertainty regarding the factors influencing community perceptions and participation, and how these two aspects contribute to the sustainability of mangrove ecotourism.

Therefore, this study was designed to answer several research questions aimed at providing a more comprehensive understanding of community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development. These research questions include an analysis of research characteristics and trends, an understanding of community perceptions, forms and levels of participation, factors influencing both, and the relationship between perceptions and participation in the context of mangrove

ecotourism. Furthermore, this study examines the socio-economic and environmental impacts of community involvement and identifies research gaps in the existing literature.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study uses a systematic literature review (SLR) approach to synthesize research findings related to local community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development based on scientific literature. In doing so, the PRISMA 2020 statement parameters were used (Page et al., 2021).

Data Sources and Search Strategy

The data in this study were collected through systematic searches of academic databases, such as Google Scholar and indexed journal publication sources, to ensure broad and relevant coverage of the literature. The search strategy was designed using a combination of primary keywords, namely "mangrove ecotourism," "community participation," "community perception," and "local community involvement," using the Publish and Perish application.

These keyword combinations were integrated with Boolean operators (AND and OR) to optimize search results, both in broadening the scope of the literature and increasing the specificity of the results obtained. Furthermore, a variety of terms and synonyms were used to ensure that all relevant literature was identified optimally. This approach was implemented to increase the sensitivity and precision of the literature search process.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The establishment of these criteria refers to the principles of literature selection in systematic literature reviews, which emphasize transparency and replication.

The inclusion and exclusion criteria in this study were determined to ensure that the analyzed literature was relevant, high-quality, and consistent with the research objectives. These criteria also serve to minimize selection bias and enhance the validity of the literature synthesis results.

Inclusion Criteria

Articles included in this study must meet the following criteria:

1. The articles must be peer-reviewed scientific publications, ensuring they have an adequate level of credibility and academic quality.
2. The articles must be published between 2015 and 2025, to ensure that the literature used reflects the latest research developments.
3. The articles must focus on discussions relevant to the research topic, namely mangrove ecotourism, community perceptions, and/or community participation in the context of tourism management or development.
4. The articles must be written in English to ensure consistency in analysis and facilitate global literature synthesis.

Exclusion Criteria

Articles that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be excluded from the analysis process, with the following exclusion criteria:

1. Articles that have no direct relevance to the research topic, either conceptually or empirically.
2. Non-scientific documents such as undergraduate theses, dissertations, technical reports, and popular publications that have not undergone peer-review.
3. Articles that are not available in full text, making a comprehensive analysis impossible.
4. Duplicate articles found during the literature search and identified during the data management stage.

DATA SELECTION AND ANALYSIS

A total of 22 articles were selected after a screening and feasibility evaluation process. These articles were analyzed qualitatively to identify themes, patterns, and relationships between the variables studied. The article selection process is illustrated in the flowchart for the systematic review in Figure 1.

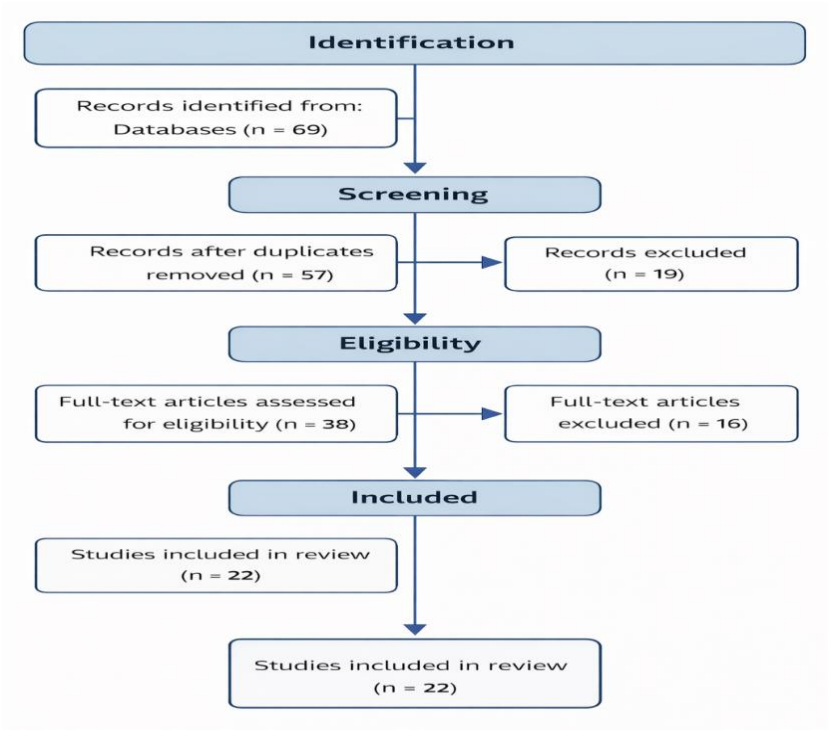


Figure 1 flowchart for systematic review

The article selection process for this study followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 guidelines, which are designed to ensure transparency and replicability in systematic literature review-based studies. The selection process consisted of four main stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion.

During the identification stage, 69 articles were obtained from the initial search results through academic databases. Subsequently, a duplication process was carried out, reducing the number of articles to 57 unique articles ready for the next stage.

The screening stage involved evaluating the title and abstract to assess the article's relevance to the research topic. At this stage, 19 articles were excluded for not meeting the relevance criteria, leaving 38 articles to proceed to the feasibility evaluation stage.

During the feasibility stage, a comprehensive assessment of the full-text content of the articles was conducted to ensure compliance with the established inclusion criteria. The evaluation results indicated that 16 articles did not meet the criteria, either due to data limitations, inconsistencies in the research focus, or inadequate methodological quality.

In the final stage, 22 articles were found to meet all inclusion criteria and were used as samples in this study. These articles were then analyzed to identify themes, patterns, and relationships between variables relevant to community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development.

Of the 22 primary articles on your list, I can clearly verify 12 as Scopus-indexed based on their venue/journal/proceedings status in SCImago or official sources indicating Scopus coverage.

Verification of the 22 primary articles by year of publication and author can be seen in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Verification of 22 main articles by publication year

Year	*Number of Articles*	*Percentage (%)*	*Artikel*
2015	1	4.5%	Tolkach & King
2018	1	4.5%	Arkwright & Kaomaneng
2020	1	4.5%	Danaparamita & Safitri
2021	3	13.6%	Fistiningrum & Harini; Swangjang & Kornpiphat; Kia
2022	1	4.5%	Erlinda & Mulyadi
2023	2	9.1%	Hadiprayitno et al.; Azzahra et al.
2024	3	13.6%	Tambunan et al.; Mardianton et al.; Rumondang et al.
2025	10	45.5%	Rahmi et al.; Helmi et al.; Zulkifi et al.; Wally et al.; Lu et al.;

			Pratama; Murniati et al.; Muda; Purnaweni et al.; Hasan et al.

The distribution of articles by publication year shows that research related to mangrove ecotourism, particularly that focusing on community perceptions and participation, has increased significantly in recent years. The majority of articles (45.5%) were published in 2025, indicating that this topic is growing and becoming a major focus in sustainable tourism and coastal management studies.

Meanwhile, the period before 2020 shows a relatively limited number of publications, indicating that research on mangrove ecotourism was still underdeveloped during that period. The increase in the number of publications began to be seen from 2021 to 2024, reflecting growing academic attention to the issues of community engagement and ecotourism sustainability.

These findings indicate a significant trend of increasing research in the last decade, particularly regarding the integration of social, economic, and environmental aspects in mangrove ecotourism management.

RESULT

Research Characteristics and Trends (RQ1)

An analysis of 22 selected articles shows that research related to community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development has seen a significant increase in recent years. The distribution of publications indicates that the majority of articles were published between 2021 and 2025, with a peak in 2025 (Pratama, 2025; Muda, 2025).

These findings indicate that the topic of mangrove ecotourism is increasingly becoming a research focus, particularly in the context of integrating social, economic, and environmental aspects. Conceptually, there has been a shift from an ecological approach to a more integrative socio-ecological approach (Swangjang & Kornpiphat, 2021).

Methodologically, the analyzed studies employed various approaches, including descriptive case studies, quantitative surveys, policy analysis, bibliometric approaches, and systematic literature reviews (Muda, 2025; Pratama, 2025). This demonstrates that mangrove ecotourism studies are multidisciplinary and continually evolving.

Local Community Perception (RQ2)

The analysis shows that local community perceptions of mangrove ecotourism are generally positive, particularly regarding its economic and environmental benefits (Helmi et al., 2025; Hadiprayitno et al., 2023). This positive perception includes the view that mangrove ecotourism can increase community income and contribute to environmental conservation.

Furthermore, community perception is influenced by their level of knowledge and awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems. Communities with a good understanding tend to demonstrate a more supportive attitude toward ecotourism development (Arkwright & Kaomaneng, 2018) (Kia, 2021).

These findings indicate that community perception is an initial factor shaping attitudes and tendencies to participate in mangrove ecotourism activities (Helmi et al., 2025).

A summary of findings related to public perceptions is presented in Table 3.1.

Tabel 3.1 Synthesis of Public Perceptions of Mangrove Ecotourism

Sr. No.	***Author***	***Location***	***Community Perception***	***Main Findings***
1	*Helmi et al. (2025)*	*Indonesia*	*Positively*	*Supports Conservation and Ecotourism*
2	*Hadiprayitno et al. (2023)*	*Lombok*	*Positively*	*The community accepts tourism development*
3	*Arkwright & Kaomaneng (2018)*	*Halmahera*	*Positively*	*Perception is influenced by economic benefits*
4	*Kia (2021)*	*Indonesia*	*Positively*	*Involvement is influenced by public awareness*
5	*Rahmi et al. (2025)*	*Sumatera*	*Positively*	*Perception correlates with participation*
6	*Zulkifi et al. (2025)*	*Indonesia*	*Positively*	*Community support for mangrove tourism*

7	*Murniati et al. (2025)*	*Lampung*	*Positively*	*Tourist & community perceptions are supportive*
8	*Tambunan et al. (2024)*	*Sumatera Utara*	*Positively*	*Perception of creative economy increases*
9	*Fistiningrum & Harini (2021)*	*Yogyakarta*	*Positively*	*The economic impact improves perception*
10	*Danaparamita & Safitri (2020)*	*Indonesia*	*Positively*	*Persepsi terkait konservasi lingkungan*

Based on Table 3.1, most studies indicate that local communities have a positive perception of mangrove ecotourism development. This positive perception is primarily driven by the direct economic benefits experienced by the community, such as increased income, business opportunities, and local economic development. Furthermore, environmental benefits, such as mangrove ecosystem preservation, are also important factors influencing community perceptions.

Furthermore, several studies indicate that community perceptions are influenced not only by economic factors but also by their level of environmental knowledge and awareness. Communities with a better understanding of the ecological functions of mangroves tend to demonstrate a more supportive attitude toward ecotourism development. This suggests that environmental education plays a crucial role in shaping community perceptions.

Furthermore, the synthesis results also indicate a relationship between perception and community participation. Positive perceptions tend to encourage community involvement in mangrove ecotourism management and conservation activities. Therefore, perception can be viewed as a key factor in determining the success of community participation in community-based ecotourism development.

These findings confirm that community perceptions are not only shaped by direct benefits but are also influenced by the community's level of knowledge and experience interacting with the mangrove ecosystem, making them key factors in supporting successful ecotourism development.

Forms and Levels of Community Participation (RQ3-RQ5)

The results of the analysis show that community participation in the development of mangrove ecotourism has various forms, ranging from involvement in tourism management, conservation activities, to tourism-based economic activities (Rahmi et al., 2025), (Carolina et al., 2024). This shows that the community does not only play a role as a beneficiary, but also as the main actor in ecotourism management.

The level of community participation shows significant variation across research locations. In some cases, communities are actively involved in decision-making, while in others, participation remains limited and operational (Purnaweni et al., 2025; Muda, 2025). This variation reflects differences in social, economic, and institutional conditions across regions.

Furthermore, factors influencing community participation include economic, social, and institutional aspects. Economic factors, such as increased income, are the primary motivator, while social factors, such as education and environmental awareness, contribute to strengthening community involvement (Fistiningrum & Harini, 2021; Kia, 2021). Institutional support also plays a crucial role in fostering sustainable participation (Erlinda & Mulyadi, 2022).

Furthermore, the synthesis results indicate a strong relationship between community perception and participation. Positive perceptions of the benefits of mangrove ecotourism tend to encourage active community involvement in management and conservation activities (Helmi et al., 2025; Hadiprayitno et al., 2023).

A summary of the forms, factors, and relationships of community participation is presented in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Synthesis of Community Participation in Mangrove Ecotourism (RQ3–RQ5)

Sr. No.	***Author***	***Form of Participation***	***Participation Level***	***Influencing Factors***	***Perception–Participation Relationship***
1	*Rahmi et al. (2025)*	Tourism Management	Medium–High	Economy, awareness	Positively
2	*Zulkifi et al. (2025)*	Conservation & Tourism	High	Community support	Positively

3	*Purnaweni et al. (2025)*	Community-Based Management	High	Stakeholders & policies	Positively
4	*Muda (2025)*	Diverse (review)	Varied	Social & economic	Positively
5	*Tolkach & King (2015)*	Community-Based Tourism	High	Institutional	Positively
6	*Tambunan et al. (2024)*	Creative Economy	Medium	Local economy	Positively
7	*Fistiningrum & Harini (2021)*	Tourism Enterprises	Medium	Income	Positively
8	*Hadiprayitno et al. (2023)*	Tourism Activities	Medium	Public perception	Positively
9	*Kia (2021)*	Community Involvement	Medium	Education & awareness	Positively
10	*Arkwright & Kaomaneng (2018)*	Tourism Development	Medium	Economic & social	Positively

Based on Table 3, community participation in mangrove ecotourism development shows significant variation, both in terms of form and level of involvement. The most common forms of participation include involvement in tourism management, conservation activities, and tourism-based economic activities. This indicates that communities play a role not only as beneficiaries but also as active actors in ecotourism management.

In terms of participation levels, most studies indicate moderate to high levels. However, there is variation across locations, indicating that community participation is strongly influenced by the local context, including socioeconomic conditions and institutional support.

Factors influencing community participation include economic aspects, such as income opportunities; social aspects such as education level and environmental awareness; and institutional factors such as government support and stakeholder roles. These findings indicate that community participation is the result of an interaction between individual factors and existing support systems.

Furthermore, the synthesis also indicates a strong relationship between perception and community participation. Positive perceptions of the benefits of mangrove ecotourism tend to encourage communities to participate more actively in management and conservation activities. Therefore, perception can be considered a key factor in increasing community participation in community-based ecotourism development.

This indicates that community participation is the result of a dynamic interaction between individual and institutional factors. Therefore, increasing participation cannot be ac

hieved in isolation but requires an integrated, community-based approach.

Impact & Research Gap – RQ6–RQ7

Synthesized results indicate that mangrove ecotourism development has a positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of communities, particularly in the form of increased income, job creation, and local business development (Fistiningrum & Harini, 2021; Tambunan et al., 2024). This suggests that mangrove ecotourism can be an alternative strategy for improving the welfare of coastal communities.

From an environmental perspective, mangrove ecotourism development also contributes to increased awareness of mangrove ecosystem conservation and protection (Danaparamita & Safitri, 2020; Rumondang et al., 2024). However, several studies indicate that tourism activities have the potential to put pressure on the ecosystem if not managed sustainably (Swangjang & Kornpiphat, 2021).

In addition to these impacts, the analysis also reveals research gaps that still need attention. One major gap is the lack of studies integrating public perception and participation within a comprehensive analytical framework (Pratama, 2025; Muda, 2025).

Furthermore, most research remains descriptive in nature, with few employing quantitative approaches or more complex analytical models. The limited use of longitudinal studies is also a weakness in understanding the dynamics of changes in public perception and participation over time (Kia, 2021; Wally et al., 2025).

A summary of the impacts and research gaps is presented in Table 3.3

Table 3.3 Synthesis of Socio-Economic, Environmental, and Research Gap Impacts (RQ6–RQ7)

Sr. No.	*Author*	*Socio-Economic Impact*	*Environmental Impact*	*Research Gap*
1	Fistiningrum & Harini (2021)	Increase in community income	Promote conservation awareness	Need for analysis of economic relations–participation
2	Tambunan et al. (2024)	Strengthening the local creative economy	Support environmentally based tourism	Have not yet assessed the long-term impact
3	Murniati et al. (2025)	Improving the quality of tourist destinations	Increasing attention to environmental quality	The focus is still on perception, not yet on integrating participation.
4	Danaparamita & Safitri (2020)	Supporting nature-based tourism	Mangrove conservation as a foundation for sustainable tourism	Lack of focus on local communities
5	Rumondang et al. (2024)	Potential economic benefits from ecosystem services	Integrated socio-ecological management	Need for an integrative socio-ecological model
6	Wally et al. (2025)	Supporting socio-economic sustainability	Balance of social and ecological factors	Minimal longitudinal studies
7	Swangjang & Kornpiphat (2021)	Potential economic benefits of tourism	Need to evaluate pressure on ecosystem	Lack of exploration of community factors
8	Pratama (2025)	Shows increasing research trends	Emphasizes the importance of sustainability	Still little integration of perception–participation
9	Muda (2025)	Shows participation impacts sustainability	Not discussed directly	Most studies are still descriptive
10	Kia (2021)	Demonstrates involvement impact on tourism development	Not discussed directly	Lack of quantitative and comparative approach

Based on Table 4, the most dominant socio-economic impacts of mangrove ecotourism development are increased community income, the creation of local business opportunities, and the development of a creative economy based on coastal resources. These findings indicate that mangrove ecotourism serves not only as a conservation tool but also as a strategy for empowering local communities economically.

From an environmental perspective, most studies indicate that mangrove ecotourism development can increase public awareness of the importance of ecosystem conservation and preservation. However, several studies also confirm that tourism activities have the potential to put pressure on the environment if not balanced with sustainable management.

In addition to these impacts, the literature synthesis also reveals several research gaps. The most prominent gap is the limited number of studies that integrate community perceptions and participation within a coherent analytical framework. Furthermore, most studies still use a descriptive approach, while longitudinal, comparative, and empirical model-based studies are relatively limited.

These findings suggest that future research needs to develop a more integrative approach, not only by linking social, economic, and environmental aspects, but also by examining the relationships between variables in greater depth. This would strengthen the contribution of research in the field of mangrove ecotourism, both theoretically and practically.

Furthermore, these findings demonstrate that although the benefits of mangrove ecotourism have been widely identified, a more comprehensive research approach is still needed to simultaneously integrate social, economic, and environmental dimensions within a sustainable development framework.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that community perception and participation are two interrelated factors in determining the success of mangrove ecotourism development. The findings indicate that positive community perceptions of economic and environmental benefits serve as a key driver in increasing community participation. This indicates that perceptions function not only as cognitive evaluations but also as determinants of behavior in the context of ecotourism management.

These findings align with the Theory of Planned Behavior, which states that individual attitudes or perceptions influence intentions and actual behavior (Ajzen, 1991). In the context of mangrove ecotourism, positive perceptions of economic benefits and environmental conservation shape community involvement, which then manifests in active participation in management and conservation activities.

Furthermore, the results of this study reinforce the concept of community-based tourism, which emphasizes the importance of local community involvement as key actors in tourism management (Tolkach & King, 2015). Community participation not only improves management effectiveness but also creates a sense of ownership of local resources, ultimately contributing to the sustainability of mangrove ecotourism.

However, the results show that community participation is not homogeneous. Variations in participation levels are influenced by various factors, including economic conditions, education levels, and institutional support. Economic factors are the primary motivator in encouraging community involvement, while social and institutional factors act as supporting factors that strengthen participation. This demonstrates that community participation is the result of a complex interaction between individual factors and the broader social system.

Furthermore, the findings of this study indicate that the development of mangrove ecotourism has a significant impact on improving community welfare while supporting environmental conservation efforts. However, without proper management, ecotourism activities also have the potential to put pressure on the mangrove ecosystem. Therefore, a balanced management approach between utilization and conservation is necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, this study also identified gaps in the literature, particularly regarding the lack of integration between perceptions and participation within a comprehensive analytical framework. Most studies are still descriptive in nature, and few utilize quantitative approaches or more complex empirical models. This indicates the need for further research capable of examining the relationships between variables in greater depth.

Overall, this research contributes by integrating community perceptions and participation into a more comprehensive analytical framework within the context of mangrove ecotourism. These findings not only enrich the academic literature but also offer practical implications for the development of community-based policies for sustainable mangrove ecotourism management.

The findings indicate that mangrove ecotourism development needs to prioritize a community-based approach by strengthening positive perceptions through education and increasing environmental awareness. Furthermore, inclusive institutional support and policies are also needed to increase community participation in a sustainable manner.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to analyze local community perceptions and participation in mangrove ecotourism development through a systematic literature review. The results indicate that community perceptions of mangrove ecotourism are generally positive, particularly regarding economic and environmental benefits. This perception has been shown to play a significant role in influencing the level of community participation in ecotourism management and conservation activities.

Furthermore, community participation in mangrove ecotourism development varies, influenced by economic, social, and institutional factors. Community involvement extends beyond operational activities to tourism planning and management. These findings confirm that the success of mangrove ecotourism development depends heavily on the integration of positive perceptions and active community participation.

From a sustainability perspective, mangrove ecotourism positively contributes to improving community well-being while supporting environmental conservation. However, balanced management is needed to avoid pressure on the ecosystem from uncontrolled tourism activities.

This research contributes by integrating aspects of community perception and participation into a comprehensive analytical framework, a concept rarely examined simultaneously in previous research. Furthermore, this study identified research gaps, particularly related to the lack of empirical model-based studies and longitudinal approaches.

Therefore, future research is recommended to develop quantitative approaches and more complex analytical models to more deeply understand the relationship between community perception and participation. Furthermore, cross-regional and long-term studies are needed to strengthen understanding of the dynamics of mangrove ecotourism development.

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