



## Public Perception of Paragliding Sport at Haruman Jingga Hill

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### Abstract

This study aims to determine the public perception of paragliding sports at Haruman Jingga hill. Using a phenomenological approach, data were collected through observation and in-depth interviews with local people, paragliding athletes, tourists, and traders. Thematic analysis using NVivo 12 Pro software produced the main themes regarding public perception of paragliding sports. The results of the study showed that the public has diverse insights into paragliding sports, public interest in paragliding sports and the level of security that is already known to the public is quite good because the facilities are adequate. The public generally views paragliding sports positively and the economic impact that provides jobs and business opportunities for the community and socially, this sport encourages interaction with tourists and other communities, although there are concerns about the potential for places to be misused by people with bad intentions. then the importance of sustainable management in order to further minimize the negative impacts caused.

### How to Cite

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## INTRODUCTION

Paragliding sports have been quite popular among the Indonesian people, which can be seen from the many paragliding sports tourism spots that have emerged in several regions in Indonesia (Lorensia & Sudarti, 2022). However, paragliding will not develop properly without the support of infrastructure, natural resources, and human resources (Ismayanti, 2021). This situation results in tourism development affecting socioeconomic, sociocultural, and ecological aspects. The socioeconomic impact includes job creation and business opportunities for the community. In addition to socioeconomic impacts, tourism also affects sociocultural aspects, such as the erosion of local culture and the loss of societal norms. The subsequent ecological impact includes environmental pollution from waste and deforestation, leading to environmental degradation (Herman Gusrial Putra, 2019). Paragliding activities also pose environmental challenges, particularly in managing the impact on nature. Therefore, it is crucial to prepare sustainable measures in planning paragliding events and activities to avoid environmental damage (Gyepi-Garbrah & Preko, 2022). Promoting paragliding attractions can improve community welfare and visitor satisfaction, especially when supported by facilities, infrastructure, and strategic locations (Rifki & Budi Raharjo, 2023). To address these issues, community empowerment is essential to overcome limitations such as restricted access, lack of knowledge and skills, poverty, and the reluctance of the government to share authority and resources with the community, as reinforced by (Neupane & Shim, 2019). The community and managers mutually benefit from paragliding. Essentially, knowledge and expertise in tourism product marketing mix, job creation capacity, support for education and training, efforts in environmental and ecological conservation, and programs to increase community income are positive elements that encourage villagers to support paragliding tourism.

In the study of public perception of paragliding sports, there are several relevant studies to be explored and reviewed, for example research. González-García Dkk., (2020) from Spain conducted a study on public perception of sports tourism impacts, quality of life and support for the industry. The research was aimed at residents who had perceptions about their quality of life related to the impact of sports tourism in Gran Canaria. The results of the study indicate that residents have a positive perception of the economic impact generated by sports tourism in Gran Canaria. In addition, there is a significant

mediating effect of the quality of life variable of residents in the relationship between perceived impacts and support for the development of active sports tourism. (Sirinkaanta Pongprasert & Sombat Karnjanakit, 2019) research from Thailand conducted a study on public perception of the impact of sports tourism from the perspective of the host province on sporting events in Thailand. The results of the study showed that public perception of the impact of sports tourism was at a high level. The highest average of residents' perceptions of the impact of sports tourism is "Enhanced reputation through world media", followed by "Increase revenue of sports tourists" and "Create more jobs and more opportunities". Residents Dkk., (2019) Research from Korea conducted a study on local residents' perceptions of the development of rural sports tourism with ambivalent implications for regional development. The conclusion of this study shows that, despite differing opinions, local people understand the importance of the relationship between sports tourism and local economic development. They consider the expansion of sports tourism and various ways of preserving the natural environment to be beneficial to the regional economy.

Responding to previous research in the research of Edison Dkk., (2019) This study only focuses on public perceptions of the development of tourism areas in Kertawangi Village, Cisarua, West Bandung Regency. Then, the research of González-García Dkk., (2020) This study focuses on the impact of tourism-related variables on the welfare of the host community population and how their living conditions affect their general sense of well-being. Furthermore, the research of Sirinkaanta Pongprasert & Sombat Karnjanakit, (2019) in this study focuses on the perceptions of Thai residents of the impact of sports tourism in five provinces known as hosts of national and international sporting events. Likewise, (Eom, Cheol-Ho, & Kwon, 2019) This study focuses on the perceptions of local communities of the impact of sports tourism development, especially in the context of regional development in Wondo Yangyang-gun Regency, South Korea.

Sports tourism has become a subject of study in various research, particularly regarding public perceptions of such activities. However, each region has different social, cultural, and economic characteristics, leading to varying public perceptions of sports tourism. One growing form of sports tourism is paragliding, including at Bukit Haruman Jingga in Garut. To date, there has been little research specifically examining local community perceptions of paragliding in this area. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the

perceptions of the local community toward paragliding at Bukit Haruman Jingga, Garut. Additionally, this research seeks to explore the social and economic impacts of paragliding activities on the local community. Thus, this study will attempt to answer three key questions: how the community perceives paragliding at Bukit Haruman Jingga, what social impacts paragliding has on the area, and what economic effects paragliding has on the local community. The findings of this study are expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the contributions of paragliding as a form of sports tourism to the social and economic development of the community.

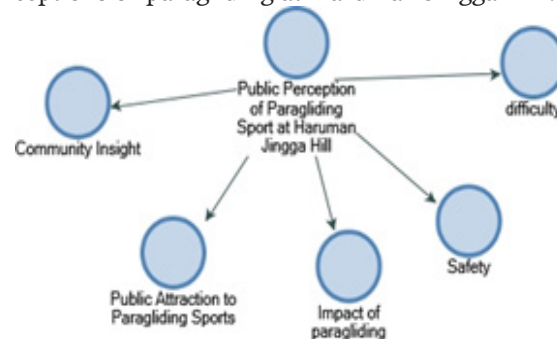
## METHODS

The phenomenological approach is used in this study to explore public perceptions of paragliding tourism in Bukit Haruman Jingga, Garut. Phenomenology was chosen because it allows for in-depth exploration of individual experiences and community interpretations related to phenomena that have been experienced, not only focusing on facts, but also on how these experiences are felt, understood, and interpreted (Risal., 2021). This method helps researchers understand the meaning and how the community perceives paragliding from the perspective of the surrounding community (Tobuhu Dkk., 2024). Research participants included the surrounding community, paragliding athletes, tourists, and traders, totaling 10 people which were determined by the non-probability snowball sampling method, respondents were selected who already understood the topic of discussion. then respondents recommended to the next respondents (Suriani., 2023). So that the data obtained is in-depth and relevant to personal experience (Raharjo & Octaviany, 2024). In the next stage, inductive and thematic analysis were used to test the data in order to find, assess, and create themes expressed by the research subjects (Sofyani, H., & Tahar, 2021). To avoid overlapping, participants' initial responses were marked with keywords. NVivo 12 pro software was used for coding and categorization. Nodes helped organize interview data into categories with specific codes. The inductive approach allowed the identification of themes from participants' answers to the research questions (FADILA, 2024).

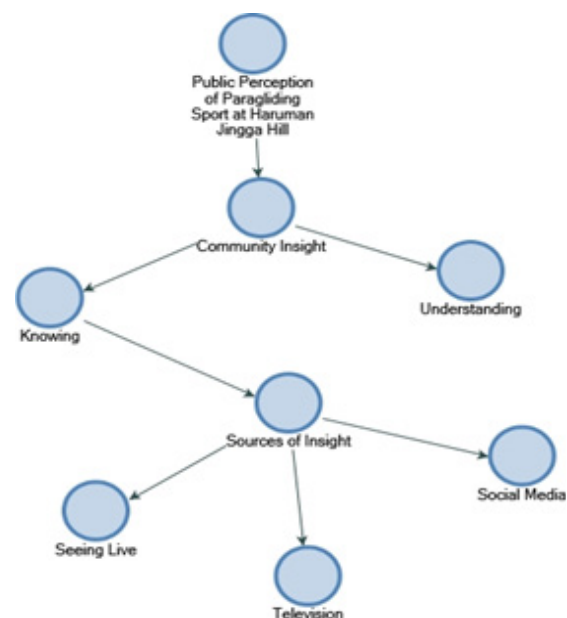
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The explanation in **Figure 1** is the result of field interviews conducted through a question-

and-answer session with 10 respondents who were willing to share their perceptions of paragliding at Haruman Jingga Hill, Garut. The processed interview results using NVivo 12 software identified five key themes related to public perceptions of paragliding at Haruman Jingga Hill.



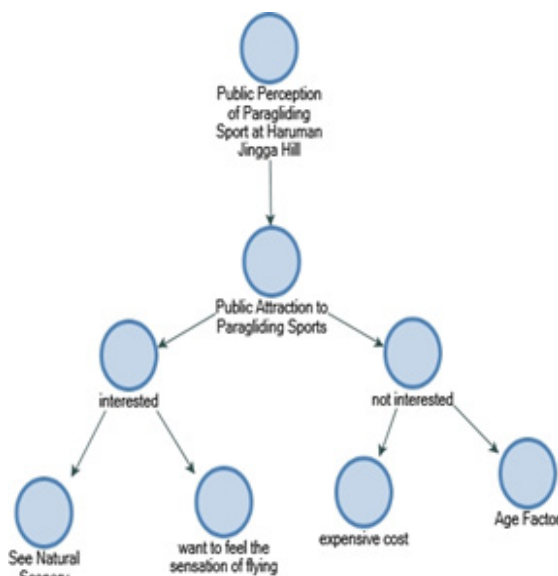
**Figure 1.** Inductive thematic interview results.



**Figure 2.** Results of interviews on community insight into paragliding sports

Public insight into paragliding is formed through two main aspects and sources of insight, namely knowing and understanding. Some people only know about paragliding, while those who have a deeper understanding of paragliding can explain that paragliding is an aerospace sport that is usually used for attractions on national commemoration days and paragliding is a sport that is classified as an expensive sport (Emallyn et al., 2021; Indardi & Sahri, 2020). Sources of insight that play a role in shaping public knowledge come from several sources, such as social media, television, and direct experience. Social media is one of the main means of disseminating information about paragliding, while television also contributes through news broadcasts or sports programs. In addition, there are also

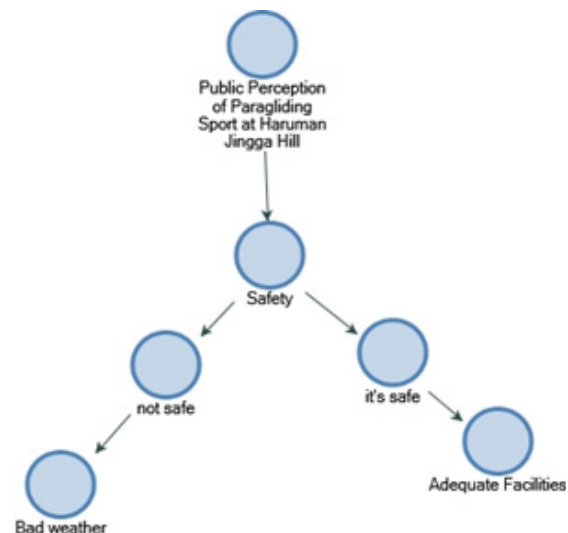
people who gain insight by seeing paragliding activities directly on Haruman Jingga Hill. Thus, the level of public understanding and perception of paragliding is highly dependent on how much information they obtain and where the source of the information is. In addition, social environmental factors also influence public insight into paragliding (Sakina Lupita Satiti, 2023). Interaction with family, friends, or communities who are interested in this sport can enrich a person's understanding. For example, individuals who have relatives involved in paragliding tend to have a better understanding of the technical and safety aspects than those who have only glimpsed it in the media.



**Figure 3.** Results of interviews regarding the public's interest in paragliding sports on Haruman Jingga Hill.

Public interest in paragliding at Bukit Haruman Jingga has various views. Some people are less interested in trying this sport for several reasons. One of the main factors is the relatively expensive cost, fear of heights, and age factors that make them feel less suitable or do not dare to try it (Atiq, 2021). On the other hand, there are also people who are interested in paragliding. They say that this activity offers a unique experience, such as enjoying the beauty of natural scenery from a height, feeling the thrilling sensation of flying, and making it a fun means of entertainment and recreation. With these various views, it can be concluded that the appeal of paragliding is very dependent on the taste, physical condition, and mental readiness of the individual in facing new challenges and experiences. For those who like adventure, paragliding is a fun and adrenaline-pumping activity (Narvekar, 2022). However,

for those who have certain limitations, both physically and mentally, this sport may be less popular or even considered risky. This shows that although paragliding has its own appeal, external factors such as cost and individual readiness remain the main considerations in determining public interest in this sport.



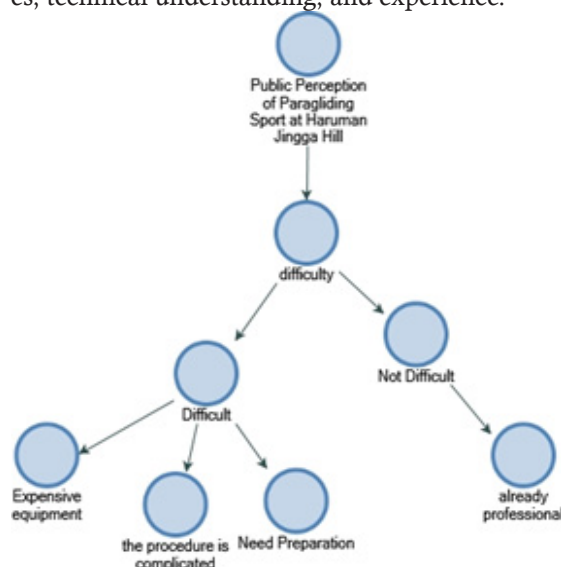
**Figure 4.** Results of interviews regarding public safety regarding paragliding sports at Haruman Jingga Hill.

Public perceptions of the safety of paragliding at Bukit Haruman Jingga show different views. Some people consider this sport to be safe, especially since the available facilities are considered adequate to support the safety of athletes and tourists who try paragliding. Good facilities and infrastructure, such as standard equipment, security officers, and training for participants are the main factors in building a sense of security (Singh, 2023). However, there are also those who think that this sport is still not completely safe, especially because of the unpredictable weather. Wind, rain, and rapid changes in weather can increase the risk of accidents, so safety is highly dependent on natural conditions. Therefore, even though the facilities are adequate, awareness of weather conditions remains a primary concern for those who want to try paragliding on the haruman jingga hill (Bilag, 2024).

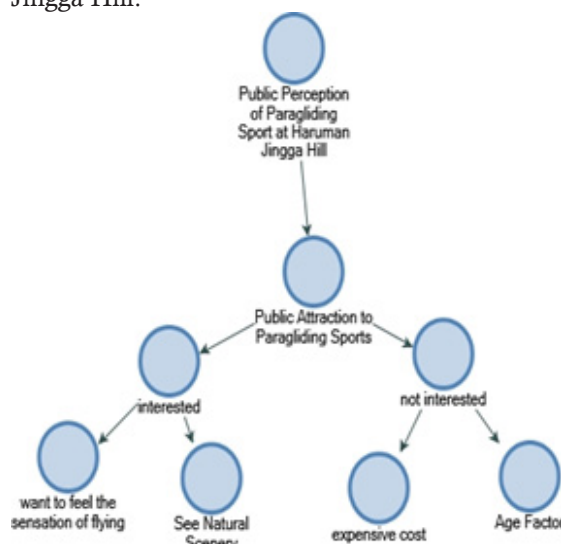
**Figure 5.** The results of community interviews regarding the difficulties in paragliding on the hill show two main views among respondents. Some people consider this sport difficult due to several factors, such as the high cost of equipment and training, procedures that are considered complicated, and the need for thorough preparation before flying (Magar, 2020). For those who have no experience, this process can feel challenging and require great commit-



ment. However, there are also people who think that paragliding is not too difficult, especially for those who already have experience or a sufficient level of professionalism. Athletes or individuals who have tried paragliding feel more confident in controlling equipment and dealing with natural conditions (Setyawati, 2024). This shows that the level of difficulty in paragliding is very dependent on individual readiness, both in terms of finances, technical understanding, and experience.



**Figure 5.** Results of community interviews regarding the difficulties in paragliding at Haruman Jingga Hill.



**Figure 6.** Results of community interviews regarding the difficulties in paragliding at Haruman Jingga Hill.

The interview results showed that paragliding at Haruman Jingga hill has a significant impact on the community, both economically and socially. From an economic perspective, the

presence of this sport opens up new business opportunities and jobs, such as transportation services for tourists and paragliding athletes, parking attendants around the location, and traders selling food and drinks for visitors. The increasing number of tourists who come to watch or try paragliding also supports the local economy, thus providing benefits to the surrounding community. Meanwhile, from a social perspective, paragliding is one of the attractions that triggers more active social interaction between residents (Isaac., 2022). The community shows high enthusiasm for this sport because every time there is an activity at Bukit Haruman Jingga, people always flock to watch, so paragliding also plays a role as entertainment that strengthens social relations. In addition, the existence of this sport provides a new experience for people who previously did not know paragliding, while increasing the potential for regional tourism. However, behind its benefits, there are also challenges that arise, one of which is the community's concern about the misuse of the place. Some residents are worried about irresponsible parties who use the paragliding sports area for other purposes that can disrupt order and comfort. Therefore, although paragliding has positive economic and social impacts, good management and clear regulations are needed so that its benefits can be maximized without ignoring the safety and comfort aspects of the local community (Sudamanto et al., 2024).

## CONCLUSION

This study concluded that the community has a diverse understanding of paragliding, with the majority getting information from watching it directly at Bukit Haruman Jingga. The community has a positive perception regarding the safety and security of this paragliding sport, and the community has an interest in being able to try it even though some think that the rates to try it are quite expensive. In terms of economy, paragliding provides benefits in the form of increased business opportunities and employment, although the distribution is not yet even. Social and cultural impacts include positive interactions with tourists and also people from other areas have increased but there are also concerns about places that are often misused by others, causing unrest in the local community. The importance of place management and sustainable environmental management so that paragliding tourism can become a strategic asset for community welfare.

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