

**Geographical Potential of Sumedang Regency Towards Paragliding Sport****Januar Riyadi¹, Rizal Ahmad Fauzi¹✉, Encep Sudirjo³**Physical Education of Elementary Teacher Program, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia¹²³**Article History**

Received April 2024

Accepted June 2024

Published Vol.13 No.(2) 2024

Keywords:

Geographic Potential Paragliding Sports

Abstract

Sumedang Regency which based on geographical conditions is located on a plateau and has many hills so that it can support tourists to do Paragliding sports. Paragliding sports venues in Sumedang Regency consist of three places and have different heights. Toga Village has a height of 200 m from the landing site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 900, for Batu Dua which is 500 m high from the landing site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 2610 m, while Buricak Burinong Hill which is 195 m high from the landing site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 900 m. The three places both have their own beauty, even becoming a strategic place in doing paragliding. The beginning of the emergence of Paragliding is inseparable from the emergence of a sense of desire to be able to fly enjoying the scenery of the wild and arrive at the achievements achieved. The purpose of this study is to see the geographical potential of tourism through paragliding in Sumedang Regency and also to find out the reasons why the interest of the people of Sumedang Regency to participate in paragliding is still minimal. Sumedang Regency has several destinations to do paragliding, one of which is in Toga Village. Toga Village, located in Sumedang Regency, offers an enchanting natural panorama. The research method used is a qualitative method with a descriptive research design in the form of interviews, observations and documentation. Based on the results of research that the good geographical potential of Sumedang Regency for Paragliding sports can be seen from the beauty, place, height and minimal natural disasters and accidents, so that Sumedang Regency is a suitable place to be used for Paragliding sports.

How to Cite

Riyadi, J., Fauzi, R. A., & Sudirjo, E. (2024). Geographical Potential of Sumedang Regency Towards Paragliding Sport. *Journal of Physical Education, Sport, Health and Recreation*, 13 (2), 269-274.

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and the fastest growing sector of the economy. Despite its challenges, tourism has positive socio-economic contributions to local residents such as economic benefits, cross-cultural exchanges, job creation, conservation of historical sites, and infrastructure improvement (Teshome et al., 2022). Tourism is one of the sectors that influence the development of a region. The pace of tourism development depends on identifying tourism potential in each region (Finahari et al., 2019). This tourism activity by many people is already a mandatory thing to do to meet physical and spiritual needs. The objectives of tourism include increasing economic growth, improving people's welfare, eliminating poverty, overcoming unemployment, preserving nature, the environment, and resources, advancing culture, elevating the image of the nation, fostering love for the motherland, strengthening the identity and unity of the nation and strengthening friendship between nations (Supriyanto, 2022). According to Zhang et al (2023) in general, sports tourism means some tourist event organized with the aim of participating or watching sports activities (Hall, 1992). Based on the various objectives and forms of tourist participation, these projects can be divided into four types: recreation, team building, competition, and adventure sports tourism (Xian & Chen, 2016). One of the sports tourism is adventure tourism exemplified Paragliding Sport. Adventure is an activity that deliberately seeks risk and uncertainty of outcome. In adventure tourism, risk and uncertainty must be managed closely if they cannot be eliminated according to Ewert et al in Enwistle 1923 (Hermawan, 2017). According to Mutana & Mukwada (2018), destination managers need to understand that the market segment for adventure tourists has an interest in enjoying pristine nature and unique culture (Tourism & District, 2021). Adventure tourism is a rapidly growing sector of the tourism industry internationally.(Bentley et al., 2007) Even adventure tourism with the times is increasingly popular (Ayazlar, 2015). Adventure tourism activities can be classified into two categories: hard adventure and light adventure. Light adventure refers to activities with a low level of risk and requires initial skill, while difficult adventure involves a high level of risk and requires proficiency before engaging in the activity. Paragliding is also one of the difficult adventure activities (Ayazlar, 2015). Travel activities that contain challenging risks often attract the attention of tourists with adventure

motivation, and become one of the driving factors for the growth and development of adventure tourism product offerings in tourist villages. Adventure tourism mostly relies on nature as its tourist attraction, is one form of sustainable tourism development, namely tourism that takes into account current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts; and meet the needs of visitors, industry, the environment and the local community.

Adventure tourism is a tourist activity that involves exploration or travel that contains risks, requires special skills and equipment and the interaction of physical activity with nature and or with culture (Prasiasa, 2023), one type of adventure tourism is paragliding. Paragliding is a parachute that can be flown and is able to lift the body of a pilot / aviator (Habibie 2019). Paragliding is a free flying sport using a parachute where the pilot will take off and land using flying feet (Fajaruddin Akbar, Syauqy, and Setyawan 2019) (Lorensia & Sudarti, 2022). The level of importance and performance of tourist facilities, of course, this will make tourists satisfied and make repeat visits. This is expected to have a good impact in the future for Paragliding tourism (Fariansyah & Pasaribu, 2022). Paragliding is also a form of physical activity, sports activities or physical activity can also prevent various diseases such as cardiovascular disease, improve physical fitness components, and regulate and prevent overweight and obesity (Fauzi et al., 2023). Doing moderate intensity exercise regularly will boost the immune system (Ahmad Fauzi et al., 2020). It can be concluded that Paragliding in addition to being one of the outdoor sports, paragliding is also beneficial for the health of the body.

Paragliding, or paragliding, is a form of free-flying sport that uses cloth wings (parachutes) to take off on foot, used for both recreational and competition purposes. The sport emerged in 1980 and was first contested in a world championship in 1989 in Kossen, Austria. Paragliding relies on wind as a power to lift and make parachutes fly from a slope height, involving two types of wind, namely dynamic lift that comes from wind that hits a hillside or mountain, and thermal lift produced by thermal. The utilization of wind allows aviators to make high flights to reach a certain point (Ilham & Asrun, 2022;)

Palu City has two destinations for paragliding and tourism. Matantimali Hill located in Sigi Regency which is about 25 KM from Palu City offers an enchanting natural panorama. Located at an altitude of 770 meters above sea level, Matantimali Hill has become a mainstay spot for

Paragliding fans to enjoy the "Five Dimensional" panorama of Palu City as a whole. Salena Paragliding Peak tourist attraction is located in the west of Palu City or about 10 km from the city center with an altitude of 890 meters above sea level. The conclusion, that the potential of sports tourism in the city of Palu can be developed seeing from the geographical location of the city of Palu which has a supportive location to enjoy the beauty of nature while doing paragliding sports.

However, research that discusses the geographical potential of paragliding in Sumedang Regency does not yet exist and enthusiasts are still lacking. So this research needs to be done, to see the geographical potential of paragliding and also to find out the reason why the interest of the people of Sumedang Regency to participate in paragliding is still minimal. With this research, tourists not only feel the beauty of nature when paragliding, but also increase the insight of tourists about paragliding. Paragliding is an extreme sport that is currently in great demand by the people of Indonesia. This can be seen from the many places of paragliding aerospace sports tourism in several regions of Indonesia, one of which is Sumedang Regency. In paragliding, the potential geographic factor is very influential on paragliding, but not all tourists understand this, and even the enthusiasts are still minimal.

METHODS

In this study, researchers used qualitative methods. In simple terms, researchers use qualitative methods because this research aims to find answers to a phenomenon or question systematically using a qualitative approach (DR. Umar Sidik, M.Ag DR. Moh. Miftachule Chairi, 2019). Researchers use MSPDM (Marketability, Sustainability, Participatory, and Disaster Mitigation) as research support. MSPDM is used as an analysis of the potential of Paragliding sports tourism in Sumedang Regency (Priatmoko 2019).

This study uses qualitative methods with a descriptive design, because this study produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people and observable behavior (Pricey, 2013).

According to Spradley, qualitative research uses the term social situation, which consists of: place, actors, activity. These three things can be explained as follows. Place is the location where the research will be conducted. Actors is an informant or participant who is used as a source of information. Activity is the behavior or acti-

vity of the subject of research (Waruwu, 2023). The subjects used as sources of information are paragliding athletes of Sumedang Regency with observations, interviews, and documentation, in order to obtain representative information about the geographical potential of Sumedang Regency towards paragliding sports.

Hadi in Sugiyono (2018: 203), observation is a complex process, a process composed of various biological and psychological processes. An interview is a technique of oral questioning and answer between two or more people in person. Interviews conducted in qualitative methods tend not to be as formal as small talk. It is profound and everything is developed by the researcher himself (Sugiyono, 2018: 134). According to Sugiyono (2018: 209), the data collection method that is in accordance with the type of media text analysis research is documentation. Documentation is a method of data collection carried out by recording or quoting data from documents (Samantha & Almalik, 2019).

Before the research is carried out, researchers first prepare everything that is needed or related to the smooth implementation of research, namely the need in the form of observation to observe related to the research conducted, interviews to ask about something in the research to be carried out and documentation in the form of quoting data from observation documents and interviews. In qualitative research, data collection can be done in the form of brief descriptions, charts, relationships between categories, flowcharts and the like (Sugiyono, 2018: 341). A set of information in a description will provide possibilities in a conclusion and action making. Sugiyono said data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, observations and documentation (Samantha & Almalik, 2019). The data analysis process begins by reviewing available data from various sources, namely, interviews, documentation, and observations. After being examined, selective sorting is then carried out according to the problems raised in the research. After the data is collected, selective sorting is carried out according to the problems raised in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Toga Village has an altitude of 200 m from the landing site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 900 m and the flying season is usually carried out from January to December. For Batu Dua which is 500 m high from the landing

site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 2610 m and the flying season is usually carried out from May to October. Burinong Buricak Hill which is 195 m high from the landing site and has a Launch to Landing Distance of 900 m and the flying season is usually carried out from February to November. The view of the hills wrapped in the beauty of the Jatigede Reservoir is one characteristic of the flying location that began to open in 2019.

These three places have very good geographical potential for Paragliding activities and become attractive alternative roads for flying activities in Sumedang Regency. In terms of wind, altitude, and scenery, the three places are very adequate, and even for Toga Village, it has been used for international championships. However, for Batu Dua and Bukit Buricak Burinong Jati Gede in doing Paragliding sports it is more suitable to do during the dry season, while for Toga Village it is suitable to do at any time of the season.

The good geographical potential in Sumedang Regency for Paragliding does not affect the number of enthusiasts for the sport, there are still many people who are less interested even the enthusiasts are still minimal. The suit of research was carried out, that the community considers that Paragliding is an expensive sport and the equipment and facilities are considered to cost a lot. Even though the costs incurred in doing Paragliding sports can actually still be reached by the community.

Based on the results of the geographical potential of Paragliding sports in Sumedang Regency, through interviews with the second and third speakers of MSPDM analysis, that the form of promotion for Paragliding sports is in the form of Social Media, Social Media is the main source and the easiest form of promotion for Paragliding sports events.

However, for the local community or local until now still not interested in paragliding sports on the grounds that Paragliding sports are outdoor sports that cost a lot and are not fun even the local community is not involved in Paragliding sports because the level of visits is low so that until now there has been no benefit to the surrounding community. But in contrast to outdoor tourism, they are very fond and even interested in paragliding sports and they interpret Paragliding sports as simplification of airplane pilots.

For paragliding sports venues until now there are no plans to expand or add places, judging from existing places, Sumedang Regency has a strategic place for paragliding sports.

Meanwhile, regarding natural disasters in Paragliding Sports until now it is still distributed normally, so until now natural disasters in Sumedang Regency have never occurred. And natural disasters can be avoided in Paragliding sports, such as rain, wind direction and wind speed can be predictions in Paragliding sports so that until now natural disasters have never occurred in Paragliding sports in Sumedang Regency. For special teams when there is a natural disaster there is no natural disaster, while if there is an extreme natural disaster they will rely on outsiders who understand the rescue of natural disasters that occur. Before flying, tourists are required to check the assembly first on a regular basis, to avoid natural disasters or accidents that occur so that until now the percentage of accidents is still minimal. The tools used in Paragliding include: spare paying, webbing ropes.

The form of promotion of Paragliding in Sumedang Regency has been good and effective, but it still does not make the surrounding community attractive to Paralyan sports and is inversely proportional to outside tourists so that local people are not involved in Paragliding sports and there is even no benefit to the surrounding community. The paragliding place in Sumedang Regency is quite strategic, so until now there has been no plan to expand or add a place. For natural disasters or accidents in Paragliding sports in Sumedang Regency has a very minimal percentage, and natural disasters and accidents can be avoided in Paragliding sports, including through: rain, wind direction and wind speed (Lorensia & Sudarti, 2022).

Paragliding is a parachute that can be flown and is able to lift the body of a pilot / aviator (Habibie 2019). Parachute is a device used to create air resistance (drag) so that it can slow down the movement of an object in the air (Solihin 2015). Paragliding is a free flying sport using a parachute where the pilot will take off and land using feet that fly using the wind (Fajaruddin Akbar, Syauqy, and Setyawan 2019). Wind is the displacement of airflow from a place that has high air pressure to a place with low air pressure (Muslim 2020). Winds vary in type depending on differences in direction, speed, strength and purpose. By utilizing wind sources, pilots can fly very high and reach long distances (Lukman and Sepdanius 2020). In addition to equipment, things that paragliding athletes need to pay attention to are understanding the take off location. The location of paragliding take off is determined by the direction and speed of the wind, as well as the presence of raindrops. In addition to deter-

mining the location of take off, paragliders must also plan in advance a good landing, taking into account several things to be able to achieve the desired landing (Lorensia & Sudarti, 2022).

Paragliding is a free flying sport using a tool in the form of a parachute cloth wing that takes off using the feet for recreation or competition (Sukmana & Sugiarto, 2022). Tadulako (2023) states that paragliding is the simplest way for humans to experience flying openly and freely in the sky and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors for the purpose of recreation and competition. Paragliding is an extreme sport that is much loved by people at home and abroad.

Sumedang Regency has three destinations for paragliding and tourism. These three destinations have very good geographical potential and there is even one destination that has a mainstay spot for Paragliding sports fans, namely Buricak Burinong Hill because it can enjoy the Jatigede Reservoir which is a characteristic in doing Paragliding sports. Paragliding can perform simple flights from the top of hills independently or singly and tandemly (Sukmana & Sugiarto, 2022). With the potential possessed by Sumedang Regency to attract tourists and the public in carrying out Paragliding sports activities in Sumedang Regency will increase interest in paragliding sports.

Paragliding is a free-flying sport that uses cloth wings (parachutes) to take off and land on foot, both for recreation and competition. The organization that oversees paragliding is PORDIRGA (Aerospace Sports Association), part of FASI (Federation of Aero Sport Indonesia). The main contributing factor in this sport is wind, which is used by paragliding athletes to overcome their parachutes high in the air after takeoff from a mountain or hill. There are two types of wind that are utilized, namely dynamic lift that occurs when the wind hits the slope and thermal lift caused by geothermal. The utilization of this wind source allows the parachute to fly high without the aid of batteries or engines, completely dependent on the wind (Ilham & Asrun, 2022).

Paragliding is classified as an extreme sport and is often considered to require high expenditure costs. However, its development potential in Indonesia is quite large, considering the supportive topography in addition to the intensity of strong and strong winds. However, paragliding players and activists need to have adequate knowledge to cope with unexpected risks. Therefore, procedural implementation and fundamental understanding are key to minimizing these risks. The statement made by the community,

that their lack of interest in doing Paragliding is because they think that spending in the sport can cost a lot of money to buy equipment and facilities. Research by Sari and Bachri (2022) shows that tourist attractions and facilities have a significant influence on tourists' interest in Paragliding again.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that Sumedang Kabupaten has a good geographical potential for Paragliding sports, this geographical potential can be seen from the three places in Sumedang Regency for Paragliding sports which have natural beauty that can be enjoyed by tourists and have decent places and have a height that is suitable for Paragliding sports and in Sumedang Regency there is minimal natural disasters and accidents.

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