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The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Tourist Visits in Central Java

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Abstract

In March 2020, the Covid-19 virus spread in Central Java and hit tourism in Central Java, where Central Java is the province with the most tourist attractions on the island of Java. This study aims to determine the impact of tourist visits, both foreign tourists and domestic tourists in Central Java during the Covid-19 pandemic and to see the policies issued by the Government that aims to protect Central Java tourism. The research method used in this study is descriptive quantitative where the independent variable is Covid-19 and the dependent variable is the number of visits by foreign tourists and domestic tourists. The results of this study indicate that the Covid-19 pandemic has a negative effect on foreign tourist visits and domestic tourist visits to Central Java. The number of foreign tourist visits during the pandemic, namely in 2020, the average number of foreign tourist arrivals decreased by 88.68 percent, while the number of domestic tourist visits in 2020 decreased by 60.91 percent.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Number of Foreign Tourist Visits, Number of Domestic Visits, Government Policies

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a sector that is quite important for a region or province. In tourism, there are three aspects that are considered important, including social, economic, and cultural aspects. In the social aspect of tourism, it can create jobs for the people who live around the tourism object. The existence of these jobs, of course, will reduce existing unemployment and will increase the productivity of a country (Jaffe & Pasternak, 2004).

The tourism sector is also one of the sectors that are considered strategic for the country's foreign exchange earnings and have a fairly important contribution to the absorption of labor (Hakim & Fafurida, 2018). In addition, the tourism sector is also an integrated sector, because it contains beauty, culture, history, archaeology, infrastructure development, and socio-politics (Kamal et al., 2015). Tourism is also considered to have an extraordinary effect, where tourism is able to make people experience metamorphosis in various aspects (Pitana & Gayatri, 2005).

Then in the economic aspect of tourism, tourism can be considered a source of tax and income for an area. Then in the cultural aspect, tourism can be used as a medium to promote the cultural heritage of the area (Mustofa & Haryati, 2018). When we talk about tourism, we talk about globalization because tourism knows no boundaries (Indarto, 2004).

The development of technology and the ease of tourists traveling from one place to another will also increase mobility. However, the development of the tourism sector is also inseparable from the situation within the country itself. Because, in making a trip, there are many things that must be considered by tourists before traveling.

One thing that worries tourists when traveling is the risks they will face according to natural disasters are one of the risks that tourists will face (Lenggogeni et al., 2019). Generally, these disasters are more complex for developing countries than for developed countries. However, not only disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the presence of disease outbreaks in an area will also of course make tourists discouraged from visiting.

Since 2020, the world has been shocked by the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus. Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a type of coronavirus. A pandemic is an infectious epidemic that spreads simultaneously over a wide area (Ristyawati, 2020). The virus is a new virus that originated in Wuhan, China in December 2019 The Covid-19 virus is an outbreak that has a global impact.

The Covid-19 virus has spread rapidly to 210 countries, including Indonesia. The pandemic will of course also disrupt global supply chains and have a negative impact on key sectors such as travel and tourism sector. This will undoubtedly be felt throughout the tourism chain. This Covid-19 pandemic is spreading rapidly, this is certainly a new pandemic and has spread throughout the world, including Indonesia.

Pandemics such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that occurred previously have also resulted in countries such as Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan having to suffer losses in the service sector, food and drink, transportation, and other sectors related to the tourism sector (Rubin, 2011). In the tourism industry, the biggest pressure comes from the decline in foreign tourist arrivals due to cancellations and a decrease in travel ticket bookings.

Based on a report from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in June 2020, foreign tourist arrivals decreased by 93 percent or lost around 440 million visits when compared to 2019. (Doswell, 1979) in a book entitled "Case Studies in tourism" It is stated that tourism is actually nothing more than unity and cohesiveness like a symphony. According to him, when one of the instruments sounds disturbing, the entire symphony will be disturbed, as well as when you see tourism.

To limit the increasingly wide spread of Covid-19, governments around the world are taking action to suppress the spread of Covid-19,

namely by imposing a Lockdown or prohibiting all countries and cities most affected by Covid-19 from entering border areas (Pullano et al., 2020). In addition, the Indonesian government has also acted to suppress the spread of Covid-19 by implementing Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB).

In addition, an overall approach is needed in terms of developing tourist destinations, as well as monitoring tourism activities. Such an approach is needed to formulate and implement the necessary national and local tourism policies or other processes. Furthermore, the World Bank (2013) states that tourists are people who carry out tourism activities.

There are two types of tourists, namely foreign tourists and domestic tourists, and these tourists certainly have different two characteristics. Suastika & Yasa, (2017) state that tourists are individuals or groups who travel. In addition, the level of tourist visits will certainly have an impact on the social conditions of the surrounding community. Foreign tourists usually travel to a country other than the country where they live for a period of not more than 12 months.

Foreign tourists usually have prepared a trip plan before traveling, where they will find out more about the place they are going to and the conditions in the place they are going to visit. With the COVID-19 pandemic, usually, they will immediately cancel their intention to travel because they are blocked by travel warnings that apply in various countries and they also cannot enter areas that have implemented a lockdown. However, unlike foreign tourists, during a pandemic usually continues to travel for tourist activities that they consider safe to visit.

From January to December 2019, the number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia reached 14.93 million visits. However, in 2020, foreign tourist visits to Indonesia only amounted to 4.22 million visits. In early January to March 2020, the number of foreign tourist arrivals visiting Central Java experienced a significant decline. The decline occurred due to the Covid-19 virus that emerged in early 2020 which led to the implementation of travel warnings by several countries in the world so that they could not leave the country or visit other countries.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also caused a decline in income in the tourism sector and other sectors and a power crisis in the tourism sector in Bangladesh (Chowdhury, 2020). The spread of the Covid-19 virus in Indonesia is quite fast. It was recorded that on December 25, 2020, the province with the highest distribution of death cases was Central Java Province. The increase in the death rate for Central Java was the highest at the provincial level, beating the province of DKI Jakarta.

Covid-19 cases in Central Java from March 2020 to December 2020 continued to increase. In March 2020 it was recorded that there were 175 cases of Covid-19 that occurred in Central Java. In June there was a significant increase in Covid-19 cases reaching 3,145 cases. The highest spike in Covid-19 cases occurred in November, reaching 22,433 cases. In December 2020, recorded cases of Covid-19 in Central Java reached 17,834 cases.

Based on the data obtained, 18.27 percent of Covid-19 cases in Central Java came from the city of Semarang. The highest number of cases is Semarang City with 15,441 cases, then Kebumen Regency with 3,954 cases, and Surakarta City with 3,931 cases. Then for the lowest number of

Covid-19 cases, Purbalingga Regency with 599 cases. Furthermore, Banjarnegara Regency with 674 cases, and the last is Magelang Regency with 817 cases.

One of the provinces that has the highest number of tourist attractions on the island of Java is Central Java Province. Central Java is one of the provinces on the island of Java which has a lot of tourism diversity. In addition, the location of Central Java Province is also considered strategic because it is located on the mainland of Java Island and is flanked by large provinces, namely West Java, East Java, and the Special Region of Yogyakarta.

Its area is 34,548 km2 or about 28.94 of the island. By having a topography like the one above, of course, Central Java Province has diverse tourism potential and various kinds of existing tourist attractions. Central Java Province also has 4 national tourism destinations, namely:

1) Borobudur Destinations – Yogya, 2) Semarang-Karimunjawa Destinations, 3) Solo-Sangiran Destinations, 4) Nusakambangan Destinations-Pangandaran.

Central Java Province has 690 Tourist Attractions (DTW). This number is the highest number of tourist attractions in Banten Province which has 204 tourist attractions, DKI Jakarta has 149 tourist attractions, West Java has 218 has attractions, DIY tourist 115 tourist attractions, and East Java has 334 tourist attractions. Central Java Province has a strategic location because Central Java is located between 2 large provinces, namely West Java Province and East Java Province.

In addition, there are also Super Priority Tourist Attractions (DTW) such as the Borobudur Temple in Magelang Regency and with the super-priority tourism object located in Central Java, it is hoped that it will become a magnet for tourists both tourists to visit Central Java. Administratively, Central Java Province is divided into 35 regencies/cities which have different typological conditions in each region. This is what makes there are many tourist attractions in Central Java in the form of natural, artificial, cultural, and other attractions.

With the largest number of Tourist Destinations (DTW) among other provinces, Central Java Province is expected to be able to increase the interest of visiting both foreign tourists and domestic tourists. Nevertheless, Central Java cannot be separated from the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. With the number of Covid cases in Central Java, of course, some outdoor activities or activities will of course also be limited.

Therefore, of course, it will have an impact on tourism activities in Central Java starting from the decline in tourist visits, both domestic visits and foreign tourist visits in 2020. The more tourists who enter Central Java, the this will increase in income for the province of Central Java. The following is the number of foreign tourist visits per 35 Regencies/Cities in Central Java in 2019-2020.

In 2020, there were 78,290 visits by foreign tourists. This number certainly decreased by 88.68 percent compared to 2019 which was recorded at 691,699 tourist visits. The decline began at the end of 2019 when the first cases of Covid-19 were discovered. A significant decrease occurred in April when there were only 2 visits. The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly discouraged tourists who want to travel. In addition, the travel warning and lockdown policies have resulted in limited access for tourists to enter and exit a country.

In 2019, domestic tourist arrivals to Central Java reached 57,900,863 visits, where the highest

visit occurred in June, amounting to 9,743,157, where in June 2019 to be precise June 5 is the Eid al-Fitr, when people usually carry homecoming activities/or return home and visit tourist attractions in Central Java. However, at the beginning of 2020, domestic tourist visits to Central Java decreased until April 2020 where in April there were only 14,924 visits. The decline occurred due to the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020 which caused a decrease in tourist visits where tourists were afraid to travel because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The theory of consumer behavior explains how individuals, groups, and organizations choose, buy, use, and how goods, services, ideas, or experiences to satisfy their needs and wants (Proctor, 2010). This consumer behavior refers to the process of obtaining and organizing information toward purchasing decisions and using and evaluating products and services. The process includes the stages of finding, buying, using, evaluating, and dispensing products and services.

In this purchase decision, there are interesting aspects, namely: it is an investment with no real rate of return, and the purchase of a product or service must have been planned through considerable time savings. That is, tourists who take vacations will invest without expecting material and economic returns on their purchases and satisfaction that does not materialize.

In a study conducted by Utami & Kafabih (2021) it was also shown that there was a negative and significant relationship with the Covid-19 pandemic on the number of foreign tourist visits. Meanwhile, Prayudi, (2020) on the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism sector in

Yogyakarta uses primary data, namely by using documentation and observation methods and the analysis used is descriptive qualitative. Several studies have discussed the impact of this pandemic both on an international and national scale. Therefore, in this study, the author tries to analyze the impact of Covid-19 on the number of foreign tourists and regional tourists.

RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research is quantitative research. Quantitative research is a method based on the philosophy of positivism which emphasizes the analysis of numerical data which is then processed using statistical methods. The type of data in this research is secondary data. Secondary data is primary data that has been further processed by data collectors or other stakeholders and presented in table or figure format (Husein, 2013).

The data was collected by the author by conducting a literature study from various documents, books, websites, and newspapers that have been published by certain agencies. This study uses published data from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Department of Youth, Sports, and Tourism of Central Java Province, the Central Statistics Agency, and several scientific journal reports, literature and other publishing sources of data that support and relate to this research study. The data to be used in this study is panel data. Panel data is a combination of time series and cross-section data (Gujarati 2012). Then, for the data that will be used in this study, monthly data from 2019 to 2020.

This study uses the number of foreign tourist visits and the number of domestic tourist visits as the dependent variable and the Covid-19

variable as the independent variable. And the last is interpretation. The model in this study can be formally written as follows:

 $WSM = \beta o + \beta 1 COVit + \mu it$

Description: COV is Dummy Covid-19; WSM is the Number of Foreign Tourist Visits; WSN is the Number of Domestic Tourist Visits; β_1 is Regression Coefficient; i is 35 Regencies/ Cities in Central Java; t : year t (2019-2020); μ is an error (external disturbance factor) model.

In this study, there are three approaches Common Effect, Fixed Effect, and Random Effect. Next, we use the Chow test, Hausman test, and Lagrange Multiplier test to determine the best approach model, and the next step is to test classical assumption to ensure that the resulting regression estimation model.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of foreign tourists and domestic tourists in Central Java in 2019 tends to increase. However, after the Covid-19 outbreak, foreign tourist arrivals in Central Java experienced a significant decline compared to the previous year. Here it can be seen that the Covid-19 virus certainly has a negative impact on tourism in Central Java.

Table 1. Results of Panel Data Estimation Number of Foreign Tourist Visits

Variable	Estimation Model			
	Common Effect	Fixed Effect	Random Effect	
Constant	136166.4	1546.714	1546.714	
Covid-19	-96713.86	-1512.146	-1512.146	
\mathbb{R}^2	0.132196	0.501053	0.051768	
Adjusted R ²	0.131161	0.479332	0.050636	
Standard Error	122309.5	3194.415	3194.415	
F-Statistics	127.6562	23.0683	45.74984	
Durbin–Watson Stat	0.625932	0.288464	0.276760	

Source: Eviews 9, 2021

This research has three approaches, namely Common Effect, Fixed Effect, and Random Effect. Determination of the best approach model is carried out at the estimation method selection stage using the Chow test, Hausman test, and the Lagrange Multiplier Effect. The statistical test consists of the coefficient of determination or R-squared, f-test, and t-test. Table 1 are the results of the Panel Data Estimation Number of Foreign Tourist Visits.

Based on the specification test of the regression model, the estimation uses three

models, namely the Common Effect Model, Fixed Effect Model, and Random Effect Model for the dependent variable Number of Foreign Tourist Visits. The next step is to carry out testing the three models to determine the best model to estimate in this study.

Based on the results of the Lagrange Multiple Test, the Bruesch-Pagan probability value is 0.0000 which means it is smaller than the significance level at = 5 percent, so it can be concluded that Ho is rejected. Therefore, according to the Hausman test, the best model used is the Random Effect Model.

Based on the estimation results in the table 2, it shows that Covid-19 has a negative effect on the Number of International Tourist Visits in 35 Regencies/Cities in Central Java at a significance level of 5 percent (0.05). The regression coefficient value of the Covid-19 variable is -1512.146. This means that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of foreign tourist visits will decrease by 1,512 people assuming ceteris paribus results of this study are also in line with research conducted by Anggarini, (2021) which stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact to the decrease in the number of tourist visits and the income of the transportation and warehousing sector as well as the provision of accommodation and food and drink, labor, losses and a decrease in business income.

Table 2. Estimated Result of overseas Tourist Visits

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
С	1546.714	529.9120	2.918813	0.0036
COVID	-1512.146	223.5624	-6.763863	0.0000

Source: Output Result Eviews 9.0, 2021

There are 7 travel risks associated with the context of a disaster, one of which is the fear of being trapped (Lenggogeni et al, 2019). There is a possibility of fear felt by tourists when visiting areas where there have been cases of Covid-19. Where they will feel worried that they will not be able to leave the area because it is very likely that the place has been locked down.

This is one of the psychological risks, namely the fear of feeling trapped (Mitchell, 1992). This of course will result in a decrease in the number of foreign tourist visits. The existence of a negative influence between Covid-

19 and the number of tourist visits shows that Covid-19 is a factor that causes the decline in the number of foreign tourists in Central Java. This happens because of the travel warnings that have been implemented by several countries and will certainly result in a decrease in tourist interest in traveling both domestically and abroad.

The number of foreign tourist arrivals decreased by 88.68 percent compared to 2019 where in 2020, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in Central Java was only 78,290 visits while for 2019 it was 691,669 visits. The highest number of tourists visits in 2020 is Magelang Regency. In addition, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in the Regency/City of Central Java Province before the COVID-19 pandemic had an average value (mean) of 19,762.83, a median value of 255, a minimum value of 0 and a maximum value of 357,695.

The number of International Tourist Visits in Central Java Province was at most 357,695 namely in Magelang Regency, and the Number of Foreign Tourist Visits in Central Java Province was at least o, namely in Blora, Cilacap, Kebumen, Pemalang, Sukoharjo, and Tegal Regencies. These results are in accordance with the study of the main theory used in this study, namely the Perception Theory, where tourists who want to do holiday activities will cancel their intentions due to a pandemic that has spread to various countries in the world.

The tourists certainly have feelings of fear and alert if the country that will become a tourist destination has many confirmed cases of Covid-19. These tourists will of course also feel trapped if they are on vacation in a country and the country enforces a lockdown policy so that in the end they cannot return to their home

country for some time. In addition, the policy issued by the government regarding quarantine for incoming foreign tourists will discourage tourists from going on vacation.

This condition is also influenced by the travel warning policies that have been implemented by several countries aimed at suppressing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This travel warning is usually applied to citizens from and to several other countries who are considered to have a risk of the spread of Covid-19.

The travel warning policy in Indonesia, of course, involves cross-sectoral coordination and coordination from various related parties, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Health. The policy was made after the travel warning policy issued by WHO. This policy is based on an authority that is owned in terms of determining policies in accordance with applicable regulations (Arsika et al., 2018).

Furthermore, the impact of the number Covid-19 pandemic on the of domestic Tourist Visits can be seen in table 3. number of domestic tourist visits also uses three approaches, namely Common Effect, Fixed Effect, and Random Effect. Determination of the best approach model is at the carried out estimation selection stage using the Chow test, Hausman test, and the Lagrange Multiplier Effect.

Table 3. Results of Panel Data Estimation Number of Domestic Tourist Visits

Variable	Estimation Model		
	Common Effect	Fixed Effect	Random Effect
Constant	136166.4	136166.4	Covid
Covid-19	-96713.86	-96713.86	-96713.86
\mathbb{R}^2	0.132196	0.575460	0.230031
Adjusted R ²	0.13116	0.556978	0.229112
Standard Error	122309.5	87337.92	87337.92
F-Statistics	127.6562	31.13750	250.3552
Durbin–Watson Stat	0.625932	1.279469	1.227558

Source: Output Results Eviews 9.0, 2021

Based on the specification test of the regression model, the estimation uses three models, namely the Common Effect Model, Fixed Effect Model, and Random Effect Model for the dependent variable Number of Indonesian Tourist Visits. The next step is to carry out testing the three models to determine the best model to estimate in this study. Based on the results of the Lagrange Multiple Test, the Bruesch-Pagan probability value is 0.0000 which means it is smaller than the significance level at

= 5 percent, so it can be concluded that Ho is rejected. Therefore, according to the Hausman Test the best model used is the Random Effect Model.

Based on the estimation results in the table, it can be seen that Covid-19 has a negative effect on the number of tourist arrivals Nusantara in 35 Regencies/Cities in Central Java at a significance level of 5 percent (0.05). The regression coefficient value of the Covid-19 variable is -96713.86. This means that during the

Covid-19 pandemic, the number of domestic tourist visits will decrease by 96,713 people with the assumption of ceteris paribus.

Table 4. Estimated Results of Domestic Tourist Visits

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
С	136166.4	15188.54	2.918813	0.0036
COVID	-96713.83	6112.381	-15.822862	0.0000

Source: Output Results Eviews 9.0, 2021

The findings of this study are in line with the results of research conducted by Bagas (2020). From the research that has been carried out, the results also show that there is a negative and significant influence between Covid-19 and the Number of Archipelago Tourist Visits. The results of the study explained that there was a decrease in the number of domestic tourist visits after the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, the government's policy of implementing PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) also affects tourist visits to tourist attractions. This is of course in accordance with the study of the main theory used in this research, namely Behavior in Tourism, where tourists will discourage from carrying out tourism activities because they feel unsafe in their destination tourist destinations, so they are expressed in the form of decision behavior not to make purchases and consumption of tourism products or services.

The number of visits by Nusantara Tourists in the Regency/ City of Central Java Province before the COVID-19 pandemic had an average value (mean) of 1,654,310.37, a median value of 1,135,824, a minimum value of 127,943 and a maximum value of 7,150,343. visit. The highest

number of Archipelago Tourist Visits in Central Java Province was 7,150,343 namely in the City of Semarang, and the Number of domestic Tourist Visits in Central Java Province was at least 127,943 in Salatiga.

However, the number of domestic tourist visits decreased by 60.91 percent, where the mean (mean) was 646,545, the median value was 433,376, the minimum value was 23,938 and the maximum value was 3,260,303 visits. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the highest number of foreign tourists visited was in Semarang City at 3,260,303 visits of which 1,186,672 visits came from the Old City of Semarang.

The next highest visit was Semarang Regency with 1,840,813 of which 288,771 visits came from Gedong Songo Temple tourism. Then for the order of the highest number of domestic tourist visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, Magelang Regency with 1,412,666 with 965,699 visits, of which came from Borobudur Temple.

These results are of course in line with Institutional Theory, where the government will issue various policies in dealing with the Covid-19 Virus, including issuing regulations such as PSBB and lockdowns in various regions so that the spread of the Covid-19 Virus does not expand. The impact of decline in the number of tourists will certainly affect other tourism sectors, such as the number of hotel visits and other tourist attraction income.

From this condition, it can be seen that the number of visits has had an impact on other sectors. Tourism is actually nothing but unity and cohesiveness are like a symphony. The Covid-19 pandemic that hit Indonesia in early 2020 led to the issuance of several policies such as Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB), social distancing, physical distancing, and a ban on

international travel as an effort to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. Of course, this policy must be immediately informed to the public and stakeholders.

This information will later provide a sense of security for the community in terms of protection from the virus, as well as stopping its spread (Falcone & Sapienza, 2020). Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic caused tourist destinations to be closed. This policy is, of course, implemented as a measure to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in areas that fall into the red zone. If the policy is successful, it will certainly reduce the number of the spread of Covid-19 in Central Java. If successful, of course, it will be able to attract foreign tourists because it is considered safe to visit.

The strategy is to build interest and generate positive emotions toward tourism products and also to restore the image of the destination as a safe and secure place for travelers after the COVID-19 pandemic (Yung et al., 2021). The Indonesian government is improving facilities at destinations through certification to increase attractions and promotions that are held virtual & Hybrid Events, destinations are also starting to be promoted again through Key Opinion Leaders and Sales Missions.

Then the next strategy is to create a travel pattern or travel pattern so that the travel of both foreign and domestic tourists is well-patterned tourist visits. Even though they are different, the direction of the relationship between the variables of education level and the number of tourist visits is both negative. This result is different from the research conducted by Zandi (2018) where the level of education actually has a positive and significant effect on the number of tourist visits.

CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 pandemic has a negative effect on the number of visits by foreign tourists and domestic tourists in Central Java. This means that the Covid-19 pandemic will reduce the number of foreign and domestic tourists visiting 35 districts/cities in Central Java. In addition, the reopening of tourist attractions by implementing health protocols and the applicable new normal and next normal arrangements, of course, is one of the efforts made by the government to protect the tourism sector affected by Covid-19 in the hope that tourism can recover.

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