

Potency of Education Historical Tourism of World War II Japanese Caves and Bunkers in Coastal Banyuwangi

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Abstract: Banyuwangi district has some Japanese caves and bunkers of World War II. The location of the objects are along the Banyuwangi coast as a maritime defense during the war. This structures can be used as education historical tourism object. There are many similar structures in other area that have been neglected and do not get enough preservation attention. This research is aimed to identify the potency of education historical tourism of Japanese caves and bunker in Banyuwangi. The research is done by field research for the observation of objects physical condition. It is also done by interviewing local government, historical actors and surrounding community. The result shows that the caves and bunker have a great potency but have not been used as education historical object.

Keywords: Japanese, cave, bunker, education, history

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country that is very rich in historic attractions that can be utilized as a tourist attraction concept education [1]. Tourism will usually be more developed or can be developed if in an area has more than one type of object and tourist attraction [2]. The implementation of tourism is a very important tool in regional development, to be able to create jobs, increase and level up the income of the community and introduce local cultural arts [3]. The main purpose of tourism development is for more tourists to come to a tourist area, stay longer, and spend more money in the tourist attractions they visit [4].

Research on the potential of historical tourism has been done, among others, historical objects in Ilir I Palembang [5], cultural tourism potential of the Majapahit kingdom heritage site at Trowulan Mojokerto [6], tourism colonial tourism potential in Malang [7], Gilimanuk district site potential Jembrana Bali [8], historical objects in the city of Ternate [2] and the Van der Wijck Gombong Citadel of Kebumendistrict in Central Java [1].

One of the historical tourism potential is the cave, including caves and bunker forms of the Japanese colonial period. Many of Japan's caves and bunkers are not getting attention, such as cannons and World War II defense cave in Alak sub-district, Kupang city, Nusa Tenggara Timur province [9]. Bunker or arsenal weapon of Japanese army former located in Pangandaran village threatened dismantled [10]. Dozens of caves and bunker former of the Japanese occupation which condition are neglected, whereas the heritage buildings can be used as a tourist attraction [11]. In fact, Japanese bunker ruins are damaged and taken for sale, then some are also used for trash dumps [12].

Cave exploration systematically is not only related to physical aspects and findings but also includes systematic documentation. This field documentation shows cave exploration systematically covering the surrounding soil surface, cave surfaces, detailed observation records, rock and lime characteristics, and documentation photographs. This data is combined with maps and descriptions that can serve as a basis for similar research or subsequent research [13].

Cave research has been done a lot. The cave is examined in terms of lime distribution and its control in Japanese Yoron-Jima [14]. Caves in Scandinavia are extensively researched in terms of location, history and use [15]. The cave is also investigated in terms of exploration [16] and historical exploitation [17]. In Indonesia, research was conducted for the development of Kreo cave tourism object to socio-economic life of society [3]. Cave research is documented and mapped to the location



based on historical records related to the exploration, mining and development of cave sites with techniques developed from caving search hobbies. These data can be tested on related historical information. This could be the basis for the conclusion of the land conditions around the cave and the comparison with its regional territory [17].

The potential of Japanese caves and bunker in Banyuwangi district is still not developed as a historical tourism asset that can be beneficial to the world of education. As in other areas, Japanese caves and bunker tend to be dormant and do not get enough attention from the public and government. For this reason we need a study that examines the potency of this historical heritage.

2. Method

The research is done by field observation and interview method. The observation of objects physical condition is done by a camera. Surrounding location is observe for accesibilty and supporting facilities by photograph documentation. It is also done by interviewing local government, historical actors and surrounding community to get informations about the Japanese caves and bunkers in Banyuwangi district.

3. Result and Discussion

Japanese caves and bunkers in Banyuwangi district have characteristic such:

1. Relatively small in size which indicates the base for small army group.
2. Located in slope hill with footpath acces which gave advantage for defense.
3. The direction facing to the sea because the function as maritime defense.

The condition of the caves and bunkers are relatively good but have not been explore as tourism objects. There is a board sign in the side of the entrance of the cave. Children from surrounding community use the objects for as playing ground. Some teenagers and older people came to the object because of the view and the unique photograph background.



Figure 1. Japanese caves at Kalipuro subdistrict



Figure 2. Japanese bunkers at Kalipuro subdistrict

According to some sources, there are more than 25 Japanese caves and bunkers along the coastal line in Banyuwangi district. These locations are understandable because coastal line in Banyuwangi is part of Bali strait in east side which make the coast is strategic place for troop landing and Indonesian ocean in south side which have access to international territory. These Japanese caves and bunkers have not been identify and explore by researchers.

The Japanese caves and bunkers have potency as research and exploration. Systematic documentations can be done for objects characteristic such as measuring size, mapping, soil and rock, etc. It is also can be done for environmental study for further preservation program.



Figure 3. Coastal line of Banyuwangi district

The Japanese caves and bunker have not been used as historical education material, especially for elementary school children. There is no documented information about the objects. These objects can contribute to educate children about local history or even national and international history.

Utilization as tourism object is needed in order to explore the objects for history education. Tourism attractiveness will has effort due to preservation activities and maintain the existence of the object for the next generation. This activity will need a program which need cooperation between government and surrounding community.

4. Conclusion

Japanese caves and bunker in Banyuwangi district have own characteristic and a great potency for tourism objects. These structures have not explored and used as education historical object. The government and community can work together for conducting the preservation program.

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