



Local Community Perceptions of Local Culture for Sports Tourism Development in Kolo, Bima City

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Abstract

This study aims to describe local community perceptions of local culture as a basis for developing sports tourism in Kolo, Bima City. A descriptive quantitative approach supported by qualitative data was employed, using a survey method with questionnaires and semi-structured interviews involving residents living around coastal areas and sports activity sites such as traditional boat racing, open water swimming, and beach running. The sample was selected through purposive sampling, targeting community members who are involved in or have participated in cultural and sports activities in Kolo. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (means and percentages), while qualitative data were examined through data reduction and thematic categorization related to perceptions of local culture and sports tourism development potential. The results indicate that the community holds a positive perception of the utilization of local culture including fishing traditions, coastal rituals, and traditional arts as key attractions for sports tourism, yet faces limitations in terms of infrastructure, destination promotion, and the capacity of local institutions. These findings highlight the need for sports tourism development rooted in local culture, with active participation of community members, local government, and sports organizations to ensure social, economic, and cultural sustainability

Objectives:

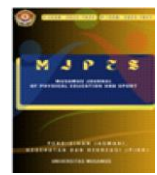
This study aims to describe local community perceptions of local culture as a basis for developing sports tourism in Kolo, Bima City.

Materials and Methods:

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (means and percentages), while qualitative data were examined through data reduction and thematic categorization related to perceptions of local culture and sports tourism development potential.

Results:

The results indicate that the community holds a positive perception of the utilization of local culture including fishing traditions, coastal rituals, and traditional arts—as key attractions for sports tourism, yet faces limitations in terms of infrastructure, destination promotion, and the capacity of local institutions.



Conclusions:

These findings highlight the need for sports tourism development rooted in local culture, with active participation of community members, local government, and sports organizations to ensure social, economic, and cultural sustainability.

Keywords: *community perception, local culture, sports tourism, Kolo, Bima*

Introduction

Sports tourism is a form of tourism that combines physical activity and sports with recreational experiences at a destination and is growing rapidly in various regions in Indonesia. In coastal areas, sports tourism is often associated with activities such as boat races, sea swimming, and various nature-based activities that can be integrated with local cultural potential (Rangkuti et al., 2025). Kolo, as a coastal village in Bima City, boasts a unique natural landscape and cultural traditions, but the development of local culture-based sports tourism in this area has not been academically documented (Martín-González et al., 2024).

Tourism has long been recognized as a strategic sector for regional economic development, particularly in areas rich in natural and cultural assets, such as Bima City in West Nusa Tenggara. Globally, tourism is no longer viewed merely as a recreational activity but as a development instrument capable of driving economic growth, creating jobs, and preserving local culture (Higham, J., & Hinch, T., 2022). One form of tourism that has expanded rapidly over the last two decades is sport tourism, which combines sporting activities with travel experiences to attract both domestic and international visitors (UNWTO, 2023).

Bima City, located on Sumbawa Island, possesses diverse tourism potential, ranging from the historical heritage of the Bima Sultanate and coastal tourism to cultural tourism centered on the Dou Mbojo people. The Kolo area within Bima City has been identified in development planning documents as a strategic location for developing water-based tourism and green open spaces. However, the reality on the ground reveals that tourism development in Kolo faces various obstacles, including limited infrastructure, insufficient promotion, and most crucially a lack of optimal integration of local culture as a foundation for development.

Bima City's local culture characterized by the values of Maja Labo Dahu (a moral system based on shame and fear), Dou Mbojo traditions, and various folk sports and games such as ntumbu tuta – represents an intangible asset with significant potential to be developed into a tourist attraction. Yet, this potential has not been fully harnessed in regional tourism strategies, particularly within the context of sport tourism. In some regions, integrating local culture into tourism has actually sparked social tension when communities feel their culture is being commercialized without their meaningful involvement (Gibson, H. J., & Lamont, M., 2023).

Local culture in Kolo includes fishing traditions, coastal rituals, traditional arts, and community mutual cooperation practices that occur within social and religious cycles (Boley, B. B., & Strzelecka, M. (2023)). These cultural elements have the potential to be packaged into sports tourism attractions, for example, through traditional boat races accompanied by cultural attractions, sea swimming linked to the ritual calendar, or beach running combined with a local culinary festival (Prabowo, Hanan Okta, 2025). Conceptually, the integration of culture and sport can build sports tourism that not only attracts tourists but also strengthens community identity and cultural preservation (Glažar, 2026).

The successful development of culture-based tourism relies heavily on the support and perceptions of the local community. The community is not merely a passive object in the development process but an active subject that determines whether a tourism program is



accepted or rejected (Ticha, W., & Mawere, M. (2023)). Previous studies indicate that community perceptions of tourism are influenced by various factors, including the level of involvement in tourism activities, understanding of cultural values, prior experience with development programs, and trust in local government. When community members feel they benefit and are included, they tend to support tourism development; conversely, when they feel marginalized, resistance and opposition easily arise (Nunkoo, R., & Ramseook-Mohur, I. (2023)).

One of the most significant findings is the presence of ambivalent perceptions among the Kolo community: they simultaneously feel proud of Bima's cultural heritage such as the Maja Labo Dahu values, Dou Mbojo traditions, and traditional sports while also worrying about potential commercialization that could erode the culture's sacred meaning. This finding differs from previous studies, which tended to report community perceptions in dichotomous terms either positive or negative. The community does not categorically reject sports tourism; rather, their support is conditional: they support it if (1) the culture is showcased in a context that respects its original values, (2) they are involved in planning and implementation, and (3) economic benefits are distributed equitably. Conversely, resistance emerges when programs are top-down, exclusive, or benefit only a handful of business operators (Ziakas, V. (2022)). The younger generation exhibits the highest level of ambivalence: on one hand, they are enthusiastic about the innovations and economic opportunities offered by sports tourism, yet on the other, they acknowledge a lack of deep understanding regarding ancestral cultural values. These findings indicate an intergenerational gap in the transmission of cultural values that needs to be addressed through educational and mentoring programs (Hermanto, L. (2023)).

Various studies on sports tourism in Indonesia show that the perceptions of local communities and tourists influence the success of destination development, both in terms of services, facilities, and attractions offered (Hadzik & Grabara, 2014). However, studies specifically highlighting local community perceptions of their own culture as a basis for sports tourism development in coastal areas like Kolo are still very limited (Pranata Sinaga et al., 2022). This gap in research is important to fill so that planning for local culture-based sports tourism in Kolo is based on the voice of the community and the local socio-cultural context (Prayoga et al., 2021).

Based on this description, this study formulates the following questions: (1) how do local communities perceive local culture as an attraction for sports tourism development in Kolo, Bima City; (2) what elements of local culture are considered relevant and have the potential to be developed into sports tourism; and (3) what are the community's perceptions of the role of the government, sports communities, and local institutions in developing culture-based sports tourism in Kolo. This study aims to describe the perceptions of local communities, identify local cultural components that have potential for sports tourism, and formulate the implications for developing local culture-based sports tourism in Kolo.

Materials and Methods

Study Design

This research employed a descriptive quantitative design supported by qualitative data to analyze local community perceptions of local culture in relation to the development of sports tourism in Kolo, Bima City. A survey method was used to collect quantitative data on perceptions, while semi-structured interviews and direct observations were conducted to obtain qualitative explanations and contextual information. The combination of quantitative and qualitative data allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of how local culture is perceived as a basis for sports tourism development. This study employs a qualitative approach with a case study method to explore in-depth the



perception of local communities toward their culture in the context of sport tourism development. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for rich, contextualized understanding of social phenomena that cannot be captured through quantitative instruments alone. The study was conducted in Kolo, an urban village (kelurahan) in Bima City, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. Kolo was selected as the research site due to its strategic potential for tourism development, particularly water tourism and sport tourism, as identified in regional planning documents. Participants consisted of 30 informants selected through purposive sampling to ensure representation of key stakeholder.

Study Participants

Study participants were local residents of Kolo, a coastal urban village in Bima City, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The target group consisted of individuals who are directly or indirectly involved in local cultural practices and sports-related activities in the coastal area. To ensure that respondents were familiar with local culture and potential sports tourism activities, several inclusion criteria were applied:

1. Age and residency

Participants were required to be at least 17 years old and to have lived in Kolo for a minimum of three consecutive years. This criterion was set to ensure that respondents had sufficient exposure to local cultural traditions, coastal rituals, and community events.

2. Involvement in local culture and sports

Eligible participants had either:

- a) participated in or helped organize local cultural activities (such as coastal rituals, traditional arts performances, or religious-social events),
- b) taken part in sports-related activities at the coast (such as traditional boat races, sea swimming, beach running, or community games), or
- c) regularly observed these cultural and sports events as community members or spectators.

This condition ensured that participants could provide informed perceptions of how local culture relates to sports tourism development.

3. Willingness to participate

Only individuals who agreed to be involved in the study and provided informed consent (written or verbal, depending on literacy and local norms) were included. Participation was voluntary, and respondents could withdraw at any time without penalty.

Based on these criteria, a non-probability purposive sampling approach was used to recruit study participants (Anvarovich, 2026). Community leaders and local contacts assisted in identifying residents who met the inclusion criteria and were willing to take part in the survey and, where relevant, in follow-up interviews. The planned sample size for the quantitative survey was approximately participants, which was considered adequate to provide descriptive information on community perceptions. In addition, a smaller group of key informants (e.g. 8–12 people) was selected from among customary leaders, youth representatives, cultural practitioners, and individuals involved in organizing sports or cultural events to participate in semi-structured interviews.

Demographically, participants were expected to represent a range of ages (late teens to older adults), genders, educational backgrounds, and occupations (including fishers, informal workers, small business owners, homemakers, and students). This diversity was intended to capture different perspectives on local culture, everyday coastal life, and opportunities and concerns related to sports tourism development in Kolo.



Study Organization

This study was organized into several sequential stages to ensure a systematic and coherent investigation of local community perceptions of local culture for sports tourism development in Kolo, Bima City. The organization of the study followed a structured methodology commonly used in social science and sport tourism research, consisting of preparation, data collection, data processing, analysis, and reporting.

Preparatory Phase

In the preparatory phase, the researchers conducted a review of relevant literature on sports tourism, community-based tourism, local culture, and previous studies on community perceptions and local wisdom in the Bima region. This review helped to refine the research questions, develop the conceptual framework, and identify suitable indicators for measuring community perceptions. Ethical clearance and permission to conduct fieldwork were then sought from the relevant institutional authorities and local government offices. During this phase, the research instruments (questionnaire, interview guide, observation checklist) were drafted, reviewed by experts, and pilot tested with a small group of residents to ensure clarity and contextual relevance.

Fieldwork and Data Collection Phase

The second phase focused on fieldwork and data collection in Kolo. After establishing contact with community leaders and gaining access to the village, the researchers organized meetings to inform residents about the study's objectives and invite eligible participants. Quantitative data were collected through the administration of structured questionnaires to selected residents who met the inclusion criteria, while qualitative data were obtained from semi-structured interviews with key informants and direct observations of cultural and sports-related activities. Data collection was scheduled over several visits to accommodate community routines, religious activities, and weather conditions in the coastal area.

Data Processing and Analysis Phase

In the third phase, completed questionnaires were checked, coded, and entered into a data file for quantitative analysis. Descriptive statistical procedures were applied to summarize sociodemographic characteristics and perception scores on the different indicators. Interview recordings and field notes were transcribed and organized into text documents for qualitative analysis. Thematic analysis was then performed to identify recurring ideas and patterns related to local culture, sports tourism opportunities, perceived impacts, and institutional roles. Quantitative and qualitative findings were compared and integrated to provide a comprehensive picture of community perceptions and contextual factors.

Interpretation and Reporting Phase

The final phase involved interpreting the integrated results in light of the theoretical framework and prior studies and drafting the research report in journal article format. The structure followed standard social science and sport tourism article organization: introduction, materials and methods (including study design, participants, instruments, procedures, and study organization), results, discussion, conclusions, and references. Particular attention was given to highlighting practical implications for local policy and community-based sports tourism development in Kolo, as well as suggesting areas for future research.

Statistical Analysis

Quantitative data obtained from the structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques to summarize community perceptions of local culture and its potential for sports tourism development. The analysis focused on measures of



central tendency and distribution to provide an overall picture of how respondents evaluated the different perception indicators.

First, all completed questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency. Each item on the Likert-scale sections (perception of local culture as identity, perception of local culture as sports tourism attraction, perceived impacts, and perceived institutional roles) was coded numerically (e.g. 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree). Coded data were then entered into a spreadsheet or statistical software (such as SPSS or Microsoft Excel) for further processing.

Descriptive statistics were calculated for each item and for composite scores of the main dimensions of perception. These statistics included:

1. Frequencies and percentages to show the distribution of responses across the Likert-scale categories.
2. Mean (average) values to represent the central tendency of perception scores for each item and dimension.
3. Standard deviations to indicate the variability of responses around the mean and to assess the degree of consensus or divergence among participants.

Based on the mean scores, overall perception levels were classified into categories such as “very positive,” “positive,” “moderate,” and “negative,” using predefined score intervals (for example, 3.25–4.00 = very positive, 2.50–3.24 = positive, 1.75–2.49 = moderate, 1.00–1.74 = negative). These categories facilitated interpretation of how strongly the community supported the use of local culture for sports tourism.

In addition, comparative descriptive analyses were conducted to explore potential differences in perception between selected subgroups of participants, such as age groups, gender, education level, or level of involvement in cultural and sports activities. This was done by examining mean scores and percentage distributions within each subgroup. No inferential statistical tests (such as t-tests or ANOVA) were applied, as the primary aim of the study was to describe perceptions rather than to test specific hypotheses.

Qualitative data from interviews and observations were not subjected to statistical analysis but were analyzed using thematic content analysis. The qualitative findings were then used to complement and explain the quantitative results, particularly in areas where descriptive statistics indicated strong or divergent perceptions.

Results

1. Participant Characteristics

A total of 90 local residents of Kolo participated in the study. The majority of respondents were male (55.6%) and aged between 26 and 45 years (61.1%), while the remaining were female (44.4%) and in other age groups (17–25 years: 21.1%; > 45 years: 17.8%). Most participants had completed senior high school (46.7%) or junior high school (30.0%), with smaller proportions having primary education (13.3%) or higher education (10.0%). In terms of occupation, fishers constituted the largest group (38.9%), followed by informal workers and farmers (26.7%), small business owners (15.6%), homemakers (10.0%), and students (8.8%). The majority of respondents had lived in Kolo for more than ten years (62.2%), indicating a strong familiarity with local culture and coastal activities.

Regarding involvement in local culture, 53.3% of respondents reported having actively participated in cultural events (such as coastal rituals and traditional arts performances), 34.4% had participated mainly as spectators, and 12.3% stated they had never been involved. For sports-related activities, 47.8% of respondents had participated in coastal sports (e.g. traditional boat races, beach games), 37.8% had only watched such activities, and 14.4% reported no involvement. These characteristics suggest that most participants



had direct exposure to both local cultural practices and sports activities in the coastal environment.

2. Perceptions of Local Culture as Community Identity

Shows the distribution of responses and mean scores for items measuring perceptions of local culture as a core community identity. Overall, mean scores for the five items in this dimension ranged from 3.35 to 3.68 on a 4-point Likert scale, indicating generally very positive perceptions.

The statement “Local culture is the main identity of the Kolo community” obtained a mean score of 3.68 (SD = 0.52), with 72.2% of respondents choosing “strongly agree” and 24.4% “agree.” Similarly, the importance of preserving fishing traditions and coastal rituals scored 3.61 (SD = 0.57), and the role of traditional arts in reflecting Kolo’s identity scored 3.49 (SD = 0.63). The item on youth involvement in local culture had a mean of 3.57 (SD = 0.55), suggesting that respondents strongly support intergenerational transmission of cultural practices. The perception that local culture differentiates Kolo from other coastal areas scored 3.42 (SD = 0.66), still within the “very positive” category but with slightly more variation in responses.

Collectively, these results indicate that residents strongly recognize local culture including fishing traditions, coastal rituals, and traditional arts as central to their identity and as something that should be preserved and passed on to younger generations.

3. Perceptions of Local Culture as a Basis for Sports Tourism

Perceptions of local culture as a potential basis for sports tourism were also generally positive. Mean scores for the five items in this dimension ranged from 3.10 to 3.55, corresponding to positive to very positive categories.

The highest mean score (3.55, SD = 0.60) was observed for the statement “Combining local culture and sports will make Kolo more attractive to tourists,” with 60.0% of respondents strongly agreeing and 31.1% agreeing. The idea of packaging fishing traditions into sports tourism attractions, such as traditional boat races, received a mean score of 3.43 (SD = 0.64). The integration of coastal rituals into sports events scored 3.22 (SD = 0.70), while including traditional arts performances in beach sports events scored 3.18 (SD = 0.73). The statement “Community members are willing to be involved in sports tourism activities based on local culture” had a mean of 3.10 (SD = 0.71), indicating positive but slightly more cautious support.

These findings suggest that residents perceive strong potential in using local culture as a foundation for sports tourism, particularly through events that combine traditional boat racing, coastal ceremonies, and artistic performances. At the same time, the slightly lower mean scores on willingness to participate indicate that practical considerations (time, resources, and responsibilities) may influence the extent of community involvement.

4. Perceived Impacts of Developing Sports Tourism

Results regarding perceived impacts of developing sports tourism based on local culture are mixed but still generally favorable. Economic and social impacts received higher mean scores, while cultural and environmental concerns showed more cautious views.

The statement “Developing sports tourism can increase community income in Kolo” scored 3.36 (SD = 0.62), with 65.6% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. Perceived social benefits, such as strengthened community cohesion and solidarity, also scored high (3.28, SD = 0.66). In contrast, the risk of reducing the sacred nature of certain rituals due to commercialization scored 3.05 (SD = 0.78), indicating that respondents acknowledge potential cultural trade-offs. Environmental concerns were even more pronounced: the statement about tourism-related waste and coastal degradation scored 3.18 (SD = 0.74), suggesting that many residents are worried about environmental impacts of increased tourist activity.



The item “With good management, negative impacts of sports tourism can be minimized” obtained a mean of 3.31 (SD = 0.61), reflecting optimism that appropriate regulation and community-based management can help balance benefits and risks. Overall, residents see sport tourism as an opportunity for economic and social improvement but are aware of possible cultural and environmental challenges that need careful management.

5. Perceptions of Government and Local Institutional Roles

Perceptions of institutional roles in sports tourism development were more varied, with some items scoring in the moderate range. While residents recognize the importance of government and local institutions, they express reservations about current levels of support and coordination.

The statement “Local government provides sufficient support for sports tourism development in Kolo” scored 2.52 (SD = 0.77), placing it in the positive but low category, with a notable proportion of respondents selecting “disagree.” In contrast, the role of customary institutions in guiding the packaging of local culture within sports events was perceived more favorably, with a mean of 3.14 (SD = 0.69). Perceptions of youth communities and sports organizations as active actors scored 2.88 (SD = 0.73), indicating moderate approval but a desire for greater involvement.

The item “Coordination among local government, customary institutions, and sports communities is already good” had one of the lowest mean scores (2.39, SD = 0.80), highlighting perceived weaknesses in cross-institutional collaboration. However, the statement that specific rules and guidelines are needed to manage sports tourism based on local culture scored 3.47 (SD = 0.58), reflecting strong community demand for clearer frameworks and regulations.

Taken together, these results show that residents value the roles of government, customary institutions, and community organizations but believe that current support and coordination are not yet sufficient to fully realize the potential of sports tourism based on local culture.

6. Summary of Perception Dimensions

When aggregated at the dimension level, mean scores indicate that:

1. Local culture as community identity has the highest average perception score (Mean $\approx$ 3.55, very positive).
2. Local culture as sports tourism attraction shows a slightly lower but still positive average (Mean $\approx$ 3.30, positive to very positive).
3. Perceived impacts of sports tourism display a balanced view (Mean $\approx$ 3.24, positive), with economic and social benefits weighed against cultural and environmental risks.
4. Perceptions of institutional roles have the lowest average score (Mean $\approx$ 2.90, moderate to positive), suggesting room for improvement in support, participation, and coordination.

These dimension-level results provide a concise overview of community perceptions and serve as a basis for interpreting the implications for planning sports tourism development in Kolo.

Discussion

The present study examined local community perceptions of local culture as a basis for developing sports tourism in Kolo, a coastal village in Bima City. Overall, the findings show that residents strongly recognize the central role of local culture in shaping community identity and display generally positive attitudes toward using cultural practices as attractions for sports tourism. At the same time, they express concerns about potential cultural and environmental risks and perceive current institutional support and



coordination as limited (Arisman et al., 2024). These results align with previous research highlighting the importance of residents' perceptions and support for the sustainable development of sport and tourism initiatives (Id et al., 2023).

Local Culture as Identity and Foundation for Sports Tourism

The very high mean scores for items related to culture as identity confirm that local residents in Kolo view fishing traditions, coastal rituals, and traditional arts as fundamental aspects of who they are as a community (Summary, 2026). This echoes findings from studies on eco-rural tourism and local cultural perceptions, which emphasize that cultural practices are not merely attractions but are embedded in everyday life and social relations (Evita et al., 2026). In Kolo, the strong recognition of cultural identity provides a solid foundation for designing sports tourism initiatives that are authentic and meaningful to residents. etd.repository (Adhitama* et al., 2024).

The positive perceptions of local culture as a potential sports tourism attraction suggest that residents can imagine ways in which their traditions might be combined with sports events such as traditional boat races, sea swimming, and beach running without necessarily undermining cultural values. Similar patterns have been reported in international studies where residents support sport tourism when it is perceived as consistent with local identity and beneficial for community development (Song, 2025). The high mean score for combining culture and sports to attract tourists indicates that Kolo residents see sport tourism as an opportunity to showcase their heritage while diversifying local economic activities (Sadzali, 2026).

Balancing Benefits and Risks: Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Dimensions

The results on perceived impacts reveal a nuanced understanding of sport tourism among residents. On the one hand, respondents anticipate economic and social benefits, such as increased income, new business opportunities, and stronger community cohesion. These expectations align with research demonstrating that sport tourism can act as a driver of local and rural development by generating employment and improving quality of life when properly managed (Wirawan, 2025).

On the other hand, residents are aware of potential cultural and environmental risks. Concerns about the commercialization of rituals and the loss of sacred meaning echo findings from studies on culture-based tourism, where commodification can lead to tensions between traditional values and market demands. Environmental worries, particularly regarding waste and coastal degradation, are consistent with broader literature highlighting the need for sustainable planning in sport tourism to avoid damaging the natural resources that underpin the destination's appeal (Nurfianti & Wicaksono, 2026).

The relatively high agreement with the statement that good management can minimize negative impacts indicates that residents in Kolo do not reject sport tourism outright; instead, they call for governance mechanisms that balance benefits and risks. This is in line with recommendations in sport tourism and community-based tourism research, which emphasize participatory planning, environmental safeguards, and cultural sensitivity as conditions for long-term success (Daniel ORDINANA-BELLVER, 2026).

Institutional Roles and Governance Challenges

Perceptions of institutional roles reveal a more critical stance. Residents appear to regard current government support and coordination among institutions as insufficient for fully realizing the potential of sport tourism based on local culture (Priatmoko et al., 2021). Lower mean scores on items related to government support and inter-institutional coordination suggest that residents feel sport tourism development is not yet a clear priority or is not being managed in an integrated way. Similar governance challenges have been identified in studies on tourism and sport events, where fragmented responsibilities



and limited communication hinder effective planning and implementation (Raso et al., n.d.).

By contrast, residents express more confidence in customary institutions and view them as important actors in ensuring that cultural elements are presented appropriately within sports events. This reflects the role of traditional leaders and local organizations in mediating between cultural values and tourism development, as documented in research on local wisdom and community-based tourism. Strong support for the creation of specific rules and guidelines for sports tourism also indicates that residents desire clearer frameworks that address cultural respect, environmental protection, and fair distribution of benefits (Gonz et al., 2022).

Implications for Sports Tourism Development in Kolo

The combination of strong cultural identity, positive attitudes toward sport tourism, and awareness of risks yields several practical implications. First, any sports tourism initiative in Kolo should be designed *with* the community, not merely *for* tourists (Gonz et al., 2022). Involving residents especially youth groups, customary leaders, and local sports organizations in planning and decision-making can help ensure that events reflect local culture authentically and respond to community priorities (Prabowo, Hanan Okta, 2025). Second, capacity building is essential. Residents' willingness to participate suggests potential for developing skills in event management, hospitality services, promotion, and environmental management. Programs that train local youth and community organizations could strengthen local ownership of sports tourism and enhance its benefits (Ayunem, 2023).

Third, a clear regulatory framework is needed to address cultural and environmental concerns. Guidelines co-developed by government, customary institutions, and community representatives could set limits on commercialization, define respectful ways of staging rituals, and specify environmental management practices (e.g. waste handling during events). Such frameworks would respond directly to residents' call for rules that protect culture and environment while allowing economic and social gains (Rangkuti et al., 2025).

Theoretical Contributions and Future Research

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to discussions on sport tourism by illustrating how local culture and community perceptions intersect in a coastal Indonesian context. It supports the view that residents' perceptions are multidimensional encompassing identity, attraction, impacts, and governance and that positive support for sport tourism is contingent upon perceived alignment with cultural values and adequate institutional arrangements.

Conclusions

This study analyzed local community perceptions of local culture as a foundation for sports tourism development in Kolo, Bima City. The findings indicate that residents hold very positive views of local culture particularly fishing traditions, coastal rituals, and traditional arts as a core element of community identity and as a potential attraction for sports tourism. High perception scores in this dimension suggest that cultural identity in Kolo is strong and can serve as an important asset in designing authentic and community-based sports tourism initiatives, in line with previous work showing that cultural vibrancy underpins sustainable sport tourism and community development.

Residents also display positive attitudes toward the use of local culture as a basis for sports tourism events, such as traditional boat races, sea swimming, and beach running integrated with cultural festivities. They recognize economic and social opportunities associated with such development, including increased income, new business activities, and strengthened community cohesion. These views are consistent with studies where



residents appreciate the economic and environmental contributions of sports tourism, even when sociocultural perceptions are more nuanced.

At the same time, the study reveals awareness of potential cultural and environmental risks. Respondents express concerns that excessive commercialization of rituals may reduce their sacred meaning and that increased tourist activity could generate waste and pressure on coastal ecosystems. However, many residents believe that with appropriate regulation, participatory planning, and responsible management, these negative impacts can be minimized. This dual perspective mirrors broader evidence that sport tourism can support sustainable development when economic, sociocultural, and environmental dimensions are deliberately balanced.

Perceptions of institutional roles are more moderate, indicating that residents regard current government support and inter-institutional coordination as insufficient to fully realize the potential of sports tourism based on local culture in Kolo. While customary institutions are viewed as important guardians of cultural integrity, there is a clear demand for stronger collaboration and for specific rules and guidelines to govern cultural presentation, environmental management, and benefit sharing. This aligns with conclusions from other studies that emphasize the need for clear policy frameworks and community-oriented governance in sport tourism development.

In summary, the study concludes that Kolo has substantial cultural and community potential for the development of sports tourism, supported by residents' positive perceptions and willingness to engage, but that success depends on careful planning, inclusive governance, and safeguards for cultural and environmental sustainability. Future initiatives should prioritize community participation, capacity building for local youth and organizations, and the formulation of context-specific regulations to ensure that sports tourism in Kolo contributes to long-term community prosperity, cultural preservation, and coastal ecosystem health.

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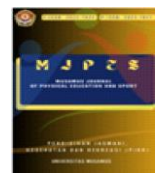
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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article. The authors affirm that this research was conducted independently and objectively, without any financial, personal, institutional, or professional relationships that could influence the research process, data analysis, interpretation of findings, or publication of the results.



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