

# **ESTABLISHING HOMESTAY IN GIRIKERTO VILLAGE TO CONSERVE MOUNTAIN FLORA OF MOUNT LAWU, NGAWI REGENCY, EAST JAVA**

**Atus Syahbudin, Dina Dwi Ratnasari, Dyah Ayu Wulandari, Eka Fitriani, Herdina Primasanti, Nekkyoo Meishi Sugureta, Noviyanti Listyaningrum, Ratris Kurnia P., Tiara Dwika Andini**

Universitas Gadjah Mada

Surel: syahbudin.atus@gadjahmada.edu

## **ABSTRACT**

Girikerto Village is located on Sine District, Ngawi Regency, East Java. The village is on the northern slope of Mount Lawu at an altitude of 675-975 meters above sea level. In 2017, Girikerto Village is inaugurated as tourism village by the Regent of Ngawi. In order to promote tourism villages, the community service team of Universitas Gadjah Mada initiated the establishment of homestays. This study wants to know the minimum requirements and uniqueness of mountain homestay. The results prove that establishing a homestay began with a survey in every houses in Girikerto Village. Parts of the house were observed, particularly the bedroom, the bathroom, the living room and the yard. The team also discussed and unified their perceptions with the house owner regarding vision and mission of homestay. After the discussion, socialization and training were carried out. The team provided homestay assistance to finalize the program while improving the facilities of Girikerto Village. Four houses were successfully initiated. The houses had meet the criteria of homestays: 1) the host does not have a criminal recors, 2) adequate house facilities and 3) house offers uniqueness described in this paper. The team recommend the online marketing of the homestays, so that they will be known quickly by tourists from other region.

**Keywords:** homestay, tourism village, community service, mountain flora, Mount Lawu, community empowerment

## **INTRODUCTION**

Girikerto Village is located on Sine District, Ngawi Regency, East Java. The village is on the northern slope of Mount Lawu. Girikerto village is on 675-975 meters above sea level. The village has four dusuns<sup>1</sup>: Dusun Banjaran, Dusun Girikerto, Dusun Nglegok and Dusun Jamus. Dusun Banjaran has two dukuhs<sup>2</sup>: Dukuh Banjaran and Dukuh Dodokan. Dusun Girikerto has three dukuhs: Dukuh Jengkoro, Dukuh Bugar and Dukuh Girikerto. Dusun Nglegok has two dukuhs: Dukuh Nglegok dan Dukuh Maron. Dusun Jamus is the only dusun that does not have

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<sup>1</sup> Dusun is lower than village in a nation's administrative hierarchy.

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dukuh. The total area of Girikerto Village is 1352.70 hectare, which consists of forest, plantation area, tea field, field (used for school/village activities), graveyard, habitation, grass or empty land, rice fields and shrubs. The forest contributes 722.56 ha (53.42%) of the total area, the plantation area is 29.59 ha (2.19%), the tea field is 254.59 ha (18.82%), the court is 1.48 ha (0.11%), the graveyard is 0.91 ha (0.07%), the habitation is 34.01 ha (2.51%), the grass or empty land is 60.95 ha (4.51%), the rice field is 60.62 ha (4.48%) and the shrubs is 187.99 hektar (13.90%)<sup>3</sup>. Although the forest contributes half of the total area, the common jobs in Girikerto village are farmer, cattleman, tea leaves picker, construction worker and goods/street food seller. Girikerto village has several tourism spots. They are Sumber Koso, Sumber Lanang, Jamus Camping Ground, Jamus Tea Field, Batu Jajar and Teletubbies Hills.

According to *ASEAN Homestay Standard*, homestay is an alternative tourism where tourists will stay with the host's family in the same house and will experience the everyday way of life of the family and the local community. There are criteria of homestay, as follow: (1) the homestay is located close to nature-based and cultural tourism attractions in the surrounding area, (2) the homestay provider shall be free of criminal record, (3) the homestay provider shall be in good general health and not inflicted with communicable diseases, (4) the homestay provider shall provide a guest bedroom(s) that is separated from the other bedrooms in the house, (5) provide basic amenities and furnishing in the guest bedroom(s) such as fan, desk, mini cupboard, mirror, electric socket, mosquito net or coil etc., (6) provide either sitting or squatting type of toilet inside or outside close to the house.

Aminudin (2015) states that tourism village is a village that has specific characteristics to be categorized as tourist destination. In this area, the villagers still hold their original tradition and culture. Besides, factors as food, farming system and social system enrich the village's environment. In addition, undamaged natural environment is another important factor of a tourism area<sup>4</sup>. In 2017, Girikerto Village is inaugurated as tourism village by Ngawi government. When this village is inaugurated, the existence of homestay is limited. The nearest homestay is located on Ngrendeng Village, while the existing homestays in Girikerto Village are only two. Both homestays are furnished houses, yet the owners live at other houses.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

There are two questions in response to the introduction, as follow:

1. How are the homestays in Girikerto Village initiated?
2. How do the community service team empower the homestay providers to make their house as homestay?

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<sup>3</sup> Listyaningrum dkk. Peta Desa Girikerto.

<sup>4</sup> Ali Ria Aminudin. *Pelaksanaan Pengelolaan Homestay di Desa Lubuk Kembang Bunga Kawasan Eko Wisata Tesso Nilo Kabupaten Pelalawan Provinsi Riau*. Jom FISIP vol. 2 no. 2. Oktober 2015.

## DISCUSSION

In 2017, Girikerto Village is inaugurated as tourism village by the Regent of Ngawi. In the same year, the community service team of Universitas Gadjah Mada (code JTM-05) did their service with “Quality Improvement of Sapta Pesona Agro Wisata in Girikerto Village by Utilizing the Potential of Natural Resources and Empowerment of Local Human Resources in the Tourism Sector to Improve Community Welfare” as its theme. During the period of community service, there were thematic programs created by Team JTM-05. One of the programs is homestay initiation. The team did a survey to locate the homestay provider candidates. After the survey, the team did a discussion with the house owners to unite the perception of homestay and asked the owners’ willingness to make their houses as homestay. The result was used as a material to held homestay socialization. The community service team invited a speaker from Jogja. From this process, there are four houses as homestay candidates. Two of the houses are located on Dusun Banjaran and two others are located on Dusun Girikerto. The owners of houses in Dusun Banjaran are Mr. Yatmin and Mrs. Saidi. The owners of houses in Dusun Girikerto are Mr. Rohadi and Mr. Seman.

In 2018, the next community service team of Universitas Gadjah Mada (code JI-002) continued the thematic program from the previous team. The homestay initiation is continued until the finalization step. Team JI-002 remade the wooden sign board and put it near the homestays. Besides, Team JI-002 reviewed the progress and the houses before they made an agreement of homestay rules. Here is the data of each houses:

### A. MR. SEMAN’S HOMESTAY

Mr. Seman’s family consists of five persons. They are Mr. Seman, his wife and his two sons and one daughter. They live in Dusun Girikerto. There are three bedrooms in Mr. Seman’s house. All of the bedrooms are used by the family members when there is no guest. One of the bedrooms will be vacant if there is a guest. Overall, Mr. Seman does not have any specific motivation when he agreed to be a homestay provider.

Mr. Seman’s homestay is located near Sumber Koso, one of two springs in Girikerto Village. Sumber Koso is relatively new as a tourism spot. It has camping ground, flying fox, spring with clean water and instagramable selfie spot. With its location, the guest who stays at Mr. Seman’s homestay can visit Sumber Koso in a short time.

The dishes provided are simple vegetable dishes. The ingredients are taken from his own vegetable farm. For example, *pecel lele* is served to the guest(s) in breakfast time. The guest will get *sayur jipang* in lunch time. Dishes in dinner time will be the same with lunch or breakfast, with egg or *kerupuk* as the complement. All of the dishes served to the guest(s) have Girikerto Village’s taste standard: spicy and sweet. If the homestay provider receives groceries from the guest(s), the homestay provider will use the received groceries as dish ingredients. If the homestay provider receives money from the guest, they will use the money to buy ingredients to cook more varied food. Mr. Seman and his family usually

eats in the kitchen, while the guest is allowed to eat in the living room. When the guest is eating in the living room, the homestay provider will accompany them.

The toilet is located near the cowshed and in one room with the kitchen. The floor of the toilet in Mr. Seman's house is still made of cement. The size is relatively small. It could contain a cement-made squatting toilet, a bucket for bathing and a big bucket for washing clothes. Mr. Seman gets the water supply from Gunung Gandel spring. However, the water flow tends to be small as the water coming from Gunung Gandel is not flowing heavily.

When other homestays provide washing machine to ease the guest(s) washing their clothes, Mr. Seman's homestay offers manual washing. The washing activity is done in the toilet. As explained before, the big bucket in the toilet is used for manual washing. However, sometimes the bucket has filled with the homestay provider's dirty clothes, so the guest has to ask for permission if they want to use the bucket for washing clothes. The existence for the big bucket and manual washing system may not please guests, yet there is no nearest laundry at the moment.

## **B. MR. ROHADI'S HOMESTAY**

Mr. Rohadi lives in Dukuh Jenggoro, Dusun Girikerto. His family consists of four persons. They are Mr. Rohadi, his wife and two children. Mr. Rohadi's house is not located near the street, so four-wheeled vehicles cannot park on the street. However, Mr. Rohadi's house has a spacious yard, so four-wheeled vehicles can park there. The house has a living room, four bedrooms, a TV room, a kitchen, a dining room, a toilet and a barn. The floor is ceramics, except the kitchen, dining room and barn. Overall, Mr. Rohadi's house is neat and comfortable.

Mr. Rohadi agreed to make his house as homestay. There are two bedrooms available for guests. One of the bedrooms is located on the front of the house, in the TV room, the other bedroom is located on the back, near the kitchen and dining table. Compared to the latter, the first bedroom is smaller. There are a bed, a desk, a chair, a wardrobe, a mirror and a window in the front bedroom. There are minor improvement Mr. Rohadi had to do to improve the bedroom's comfort, such as fixing the window link, repainting the wall, fixing door hinges, replacing the wardrobe and replacing the bed.

The bedroom near the kitchen has relatively complete furniture. There are a desk, a chair, a bed and a wardrobe. However, there is no mirror in this bedroom. Besides, this bedroom also needs minor improvements, such as replacing the bed, adding a mirror, repainting the wall and changing the bulb.

The clove trees that grow on the yard is a natural attraction to the guests. The clove trees are commonly harvested once in one or two years. When the harvest season comes, the guests can try to pick the cloves. The cloves sold are the wet ones. Besides cloves, the leaves and the twigs are also sold. The twig and the leave can be processed as oil.

The homestay provider always provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dishes are commonly vegetables as the ingredients are taken from Mr. Rohadi's own vegetable farm. Mr. Rohadi offers tea or coffee to the guest(s) in the morning to warm their bodies.

There is a toilet in Mr. Rohadi's house. The toilet size is not big. It consists of a closet, a bath dipper and a water container. The toilet is clean, but there is a hole in ceiling, so the air from outside the house gets in. There is a washing machine in front of the toilet. The homestay provider lets the guest(s) use the washing machine if they want to wash their clothes. This helps guests who wants to stay longer.

Mr. Rohadi stocks snacks and fruits in the front guest bedroom. He also lets the guests to cook themselves if the host is not present at the house. Mr. Rohadi invites the guests to have a chit-chat and watch TV together in TV room at night.

### **C. MR. YATMIN'S HOMESTAY**

Mr. Yatmin lives in Dusun Banjaran. The family consists of Mr. Yatmin, his wife and two children, yet Mr. Yatmin lives only with his wife. His first child has married and lives in other houses in Girikerto Village. His second child lives in Surabaya. Mr. Yatmin's house is located near the street, so it eases the mobility. Pak Yatmin agreed to make his house as homestay.

Mr. Yatmin's house is comfortable, clean and tidy. The wall is made of cement and the floor is ceramics. There are a living room, a kitchen, a small garden, a toilet and three bedrooms. One of the bedrooms is used by Mr. Yatmin and his wife. The two bedrooms are vacant if there is no guest. One of the rented bedroom is relatively small, so there is no wardrobe. However, Mr. Yatmin made a wall-desk to store the guest's belongings and clothes. Besides, the bedroom needs a mirror, a small trash bin and a mat. There is no livestock in Mr. Yatmin's house, so the guests will not be annoyed. Mr. Yatmin does not have washing machine, so washing activity is done manually. There is no nearest laundry, so it will be a minor problem.

Mr. Yatmin has a clove tree. When the harvest time comes, the guest(s) can try picking the cloves. Mr. Yatmin also raise birds. The common species of the birds is lovebird. Some of birds are inside the house, while three to four birds are outside the house during the day. In addition, Mr. Yatmin grow vegetables and strawberries. The strawberries is allowed to be picked if there is any. The vegetables grew are tomato, chili, paprika and mustard greens. The guest(s) can try to plant the vegetables. The ripe vegetables will be either sold or used as dish ingredients.

The house owner sometimes offer fried rice as breakfast and healthy menu in lunch and dinner time as the ingredients are home-grown. The tea is served in the morning, either during the breakfast time or at 10 a.m. There is a *warung* (traditional restaurant), so if the house owner is not at home or if the guest(s) want(s) to try different menu, they can go to the *warung*.

#### **D. MRS. SAIDI'S HOMESTAY**

Mrs. Saidi lives in Dusun Banjaran with her daughter and granddaughter. Mrs. Saidi lives by herself in her house, while her daughter and granddaughter lives in a house besides her. Unlike Mr. Yatmin's house, Mrs. Saidi's house is not located near the main street, so the guest(s) has to walk down the road beside a green mosque around 50 meters to the west. The road can be passed by a car or two motorcycle. Mrs. Saidi is one of crisps suppliers. The variant of the crisps are banana crisps, tempe crisps, cassava crisps, taro crisps and blue cassava. She supplies snack order for special occasions. She agreed to make her house has homestay.

Mrs. Saidi's house has a small yard, a living room, TV room, a kitchen, a toilet and four bedrooms. One bedroom is used by Mrs. Saidi and three other bedrooms are vacant if there is no guest. The floor is ceramics, except the kitchen. The first bedroom is located in the living room. The bedroom is small, so it can only be filled by a bed and a small table. The bedroom does not have a wardrobe, so guests who stays in a longer time cannot store their clothes. The bedroom also does not have hanger, window and mirror, so the guest cannot hang their clothes and the room lacks sunlight. The second bedroom is located behind the living room. The bedroom has a bed, a table, a wardrobe, a mirror, a hanger and a television. The facilities eases the guest, particularly if the guest stays for a longer time. When the house owner watches television in TV room but the guest wants to watch different channel, the guest can watch from the television in the bedroom. The third bedroom has a bed, a table, a wardrobe, a mirror and a hanger.

Mrs. Saidi serves food at breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are various menu, such as tempe and tofu, *pecel*, *sambal tumpang* and *ayam bacem*. The ingredients of *pecel* are from homegrown mustard greens and other homegrown vegetables. The mustard greens are planted using polybag. Besides, the house owner serves tea or coffee in the morning. The guest can join the house owner in crisps producing, from peeling, cutting and frying the ingredients to packing the products.

There are two toilets in Mrs. Saidi's house. The first one is located inside the house, the second toilet is outside the house. The first toilet is clean, the floor is ceramics, yet the water tub is made of cement. The water tub is big and the water flows swiftly. There is a washing machine inside the first toilet. The washing machine helps the house owner and the guests in washing clothes. However, if the house owner uses the washing machine, the guest have to wait if they want to use the toilet. Team JI-002 suggests Mrs. Saidi to move the washing machine outside, so the washing activity will not bother or will not be bothered by people using the toilet. The arrangement of toiletries in the toilet inside the house is not in order and there are some unused toiletries, resulting to an impression of an untidy toilet. Team JI-002 suggests Mrs. Saidi to reorder the toiletries. The toilet has a ventilation, making the toilet is bright during the day.

## CONCLUSION

Girikerto Village is located on Sine District, Ngawi Regency, East Java. The village is on the northern slope of Mount Lawu at an altitude of 675-975 meters above sea level, so the village has cool temperature. The village has four dusuns: Dusun Banjaran, Dusun Girikerto, Dusun Nglegok and Dusun Jamus. Three of the dusuns has dukuhs. Dukuh Banjaran has two dukuhs: Dukuh Banjaran and Dukuh Dodokan. Dusun Girikerto has three dukuhs: Dusun Jengkoro, Dukuh Bugar and Dukuh Girikerto. Dusun Nglegok has two dukuhs: Dukuh Maron and Dukuh Nglegok. Dusun Jamus is the only dusun that does not have dukuh.

In 2017, Girikerto Village is inaugurated as tourism village by the Regent of Ngawi. Community service team of Universitas Gadjah Mada (code JTM-05) collaborated with the local people of Girikerto Village to improve the facilities for tourism village, such as homestay. In initiating homestay, the team did a survey to locate suitable houses and had a discussion with the house owners to unify the perception and asked their willingness. After the discussion is done and the house owner agreed, the team held a socialization. The aim of initiating homestay is to improve the village's facilities. This is also a mission to make the local people not taking illegal woods from the forest.

In 2018, another community service team from Universitas Gadjah Mada (code JI-002) continues some of the programs, including the initiation of homestay. The initiated houses are Mr. Seman's house, Mr. Rohadi's house, Mr. Yatmin's house and Mrs. Saidi's house. Mr. Seman and Mr. Rohadi lives in Dusun Girikerto, while Mr. Yatmin and Mrs. Saidi lives in Dusun Banjaran. The house owners do not have criminal record and are healthy. Their houses are located near Sumber Koso, the nearest natural-based tourism attraction. They provide guest bedroom with basic amenities and furnishing, although there are some minor improvements suggested. Their houses provide squatting toilet. Overall, they fulfill the criteria to be the homestay provider.

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