

Journal home page: http://ajarcde-safe-network.org

ISSN 2581-0405

The Role of Students in Educational Activities for Mini Agrotourism Visitors at the Department of Food Security and Agriculture of Surabaya

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received: 30 May 2025
Final Revision: June 07 2025
Accepted: 21 June 2025
Online Publication: 02 July 2025

KEYWORDS

Edutourism, Agriculture, Agrotourism

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ABSTRACT

Edutourism is a program where participants travel to a specific location or area in a group to engage in a learning experience directly related to the destination. This educational tourism activity is conducted at the Mini Agrotourism facility, owned by the Surabaya City Food Security and Agriculture Service (DKPP), located on Jl. Pagesangan Timur. This activity aims to discover the role of mentoring in improving visitors' understanding of the agricultural sector. The educational visit process through Goldenmelon involves creating an account, filling in the necessary data, selecting a destination, and uploading an application letter online, which is then reviewed and approved by the officer. Following this, the visit is conducted with the assistance of an officer, and subsequent reporting activities and periodic evaluations are carried out to enhance services. The DKPP Surabaya Mini Agrotourism is an educational tourism destination that offers interactive activities, including plant introductions, cultivation practices, and interactions with livestock, suitable for all ages. Activities are carried out in a structured manner and end with a satisfaction survey as a form of service evaluation.

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 13: Climate Action

1. INTRODUCTION

Educational tourism is a program that allows participants to learn directly about various aspects of the environment and local resources [1]. Across different regions in Indonesia, many tourist destinations combine educational and recreational elements, such as botanical gardens, national parks, and agrotourism areas. This concept provides a learning experience directly connected to the destination, raising public awareness of the importance of preserving the environment and natural resources, including those in the agricultural sector.

The development of nature-based educational tourism has grown rapidly. In response, the City of Surabaya, through the Food Security and Agriculture Office (DKPP), has taken strategic

steps to develop urban educational tourism. One of its flagship initiatives is the Mini Agrotourism area—a site designed to educate the public about agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. Mini Agrotourism is a recreational space and an educational facility for visiting schools and the general public who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the agricultural sector [6].

Mini Agrotourism is expected to serve as a learning platform for the general public, particularly students and university learners, covering a range of agricultural topics, from plant cultivation techniques to post-harvest processing. It also aims to raise public awareness of the importance of agriculture and food security. Nature-based and educational tourism offers dual benefits: it serves as both a recreational site and a learning facility for environmental and natural resource conservation. Integrating



learning with travel, educational tourism is increasingly popular among the broader community [3].

The Surabaya Food Security and Agriculture Office also manages educational tourism destinations, including the Mangrove Botanical Garden, Adventure Land Romokalisari, and Balas Klumprik Forest Park (Tahura). Among these facilities, Mini Agrotourism stands out as a symbol of the Surabaya City Government's commitment to promoting and sustaining agriculture in the face of limited urban land. By integrating agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, Mini Agrotourism is a handson learning environment for the public and an educational recreational facility [4].

For Agribusiness students interning at the Surabaya Food Security and Agriculture Office, this program offers an opportunity to study the educational management practices employed by the agency and the continuous monitoring and evaluation processes used to enhance program quality. Participation in this activity also provides valuable experience in enhancing the effectiveness of educational programs at Mini Agrotourism, ultimately supporting food security and agricultural development in Surabaya.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This educational tourism activity is conducted at the Mini Agrotourism owned by the Food Security and Agriculture Office (DKPP) of Surabaya City, located on Pagesangan Timur Street. The program runs for four months, from February 27 to June 27, 2025, as part of the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) internship, which is followed by Agribusiness students from the Faculty of Agriculture at Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" East Java.

This activity aims to understand the role of guidance in enhancing visitors' understanding of the agricultural sector. The implementation is carried out through two main stages: observation and action. In the observation stage, students establish communication with tour guides and directly observe the ongoing educational process. Next, in the action stage, students actively assist visitors, explain agricultural material, and help run the educational program in the field.

The activity data is obtained from two sources: primary data collected through observation, practice, and interviews, and secondary data sourced from literature, journals, and other supporting documents. During the activity, students prepare educational materials, assist with practical activities such as planting and feeding livestock, act as facilitators, and document the entire process as part of the reporting and evaluation process.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Standard Operating Procedure Mini Agrowisata

Edutourism is a program where participants travel to a specific location in a group to engage in learning experiences directly related to the destination [5]. Mini Agrotourism of the Surabaya Food and Agriculture Service is an edutourism place that offers educational visit services based on mini agrotourism. The following is the SOP for Visits from Mini Agrotourism of the Surabaya Food and Agriculture Service.

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Fig. 1. SOP: Facilitation of Mini Agrotourism Educational Visit Services

The process begins by creating an account on the Goldenmelon website, a platform for managing educational visit requests. The primary purpose of creating an account on Goldenmelon is to manage educational visit requests online. Institutions and organisations can submit visit requests, select destinations, and organise visit details more easily and efficiently with this account.

Applicants must fill in the institution's data, including name, address, and phone number, as well as the contact person's data, such as name, mobile number, and email address. This process takes approximately 5 minutes and must be completed thoroughly to ensure the next steps run smoothly.

Once the applicant has an account, they can select the desired educational visit destination. This involves using the Goldenmelon account to access available visit times (schedules and sessions) and information about the chosen destination. This process takes about 1 minute and is crucial to ensure the selected destination fits the needs.

After selecting the intended destination, the next step is to enter the data. This involves filling in educational visit details, including the number of participants, the number of chaperones, and the purpose and objectives of the visit. Contact person information must also be filled in, including name, mobile number, and position. This step takes approximately 5 minutes to ensure the submitted request is complete and accurate.

After completing the educational visit data, a draft of the official visit request letter must be prepared. This letter should include the institution's letterhead, signature, and stamp. The request letter must also be uploaded to the Goldenmelon website. This step takes approximately 15 minutes and is essential to ensure that the request is complete and ready for processing. Once the officer approves the visit request, the approval will be displayed on the website and will contain information about the institution.

After approving the visit request, the officer then prepares the facilities and infrastructure for the educational visit. This includes preparing institutional or organisational data, such as the number of participants, number of chaperones, transportation used, educational visit areas, toilets, and parking spaces. This process takes about 30 minutes.

Once all preparations are complete, the educational visit can take place according to the approved schedule and session. This process involves the institution/organisation being accompanied by a service officer. Proof of approval for the educational visit is indicated by the institution/organisation name appearing on the Goldenmelon application dashboard, as selected by the time. This process takes approximately 105 minutes and is crucial to ensure the visit runs smoothly.

After the educational visit is completed, a service report must be submitted. This report should be based on visit data or guestbook entries and must be submitted within one day. The next step is to coordinate educational visit services with management on a regular basis. This process takes about 60 minutes and is important to ensure that activities can continue to improve and optimise.

3.2. Mini Agrotourism Educational Activities

Visitors' visits to the mini agrotourism at DKPP Surabaya have become one of the popular educational tourism destinations in Surabaya. Mini agrotourism is open to all levels of society, from Paud, TK, SD, SMP, SMA to universities and the elderly. Educational activities at the mini agrotourism are tailored to the age and needs of each visitor, allowing children to enjoy suitable activities. Located behind the Office of the Food Security and Agriculture Service (DKPP) of Surabaya City, this mini agrotourism offers various interactive and fun educational activities for visitors.

Upon arrival, visitors will be directed to the hall to gather and wait for instructions from the officers. Usually, schools or agencies gather in the hall to take attendance and line up.



Fig. 2. Visitors Gather in the Hall

Visitors gather in the hall and line up, after which the mini agrotourism officer will direct them and begin the visit. From the hall, they will be directed to the ornamental plant area, where they will receive education about the plants.



Fig. 3. Ornamental Plant Education

DKPP Surabaya mini agrotourism has a wide and diverse collection of ornamental plants. Educational activities usually include introducing various types of plants, learning how to care for them, plant growth, and other related topics. When educating visitors, officers also ask visitors questions, and visitors ask officers, so education in this mini agrotourism is not just one-way. After being given an education about ornamental plants, visitors will be directed outside, line up, and then receive further education about the plants.



Fig. 4. Education of Surrounding Plants

After being given directions, visitors will be directed to the greenhouse for educational purposes. A greenhouse has a translucent roof that manipulates environmental conditions, allowing plants to grow optimally [7]. They are taught about vegetable plants, such as chillies, mustard greens, and tomatoes, grown using hydroponic media or polybags there. Visitors can see firsthand how these vegetables are cultivated and understand the proper care methods.



Fig. 5. Education in Greenhouse Horticulture

After being educated about plants in the greenhouse, visitors will be directed to another greenhouse to receive education about planting media. They are also allowed to practice putting soil into polybags.

After being educated about planting media and practices, visitors will be directed to another greenhouse to be given education. The next education is about herbal plants or medicines. Toga plants are herbal remedies known for their numerous benefits. The reason is that toga is a medicinal plant. The use of Toga aims to provide a facility for the cultivation of medicinal plants, promoting the health of the general public [2]. There are many medicinal plants on site, and visitors receive educational information



Fig. 6. Horticultural Plant Cultivation Practices about the functions and benefits of these herbal plants.



Fig. 7. Medicinal Plant Education

After being in the special greenhouse for herbal plants, visitors will be directed to the garden in the mini agrotourism area. There, they are given knowledge or education about butter trees and mojo trees.



Fig. 8. Butter Tree Education

After being educated about butter and mojo trees, visitors are directed to the fish pond. The fish pond contains tilapia and catfish. Here, the officers provide fish food to each visitor, which is then given to the fish in the pond. Here, the officers do not provide education; instead, they offer fish food for visitors to enjoy.



Fig. 9. Visitors Feeding Fish

Visitors will be directed to the rabbit cage after visiting the fish pond. Here, visitors are given the freedom to play and feed the rabbits. Visitors often bring their own food from home for the rabbits because mini agrotourism does not provide animal food.



Fig. 10. Interactions With Chickens and Rabbits

After having fun feeding the rabbits, visitors will go to the chicken coop. Here, they are given education about chickens and the opportunity to take eggs from the chicken coop.



Fig. 11. Feeding Sheep and Goats

Visitors will proceed to the sheep and goat pens after visiting the chicken coop. Here, they are allowed to interact closely with the animals. They are given the chance to feed the sheep and goats. After feeding the sheep and goats, the officers release visitors. This means that the visit to the mini agrotourism is over, and visitors now have free time. Educational activities at the mini agrotourism are interesting for visitors, especially schoolchildren, because they enjoy fun educational experiences. Visitors enjoy the moment of feeding the animals, where they can interact closely with the animals and have fun.

After visitors have finished enjoying their free time, they will be directed by officers to provide a satisfaction survey. The goal is to monitor and evaluate activities. After completing the satisfaction survey, the visitor's activities at the mini agrotourism are over.

3.3. Impact of Mini Agrotourism Educational Activities

The Mini Agrowisata DKPP Surabaya educational activity has a significant positive impact on visitors, especially the younger generation, namely children. Visitors enjoy an interactive experience designed to educate them about agriculture, nature, and the surrounding environment while having fun. Children can interact directly with plants, animals, and agricultural concepts in a cheerful atmosphere during the educational process. Through this experience, visitors are invited to understand the importance of food security and the preservation of the surrounding natural environment.

The Mini Agrowisata DKPP Surabaya educational activity, in addition to fostering a love of nature, also promotes a healthy lifestyle and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in terms of providing quality education, achieving zero hunger, and taking action on climate change. This education represents a significant step in fostering early awareness of the importance of urban agriculture and environmental sustainability.

4. CONCLUSION

The Surabaya Food Security and Agriculture Service involves various stages from planning to implementation. This program educates the community effectively about agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. Through the MBKM internship, it has been learned that good management includes preparing relevant educational materials. The academic program is tailored to the age of the visitors, allowing them to participate in practical activities such as feeding animals, planting seeds, and filling polybags with soil, thereby providing an interactive learning experience.

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