

The Tourist Contract Marriage In Cisarua Sub-District, Bogor Regency, West Java

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ABSTRACT: This research entitled Tourist Contract Marriages in Cisarua Sub-District of Bogor Regency, West Java aimed to investigate: (1) Why was Cisarua Sub-District area interesting for the tourists from the Middle East (2) How do the tourist contract marriages between the Arabs and the Sundanese women occur (3) Since when had the phenomenon of the tourist contract marriages start. The method used was the qualitative method and the techniques of collecting the data were in-depth interviews, observation, and focused discussion. The research results revealed that Cisarua area was attractive to the tourists from the middle East because beside its weather was cool, the area had become the destination of the mountain tourists. The process of the contract marriages was started with the step of engagement, the preparation of bride price, and the wedding in front of the Moslem leader and the male relative of the bride. Historically, nobody knew exactly the phenomenon of the contract marriages in Cisarua area. However, most informants stated that the phenomenon of the contract marriages had been known for at least 28 years.

Key words: contract marriages, process, phenomenon, Cisarua, tourists.

1 INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is located in the earth side on the equatorial line. This geographical location makes Indonesia have tropical climate with two different season throughout the year. The high rainfalls and the heat of the sun light is quite beneficial as the source of life. Such a condition has been utilized by the people to develop the natural resources of development of tourism has so far had shares in supporting the Indonesian development and in its development an appropriate and well coordinated plan is needed Manurung, 2002; Mihardjo, 2000; Rahardjo, 2004; Nugroho, 2004; Soekardjo, 1970). As it is known, the purpose of the development of tourism is among others to increase the foreign exchange in particular and in general to improve the country's income, to expand the employment, and to push other side industrial activities (Soemardjan, 1994; Spillane, 1994; Nurani, 1998; Edwards, 1975; Hutagalung and Rachman, 2013). This sector of the tourism development, aside from increasing the country's foreign exchanges, can also bring about the negative impacts, such as: (1) the reduction of the varieties of flora and fauna due to the excessive utilization and exploitation, (2) the shift of the cultural values and the traditional customs which actually attract the tourists, (3) the decrease of the quality of the environment as the result of the high tourist activities including the environment damages by the neighboring communities and as the result of the gap in the distribution of the income from tourism (Kotler, 1994; Krech, 1994; Maslow, 1970; Sihite, 2000; McIntosh, 1980). Cisarua Summit area is not only well-known as the natural tourist spot in Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang, and Bekasi, but also as a strategic destination for the visitors who are mostly foreign tourists from the Middle East.

The tourists from the Middle East have chosen Cisarua because it is said that those tourists from the desert are yearning for a different atmosphere because their country is so hot. They want to have a holiday in the cool and green mountainous areas (Swarsi, 1995; Yoeti, 1996 and 2003). Aside from its green nature, this area becomes special because of its beautiful women (bidadari) and socially the environment is spacious enough and its people do not bother too much about other people's business. Therefore, for the Arabs, Cisarua is not only as the Jabal Ahdor but also as the Jabal Al Jannah or Heaven Mountain. Besides, since the contract marriages between the Arab tourists and the local women has become common practice, Cisarua becomes a special attraction for the Arab tourists.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research uses the qualitative method and aim to describe and analyze a problem with a detailed limitation, in depth data collection, and various information sources. The problems studied were the activities, events, or individuals. The types of data collected were the word series or the description of something which is in the explanation using words or writings (Bogdan, 1993; Spradley, 1997). The data collection is conducted using the techniques of in-depth interviews, observation, and focused discussion. The aim is to directly find the information about the phenomenon of the contract marriages. The data are then analyzed using the descriptive/analytical technique. According to Bogdan (1993) conducting an interview technique means conducting a communicative interacting or a conversation between the interviewer and the interviewee in order to collect information from the interview.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The strip of the summit areas have its own attractive power, beside its beautiful natural panorama, there is its hospitable communities. This areas with its cool weather is known as the location of the contract marriage practices. Precisely in the Arab village, or better known as the hometown Sampay, one of the three villages in South Tugu village, one kilometer above the Safari Park. This kampong is better known by the local community as Warung Kaleng. The name Warung Kaleng was formally derived from the small shops built by the Chinese merchants with the roofs of galvanized iron or tin. Since then, the area has been called as Warung Kaleng by the local

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community. The Arab tourists chose this area to spend their holiday because those tourists from the Middle East yearned very much for a different atmosphere from their own country which is too hot. According to an informant, the history about the emergence of the contract marriages in Cisarua had a long story. The story started in about 1980's. At that time, a group of Arab families arrived in the villa area in top. Their arrival in the place was purely to have a holiday with their family. top area was known among the Arabs as the Jabal Ahdor (green hill). Through the story which was told from mouth to mouth, the popularity and attractiveness of top area was then became famous among the Arabs (the residents of the Middle East). Since then more and more tourists from the Middle East came to top area. They came for pleasure only. For the Arabs who had abundant money, they even purchased villas in the area in order to spend their vacation when they returned to Indonesia for another vacation. Those people from the Middle East usually came to Cisarua in June through August, which coincided with their children's school vacation in their countries. During these months, the total tourists from the Middle East who came to Cisarua area could reach a thousand or more. Recently, however, the presence of the people from the Middle East who came to visit Indonesia has changed; they came not just for recreation only, but for other purpose, i.e. for the contract marriages. If at the beginning they came to Cisarua area with their family, now they come all alone, because they have different purpose, not only to enjoy the local Panorama of Puncak area. In order to present a woman to an Arab tourist is not difficult. It is easy because the broker will receive almost a half of the money offered, which amount to Rp.10 million to Rp.20 million. In fact often the broker only present a street woman. Such women did not only Cisarua, those real-hunter women also come from Cianjur, Sukabumi, and various other areas. While they were waiting for the offer of the contract marriages, they generally rented rooms around Cisarua or stayed at their broker's house. Like any normal marriages, the contract marriages required a dowry. Although the woman's guardian was not present, both bride a bridegroom agreed to marry for a certain period, generally ranging from two weeks to one month. An informant said that such a contract marriage was witnessed only by a person who could speak Arabian language in order to make the tourist sure his marriage was valid. Aside from the pseudo Moslem leaders, there were some real Moslem leader from the local Religious Affairs Office who professed a double role. In fact, such practice was illegal according to the Laws Number 1, 1974 about the marriages and the Islamic Laws. Like the common marriages, the process of the contract marriages had to pass the period of engagement, the payment of dowry, and the wedding ceremony in front of the Moslem leader. Generally the contract marriages were valid for two weeks up to three months. The process leading to the contract marriages was not complicated. Three channels were possible: a direct contact with the bride, through a procuress, or through a recruiter then a procuress. The marriage agreement was usually reached after the bride and bridegroom met to discuss the dowry amount and the tenure of the marriage. The procuress was responsible to prepare the wedding place, the marriage representative, and the two marriage witnesses, and when needed the Moslem leader for the wedding process. The wedding was conducted secretly without any reception process and any other celebrations. A contract marriage can last for several days, weeks, or months,

depending on the Indonesian woman's consent and the agreement of the Arab. Linda, one of the procuresses, usually provides the Arabs with Indonesian women. The amounts of the dowry also varied – the highest can reach Rp. 10 million. It can reach US\$ 2,000. At first glance, the process of a contract marriage is not very different from the more permanent marriage – the wedding requirements should be fulfilled. Aside from the ijabkabul, the male representative of the bride, the two witnesses and the amount of the dowry should be agreed upon. In Cisarua contract marriages, the male representative of the bride can be anyone, not necessarily be a blood relative or having an inheritance relationship; the most important thing is the person acts as the representative and can married the bride. The contract marriages in Cisarua have become a living occupation for some women in the area. The stipends for the representatives and witnesses became the responsibility of the bridegrooms. Besides, "hoping for the best" system was also applied, meaning if the Arb was generous, a witness or a representative may earn more than Rp 100,000.-; on the other hand, the stipend for a broker was more fixed. He could earn about half of the procuress' payment. In short, there was no fixed standard in the phenomenon of the contract marriages, neither for the stipends of the witness, the representative, the broker, or for the amount of dowry, which the Arab bridegroom had to pay; it all depended on the negotiation results (Mulkan, 2007: 28) The phenomenon of the contract marriages, which have been flaring up in the tourist area of Bogor summit, is no longer a public secret; in fact this area has been known as the destination of the mountain tourism, and it is often made as the icon or the activity writings or initials with the Arabic nuance; it was even very easy to meet a group or an individual who was the citizen of a Middle eastern country there. Someone could easily find a discussion among the local people about their views on the contract marriages; some of the community members did not agree with the contract marriages, others agreed, and some even did not care about them. So the controversy of the contract marriage is still going on in top area. Nevertheless, there are those who thought that such practices did not inflict any loss on women; in fact, the contract marriages had helped to improve the economy of the women involved. The affairs of the contract marriages were more related to the beliefs of both sides. If a system related to the belief they embraced, whatever the value is, it could never ruin it. Therefore, the standard used to determine whether an event was true or not, it had to be based on the standard religious regulations which could not be argued. In the case of the contract marriages in top area, the problem arose because of the different understanding about the values and views of the sides towards the religious values they both embraced. In the eye of the Arabs, having a contract marriage was better than committing adulteries, while among the Indonesian communities, a contract marriage was viewed as a form of a veiled adultery or a selling and buying marriage. This was clear because the standard which most Indonesian communities believed was the Islam teachings. Hence, all the regulations related to the marriage values would refer back to the teachings of Islam. The tourist phenomenon in top area, beside it was known as the Jabbal Sampay, it had been identified by the community as the favorite destination of the tourists from the Middle East. The phenomenon of the contract marriages had brought about an impact on the local communities, particularly the economical improvement, such the villa rentals, food stalls, sundries, and vehicle rentals. One

of the pulse vendors said that the majority of those who bought pulses were the tourists from the Middle East; thus, he thought that the visiting Arabs had brought him profits. Another informant stated that he provided the tourists from the Middle East with a rented Daihatsu car of his own.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion, the research could conclude the following: (a) the summit area of Cisarua was attractive to the tourists from the Middle East, because aside from its beautiful natural panorama and its tropical climate, its hospitable communities, also because in this area they could have contract marriages; (b) the process of the contract marriages was begun with the discussion between an Arab man and the broker, and when an agreement was reached, the next processes were the engagement, the preparation of the agreed dowry, and the wedding in front of the Moslem leader and the male representative of the woman; (c) the phenomenon of the contract marriages in Cisarua area were started in 1980 when the tourists from the Middle East had known the natural attraction and its simple communities. In order to prevent the spread of the phenomenon of the contract marriages to cause greater negative impacts, steps are needed to routinely socialize the regulations which prohibit the contract marriages to the communities of the area.

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