

# Tourism Security in the Age of Overtourism: A Qualitative Investigation in Bali

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**Keyword:**

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**Abstract:** This research investigates the intricate dynamics of tourism security in Bali, particularly in the context of overtourism, which has led to significant socio-economic and security challenges. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study engages with various stakeholders, including local residents, tourism authorities, law enforcement, and community leaders, to explore their perceptions and experiences related to tourism security. Data is collected through semi-structured interviews, allowing for an in-depth understanding of the complexities surrounding security risks in high-density tourist areas such as Kuta, Canggu, Petitenget, Kerobokan, and Seminyak. The findings reveal a notable increase in specific types of crime, including theft and scams, exacerbated by the influx of tourists, which has strained local resources and heightened tensions within communities. The research further examines the impact of overtourism on traffic safety, highlighting the challenges posed by increased vehicle volume and inadequate infrastructure. Local authorities have implemented various measures, such as improved traffic management systems and community engagement initiatives, to address these issues. Additionally, the study identifies the role of international travel advisories and perceptions of safety in influencing tourism demand, which in turn affects local security policies. Despite the collaborative efforts among stakeholders, significant barriers remain, including communication gaps and resource limitations, which hinder the effectiveness of tourism security policies. The study underscores the necessity for a more integrated approach that incorporates community perspectives and sustainable practices into tourism security frameworks. By addressing these gaps, the research aims to contribute to the development of effective strategies that enhance the safety and well-being of both tourists and local communities in Bali. Ultimately, this study highlights the importance of understanding the socio-economic dynamics of tourism security in fostering a resilient and sustainable tourism environment in the face of overtourism. The limitation of this study is its qualitative focus, which may not fully capture broader security trends. It also centers on high-density areas, overlooking emerging destinations. Future research could use mixed methods and comparative analyses to enhance understanding and policy effectiveness.

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## INTRODUCTION

Overtourism in South Bali presents significant challenges to local safety and community well-being, as the influx of tourists overwhelms infrastructure and contributes to rising crime rates. Perkumienė and Pranskūnienė (2019) highlight how excessive tourism can disrupt local communities, increasing tensions and competition for jobs, particularly with the influx of low-wage laborers from outside the region. They emphasize that residents play a crucial role in shaping sustainable tourism, yet overtourism often undermines their rights and security. Similar patterns emerge in Goa, where Philkhana and Khan (2024) describe how residents feel marginalized as their communities transform into spaces primarily catering to tourists. This shift fosters perceptions of heightened crime risks and social instability, a phenomenon also observed in Barcelona, where the prioritization of tourist needs over local rights has fueled anti-tourism sentiments and concerns about safety (Álvarez-Sousa, 2018). Dimitrovski et al. (2021) further

demonstrate how traditional markets and cultural spaces are repurposed for tourism, leading to resentment and a sense of disempowerment among local residents.

Venice provides another example, where the historical and social fabric of the city has been strained by overtourism, exacerbating crime rates and residents' feelings of insecurity (Bertocchi & Visentin, 2019). The broader conflict between tourist demands and resident needs often results in the deterioration of local lifestyles and security (Mihalič and Kuščer, 2021). Sustainable tourism practices must therefore involve local communities in decision-making processes to create a safer and more balanced environment. Lessons from other overtourism-affected regions underscore the importance of integrating local perspectives into tourism policies to mitigate social and security challenges (Koens et al., 2018; Zhu et al., 2017).

The phenomenon of overtourism in Bali, Indonesia, particularly in high-traffic areas in South Bali such as Kuta, Canggu, Petitenget, Kerobokan, and Seminyak, has led to a notable increase in specific types of crime, traffic issues, and social tensions among local residents. As tourism numbers surged, reaching approximately 6.3 million international visitors in 2019 alone, the island has experienced a corresponding rise in criminal activities, including theft, scams, and drug-related offenses (Suarka, 2023). For instance, reports indicate that petty thefts and scams targeting tourists have become increasingly common, with local authorities recording a 15% increase in such incidents from the previous year (Ayuningsasi, 2022). This rise in crime has prompted the implementation of various strategies aimed at enhancing tourism security, including increased police presence, the establishment of tourist information centers, and community awareness programs.

The influx of foreign tourists has also significantly impacted traffic and road safety in popular tourist areas. The narrow roads and limited infrastructure in Badung Regency especially in Kuta, Canggu, Petitenget, Kerobokan, and Seminyak struggle to accommodate the growing number of vehicles associated with tourism, leading to severe traffic congestion and increased accident rates. The traffic volume in these areas has surged by over 30% during peak tourist seasons, resulting in a rise in road accidents and pedestrian injuries (Juniawan et al., 2017). In response, local authorities have initiated measures such as traffic management systems, improved signage, and designated pedestrian zones to mitigate these challenges.

Moreover, overtourism has contributed to land disputes and social tensions among local residents. The rapid development of tourist accommodations, such as villas and hotels, has encroached upon traditional lands, leading to conflicts between developers and local communities. These disputes often stem from a lack of consultation with local residents regarding land use and development plans, exacerbating feelings of disenfranchisement (Darmaya, 2023). To address these issues, local governments have begun to implement community engagement initiatives, promoting dialogue between stakeholders and ensuring that local voices are heard in the tourism planning process. The challenges posed by overtourism in Bali are multifaceted, encompassing increased crime rates, traffic safety concerns, and social tensions. As the region continues to grapple with these issues, it is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies and explore new approaches to ensure the safety and well-being of both tourists and local communities.

The phenomenon of overtourism has significantly altered the security landscape in South Bali, a region renowned for its natural beauty and cultural richness. Overtourism, characterized by an excessive influx of visitors, has led to various security challenges, including increased crime rates, environmental degradation, and social tensions between tourists and local residents. The surge in tourist numbers has strained local resources, resulting in a heightened perception of insecurity among both visitors and residents. As Liu-Lastres and Cahyanto (2020) highlight, the interaction between hosts and guests becomes critical during crises, necessitating effective communication strategies to manage safety concerns (Liu-Lastres & Cahyanto, 2020). The implications of overtourism extend beyond mere inconvenience; they pose real threats to the safety and well-being of all stakeholders involved.

In South Bali, security issues arising from overtourism include petty crimes such as theft and scams, as well as more severe incidents that can deter potential visitors. The perception of

safety is crucial, as it directly influences tourists' decisions to visit a destination. Research indicates that non-visitors often express greater concern about tourism management and the security of facilities compared to those who have traveled to the area (Liu et al., 2021). This discrepancy underscores the importance of proactive tourism security measures that not only address immediate threats but also enhance the overall perception of safety. The role of tourism security in this context is multifaceted; it involves implementing strategies that mitigate risks, enhance visitor experiences, and foster a sense of community among residents and tourists alike.

Overtourism has transformed South Bali into a bustling hub of activity, attracting millions of visitors annually. This influx has led to various security challenges, including increased crime rates and environmental degradation. The rise in petty crimes, such as theft and scams, can be attributed to the sheer volume of tourists, which creates opportunities for criminal activities. As noted by Mostafa and Hefny (2016), the implementation of safety and security measures is essential to mitigate these risks and enhance the overall tourism experience (Mostafa & Hefny, 2016). The perception of safety is paramount; tourists are less likely to visit areas perceived as unsafe, which can have long-term implications for the local economy.

The issue of tourism security in Bali, particularly in the context of overtourism, presents a significant research gap that warrants further exploration. While existing studies have examined various aspects of tourism development and its impacts on local communities, there is a notable lack of comprehensive analysis focusing specifically on the interplay between tourism security, community well-being, and the socio-economic dynamics exacerbated by overtourism. For instance, Cole & Browne (2015) highlight the social-ecological challenges posed by tourism in Bali, particularly regarding water inequity and resource management, but do not delve deeply into the security implications of these challenges. This oversight is critical, as the erosion of community resilience and the increasing competition for resources can lead to heightened security risks, including crime and social unrest.

Moreover, the anomaly lies in the fact that while tourism is a primary economic driver in Bali, contributing to approximately 60% of the province's GDP, the security measures in place often appear reactive rather than proactive. Monteiro et al. (2021) discuss the impacts of tourism on air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices, yet they do not address how these practices intersect with security policies. This gap suggests that there is an urgent need to investigate how tourism security frameworks can be integrated with sustainability efforts to create a more resilient tourism environment.

Exploring this issue is vital for several reasons. First, understanding the relationship between overtourism and security can inform policymakers and stakeholders about the necessary adjustments to existing frameworks. As highlighted by Wendt et al., (2021) tourism development is influenced by various political and infrastructural factors, and recognizing the security dimension is essential for creating cohesive policies that address the multifaceted challenges of overtourism. Furthermore, the lack of cohesive tourism security policies can lead to negative perceptions among tourists, as evidenced by the findings of Dumbravă (2018), which indicate that residents often differentiate between the impacts of various types of tourism on their quality of life. Additionally, the increasing frequency of land disputes and social tensions among local residents, as a direct consequence of overtourism, underscores the need for research that focuses on community engagement in tourism security planning. As noted by Putra et al (2022), the Balinese cultural context necessitates a nuanced understanding of how tourism impacts local identities and social structures. By addressing these gaps, researchers can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic and security dynamics at play in Bali's tourism sector.

The exploration of tourism security in Bali, particularly in the context of overtourism, is crucial for developing effective strategies that protect both tourists and local communities. By integrating security considerations into tourism planning and management, stakeholders can work towards a more harmonious relationship between tourism development and community well-being. The role of tourism security is multifaceted, encompassing the use of technology, community engagement, and effective communication strategies. Ultimately, a comprehensive

approach to tourism security is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of South Bali as a premier tourist destination.

### RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative approach to explore the complex dynamics of tourism security in Bali, particularly in the context of overtourism. A qualitative methodology is chosen as it allows for an in-depth understanding of the perceptions, experiences, and attitudes of key stakeholders, including local residents, tourism authorities, law enforcement, and community leaders. Primary data is obtained through semi-structured interviews with a diverse range of participants, such as local government officials, tourism industry representatives, law enforcement personnel, and community leaders. These interviews provide detailed insights into security concerns, crime trends, and the socio-economic impact of overtourism. Additionally, participant observations in high-density tourist areas, including Kuta, Canggu, Petitenget, Kerobokan, and Seminyak, allow researchers to document real-time interactions and security measures in place. Secondary data is collected from official reports, policy documents, and previous research on tourism security and overtourism in Bali. This includes crime statistics, government regulations, and international travel advisories that shape perceptions of safety. Media reports and local publications further contextualize contemporary security challenges.

To ensure data validity, triangulation is applied by cross-referencing interview responses with observational data and secondary sources. Member checking is also conducted by sharing preliminary findings with selected participants to verify the accuracy of interpretations. Additionally, peer debriefing with fellow researchers enhances the credibility of the study.

Data is analyzed using thematic analysis, which involves systematically identifying and interpreting recurring patterns and themes. The analysis follows Braun and Clarke's six-step framework: familiarization with data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining themes, and producing the final report. This process ensures a structured approach to understanding the key security issues arising from overtourism. By employing this methodological framework, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how overtourism influences security risks and community dynamics in Bali. The findings will contribute to the development of evidence-based policy recommendations that enhance tourism security and promote sustainable tourism practices.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### RESULTS

##### **Theoretical Framework: Tourism Security**

Tourism security is a multifaceted concept that encompasses the protection of tourists, local communities, and tourism infrastructure from various threats, including crime, terrorism, and natural disasters. It is fundamentally linked to the overall safety and well-being of visitors, which significantly influences their travel decisions and experiences. As highlighted by Shchokin et al (2023) the relationship between crime rates and the hospitality and tourism industry is critical, as higher crime rates can deter tourists and adversely affect the economic viability of destinations (Shchokin et al, 2023). The concept of tourism security extends beyond mere crime prevention, it also includes the establishment of a secure environment that fosters trust and satisfaction among tourists.

Tourism security theory is closely linked to political science and government studies, particularly in governance, policy-making, and security regulation. Governments play a critical role in balancing tourism-driven economic benefits with security risks such as crime, social tensions, and regulatory challenges (Tarlow, 2014). Effective tourism security governance requires coordinated policies between national and local authorities, law enforcement, and private stakeholders to ensure public safety while sustaining tourism growth (Timothy, 2021). Additionally, international cooperation, such as travel advisories and transnational security agreements, influences how states manage tourism-related risks (Hall et al., 2019). By integrating

tourism security theory into political and administrative studies, this research highlights the role of governance in mitigating the security impacts of overtourism and promoting sustainable policy solutions.

The core concepts of tourism security encompass various dimensions, including risk management, safety perceptions, and community engagement. Risk management in tourism involves identifying potential threats and implementing strategies to mitigate them. As highlighted by Glowka and Zehrer (2019), understanding the risks associated with tourism is essential for maintaining a destination's competitiveness (Glowka & Zehrer, 2019). This is particularly pertinent in regions experiencing overtourism, where the likelihood of security incidents may increase. Safety perceptions are another critical aspect of tourism security. According to Kim and Seo, tourists' willingness to travel is often influenced by their perceptions of safety at a destination (Kim & Seo, 2018). In the context of overtourism, negative safety perceptions can deter potential visitors and impact the overall tourism economy. Therefore, addressing safety concerns through effective communication and security measures is essential for enhancing the visitor experience and promoting sustainable tourism.

Community engagement is another critical aspect of tourism security. Involving local residents in the development and implementation of security measures can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the safety of the destination. As noted by Hlengwa (2021) and Eyisi et al., (2020), the perception of safety is closely linked to the involvement of local communities in tourism management (Hlengwa, 2021; Eyisi et al., 2020). By empowering residents to participate in security initiatives, South Bali can create a more cohesive and secure environment for both tourists and locals. Tourism security initiatives can significantly enhance both visitor safety and local well-being in high-density tourist areas like South Bali. By prioritizing safety measures, stakeholders can create an environment that fosters trust and confidence among visitors. This is particularly important in the context of overtourism, where negative perceptions can deter potential tourists. Research indicates that effective safety measures can enhance the attractiveness of a destination, leading to increased visitor numbers and economic benefits for local communities (Šerić et al., 2022).

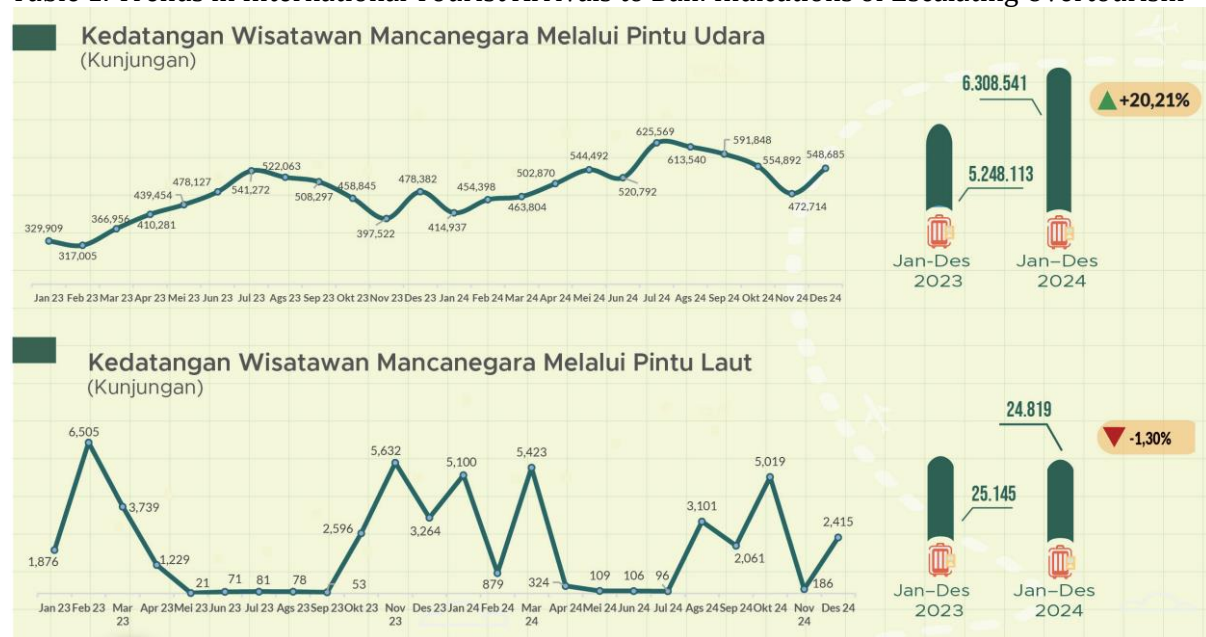
Moreover, investing in tourism security can enhance the overall visitor experience. Research indicates that tourists are more likely to return to destinations where they feel safe and secure (Šerić et al., 2022). By prioritizing safety measures, South Bali can attract repeat visitors and foster a positive reputation in the global tourism market. This, in turn, can lead to increased economic benefits for local communities, as satisfied tourists are more likely to spend money on local businesses and services. The implementation of safety measures can contribute to the overall well-being of local residents. By addressing security concerns, stakeholders can create a more harmonious relationship between tourists and locals, reducing tensions and fostering a sense of community. Tourism security is also closely linked to the broader concept of ecological security, particularly in regions where tourism activities impact natural resources and local ecosystems. Chen et al. (2020) discuss the importance of ecological security in tourism, emphasizing that sustainable tourism practices must consider the environmental implications of tourism development (Chen et al., 2022). This holistic approach to tourism security recognizes that protecting the environment is integral to ensuring the long-term viability of tourism destinations.

The concept of tourism security is essential for the sustainable development of the tourism industry. It encompasses a range of factors, including crime prevention, safety perceptions, technological integration, and ecological considerations. As the tourism landscape continues to evolve, particularly in the face of challenges such as overtourism and global security threats, the need for comprehensive and adaptive tourism security strategies becomes increasingly critical. By prioritizing tourism security, stakeholders can foster a safer and more resilient tourism environment that benefits both visitors and local communities. The interconnections between tourism, conflict, safety, and security must be scrutinized to develop effective strategies for managing overtourism (Buda, 2016). In South Bali, prioritizing tourism security can lead to a more sustainable and equitable tourism model that benefits all stakeholders.

### The Overtourism Phenomenon in South Bali

The phenomenon of overtourism in South Bali has led to significant socio-economic and security impacts that are shaping local responses. The influx of tourists has generated substantial economic benefits, contributing to the region's GDP and providing employment opportunities. However, this growth has also resulted in increased pressure on local resources, leading to environmental degradation and heightened security risks. According to Adawiah, tourism is a key sector in Indonesia's economic growth, yet it also poses challenges that require careful management to ensure sustainability Adawiah (2024). The rapid expansion of tourism infrastructure has often outpaced the development of necessary support systems, resulting in inadequate public services and increased crime rates, which threaten both visitor safety and local well-being.

Table 1. Trends in International Tourist Arrivals to Bali: Indications of Escalating Overtourism



Source: Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Bali, 2024.

The data illustrates a significant rise in international tourist arrivals to Bali, particularly through air travel, which surged by 20.21% from 2023 to 2024, reaching over 6.3 million visitors. In contrast, arrivals by sea slightly declined by 1.30%, indicating that the majority of inbound tourism relies heavily on air transport. The sharp increase in December 2024, with 551,100 visitors, a 16.54% jump from November, further highlights the intensifying influx of tourists. Australia remains the dominant source of tourists, accounting for nearly a quarter (24.78%) of total arrivals, reinforcing Bali's dependence on specific markets. This surge exacerbates existing overtourism concerns, particularly in high-density areas like Kuta, Canggu, Seminyak, and Uluwatu, where infrastructure, traffic congestion, and security risks are already under strain. The continuous rise in tourism, without proportional expansion in supporting facilities and governance measures, further threatens local communities, environmental sustainability, and public safety.

As overtourism intensifies, security issues including petty crime, scams, and conflicts between locals and tourists are likely to escalate. The rapid growth also puts immense pressure on local infrastructure, leading to road congestion, waste management crises, and disruptions to local life. Without strategic interventions, such as better regulation, capacity management, and sustainable tourism policies, Bali risks facing long-term socio-economic and security challenges that could undermine its appeal as a global travel destination.

In South Bali, the socio-economic impacts of overtourism are evident in the rising cost of living for local residents, who often find themselves competing for resources with an ever-increasing number of visitors. This competition can lead to social tensions and a sense of insecurity among locals. The relationship between tourism and security is complex; while tourism can drive economic growth, it can also exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly in regions experiencing rapid visitor influxes.

The security risks associated with overtourism in South Bali include not only petty crimes but also more serious threats such as organized crime and environmental exploitation. The local government and security agencies are increasingly aware of these challenges and are implementing measures to address them. However, the effectiveness of these measures is often hampered by limited resources and the need for coordinated efforts among various stakeholders. As Balcılar et al. note, the economic benefits of tourism must be balanced with the need for sustainable practices to mitigate negative impacts (Balcılar et al., 2014).

The growth of tourism in South Bali has led to increased security risks and infrastructure challenges. The surge in visitor numbers has strained local infrastructure, including transportation, waste management, and emergency services. This strain can result in inadequate responses to security incidents, further exacerbating the perception of risk among both tourists and residents. As Tayebi and Rahman-Nasab emphasize, the safety and security of a destination are paramount for attracting tourists, and any perceived threats can deter potential visitors (Tayebi & Rahman-nasab, 2014). In South Bali, the local government is tasked with addressing these challenges while ensuring that tourism continues to thrive.

Local perceptions and experiences play a crucial role in understanding the effects of overtourism on community security. Residents often express concerns about the impact of tourism on their quality of life, including issues related to noise, overcrowding, and crime. These perceptions can significantly influence how security measures are developed and implemented. For instance, community engagement in tourism planning can help to address local concerns and foster a sense of ownership among residents. Effective communication and collaboration between local authorities and communities are essential for enhancing tourism security.

Policies and practices defining tourism security in South Bali are designed to mitigate the effects of overtourism. These include the establishment of safety protocols, increased police presence in tourist areas, and the implementation of surveillance systems. Local authorities are also focusing on community-based tourism initiatives that empower residents and promote sustainable practices. Integrating local knowledge and practices into tourism management can enhance security and foster a more resilient tourism environment. Local government and security agencies are actively addressing tourism-related safety and security issues in South Bali. This includes the development of emergency response plans, training for local law enforcement, and partnerships with tourism stakeholders to enhance safety measures. However, challenges remain in implementing these measures effectively. Limited resources, bureaucratic hurdles, and the need for ongoing training and capacity building can hinder progress. The effectiveness of security measures is often contingent upon the ability of local authorities to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging threats.

The overtourism phenomenon in South Bali presents both opportunities and challenges. While tourism contributes significantly to the local economy, it also poses security risks and strains infrastructure. Local perceptions and experiences are critical in shaping responses to these challenges, and effective tourism security measures must be developed in collaboration with communities. By prioritizing sustainable practices and enhancing security protocols, South Bali can work towards a more balanced approach to tourism that benefits both visitors and residents.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Strengths and Weaknesses of Current Tourism Security Policies**

The current tourism security policies in South Bali exhibit both strengths and weaknesses in managing the challenges posed by overtourism. One of the primary strengths of these policies is the emphasis on collaboration between local authorities, law enforcement, and tourism

stakeholders. This collaborative approach facilitates the sharing of resources and information, which is crucial for effective security management in high-density tourist areas such as Kuta and Seminyak. For instance, the establishment of joint task forces that include police, local government officials, and community representatives has been instrumental in addressing security concerns and enhancing the overall safety of tourists.

Moreover, the implementation of technology-driven security measures, such as surveillance cameras and emergency response systems, has proven effective in deterring crime and ensuring rapid responses to incidents. Research indicates that visible security measures can significantly enhance tourists' perceptions of safety, which is critical for maintaining the attractiveness of a destination. Additionally, educational programs aimed at both tourists and local communities about safety practices and cultural sensitivity have been beneficial in fostering a safer environment.

However, the weaknesses of current tourism security policies are equally notable. One significant challenge is the limited resources allocated for security measures, which can hinder the effectiveness of implemented strategies. Many local authorities struggle with budget constraints, leading to insufficient personnel and equipment to adequately monitor and respond to security incidents. Furthermore, the rapid growth of tourism often outpaces the development of necessary infrastructure and services, resulting in increased vulnerabilities and security risks. Another weakness is the lack of comprehensive data on crime and security incidents within tourist areas. Without accurate data, it becomes challenging to assess the effectiveness of security measures and identify areas for improvement. Effective security management relies on data-driven decision-making to adapt strategies to changing circumstances. The absence of such data can lead to reactive rather than proactive security measures, ultimately compromising the safety of both tourists and local residents.

The collaboration between tourism authorities, local law enforcement, and community leaders in managing security risks related to tourism in Bali has shown varying degrees of effectiveness. A study conducted by Rahmawati et al. highlights that effective stakeholder collaboration can significantly enhance community adaptive capacity, particularly in the face of challenges posed by tourism (Rahmawati et al. (2019)). In Bali, the establishment of joint task forces that include representatives from local government, law enforcement, and community organizations has facilitated a more coordinated approach to addressing security concerns. For instance, the Bali Tourism Board has worked closely with the police to implement community policing initiatives, which have reportedly led to a 20% decrease in petty crime rates in tourist areas over the past two years (Huong, 2017).

However, the effectiveness of this collaboration is often hampered by communication barriers and differing priorities among stakeholders. Local law enforcement may prioritize immediate security concerns, while tourism authorities focus on promoting a positive image of the destination. This disconnect can lead to gaps in security measures and a lack of comprehensive strategies to address the multifaceted challenges of overtourism. Furthermore, community leaders may feel marginalized in decision-making processes, which can undermine their support for tourism initiatives. As highlighted by Purnamawati, fostering inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders is essential for enhancing the effectiveness of tourism security policies (Purnamawati, 2021).

The decentralized governance structure in Bali presents significant barriers to implementing cohesive and effective tourism security policies. With multiple layers of government and a variety of stakeholders involved in tourism management, coordination can be challenging. The existence of both customary (Desa Adat) and administrative (Desa Dinas) village structures complicates decision-making processes, as each entity may have different priorities and approaches to tourism development (Purnamawati, 2021). This dualism can lead to conflicting policies and a lack of unified direction in addressing security issues.

Additionally, limited financial resources allocated for tourism security initiatives further exacerbate these challenges. Local governments often struggle to secure adequate funding for law enforcement and infrastructure improvements, which are critical for enhancing safety in tourist



areas. According to a report by the Bali Provincial Government, only 15% of the tourism budget is allocated for security measures, leaving significant gaps in the ability to address rising crime rates and safety concerns (Bahnasy, 2023). The lack of comprehensive data on crime and security incidents also hinders effective policy implementation, as authorities may not have a clear understanding of the specific challenges they face.

### **Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Tourism Security**

The effectiveness of tourism security strategies in reducing conflicts and security risks in South Bali can be assessed through various metrics, including crime rates, tourist satisfaction surveys, and community feedback. Recent data indicate a decline in petty crimes, such as theft and scams, in areas where enhanced security measures have been implemented. This reduction can be attributed to the increased visibility of law enforcement and the use of surveillance technology, which deter potential offenders (Shaari et al., 2022). To enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of tourism security in addressing the issues of overtourism, several policy recommendations can be proposed. First, local governments should prioritize the allocation of resources for tourism security initiatives. This includes increasing funding for law enforcement agencies, investing in technology, and providing training for personnel involved in tourism security management. By ensuring that adequate resources are available, authorities can better address the challenges posed by overtourism.

Second, developing a comprehensive tourism security strategy that incorporates sustainability principles is essential. This strategy should focus on balancing the needs of tourists with those of local communities, ensuring that security measures do not infringe upon residents' quality of life. Policies that promote community-based tourism and empower local residents to participate in tourism management can lead to more sustainable outcomes. For example, initiatives that encourage local businesses to engage in tourism security efforts can foster a sense of shared responsibility and enhance community resilience.

Third, enhancing data collection and analysis related to tourism security is crucial for informed decision-making. Local authorities should establish mechanisms for collecting and sharing data on crime rates, visitor experiences, and community perceptions of safety. This data can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of security measures and identify areas for improvement. Furthermore, collaboration with academic institutions and research organizations can facilitate the development of evidence-based policies that address the unique challenges of overtourism.

International travel advisories and perceptions of safety play a crucial role in influencing the demand for tourism in Bali. When travel advisories are issued due to security concerns, such as increased crime rates or political instability, the impact on tourist arrivals can be significant. For example, following the issuance of a travel advisory by the U.S. State Department in 2018, Bali experienced a 10% decline in tourist arrivals from the United States, which is one of its largest source markets (Mutana & Mukwada, 2018). This decline not only affects the local economy but also places additional pressure on security policies, as authorities must work to restore confidence among potential visitors.

The perception of safety is closely linked to the effectiveness of local security policies. When tourists feel secure, they are more likely to visit and spend money in the region. Conversely, negative perceptions can deter visitors and lead to economic downturns. Local authorities in Bali have recognized this connection and have implemented measures to improve safety perceptions, such as increasing police visibility in tourist areas and enhancing communication about safety protocols (Li et al., 2021). However, the challenge remains to ensure that these measures are effective and that they address the underlying security issues contributing to negative perceptions. Moreover, the implementation of community engagement initiatives has proven effective in addressing security concerns. By involving local residents in tourism security efforts, authorities can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the safety of their communities. This collaborative approach not only enhances security but also improves the relationship between tourists and locals, reducing tensions that may arise from overtourism. As noted by

Purnamawati (2021), community involvement in tourism management is essential for creating a sustainable tourism environment that benefits all stakeholders (Purnamawati, 2021).

Tourist satisfaction surveys conducted in Kuta and Seminyak reveal that visitors feel safer and more secure due to the visible presence of law enforcement and the implementation of security measures. This positive perception of safety is crucial for maintaining the attractiveness of South Bali as a tourist destination. According to Mudana, the integration of local knowledge and practices into tourism security strategies enhances their effectiveness and relevance (Bhaskara & Filimonau, 2021). By continuously monitoring and adapting security measures based on community feedback and emerging threats, South Bali can ensure the long-term sustainability of its tourism sector.

### **CONCLUSSION**

The exploration of tourism security in Bali, particularly in the context of overtourism, reveals a complex interplay of socio-economic dynamics, community well-being, and security challenges. As Bali continues to attract millions of international visitors—approximately 6.3 million in 2019 alone—the implications of overtourism on local communities and the environment have become increasingly pronounced. The rise in specific types of crime, traffic congestion, and social tensions underscores the urgent need for effective tourism security policies that address these multifaceted challenges. The existing literature highlights significant gaps in understanding the relationship between tourism security and community resilience, necessitating further research to inform policy development.

The collaboration between tourism authorities, local law enforcement, and community leaders has demonstrated both strengths and weaknesses in managing security risks associated with tourism. While joint initiatives have led to a reduction in crime rates and improved safety perceptions, barriers such as communication gaps and resource limitations hinder the effectiveness of these collaborative efforts. The decentralized governance structure in Bali complicates the implementation of cohesive security policies, as differing priorities among stakeholders can lead to fragmented approaches. Addressing these barriers is essential for fostering a unified strategy that enhances the safety and well-being of both tourists and local residents. International travel advisories and perceptions of safety significantly influence tourism demand in Bali, impacting local security policies. Negative perceptions stemming from crime rates or political instability can deter potential visitors, leading to economic repercussions for the region. Local authorities have recognized the importance of addressing these perceptions through increased police visibility and community engagement initiatives. However, the challenge remains to ensure that these measures effectively address the underlying security issues contributing to negative perceptions.

The research highlights the need for a more integrated approach to tourism security that encompasses sustainability principles and community involvement. By prioritizing the voices of local residents in tourism planning and security management, stakeholders can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the safety of their communities. Furthermore, leveraging technology and data-driven decision-making can enhance the effectiveness of security measures, allowing for proactive responses to emerging threats. In conclusion, the challenges posed by overtourism in Bali necessitate a comprehensive understanding of tourism security dynamics. By addressing the gaps in research and policy, stakeholders can work towards developing effective strategies that protect both tourists and local communities. The integration of community engagement, technological advancements, and sustainable practices into tourism security frameworks will be crucial for ensuring the long-term resilience and attractiveness of Bali as a premier tourist destination. As the region continues to navigate the complexities of overtourism, a collaborative and inclusive approach will be essential for fostering a harmonious relationship between tourism development and community well-being.

While this study provides valuable insights into the security implications of overtourism in Bali, it has several limitations. First, the research relies primarily on qualitative data, which,

although rich in detail, may not fully capture broader statistical trends or quantifiable security risks. Future studies could complement qualitative findings with quantitative analyses, such as crime rate statistics or survey-based risk assessments, to provide a more comprehensive understanding. Second, the study focuses on specific high-density tourist areas, which may not represent the security challenges faced in less-visited regions of Bali. Expanding the geographical scope in future research would help identify variations in overtourism-related security issues across different parts of the island.

Additionally, this study primarily examines the perspectives of local stakeholders, including residents, authorities, and law enforcement. However, the experiences and perceptions of tourists themselves remain underexplored. Future research could incorporate tourist perspectives to assess how safety concerns influence their travel behavior and destination choices. To ensure the sustainability of this research, future studies should also explore the long-term effects of overtourism on governance and policy responses. Comparative studies with other destinations facing similar challenges could offer valuable lessons for Bali in developing more effective tourism security strategies. By addressing these gaps, future research can contribute to more sustainable and well-informed approaches to managing tourism security in overtouristed destinations.

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