



Inventing the Pandemic Lifestyles: Bicycle Tourism during COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

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The COVID-19 outbreak has harshly accelerated existing future of social life and changed how people approach and act toward it, including in the aspect of sport and tourism, that can be claimed to have created the pandemic's new social orders. This article, in essence, examines the cycling meanings and experiences of Yogyakarta's cyclists in both individual and communal contexts during the pandemic. Having been categorized as an active sport which supports social and physical distance campaigns, the shift of meaning of cycle tourism both to increase immune system and to enjoy sightseeing at once is applied to critically explain the way people understand the cycling itself. In line with the motivational aspects, the meaning of cycling has shown fascinating facts shifted from regular sport to be more valuable due to disruptions during the pandemic. By applying qualitative descriptive methods, this research conducted observations and interviews with cyclists and cycling communities. This article shows two findings. First, the shift of meaning and awareness of cycling is considered as a pandemic sport because of a compatibility with its health protocols and as a sustainable tourism sector; and second, the emergence of cycle tourism as a pandemic lifestyle shaped constantly with social narratives of a pandemic. The psychological aspects have also become additional notes explained by this article.



Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic cycling—practically relevant to the requirement to remain socially distanced—has increasingly marked as one of the most interesting facts emerging in daily life (Nikitas et al., 2021). The way how people interact with a determinant approach to the pandemic-spurred social orders has seemed to be more creative by learning through various ways and methods which are well adapted to the local and communal understanding. Beside the common shared regulations regarding the coronavirus disease, particular society with communally-embedded cultures has also recognized local wisdom as an immanent guideline for life (CNN Indonesia, 2021a; CNN Indonesia, 2021b). Accordingly, as a popular sport cycling has massively been a part of personal, family and community activities (Rachmawati, 2020) with many intentions such as killing time due to stay-at-home rules, providing a safe mobility alternative to public transport, doing eco-friendly sports, and spending holiday as well (Yasa, 2021; Sidebang, 2021). The immanent part of cycling in providing physical distance, while doing sport to keep the immune system good and healthy at the same time, is unavoidably the reason remaining intact in the context of a pandemic (Bechauf, 2020). Interestingly, along with the health benefits of increased physical activity, cycling is also a beneficial mode of transport in the current pandemic.

In addition, cycling can contribute to improving the environment as well as people's health, safety and overall quality of life. Each year, about one million deaths in the WHO European Region are attributed to insufficient physical activity. Increasing the level of cycling can help to prevent these deaths. The Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, endorsed by 56 countries of the pan-European region in May, supports this goal (WHO Europe, 2021). In the local context, formal institutions supported by

communities have promoted the importance of cycling during the pandemic. Along these lines, the massive cycling activities have been taken into consideration as a potential trend over cycle tourism which stimulates the economic growth in society (Sutton, 2020). The Indonesian Cycling Industry Association (AIPI) reported that bicycle sales in the domestic market have marked approximately 8 million units in 2020. About 3 million of them are produced in the country, while the rest are from imported ones. Such this fact of course made a big contribution in increasing the country's economy which in turn can also increase immunity as well as reduce pollution (Rantung, 2021).

General trend of cycling conducted by people from different backgrounds amid pandemic situations is to keep healthy and easily be an active sport which has a positive effect on health by strengthening the immune system. For this reason, government leaders are now taking steps to encourage this development through new infrastructure projects and fundings, such as the UK government's new GBP 2 billion [USD 2.5 billion] plans to improve and expand pedestrians and cycling infrastructures domestically. Biking infrastructures provide a range of environmental, social, and economic benefits and avoided costs (Bechauf, 2020). Aside from the health concern in the midst of a pandemic, the tourism aspect is an interesting trend which also encourages many tourists to bike (Reid, 2020; Sidebang, 2021). Hence, cycle tourism itself has been a part of tourist attractions that socially tied people into associations and communities. Cycle tourism refers to tourism that involves watching or participating in a cycling event, or participating in independent or organized cycle touring (Ritchie et al., 2010). In the context of a pandemic, one immediate effect of decreasing virus in relation to travel demand and supply was the emergence of active travel modes because of their unique ability to provide a socially-

distanced way of transport (Nikitas et al., 2021). For this reason, several cities in the world have seriously built a specific bike-lane and reallocated public space to cyclists and produced pro-bike policies such as e-bike subsidies and free bike-share use (Pucher et al., 2010; Doucet & Mazumder, 2020; Iassinovskaia, 2021; Kraus & Koch, 2021).

This article examines the cycling experiences of Yogyakarta's society; how they interpret and understand cycling and their motivation during the pandemic. In line with the motivation behind it, the meaning of cycling has shown very interesting facts shifted from regular activities to be more valuable due to the experiences of life disruptions during a pandemic. It's not only about ecological concerns such as decreasing pollution but also the health awareness which has been particularly comprehended as the main factor during the pandemic. Accordingly, cycling has massively developed through various initiatives and approaches with personal and communal interest generally defining the type of cycling itself (Rantung, 2021).

The previous researches conducted by different scholars in addressing cycling have been much concerned both on social solidarity when it comes to community ties and physical and ecological aspects when it comes to health and environment. Other aspects which put it as therapy or refreshing from boredom of stay-at-home rule and in specific ways of boosting the immune system have become additional notes and findings provided through this article. Previous studies did not pay attention to the communal experience and motivation of cycling in the midst of a pandemic which was predominantly influenced by health awareness. For this reason, this paper is designed to explore the meaning behind the experience of cycling in the midst of a pandemic. In particular, this paper not only explains aspects of awareness about health

in cycling, but also maps the context of the tourism experience behind cycling activities. The answer to these two issues allows the emergence of a typology and a fundamental change in the approach and motivation of cycling in the midst of a pandemic that continues to develop into a new culture for society.

From Cycle Tourism to Pandemic Tourism

General terms used either by academic circumstances or practitioners in addressing tourism attractions by using bicycles are cycle tourism, bicycle tourism, and bike tourism (Buning & Lamont, 2021). The first of two phrases are mostly used in many academic works, including in this article, which refer to a definition of cycle tourism as a type of tourism. Different definitions of cycle tourism include six characteristics (1) that the cycling experience takes place away from a person's home region; (2) bicycle tourism may extend to single-day or multi-day trip durations; (3) the nature of the cycling activity is non-competitive; (4) cycling should be the main purpose of the trip; (5) participation in cycling occurs only in an active context, and (6) bicycle tourism is a form of recreation or leisure (Meschik, 2012). Another notion of cycle tourism refers to a travel experience which uses the bicycle as the primary mode of transport and it is undertaken during leisure time for which the period of time under consideration is not less than 24 hours or one night from the home destination (Han et al., 2017). In a broader sense, cycle tourism includes the trips which explore specific destinations by bicycle with the purpose of doing sports, adventure seeking, challenge, physical, mental and spiritual relaxation, entertainment, and being closer to nature (Sevinc et al., 2018).

Looking back at the historical aspect, The Cyclists' Touring Club founded in the UK in 1878 was mentioned as the first bicycle tourism in the world (Dixon, 2017) then Dutch Bicycle Union was

founded in early 1883 (Dinescu, 2011). After that period, along the way how technology has rapidly developed and escalated by industrial innovations of motorized transports, it had declined for such long times but recent evidence indicates that it is regaining its popularity as a worldwide alternative tourism activity (Lumsdon, 2000); Roman & Roman, 2014; Han et al., 2017; Gazzola et al., 2018). Cycle tourism enhances the social, environmental, and economic status of a territory that emerges to meet the technical requirements of cycle tourists and their need for mobility, improves sustainable transport and promotes wellness which further improves local residents' quality of life (Gazzola et al., 2018).

There are various trends frequently mentioned in connection with bicycle tourism: mountain biking as a sport and recreational activity (Shaw & Williams, 2004; Buning & Lamont, 2021), small-group bicycle tour (Kozak & Kozak, 2016), rural or nature tourism and adventure tourism (Slocum & Kline, 2017; Sevinc et al., 2018), local events such as festivals and annual days (Torres & Momsen, 2011), a model for sustainable transport (Lumsdon, 2000; Meschik, 2012), and during the last decade, a renaissance of cycling in urban transportation has occurred in many Western European cities (Nilsson, 2019). Accordingly, in urban areas and within cities, cycling becomes an alternative for fitness, saving time and costs, avoiding parking problems, having fun, protecting the environment, etc. (Meschik, 2012). Bicycle tourism is generally considered to also include the watching of cycling events, such as South Australia's Tour Down Under, or France's Tour de France (Ritchie et al., 2010). However, the emergence of independent kinds of tourism, for instance, nomadic tourism can possibly go hand in hand with cycle tourism (Lindawati et al., 2021).

During the pandemic, cycling has been emerging as a favourite sport because of their unique ability to provide a

socially-distanced way of moving and lessening overcrowding in closed spaces (i.e., travellers do not need to be seated inside a vehicle) (Nikitas et al., 2021). At the same time, pandemic's influences in relation to travel have brought radical change from collecting people in crowds to keeping them physically-distanced. The emergence of active travel modes or as forms of active transport such as walking, jogging and cycling has become an alternative sport to be fulfilled by people sporadically without cantering in crowds of such mainstream touristic places (Weed, 2020; Sidebang, 2021). Cycle tourism has also gained momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic which its legacies directly affect tourism mobility (Hannam et al., 2021). Amidst the uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic and its impacts on tourism, tourism players and people as well should adapt in various ways to negotiate with the pandemic situation (Gössling et al., 2020; Higgins-Desbiolles, 2020; Jamal & Budke, 2020; Ntounis et al., 2021; Zafri et al., 2021) such as reinterpreting the process of socialization and how to act in a new social order.

The specific experience of cycling in a pandemic situation in order to embrace the need for health and have fun at the same time has enriched the conceptual development of tourism itself. During the pandemic, cycling has been identical to be part of daily life, such a pandemic culture which shapes the lifestyle worldwide, even though bicycles are not frequently used for daily transport. The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed tourism adaptive to any situation in which people can easily enjoy holiday and have fun (Gretzel et al., 2020). In order to extend the literature, there should be a new approach to fill the gap which figures out the emergence of cycle tourism during pandemic outbreak in particular that finally guides us to comprehend the pandemic sport and pandemic lifestyle as well.

This article elaborates the way how bicycle tourism is understood in a pandemic era in which it has become an alternative active sport massively conducted by society. Having outlined the state of current literature regarding bicycle tourism, this article covers the articulation of how pandemic has been given for granted for people in interpreting any form of cycling both for the need of health and tourism as well. Applying to the Indonesian case, a trend of cycling and even bicycle tourism started to develop massively during the pandemic. The literature review allows us to conclude that bicycle tourism should be considered as the promising touristic sectors which can stimulate local economic development, fight the pervasive impact of pollution particularly within the cities and participate in sustainability campaigns (Gazzola et al., 2018).

Method

Generally to understood that during the pandemic, travel activities and tourist attractions are restricted by various rules and schemes that are strictly implemented by both local and national government. Meanwhile, the need for exercise to be healthy and increase immunity of the body is a must. At such times, bicycles become an alternative sport that is mostly chosen by the community to get out of the boredom of stay-at-home and the stressful effects of pandemic. The choice of cycling has eventually become a trend mostly dealing with sport, but it has gotten more familiar with traveling and tourism within the pandemic.

This article uses a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the experience of cycling in the pandemic era. The data collection method of this study was carried out through two steps which are first is an observation in order to get an overview of the general phenomenon of cycling activities in Yogyakarta. It was

applied to cyclists gathering in communities and randomly to those who are actively cycling during the pandemic. Secondly, we conducted a semi structured interview with selected informants who are cycling during the pandemic either individually or with the community. Interview was designed intensively to reveal the motivation and understanding of the cycling experience during a pandemic. The informants were randomly selected based on their availability during cycling activities to share their cycling experiences and understandings of it.

In order to elaborate the deeper meaning, understanding and experience of cycling in pandemic time, we chose seven informants from diverse backgrounds, gender, age and even ranging from newbies to those who use bicycles as daily need, particularly related to their hobby. A term for newbies here is not simply beginner to bike because using bicycles is a common experience for teenagers' school days from elementary to junior high school. We called newbies for those who have immediately been back to cycling due to the pandemic outbreak. By accommodating diverse backgrounds of the informants, the data collection is interestingly more expanded into very details of how to understand the meaning of cycling in the pandemic era since pandemic outbreak has rashly struck their experience of redefining cycling as well.

The final step of collecting data from both primary and secondary is classified and coded strictly by doing a triangle formula to get maximum results and findings. These data are analysed using the perspective of the sociology of tourism to seek out social aspects behind cycle tourism in general. It can also bring into detailed description of motivational aspects and cycling experiences from personal and communal understanding. By borrowing such an approach, this article is expected to expand

the dynamic of cycling as a social construction over reality and particularly how it shapes social order.

Results

Pandemic tourism

The pandemic COVID-19 has made people have to adapt to a new order of life simultaneously. The most monotonous one is a campaign of stay-at-home rule for people around the world that has postponed the attraction of tourism sectors. Even though there are free times available for traveling and spending holidays, people's movements are constrained because of the many strict rules for activities outside the house. In addition, many tourist destinations had to close due to a specific consideration in order to minimize crowds. In the midst of this boredom, the idea of finding an alternative way of traveling in accordance with the rules of the pandemic was focused on cycling, since it has been an alternative to tourism that is easy to adapt to the new regulations made during the pandemic. Again, with ideal types of each bicycle produced massively, it is strongly to maintain social and physical distancing from one person to another who has made the application of the rules of social distancing not violated by cyclists (SBW, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

The life experiences during this pandemic have been difficult; any kind of social and physical interactions between individuals are very limited. However, people living in such experience are sometimes under uncertainty, especially because they likely considered no longer humane could exist to tie them up with social interaction as usual, and yet cycling activities mediate the ruthless effects of pandemic in which they can exchange greeting and gather them both in the streets and touristic destinations. It's generally understood among the cyclists when encountering and

passing each other on the street, they usually greet each other by ringing the bell from their bicycle, or also in other ways they show very identical symbols such as smiling and raising hands (SBW & MSH, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

Along the way how pandemic has gone for the new normal era, cycling has remained a new tourist attraction as pandemic tourism with more exciting models. For this reason, the way people look for either entertainment and refreshment or active sports, cycling is an ideal physical activity which matches many aspects of sport within society. The pandemic outbreak has forced many people to use bicycles that were normally placed in a warehouse or parked for a long time in order to find fresh air and do some active sport (NMA, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

“Since pandemic has vigorously struck society followed by enormous rules (such as the stay-at-home campaign and the mobility restriction) which were aimed at containing the contagion, cycling is an alternative to tourism in order to escape from boredom and stressful feelings. Cycle tourism has also offered an enjoyable and natural landscape and fresh air to refresh ourselves” (HFA, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

Moreover, public transportations have been terminated for a long time while waiting for a new normal and several other rules formally enacted by the government. In such a situation, some tourist destinations are closed for massive crowds and public access, but cycling and many other active sports which are generally considered to maintain the immune system have access more independently. It is unavoidable that cycling has more privileges in the time of pandemic. Since tourist attractions prohibit all types of public transportation, cycling is an alternative way in which society could use it freely. In order to fulfil the hobby, cycling could be a medium for refreshing while visiting important places such as tombs, museums, and other historical places, which are generally open and accessible tourist attractions (SBW, interviewed on

August 13, 2021).

The health aspects of cycling are the most essential awareness naturally emerging within society as it mostly comprehended to be blatantly motivated and socially engaged practice. However, because a massive trend like this is still new in the midst of a pandemic in which many people massively bike with family or with community, the culture shock/ “talkative culture” with sports reasons is also used by those who just follow the trend (AR, interviewed on August 10, 2021). Practically, cycling is very cheap compared to other types of vehicles and this is the reason why people are motivated to cycle. Cycling is also recognized as another alternative in enjoying moments with oneself without any restriction because cyclists could reach the destination they want to. Monotonous lives at home are also one of the driving factors for this bicycle tour activity. (SBW and HFA interviewed on August 13, 2021). In addition to low cost and environmentally friendly, health and tourism motivation strengthens people’s reasons for doing bicycle tours (NMA, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

Pandemic lifestyle

Health is considered as a fundamental thing for everyone in the midst of a pandemic and people are concerned about fulfilling its aspect first before considering another one. In fact, a pandemic has struck not only physical health but psychological problems such as anxiety which has massively haunted humans in the world. Accordingly, cycling offers what humans have been looking for: an increasing immune system and psychological aspect. These two health aspects are primarily considered by many people in doing sport which has naturally created a new culture that could be mentioned as a pandemic lifestyle.

“To maintain body health and immune system is still my understanding

of cycling itself and I see people cycling as the way they are dealing with what I assumed. However, the emergence of cycling activities during the pandemic has shown a new trend and lifestyle wrapped in the language of sports. It's something interesting" (AR, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

The phenomenon of cycling during the pandemic has ignited the awareness of having active sport and enjoying fresh air at the same time. The scenery offered during cycling usually presents the pure beauty of nature itself since the routes are changeable anytime the cyclists want to. Indeed, the most wanted routes are the quiet roads that are away from motorcycles (HFA interview 13 August 2021). It has a huge impact on society in order to go outdoors with routes that are more flexible and away from the crowd. For this reason, cycling is conducted by people to exercise and actively keep moving (SBW, interviewed on August 13, 2021). Cycling, in addition to maintaining health, is also an alternative in satisfying hobbies and fun which has generally boosted psychological conditions. It is such an emerging habit because of pandemic (AR, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

The common motivation behind cycling is for sightseeing, short tours, and for exercising to maintain physical health (HFA interviewed on August 13, 2021). However, when the pandemic finally came, people have been determined to change their approach in life particularly related to human-to-human. This determination includes how people do sport and spend their leisure time with family around. Apart from having fun, cycling has recently become a new trend which has attracted communities to do the same in the time of pandemic, so that, the motivation for cycling is fascinating and energizing (SBW, interviewed on August 13, 2021). In addition, by applying various approaches and intentions, cycling has been more flexible which is used for spectacle, freestyle and even tourist attraction. Due to the emergence of the cycling lifestyle during the

pandemic, its purpose is merely enjoying the trip without deciding the certain destinations (HFA interviewed on August 13, 2021). Consequently, there is another interesting fact to be accepted that cycling is not purely about sport itself but it is a prestige as well which is embedded both to personal and social circumstance (MSH, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

Furthermore, what has been happening within society is quite interesting in which many people eagerly buy new bicycles with different models and price tags. The bicycles they used are varied such as old bicycles (simply called *ontel* in Java), mountain bikes, folding bicycles or also gravel bikes (SBW, interviewed 13 August 2021). Although most of them used the bicycle that has been owned for such a long time, not a few of the community looked for new bicycles with fantastic prices. (AR interview 13 August 2021).

However, even though a pandemic ignites the cycling trend within society, it will remain a habit and is culturally inherited with social order. For those who realize that exercise is an important part of maintaining immunity and health, doing sports such as cycling remain part of the culture. I have been cycling since before the pandemic, in awareness of health factors. This means that I still remain cycling with a pandemic or not (PR, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

Since health awareness underlines factors behind cycling, it has created a social order to articulate a healthy way of life which is also shown in daily life. Cycling activities provide a bonus in the form of entertainment and natural freshness by visiting green places and away from city pollution. For this reason, the application of a healthy lifestyle is also being carried out by using a bicycle. Apart from being an effort to maintain a healthy lifestyle, this bicycle tour can also be used as an effort to actively participate in reducing the city's enormous air pollution.

Eco-friendly sport

Cycling tourism offers another important role which has been embedded into people's understanding and inevitably ignites a special reception, which is related to the environment. Bicycles are one of the most environmentally-friendly transportations which at the same time offer health concerns as well (HFA, interviewed on August 13, 2021). As part of the effort to protect the environment, the spirit of bicycle tourism is getting more massive during the pandemic. Cycling tours offer the sincere natural landscapes that can be enjoyed, ranging from tours in the city centre to the countryside. In order to perfectly absorb the natural views, cyclists avoid urban routes because of pollution and crowdedness (PR, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

In Yogyakarta, there many places to generally be favourite destinations both in the city center such as Alun-Alun Kota, Tugu, Malioboro, Gadjah Mada University, Taman Pintar, Keraton, Jogja Expo Centre, and Kotagede, and suburbs such as Makam Raja Imogiri, Bukit Wijil, Warung Ijo Pakem, Candi Sambisari, Blue Lagoon Widodomartani, Embung Cawas, Jembatan Gantung Selopamioro, Tambakboyo and many more. As a city with a deep historical and cultural root, Yogyakarta is also a favourite for historical objects like museums, temples and old buildings around the city.

I frequently visit mainstream tourist attractions which are very crowded. I had planning with some friends one day to go on a pilgrimage (*napak tilas*) to hero's and ulama's graves, cultural houses, and museums and then we pray and have such sharing session together, that is as an intentional act, in order to keep healthy physically and also get peace of mind (spirituality) at the same time (SBW, interviewed on August 13, 2021).

The awareness of the current situation within the cities has made people more understand the function of cycling in supporting

the effort of a sustainable environment. However, in a pandemic situation like today we still have to be careful and what we do should comply with the health protocols (NMA, interviewed on August 13, 2021). The interesting thing is the motivation and awareness to know nature in depth, which is a form of concern for nature (HFA, interviewed on August 13, 2021). Although the trends and concepts are not very familiar, cycle tourism is interpreted as a form of travel activity while enjoying the beauty of nature.

Having concerned on environmental issues with various meanings attached to bicycles, the emergence of cycling activities during pandemic has also tied up social cohesion through its ways which could be understood comprehensively in communal contexts. There are communal symbols articulated clearly among cyclists such as polite gestures by nodding each other when encountering in the streets and at least by ringing the bell from their bicycle (SBW, interviewed on August 13, 2021). Cycling defines social solidarity and respects humanity as well with low cost and without formal procedures. The important thing is the bike itself and people can hit the road and start cycling wherever they are. Even though they didn't know each other at first, if they were already on the pedal, they were all friends under the slogan "greeting one asphalt" (MSH, interviewed on August 10, 2021).

The awareness of promoting environmental issues by doing eco-friendly sports like cycling can contribute to sustainability of natural aspects of life. It happens naturally to take care of the objects which people love and enjoy. Meanwhile, many efforts that can be made to contribute to environmental sustainability start from the personal stage, for instance, by reducing the use of motorized vehicles and replacing them with public transportation or considering bicycles as an alternative (HFA, interviewed on August 13, 2021). The cycling has become one of the eco-friendly sports

and it doesn't produce emissions and air pollution. Interestingly, cycling offers two benefits at the same time, that is being an eco-friendly sport and maintaining a healthy body.

Discussion

The pandemic outbreak has made humans aware of health aspects completely and taught people how to adapt to new social orders constructed through various experiences of socialization occurring and recurring within communities (Jamal & Budke, 2020; Zafri et al., 2021). Consequently, so many rules and regulations related to health protocols have formed such pandemic cultures transforming from rituals of socialization to cultural performance with specific codes and narratives (Alexander & Smith, 2020). One important sector experiencing a different trend is the approach and way people use bicycles to get rid of boredom and at the same time to do sport as well (Hannam et al., 2021). As a social sector that has experienced a direct impact from the pandemic, tourism has adapted various ways to maintain its sustainability including the transformation of bicycle tourism which has become a trend in the time of pandemic. Almost all tourism sectors are hampered because of the government's recommendation to carry out the COVID-19 health protocols and other various policies of the government.

Living in such a hard situation during this pandemic, tourism has also needed to transform into various products applicable with COVID-19 health protocols. One of the most chosen ones are cycle tourism offering an active sport, physically-distanced and help to increase the immune system and maintain health. Pandemic tourism is identical to those who maximize sport amidst the pandemic. Moreover, cycling is inevitable with pandemic tourism in which many people with different backgrounds have massively got the advantage of bikes (Reid, 2020). In Yogyakarta, cycle tourism has

become increasingly massive which has emerged sporadically due to the pandemic situation. In addition, life in the time of pandemic outbreak has insisted on persistent approaches on how humans dynamically change their social life according to the social process happening around them. Furthermore, the experience of using bicycle within society has blatantly accumulated the mode of social force in shaping a new pattern of sport in public spaces in which people gather to exchange the symbolic meaning of cycling.

Cycling that is initially carried out for sports and active movement has finally become tourist attractions where tourism aspects have become an inherent part of every cycling activity itself. Interestingly, even though people do not specifically intend to travel, in practice, they carry out various aspects of tourism by bicycle such as enjoying historical heritages, visiting natural landscapes, going across the rivers, mountains and villages, or they could simply sightsee the city view with the offer of open tourist attractions and pay a visit to traditional and modern culinary within it. Such conditions should be understood that the meaning of bicycle tourism is more flexible and it is not strictly assumed with a specific form of standard that requires a pattern for bicycle tourism. It has emerged as an eminent part of the crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic to overcome the human needs to do sport and maintain the immune system on the one hand and to travel on the other hand (Zafri et al., 2021).

For this reason, a term of pandemic tourism is very suitable to be attributed to bicycle tourism because of its spontaneous and sporadic activity. It has fulfilled the pandemic's common needs of doing active sport and implementing social and physical distance at the same time. Cycling is a perfect example for sports that require social distancing (Nikitas et al., 2021). Accordingly, cycle tourism could be promoted from a pandemic sport to a pandemic tourism

in which people can independently access and participate in many ways of escaping from their routine and boredom of stay-at-home. Keen to get back to normal life with freely spending holiday and leisure time, people tend to figure out tourism with the current pandemic, that is cycling has become the alternative one to choose. From this point, a pandemic lifestyle which is primarily concerned with health is created to be the most “likely new” social order obviously constructed by society during a pandemic.

As the way social and cultural things are constructed, pandemic lifestyle is understood as anything related to pandemic which offers people to adjust with the current situation and produce so-called social order. A thing that becomes lifestyle strives for a collective awareness of the society to keep it up along with the daily life and persistently produce it all the way. Therefrom, a pandemic lifestyle could actually be able to cover more things rather than merely sport itself since it is part of the social process in general which manipulates many aspects of life. In this context, however, cycle tourism has been stated as a pandemic lifestyle since it is massively and sporadically carried out by the people in doing sport during the pandemic. The main motivation is that it is persistently related to health of both physical and psychological concern and the awareness of a sustainable environment.

Conclusion

This article has offered a potential discourse and outlined how cycling can bring forward to be a subject of study which has, in particular, penetrated social, economic and cultural aspects of life amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, there is a bridge to connect many aspects of the pandemic that inherently ignites knowledge on the one hand and intrigues policy makers which may draw upon to convince society and the business sector as well.

This article has outlined the findings primarily concluded as the main foundation of pandemic shaping influential social orders and cultural performances. In this context, by applying the sociology of tourism, they are found in tourism with a particular topic of cycle tourism as pandemic tourism and pandemic lifestyle at once. As the government has designed an upcoming policy of possibility to return to normal life, what has been reminded and thought by the pandemic has shaped social life at the same time. These findings have already put forward positive proposals to social discourse and tourism sector in particular in order to formulate the ideal models of tourism after the pandemic.

Although this article identified a paucity of patterned pandemic tourism, to estimate the specific aspects of formal regulation and at the same time due to the specific and limited research context, the emergence of such a term has provided the potential tourism sectors which are in need to be developed in accordance with crisis situations. Having experienced many forms of active sports and other physical activities, cycling is the most chosen one in order to be able to overcome pandemic impacts. Finally, in order to take care of mental and physical health mostly affected by the pandemic, cycling is comprehensively articulated by the attributions related to the current social circumstance during a pandemic by introducing pandemic sport and lifestyle.

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Author's Declaration

Authors' contributions and responsibilities

We are B.J. Sujibto (Author 1/A1) and Mira Arba'atun (Author 2/A2) hereby declare that the manuscript has been prepared, written, read and approved to submit to this journal by us. All sources used in researching and writing it are fully acknowledged and all quotations properly identified based on research data we have conducted. A1 contributed to create a research design and developed the theoretical framework. A2 conducted data collection and together with A1 categorized the results. A1 carried out the processing data, performing data analysis and interpretation of research results. A1 wrote of the draft manuscript preparation, A1 and A2 wrote the final manuscript with input from us. A1 and A2 discussed and reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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