Geographical and Historical Potential of Merjosari Water Site, Malang City and Its Utilization as Learning Resources

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Abstract: Malang city has various historical sites as one of the relics of past civilizations as evidence of the glory of the Kanjuruhan Kingdom to Singhasari Kingdom. One of them is a legacy that not many people know, in the form of a water site or partirtaan located in Merjosari Village. There are two sites, namely Cerumprit Water Site and Kasin Water Site. Even though the current condition has changed, the two water sites can be used as a learning resource with the aim of fostering awareness of the historical history of students. This water site has potential both from its history and geographical conditions. The method used in this paper is historical research methodology aimed at uncovering historical facts contained in the site. The second uses descriptive qualitative methods to describe the Merjosari Site Area. The historical potential contained in this site, shows that there are partirtaan and society that cannot be separated. Geographical potential is the location of the site which is still natural, not many people know. So that learning can be based on the environment. With this potential, this site can be used as a contextual learning resource.

1. Introduction
Malang City is one of the areas located on a high land area of about 445-536 meters above sea level. Malang is located between Mount Kawi, Mount Panderman, Mount Arjuno, Mount Semeru, Mount Buring, and is passed by the Brantas River, Amprong River and Bango River. Malang City is one of the cities that has natural tourism destinations in East Java, as well as the second city spread in East Java after Surabaya which has an area of about 110.06 Km2 [1]. Malang City is part of a regional unit known as Malang Raya. Malang City is also one of the cities that has historical heritages which are partially converted into educational tourism. The legacy in Malang is very diverse, ranging from buildings, temples, partirtaan, and so on [2]. The heritage in Malang City makes the characteristics of this city as a support for the city's progress. These relics can also be used as learning resources in various ways that can be done [3], [4]. Learning in schools certainly requires learning resources that are used as references in the learning process. Learning resources are learning tools as appropriate tools to complement other learning resources [5]-[8]. Learning resources have benefits to increase knowledge, expand concepts, and foster students' interest in learning from before [6], [9]. Every teacher has an freedom to explore various learning resources in the surrounding environment to support learning.

One way of learning history that can be done is by visiting the site. This activity has the aim of helping students understand historical material directly, presenting real, interesting, and clear history [10], [11]. Increase students' interest in the history learning process and help teachers explain in detail by looking at the site directly. Making students and teachers in the learning process and their explanations better accepted. This makes the innovative nature and professionalism of the history teacher will influence the role in the effort to find the latest breakthroughs for the development of history teaching development. [12], [13].

Learning by visiting nearby sites can also increase understanding of the local history in the neighborhood. Sources of learning history can also come from local wisdom that is still relevant to the times[14]. Local history-based learning can bring students to real situations in their environment. Local history learning is the learning process using various learning resources located around the school or the student's neighborhood [15]. The use of the environment as a learning resource that is contextual will encourage learning motivation [16], [17].

Utilization of local history contained in the surrounding environment still cannot be done by all students and teachers. In addition, not all students know that local history can be used as a learning resource to support learning. The sources of local history that exist and develop among certain
regional communities are oral traditions, objects, or sites that have historical value [18], [19]. It should be used properly as a learning resource so that learning objectives are achieved.

One of the local histories located in Merjosari Village, Lowokwaru District, Malang City, namely the Cerumprit Water Site and Kasin Water Site which are known as Malang Water Site Areas [20]. The importance of preserving the remains of the Kanjuruhan Kingdom and the Kadiri Kingdom is very much needed. Therefore we must know the characteristics and history of these water sites, so that there are no mistakes in preserving them. In line with the explanation from Bambang (56 years) as the caretaker of the water site, the people of Merjosari still know little about this water site. It is located in the middle of rice fields and plantations so that the route to the site is difficult to pass [21]. Geographically, water sites have a very important role for the existence of the environment [22]. Some people who know just want to know by visiting this site, but the desire to learn history is still lacking. Based on the explanation above, further research is needed to complement the existing data.

2. Methods

The method used in this paper is the historical writing method which consists of five stages, namely: 1) selecting the topic to be written, 2) collecting various written sources (heuristics), 3) sources of verification (extreme criticism and internal criticism) so that it is known where used and not used, 4) interpretation (analysis and synthesis) of writing analysis based on selected sources, and 5) writing papers because they are carried out systematically according to the rules (Abdurahman & Safa, 2007; Basri, 2006; Kuntowijoyo, 2003). In this historical methodology, the researcher explores the historical background of the use of water sites in the past. In the search process, historical sources can be seen from the condition of the site along with other supporting artifacts in the area around the site. Through the process of verification and interpretation of the collected data, the historiography of this water site can be written as a learning resource for students. In addition to the historical method to reveal historical facts, this study also uses descriptive qualitative research methods with the research locations, namely Cerumprit Water Sites and Kasin Water Sites which are located in Merjosari Village, Lowokwaru District, Malang City. The qualitative approach in this research is to analyze the geographic potential of the environment around the site. The subject of this research is the community around the site as a data source. This method is also used to analyze the potential of the site to become a source of contextual learning for students [23]–[25]. The objects in this research are Cerumprit Water Site and Kasin Water Site. Data obtained from various data sources, namely in the form of sites, oral sources in the form of informants, namely the site caretaker.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Merjosari Geographical Potential

Merjosari Village is one of the villages located in Lowokwaru District, Malang City, East Java. Merjosari Village is located in a hilly area which has high land and lowland areas. Has an area of about 36 km, with a distance of 5 km from the capital city of Lowokwaru sub-district. Merjosari is located at an altitude above sea level about 452 m. Has 15 (RW) and 104 (RT). It has a population of around 20,092 with a population density of about 6 km2 [26].

Merjosari is one of the villages that has a complete level of education from Elementary School, Junior High School, Vocational High School, to Higher Education. [27]. Community occupation ranks as a farmer and trader. Because the land is still very large, which can be used for agriculture and plantations (see Figure 1.).
The journey that must be taken to the Merjosari Site Area also passes through various plantations and rice fields that have various levels of slopes. Travel through roads that are a bit extreme. Due to the fact that the site is located in the middle of a rice field area and is not visible from settlements, it makes this place less known to many people. In that case, the Geographics of Merjosari Urban Village can be used as outdoor learning that utilizes the Merjosari water site.

3.2. **Historical Potential of Merjosari Water Site**

Malang has various historical sites scattered throughout the city and district. One of the many historical sites in Malang is the Merjosari Water Site. Not only one water site, but there are two adjacent sites named Cerumprit Water Site and Kasin Water Site. Why is it called the Merjosari Water Site area, because it is located along the river flow that passes through the Merjosari village (Interview with Mr. Bambang, on July 29, 2020)[21]. It is known that there are many other unknown water sites that require further research.

The first site was called the Cerumprit Water Site. Information regarding this site is still very difficult to find in the mass media. Its location adjacent to residential areas does not make this site known. The function of this water source is used by local residents as a public bath and water for the residents' rice fields located around the water source. Several years ago a water plantation belonging to the Regional Drinking Water Company was built. There is a Yoni-shaped stone with a diameter of about 50 cm. which is located next to a running water source (see figure 2).

When viewed from the structure and shape of Yoni which is showing that this pertirtaan was built during the Hindu kingdom, namely Kanjuruan. It is said that in the past it was used as a bath for students who wanted to seek knowledge (Interview with Mr. Bambang, on July 29, 2020). Road
between Cerumprit and Kasin Water Site. A large yoni shaped like a mortar, made of andesite stone, was also found in the area of the residents' plantation (see figure 3).

![Figure 3. Yoni which is located in the Merjosari plantation area (Source: Personal Documentation, 2020)](image)

The second site is the Kasin Water Site. Located in the middle of Merjosari rice fields. On this site is shaped like a level that symbolizes life (Birth-Life-Death). There is also a yoni in the shape of a square which is where the water sources come out on this site (see figure 4.). There is another yoni in the shape of a large oval stone and this is evidence that the pertirtaan was built during the late Kadiri Kingdom. Previously, they were used as brahmas to meditate and purify themselves. This is why Merjosari and Malang are one of the places to study, because there are many partners, where water is the source of life (Interview with Mr. Bambang, July 29, 2020). It should be noted that around the Merjosari Water Site there are also Islamic boarding schools. Actually, many artifacts were found, but they were stolen. So that is the need for utilization and preservation to protect the site. When viewed from the two pertirtaan that leaned on the slope of the ground with a U pattern, it was known in the vicinity of the Singosari Kingdom [28], [29].

![Figure 4. Casin Water Site (Source: Personal Documentation, 2020)](image)

3.3. **Merjosari Water Site Area as a Learning Source**

Learning resources are a system that consists of various materials in the form of messages, people, equipment, techniques, environments that are deliberately created and used for the learning process in accordance with the objectives to be achieved. [3], [11], [30] The environment is a very important source of learning. The importance of local history education which aims to find out about the history of the area. It aims to increase historical awareness with local history [31]–[33].
One of the local histories in Malang is the Merjosari Water Site Area, namely the Cerumpit Water Site and the Kasin Water Site. The need for awareness of the history of each individual, but this is sometimes still lacking in every citizen. One example is the preservation and utilization of the change of function that occurred, such as the Cerumpit site which is now the PDAM and the Kasin Water Site which are still beautiful but there are several structures that were damaged by people for the benefit of agricultural land.

The location of the Cerumpit water site which is close to residential areas has made the Regional Drinking Water Company build a water pond around it. The Cerumpit site is also used as a public bathing place by local residents and for irrigating rice fields. The water that comes out is also quite heavy. This water site was allegedly built during the Kanjuruhan Kingdom period (Interview with Mr. Bambang, on July 5, 2020) [21]. Evidenced by the existence of a small round flat Yoni stone structure next to a water source, the yoni is shaped like this one similar to the structure during the Kanjuruhan Kingdom period.

The location of the Kasin water site, which is located in the middle of rice fields, makes this site not widely touched by people. The beauty of the site is still very visible so that the structure of the water source and water flow is still visible. The large square-shaped Yoni rock is still preserved and there are other yoni large enough for its diameter to indicate it was made during the late Kadiri Kingdom. Not far from this site there are rocks as a place to stop or meditate for brahmas (Interview with Mr. Bambang, on July 5, 2020)[21]. Therefore the Cerumpit water site is a bathing place for knowledge seekers (students) while for the Kasin water site it is a place of purification and meditation for those who already have high knowledge and also brahmins.

In the analysis, the research team formulated steps that could be taken as the use of the Merjosari Water Site Area, including the following:

| Utilization | Method of Implementation | Implementation Outcomes |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Geography   | Outdoor Learning (Adventure-based), this method is supported by a trip between the Cerumpit Water Site to the Kasin Water Site which has an up and down path. | Knowing the geographical conditions, livelihoods, crops, and rock and soil structures found in the Merjosari Water Site Area |
| History     | Outdoor Learning (Adventure-based), the Cerumpit Water Site and the Kasin Water Site are water sources that have existed since ancient times, but had different kingdom periods. | Knowing the historical values contained in the Site such as evidence of rock remains and water sites. Like the Cerumpit Water Site which is a legacy of the Kanjuruhan Kingdom and the Kasin Water Site which is a legacy of the Kadiri Kingdom. So that learning outside the classroom is expected to know the difference. |
| Religious   | Tourism based on environmental life. by highlighting the local historical side that is different from other places in accordance with the surrounding cultural khanasah based on the cultural treasures around. | Knowing the function of the Merjosari Water Site which was previously used as a place of self-purification by brahmas, so that later it is expected to be able to take the religious values contained in the Merjosari Water Site |

Table 1. Utilization of Merjosari Water Site
(Source: Personal, 2020)

Some of the ways to use the above have also had positive impacts, such as new livelihoods that have emerged. Then the introduction of the Merjosari Water Site to the public through various media so as not to be forgotten. Therefore, if you consider the use of the Merjosari Water Site Area as a source of learning or historical tourism object, you can later increase your love of studying history by having new views, experiences and understandings by coming directly to the Merjosari Water Site Area. Can take advantage of and make historical awareness at the level of the surrounding
environment, so that they can participate in maintaining and understanding the Merjosari Water Site Area which is located in Merjosari Village, Lowokwaru District, Malang City.

4. Conclusions

The water site is also used to raise historical awareness with the values obtained from the evidence of the legacy of the Kanjuruhan Kingdom and the Kadiri Kingdom. Various things can be learned on water sites not only to satisfy the curiosity of visitors or learners, but also to understand the meaning contained in the site. The Cerumpit water site is a bathing place for knowledge seekers (students) while the Kasin water site is a place of purification and meditation for those who already have high knowledge and also brahmas. Therefore, at present around the area there are many Islamic boarding schools and schools. The utilization of the geographic and historical potential of the site area merjosari in history learning to be an economical learning source and easily accessible to the community and the schools closest to the location, although the route that must be passed is a little difficult to pass. Learning activities that can be done are field studies or outdoor learning. This changes learning activities from initially understanding written concepts to participatory learning by interacting directly with water sites. Through field study activities, students will have a high learning experience because they interact with water sites directly. In addition, students can learn more deeply with field activities rather than learning conceptually through books. Because new information that is not published in students' books can foster curiosity so that it can encourage better search for information directly. Another advantage of having a field study is that the material that students acquire will last longer and are not immediately abandoned.

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