Historical park of inclusive tourism development in Semarang

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Abstract. The idea of a historical park to manage colonial heritage in Semarang has not yet been noticed. History Park is a concept that has a conservative meaning towards heritage. The research was qualitative project with a descriptive design. The data sources were obtained from informants and documents. It was recorded that 16 participants were involved in this study, including; tourists, city governments, stakeholders, historians, archaeologists, and observers of historical heritage. Data were collected using interview and observation. The correctness of the data is checked through triangulation. Data analysis was performed using an interactive model. The results showed that the idea of a historical park as a management concept for colonial heritage in the Old City of Semarang was accepted by the public and stakeholders with an interest in developing inclusive tourism in Semarang. The historical park contains at least three elements; disability friendly, elderly friendly, and child friendly. The conclusion is historical park as an alternative concept that combines the interests of preserving historical heritage as well as inclusive tourism. The application of this concept in tourism activities can attract the enthusiasm of the public to understand the history of the colonial Semarang. The promotion of inclusive tourism is becoming more attractive with the historical park content.

1. Introduction

Urban tourism development often focuses on economic aspects rather than managing historical and cultural resources [1] [2] [3]. Almost every city has a characteristic form of historical and cultural heritage that very diverse and has become a marker of the city's civilization. Surabaya, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Malang, Kudus, Cirebon, Bandung, Makassar, and the other cities in Indonesia record the nation's journey through various buildings and cultural patterns of urban communities that are difficult to find something that equivalent [4] [5] [6]. This aspect must manage to strengthen urban tourism aspects, especially in developing an inclusive tourism model. The rich history of a city can be attractive for every tourist, considering that every individual has an interest in history and culture. Semarang is one of the cities that has quite a lot of historical heritages. In the northern area near the coast, European-style buildings stand tall and still can be seen in detail on each side [7]. It stretches 31 hectares in line with the Semarang Beach area [8] [9]. The management of this rich historical heritage has not found the right and synergistic results with efforts to develop inclusive tourism. It seems policymakers did not find the appropriate concept to develop these ideas.

The discussion about historical heritage resources management in a city leads to the establishment of a place that binds all historical buildings. Rosenzweig and Blackmar [10] called it a historical park. The purpose of this idea is to care and to maintain the historical heritage as a place for learning about past of the city. In his work, historical heritage is placed as valuable objects and become symbols of urban civilization. After that, the historical park developed for entertainment reasons aims to attract people to the history and urban civilization. It is quite efficient so that Central Park, which became the prototype for this activity, can be a city with historical heritage management based on a pro attitude towards disseminating historical knowledge [11] [12]. Today, finding a city that has an abundance of historical heritage sources is quite hard, mainly carrying out activities to make a compilation of historical records about existing historical heritage buildings. Cities in Central Java with messy cultural heritage records, namely; Pekalongan, Demak, Tegal, Brebes, Grobogan, Wonosobo, Temanggung, Pati, and Purworejo. The average case shows that historical relics are never considered meaningful and have memories. It is a challenge for heritage conservationists and urban tourism developers to carry out collective work to create a historical park in Semarang.

The historical park usually contains elements; informative historical heritage, open space for discussion, a separation between historical buildings and shopping areas, and complete public
facilities. The four elements become the minimum standard, an area designed to be a historical park that can provide educational information as well as spoil visitors with various facilities provided by the manager [13] [14] [15]. The historical park manages in cooperation with the city government and stakeholders who are concerned with the preservation of historical heritage as well as urban civilization. Historical park development also needs historians, cultural observers, and architects who focus on the study of city history to involve. This is to confirm that the developed aspect does not out from the historical substance of the city. Therefore, the developed aspect does not out from the historical substance of the city. To reach this level, Semarang still needs several stages, at least until today, people's attention to historical heritage in the old city area has increased significantly [16] [17]. It is the base capital for the development of a historical park that is not only concerned with the economic goals, but also social, historical, and cultural aspects which are more prioritized for the development process.

The description above shows that the existing management of cultural heritage is not yet oriented towards sustainable and inclusive urban development. Therefore, a research is needed that encourages the creation of cultural heritage management that prioritizes economic as well as socio-cultural objectives. The present research aims to analyze the potential of the old town of Semarang to be a modality in developing a historical park that is synergistic with inclusive tourism. An important contribution of this study is to support the old town of Semarang as a National Heritage City and a World Heritage City. The focus of this study namely; management of historical buildings, integration with inclusive tourism, and socio-community carrying capacity. Therefore, it can produce a practical idea in urban development efforts.

2. Methods

The present research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach [18]. The object described is the potential of Kota Lama Semarang (Old Town) as an integral historical park with inclusive tourism. One of the purposes of the descriptive approach is to produce an accurate description of a concept, describe the mechanism of a process or relationship, provide a detailed description, create a set of categories, and classify research subjects. The data source of this research is informants and documents. There are 16 participants, including; tourists, government, stakeholders, historians, archaeologists, architects, and observers of historical objects. The documents are historical heritage management policies and urban tourism development in Semarang.

Data collected using interviews and observation [19]. The credibility of the data checked by triangulation. The triangulation technique is needed because each data collection has weaknesses and advantages, by combining at least two methods, for example, in-depth interviews and document studies, each technique covers the weaknesses, therefore capture of reality becomes more reliable [20]. Data analysis used an interactive model. Activities in the qualitative analysis are carried out interactively and take place continuously until saturated. Activities in data analysis namely; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification [21].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. History of the Old City of Semarang

The history of the Semarang old town begins with the signing of an agreement between the Mataram Kingdom and the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC) January 15, 1678 [22] [23]. At that time, Amangkurat II handed over Semarang to the VOC as payment because the VOC had succeeded in helping Mataram suppress the Trunojoyo rebellion. After Semarang under power by VOC rule, the city began to build. This region is an area in northern Semarang that was the center of trade for the Dutch East Indies and Southeast Asia in the 19th and 20th centuries. At that time, to secure the residents and their territory was built a fort, it named the Vijhoek fort [24]. To speed up the transportation routes between the three fortified gates, transportation roads created the main road, named: Heeren Straat. Currently, it is called Lt. Gen. Soeprapto Street. One of the entrance location to the fort that exists until now is the Berok Bridge, which is called De Zuider Por [25] 26] [27].

The Semarang old town area is known as the Oud stadt. The area is 31 hectares. Based on the geographical conditions, this area is separated from the surrounding areas. The look of this area is characterized by Western Europe, especially the Netherlands, so, this area's nickname "Little
Netherland”. In that place, there are about 50 ancient buildings that still stand great. In general, the character of the buildings in this region followed the buildings on the European continent around the 1700s. It can be seen from the distinctive details of the building and the ornaments that are identical to the European style.

In the 18th century, European trading airlines opened offices in the Semarang old town, also known as Kota Lama. It means this city was an important trading center in Southeast Asia, namely, the giant company Kian Gwan or Oei Tiong Ham Concern belongs to Southeast Asia's first conglomerate. Oei Tiong Ham was also in the Semarang old town. Kian Gwan's company branches in Southeast Asia, Europe, America, and China, controlled from Semarang.

![Figure 1. Aerial Image of Semarang Old Town Surrounded by Vijhoek Fort](source: atlasofmutualheritage.nl)

The fortress in the old town now is out of sight. It has collapsed along with the reform of the white settlement in the early 19th century. This fortress only had one gate on the south side and five watchtowers, each tower has a name: Zeeland, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Raamsdonk, and Bunschoten. The Dutch government moved Chinese settlements in 1731 near the Dutch set. It aims to controlled Chinese activities easier [4] [28] [29]. Therefore, the fortress was not only a military center but also a watchtower for all Chinese activities. The uniqueness of this region can be seen through the existence of the Malay village, Chinese, and Kauman village in Semarang. It is next to the European City or Little Netherlands. These are the uniqueness of Semarang, by its plurality and harmony.

### 3.2. Historical Buildings in the Semarang Old Town

Rahardjo stated that the Semarang old town was a form of European civilization progress in the 19th and 20th centuries [26], and reflected the development of a capitalist economy that was supported by the colonialism system at that time. As a result, the urban atmosphere and the building styles in that region showed an optimistic and full of confidence that the Dutch East Indies at that time was an established economic center in Southeast Asia that supported the life of the Dutch people in Europe. Caring for and preserving this area do not mean worshiping the greatness of the colonial nation and humiliating the Indonesian. It is the most important reflection sources for the development of Indonesian people who are optimistic about the future. Foucault stated that optimist humans are those
who understand the past, contemplate the present, and plan for the future. Therefore, as a historical
park, this area is very relevant for to provide information about the history of Semarang during the
colonial period. Several buildings list as part of a historical park wrote in table 1.

Table 1. List of historical buildings in the Semarang Old Town

| No | Name of Building | Description |
|----|------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Old Semarang Post Office | It was built during the postal service in Indonesia for almost half a century. Previously, when the postal institution formed by J.P. Theben Tervile began operating in 1862. Semarang is one of the first three cities as the pioneer of postal services. |
| 2 | Marabunta Building | The Marabunta building has a unique characteristic, that is the existence of a giant ant statue on the roof. In 1854 there was a regular performance among the European society that held once a month. It is likely that Marabunta already existed at that time. And it was used by this group and other groups to present the play. This assumption is supported by the curved building style and the slender columns in the auditorium. It is a favorite design until the end of the last century. |
| 3 | Lawang Sewu | Lawang Sewu is an ancient building from the Dutch colonial era that was built in 1904. At first, this building was for the main office of the Dutch colonial railway company or Nederlands Indische Spoorweg Naatschappij (NIS). The building with three floors (1850-1940) created by well-known Dutch architects, he is Professor Jacob F. Klinkhamer and BJ Queendag. |
| 4 | Marba Building | The Marba building is located in the corner of the old town, opposite Taman Srigunting, at Let. Jend. Suprapto Street No. 33 Semarang. It was built in the mid-19th century. It is two floors building with ± 20 cm wall thickness. This building stood around the middle of the 19th century. The development of this building was initiated by Marta Badjunet, a Yemen citizen, who was a wealthy merchant at that time. |
| 5 | Blenduk Church | Blenduk was established in 1753. It is one of the landmarks in the old town. Different from other buildings, that generally fence off the road and do not accentuate the shape, this Neo-Classical style building appears in contrast. |
| 6 | State finance building Semarang | This building used to be a building named Het Groote Huis (city hall) that replaced the Staadhuist in Brajangan. Because the overall shape is like a rectangular block, this building is called the papak building. Besides being a city hall, this papak building functioned as a Police Station and a Residency Office, a Post Office and Finance, and a Courtroom for the Raad Van Justice (Court for the European People). |
| 7 | Berok Bridge | This bridge was built in the 19th century. It functioned to connect the Old City / Oud Stadt that was fenced by a pentagon-shaped fortress (Vijfhoek Fort) with the other parts of the city. However, after the fort demolished in 1842, the bridge was left. This bridge is located at the West Gate or Gouvernement sport. The west gate is one of the fort gates of Oud Stadt, besides the south gate or de Zuider Port (at Suari Street) and the East gate or Oost port (Raden Patah Street). The berok bridge was named Gouvernementsbrug and replaced with Societeisbrug. |
| 8 | Johar Market Semarang | The history of Pasar Johar Semarang began more than a century ago. In 1860, there was a market located in the eastern part of the square / alun-alun. It was fenced with rows of johar trees on the side of the road. It is why the name Pasar johar created. The location of this market is on the west side of the Semarang market. It is known as the Pedamaran Market. In the past, this market was the largest in Southeast Asia. |
Semarang Tawang Railway Station

Tawang Station is the replacement of the first NIS's Tambak Sari Station. The construction of the first station was marked by a ground hoeing ceremony by the Governor-General Mr. Baron Sloet van de Beele, at the same time with the formation of the NIS Railroad system on June 16, 1864. NIS provides the Semarang-Yogyakarta-Solo route. After experienced a halt development process, this railroad service was completed on February 10, 1870.

Sri Gunting Park

Taman Srigunting was originally a VOC military parade ground in Semarang when the center of government of the trading company shifted from Jepara to Semarang. This park is near to the Blendok Church and was built in the late 1970s and early 1980s. However, the park is not open to the public.

Sumber: Managed from the data of the research

3.3. The concept of an inclusive historical and tourism park based on the old city of Semarang

A historical park is an alternative idea that can be used to combine goals in managing historical heritage buildings and for tourism interests. Every individual is interested in history [30], because each bound to the past of a community. The informant argued: "Historical parks are a positive idea, recently historical heritage buildings have been damaged, while the old town is getting more and more crowded, there should be a concept that can prevent the historical heritage buildings from being preserved, but tourism will continue". An opinion is an actual expression, where the historical heritage buildings in the old town have suffered a lot of damage, and the condition is worrying. Therefore, it is getting more and more crowded and needs to manage a more dynamic idea. The informant argued: "a historical park can collect all historical buildings in the old town, to manage as a tourism object, this is also a solution to share historical information to the public."

The historical park should be designed to be acceptable to all groups of people [17] [31], therefore tourists who are attracted to come not limited by age, gender, or physical ability. It is progress, considering that so far, tourism is still struggling with economic matters, not highlighting a more central problem, names humanity. The historical park designs should pay attention to those aspects. The informant argues: "the concept should be inclusive, therefore many people are interested, to build the space, it shows from the existing conditions, just how the government makes regulations to manage the flow of tourists." This opinion focuses on the regulation aspects that need to arrange to support tourism in the historical park. It is also a form of intervention for pushing inclusive policies can accommodate this concept.

The opinion above is supported by other informants: "inclusiveness is not only about regulations, but also access. That is why the manager needs to pay attention to the group with special needs to access the historical park. Rosenzweig and Blackmar argue that the historical park must consider the conditions of potential visitors or tourists, to increase inclusiveness, facilities and access must open widely [10]. Of course, currently, the promotion aspect is the most dynamic part of all circles. Social media is the most effective platform for promotion. The historical parks are easily recognized by tourists from abroad if posted on social media, promotion can run massively. The concept of the historical parks that are inclusive and arranged based on flow is a brilliant idea that is accepted by all circles. It emphasized that historical park is concepts that can collect the interests of preserving historical heritage, inclusive tourism, and dynamic urban planning to advance the economy of our society. Therefore, these findings are in line with the studies of Vissac [32] and Nami et al. [33] that historical park is part of public facilities in modern countries that is important to develop for education and urban tourism. Besides, there is an interest in preserving the historical heritage that includes in the historical park agenda.

4. Conclusions

The Semarang old town has become a city icon that has historical and cultural potential. If we analyzed, it feasible to develop as a historical park, especially for the history of the colonial period in Indonesia. Historical buildings in Semarang have a complex historical memory of the Dutch
colonialism in Indonesia. Therefore, it is very relevant to inclusive tourism, especially with an education theme. Thus, there is continuity between the historical park and inclusive tourism that developed. The society and stakeholders accepted the idea of the historical park that was designed even constructive ideas are given, for example; the content development should be based on digital technology, the information presented is not only textual but also contains the conditions of buildings in the past, and access to these places is sterile and safe for all groups. Based on correspondence with research participants, the development of a historical park contains at least three elements; disability friendly, elderly-friendly, and child friendly. It means that this idea is in line with the concept of inclusive tourism that will make Semarang as an area with a high level of trust and tourism comfort in Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

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