The challenges of Malay Kampung infrastructure as an Old Semarang cultural heritage area

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Abstract. The Malay Kampung is one of four areas of Old Semarang, which are expected to become a good heritage area. However, this area has suffered a lot of damage to the physical environment with limited infrastructure conditions. Therefore, this paper aims to explain the infrastructure challenges of Malay Kampung as a cultural heritage area. The research method used is qualitative with field observations and secondary data collection. Interviews were conducted to clarify field data and the condition of the remaining historical buildings. Based on the field results, we obtained secondary data for planning infrastructure improvements in Dadapsari Village, where Malay Kampung is included in the administration of this village. The study results show that there is still a physical decline in settlement and the environment, tidal flooding, damage to roads and drainage, the presence of inhabitable houses, and the lack of open space. The physical decline has also occurred in several old buildings that have a long history in this area which still receive less attention in this development. The Old Semarang area's rejuvenation through infrastructure development must still be considered a cultural heritage area. Especially the redevelopment on the rehabilitation of declining cultural heritage buildings.

1. Introduction

One of the issues in urban areas is the decline in physical and environmental quality in the old residential areas. This area has many indigenous people because they have had spiritual ties and locations for generations. The old area with cultural characteristics like this is one of the issues considered in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [1]. The Government seeks to improve the environment to increase the area by regenerating the area. The Government provides relatively large funding and invites the private sector to be involved in regional development. Urban renewal attempts to reverse this decline by improving the physical structure and environment, more importantly, the region's economic conditions. In this program, Government funds an effort to attract investment, especially tourism, to build many areas in the region [2, 3].

The Government and the community hope that there will be better regional development after the revitalization, especially tourism. Tourism is one of the keys for several regions to create the regional economy to develop even more [4, 5]. This is due to visitors or tourists, both foreign and local, who visit their settlements and travel to the old culture that still exists. Technically, these tourists carry out tourism activities, and the local community is a provider of cultural tourism to benefit from it [6, 7]. Several
things make cultural tourism a tourist destination that is quite attractive today, including the change in tourist interest from modern tourism to tourism that leads to past tourism [8, 9].

Historic areas have tourism activities mainly because of tourism by promoting local values and community participation. In its development, heritage areas are required to have principle values such as authenticity, local community traditions, community involvement, local attitudes and values, conservation, and the carrying capacity of the area [10, 11]. The old village is part of alternative tourism, providing evidence that this program has always succeeded in strengthening cultural and regional economic values. This village can create regional independence and make the area more recognizable.

The success of developing a heritage village is primarily determined by the potential for tourist attractions, human resources, and management institutions. No less important is the support for public facilities and infrastructure.

Infrastructure benchmarks for tourist areas are essential, but with a balanced control of both supply and demand. This leads to the availability of existing infrastructure in each area. The benchmark for infrastructure provision needs to be considered, especially attention to the potential and problems of different regions, mainly for heritage villages experiencing a physical and environmental decline. The conditions in the old city were made to improve the area's physical, social, and economic conditions. Revitalization could restore ancient regions, environments, streets, and buildings, by implementing new functions in their original arrangements to increase economic, social, tourism, and cultural activities. In general, revitalization means returning to the area by incorporating new modern activities [12, 13].

Environmental issues and area degradation become problems towards a world heritage city; poor conditions can eliminate little by little historical buildings. Severe damage to historic buildings is certainly detrimental to the history and identity of a city. Fortunately, currently, through the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, the central government is building the old city area. The development focuses on environmental infrastructures such as drainage networks, underground utility networks, roads, pedestrians and road accessories. Construction of drainage can reduce the impact of flooding in this area. There are three other areas: Malay Kampung, Kauman Kampung, and Chinatown Kampung, in addition to the Kota Lama area. Based on the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture on August 12, 2020, the four locations were designated as National Cultural Conservation Areas.

After rebuilding the old city of Semarang, the Government is trying to plan the development of other old areas. One of the following concerns is the Malay village, as part of the Old Semarang. Improving the old village is very important because it can be used as a regional economic development strategy. The infrastructure developed in the heritage area will provide convenience, comfort for residents and tourism visitors. Heritage tourism activities are also made easier because of the infrastructure facilities that will be provided. However, the problem is that the condition of the infrastructure in the Malay village area has decreased a lot. This condition is quite critical considering the need for heritage area development to maintain the authenticity of the heritage area. Therefore, this paper will explain the challenges of the Malay Kampung infrastructure as an Old Semarang cultural heritage area.

2. Methodology

The method used is qualitative; the researcher examines secondary data from various previous studies and regional planning carried out by the Government. One of the essential things is that the Malay Kampung area is part of slum-free city planning. The Government and the community have made a Settlement Environmental Arrangement Plan Document prepared with the intention that the Village Government and the community have guidelines in achieving ideal settlement conditions in the future. It should also be stated that Malay Kampung is not an administrative area itself. Still, most of it is located in the Dadapan Village area, and a small part is in the Kuningan Village. In the process, infrastructure data can be obtained from Dadapan Village to analyze the condition of infrastructure using data from this village.

There are secondary data about the infrastructure condition of the Dadapan village from the survey results as material for the analysis of the Malay Kampung infrastructure. The analysis was mainly related to the condition of the problematic area infrastructure, such as drainage, roads, clean water, solid waste,
settlements, and historic old buildings. The final analysis is related to Malay Kampung infrastructure management as a cultural heritage area of Old Semarang. The description was obtained from observations, document reviews, and related literature [14, 15].

3. Results and discussion
Several aspects of Malay Kampung infrastructure that need to be considered are that this area has a long history. Although compared to the other 3 old Semarang areas, Malay Kampung is among the newest ones. Some of these critical aspects are as follows:

3.1. The history of the Malay Kampung as a cultural heritage area
Malay Kampung is located in the Layer Street area, one of the Dadapsari villages included in the North Semarang District, Semarang. This area, a port area of Semarang, cannot be separated from the morphology of the Semarang River [16]. Thian Joe wrote the beginning of the Malay Kampung. According to Liem, the area was started by the existence of a small port which was a relocation from the old port of the Mangkang area in 1743. The Dutch carried this transfer closer to the fort city, later known as Boom Lama (The Old Boom). The arrival gate for Semarang traders consists of a shipping terminal equipped with a customs office and a fish market. Therefore, this area becomes crowded with loading and unloading activities from large ships to small ships and also many immigrants or traders who rest there. The Old Boom is the first landing site, so it is called land or land. Then appeared a small hamlet called Dusun Darat [17].

Not long after that, near Dusun Darat, another hamlet named Dusun Ngilir appeared. This hamlet is home to small boat miners who function as public transportation between cities around Semarang. The hamlet of Dusun Darat expanded until it merged with Dusun Ngilir due to the progress of trade. Because Malays inhabit both hamlets. Merchants of various ethnicities began to arrive. The arrival of Cirebon traders who migrated and settled in Malay Kampung in an area that became known as Cirebonan (where the Cirebon people live). A semi-permanent village house emerged with Javanese and Indie styles. They were followed by the arrival of ethnic Banjar, Madurese, and Bugis, whose buildings are oriented towards the Semarang River, responding to port and trade activities [16, 17].

This long history needs to be considered when various stakeholders want to improve the quality of the area. There are five principles for creating a framework for managing change in historical environments. The five principles are: 1) The historic environment is a shared resource; 2) Everyone must be able to participate in preserving the historic environment; 3) It is essential to understand the heritage value of a place; 4) Important places must be managed to maintain their values, and 5) Decisions on change must be reasonable, recorded and transparent, as lessons learned from important decisions [18].

From this statement above, it can be seen that there is a desire for a sustainability discourse in the strategy of restoring historic areas through urban regeneration. This means that the built environment and cultural expressions built from the heritage of the historic area must have the status of a sustainable asset that can provide benefits for the present and future of the city. These assets are not only limited to a cultural perspective. Still, they can become economic assets that can be exploited for economic gain, for example, through tourism or the activities of corporate companies in historic areas [19, 20].

3.2. The challenges of Malay Kampung infrastructure
By the Cultural Conservation Law mandate, the Semarang City Government continues to overcome the physical and environmental problems of Old Semarang. The first stage of urban renewal is for the old city area; then, the next stage will build other areas included in the Old Semarang heritage. One area that has received attention for the slum area arrangement program is Malay Kampung. The Government and the community are trying to protect this old area. All stakeholders are expected to understand the principles of conservation so as not to be misguided in planning. However, in realizing the ongoing physical development. The running program scheme is still the same as other areas, not specifically for Malay Kampung as a cultural heritage area.
The problem is that the old area of Malay Kampung is experiencing a severe physical and environmental decline, judging from the visual condition of its infrastructure. As shown in Figure 1. This can be seen in the figure of solid waste problem collection, limited sanitation, poor drainage, uninhabitable houses, wavy road surface, and the damage of old historic buildings.

![Figure 1.](image)

Source: Observation, 2021

The survey results on the infrastructure are also in line with the documents prepared by non-governmental organizations and the Government. Based on the document, the infrastructure condition of Dadapan Village, which includes Malay Kampung, is still experiencing problems [21]. Some critical infrastructure issues are as follows:

3.2.1. Local road infrastructure. The total length of the road in the Malay Kampung area is 3,740 meters. Roads of good quality and meet new aspects are 39.72%, which is still bad at 60.38%. Malay Kampung is located in Dadapan Village, as shown on the map in Figure 2. Most of the roads are in poor condition. The road to Malay Kampung is close to the city road, but it is not so prominent as a unique village and has a long history. The old building, a cultural heritage, does not appear from the road for those who do not pay attention. At the same time, the outside develops new buildings that are less characterized by the old area. So, it takes a solid landmark to show this old area seen from the highway.

3.2.2. Drainage problem. Drainage conditions that do not meet the requirements are 6.1 Ha, the number of drainage facilities that are not technically suitable is more than 50%, as shown on the map in Figure 3. This condition occurs because the geographical location of this area is in the Semarang North District, which borders the sea, resulting in tidal flooding.

3.2.3. Uninhabitable houses or the houses are irregular. Almost half of the settlements have this condition, includes historic houses that residents still occupy. Figure 4. From field observations, it can be seen that the quality of existing settlements is decreasing because this area is often flooded or has a tidal problem. The results of previous studies showed community resilience by adapting building elevations. However, this only solves local and temporary problems, has no impact on solving the wider environment.
3.2.4. *Sanitary technical problem*. Unsuitable sanitation facilities are many households; the number of unsuitable infrastructure facilities is 46.45%, as shown on the map in **Figure 5**. This area has much communal sanitation with conditions that are not by technical standards. This causes environmental conditions to deteriorate.

**Source:** [21]

**Figure 2.** Most of the local roads have been repaired, but in some places still damaged.

**Source:** [21]

**Figure 3.** Most of the drainage doesn’t work properly.

**Source:** [21]

**Figure 4.** There are still uninhabitable houses.

**Source:** [21]

**Figure 5.** Most of the sanitation facilities don’t meet the technical standard.

Data collection on the condition of the infrastructure is carried out in the field by NUSP Community Advisors with the Village Community Self-Help Agency, a community institution appointed to organize the implementation of policies based on the results of a mutual agreement by the community. The non-governmental organization has been trusted to be the community coordinator. In addition to the figures shown above, there are other infrastructure data such as water supply, waste, and fire infrastructure problems. Its function is almost the same, as a basis for improving the quality of the complex infrastructure, without directly linking it with cultural heritage areas, especially for Malay Kampung.

3.3. *The effort to improve the infrastructure of Malay Kampung*

In 2021 the Government will organize Malay Kampung, including most Dadapan Village; the others are in the Kuningan Village and Bandaharjo Village. However, the Government is revitalizing based on the administrative area so that Malay Kampung, as a cultural heritage area, becomes an inseparable part of
the revitalization of the administrative area. Several roads that tidal waves and floods have inundated will be completely overhauled—starting from Kakap Street, Dorang Street, Layer Street, Petek Street, Inspection Street, and many roads in the middle of residential areas. At some points, public spaces, food courts, piers, bridges, and gates will also be built. Several roads are also impassable by vehicles, but only for pedestrians. The revitalization of the Malay Kampung area is a continuation of the Old Town Area.

When urban regeneration began, a new creative and intensive economy was interpreted as reaffirming industrial production in urban centers. It is also an essential aspect of the latest round of industrial restructuring, with significant economic, social, and environmental implications [22]. Physical regeneration is a short-term strategy, while economic regeneration is a deep function with a more extended period. Physical regeneration can create attractive public areas with the support of old buildings and infrastructure that can represent aesthetic, cultural, and economic resources for new activities integrated with sustainable local activities [23].

3.4. The infrastructure of Malay Kampung as an Old Semarang cultural heritage

At first glance, the situation in the Malay Kampung area is like other kampungs in general. The thing that is a little different is that traces of old buildings are still visible. Most of the damaged heritage buildings are due to a lack of maintenance. On the one hand, many buildings with modern architecture have sprung up, reducing their meaning as an old area. The Government is trying to handle infrastructure in the Malay Kampung area through programs like elsewhere. Regarding the condition of Malay Kampung as a cultural heritage area, it has not been explicitly handled. Therefore, this discussion will convey the little concept of handling the infrastructure of this area as the cultural heritage of Old Semarang.

Starting from the point is the culture that is still maintained in this Malay village. The existence of community support and non-governmental organizations responsible for this development is the leading social capital. Furthermore, awareness of these cultures is essential for this society, not just solving infrastructure problems based on basic needs. Therefore, other stakeholders who care about this area must be involved immediately [24]. The urban heritage development approach is one of the strategies in the development of this area. This concept is helpful for all parties because it reminds the importance of addressing the tangible aspects and the intangible aspects of the constructed form, regarding the social aspect, the innate nature of helping to maintain social and cultural roots, that is, promoting social cohesion. This is very important because residents of historic areas recognize these values and can participate in conservation activities.

4. Conclusion

Based on the discussion results, it can be concluded that the infrastructure challenges of Malay Kampung as the Old Semarang cultural heritage area consist of two things, namely physical and non-physical. Physically and geographically, this area is located in North Semarang, which is close to the coast, so it is significantly affected by sea-level rise, sedimentation, and land subsidence. This condition more or less causes the quality of regional infrastructure to decrease over time. The declining infrastructure conditions are roads, drainage, accumulation of garbage, and declining quality of buildings. Some of the buildings in Malay Kampung that have experienced a decline are cultural heritage buildings. Special attention is given when the Government is going to revitalize the area. The non-physical challenge is the occurrence of cultural changes through a more contemporary village theme, which is different from the original culture of Malay Kampung. Therefore, many things need to be considered in rebuilding through urban renewal, especially the existing cultural heritage buildings. Concern for the cultural heritage in the Malay Kampung area requires cooperation with various parties, both the owner and the local community. By the revitalization plan through the settlement environmental management, it is hoped that this area will not experience cultural changes as part of the Old Semarang culture.
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