
The Role of Local Communities in the Preservation of Historical Heritage

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Abstract

Historical heritage is a heritage that has existed since ancient times, but over time many historical heritages have received less attention from the local government and local communities. The involvement of the local community in caring for, maintaining, and preserving these historical heritages is very important to be introduced to future generations. By developing human resources related to historical heritage sites. With support from the government through programs and the availability of adequate infrastructure for the preservation of historical heritage. If done consistently, this can have a positive impact on improving the economy in the cultural sector. In this case, it can have a positive impact on the sustainability of caring for and preserving historical heritage. to improve the welfare and standard of living of local residents by allowing them to obtain direct economic benefits from tourists by opening craft shops, souvenir shops, food stalls, etc., so that local residents can obtain more direct economic benefits from tourists, which will be used to improve their standard of living and welfare.

Keywords: role of society, preservation, historical heritage

INTRODUCTION

According to McCliskey et al, 2021 (in Yeni, 2021) Protecting historic sites is very important for local communities. This is because historical sites are part of Indonesian history. Relationships built by community members through cooperation and collaboration to achieve common goals and improve their quality of life are called community engagement. Many scientific researchers and government agencies support the involvement of local communities in preserving cultural heritage. So that historical heritage can advance to a global level and enable life around it. Conservation programs that should be promoted can be successful if local communities are involved in historical heritage. In this regard, the conservation charter of cities and historic urban areas understands the importance of encouraging the community to increase pride in historical heritage sites.

Their involvement is limited to established activities around heritage sites and they derive little economic benefit from the community participation it generates. Although they choose to have a say in the management of their legacy, the resulting community participation does not give them real power or control over the decisions made by those in power. However, spontaneous participation gives them the power to challenge the decisions made by those in power (Syiaifudin, 2022).

According to David Berry, 2003:106 (in Lelly, 2019) the concept of "Role" refers to the idea that human beings participate in social life as social role actors, subjective partners who balance standards. Therefore, people occupy certain positions in their workplaces and create relationships and expectations with their work, as one is expected to fulfill his or her responsibilities. According to Gross, Mason, and McEachern, roles consist of a set of beliefs given to individuals who occupy a particular social position. These beliefs arise as a consequence of social norms, so it can be said that roles are determined by social norms.

METHOD

This research method uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data was collected through direct observation at several historical sites, interviews with local communities, and literature studies related to the preservation of historical relics. In addition, documentation data on the role of the community in conservation and education was also analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Community

Indonesia is a country that has many ethnicities, religions, races, and cultures, therefore, Indonesia's diversity from Sabang to Merauke is one of its main assets. This must be preserved (Guntoro, 2023).

One of the material cultures that need to be preserved and protected is prehistoric and historical relics, both in the form of buildings, statues, sites, temples, and other ancient objects. These relics are commonly referred to as cultural heritage (Junaidi, 2020).

Community participation has a very broad meaning, experts say that community participation or role essentially consists of attitudes and behaviors, but the boundaries are unclear, easy to feel, experience, and practice, and difficult to formulate (Waluyo, 2002).

Types and Forms of Participation According to Cohen and Uphoff (1977) in Dwiningrum (2011), there are four types of participation, namely: 1. Participation in decision-making, which is the determination of ideas or concepts that involve common interests. Examples of participation

in decision-making are talking about an activity, participating in an activity, and providing ideas and concepts to be implemented.

In addition to maintaining the site, the community can be involved in small-scale restoration projects such as repairing historic building structures or repainting, in collaboration with conservation experts. This has been proven to increase the community's ownership of the site. The community plays an active role in organizing cultural events such as festivals, traditional art performances, or traditional ceremonies around historical sites. This activity not only preserves traditions but also attracts tourists and provides direct economic benefits to the local population (Lansiw, 2024).

Involving the community as local tour guides or educational resource persons about historical sites can increase the understanding of visitors while empowering the community economically, training programs for the younger generation are also important so that they understand the historical and cultural values that must be preserved. A clear example of the role of the community is the failure of self-help funds for the preservation of the site, as happened in the Panjang Palace petition. Donations from local communities and visitors can be used for facility improvements or other conservation activities (Siswanta, 2020)

According to Rahardjo (1996) and Mardijino (2008), participation can be interpreted as community participation in an activity. Community involvement in development, management, and preservation programs Participation is defined as a willingness to help the success of an activity in accordance with the community's ability for various purposes that benefit the local community.

1. Preservation

In the great Indonesian dictionary, the word "preservation" means "protection or care from extinction", so it can be concluded that preservation is an effort to protect, maintain, or care for heritage objects so that they do not deteriorate. In addition, the word "preservation" can also be combined with the term "conservation" which means an effort to maintain or preserve something. A culture can develop significantly only with the help of society. Everything becomes better as a result of human efforts in thinking and acting.

Preservation efforts are when a person or group does something with the aim that a culture or tradition does not disappear over time. Therefore, the mapping and transfer carried out by archaeologists and historians of Central Java is an example of preservation efforts that are very important for cultural studies. The community strives to preserve historical sites and the traditions that exist in them. For example, the construction of a small museum that functions as a storage

place for historical objects found around it, Javanese traditional ceremonies are carried out as an effort to preserve culture and customs (Kurniawan, 2021)

According to Alwasih (2006), preservation is an effort based on the supporting components that are preserved. Basic preservation strategy Three steps towards cultural revitalization According to Alwasih:

1. Understanding
2. Planning
3. Integrating creativity into culture.

Managers and local communities make every effort to preserve cultural heritage so that the community can feel more direct benefits from these cultural resources (Tanudirjo, 2003: 11) (Monica, 2023).

2. Historical relics

Historical relics are various objects of past relics that still exist or are stored today and have historical value. According to Law Number 11 of 2010 concerning Cultural Heritage, cultural heritage is an object that must be preserved through the determination process because it has important value for history, science, religion, and culture (article 1:1).

Historical relics are various historical objects that still exist or are stored today and have historical value. In every effort to utilize cultural heritage with a conservation perspective, the participation of the community in efforts to preserve cultural heritage must be a top priority. Conservation efforts must increase public awareness of the existence of cultural heritage and make the community more involved and related to the preservation and utilization of the surrounding cultural heritage (Wirastari & Suprihardjo, 2012: 63).

CONCLUSION

To preserve cultural heritage for future generations, the role of local communities is very important in preserving historical heritage. One form of active community participation can be in the form of protecting, caring for, and preserving historical sites in their environment. In addition, participating in cultural, educational, and promotional activities can foster awareness of the importance of preserving history. By working with the government and related institutions, the community can help preserve its authenticity and historical value for future generations.

The government and related agencies should increase educational programs on the importance of preserving history for local communities, especially the younger generation, from planning to implementation to ensure the sustainability of the program. Local communities can

gain economic support through sustainable culture-based tourism, which will give them incentives to preserve historical heritage.

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