Journal of Social Studies Research (E-ISSN: 3090-4730)
Volume 3, Nomor 2 (Juli-Des, 2025), 161-166
DOI: 10.33059/jssr.v3i2.11432
[Submited; 12/05/2025] [Reviewed: 15/06/2025] [Published: 10/07/2025]
Published by: Samudra University, Langsa-Aceh, Indonesia

The Historical Legacy of the Seruway Royal Palace Building as a Source of History Learning

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the use of historical sites in Aceh Tamiang as a source of historical learning. To achieve this goal, a literature study was used in this study. This research is a research that uses data collection techniques by procuring a study of books, records and reports. The core of the discussion of this research is how historical heritage buildings become a source of historical learning that can be used by many people, especially students. The results obtained from the research are that the Seruway Royal Palace Site in Aceh Tamiang is an important historical heritage to be studied. The palace was established in 1887 during the Dutch colonial period and shows a mixture of Dutch architecture and Malay Deli culture. Learning history through historical sites can increase historical awareness in students. This awareness includes knowledge of historical facts and filling the mind with logic. Increasing awareness of local history is essential to maintain the identity and pride of the community.

Keywords: Historical Relics, Seruway Palace, Historical Resources

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan pemanfaatan peninggalan situs sejarah yang ada di Aceh Tamiang sebagai sumber belajar sejarah. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, maka dalam penelitian ini digunakan studi literatur. Penelitian ini bersifat penelitian yang menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data dengan pengadaan studi penelaahan terhadap buku-buku, catatan dan laporan. Adapun sebagai inti dari pembahasan dari penelitian ini yaitu bagaimana bangunan peninggalan sejarah menjadi suatu sumber pembelajaran sejarah yang bisa dimanfaatkan oleh banyak masyarakat terutama pada pelajar. Hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian adalah Situs Istana Kerajaan Seruway di Aceh Tamiang adalah peninggalan sejarah yang penting untuk dipelajari. Istana ini berdiri sejak tahun 1887 pada masa kolonial Belanda dan menunjukkan arsitektur campuran Belanda dan budaya Melayu Deli. Pembelajaran sejarah melalui situs-situs sejarah dapat meningkatkan kesadaran sejarah pada pelajar. Kesadaran ini meliputi pengetahuan tentang fakta sejarah dan pengisian pikiran dengan logika. Peningkatan kesadaran sejarah lokal sangat penting untuk menjaga identitas dan kebanggaan masyarakat.

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Kata Kunci: Peninggalan Sejarah, Istana Seruway, Sumber Sejarah

Introduction

Aceh Tamiang is one of the districts in Aceh Province. The boundaries of the northern part of Aceh Tamiang district are bordered by East Aceh regency and cities, in the east by the province of North Sumatra, in the southern part by Gayo Lues district, and in the western part by East Aceh district and southeast Aceh district (Imam, 2023:11). The Tamiang tribal community believes that the Tamiang kingdom began from 1190-1256 with its King Pucook Sulooh. Pucook Sulooh which was found by king Tan Penok in a bamboo clump is suspected to be a descendant of Meurah from the Perlak kingdom of Sultan Malek Syah (Sultan Makhdum Alauddin Abdul Maliksyah). The capital of the Tamiang Kingdom in the Benua area (Kuala simpang), now the area is known as Benua Raja.

Dutch colonial heritage buildings in Aceh Tamiang that are still standing today, namely the Karang Palace, the Benua Raja Palace and the Seruway palace. Palaces with large buildings are usually inhabited by royal families, state families, or other dignitaries. The architecture of the palace itself could not be separated from the Hindu-Buddhist buildings that later emerged Islamic royal buildings that functioned as the residence of a king who ruled at that time. Thus, the combination of palace buildings and royal palaces combines architecture from the previous (Hindu-Buddhist) that existed first with Islamic architecture, but still has rules that are in accordance with Islamic law (Panjaitan, 2023).

Cultural heritage is one of the most important things to exist in a center of government and power of a kingdom. So it is not surprising that the relics of palace buildings that still exist from the past until now are still preserved and used as cultural heritage. Based on the determination (Law No. 11 of 2010) that "Cultural heritage is the nation's cultural wealth as a form of thought and behavior of human life which is important for the understanding and development of history, science, and culture in the life of society, nation, and state so that it needs to be preserved and managed appropriately through efforts to protect, develop, and utilize it in order to advance national culture for the greatest possible prosperity of the people".

Likewise with the Seruway kingdom which has been established until this moment. The Seruway Kingdom was founded around 1887 by Tengku Absah, while the

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one who sat on the King's throne was Tengku Abdul Majid. After his death, the position was replaced by his only son, Tengku Zainal Abidin. Buildings from the colonial century are different. The work of buildings can be used as a benchmark, how much of the culture existed at that time (Panjaitan, 2023). The Seruway Kingdom is one of the royal buildings that is still standing today.

According to Nazir (2015), historical relics are in the form of Remain and Document. Remain are unintentional relics, either in the form of physical goods or physical buildings as well as spiritual relics. Documents are reports of events that contain the views and thoughts of humans in the past. The document is consciously written for the purpose of communication and transmission of information. For example, written stones, diaries, palm leaves, reliefs on temples and letters.

The use of learning resources is not only limited to textbooks but also learning resources in the form of objects, written, and oral which in the surrounding environment can be used as learning resources (Safi & Bau, 2023). In Aceh Tamiang, there are many historical heritage sites that can be used as a source of student learning. The sub-district has several sites in the form of Seruway palace, Raja Karang Baru Palace and Benua Raja Building. In fact, the lack of concern in the world of education for historical sites reduces students' curiosity in the past, they tend to be indifferent to the relics, therefore there needs to be a breakthrough or a way carried out by educators (teachers) in overcoming students' curiosity about historical heritage sites in Aceh Tamiang, especially in the Seruway palace area. Based on this background, the researcher is interested in researching the importance of the historical heritage of the Seruway Royal Palace building as a source of historical learning.

Method

The method used in this study is the literature study method. The literature study method or also known as literature study or data and information collection techniques by studying written sources such as scientific journals, reference books, encyclopedias, and other sources both in written form and in the form of relevant digital formats. This expression is in line with what was stated by (Nazir, 2015:111) who said that literature study is a data collection technique by procuring a study of books, records and reports with problems solved.

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Discussion and results

Remains of the Seruway Kingdom Building

A site is a collection of historical and cultural relics that contain sources of information. Information that tells the story of a certain area is important to be studied as a source of knowledge. The Seruway Royal Palace or known as the Seruway Palace is one of the historical heritage palaces located in Seruway District, Aceh Tamiang. The Seruway Royal Palace is also a historical tourist attraction that can be used as a history lesson (Sutrisno, 2023:29).

The history of the establishment of the Seruway royal palace is closely related to the journey of the Kusuma kingdom which has been in action since the 19th century, precisely in 1887 AD during the Dutch colonial period. The architecture of this palace building has a special touch from Dutch architects with the influence of deli Malay culture. Previously, this palace was known as Kesuma Palace or the Kesuma kingdom. The origin of the name Seruway is from the legend of the local people, whose meaning itself is "not itchy" or "immune to bamboo noodles". This story is related to the history of the king of Tamiang named Pucook Suooh, where at that time as a baby was found in a clump of betung bamboo by a figure named Tamiang Pehok. Then the baby was raised to become the king of Tamiang with the title Pucook Suooh Raja Te-Miyang which means "The king who is in the bush but does not get itchy".

The building of the Seruway Palace is still original to this day, the characteristics of Malay architectural identity can be seen in the use of hardwood as the basic material of the building, in the form of a stilt house and has a prominent building construction in the front in the shape of a five-square. Almost all of the building materials are made of wood imported from Penang and coated with the dominant color of yellow which is characteristic of the Malays. The Raja Seruway Palace is a proof of a traditional Malay building and is a complete building that can be used as a family residence, a place of deliberation, a place of descent, and a place of refuge for anyone who needs it (Rahman, 2020).

According to Law No. 11 of 2011 article 1 paragraph 5 states that a site "A cultural heritage site is a location on land or water that contains Cultural Heritage Objects, Cultural Heritage Buildings, and/or cultural heritage structures as a result of human activities or evidence of events in the past".

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Meanwhile, based on the determination (Law No. 11 of 2010) that "Cultural heritage is the nation's cultural wealth as a form of thought and behavior of human life which is important for the understanding and development of history, science, and culture in the life of society, nation, and state so that it needs to be preserved and managed appropriately through efforts to protect, develop, and utilize it in order to advance national culture for the greatest prosperity of the people".

From these two regulations, it can be concluded that the importance of preserving cultural heritage, both in the form of objects or even places that have the value of life in the past, so we as good citizens should protect and secure as well as appreciate all the relics around us and be used as a source of historical learning so that the new generation does not forget the historical values in the building.

Fostering Historical Awareness

Learning history by utilizing historical sites as a learning resource can foster historical awareness for students. According to Warto (2017), historical awareness includes (1) knowledge of historical facts and their causal relationships; (2) Filling our mind with logic, and (3) improving our conscience with wisdom and wisdom, to face the present and the future of learning by reflecting on past experiences. Historical awareness must be built as part of the formation of the nation through the historical experience of the Indonesian nation.

With that, awareness of the surrounding history or the local history where we are located is very necessary. Especially in maintaining the important values of the event. Local history not only stands from past events, but also has benefits for human life in the present. Local history has an important role in building an identity and pride of the community. The community must have a sense of pride in its territory and participate in maintaining the existence and preservation of historical buildings that are their identity. This is a reminder of the importance of fostering public awareness of the history that is the identity of the region (Setyawan, 2021).

In fostering and increasing public awareness of cultural heritage, it is necessary to provide assistance and education on the preservation of historical heritage. This is an effort to maintain the building to avoid damage and neglect of cultural heritage. Then introduction and education to surrounding schools to better know the events that have occurred, so that they will grow a sense of preserving cultural heritage (Wilaela, 2022).

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Conclusion

The site of the Seruway Royal Palace in Aceh Tamiang is an important historical relic to study. The palace was established in 1887 during the Dutch colonial period and shows a mixture of Dutch architecture and Malay Deli culture. Formerly known as Kesuma Palace, its name now comes from a local legend meaning "not itchy". The palace is built with hardwood and has a striking stilt house shape.

Learning history through historical sites can increase historical awareness in students. This awareness includes knowledge of historical facts and filling the mind with logic. Increasing awareness of local history is essential to maintain the identity and pride of the community. The community needs to be educated and assisted in the preservation of cultural heritage as well as historical introduction to schools.

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