Journal of Social Studies Research (E-ISSN: 3090-4730)
Volume 3, Nomor 2 (Juli-Des, 2025), 189-194
DOI: 10.33059/jssr.v3i2.11456
[Submited; 12/05/2025] [Reviewed: 15/06/2025] [Published: 10/07/2025]
Published by: Samudra University, Langsa-Aceh, Indonesia

Historical Heritage as a Media for Educational and Cultural Awareness of the Community

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Abstract

Historical heritage plays an essential role as an educational medium as well as a means of instilling cultural awareness in society. This study aims to examine how historical heritage can be utilized to enhance historical understanding, foster a sense of nationalism, and strengthen the cultural identity of the community. The research method used is a literature study (library research) with a descriptive qualitative approach. Data were obtained from various literature sources such as books, scientific journals, and relevant documents discussing history education, cultural awareness, and the use of modern technology in history education. The results of the study indicate that historical heritage, whether through educational tourism, the introduction of cultural heritage objects, or the integration of technologies such as virtual reality, is effective in increasing students' interest in learning history and shaping students' character with national insight. Historical awareness needs to be instilled from an early age through synergy between formal, informal, and non-formal education to build a generation that cares about the nation's cultural heritage.

Keywords: historical heritage, educational media, cultural awareness.

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Introduction

History is an inseparable part of the journey of human life, especially for the Indonesian nation which has a long history of struggle against the colonizers to achieve independence. The struggle of Indonesian heroes who are willing to sacrifice their souls and bodies for the freedom of the nation gives an important meaning to the current generation. A great nation is a nation that appreciates the services of its heroes, and one form of such appreciation is through historical education (Nurchayo, 2012).

History education has a strategic role in shaping the character, character, and identity of the nation. Without an understanding of history, a nation will lose its direction and identity, just as individuals will lose their memory. History also functions in the process of nation building, strengthening solidarity, aspirations, and national spirit.

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Without historical awareness, the spirit of nationalism will be difficult to grow (Kartodirdjo, 2014).

Education does not only take place in formal schools, but also through informal education in the family and non-formal education in the community. The three must run synergistically to form the child's character as a whole, starting from attitudes, life skills, to intellectual and social intelligence (Pratiwi, 2018). Non-formal education such as community activities, educational tourism, and the use of technology are also important means of strengthening historical and cultural awareness.

In the digital era, efforts to attract the younger generation to history need to adapt to technological developments. One of the innovative ways that can be used is the use of virtual reality technology. This technology allows the public to interact with historical objects in the form of 3D and 2D animation, so that the experience of learning history becomes more immersive and interesting (Eriya & R.Putri, 2018). In addition, the use of historical heritage as an educational tourist attraction also contributes. For example, the existence of Tourism Objects not only functions as a recreational place, but also as a source of history learning that is able to foster people's interest in learning history more creatively (Rachman & Harsan, 2018). Historical education tourism is a means of knowledge development, preservation of local culture, as well as a tool for regional branding.

Historical awareness must be instilled from an early age so that the younger generation has an awareness of the importance of preserving ancestral heritage. With historical awareness, the community can maintain and preserve cultural heritage as the nation's identity. The use of educational media such as educational games (Sintaro, 2020) to understanding local historical heritage can be an effective strategy in strengthening national identity and diversity values, as reflected in the Pancasila Student Profile (Sintaro, 2020).

Therefore, this study aims to examine how historical heritage can be used as an educational medium while fostering community cultural awareness. This research is expected to be able to contribute to the world of education, especially in the development of history learning methods that are more contextual, interesting, and relevant to the needs of the younger generation.

Methods

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This study uses a literature study method (*library research*) that is qualitative and descriptive. Literature studies are carried out by examining various written sources such as books, journal articles , proceedings, and other documents relevant to the topic of historical heritage, educational media, and community cultural awareness.

Data were obtained from various references that contain information about the role of historical heritage in formal, informal, and non-formal education, as well as the application of modern technology in increasing interest in learning history. The literature sources used were critically analyzed to explore the concepts, theories, and results of previous research that supported the objectives of the study.

The analysis process is carried out with the following steps: (1) Identification and collection of data from relevant literature sources. (2) Data classification based on themes such as historical educational media, cultural awareness, technology utilization, and the role of society. (3) Content analysis to find the relationship between historical relics and the formation of historical and cultural awareness of the community. (4) Drawing conclusions based on the results of the analysis to provide a comprehensive picture of the importance of historical heritage as a medium of education and cultural awareness.

This method was chosen because it is able to provide a comprehensive understanding of existing concepts and practices, so that it can be the basis for formulating applicable conclusions and suggestions.

Results

Based on the results of literature studies and observations in several historical heritage locations, it can be seen that historical heritage has great potential as an educational medium. One real example is the use of Tourism Objects that present history. Through direct visits, the community can understand the historical value of buildings, past technology, and their contribution to the community's economy at that time (Rachman & Harsan, 2018).

In addition, History-based educational tourism activities can be a means of increasing historical knowledge and become a forum for local cultural development and community learning motivation. The direct involvement of the community with historical heritage creates an interesting learning experience and learning atmosphere that is interesting, fun, and far from boring. This educational tour also helps introduce the local

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culture contained in historical relics to the younger generation and can become a center for historical recreation.

The involvement of tourists to get to know the area they visit is the strongest motive for tourism, in addition to introducing historical relics that are valuable assets for an area. Cultural and historical heritage objects have a very high value and are a very effective branding tool. Overall, this cultural heritage has values that are very important for science, history, archaeology, education, religion, culture and also for development purposes, such as the development of education, the tourism industry and others (Fitria, 2022).

Not only in the tourist environment, the use of digital technology such as *Virtual Reality* (VR) applications is also an innovation in modern history learning. VR technology allows the public to explore the architecture of buildings, characters, and historical events interactively. Through this digital experience, people gain a deep visual and emotional understanding of past events (Eriya & R.Putri, 2018).

Discussion

Strengthening Historical and Cultural Awareness

Historical awareness is an important aspect in shaping the nation's identity. Without awareness of its history, a society will lose its identity and the direction of its cultural development (Kartodiro, 2014). Historical awareness needs to be instilled from an early age, both through formal education in schools, informal education in the family, and non-formal education in the community. According to A. Daliman, the definition of historical consciousness is based on the fact that humans have memory. Through memory, humans have historical awareness, which is to be aware of their past experiences, both individually and collectively. Historical awareness makes us aware of how the past or past shapes human life now and in the future (Cakranegara, 2020).

Historical awareness means individual and social awareness in maintaining and preserving cultural heritage so that it can be passed on to the next generation. By understanding history, people not only gain knowledge of the past, but also instill a sense of responsibility in preserving the nation's culture. Through educational games (educational games) have also proven to be effective in increasing people's interest in history. Well-designed education-based games are able to instill historical knowledge interactively, as well as train critical thinking and community problem-solving skills (Sintaro, 2020).

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On the other hand, the introduction of historical relics in the environment around the school is able to build concrete awareness about the importance of preserving and preserving history. Through a local approach, people can more easily understand the relationship between history, culture, and self-identity (Maslahah et al., 2023).

Implications for the Formation of the Nation's Character

The use of historical heritage as an educational medium contributes significantly to the formation of the nation's character. The process of learning history associated with the values of nationalism, diversity, and cultural awareness encourages the creation of a young generation that has a sense of love for the homeland, respects diversity, and has a strong national identity (Nurchayo, 2012). Strengthening historical awareness through various media, both historical tourism visits, digital technology, and local-based learning, is very important to form a profile of Pancasila students who are moral, globally diverse, and have a complete national insight (Pratiwi, 2018).

Conclusion

Historical heritage has a strategic role as an educational medium as well as a means of instilling cultural awareness in the community. Through various approaches such as historical educational tours, the use of digital technology (*virtual reality*), and the introduction of cultural heritage objects in the surrounding environment, people not only gain knowledge about past history, but also strengthen national character, self-identity, and love for the homeland. Historical awareness instilled from an early age is an important foundation in forming a young generation that appreciates the struggles of heroes, preserves cultural heritage, and contributes positively to maintaining the nation's diversity. Synergy between formal, informal and non-formal education is needed to create a complete and sustainable historical awareness.

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