

Peer Review

Review of: "Kampung Pelangi Semarang: Its Success, Decline, and the Current Status of the Rainbow Village"

Melani Budianta¹

1. Department of Literature, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

I really admire the amount of work put into writing this article. All small details and data are observed and documented. The writers also took pains to compare the object of research with other similar trends in Java. The context is also adequately provided.

What the article needs is, first of all, to focus on Kampung Pelangi in Semarang. The other comparative works should be limited, as they overshadow the focus. Secondly, and this is most important, is to evaluate the phenomenon of colorful painting critically. The writers already discussed how it came into being, yet there need to be some more steps to do:

1. What does the transformation mean in the overall context of the city? Does it only "beautify" or did it patchily cover what was initially considered (in a pejorative way) a slum area?
2. Did the painting actually transform, from the bottom up, the way people live and the well-being in the kampung?
3. What does it mean for the kampung to be a tourist destination? The writer did mention the discomfort that the inhabitants feel, especially in the beginning. Does it merely turn the kampung into an object? Do the kampung dwellers have stronger agency in deciding the way their kampung is handled?
4. What does it say about the neoliberal, city gaze towards the kampung? Is it a real transformation or merely a gimmick?
5. I have presented a paper along the same line on YouTube, Lumbung Budaya Sepanjang Gang, <https://dkj.or.id/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/pidato-kebudayaan-dkj-lumbung-budaya-di-sepanjang-gang>.
6. Hopefully, the paper can be rewritten in a more focused and more critical way.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.