

Peer Review

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

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This article presents a very comprehensive and informative study of the transformation of Kampung Pelangi Semarang, from the initial success marked by visual revitalization and a surge in tourist visits, to the decline phase due to internal conflict, lack of continued support, and the impact of the pandemic. The article's strengths lie in the completeness of field data, diversity of references, and detailed historical explanations. The article also connects local cases to the national context through policies such as KOTAKU and GERBANG HEBAT, and provides a real picture of the role of communities and citizen participation in the slum revitalization process.

However, this article needs some improvement. First, the introduction is informative enough but needs to be summarized to avoid being too long and rambling. The initial narrative can focus more on the unique context of Kampung Pelangi as part of the tourism-based slum alleviation policy. Some of the opening sentences could be simplified to lead directly to the research background. It would be better if an explicit problem formulation or research gap is added at the end of the introductory paragraph, so that the research objectives become clearer from the start. Second, Backgrounds and Rainbow Village. In this section, the explanation of the administrative structure and the urban village is too long and rather technical. Although it is important to provide background context, it needs to be summarized and directed more towards the relationship between the social structure and the development of thematic villages. In addition, this section lacks analysis. Ideally, the narratives about urban villages and thematic villages would be linked to theoretical concepts such as urban informal settlements or participatory planning so that they are not merely descriptive. Third, Kampung Pelangi Semarang: Overview. This section contains a lot of demographic, education, and employment data but lacks analysis or interpretation. There needs to be a brief analysis of how the socioeconomic structure affects the

sustainability of the village tourism program, especially in the context of poverty, unemployment, and education. Fourth, the Rainbow Village Development Program. Although the division of physical and non-physical programs is good, the discussion seems like a shopping list (listing) without evaluation. It would be better if each program is accompanied by achievements or challenges that arise. For example, the skills training program can be analyzed to determine whether it really results in community businesses or is only limited to ceremonies. Additional literature-based insights on best practices from similar programs elsewhere are needed. Fifth, Initial Success Factors. The narrative in this section has described the visual appeal of Kampung Pelangi and its impact on the number of visitors. However, it has not been studied analytically. It is necessary to strengthen theories on visual culture, city branding, or digital tourism theory (e.g., the effect of social media on tourist destinations). In addition, it is necessary to evaluate whether the initial success was able to create an inclusive socio-economic impact for all levels of the village community. Sixth, Setbacks and Challenges. The narrative of this section has mentioned some of the causes of the setbacks, but it is still not sharp enough to analyze the root of the problem systemically. For example, how did the Pokdarwis leadership and institutional structure dysfunction? Are there problems in funding or governance post-pandemic? An urban resilience or community governance approach is needed to understand why kampongs are not recovering like other destinations post-COVID-19. Conclusions and Recommendations. A one-paragraph conclusion that summarizes the chronology, success factors, and causes of the decline of Kampung Pelangi Semarang is required. In addition, add practical recommendations for the city government and community managers, such as the importance of ongoing support, participatory funding mechanisms, or citizen-based post-pandemic revitalization strategies.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.