

Peer Review

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

Agus Ekomadyo¹

1. Architecture, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

This article is quite comprehensive and follows a well-structured argumentative flow. It explains Kampung Pelangi Semarang from its initiation and other influencing contexts, providing a thorough overview of the case study—a comprehensive description of the evolution of an urban informal settlement.

However, some unnecessary information distracts from the main argument. Many sections could be omitted or condensed to allow readers to grasp the primary argument more quickly, which typically appears toward the end of the article.

One interesting aspect for further discussion is the rise and decline of urban informal settlement revitalization as a tourist destination. The emergence of colourful villages in various cities across Indonesia indicates imitation. This suggests that replication is largely driven by the success story—when a kampung transforms into a tourism hub, it yields numerous benefits, particularly economic advantages. Research and media coverage on these success stories have played a role in influencing how one city's colourful kampung is replicated by another.

However, few studies have explored what happens when tourism-driven revitalization declines. Understanding this decline is crucial to ensuring that future imitation leads to evolutionary improvements rather than mere replication.

This paper provides insights into the decline in performance of the studied kampung due to internal conflicts of interest. Is this the primary reason behind its downturn? In several other kampungs, creative initiatives aimed at community improvements have also failed due to similar conflicts of interest.

If internal conflicts of interest are a significant factor to discuss, further questions arise: Are these conflicts solely internal, or are they triggered by external influences? For instance, a communal waste-sorting initiative in one kampung failed because government assistance led to divisions among residents over budget allocation fairness. Meanwhile, in another kampung, government funding for infrastructure helped revive a previously dormant urban industry, turning it into a thriving tourism-driven sector.

For revision, this paper only requires minor adjustments—removing less critical sections to sharpen the focus. However, given the many emerging follow-up questions, the final section should explicitly highlight these inquiries—particularly the rise and decline of urban tourism in informal settlements. This statement will prompt further research discussions, delving deeper into power relations in urban revitalisation.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.