



INVENTORY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN PEMATANGSIANTAR CITY BECOME A LEARNING MEDIA OF THE COLONIAL ERA

Satria Chandra

Universitas Simalungun, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: satriachandra249@gmail.com

Article Info

Article history:

Received :

Revised :

Accepted :

Available online

<http://jurnal.uinsu.ac.id/index.php/analytica>

E-ISSN: 2541-5263

P-ISSN: 1411-4380

How to cite:



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ABSTRACT

The city of Pematangsiantar is one of many hidden historical gems in Indonesia, preserving various eras in its historical buildings and Dutch colonial artifacts. This research aims to appreciate and utilize this cultural heritage as an educational tool, focusing on the inventory of cultural heritage in the city of Pematangsiantar. The Cultural Heritage Expert Team plays a crucial role in recommending cultural heritage objects, while the local government, especially the Department of Education and Culture, plays a role in preserving this heritage. Through strategic initiatives such as the Regional Cultural Thought Document and the Village Cultural Advancement Program, Pematangsiantar shows a strong commitment to cultural preservation. The younger generation, led by the Simalungun Museum Foundation, plays a significant role in preserving and disseminating cultural heritage, from renovating historical buildings to digital campaigns and seminars. In the context of the Merdeka Curriculum, learning modules designed to study colonial history provide a contextual and relevant foundation for students. With a deep qualitative approach, this research explores the complexity of Pematangsiantar's cultural heritage and gains valuable insights from the various parties involved. The research results show proactive efforts in preserving cultural heritage, with the hope that this heritage is not only preserved but also celebrated. Through strong collaboration between researchers, the government, and the community, Pematangsiantar sets high standards in cultural preservation and local history education, becoming a model for other cities in Indonesia.

Keywords: Cultural Preservation; Pematangsiantar City Cultural Heritage; Collaboration; Independence Curriculum.

ABSTRAK

Kota Pematangsiantar adalah salah satu dari banyak permata sejarah yang tersembunyi di Indonesia, menyimpan beragam era dalam bangunan-bangunan bersejarah dan artefak kolonial Belanda. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menghargai dan memanfaatkan warisan budaya ini sebagai sarana edukasi, dengan fokus pada inventarisasi cagar budaya Kota Pematangsiantar. Tim Ahli Cagar Budaya memainkan peran penting dalam merekomendasikan objek cagar budaya,

sementara pemerintah setempat, terutama Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, memainkan peran dalam pelestarian warisan ini. Melalui inisiatif strategis seperti Dokumen Pokok Pikiran Kebudayaan Daerah dan Program Pemajuan Kebudayaan Desa, Kota Pematangsiantar menunjukkan komitmen yang kuat terhadap pelestarian budaya. Generasi muda, dipimpin oleh Yayasan Museum Simalungun, memainkan peran penting dalam pelestarian dan penyebaran warisan budaya, dari renovasi bangunan bersejarah hingga kampanye digital dan seminar. Dalam konteks Kurikulum Merdeka, modul pembelajaran yang dirancang untuk mempelajari sejarah zaman kolonial memberikan landasan yang kontekstual dan relevan bagi siswa. Dengan pendekatan kualitatif yang mendalam, penelitian ini menggali kompleksitas cagar budaya Kota Pematangsiantar dan memperoleh wawasan berharga dari berbagai pihak yang terlibat. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan upaya proaktif dalam pelestarian warisan budaya, dengan harapan bahwa warisan ini tidak hanya dilestarikan tetapi juga dirayakan. Melalui kolaborasi yang kuat antara peneliti, pemerintah, dan masyarakat, Kota Pematangsiantar menetapkan standar tinggi dalam pelestarian budaya dan pendidikan sejarah lokal, menjadi model bagi kota-kota lain di Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: Pelestarian Budaya; Cagar Budaya Kota Pematangsiantar; Kolaborasi; Kurikulum Merdeka.

1. INTRODUCTION

Amidst the relentless hustle and bustle of modernization, there are hidden historical gems all over Indonesia, waiting to be discovered and appreciated (Sofia, 2017; Reichman, 2023). The city of Pematangsiantar, with its past elegance still preserved, is one such gem (Purba et al., 2023; Figel et al., 2023). The city, located in North Sumatra, is a mosaic of eras, with historical buildings standing as monuments to times gone by (Kassim et al., 2023). These monuments, along with Dutch colonial artifacts, form a tapestry rich in history and culture, inviting us to explore the traces of the past that are still embedded in every corner of the city (Saragih & Hasugian, 2022).

This study aims to answer several important questions related to the cultural heritage of Pematangsiantar City (Rahman et al., 2022). The researcher will explore how we can better appreciate and utilize this cultural heritage as an educational tool that can increase public understanding of their historical and cultural values (Akbar et al., 2024). The researcher acknowledges that there are challenges, such as incomplete documentation and limited resources, that can hinder the preservation process. However, the researcher believes that with continued efforts and strong collaboration between various parties, we can overcome these obstacles and ensure that this heritage is not only preserved but also celebrated (Simbolon, 2016; Damanik, 2020).

This research is not only focused on collecting data and facts, but also on exploring the emotional values and pride associated with our ancestral heritage.

The researcher hopes that through the inventory of cultural heritage, we can open the eyes of the community to the rich history they have and arouse a sense of pride in the heritage. This research is expected to be an important milestone in the efforts of the younger generation to build a sustainable future for Pematangsiantar City and its residents.

This research also wants to highlight the current condition of cultural heritage in Pematangsiantar City, the benefits and impacts expected from the inventory of cultural heritage, and strategies that can be adopted to improve the quality and effectiveness of this research. The researcher hopes that this research will not only present data, but will also provide valuable insights and practical recommendations for the preservation and development of cultural heritage in this city. Through collaboration between researchers, the community, and the local government, Harapan Bersama can open a new chapter in the long journey of understanding and celebrating the cultural heritage that is our identity.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In an effort to uncover and understand the rich cultural heritage of the Dutch colonial period in Pematangsiantar City, this study adopts an in-depth qualitative approach. This approach is designed to capture the complexity and nuances of the cultural heritage found in this city, providing comprehensive insights into the phenomenon being studied (Ma & Guo, 2024). In this guide, the researcher will discuss in detail the research methodology used, including data collection techniques, informant selection, and the data analysis process that the researcher has carried out (Solarino & Aguinis, 2021).

The qualitative approach adopted by the researcher allows us to dive into the experiences, perceptions, and meanings contained in the cultural heritage of Pematangsiantar City (Shankar, 2024). This approach is very important in understanding the social context surrounding the phenomenon being studied and provides an opportunity to capture diverse perspectives from various parties involved.

The researcher conducted direct observations at the cultural heritage site to gain an in-depth understanding of the physical condition, current use, and community interactions with the historic building (Mokonnen et al., 2022). The researcher's observations were carried out systematically and in a planned manner, allowing the researcher to collect accurate and relevant data.

The researcher used interview techniques to gain insights, opinions, and knowledge from various parties related to the cultural heritage of Pematangsiantar City. Community leaders, government officials, historical activists, and local residents were selected as primary sources. Researcher interviews were conducted in a structured manner to ensure consistent and comprehensive data collection.

Researchers obtained additional data through document studies, including historical archives, local records, news articles, and visual materials such as photographs or video recordings. This documentation provides important historical and visual context to enrich the younger generation's understanding of the cultural heritage of the Dutch colonial period in Pematangsiantar City.

The selection of informants was carried out carefully by considering criteria that were relevant to the research objectives. The researcher selected informants based on adequate age, knowledge of Dutch heritage, geographical proximity to cultural heritage, and active involvement in surrounding activities. The selection of the right informants ensures that the data we obtain has adequate accuracy and diversity.

The researcher's qualitative data analysis process involves three main stages: Data Reduction: Researchers filter, simplify, and focus the data collected on aspects that are relevant to the research objectives. The researcher carried out data reduction in stages during the data collection process and continuously until the final stage of analysis.

Data Presentation: The researcher arranges and presents the reduced data in a format that facilitates interpretation and understanding. The researcher's data presentation can be in the form of narratives, tables, diagrams, or other visualizations that are appropriate to the nature and content of the data. Drawing Conclusions: The researcher draws conclusions based on the patterns, themes, and meanings revealed from the data analysis. The conclusions that the researcher produces can be in the form of hypotheses, generalizations, interpretations, or recommendations for further development.

3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the results of research on the inventory of cultural heritage in Pematangsiantar City as a medium for learning colonial history (Hasugian, 2020). The inventory process is an effort to secure the history and identity of the city, by reviving forgotten narratives (Napitupulu et al., 2023). This city, with its rich history, takes proactive steps to preserve its cultural heritage, starting from identifying historical objects to assessing their importance (Lerario, 2022).

Figure 1. Aerial Photo of Pematangsiantar City 1938



The Cultural Heritage Expert Team (TACB) of Pematangsiantar City plays an important role in recommending cultural heritage objects and planning their future, including making the area of the King's Palace of Siantar a cultural heritage (Zega et al., 2023; Siregar, 2018). This process involves the involvement of the wider community, reflecting the philosophy that preserving cultural heritage is a shared responsibility. The results of the study were obtained using interview and observation techniques, focusing on the condition of cultural heritage buildings in Pematangsiantar City (Wirastari & Suprihardjo, 2012; Hartati, 2020). The researcher interviewed two key informants from parties related to cultural heritage in the city, namely the Head of the Cultural Section of Pematangsiantar City and the management of the Simalungun Museum Foundation. This is the first step in understanding the role and importance of cultural heritage as a medium for learning local history.

Table 1 List of Cultural Heritage of colonial buildings in Pematangsiantar City

No.	Name of Cultural Heritage	Initial Function	Current Function	Current Condition
1.	Pematangsiantar City Hall	Town Hall	Town Hall	Well maintained
2.	Struggle Building '45	This building is also used as a place to relax, vacation, eat and drink, and dance by the Dutch.	Abandoned	Not maintained

3.	PT. Kereta Api Building	Siantar Station	Siantar Station	Well maintained
4.	Gedung BRI	De Javasche Bank	Bank Rakyat Indonesia Branch Office	Well maintained
5.	Grand Mosque of Pematangsiantar City	Mosque	Mosque	Well maintained
6.	Hotel Siantar	Hotel	Hotel	Well maintained
7.	Pematang Area	Siantar Kingdom	Residential Area	Well maintained
8.	Horas Market Area	Market	Market	Well maintained
9.	Sultan Agung School	School	School	Well maintained
10.	Simalungun Museum	Museum	Museum	Well maintained
11.	PT. Siantar Ice Factory	Ice Factory	Beverage Factory	Well maintained

This research involved an interview with Mr. Hotman Parulian Purba, A.Md., from the Pematangsiantar City Education and Culture Office, regarding the management and preservation of cultural heritage in the city. Pematangsiantar City has taken progressive steps in preserving its cultural heritage through Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2021, which establishes a comprehensive framework for the preservation and management of cultural heritage (Rahmawati & Rahayu, 2023; Damanik et al., 2024). The Education and Culture Office acts as the guardian of this heritage, ensuring that every new development project takes into account the uniqueness of the city's identity. Community involvement, especially the younger generation, is key to preservation efforts, supported by special education programs organized by the office. The Pematangsiantar City Education and Culture Office has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving and enriching the city's cultural heritage. Strategic steps include the preparation of the Regional Cultural Thought Document involving the community and cultural experts. The protection and development of cultural heritage is not only about preserving old objects but also giving new life to the heritage through the Village Cultural Advancement Program. Through these efforts, the Education and Culture Office ensures that Pematangsiantar's cultural heritage remains alive and provides value to the community and becomes an integral part of the city's future.

Pematangsiantar City, in North Sumatra, has established itself as a guardian of cultural heritage with the Education and Culture Office as the main driver (Fox, 2023; Julianti & Lubis, 2024). The stages of preserving cultural heritage include inventory, socialization, revitalization, development of functions, supervision,

stakeholder collaboration, and utilization of technology. The Regional Cultural Thoughts Document is an important foundation, while involving the community and cultural experts in the process.

The young generation of Pematangsiantar City, led by the Simalungun Museum Foundation, plays a key role in preserving and inheriting cultural heritage. They act as Guardians of History by renovating cultural heritage buildings and becoming Heritage Educators through digital campaigns and seminars. As Cultural Innovators, they transform historic buildings into vibrant cultural centers. They also fight as Conservation Advocates, ensuring the sustainability of cultural heritage in the city's development. As Eternal Heirs, they will pass the torch to the next generation, keeping this heritage shining.

With courage and initiative, the younger generation becomes Dynamic Conservators, Memory Curators, and Pioneers of Change, bringing the light of knowledge and wisdom to the future. As Torchbearers, they are the hope for a brighter future, building communities, identities, and dreams through their dedication to cultural heritage. With a comprehensive approach, Pematangsiantar becomes an example of cultural preservation for Indonesia, ensuring that this heritage remains alive and valuable for all.

The teaching module is an important element in the Independent Curriculum, acting as a guide for educators and students with the aim of developing effective learning. This module provides a framework, learning media, and assessments to guide the learning process, improve its quality, and facilitate flexibility in education. In the context of the Independent Curriculum, the teaching module "Inventory of Cultural Heritage of Pematangsiantar City as a Learning Media for Colonial History" is designed to cover contextual and relevant historical materials, allowing students to understand the impact of colonialism and its consequences on Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSION

This study reviews research findings related to the inventory of cultural heritage in Pematangsiantar City, which is used as an educational tool in studying the history of the colonial era. This inventory process is directed at maintaining the history and identity of the city, by involving the active participation of the Cultural Heritage Expert Team (TACB) and the wider community. The results of the study highlight the proactive initiatives taken by the city government, especially by the Education and Culture Office, in efforts to conserve cultural heritage. Strategic steps that have been implemented include the creation of the Regional Cultural Thought Document and the implementation of the Village Cultural Advancement Program.

The role of the younger generation, pioneered by the Simalungun Museum Foundation, is a crucial aspect in the preservation and transmission of cultural

heritage. They act as Guardians of History, Heritage Educators, Cultural Innovators, and Preservation Advocates. Through their commitment, the younger generation is transformed into Dynamic Conservators, Memory Curators, and Pioneers of Change, who bring the cultural heritage of Pematangsiantar City to a brighter future.

Within the framework of the Merdeka Curriculum, the learning module "Inventory of Cultural Heritage of Pematangsiantar City as a Learning Medium for Colonial History" provides a structure and relevant teaching materials for students, facilitating their understanding of the influence of colonialism in a broader context. Therefore, the initiative to preserve and utilize cultural heritage is not only focused on maintaining old artifacts, but also on revitalizing the heritage, ensuring that the historical values continue to be relevant and beneficial for future generations. Through this effort, Pematangsiantar City establishes itself as a model for other cities in Indonesia in terms of cultural preservation and developing locally-based history education.

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