

# UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL SITES FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMY OF THE REGION

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## UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL SITES FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMY OF THE REGION

Andi<sup>1</sup>, Rudy Gunawan<sup>2</sup>, Dwi Ananto K<sup>3</sup>, Achmad Fachrul Rozi<sup>4</sup>, M. Abdul M<sup>5</sup>

Department of History Prof. Dr. HAMKA Muhammadiyah University

Corresponding Author: [Andi@uhamka.ac.id](mailto:Andi@uhamka.ac.id)

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**1**  
**Abstract:** Palembang is one of the oldest cities in Indonesia, a historical city and a prominent city with the greatness of the Srivijaya kingdom. Various events have become important historical traces for the local community and the general public, one of which is historical sites. One of them is the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom, where this historical site can be developed and utilized to increase the regional economy. The purpose of this research is to find out how to use and develop historical sites for the improvement of the regional economy. Data were collected through a qualitative approach by exploring and interviewing participants accompanied by a review of various literatures. The result of this research is that the local government and society are sustainable in maintaining, developing, and utilizing historical sites to improve the regional economy.

**Key Words:** Ancient, Sriwijaya, Historical Site, Economy

### INTRODUCTION

The Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom or previously known as Karanganyar Site is an ancient park which used to be a residential area and a park associated with the Sriwijaya kingdom which is located on the north bank of the Musi River in the city of Palembang, South Sumatra. In this area a network of canals, ditches and ponds were found neatly and regularly which ensured that this area was man-made, so it was believed that the center of the Srivijaya kingdom in Palembang was

located on this site. In this area, there are many ancient relics which indicate that this area was once the center of settlement and center of human activity (Manan, 2020).

Administratively, the Karanganyar site is located on Jalan Syakhyakirti, Karanganyar Village, Gandus District, Palembang. It is located on an alluvial plain on the meanders of the Musi River facing the confluence of the Musi river with the Ogan and Kramasan rivers. The northern hemisphere of the Musi River has long been known as the location of a

number of archaeological sites dating from the 7th to 15th century AD, including the Kambang Unglen site, Padang Kapas, Ladang Sirap, and Bukit Seguntang which are located close to the Karanganyar site (Sukmaranti , 2018: 174).

At the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom, there are many artifacts that show the daily activities of the people, such as beads, brick structures, resin, palm fiber, ceramics, and boat remains. These findings were obtained during the construction of the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom as well as through rescue activities around this area. The reconstruction of ceramic fragments that were found frequently showed the use of jars, jars, jars, bowls and plates. Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the remaining pottery shows the use of various forms of stoves or braziers, jugs, pots, jars, pasu, and even roof tiles. This collection of findings shows how crowded the daily activities of the people living in this area were in the past.

This site mainly displays water structures in the form of ponds, artificial islands, and moats, the existence of which is evidence of the presence of humans who have settled for a long time. It is estimated that residents who used to

inhabit the Karanganyar area dug canals or trenches such as the Suak Bujang ditch, both for flood-preventing drainage systems and as a means of transportation to connect inland areas around the site with the Musi river. Apart from the educational element, this site also has a major impact on the economy of the community around the site (Manan, 2020). Based on this, the author wants to try to examine what benefits can be obtained from historical sites? How is the role of the community to participate in preserving the Archaeological Park site of the Sriwijaya Kingdom ?,

## RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research to be used is qualitative research according to Moleong in Awangga, the type of research can be distinguished based on the nature of the data where, "Qualitative research, narrative data, descriptive, in the words of those studied, personal documents, field notes, artifacts, official documents and videos. tape, transcript. The data collection strategy includes the following steps: document collection, participant observation, unstructured and informal interviews, intensively recording data in field notes, through artifacts "(Suryoputra, 2007: 23)

This opinion can be understood that qualitative research is an interpretation of data which is non-numeric data, or data that is not in the form of numbers. The researcher concluded that qualitative research is research that will be used because the research is based on interpretation or interpretation of the results of data collection in the form of thoughts, words, and actions from a number of sources which are the objects of research.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Benefits Of Site History**

In the process of discovering historical sites in Indonesia, it is very influential on the lives of the surrounding communities which are interrelated in the site environment. (Nawiyanto, 2016: 28) This historical site is proof that in the past there was life like that. For example, take the example of the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom, in this park there is a Sriwijaya museum that is able to help reconstruct the history of the Sriwijaya kingdom itself. In the Sriwijaya museum there are collections that are able to help students and other general public, which contain Sriwijaya marker inscriptions, then there is a maritime collection from the Sriwijaya kingdom then there are collections that

are related to religion in the Sriwijaya kingdom itself,

The history in Chau Ju-Kua mentions trading in Srivijaya: "foreign traders who gathered in this country exchanged local goods for gold, silver, porcelain (ceramics)" because in the 10th century AD the silk route was a very important route for reciprocal relationship, both in terms of trade, culture, religion, and science (Nawiyanto, 2016: 27). In the economic field, the existence of historical sites built by the Regional Government can improve the regional economy because the existence of these sites can be used as a vehicle for education from an economic point of view, enabling micro merchants to establish snacks, drinks, and accessories related businesses. existing historical sites.

### **The Role Of The Community In Preserving The TPKS Site**

Historically Palembang is the oldest city in Indonesia based on the Bukit Position Inscription. According to the inscription which is dated June 16, 682. The formation of the islands in Palembang was due to the large number of tributaries that crossed this city. It is only natural that Palembang is called the City of a Hundred Rivers (Sustianingsih et al., 2019). Cultural heritage such as the

island of Kemaro and others hold historical evidence that supports the Srivijaya kingdom as the center of the kingdom in the city of Palembang at its time, this cultural heritage has a very strong influence on the continuity of life for today's society and vice versa. So that the cultural heritage becomes a promising tourist asset for the surrounding community.

Palembang city assets which have a variety of cultures and natural resources that support a great potential for the formation of the city structure.(Sukmaranti, 2018)In Palembang there is also the Musi river which has become a connecting icon and an addition to the number of tourists in the city of Palembang. The presence of the Musi river is a very potential factor for the culture and economy of the Palembang area. The Musi River is used by the community as a medium of connection in water transportation and especially community trade.

The role of the community in preserving the TPKS site is carrying out activities to maintain the existence and preserving the site with various activities including routine cleaning. In maintaining, preserving and caring for cultural heritage tourism sites is a shared responsibility between the government

and the community. Palembang city governance development can be seen from the existence of trade, service and cultural activities. So that it becomes a complete unity to form the means for the city of Palembang to develop better in the future. Palembang as a city that holds a lot of history and culture, has the potential to be developed in various sectors so that it can accelerate its economic growth with the diversity and uniqueness of its city. The potential of culture in Palembang can be developed for its uniqueness by preserving and maintaining its excellence and utilization. The image of Palembang which has diversity and uniqueness can be used by the community to enhance and elevate its character to the outside community.(Sholeh, 2018)Thus, commercial and recreational potential are important factors as an effort for future economic manifestations for the people's economy. In this case this level of manifestation will lead to sustainable economic development.

#### **Community Economic Levels Around TPKS Site**

According to Prasodjo (2004), empowerment of the community around the site, has advantages for both parties, between the management of the cultural

heritage site area and the community around the site. The management party, namely the central government or local government in the conservation efforts to get support from the community, because the community needs to participate in managing the site area. On the other hand, the community will also benefit, both morally and materially, because the site area as a cultural heritage tourism object can contribute to improving the economic standard of their life.

Community empowerment requires advocacy (policy change), which is to shift the position of the community around the site from being an object to a subject. The shift in position poses a challenge for the creation of various new policies that place residents around the site not as a party to be controlled and controlled, but as equal partners. From this understanding, it can be seen that the target community who is empowered is the community around the site area. (Aufa, 2018) According to the above understanding, the economy of the people around the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom can be analyzed that people get many benefits, ranging from moral and material. The level of the economy can be measured by the level of welfare of the community around the TPKS because this site is shaded by the

Regional Government, it can be ascertained that the surrounding community is prosperous. Actually, between the historical site and the surrounding community is an inseparable continuity, even though the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom is protected by the government if there is no participation of the surrounding community then the historical site is just a building site that stands without any meaning and will not be properly maintained, Whereas the surrounding community with the presence of the Sriwijaya Archaeological Park, the area around where the community lives has become advanced because it is strategically located in the area of the population, so the residents benefit from the 2014 Sriwijaya Festival which was held on a large scale for a week involving a number of countries. Head of Industry and Industry of South Sumatra, Ir. Permana emphasized that this Sriwijaya festival will focus more on South Sumatra cultural information. "For business from exhibitions we consider it a 'sweetener' only. Moreover, the location is quite far from the city center. The hope is that it will collect at least under IDR 5 billion," said Permana, Saturday (14/6). Therefore, residents benefit when the 2014 Sriwijaya Festival is held on a large scale for a week involving a number of

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## CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom or previously known as Karanganyar Site is an ancient park of a former residential area and park associated with the Sriwijaya Kingdom which is on the north bank of the Musi River, Palembang city, South Sumatra. In this area a network of canals, ditches and ponds were found neatly and regularly which ensured that this area was man-made, so it was believed that the center of the Srivijaya kingdom in Palembang was located on this site. In this area, there are many ancient relics which indicate that this area was once the center of human settlement and activity.

In the process of discovering historical sites in Indonesia, it is very influential on the lives of the surrounding communities which are interrelated in the site environment. The process of using the site in history learning is related to the learning method or technique itself.

In learning history, this historical site is very helpful for teachers in teaching history to students. The teacher can introduce these historical sites to students by explaining that these historical sites are relics - these historical sites are relics from the time before there was life today, this historical site is proof that in ancient

times there was such life. For example, an example is the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom, in this park there is a Sriwijaya museum that is able to help reconstruct the history of the Sriwijaya kingdom itself.

In maintaining, preserving and caring for cultural heritage tourism sites is a shared responsibility between the government and the community. The role of the community in preserving the TPKS site is to carry out activities to maintain the existence and preserve the site with various activities including routine cleaning

Palembang as a city that holds a lot of history and culture, has the potential to be developed in various sectors so that it can accelerate its economic growth with the diversity and uniqueness of its city. The potential of culture in Palembang can be developed for its uniqueness potential by preserving and maintaining its excellence and utilization. The image of Palembang which has diversity and uniqueness can be used by the community to enhance and elevate its character to the outside community. Even though the Archaeological Park of the Sriwijaya Kingdom is shaded by the government, if there is no participation of the surrounding community, the historical site is just a building site that stands

without any meaning and will not be properly maintained,

Researchers are aware of the flaws in this study. Researchers expect all groups of society to provide constructive arguments. The researcher also hopes that all groups of the general public and academia will complement and continue this research, so that it can complement and create relevant research to become a source of historical learning.

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Notes on interview with Mr. Abdul  
Manan on 10/01/2020, 09.40.

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