

THE OLD-CITY HALL PARK'S QUALITY BASED ON PERCEPTION AND USER ACTIVITY IN TEGAL CITY, CENTRAL JAVA

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ABSTRACT

The quality of the area is the vitality of a living and livable urban area and is present for urban space activities. The ancient traditions of creating community have been proven by having a place to meet. The expert said that this place is called a public space which provides the needs of the community for daily interaction from various social aspects and levels so that this place will become more meaningful for the city. Old-City Hall Park of Tegal is one of the three important Public Spaces that have an impression for local residents, and the other two are The City center square and Pancasila Park. There are three landmarks in the park that provide territorial marks for road users in the Pantura-province-street that have entered to Tegal City. However, during the time Tegal city developed, the Old City Hall Park often had regional problems where the parks is meaningless to local residents so that the ownership of a place decreased over time. Problems arise from the lack of visitors, park management that is not running well so it damages the Physical Attribute and street

furniture of the park itself, and the emergence of illegal street vendors in the corners of the public spaces in the park area. This study uses a quantitative-qualitative mix-method. The purpose of this research is not far from solving the city park's problem by analyzing the quality of the park in terms of the vitality of the area. The respondents used were 100 people. The analysis is carried out by identifying and searching for information on user activities, the physical conditions of the park, accessibility, and the meaning of city parks. The results of the study proved that after going through a survey of respondents' perceptions and field observations that the quality of the City Park was not sufficient, seen from the analysis of the physical environmental conditions of the park to support various types of activities, the respondent's perception of ownership of the park gradually disappeared along with the meaning of the place.

Keywords: Public Space, City Park, Vitality, City Area, Quality

A. INTRODUCTION

The quality of the area is the vitality of a living and livable urban area. Vitality means being present for urban space users and activities. This refers to the kinds of activities and users that support urban space. This principle is not only carried out by urban planners but how the role of design in an urban area is also needed. Calthrope (1993) explains that the traditional culture where the center of a community occurs because of the existence of an adequate meeting place. Parks and public spaces should be the main essence of this meeting habits. According to Carr (1992), he found that the dynamics of public space in several places can be seen from aesthetic, political, and social aspects. An order that is found every day in daily interactions, economic changes, communication in a community which then creates a meaningful place from a city.

Tegal City is a city in Central Java that is centered on trade and services. The city has a strategic location because it is passed by the Pantura Line (North Coast). Tegal city is a transit city to rest for those who travel from the west to the east - or otherwise, the island of Java. As a city with trade and service activities, Tegal city has developed and the urban issues have arisen accordingly. Issues in urban space such as misappropriation of land use, accessibility / circulation problems, to micro problems such as the rise of illegal street vendors in several corners of the urban public spaces which slowly change the actual function of public spaces and the visuals of the city become disorganized.

The Old City Hall Park is a park built side by side with the landmark city monument Yos Soedarso which attracts local visitors. The phenomenon in several decades that the Old City Hall Park has become one of the three important city parks as a public space that the local government should be able to pay attention to strive for the effectiveness of the

city park. Currently, the Old City Hall Park only has visitors with user activities on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings due to changes in function of the park to a market or exhibition for certain events only.

Previously, Tegal City had a similar problem in one of the well-known public spaces among the community. This problem was present in Pancasila Park related to bad park management, traffic problems and the most common was the presence of illegal street vendors. These problems then create an area that was poorly maintained and bad visual for the urban public spaces.

Through the efforts of the local government under the Housing and Settlement Department of Tegal City in 2019, the process of building the revitalization of a city park located on Pancasila Street in collaboration with PT. Indonesian Railways. Revitalization act was used by urban strategies as an approach to creating a meaningful place for an area. Roger Trancik explains in his identification theory in Finding lost space or placemaking theory. In this case, the formulation of this research problem is as follows: 1.) Is the physical condition of the Old Tegal City Hall Park adequate to support the activities in it? 2.) What are the user perceptions in Old City Hall Park Tegal city 3) What factors affect the vitality of the area in Tegal Old city Hall Park 4) What types of activities occur in Old City Hall Park?

The benefit of this research for the community is that the community gets maximum city parks and the surrounding environment in relation to supporting visual activities that create the image of the city itself. While for the government, it is able to support government program. Helped Housing and Settlements Department to be able to evaluate city parks that can develop their potential to be better and be able to solve regional problems.

B LITERATURAL REVIEW

B.1. Activity

Samuel (1982) explains that activities are not only activities but efforts to achieve things that meet the needs of an individual.

Activities according to Gehl (2011) explain the occurrence of movement in a space which is grouped into 3 parts of the meaning of activities:

1. The main activity is an activity that is carried out continuously (routine) and is a must to fulfill a certain need.
2. Optional activities are activities carried out if there is a certain opportunity and time. This activity is carried out in a pleasant enough environment, and individuals do it in a relaxed manner
3. Social activities are activities with the involvement of social interactions and their surroundings. Activities tend to be unplanned.

B.2. City Parks

According to Atmojo (2007) city parks can have many functions related to hydrological, ecological, health, recreation, economy, education. Then the trees in a city park can be used to help the process of absorbing water in the soil. Meanwhile, according to Calthrope (1993) Parks, and public spaces should be the main essence of this habit of meeting each other. At every scale the park must be able to support the establishment of social activities in terms of the sphere of neighbors, cities or regions. Small parks are usually for children, toddlers, and their parents to meet and prioritize comfort and safety for children's play areas, on a city scale, greening is rarely considered or used in our modern urban peripheries. An important part of this is giving identity to the larger community and acting for the physical link between neighborhoods, housing,

commercial centers, and community services.

B.3. The Good City Forms Theory

Kevin Lynch (1981) determines the answer to the question what is the parameter and makes a city in good condition, and in the process provides the material for discussion of urban theory. Lynch argues that the answer is the development of a fundamental theory that is normative and has a relationship with the spatial value characteristics of cities. The key to developing this theory is how to identify the unit of performance dimensions by understanding that each society will prioritize these criteria differently. Lynch suggests five criteria: Vitality, Sense, Fit, Access, and Control.

B.4. The Element of Parks Quality

The theory that has been presented by Carr (1992) states that city parks as public spaces can be seen from Good City Forms aspects of city quality which include aspects of needs, aspects of rights, and aspects of meaning.

B.4. Meaning of Place

Jackon, 1994 (In Carmona, 2003) explains that Sense of Place is often interpreted as a person's experience of feeling both physical and human sensors in a place, a connection to the life of a place can be felt.

The life of a place is always visible and present despite major changes. Many cities retain their identity in view of the social, cultural and changing technological significance. Dubos, 1972(In Carmona, 2003) every place has an opportunity as a brand for example, such as Las Vegas, Paris, New York where they each have a brand, an image that is clearly seen from the story and history.

B.5. City Park Quality Variable Selection Theory

1.) Aspects of Activity (Activity) - Types of activities are the main aspects of the function of public space, as the theory of Carr (1992) finds that the dynamics of the public space. An order that is found every day in daily interactions, economic changes, communication in a community and then creates a meaningful place from a city.

2.) Environmental Aspects of the Park (Environment and Facilities) - The park environment which includes the physical aspects of the park itself is an important part of the quality of the park. Where the conditions of the park facilities meet with needs of the user's activities in there.

3.) Accessibility Aspects - Roger Scurton's,1984 (In Carmona, 2003) theory explains that public space has free access and plays an important role in the surrounding environment. Connecting people from one place to another

4.) Aspects of Meaning (Meaning) - Carr et al (1992) explain that the relationship and meaning of a place and easily recognized. Meanwhile, Relph (in Carmona 2003), the meaning aspect focuses on psychological experiences where we can feel and know a place. Carmona (2003) describes the concept of a place as a sense of belonging that is bound by emotion.

C. METHODOLOGY

This research methodology uses a mix of quantitative qualitative methods with the percentage of quantitative more dominant than qualitative. The observation method is carried out in the city park in the morning, evening, and Night day. Then compare the variation of activities on weekdays and weekends, while for obtaining questionnaire data from respondents to describe perceptions using the Linkert method and supported by the Google Forms application.

After conducting a review of literature studies, problem formulation, and research observations, it can be found that there are variables for discussion of City Park Quality which can be seen from the Vitality of the area as follows:

Y = City Park Quality

X1 = Physical Environment

X2 = Activities

X3 = Accessibility

X4 = Meaning

The independent & dependent variables are able to fulfill the regression equation:

$$Y = a + b.X1 + c.X2 + d.X3 + \dots \dots \dots (4.1)$$

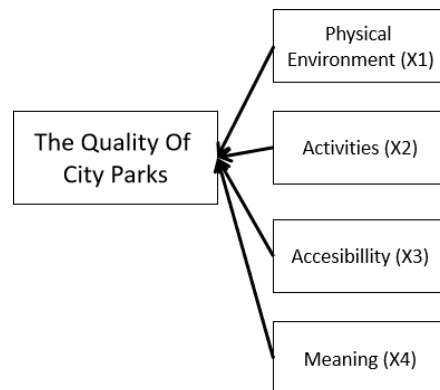


Figure 1. Variable Chart
 (Source: Personal Analysis)

D. DISCUSSION

D.1. General Description

Tegal City is a city that is strategically located in the cross-national and regional economic route of the Pantura region (north coast) from the west to the east route (Jakarta - Tegal - Semarang). Old City Hall Parks is the object of research under study and becomes an important city public space with its uniqueness because of its location in Old City area belonging to Tegal City. Final

Report: Preparation of the Regional Action Plan (RAD) for the Heritage City of Tegal City (2015) An area that has a history from the Dutch colonial era whose traces are still recorded from the physical condition of the surrounding environment Old City Hall Parks or other names referred to as the Yos Soedarso Park also has the Landmark of Yos Sudarso Monument. This park is adjacent to government offices such as the Government Office and the Police Office. The boundaries of the research object are limited by Pemuda Street, Veteran Street, Yos Sudarso Street, Slamet Riyadi Street, and Proklamasi Street.

D.2. The History of the Old City Hall Park area in Tegal City

Old City Hall Parks or by another name Yos Soedarso Park is in the Old City area of Tegal. The old city of Tegal is dominated by Dutch colonial architectural styles and is still preserved. This area in the past was the center of government as well as trade and foreign affairs. Since the 17th century, the Dutch have started to make several changes to the government structure in the Tegal City. Tegal City at that time was the capital of the residency including Brebes, Pemalang, and its surroundings (Daryono, 2010). Not only the *Residendhuist* government building, but there is a post office, *NV Bank NV Handelsbank Matschappij* Building, and several buildings designated for trade in the economic and service sectors. In addition, the old city area is very close to the port, center of the busiest area and becomes the center of commerce. The Old City Hall Park of Tegal was also one of the public spaces that were also used for community gatherings at that time. Before the construction of the Yos Soedarso Monument, there was a monument to commemorate I. r G Lamminga as a Dutch engineer who played a role in the drainage of Tegal city. Then there was a change and the

monument was demolished around 1960 and Tegal City was given the honor as the location for built up the landmark Yos Soedarso Monument on January 15, 1962 after the nation's heroes fought and died in the battle in the Aru Sea. The death of Deputy Kasal Komodor Yos Soedarso, Marine Captain Wiratno, and all other crew members of the KRI Macan Tutul ship. The reason the city was given the honor of placing the landmark of Tugu Yos Soedarso is because the City of Tegal is the pioneer of naval education and the BKR.

D.3. Analysis the Physical Environment as Indicator of Parks Quality in Old City Hall Park, Tegal City

One of the most important aspects is vitality, where the vitality of an area must be able to meet the needs of users in any case to support human life. In terms of comfort, safety, and sustainability. Meanwhile, the Control Aspect which is still in the aspect of The Good City Forms also plays a role in the territorial phenomenon of space and time to carry out day-to-day activities depending on ownership. There are clear spatial parties, right for a place, right for use and action, right for modification, and right for placement. To control this, there are several main aspects that are followed, namely Suitability, Responsibility, and Accuracy.



Figure 2. The Existing condition of Street Furniture
(Source: Personal data)

This theory underlies to be able to see the adequate facilities and environmental conditions of the park, and make indicators that affect the quality of the Old City Hall Park. Based on the data obtained from the respondents' responses, it is found that 39 (39%) of the facilities at Old City Hall Park are normal. (29%) Respondents disagree, and 10 (10%) Respondents Strongly Disagree. This proves that the respondents' perceptions of the facilities provided by the Old City Hall Park are far away from fulfill the needs of user activities. A total of 16 (16%) Respondents Strongly Agree and 6 (6%) Respondents agree. The results of this respondent perception graph are reinforced by the findings of poor and descriptive facilities such as water features that are not functioning properly, insufficient seating for visitors and bad ergonomics, bad lighting at night, bad hygiene, and bad landscape management.

Fasilitas yang ada telah memfasilitasi aktivitas di Taman Balai Kota Lama Tegal

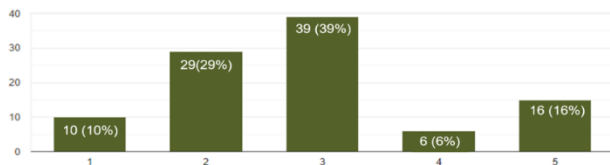


Figure 3. Respondent perception for City Park Facilities
 (Source: Personal Data)

D.4. Analysis of Activities in Old City Hall Park Tegal city

Meanwhile, the Activity Support found were shopping activities because on Sunday mornings the park turned into a market, and demonstration activities because the park was adjacent to the City DPRD Office. The survey states that respondents agree that the park and its surrounding environment have various activities.

The conditions at the research location related to the observation of activities at the

Old City Hall Park of Tegal City and its environment provide an overview of zoning because these activities tend to be saturated over and over again by users at these points.

The orange zone notation A is a recreation and leisure zone both during the day and evening. At night users do not use the park due to lack of lighting. The red zone notation B is the parking zone. Users use part of the park to park their motorbikes for purposes at the post office building, police station, or DPRD office. The Purple Zone with zoning C and E is the culinary zone. During the day and at night there are street vendors selling their wares.



Figure 4. Accessibility path
 (Source: Personal Analysis)

The green zone is an inactive park zone so there is no activity in the area.



Figure 5. Accessibility path
 (Source: Personal Analysis)

D.5. Analysis the Accessibility

The accessibility aspect discusses the human movement where a person's reach to a place with it link. Kevin Lynch explains in The Good City Forms theory that the access aspect must have a good connecting aspect, and the information can be briefly understood by the user. Achievement / accessibility that users use to get to the city park varies. The survey results of respondents show that the transportation commonly used is two-wheeled private vehicles with a percentage of 69%.

Based on the observation that the old city hall park is clearly delimited by the road. Yos Soedarso street is a provincial road (pantura line), Pemuda street is a one-lane road that surrounds the city park, Veteran street is the main road that connects the city park with the Central city of Tegal, Slamet Riyadi street and Proklamasi street are alternative roads that are still connected to the Central City and neighborhoods. Yos Soedarso street and Slamet Riyadi street are roads traversed by public transport, while the other roads are not. The survey results show that users prefer to use the Veteran road as a way of reaching the city park. Even so, park users still find it easy to access city parks.

D.6. Analysis the Meaning of place as an Indicator of Parks Quality in Old City Hall Park, Tegal City

The expert argues that the meaning of place can be described as being the soul of a place that is always visible and present even though there is available major changes. Many cities retain their identity in view of the social, cultural and changing technological significance. Dubos, 1972 (In Carmona 2003) Roger Trancik's Place Theory mentions an approach for the designer to focus more on the importance of a historical, cultural, and social value of a public space.

The area with Dutch colonial era scenery is strengthened by the iconic buildings around which are still preserved nowadays. It can also strengthen the meaning of a place and create engagement for the urban community. The survey results regarding attachment to place show that users want to return to the Old City Hall Park again. The user agrees that the historical and cultural aspects make a reason to come and want to preserve the existing area. Apart from the historical heritage buildings of the colonial era, the Old City Hall Park stands a Yos Soedarso monument, Landmark Anchor and Tugu Adipura. These 3 main landmarks are sufficient to present the legibility of a place by Park users, as well as the wider community.

E. CONCLUSION

This research was conducted at the Old Tegal City Hall Park by highlighting the vitality of the area and its problems so that the following research results emerged:

1. The physical condition of the Old City Hall Park The facilities are not sufficient to facilitate the activities inside. Park facilities such as inadequate seating conditions, neglected cleanliness conditions and trash cans, dirty and malfunctioning fountains, various vegetation with unkempt conditions, and insufficient lighting facilities for the park area at night.
2. Overall user perceptions regarding the Quality of City Parks are still inadequate and suggest repair / revitalization but still maintaining and preserving the existing heritage and culture. The perception of the meaning of place is still good because local residents still understand the legibility of the area.
3. Factors that affect the vitality of the area in Old City Hall Park are good existing conditions by creating user comfort, adequate facilities for various activities and

the number of users in groups, A places where activities are carried out by users from various levels of society / social. Supports efficiency and a sense of security for users to reach the location, creating a lively and meaningful place for a city identity

4. Types of activities at Old Tegal City Hall Park are divided into two types of activities, namely main activities and support activities. The main activities are culinary, relaxing, recreation. Meanwhile, Activity Support are shopping and demonstration activities.

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