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Traditional settlement livability in creating sustainable living

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Abstract

Tenganan Pegringsingan is a tourist destination in Amlapura, Bali well known mostly for its walled traditional settlement and how Hindu Indra religion and Balinese culture are intertwined in the community's daily life. Despite the strong intention of inhabitants to keep their beliefs and norms, tourism has significantly brought many changes to the community as well as to their living spaces. To accommodate the commercial activities for example, most of the inhabitants utilise their houses and modify them if necessary. This qualitative study examines the livability factors in Tenganan Pegringsingan village in order to sustain their living space according to the local norms as well as to develop their capacities in the tourism industry. Data are obtained by interviewing the inhabitants and examining both the settlement and their houses while statistics are used to measure the tourism development. The research shows that modification is conducted not only on the living space but also through the application of beliefs and norms.

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1. Introduction

Settlement plays an important role in creating human civilization by providing space to meet the needs of the inhabitants both in the present and the future time. As a built environment and a means of human activities, settlements transform over time. They are required to provide spaces with attractive environments to live in, and in turn so that the inhabitants would have a better living condition to achieve sustainability (Throsby, 2006, in Leby, J, L and Hashin, A, H, 2010).

According to Brook Lyndhurst's report (2004) livability is the quality of life associated with clean, safe and green environmental conditions. Livability is necessary to build local power in the development process. It could also improve quality of life through improvement of environmental conditions and housing. As part of a city, settlement livability could reflect the quality of people's lives and be a crucial element for the city development. Therefore demands to create livable settlements are not only a challenge but also an urgent need for global development, especially for Indonesia.

With the significant economic growth experienced by Indonesia and thus the development of villages and small towns, traditional settlement has a strategic role in creating sustainable living. Traditional settlement is mostly characterised by the traditional norms practiced in the community's daily life in their traditional built environment. There are only 58 traditional settlements listed as tourist destination on the Indonesia's official tourism website (www.indonesia.travel.id); however, it could be ascertained that the number of traditional settlement in Indonesia is far greater since there are more than 350 ethnic groups in Indonesia.

The settlements, both those of tourist destination and otherwise, are facing the challenges of global development. When the quality of life particularly in economic and living environment aspects of most communities in Indonesia is increasing, unfortunately the same condition cannot be experienced equally by those living traditionally. This paper seeks to investigate the livability aspects of a traditional settlement as tourist destination in order to achieve sustainability.

2. Conceptual framework

2.1. Livability

Livability theory used for this study is based on its definition in social sciences whereby livability is a category of happiness, although in general it is viewed somewhat pragmatically. Empirical research related to 'happiness' began growing since the 1960s. The importance of human happiness not only arises in research in the field of psychology but also of sociology, health sciences and economics (Veenhoven, 2004). Thus development aims to bring prosperity characterized by the level of happiness (life satisfaction).

In describing the definition of happiness Veenhoven (2004) equates happiness with quality of life (QOL), which yields a common terminology. Quality of life is systematically classified by two criteria in the form of a matrix (figure 1). Vertical criteria are distinguished based on opportunity and achievement of life, while the horizontal ones are based on internal and external qualities (Veenhoven, 2004). Thus, livability is defined as environmental/living conditions which produce a combination of external opportunities and quality of life. Livability terminology is used more widely in this categorisation because it explicitly reflects the environmental characteristics.

	External Qualities	Internal Qualities
Life Chances	Livability of Environment (Livability)	Life-ability of the person
Life result	Utility of life	Satisfaction

Fig. 1. Matriks quality of life.
Source: Veenhoven, 2004

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