



Urbanization and Social Change in Ambon City: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Communities

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Abstract

This research discusses the impact of migration on social change in Ambon City, Indonesia. Ambon City, as the economic and cultural center of the Maluku region, has undergone significant transformation due to migration, both internal and external. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach through literature study. The results of this study outline how migration has created challenges in terms of social integration, changes in cultural identity, and the potential for social conflict. On the other hand, migration also brings opportunities in the form of economic growth, cultural diversity, and cross-cultural innovation. To overcome these challenges, the Ambon City government needs to formulate policies that support social inclusion, sustainable economic development, and preservation of cultural identity. Collaboration between natives and migrants should also be enhanced to create a harmonious and competitive environment, ensuring that Ambon City remains an attractive and diverse place for all its residents. This research underscores the importance of an in-depth understanding of migration dynamics and social change to capitalize on migration opportunities while maintaining the social, economic and cultural sustainability of Ambon City.

Keywords: Local Community, Social Change, Ambon City, Urbanization

Introduction

Ambon City, the capital of Maluku Province, Indonesia, is the center of economic, cultural and social life in the region. Known for its outstanding natural beauty, Ambon has become an important urbanization destination in recent decades. This dramatic transformation in the city's society is reflected in significant social, demographic and economic changes. Rapid economic growth in Ambon City, especially in the services and trade sectors, has attracted residents from various parts of Indonesia in search of employment opportunities and a better life (Septory et al., 2023). As a result, Ambon City has experienced a significant increase in

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population (Latue et al., 2023). While urbanization can provide an economic boost and cultural diversification, it also provides a number of significant challenges.

In this context, it is necessary to further analyze the impact of urbanization and social change in Ambon City. This research will outline various aspects of urbanization, including the reasons behind it, patterns of urbanization, and its impact on the daily lives of local communities. In addition, the research will explore the social and economic issues arising from urbanization, as well as the efforts that have been made by the government and local communities to deal with these challenges. The research will also discuss the opportunities available in cultural diversity and integration of migrant communities, and how to optimize their benefits for sustainable development and harmony in Ambon City and its surroundings.

Literature Review

One of the main challenges facing Ambon City is managing this rapid growth. Increased pressure on infrastructure, housing, and public services requires special attention in planning for a sustainable city (Muin Rakuasa, 2023). In addition, urbanization has brought changes in the social and cultural dynamics in local communities, including in terms of cultural identity, language, and local wisdom. Meanwhile, urbanization also brings opportunities that can strengthen the growth and development of Ambon City (Saija et al., 2021). With the influx of new labor and entrepreneurs, there is potential for greater economic growth and industry diversity (Wassan et al., 2017). Cultural integration and knowledge exchange between natives and migrants can lead to innovations and collaborations that benefit society as a whole (Marsh & Oyelere, 2018).

Research Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a research procedure with descriptive data results in the form of written or spoken words (Hamilton & Finley, 2019). Qualitative research aims to analyze the quality of a study. The type of research used is a literature study which is research that has been done before by collecting journal books, magazines, and scientific papers that are interrelated with the problems and research objectives. Literature study is a data collection technique carried out by conducting a study of books or literature related to the problem being solved (Roller, 2019). The literature study used is by searching on Google Scholar, Scopus, and Google Book. The search was conducted using the keywords Migration, Social Change, Challenges and Opportunities for Local Communities.

Result and Discussion

1. Urbanization in Ambon City

Ambon Island, located in Maluku Province, Indonesia, has long been the center of economic, cultural, and social life in the region. However, in recent decades, the island has witnessed a dramatic transformation in terms of population urbanization (Saija et al., 2021). Urbanization, both internal and external, has been a major feature of social and demographic development in Ambon City (Marsh & Oyelere, 2018). This is reflected in significant changes in population composition, settlement patterns, and existing social and cultural structures. Urbanization in Ambon City has several dimensions that are important to understand. First, internal urbanization from surrounding areas to Ambon City has become one of the main flows of people seeking economic opportunities and improved living conditions (Matakena & Matatula, 2021). Factors such as available jobs, access to public services, and the potential for higher incomes have been the main drivers behind this urbanization. In addition, external urbanization from outside Maluku, both in a national and international context, has also influenced the population dynamics of Ambon City (Saija et al., 2021).

Secondly, the pattern of urbanization in Ambon City covers a wide range of age groups and socio-economic backgrounds. Youth looking for new job opportunities, families looking to improve their living conditions, and even individuals with diverse educational backgrounds all contribute to the growth of urbanization. This creates diversity within the migrant community and also has a diverse impact on the local community. Third, urbanization in Ambon City is also closely related to urban dynamics. As the population increases, demands for infrastructure, housing and public services have increased. The city government and related agencies face challenges in managing this rapid growth and maintaining the quality of life of residents (Fransina & Andi, 2019).

2. Social Impact of Urbanization

Urbanization in Ambon City has had a significant impact on the social structure, interactions between individuals, and cultural identity of the local community. One of the most obvious impacts of urbanization is the challenge of integrating migrant communities with local communities. This integration process involves various aspects, including culture, language, social norms and values (Hidayati, 2021). Communication between groups is often a challenge, especially if there are significant differences in language or cultural practices. In some cases, this can create social isolation for migrants, which can then disrupt social harmony.

In addition, urbanization often affects the cultural identity of local communities. New developments in language, traditions and social norms brought in by immigrant communities can trigger changes in local culture. This can be an opportunity for cultural exchange and increased cross-cultural understanding, but it can also lead to a feeling of loss of identity for some members of the local community (Hidayati, 2021). In some cases, the negative social impacts of urbanization can trigger social conflicts. Competition for resources, employment, or housing can trigger tensions between migrant and local groups. Therefore, it is important for the government and local stakeholders to understand the dynamics of these potential conflicts and seek solutions that promote social harmony (Hidayati, 2021). In dealing with the social impacts of urbanization, an approach based on inclusion, inter-group dialogue, and building cross-cultural understanding is necessary. Thus, Ambon City can take advantage of the social

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and cultural diversity that emerges as a result of urbanization to strengthen social life and face social challenges more effectively.

3. Economic Impact of Urbanization

Urbanization in Ambon City not only affects social and cultural aspects, but also has a significant impact on the economic sector (Hadijah & Sadali, 2020). One of the most striking impacts of urbanization is the rapid economic growth. With the arrival of people outside Ambon looking for jobs and business opportunities, Ambon City has witnessed a significant increase in economic activity. This includes the opening of new businesses, a thriving trade sector, and investment in various fields (Hidayati, 2021). This growth can provide a significant economic boost to Ambon City, which in turn can contribute to an increase in the per capita income of residents.

However, changes in the labour market are another important aspect of the economic impact of urbanization. The arrival of people outside Ambon often creates more competition in the labor market. This can result in pressure on wages and working conditions, especially in jobs related to the informal sector. These changes require stakeholders to consider policies that support worker protection and fulfillment of labor rights (Hidayati, 2021). On the other hand, urbanization can also be an effective tool in poverty alleviation efforts. Many people outside Ambon come to Ambon City looking for better economic opportunities for their families. This can create a significant flow of remittances to their home areas, which in turn can support the fulfillment of basic needs and economic development in the migrant's home community. In dealing with the economic impacts of urbanization, it is important for the government and local stakeholders to develop policy strategies that capitalize on the economic growth that occurs while mitigating negative impacts such as social and economic inequality (Hidayati, 2021). A better understanding of labour market dynamics and remittance mechanisms can help design more effective policies in dealing with the economic impacts of urbanization in Ambon City.

4. Ambon City Growth Management

The rapid growth and demographic transformation caused by urbanization in Ambon City has brought significant challenges in managing the city's development. One of the main challenges faced by Ambon City is the provision of adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. The city's growth has resulted in pressure on transportation, clean water, sanitation, and energy networks. Therefore, it is important for the city government to plan and implement infrastructure development that is sustainable and oriented towards the needs of the population (Mardiansjah & Rahayu, 2019). Investments in public transportation, drinking water, and electricity are key in ensuring that Ambon City's development proceeds smoothly.

In addition, the need for affordable and decent housing is also an important concern in managing the city's growth. Demand for housing has increased along with the arrival of migrants, and often this results in an increase in housing prices. Therefore, there is a need for housing policies that support access to affordable housing for all levels of society. This also relates to sustainable development considerations and good urban planning. Another challenge

faced by Ambon City is environmental management. Rapid urban growth can generate pressure on natural ecosystems, including changes in land use and environmental degradation (Salakory & Rakuasa, 2022). Therefore, environmental protection and sustainability should be an integral part of urban planning. Efforts to preserve the natural environment and reduce negative impacts on ecosystems are essential to maintain the quality of life of the people and the sustainability of Ambon City.

In the face of these challenges, collaboration between the city government, the private sector and local communities is essential. Participatory decision-making and careful planning will help Ambon City manage its growth effectively. By doing so, the city can harness the potential for economic and social growth offered by urbanization while maintaining a healthy quality of life and environment for all its residents.

5. Cultural Diversity and Collaboration

Ambon City is a reflection of the cultural diversity that has grown along with the urbanization of the population. In this chapter, we will explore the importance of cultural diversity in the context of Ambon City and how collaboration between natives and migrants can be a source of strength for the city's development. Cultural diversity in Ambon City includes differences in language, traditions, cuisine, religion and other cultural practices. This creates a richly colorful and diverse environment. It also creates opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, experience and creativity between different cultural groups. Cultural diversity is therefore not only a challenge, but also a valuable asset for the development of Ambon City.

Collaboration between natives and migrants is one way to capitalize on this cultural diversity. When local and migrant communities work together in various fields, such as arts, culture, business and education, they can create innovations that enrich the society of Ambon City as a whole. The shared creativity between different cultural groups often results in unique and interesting cultural products, which can enhance the city's attractiveness as a tourist and economic destination. In this context, the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural collaboration is important. City governments can support cultural activities, festivals and events that celebrate this diversity. The business sector and creative industry can also contribute by collaborating with artists, craftsmen and cultural actors from different backgrounds to create unique products and services. In this way, Ambon City can continue to grow as an inclusive, innovative and culturally energized city that blends tradition with a vision for the future.

6. Policies and Solutions

In the face of significant impacts of urbanization and social change, the Ambon City government has a key role in formulating policies that support sustainable development and harmony in society (Hidayati, 2021). One important aspect in formulating policies is understanding the dynamics of urbanization. The government needs to collect accurate data on urbanization patterns, migrants' motivations, and their geographical distribution. This information can be the basis for better urban planning, efficient resource allocation, and policies that focus on meeting people's needs.

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Furthermore, special attention needs to be paid to the social integration of migrants with local communities. migrants with local communities. Good integration policies can create a favorable environment for cultural exchange and cross-cultural understanding. This can include education programs for migrants, language training, and initiatives that encourage intercultural collaboration. In the economic context, governments can support training and skills development for migrants to facilitate their integration into the local labor market. These programs can help migrant communities take advantage of economic opportunities and succeed in their own businesses. In addition, it is important for the government to develop adequate and affordable housing policies. This may include land allocation for affordable housing, housing assistance programs for low-income families, and regulations to control housing prices (Rakuasa & Somae, 2022).

By formulating appropriate policies, Ambon City can overcome the challenges and harness the potential of urbanization for sustainable development. In addition, collaboration with various stakeholders, including local communities, migrants, and the private sector, will be key in creating effective and comprehensive solutions to improve the quality of life for all residents of Ambon City.

Conclusion

In order to overcome the challenges and maximize the positive potential of urbanization, the results of this study have provided an overview of the impact of urbanization and social change in Ambon City. Urbanization has brought significant complexities, including challenges in social integration, changes in cultural identity, and the potential for social conflict. However, urbanization has also created opportunities in economic growth, cultural diversity, and cross-cultural innovation. For a sustainable future, Ambon City needs to continue formulating policies that focus on social inclusion, sustainable economic development, and preservation of cultural identity. Collaboration between local communities and migrants also needs to be enhanced to create a harmonious and competitive environment, so that Ambon City remains an attractive and diverse place for all its residents.

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