

The Phenomenon of Kampung in Surabaya in Defensible Space Perspective: Case Study on Kampung Tambaksari Surabaya

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Subject Area: Architecture

Abstract

Kampungs, simple settlement units commonly found in Indonesian cities, including Surabaya, play a significant role in the city's development, preserving its identity as a metropolitan city with a strong foundation rooted in these traditional communities. Surabaya recognizes the importance of kampungs and their contribution, evident from the existence of around 5000 kampungs within the city. However, being a bustling metropolitan center, Surabaya also faces its fair share of crime-related challenges. One theory that addresses the relationship between crime and the built environment is the defensible space theory. To explore this further, a study examines Tambaksari, a kampung within Surabaya, in the context of the current defensible space theory. This investigation employs an in-depth observation method to gather specific data on Tambaksari as a single case, aiming to provide valuable insights for stakeholders to formulate more targeted policies that enhance the development of kampungs in Surabaya while effectively addressing crime-related issues.

Keywords: *kampung; defensible space; crime-related issues; traditional communities.*

Introduction

In a broader context, the term "kampung" as examined in this investigation can be understood as a distinctive type of urban habitation, encompassing several distinctive features. Notably, despite its urban location, the majority of residents within these urban villages are individuals facing economic constraints. It is important to emphasize that "kampung" stands apart from slums or unauthorized settlements, as it emerges as a distinct settlement formed and shaped by the community itself. The village's location within the urban center is subject to the influences of surrounding development dynamics.

Among the consequences of such urban dynamics is the surge in criminal activities. The escalation of crime can be attributed, in part, to factors like a substantial population and heightened unemployment rates. As revealed by the evaluation and monitoring analysis conducted by the Surabaya Police, the crime rate in Surabaya witnessed a notable increase of 9 percent in 2022 when compared to the preceding year, with drug-related cases taking the lead and instances of motor vehicle theft (*curanmor*) ranking second.

The classic theory of defensible space represents a fundamental notion that establishes a connection between criminal activities and specific locations. The focal point of this research centers on scrutinizing how

this theory explicates the occurrence of crimes within kampung areas situated amidst urban environments characterized by distinct attributes and accompanied by rapid development in their vicinity (Newman, 1996).

Through a comprehensive examination of the application of the defensible space theory in these unique urban village settings, the study seeks to illuminate the dynamics that contribute to criminal incidents in such areas. Given that kampungs constitute urban settlements with their own set of defining features, their susceptibilities to crime may diverge from those observed in other types of neighborhoods. An enhanced comprehension of how the theory of defensible space applies to these specific contexts can facilitate the formulation of more effective crime prevention and urban planning strategies, thereby fostering safer and more secure living environments for the residents (Muhyi et al., 2019; Newman, 1996).

Literature Review

The exploration of human malevolence traces its roots back to the era of Classical School thinkers during the 18th century, most notably exemplified by Thomas Hobbes, who introduced the notion "*homo homini lupus*" (man is a wolf for other humans) (Morgan, 1982; Spjut, 1984). These thinkers were grounded in the concept of human free will, advocating the necessity for restraint and control. Over time, this concept evolved into a model applicable to residential neighborhoods, offering the potential to curtail crime through the physical manifestation of a social construct capable of self-defense. One such model, proposed by Newman in 1996, is known as "defensible space," which constitutes a deliberate and planned mechanism incorporating both physical and symbolic elements, creating distinct boundaries to empower residents with the ability to oversee and regulate their environment. This theory employs key parameters, including territoriality, surveillance, image, and milieu, to shape an environment that can be effectively managed by its inhabitants.

The application of the defensible space theory in the context of villages gives rise to a multitude of diverse dynamics. These dynamics stem from the distinctive backgrounds and characteristics that define each village as a unique residential entity. Several research studies examining villages in relation to this theory have proven to be highly inspiring (Kustiwan et al., 2015; Muhyi et al., 2019; Sudarwanto et al., 2017). Those research highlights the pivotal role of villages within the broader urban planning and development system. They emphasize that any plans and developmental initiatives pertaining to a city must actively involve the participation and contribution of the kampungs residing within it.

This notion stems from the idea of empowering villages as the driving force behind the future of cities in Indonesia. This approach is justified by the fact that the majority of a city's development originates from its villages, with even the largest cities in Indonesia still prominently featuring the form of village housing. Therefore, city development endeavors must be prepared to safeguard and champion the interests of the village communities. This approach holds significant benefits for the lower middle-class and vulnerable villagers, enabling them to thrive amidst the complexities of urban dynamics. Specifically, Sudarwanto and colleagues' research, which builds upon Setyawan's concept of defensible life space (Sudarwanto et al., 2017), proposes that villages have the ability to establish robust living environments capable of adapting to and enduring the trials presented by urban living.

Numerous research studies have been conducted on defensible space concerning urban villages. The author keenly observes that these villages possess distinct systems aimed at fostering a sense of security and ensuring their survival within urban settings. Furthermore, the author contends that the examination of defensible space yields diverse findings when applied to the context of villages, primarily due to the unique characteristics and singularities inherent in village environments as opposed to other conventional residential areas (Widyastuti, 2015).

Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is characterized as descriptive qualitative. Its primary focus lies in presenting an objective portrayal of the true condition of the subject under examination. To accomplish this, the data collection process incorporates multiple techniques, such as observation, interviews with relevant agencies and community members, and the utilization of various documentation sources. The significance of this approach lies in its ability to offer precise interpretations and meanings for each observed phenomenon (Matta, 2019; ten Have, 2011). Consequently, this method enables a comprehensive understanding of reality, perceiving it as a vibrant, ever-evolving entity imbued with its own distinctiveness.

By adhering to the descriptive qualitative methodology, the research endeavors to deliver a comprehensive and accurate account of the subject in question. Through careful observation, interactions with stakeholders, and the scrupulous examination of documents, a holistic understanding of the phenomenon is pursued. The information gleaned from these multiple sources serves to unveil the nuances and intricacies that define the subject's uniqueness and dynamism. The ultimate aim is to reveal reality as a living, multifaceted entity, shedding light on its inherent complexities and allowing for a deeper appreciation of its distinctive qualities.

Furthermore, the qualitative nature of this research methodology enables the exploration of underlying meanings and subtleties associated with the subject matter. By delving beyond surface-level characteristics, the study aims to unearth the essence of each phenomenon. This approach provides valuable insights into the lived experiences and perspectives of the individuals involved, offering a richer understanding of the subject's dynamics. As a result, this method goes beyond mere statistical analysis, placing emphasis on the richness of human experiences and the intrinsic value of the object of study (Schuster, 2013).

Result and Discussion

Tambaksari Village, situated in Tambaksari Subdistrict, Surabaya City, East Java Province, covers an approximate area of 0.63 km², which constitutes approximately 6.92% of the total sub-district area. The village is subdivided into 9 Rukun Warga (RW) and 77 Rukun Tetangga (RT) units, while its geographical demarcations are defined as follows:

- To the north lies Tambakrejo Village.
- The western boundary is demarcated by Ketabang Urban Village.

- Pacar Keling Urban Village forms the southern boundary.
- Ploso Village marks the eastern boundary.

Figure 1
Wilayah Kelurahan Tambaksari Source : Google Map



Based on the population data in 2022, Tambaksari Village recorded a total population of 19,420 thousand individuals, with women comprising the majority at 9,912 thousand, and the remaining 9,508 being men. The village boasts a high population density level of 30,412.69 people per square kilometer. Tambaksari's urban landscape is characterized by a dominance of industrial and trade establishments, featuring 16 units of various scales, including cooperatives, micro, small, medium, and large industries. Additionally, the village hosts 7 sports facilities, 6 religious' establishments, 5 formal educational institutions, 4 healthcare facilities, 3 tourism-related sites, and 1 communication facility in the form of a radio transmitter located at Gelora 10 November (BPS, 2023). These details illustrate that Tambaksari Village remains lively and vibrant, bustling with public activities both during the day and night.

Assessing Tambaksari Village from the perspective of the defensible space theory, several noteworthy criteria can be elucidated. The village's high population density and active nature signify that it operates as a dynamic social environment, inviting varied interactions and engagements among its inhabitants. The presence of diverse facilities, such as industrial and trade units, sports facilities, religious institutions, and educational and healthcare centers, contributes to the continuous flow of activities and enhances the sense of community engagement. Moreover, the strategic location of the communication facility further fosters connectivity and information dissemination within the village and beyond. This bustling nature of Tambaksari Village can potentially contribute to the establishment of a strong social fabric and a collective sense of responsibility in safeguarding and defending its communal space.

Territoriality

Territoriality is a significant aspect of Tambaksari Village, fostering a sense of belonging and control over the surrounding environment to ensure residents' security. Despite being centrally located in Surabaya, the village maintains relatively open access points. The road access is facilitated by doors, gates, or simple

fences that serve as visible boundaries. Even though there is a perception of safety within the village, the residents still recognize the importance of reinforcing their territory through the presence of fences around their homes. These fences are designed to be permanent yet unassuming, enabling them to maintain a watchful eye on their neighbors and the surrounding area. Notably, most roads within the village are equipped with street lighting, which contributes to a defined sense of territory between neighborhoods while still allowing for informal passage and connection. Additionally, some houses incorporate terraces as transitional spaces, enhancing the notion of territoriality within the village landscape.

Surveillance

Surveillance plays a vital role in Tambaksari Village, facilitating natural monitoring of both neighbors and the surrounding environment. Residents have the inherent ability to keep a watchful eye on public spaces in their vicinity. Notably, most villages in Surabaya, including Tambaksari, feature guardhouses or ronda posts. These structures serve multiple functions, functioning as gathering spots, venues for discussions, locations for carrying out guard and surveillance activities, and spaces for social interactions. Their strategic placement, often positioned at the village's traffic meeting points or entrances, allows for effective monitoring of the community's surroundings.

Tambaksari Village exhibits pure characteristics of a traditional village concerning surveillance aspects. For instance, many houses have openings facing the street, making them clearly visible to passersby. This design fosters a natural surveillance function among households, as they can keep an eye on each other and observe activities occurring in the immediate vicinity. The communal nature of this surveillance system enhances the overall security and cohesion of the village, creating a closely-knit community where residents look out for one another. The state of dwellings on major thoroughfares such as Tambaksari Street has mainly diminished a village's individuality while indirectly straining residents' togetherness. Furthermore, the density of houses and crowding of hawkers in certain locations gives the image of slums.

Image

Image pertains to the ability to shape perceptions of an environment or structure, thereby projecting a positive impression that deters potential criminals from committing unlawful acts. In village settlements like Tambaksari, the architecture often exhibits standard and unremarkable characteristics, with certain buildings appearing less well-maintained. Nevertheless, there are alleyways where houses are neatly arranged and kept clean. However, in regions where trade and industrial establishments are concentrated, the overall appearance tends to lean towards a slum-like condition due to suboptimal area organization. Notably, the Tambaksari road area exemplifies such a scenario, where an abundance of street vendors contributes to a chaotic atmosphere, leaving an unfavorable impression.

In Tambaksari Village, crafting a positive image for its surroundings and structures is imperative to discourage potential criminal activities. The visual appeal of buildings and the overall arrangement of the area play significant roles in influencing perceptions and shaping the community's safety perception. Despite some alleyways exhibiting well-maintained houses, the concentration of trade and industrial enterprises leads to

certain areas adopting a slum-like ambiance due to inadequate organization. A prominent example is the Tambaksari road area, where an abundance of street vendors contributes to a sense of disorder and clutter, potentially undermining the village's image as a secure and pleasant environment. It is essential for the village authorities to address these aspects to bolster a positive image and enhance safety perception among residents and visitors alike.

Milieu

The concentration of individuals in a single location fosters a sense of security as it enables mutual supervision and care, effectively deterring criminal activities. Tambaksari Village falls under the category of villages that boast a wide array of public amenities, including public transportation terminals, schools, ronda posts, security posts, police guard posts, sports facilities, places of worship, and commercial establishments. During interviews with several respondents from Tambaksari Village, it emerged that their decision to reside in the village was not primarily driven by security considerations but rather by economic motives. Additionally, many informants cited a sense of comfort as a pivotal factor influencing their choice to live in the village. This comfort emanates from the village's distinctive ambiance, which imparts a feeling of being at home. The informants' backgrounds, typically originating from remote areas outside the city of Surabaya, have cultivated a penchant for the harmonious atmosphere prevalent in village communities. To safeguard their homes and neighborhoods from external criminal threats, the inhabitants of Tambaksari Village have developed a series of social practices deeply rooted in their cultural heritage. These practices have been handed down through generations, reflecting a tradition that remains instrumental in preserving the village's security and communal well-being.

Figure 2
One of the social products developed between residents and police officers in order to create a safe village.



Sumber : <https://www.jawapes.or.id/2023/03/kapolsek-tambaksari-surabaya-sambang-ke.html> 29 Maret 2023

The range of social products constitutes a non-physical defense strategy, manifesting in the integration of community life within urban villages. When these social products are positively nurtured and developed, they hold the potential to transform into social capital. This social capital is collective in nature, serving as an integrated entity within the community, actively supporting and preserving these social products. The village

community's efforts in cultivating these non-physical defense strategies are summarized in the table 1 provided below:

Table 1
Tambak Sari Defense Strategies

Conflict Resolution Media	Community Activities	Security Surveillance Patterns
- Meetings (Musyawarah) sometimes involve informal arbitration - Arisan (Social gathering with contributions)	- Community gatherings (Temu warga) - Religious gatherings (Pengajian) - Group exercises (Senam) - Commemoration of significant days (Peringatan hari besar) - Bazaar, night markets (Bazar, pasar malam) - Informal gatherings (Cangkru'an)	- Community Security Meetings (Simkamling) - Village Security Guards (Hansip) - Community Policing (Polisi Masyarakat) - Safe Village Creation Contest (Lomba Cipta Kampung Aman) - Police Community Engagement (Polisi sapa warga - door to door)

Source: Author's Analysis

The table outlines the various social products created and upheld by the village community, illustrating their significance in fostering a cohesive and secure environment within Tambaksari Village. These social products encompass a diverse array of practices, customs, and traditions that promote a sense of unity, trust, and collective responsibility, forming a crucial foundation for the village's overall well-being and resilience against potential security threats.

Conclusion

The implementation of the defensible space theory in building design within a village context must go hand in hand with social functions to hold significance for the community. For instance, constructing a tall and imposing fence may not be particularly appealing in a village environment characterized by a strong sense of community, especially when the property owner is an exclusive newcomer. Tambaksari Village faces challenges related to criminal vulnerability, including brawls, alcohol misuse, and drug abuse. The area most prone to crime is Tambaksari Road, a public space adjacent to the Gelora 10 November stadium, which hosts various commercial establishments but has minimal residential population and inadequate street lighting. This scenario aligns with the predictions of the defensible space theory, as the absence of housing along the road diminishes natural surveillance, making the area susceptible to potential infiltration by outsiders or gangs. Consequently, village areas lacking sufficient non-physical social structures are at risk of experiencing conflicts or crimes in their vicinity. The cultivation and development of citizen cohesiveness necessitate collaboration among fellow residents, with support from the Surabaya city government.

An external factor contributing to crime in urban areas is the high rate of unemployment among the productive-age population in Surabaya. To address this concern, residents must actively engage in activities that foster a sense of responsibility for the environment, involving the entire village community. Crowded public spaces alone may not effectively deter crime unless accompanied by empathy and strong communal bonds among the residents. The cooperative spirit and solidarity among villagers play pivotal roles in creating

a safe and secure environment. By encouraging community involvement and shared responsibility for maintaining their surroundings, residents can contribute significantly to reducing crime and enhancing overall safety in the village. Additionally, efforts to address the issue of unemployment in the productive-age population through various initiatives and policies can also alleviate crime rates in urban areas like Surabaya.

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