

Analysis of Social Perspectives in Reconstructing the History of Urbanization in Medan City

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is considered to be an ingrained social phenomenon in various large Indonesian cities, characterized by rapid urban population growth and drastic changes in social, economic and environmental structures. Urbanization in Indonesia shows a rapid increasing trend over the last few decades. Medan City, as one of the main urban centers in North Sumatra, has not escaped the impact of significant urbanization. Along with rapid economic and demographic growth, the city has experienced a major transformation in various aspects of city life. This research aims to identify the history of urbanization in Medan City from a social perspective. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive method through literature study sourced from journals, scientific articles, books and other relevant sources. The results of this research show that urbanization in Medan City has been going on for a long time. Strategically located on the east coast of Sumatra and between the confluence of the Deli River and the Babura River, Medan has vital trade access to the Malacca Strait. Especially in the period 2012 to 2022, the increase in population in Medan City occurred in almost all sub-districts. Of the 21 sub-districts, 17 sub-districts experienced an increase in population of more than 10%. Only one sub-district experienced a decline in population, namely Medan Baru Sub-district by 7.89%. The high level of urbanization in the city of Medan is generally caused by several factors, such as strategic location, the presence of natural resources (SDA), and supporting natural conditions. Meanwhile, the impact on society's social life includes rapid population growth, changes in societal structure, and social and cultural dynamics.

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a social and geographical phenomenon that describes the movement of people from rural to urban areas (Ismail et al., 2020). This concept is an integral part of the growth and development process of cities around the world. In the modern era, urbanization is a hallmark of significant social and economic change in many countries. The growth of cities is often associated with increased employment opportunities, access to health and education services, and social mobility for

migrating populations (Hadijah & Sadali, 2020).

Urbanization has changed the geographic and social landscape in many regions, with infrastructure development accommodating population growth and economic needs. Cities are becoming centers of economic, cultural, and political activity, attracting investment and offering opportunities for business growth and technological innovation (Hidayati, 2021). The phenomenon of urbanization is also often associated with improved living

standards, although this is not always the case for all city dwellers.

According to (Rijal & Tahir, 2022), one of the characteristics of urbanization is the transformation of land from agricultural or open space to densely populated urban areas. This often presents environmental challenges such as high population density, air pollution, waste, and a lack of green open spaces (Sembiring & Bangun, 2021). These changes require effective and sustainable spatial planning to ensure a balance between development and environmental preservation. In addition, urbanization also affects the social structure and life of communities. This process often leads to changes in settlement patterns, community life, and cultural identity. Cities become centers of diverse social and economic activities, presenting a unique ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity (Prayojana et al., 2020).

Beyond the term urbanization, there is also the phenomenon of suburbanization and exurbanization, where some city dwellers choose to live in suburbs or more remote rural areas. This is often due to a desire to avoid crowds and a more relaxed pace of life, as well as to gain access to open space and nature. Urbanization also affects local and national economies by creating important centers of economic growth. Cities become major locations for industry, trade and services, creating jobs for local residents and attracting domestic and foreign investment (Yanuar et al., 2023). However, urbanization can also increase economic disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between different regions within the city itself.

In the broader social context, urbanization brings about changes in patterns of social relations, lifestyles, and cultural values. Increased population mobility and intercultural encounters in

cities create opportunities for the exchange of ideas, innovation and cultural integration (Wijaya et al., 2020). However, urbanization can also lead to social problems such as economic inequality, unequal access to basic services, and tensions between ethnic groups or social classes (Kuciswara et al., 2021).

Urbanization is a significant phenomenon in many Indonesian cities, characterized by rapid urban population growth and drastic changes in social, economic, and environmental structures (Rukmana & Cahyaningtias, 2021). This phenomenon has broad and diverse impacts, both positive and negative, that need to be understood holistically. Urbanization leads to rapid economic growth and urban infrastructure development. Cities such as Jakarta, Surabaya, and Bandung became important economic and trade centers, attracting investment and creating jobs for locals and migrants alike (Wijayanti & Priyanto, 2022). This economic growth is often followed by the development of supportive industry, trade, and service sectors.

However, urbanization also poses a number of problems. Rapid population growth is often not matched by adequate infrastructure development, leading to traffic congestion, overcrowding, and housing crises (Salim, 2023). In addition, urbanization can also increase economic and social disparities among urban dwellers, with most of the economic benefits being enjoyed by only certain segments of society (Anisyaturrobiah, 2021). Besides the economic aspect, urbanization also has significant environmental impacts. Uncontrolled urban growth often leads to environmental degradation, including land degradation, air and water pollution, and reduced green open spaces. Waste and wastewater management are also serious

problems in many cities, threatening the health and quality of life of urban residents.

Urbanization in Indonesia has shown a rapidly increasing trend over the past few decades. According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), the proportion of urban population in Indonesia reached 56.7% in 2021, up from 31.0% in 1971. This phenomenon occurs unevenly across different cities in Indonesia. Java, with its high concentration of population and economic activity, is the main area of urbanization in Indonesia (Mari, 2022). Major cities in Java, such as Surabaya, Bandung, and Semarang, are experiencing significant urban population growth. Meanwhile, urbanization in Sumatra has also shown an increase, albeit at a slower rate than in Java. Major cities in Sumatra, such as Medan, Palembang, and Pekanbaru, are the main destinations for migration from rural areas (Idris & Triani, 2023).

Medan City, as one of the major urban centers in North Sumatra, has not escaped the significant impact of urbanization. Along with rapid economic and demographic growth, the city has undergone a massive transformation in various aspects of urban life (Pratono & Sembiring, 2022). One of the main impacts of urbanization in Medan is the rapid population growth. The city's population continues to grow every year, both through a high birth rate and migration of residents from the surrounding areas and outside the city. This rapid population growth creates huge pressure on the city's infrastructure, such as transportation networks, clean water, and housing (Sagala, 2024).

Besides, urbanization also affects the economic and social structure of Medan City. As a metropolitan city, Medan has become an important center of trade, industry, and services in the North Sumatra region. The growth of these sectors has

created large employment opportunities and attracted migration of people from surrounding areas seeking economic opportunities. However, urbanization also brings a number of challenges to Medan City. Uncontrolled urban growth often leads to problems such as traffic congestion, high population density, and environmental degradation (Sylvia et al., 2022). The lack of insufficient infrastructure is also a serious problem, especially in terms of public transportation and health facilities. Urbanization in Medan has been going on for a long time and continues to grow over time. Based on the background above, researchers are interested in researching and analyzing further "Reconstructing the History of Urbanization in Medan City in a Social Perspective".

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses literature study as a data collection technique or method. Literature study is a technique that explores literature from various sources such as physical books, non-physical books, scientific articles, and journals that are relevant to the research theme, in this case, the reconstruction of the history of urbanization in Medan City from a social perspective. The literature study was conducted by reading, recording, and managing various literature materials relevant to the research. The data sources obtained were secondary data that included various theoretical references on urbanization, urban geography, and the development history of Medan City.

By using the literature study technique, researchers were able to collect theoretical references related to the topic of this research, such as the history of urbanization in Medan City, its causal factors and impacts, as well as other relevant theories in a social perspective. The research process involves searching, collecting,

understanding, and classifying data from various sources that have been studied, including books, magazines, articles, journals, and previous research.

The qualitative descriptive method was used in analyzing the data, with the aim of systematically searching, collecting, and compiling data (Sugiyono, 2014). The data collected relates to the history of urbanization in Medan City along with the causal factors and impacts that occur in the social life of the community. The analysis process was conducted to display and interpret the various social aspects that emerged due to urbanization in the city.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General Demographic Overview of Medan City

According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics as of 2022, Medan City has the highest population density in North Sumatra Island, reaching 9,413 people/km². This figure also makes it the largest city outside Java Island. Data from Medan City in Figures in 2022 shows that the total population of Medan City reached 2,494,512 people. This is an increase over the previous 10 years. In 2012, the population of Medan City only reached 2,122,804 people an increase of 14.90%. This indicates a significant increase in the population of Medan City from year to year, leading to an increase in population density.

Table 1. Distribution of Population Increase per Sub-district in Medan City by Year 2012 - 2022

Sub-District	2012	2022	Increasement
Medan Tuntungan	82.042	100.200	18,12 %
Medan Johor	125.913	156.957	19,77 %
Medan Amplas	116.227	132.458	12,25 %
Medan Denai	142.001	174.744	18,73 %
Medan Area	96.675	120.788	19,96 %
Medan Kota	72.685	86.738	16,20 %
Medan Maimun	39.665	51.066	22,32 %
Medan Polonia	53.552	61.056	12,29 %
Medan Baru	39.577	36.681	-7,89 %
Medan Selayang	100.455	103.559	2,99 %
Medan Sunggal	112.967	131.741	14,25 %
Medan Helvetia	145.519	168.287	13,52 %
Medan Petisah	61.855	73.565	15,91 %
Medan Barat	70.912	92.021	22,93 %
Medan Timur	108.792	118.008	7,80 %
Medan Perjuangan	93.526	105.380	11,24 %
Medan Tembung	133.841	148.346	9,77 %
Medan Deli	170.931	192.933	11,40 %
Medan Labuhan	112.642	137.863	18,29 %
Medan Marelan	147.318	190.940	22,84 %
Medan Belawan	95.709	111.181	13,91 %
Total	2.122.804	2.494.512	14,90 %

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics and Author's Data (2024)

The increase in population in Medan City occurred in almost all sub-districts. Of the 21 sub-districts, 17 of them experienced an increase in population of more than 10%. Only one sub-district experienced a decrease in population, namely the Medan Baru Sub-district, by 7.89%. Land in the Medan Baru Sub-district is a commodity with a limited amount but increasing demand. Increasingly expensive land prices make access to affordable land more difficult. Peripheral areas, such as Padang Bulan in Medan Baru Sub-district, still have the potential for undeveloped land at relatively lower prices than the city center. However, an unnatural increase in land prices has occurred in this area in recent years.

This finding is in line with the results of [Nugroho et al. \(2022\)](#), that the issue of land prices is important because regional development requires land, but the demands for land are getting higher from various parties. Competition for land occurs between the private sector, central and local governments, and the community itself. According to [Handayani & Wibisono \(2022\)](#) the high price of land also affects the entry of investors. The difficulty of attracting investors hinders the future development of the area. The case of Padang Bulan shows that land prices there are almost as expensive as those in the city center, creating inequality in the acquisition of land resources.

Overall, the increase in population density in Medan City is due to rapid population growth and urbanization. These factors cause the land available for settlements, services, trade, and other land uses to be increasingly limited and decreasing over time. As the capital city of North Sumatra Province, Medan City has an area of approximately 25,610 hectares or 3.6% of the total area of North Sumatra, all of which is land. Medan City has also been

designated as a National Activity Center (PKN) and included in the Mebidangro Urban National Strategic Area (RPMJN, 2015-2019).

History of Medan City Development

According to [Sylvia et al. \(2023\)](#), The origin of Medan City started from a village with about 600 inhabitants, located at the junction of the Deli River and Babura River. The two rivers were important trade routes to the Straits of Malacca, and the village was known as "Medan Putri". According to John Anderson's expedition records in 1823, the village dates back to 1570 and was founded by Guru Patimpus. Unlike other old cities in Indonesia, Medan City developed thanks to the role of the private sector, trading companies, and airlines. Since its inception, Medan City has been a center of export and import trade with cities in the Malacca Strait ([Sani, 2020](#)).

Before the booming palm oil and rubber industries, during Dutch East Indies colonialism, tobacco was the main commodity traded, with Deli Tobacco being the best for cigar wrappers. The relocation of the palace of the Sultanate of Deli from Labuhan to Medan in 1891 made the area the center of government and economy. To support economic activity, various infrastructures were built, including green open spaces, drainage systems, clean water supply, road networks, and railways. To this day, the trading characteristics are still felt along Jalan Kesawan, while Jalan Merdeka is more associated with government and offices.

Medan, as one of the largest cities in Sumatra, experienced rapid growth due to the plantation capitalism economy. In the beginning, the area now referred to as Medan was a simple village that later developed into a complex government and economic center during the Dutch colonial era. Plantation capitalism began in 1865, causing a wave of migration to the region

and increasing the ratio of racially and ethnically diverse populations.

The area that is now Medan City previously consisted of several small villages, such as Medan Putri, Pulo Brayan, and Kesawan. Medan Putri, as the initial center of Medan City, was a Malay village located between the Babura and Deli Rivers. In its development during the colonial period, the city's infrastructure was built, including government and public facilities, the port of Belawan as an economic support, and a railroad line to increase economic mobility. Medan was then made the capital of the East Sumatra Residency and a Gemeente (township).

The development of Medan as a city shows a unique picture, unlike the colonial government's planning in other cities in the Indies. The findings of [Suriani & Anwar \(2022\)](#) show that the city was formed in the interests of plantation capitalists who wanted to make it the economic axis of plantations on the east coast of Sumatra. As the capital of the East Sumatra Residency and the seat of the Sultanate of Deli, Medan has developed into a highly influential city in Sumatra. The growth of the plantation industry has attracted foreign entrepreneurs and workers to the city, causing its population to become highly pluralistic. Urbanization from various ethnicities, including Minangkabau, Mandailing, Karo, Toba, Pak-Pak, Aceh, Banjar, and others, was also inevitable. They came to Medan in search of jobs and trade opportunities.

In addition, the presence of foreign entrepreneurs was not limited to the plantation industry. Many of them built businesses in various sectors, such as rail transportation, water supply, electrical energy, health services, hospitality, and general trading. These businesses have complemented Medan's overall infrastructure. The transformation of Medan from a small village called Medan Putri to Medan Gemeente began with an agreement between Sultan Mahmud Perkasa Alam and

the Dutch East Indies Government in 1862, known as the "Acte van Verband". This agreement was the first step in the colonizers' exploitation of plantations in the territory of the Sultanate of Deli. The opening of plantations in East Sumatra allowed Medan to develop from a simple village into a complex and global economic center. This shows the relationship between the history of urbanization in Medan and the city's economic and political journey over time.

Segmentation Development in Medan City

a) General Character and Composition of the City

The political agreement between the Dutch and the Sultan of Deli during the colonial period resulted in a separate administrative area between the Dutch colonial government and the Sultan of Deli's jurisdiction in Medan City. Colonial and indigenous territories were clearly separated, with people living within the city subject to Dutch jurisdiction while those living outside the city were subject to the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Deli. This was reflected in the division of obligations such as the payment of taxes to the city government for those living within the city and the payment of taxes to the Sultan of Deli, as well as the performance of work for the Sultan for those subject to the Sultan.

The colonial process of town formation brought freedom of land ownership for Medan residents ([Batubara et al., 2020](#)). However, the system of legitimizing land ownership by foreigners led to most of the land in the Western part of the city being sold to foreigners. The 1930 census showed that the population in Medan consisted of various ethnicities, with the majority being indigenous Indonesians, followed by Chinese, Arabs, Indians, and Europeans. However, the distribution of resources, including the city's open spaces, was still dominated by the Dutch, indicating inequity in the distribution of these resources.

Dutch domination is also evident in the city's level of segregation, where the Dutch administrative district is placed in the city center. In contrast, the Sultan of Deli's district is located in the South, which is separate but still controlled from the city center. The racially and ethnically diverse population tended to settle in clusters, with Europeans occupying the central areas of the city with sparse settlement patterns. In contrast, Chinese and other foreign migrants occupied the denser trading areas. Indians and Arabs also formed their own ethnic settlements and trading areas. Indonesians who worked for the Dutch were placed in areas provided by the city government. In contrast, indigenous Indonesians such as Malays, Mandailing, and Minangkabau were placed in the suburbs under the rule of the Sultan of Deli. Javanese generally worked as agricultural laborers and settled in estates around the city.

b) Esplanade and Polonia Area (European Quaternary)

In the early 20th century, Medan City transformed into a modern city with various facilities already available. In 1905, a water company, Ajer Bersih Water Company, was established in the city, followed by an electricity company in 1897. Telephone, telegraph, and railroad networks have connected Medan City from the coast to outside the city. The Esplanade became the city center located in the European Quarter. In contrast, the Chinese Quarter was located around Kesawan Street, and the Indonesian Quarter was around Matsum City near Maimun Palace.

Since 1880, many new buildings were constructed in Medan City, including the train station, Wiitte Club in 1887, Hotel De Boer (Dharma Deli) in 1898, City Hall in 1909, and Javasche Bank (Bank Indonesia) in 1909. Hotel De Boer, which was built in 1898, became famous among Dutch colonizers. Earlier, Medan's Grand Hotel had been established in 1887 on the south side of the

Esplanade. Both hotels became places of celebration and parties for European planters who came to the city from the plantation areas.

The Deli Company also built a new headquarters in 1919, followed by the construction of the Post Office in 1911. The Post Office was the first major project undertaken by Snuff, a Dutch architect. To the west of the Esplanade, the Javasche Bank building was designed by Hulswit, Fermont, and Cuypers in 1910. Another beautiful building is the office building of the British plantation company Harrisons & Crosfield (Lonsum), known as the Juliana Building, located at the corner of Kesawan Street and Esplanade.

After the granting of land rights from the Sultan of Deli to the city government in 1918, Medan City acquired large tracts of land in the area known as Polonia, located between the Deli and Babura Rivers. This area became the new villa quarter for Europeans and was sold at a high price. Some of the important buildings constructed in this area include Elizabeth Hospital in 1930, Princess Beatrix School (now Imanuel), and many private houses designed by architect Han Groenwegen. In 1924, the monumental Handels Vereeniging Amsterdam (HVA) office building was also built in the Polonia area. Another landmark is the Deli Proef Station (tobacco research station), which later served as the office of the governor of North Sumatra. Quarter Polonia became a modern city center that reflected the progress of the agricultural industry in Medan City.

b) Matsum City Region (Indonesian Quaternary)

The Sultan of Deli, Sultan Makmun Al Rasyid Perkasa Alamsyah, acquired wealth through land concession rights to agricultural companies. He quickly became very wealthy, and in 1887, Maimun Palace, the new royal palace of the Sultanate of Deli, was completed in Medan. Architect T.H. van

Erp, a soldier from the Dutch Zeni force, designed the palace. The Sultan chose Medan as his residence because the head office of the Deli Company was already located in Medan. During the colonial period, the Sultan of Deli's area was administered by the Sultan of Deli by applying Sultanate regulations, not Dutch regulations, to the people.

The Sultan of Deli's administrative area was separate from the Dutch administrative area and was located in the southern part of the city. This area, called the "small-scale state center," included the Maksum City Palace (the sultan's residence), the Sultan's Palace (Istana Maimun), the Sultan's Mosque (Al-Mashun Grand Mosque) and the sultan's family tomb, the Balai Kerapatan (court), the madrasah (Islamic school), Sultan Garden (Sri Deli Garden), and housing for the royal nobility. The complex was designed by Captain TH, an architect from the Dutch Zeni force. Van Erp combines Indian Islamic (Moghul), Malay, and European building styles. The Sultan of Deli's residence and palace complex is referred to as Kota Matsum and is part of the quarter-Indonesia within the city of Medan. Around this area, there are many ethnic Malay and Minangkabau settlements from West Sumatra.

According to Nasution et al. (2022), the majority of ethnic Minangkabau work as small traders, and to this day, these two groups make up the largest population in the Matsum City area. During the colonial period, very few Batak ethnic groups lived in Medan city. The majority of Batak ethnic groups started to enter Medan city in 1950 and were concentrated in the Padang Bulan area. Meanwhile, the Javanese, since the beginning of their arrival in Medan, settled in agricultural estates around Medan.

c) Kesawan Area (Chinese Quaternary)

Kesawan Street, which is the oldest thoroughfare in Medan city, has been the center of commercial activities during the

colonial period with various types of businesses and offices operating there, including firms, banks, and shops. Originally, Kampung Kesawan was a Malay village, but since around 1880, many ethnic Chinese from Malacca and China entered the area, so the ethnic Malays began to shift towards the south of the city and made Jalan Kesawan a chinatown. Chinese shop houses mostly use bricks with a row house shape. These buildings usually have two floors, with the lower floor used as a shop or workshop and the upper floor as a residence.

Banners with Chinese characters signify the firm and the type of goods sold. (Muhajir et al., 2021). Until the 1960s, shop banners with Chinese characters were still common in front of their shops, before they were required to be replaced by the Indonesian government in accordance with the ban on the use of Chinese language and characters in public places. In the Chinese quarter, there are several markets run by the Tjong family, such as 'De oude Markt' (The Old Market) since 1886, the fish market at 'Sporstaar' (Railway street) in 1888, and 'Nieuwe Markt' (The New Market) in 1906 that sells vegetables and fruits. For hygiene reasons, the city government planned to unite the markets in one building, but this plan was delayed until the Medan Market Center was built in the 1930s.

On the east side of the railway line, another Chinatown area was developed with streets named after Chinese characters, such as Hongkong straat, Hakka straat, Peking straat, Amoy straat, Shanghai straat, and Swatow straat. Chinese shophouses were built as early as 1910 by Chinese investors such as the Tjong brothers, Khoe Tjin Tek and the Singh India brothers. In 1934, a Dutch-Chinese school was built on the Hakka strata by Catholic missionaries, followed by the construction of the Chinese Catholic Church in 1937 in the Amsterdam School architectural style by architect Han Groenewegen. The findings of Tanjung (2020) shows that Kesawan Street has

become a financial and economic center with various companies opening offices in this area.

d) Madras/Keling Village (India Quaternary)

Hakkam and Gurdit Singh have played an important role in the Indian community, especially the Sikhs in Medan City. In Kampung Keling or Kampung Madras, there is a beautiful bridge across the Babura River, connecting Padang Bulan with the Indian quarter. Many ethnic Indians have settled on streets named after Indian cities, such as 'The Bombay Straat' and 'Callcuta Straat.' The construction of the bridge was donated by the Tjong family in 1917. Until now, this quarter is still known as Kampung Keling or Kampung Madras.

Factors Driving the Growth of Medan City

The growth of Medan City is massive, along with the urbanization that occurs from time to time. Strategically located on the east coast of Sumatra and between the confluence of the Deli and Babura Rivers, Medan has vital trade access to the Straits of Malacca. Originally just a small village called Medan Putri, this development was triggered by the exploitation of plantation capitalism that began in 1865. This invited a wave of migration of people from various tribes and ethnicities, creating a diverse population that has become one of the city's defining characteristics. The Sultanate of Deli, as the center of government, also played an important role in determining the city's development pattern, with its administrative area distinct from the Dutch colonial area.

Moreover, it not only facilitated the city's growth but also shaped its characteristics as an economic and cultural center in North Sumatra. Medan City, the capital of North Sumatra, has experienced rapid growth in urbanization over the past

few decades. Several factors, including the following have driven this.

a) Strategic Location

Medan is located on the east coast of Sumatra, on the shores of the Strait of Malacca. According to [Lubis \(2019\)](#), this location makes it a major trade and transportation gateway between Indonesia and neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. In addition, the city is also a regional hub for several important industries, such as rubber, palm oil, and palm oil plantations, driving a very high flow of urbanization.

b) The Existence of Natural Resources

The finding of [Junianti et al. \(2023\)](#) shows that the area around Medan has rich natural resources, such as forests, fertile land and minerals. This attracts investment and creates employment opportunities in various sectors, encouraging migration to the city.

c) Favorable Natural Conditions

Medan has a warm and humid tropical climate with abundant rainfall. These conditions are ideal for the cultivation of various crops and suitable for human life. The average temperature in Medan is around 26°C. The highest temperature usually occurs in September and October, with an average of 30°C. The lowest temperature usually occurs in January and February, with an average of 23°C. Meanwhile, the average rainfall in Medan is about 2,000 mm per year. Temperatures in Medan tend to stay warm throughout the year, with daily average temperatures ranging from 24°C to 32°C.

In addition, Medan also often experiences high humidity, especially during the rainy season. Heavy fog and haze can also occur, especially in the morning, due to high humidity and foggy weather

conditions. The natural conditions around Medan are also influenced by the presence of the Deli River and Babura River, which run through the city. These rivers give life to the city and its neighborhoods but can also cause flooding in some areas, especially during the intense rainy season. In addition, Medan also has flat lowlands around these rivers, with some small hills around the city (Hasibuan et al., 2020).

Social Impact of Urbanization in Medan

Urbanization in Medan City has brought significant changes in various aspects of people's lives. As one of the major cities in Indonesia, Medan is experiencing rapid growth characterized by an increase in population, expansion of urban areas, and changes in economic and social structures. This urbanization phenomenon not only affects the city's spatial layout and infrastructure but also has profound social impacts on the local community, including the following.

a) Rapid Population Growth

Urbanization in Medan City has increased pressure on public infrastructure and services, such as housing, clean water, and sanitation. According to Yusuf et al. (2023), rapid population growth and urban expansion often exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure, leading to a scarcity of adequate housing and limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities. This leads to the emergence of slums that not only reflect social inequality but also have a negative impact on the health and safety of residents. In addition, social disorder often occurs due to an imbalance between the demand and availability of public services, potentially worsening the quality of life of Medan city residents.

b) Changes in The Structure of Society

Urbanization in Medan has led to a more heterogeneous and diverse society, with various cultural and ethnic backgrounds blending into urban life. However, this process has also resulted in the fading of local cultural traditions and values, along with the influx of external cultural influences and modern lifestyles. In addition, urbanization creates social and economic disparities between natives and migrants. This is in line with the research findings of Nisyak et al. (2023) which shows that natives often feel left out by developments that favor newcomers who are more adaptive to economic and social changes.

c) Social and Cultural Dynamics

Urbanization in Medan has created a mix of cultures that give birth to new and unique identities, making the city a melting pot rich in diversity. This has triggered the emergence of various social movements and communities that are active in various fields (Sumertini, 2024). Moreover, the development of arts, culture, and culinary in Medan has become richer and more diverse and reflects the social dynamics and interactions between various community groups.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the above research, it is concluded that urbanization in Medan City has been going on for a long time. Strategically located on the east coast of Sumatra and between the confluence of the Deli and Babura Rivers, Medan has vital trade access to the Straits of Malacca. Originally just a small village called Medan Putri, this development was triggered by the exploitation of plantation capitalism that began in 1865. This invited a wave of migration of residents from various tribes and ethnicities, creating a diverse

population that has become one of the city's distinctive features. Particularly in the period from 2012 to 2022, the increase in population in Medan City occurred in almost all sub-districts. Out of 21 sub-districts, 17 experienced an increase in population above 10%. Only one sub-district experienced a decrease in population, namely the Medan Baru Sub-district, by 7.89%. The high rate of urbanization in Medan City is generally due to several factors, such as the strategic location, the presence of natural resources, and the supportive natural conditions. Meanwhile, its impact on the social life of the community is quite diverse, including rapid population growth, changes in community structure, and social and cultural dynamics. Hopefully, future research can identify certain aspects of urbanization in Medan City in more depth. For example, research on migration, population growth, or spatial changes.

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