



THE ROLE OF TJONG A FIE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN HERITAGE IN MEDAN

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ABSTRACT

Tjong A Fie is one of the most influential historical figures in the social, economic, and cultural development of Medan City. This article aims to analyze the role of Tjong A Fie in community development and the sustainability of urban heritage in Medan. The study employs a qualitative descriptive method with a historical approach. Data were collected through literature studies, document analysis, and secondary historical records related to the life and contributions of Tjong A Fie. The data analysis technique was carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the research focus. The results show that Tjong A Fie played a significant role in encouraging social harmony, economic growth, and urban infrastructure development in Medan during the colonial period. His contributions were evident in social philanthropy, religious tolerance, and the construction of public facilities that supported community welfare.

Furthermore, the legacy of Tjong A Fie, particularly Tjong A Fie Mansion, has become an important cultural heritage asset that supports sustainable tourism and strengthens local identity. This study concludes that the values of leadership, inclusiveness, and social responsibility demonstrated by Tjong A Fie remain relevant for contemporary community development and sustainable urban heritage management in Medan.

Keywords: *Tjong A Fie; Community Development; Cultural Heritage; Sustainability; Medan*

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INTRODUCTION

Medan is one of the major cities in Indonesia whose development cannot be separated from the role of historical figures who contributed to its social and economic growth. One of the prominent figures is Tjong A Fie, a Chinese-Malay leader and entrepreneur who played an important role in shaping Medan during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rapid growth of Medan as a plantation and trade city

created complex social dynamics that required strong leadership and social cohesion.

Previous studies have discussed the contribution of local elites in colonial urban development, emphasizing their roles in economic expansion and social mediation. However, research specifically focusing on Tjong A Fie often emphasizes his biography or architectural legacy without deeply analyzing his role in community development and sustainability. This article fills this gap by examining Tjong A Fie's contributions from the perspective of community service and sustainable urban heritage.

The novelty of this research lies in integrating historical analysis with the concept of community development and sustainability. This study aims to highlight the relevance of Tjong A Fie's values and actions to contemporary discussions on inclusive development and heritage-based sustainability in urban contexts.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a historical approach. The study was conducted in Medan City, North Sumatra, focusing on historical records related to Tjong A Fie and his contributions to society. Data sources consist of books, academic journals, historical documents, and reports related to colonial Medan and Chinese community leaders.

Data collection techniques include literature review and document analysis. The collected data were analyzed using qualitative analysis techniques, including data reduction to select relevant information, data presentation in narrative form, and conclusion drawing. This method allows for an in-depth understanding of the social roles and sustainable impact of Tjong A Fie's contributions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that Tjong A Fie played a crucial role in fostering social harmony in Medan. As a respected community leader, he acted as a mediator between ethnic groups and colonial authorities, helping to maintain social stability. His leadership style emphasized tolerance and cooperation, which contributed to peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

In terms of economic development, Tjong A Fie supported plantation industries and trade activities that boosted Medan's economy. He also invested in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and public buildings that facilitated urban growth. These contributions not only enhanced economic productivity but also improved the quality of life for local residents.

From a sustainability perspective, the legacy of Tjong A Fie is reflected in the preservation of historical buildings, particularly Tjong A Fie Mansion. This heritage site serves as a cultural tourism attraction that supports local economic development while preserving historical values. The integration of heritage conservation and tourism demonstrates the long-term impact of Tjong A Fie's contributions on sustainable urban development.

Tables

The analysis presented in Table 1 indicates that social harmony and philanthropic activities represent the most dominant contribution of Tjong A Fie. Economic development initiatives follow as the second most significant contribution, while infrastructure development and cultural heritage preservation complement sustainable community development in Medan.

Table 1. Contribution of Tjong A Fie to Community Development in Medan

No	Criteria	Percentage
1	Social Harmony and Philanthropy	40%
2	Economic Development and Trade Support	30%
3	Urban Infrastructure Development	20%
4	Cultural Heritage Preservation	10%

Figures

Images are numbered sequentially starting from 1 with the image title and number. Ensure that images are clear and legible with typed letters.

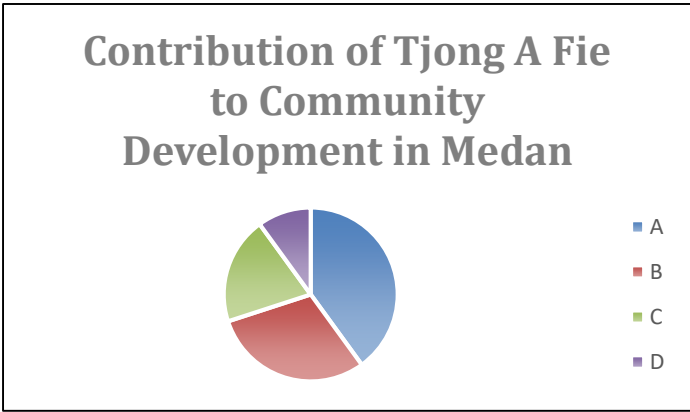


Figure 1. Contribution of Tjong A Fie to Community Development in Medan

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that Tjong A Fie played a significant role in community development and sustainable urban heritage in Medan. His contributions to social harmony, economic growth, and infrastructure development have left a lasting legacy that remains relevant today. Future research is recommended to explore comparative studies of other historical figures to further enrich the understanding of community-based sustainability.

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