UTILIZATION OF URBAN OPEN SPACE IN SUB-DISTRICT OF CRISTO REI DILI DISTRICT BASE ON THE EAST TIMORESE CULTURE PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

When Dili was still under the colony of Portuguese, the Indonesian government era, the era of UNTAET (United Nation Transitional administration for East Timor), and during the transition of UNTAET government to ETTA (East Timor Transitional Administration), they did not give an optimal attention to the utilization of open space and the cultural development of Timorese people, many of the open space in Cristo Rei sub-district was left abandoned and not taken to utilize for Timor-Leste ritual and cultural activities, this situation was reinforced by an empirical facts on the field showing that some of the urban open spaces in Cristo Rei are much abandoned and only a little part of it is being used either for recreation, sports, parks or for people social interaction activities, which have no relation with Timorese cultural activities. On the other hand, some cultural, ritual and traditional activities conducted by people in Cristo Rei need an open space as a place to accommodate those activities; therefore this study aims to formulate concepts of the utilization of an open space based on Timorese culture perspective.

The research method adopted in this research is qualitative research methods with a naturalistic/ethnographic approach.

To achieve the objectives of this study, some supporting instruments and analysis technique such as Qualitative Descriptive Technique, Delphi and Triangulation are used. Based on this three-stage of analysis process, the final result as the characteristic of open space on the basis of Timorese culture is found, namely having enough space to cover all furniture or space elements and various cultural activities within, either sacred cultural activities or profane based on cosmological belief. And for some factors were caused against un-utilization of the open space in the sub-district of Cristo Rei for Timorese cultural activities, is for urban open space category I, II and III are as follows: 1). Unsuitability factor of space provision; 2). Unsuitability factor of function, pattern, meaning, furniture, scale and space orientation; 3). Factor of cultural collision; 4). Factor of people’s minimum participation; 5). Modernization factor/the effect of foreign cultures; 6). Regulation factor of advantaging open space based on culture; and 7). Regulation factor of controlling open space based on culture. As to formulate a utilization concept of open space, it is classified into 3 categories of urban open spaces, such as: 1.) Category of urban open space I is to serve cultural activities as an exhibition aimed to express...
thankfulness and happiness to their ancestors or gods for their success. 2.) Category of urban open space II is to serve sacred cultural activities used as a media to communicate with their ancestors or gods and also exhibition as an expression of being thankful and happy to their ancestors and gods for their success. And 3.) Category of urban open space III is to serve sacred cultural activities, so sacred because of being used as a media to communicate with their ancestors and gods.

**Keywords:** Utilization, Urban Open Space, Timorese Culture