
Case Study Paper

Smart Cities and The People: Urban Planning Collectives in Indonesian Cities

Hasanuddin, Dian Zuchraeni Ekasari, Alumni of Urban and Regional Planning Gadjah Mada
University

Abstract

Come to Indonesia. Change is in the air. Can you smell it? For less than the last decade, there are urban planning collectives that have been growing organically, on-line and off-line. They are young, energetic, and critical. They utilize technology as the platform and tool. They see phenomenon, analyze data, discuss, collaborate, and take actions. Whereas buzz words such as smart cities, automation and big data analysis have been crowding city managers and planning worlds, these collectives demonstrate that change can begin within the society without governmental support at all. Nevertheless these collectives are based from the intellectual elites in Javanese cities, hence the question: can we replicate and deepen such initiatives to general citizen? to other cities beyond Java Island? Can we go against Jakarta-bias? Can we create an ecosystem to be smarter together and create our shared values despite the 'smart' and automation part of the cities? With a closer look to urban planning collectives in Indonesia, together we learn and build the path to be smart together with our cities.

Keywords

Urban planning collectives, smart cities, young community, on-line platform, smarter together.

1. Introduction

Smart City is an inevitable future of our cities. This is becoming a trend not merely because the government program but most importantly because the technology development both in industrial sector and daily life of the citizen. With the national internet users proportion of 55% (Ministry of Communication and Informatics, 2018), Jakarta the capital city of Indonesia has rated 19.1 of 30 points for citizen awareness and satisfaction of smart city application in their city. This point is higher than 13 European cities, even the Asian cities such as Singapore, Bangkok, and Hong Kong. This positive adaptation points out to be correlated with having a young population that accepts a more digital way of doing things (Smart Cities: Digital Solutions for a More Livable Future, McKinsey Global Institute 2018). The 'digital way of doing things' appears in daily life with Internet of Things (IoT) for daily services such as transportation, banking, and most importantly communication. Emerging of social media platforms has changed the basic primary communication form into virtual connection, with the advantage of time and place flexibility for 'anytime anywhere' communication form.

The social media platform has also become a media for youth to express their ideas. In the realm of urban planning this has also become a phenomenon with the existence of Planning Collectives. Young, energetic, and critical, the Planning Collectives use social media as the platform to highlight, talk, and discuss urban planning issues. The online platform comes together with offline event such as discussion and exhibition. The most popular Planning Collectives were born out of academic settings. It was found by the students of Urban and Regional major in reputable universities of major cities in Indonesia. In this paper we will take a closer look to these Planning Collectives and examine how they grows organically, what they aim to achieve, and moreover how they position as a part of Smart Communities element of Smart City.

2. Urban Planning Collectives

Urban Planning Collectives refer to community who has keen interest in urban issues specifically from the perspective of spatial planning, and collect data, process into information, publish the information as discussion material, and provoke discussion. These Planning Collectives run the activity in online and offline platform to have wider coverage than the community in their physical proximities.

With the nature of urban-issues as cross-cutting issue experienced by all citizen, the publication, discussion, and the Planning Collectives itself gain attention by other urban communities. The Planning Collectives exists in 4 major Indonesian Cities, Jakarta, Bandung, Jogja, and Makassar, with variety range of activities, which will be further elaborated below.

2.1. Ketempatan, Jakarta

A former Pemuda Tata Ruang chairman and co-founder, who was also a student of Urban and Regional Planning major Universitas Gadjah Mada, established Ketempatan in 2017. As an online focused community, Ketempatan started its activities by publishing popular article on its website. The main objective is to position urban issue from citizen, by citizen, and for citizen, through providing evidenced-based information. Ketempatan targets Internet user who are mostly young or productive-age people, with the idea that everyone has the right for a high quality urban study. To accomplish its goal, Ketempatan has the strategy of re-writing dissertation, research paper, or articles with analytical and evidence-based content. They approach the writers to have their consent for the rewriting, so they can still have publications without the hesitation to take time for writing.

Ketempatan has one online platform that differs with other Planning Collective, the Podcast named Teras Kota or City Terrace. The podcast was started with the agenda to provide easy listening urban talks with various resource persons. Teras Kota quickly gain popularity, as podcast become trend in urban online life. It brings freshness in the podcast era, since the talking focus on a rare subject of urban issue and present in casual style conversation. The podcast also a strategy to bring urban issue to daily public talks, with a laid-back and easy-to-digest packaging yet still based on expertise of the resource persons.

Ketempatan has collaborated with numerous stakeholders for articles in website and podcast.

Collaborators from non-government organization, researcher, government, and urban enthusiast become contributors for various topics such as housing, infrastructure, and city management. The collaboration and further networking are managed by 3 persons, the Founder as the editor, and two other person as podcast manager and social media manager. Petarung is operated in the basis of friendship, since the founder and managers are collage or office mate. Their similar interest on urban issue, and concern for an evidence-based urban study has brought them together in the Planning Collective. They are also trying to develop networking with other urban communities through the website. Now they are preparing a new format podcast, containing interviews with foreign academia to discuss about current urban issue and theory, and then compare it to local Indonesia context.

2.2. Kolektif Agora, Bandung

Based in Bandung, West Java, Kolektiv Agora was founded in 2017 by 3 urban and regional planning students of Institut Teknologi Bandung. They aim to create discussion platform for urban issues from the daily reality and perspective of citizen, and provide alternative source of urban information for citizen.

Kolektiv Agora runs the activities in online platform through blogging website 'Medium' and social media 'Instagram', and offline via regular discussion forum. The online activities occur more frequently, with regular publication of articles and infographics related to urban-issues. The articles are published through Medium, a blogging site in which Kolektiv Agora has a certain page linked to each writer's own page. The publications in Instagram are made from a set of data and simple analysis that translated into a simple and attractive infographics and posters format. The publication provides not only information, but also provoke question for readers concerning certain urban issue. There are also publications in Instagram that contain links to the article in Medium. The online platform of Instagram has 3,476 followers, the highest from 4 Planning Collectives. Kolektiv Agora using online platform strategically as the basis of their activities, including the distribution of knowledge and information about offline discussion.

The offline discussions are held with collaboration with various stakeholders ranging from Non-Governmental Organization, research groups, to individuals working in academia and government. The collaboration occurs with extensive topics that being picked based on the folk-work-place of aspects of urban issue, such as public space, transportation, infrastructure, urban-rural linkage, city health, inclusiveness, poverty, housing, urban politics, environment, and music. To organize the offline discussions and online activities, Kolektiv Agora now has 22 activists including 3 founders. The activists were involved through open recruitment to specialized position such as writer and photographer. The recruits came are students from urban and regional major or other majors from several universities in Bandung.

2.3. Petarung Kota, Jogja

Petarung (or Fighter in English) stands for Pemuda Tata Ruang or Planning Youth, is the first planning Collectives established in Desember 2012 by 15 students of Urban and Regional Planning major Universitas Gadjah Mada Jogja. As stated in the tagline, Petarung aims to increase citizen's awareness of their neighborhood and city planning. The strategies are through

research and discussion, disseminate issue and gather opinion through media, socialize urban planning issue to citizen, build awareness via citizen empowerment program, and build partnership with multiple parties to increase citizen awareness of urban planning.

Since the beginning Petarung focuses itself on action such as campaign, discussion training, and joint study. One of the annual offline activities is training for high school student in Jogja named 'Strong' or Sekolah Tata Ruang/Urban Planning School. Petarung also take part in the celebration of World Town Planning Day, in the form of public campaign and discussion. As the first urban planning community in Jogja, Petarung has regularly being involved in numerous events from other stakeholders. They have been invited to discussion by national, provincial and city/regency government regarding city-planning policies, such as land use incentive and disincentive, urban Habitat policy formulation, and strategic environmental impact assessment. Petarung also invited various discussion held by non-government organization with topic related to urban planning, such as environment with community development. The community also involved as a facilitator in joint study or field visit with other research group and students from foreign university who visited Jogja and study about it specific local site planning in urban kampung.

The online platform becomes a media to share the information regarding offline activities, share short information concerning urban issue, and provoke further discussion. Petarung initially used social media Twitter, as a popular micro blogging site to provoke online discussion. They usually provide several short information concerning a particular urban issue, and/or post statement from other prominent person or organization. Such effort gave instant popularity for Petarung, as on that time there is still limited discussion on urban issue in social media, especially from the youth. Petarung then expand its online activities to other platform namely Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and a dedicated website.

As a community, Petarung has been continuously active for 7 years through different activists. The activists organize Petarung in a structure of chairman, secretary, treasury, and 3 thematic divisions of public relation, media and design, and literation. There is annual open recruitment for new member based on the needs of each division. The new member and committee in Petarung always consist of students from various public and private universities in Jogja that active on voluntarily basis. To sustain their activities, Petarung collaborates with stakeholders in organizing events, and also receive donation from its alumni.

2.4. Nekropolis, Jogja

3 students of Urban and Regional Planning Universitas Gadjah Mada started Nekropolis in 2017. As their tagline 'Discussion Platform and Writing Media for Urban Issue', the founders aim to discuss urban issue encompassing urban planning theoretical approach, wider to the interlink with other disciplines. They believe Planning could only succeed when the citizen become an active part of urban planning process, not merely an object. Hence it is fundamental for city planner to have a solid link with civil society, including social major students and social movement communities.

In the other hand, Nekropolis see that the current social movement in Jogja requires a more technical approach, including the analytical and data-based basis to support their acts. This condition in the context of urban issue creates the need for collaboration between social and

technical approach, where Nekropolis exists as the bridge to produce an urban alternative narration. Nekropolis held offline discussion with social communities in Jogja such as feminist, literacy, and art community. They also collaborate with other organization in university, such as the university student union body, urban and regional major student union body, and research organization. The interlink between social and technical approach in urban issue are reflected in range of discussion topics, from transportation, housing, urbanization, to city inclusiveness and urban politics. Nekropolis delivers its discussion mainly in local Jogja context, yet also taking into highlight several popular issues from Jakarta, Surabaya, Batam and Bogor.

Although based in Jogja, founded, and run by students from the same university, Nekropolis puts more focus on online and offline urban discourse while Petarung actives in offline movement. Nekropolis uses online platform Medium and Instagram to share their writing on urban issues, and publish information of the offline activities. They also produce infographics and videos in Instagram and Youtube, containing figure and facts about various urban issues in open-ended style to provoke further thought and discussion from the viewers. In social media Instagram, Nekropolis periodically engages their followers in discussing specific urban issue such as public space, urban transportation, traditional market, and smart city.

Nekropolis currently has 10 activists consisting of alumni and students form engineering and social major in Universitas Gadjah Mada. They manage the online and offline activities of Nekropolis. Since most of them are now working in other city outside Jogja, Nekropolis tries to have a periodic working schedule and regular theme for their publication. Flexibility and sustainability also become concern for Nekropolis, as they are preparing future coping strategy for its existence within the daily formal profession of its activists.

2.5. Kotata', Makassar

5 students of Universitas Hasanuddin initiated Kotata in 2017. Different with other Urban Planning Collectives, Kotata was founded in Makassar, a metropolitan city in South Sulawesi outside of Java Island. The founders are a mix of 4 students of Urban and Regional Planning major, and 1 student from Environmental Engineering major. At first the concern to urban issue discourse connected them together. They then make a proposal of introducing children to urban issue and followed a Student Creativity Contest. The proposal got accepted and the first Kotata' program came into realization.

Kotata' focuses to offline activities. In 2018 they run a program of Introducing Urban Issue to a class of elementary school children, by talking about urban environment and learning to make a documentary video together. They then used online platform Instagram to publish the videos. After that Kotata' collaborated with environmental engineering student union and disaster mitigation community to held 2 campaign relating to city waste.

In managing it activities, Kotata' has held open recruitment for activist. Several students from engineering and social major join Kotata' and support the activities, including developing website. Beside being more active in online platform, Kotata' also plan to be consistent in introducing and promoting urban issue to elementary school children as the future agent of city development.

Table 1 General Comparison of The Urban Planning Collectives

Urban Planning Collectives	Comparison				
	Location	Founded	Focus	Online Platforms Variety	Followers of Instagram (similar platform)
Ketempatan	Jakarta	2017	Online	Website, Instagram, Podcast	845 followers
Kolektif Agora	Bandung	2017	Onlin, Offline	Medium, Twitter, Instagram	3,529 followers
Petarung	Jogja	2017	Offline	Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube	2,759 followers
Nekropolis	Jogja	2012	Onlin, Offline	Medium, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube	1,790 followers
Kotata'	Makassar	2017	Offline	Website, Instagram	265 followers

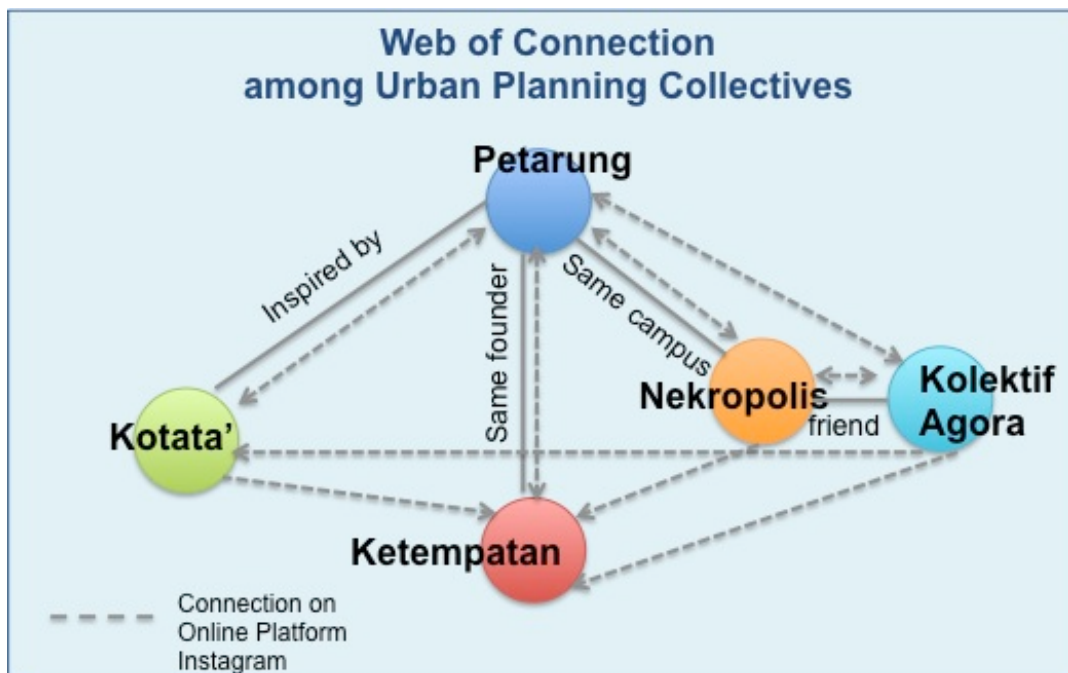


Figure 1 Web of Connection among Urban Planning Collectives

3. Urban Planning Collectives and Smart Cities

In the context of intelligence, Smart City could be defined as a territory with high capacity for learning and innovation, which is built-in the creativity of their population, institutions of knowledge creation, and digital infrastructure for communication and knowledge management (Komninos, cited in Holland 2008). From the definition we could see that there are several elements of Smart City to be appropriate for its 'smart' title. As stated by Kumar ini 2015, smart city consists of 6 major elements namely smart economy, smart environment, smart living, smart mobility, smart governance and smart people (Kumar, cited in Gupta, Mustafa and Kumar, 2017).

Urban Planning Collectives are part of Smart People in Smart City, because they are part of citizen that are using information-communication technology as a platform to contribute to the city development. Not only they are taking action in the real offline space, the Urban Planning Collectives also bring the action to virtual space in the online internet setting. They use offline and online space interchangeably, as a canal for their internet and passion to urban issue.

The effort could happen with the specific character of the Urban Planning Collectives. Looking to the study of Gupta, Mustafa, and Kumar in 2017, there are several traits of Smart People that can be found on Urban Planning Collectives activists. The personality dimensions that are appearing in Urban Planning Collectives members are extroversion, openness to experience, agreeable, and conscientiousness. These traits has supporting them in producing knowledge for general citizen regarding their common urban space. The Urban Planning Collectives has been doing their actions voluntarily, using their personal resources such as time, energy, money, gadget, and network. The reality that these Collectives actually operates based on passion for city improvement, has to be acknowledge as a social capital of smart city. Their existence has influencing other communities who collaborates with them, and furthermore general citizen to put more attention in urban issue and give more contribution to city development.

These impacts are beneficial for Smart City Development since this is the part where the people as smart city element, could learn to become smart together using intersection of technology and their own social networks. Furthermore, the learning process to be smart together with Urban Planning Collectives could provide outcome in the form of better translation of citizen needs for city development. General citizen who has acquire knowledge about urban issue, can better understand the dimension and interlink of factors and actors in city development.

This social capital of Urban Planning Collectives has the potential to be utilized in the development of city, including in the formulation of algorithm for smart city. They could participate in both sharing and gathering citizen values and aspiration for the city development. Beside the current common practice of involving academia as resource person in city policy formulation process, the involvement of Urban Planning Collectives that has been practiced in several cities, could become an attempt of wider stakeholders view and participation. The development of smart progressive city cannot simply be done with the adoption of sophisticated technology infrastructure, but more importantly it requires the input and contribution of various groups of people (Hollands, 2008)

The Urban Planning Collectives might be quite homogenous as it mainly consists of educated youth and from urban and regional planning background, yet it is their influence and collaboration to wider communities and general citizen that make them valuable for smart city.

The process of urban-related information being shared and discussed, creation of urban narrative in online platform, and assimilation between urban technical and social aspects | general citizen discourse are actually the precious parts of Urban Planning Collective existence in Smart City. With better understanding of how city can be planned, developed, and managed based on citizen needs, there will be an improving translation of citizen needs to technical urban planning language. The creation and agreement of shared values for smart city development could then be acquired more accurately to the actual needs of citizen.

4. Smart Cities in Indonesia

The Government of Indonesia has issued “100 Smart Cities Movement” in 2017, which aim to assist Indonesian cities in preparing Smart City Masterplan to optimize technology services, both for public service improvement and for potential city sectors development. This program is lead by Ministry of Communication and Information in collaboration with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Public Works and Human Settlements, National Planning Agency, and The Office of President’s Staff. Within 3 years from 2017 to 2019, there are 100 cities that are supported to be Smart Cities. The cities vary from large to medium populated city throughout Indonesia including Java, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara and Papua Island. The cities were selected in the consideration several aspects such as city visioning, regulation, human resource and economic potency.

The “100 Smart Cities Movement” also acknowledge Smart People as one element of Smart City. This is reflected with the establishment of Smart Citizen Network, which consists of 34 youth representative from 34 provinces in Indonesia. They are expected to become agent for accelerating digital literacy and smart utilization of technology in all cities in Indonesia. This is also a program to convey the importance of citizen participation in Smart City development.

In capital city Jakarta, the Jakarta Smart City (JSC) has been launched and activated. It operates under City Government in the form of special unit with dedicated budget. JSC produces specific output related to automation of Smart City Services in the area of transportation and other public services. Nevertheless the provision of public participation channel is still limited. It is only in the form of reporting issue or bad urban services via Qlue Application, and giving input to city programming via e-musrenbangda system. The type of participation based on Arnstein Ladder of Participation (1969), then the participation type is limited to tokenism and consultation, where citizen could give inputs but not granted to be taken into consideration in city policy formulation.

In the practice of Smart City, this could be compare with Kitchen study in Dublin year 2017. He found that the citizen participation in Smart City through the provision of several applications are not yet sufficient. Furthermore he also used Arnstein Ladder of Participation and provide more insight on the kind of limited participation in Smart City era.

The emergence of Urban Planning Collectives could be seen as a window for improving citizen participation in Smart City Era, not only for improving the smart city policy, but more importantly to assure that citizen could grow smarter together with their city.

5. Reference

SIARAN PERS NO. 53/HM/KOMINFO/02/2018 Tanggal 19 Februari 2018 Tentang Jumlah Pengguna Internet 2017 Meningkat, Kominfo akan Terus Lakukan Percepatan Pembangunan *Broadband*

https://kominfo.go.id/index.php/content/detail/12640/siaran-pers-no-53hmkominfo022018-tentang-jumlah-pengguna-internet-2017-meningkat-kominfo-terus-lakukan-percepatan-pembangunan-broadband/0/siaran_pers

Accessed on June 10, 2019

Will the real smart city please stand up? Robert G. Hollands 2008

3: Smart People for Smart Cities: A Behavioral Framework for Personality and Roles: Smarter People, Governance, and Solutions

Shristi Gupta, Syed Ziaul Mustafa, and Harish Kumar, May 2017

Kitchin, Robert "Being a Citizen in the Smart City, 2017