

The Contemporary Significance and Role of Gotong Royong in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

The village practice of mutual aid exists in every community, and is considered the most primitive form of social relationship between people. In recent years, however, the rapid urbanization and globalization have progressed not only in urban areas but also in rural areas, and people's lives have become more dependent on the market economy, and it is generally pointed out that the functions of mutual aid has declined.

Mutual aid, called Gotong Royong, has existed in Indonesia anciently, but the origin is not clear. The origin of the term is clearly Javanese, but the process by which the term spread not only to Java but also to all of Indonesia is unique. Numerous previous studies have focused on the process of using the term "Gotong Royong" to control in transition of the Indonesian political system. Those studies are important in understanding how the concept spread throughout Indonesia. On the other hand, many recent studies and reports about mutual aid worldwide, not only Gotong Royong, have focused on how mutual aid activities based on residents organizations can be useful in times of disaster. It is clear that mutual aid is an essential and very important tool in such as situations which government assistance is inaccessible.

However, this study would like to focus not only on the action taken in emergency situations such as disaster, but also on the daily actions of how mutual aid are carried out and relationships are built within the community. That will allow for a comprehensive clarification of the mutual aid that exists today and the changes have occurred over time. Furthermore, this will lead to clarify of the contemporary significance and role of mutual aid in local communities where market economies are on the rise. The research will be conducted in and around the city of Yogyakarta. By conducting research in two locations with completely different land use patterns and economic conditions, a comprehensive understanding about Gotong Royong in the modern will be possible. The presentation will mainly focus on the literature review on Gotong Royong and future research plan.