

## **Tjimahi Heritage Community as a Learning Resource in Instilling Historical Consciousness**

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**Abstract:** In the globalization era nowadays, it is easy for everyone to get information. The development of information and communication technology makes the world more open to everyone. Therefore, national identity is needed in global relations. To understand national identity, people need historical consciousness because it can form a national consciousness. Historical consciousness can be obtained by learning from various learning sources, one of which is from the historical community. The historical community as an organization engaged in history can be a good learning resource for instilling historical consciousness. Through a variety of interesting activities, the historical communities that exist in many cities in Indonesia can introduce history more pleasantly. The increasing number of people who are interested to participate in activities carried out by the historical community can have a positive influence on increasing the historical consciousness of the people. The purpose of writing this paper is to explain the role of the historical community, especially Tjimahi Heritage community, as a learning resource to increase the historical consciousness of the people. This study uses a naturalistic inquiry research method with a qualitative approach. The results of the study show that the Tjimahi Heritage community which is engaged in historical studies and preservation of old buildings can have a positive impact on the surrounding people, especially in increasing historical consciousness. This is supported by the many activities carried out by the Tjimahi Heritage community that attracts the attention of the people from various groups, including students, workers, and the general public, so many of them are involved in participating in every activity carried out by the Tjimahi Heritage community. With more and more people directly involved in the activities of the Tjimahi Heritage community, the cultivation of historical consciousness will more effective.

**Keywords:** learning resource, historical consciousness, historical community.

### **RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

In the current era of globalization, the spread of information is very fast due to the rapid development of information and communication technology. It is easier for people to get information, regardless of whether the information is true or false. This is in line with Abdurahman's statement (2017), that everything becomes borderless and unlimited due to the development of the internet and digital technology. This era has influenced many aspects of life in the fields of economics, politics, culture, art, and even education. The world of education must be able to confirm the truth of any information available so that misunderstandings do not occur in society. One of them is information about history. Because history is an important

element for instilling the same understanding in people who have diverse ethnic backgrounds to create national unity and integrity.

According to Susanto (2014:30) in history, many moral teachings can be developed into character values, one of which is tolerance between different cultures and religions. In creating a quality future generation, an understanding of history plays a very important role to be able to understand the past that happened in the environment where they live. An understanding of history can be applied to the younger generation through the provision of education, both formal education in schools and non-formal education outside of school, such as through communities engaged in certain fields, for example, historical communities. Historical education can also be used as a tool to instill national understanding among the various ethnic groups, and to birth to the next generation of nations who are expected to make Indonesian a nation that continues to exist and consistent in international politics. By understanding history, we will be able to understand conditions in the past that can be used as lessons for the present and the future. So, history can be used as an analytical tool to deal with the ever-changing flow of national and state life because it adapts to the times.

Providing effective historical information to the public is by providing direct experience of the historical places or objects being studied. This will make it easier for people to imagine historical events that have occurred and how to reconstruct these historical events according to their understanding. Imagination is very important in understanding history because according to Sjamsuddin (2007:345) to contextualize historical facts at the end one has to imagine or create them so that past events make sense. Thus, it is hoped that historical consciousness will grow in the community through thought processes that are obtained from their experiences with the historical relics they witness. In instilling historical consciousness, one that has an important role is the historical community that exists in every city in Indonesia, which introduces the local history where the community exists. This paper presents the role of the Tjimahi Heritage community in instilling historical consciousness in the people of Cimahi and its surroundings. Through various interesting activities carried out by the Tjimahi Heritage community, it is hoped that it can attract public interest in history and utilize the historical community as a source of learning in increasing historical consciousness among the general public.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **Learning Resources**

Learning resources are one important component of a learning activity. According to Sudjana and Rifai (2000), learning resources are resources that are utilized for the benefit of the teaching and learning process, either directly or indirectly, partially or as a whole. Meanwhile, according to Yunanto (2004), learning resources are materials that include learning media, teaching aids, and game tools to provide information and various skills to children and adults who help accompany children in learning. Learning resources can be in the form of writing (handwritten or printed), pictures, photographs, sources, natural objects, and cultural objects.

The types of learning resources are very diverse and can be found in the surrounding educators and students. The main function of learning resources is to assist and facilitate the learning process. Appropriately and effectively, the function of learning resources can be maximized to help achieve learning objectives for students. Morrison (2004:23-26) says that existing learning resources can be functioned and utilized as well as possible in learning. The functions

of learning resources include the following.

1. Increase learning productivity,
2. Provide the possibility of learning that is more individual,
3. Provide a more scientific basis for teaching,
4. More solidify the learning process,
5. To learn directly,
6. Presentation of a wider presentation of learning, especially with the presence of mass media.

### **Historical Consciousness**

Historical consciousness is one of the important things in building a quality future generation. To be able to make the Indonesian nation into a great nation, it is necessary to understand the lofty ideals proclaimed by the founding fathers of the nation. This requires a good understanding of history. Historical consciousness is not only about knowing historical events but how to live up to the meaning contained in a historical event in the past as a collective memory passed down by our predecessors which have become a national identity. This is in line with Ahonen's statement (2005:699) that historical consciousness is more than historical literacy. Today, collective memory is an important focus in both social psychology and cultural studies. It is considered a part of the shared life-world of a community. People derive elements for their historical identity from their collective memory.

Historical consciousness can shape a national consciousness. Knowledge of history obtained from human experience in the past can shape historical consciousness nationally (Kuleshin, 2019:42). Historical consciousness can be distinguished as a psychological symptom and as a historical symptom. Historical consciousness as a psychological phenomenon is a construction of understanding experience that is characterized by the sharp possession of a time perspective, the ability to distinguish between the past and the present and the future, and to organize accumulated past experiences sequentially in memory or consciousness. Historical consciousness as a historical phenomenon can be seen through the monumental symbols of the historical process in both spiritual and material forms. Monumental symbols in spiritual form, for example, the soul of the times, the spirit of the times, world views, historical visions, and cultural values. Meanwhile, monumental symbols are in material form, for example, historical buildings or monuments (Suryo, in Susilo, 2020:32). As for the understanding of historical consciousness according to Ismaun (2005:171), namely:

1. Have a consciousness of the importance and value of time
2. Consciousness of changes that occur continuously
3. Consciousness to identify the values contained in a historical event
4. Can filter out the values contained in a historical event and can develop positive values
5. Able to take examples from actors in various historical events
6. Consciousness not to be repeated and to avoid mistakes and negative things in a historical event.

### **Historical Community**

A community is a collection of people who carry out social interactions within the same scope with a specific purpose. Usually, a community is engaged in one particular field which is the purpose of establishing the community. An understanding of the goals of forming a community

is established from the same interests and the gathering of members that is the result of social interaction. Therefore, social interaction is very important to establish a common understanding between members of the community. Social interaction itself is the key to all human life, therefore without social interaction, human life is impossible (Soekanto, 1985:54). Interaction is a relationship between two or more individuals, where individual behavior influences or changes other individuals or vice versa (Bonner, in Ali and Asrori, 2004).

Communities engaged in education are of various types according to the disciplines lived by its members. The historical community can be said to be a community or association engaged in the historical field. The members of the historical community are people who are interested in history. Interactions carried out between members of the historical community ultimately create an understanding, thereby encouraging an agreement to come together. Many historical communities can be found in various regions in Indonesia. Usually, every existing historical community tries to study the history of the city where the community is located, which is rarely discussed in history books at school. Therefore, community history plays an important role in instilling consciousness and understanding of the history of the city where the community originates.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study used a naturalistic inquiry method with a qualitative approach. The naturalistic inquiry method was chosen because the data collected is in the form of words, sentences, or pictures which according to Sutopo (2006:40) have a more meaningful meaning than just presenting numbers or frequencies. According to Cresswell (2012:4), a qualitative approach is an approach to exploring and understanding the meaning that is ascribed to social or humanitarian issues. This qualitative research process involves important efforts such as posing questions and procedures, collecting specific data from participants, analyzing data inductively from specific themes to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data. Nasution (1992:5) reveals that in essence, qualitative research is observing people in their life sphere, interacting with them, and trying to understand their language and interpretation of the world around them. Furthermore, it was also explained by Dezin and Lincoln (in Moleong, 2017:5) that qualitative research is research that uses a scientific background to interpret phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various existing methods.

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach with a narrative descriptive design which according to Koentjaraningrat (1993:89) is research that gives a careful description of certain individuals or groups regarding the circumstances and symptoms that occur. According to Clandinin and Connelly (in Cresswell, 2012:21), qualitative researchers investigate the lives of individuals to tell about their lives. This information is then retold by the researcher in a narrative chronology. At the end of the research phase, the researcher must combine in a narrative style the views of the participant's life with his views on the researcher's own life.

This research was conducted in the Tjimahi Heritage community which is a community engaged in the history and preservation of old buildings in the city of Cimahi. In this study, the data collection techniques used were observation, interviews, and documentation. The technique is an operational way that is often routine, mechanical, or specialist to obtain and handle data in research. As an example of a study of social phenomena (Supardan, 2008:49).

### **a. Observation**

According to Black and Champion (2009:286), observation is observing and listening to someone's behavior for some time, without manipulating or controlling and recording findings that allow or qualify for use in the interpretive analysis. Observation techniques carried out by researchers aim to observe, record, and document any existing findings.

### **b. Interview**

The interview technique used was to conduct interviews with research subjects or respondents who were the heads of the Tjimahi Heritage community. In conducting an interview the researcher uses a notebook to record important things related to research, a voice recorder from a smartphone to record conversations, and a camera to photograph the research process.

### **c. Documentation**

According to Hamidi (2004:72), the documentation method is information that comes from important records both from institutions or organizations and from individuals. Documentation of this research is taking pictures by researchers to strengthen research results. The documentation study used in this research was to record and analyze some of the findings that existed while the researchers were carrying out observational activities, such as observing the activities of the Tjimahi Heritage community, recording the findings that existed during the activity, and recording the process of interviews conducted with the heads of the Tjimahi Heritage community.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This research focuses on the role of the Tjimahi Heritage community as a learning resource in instilling historical consciousness in the people. Researchers carried out data collection techniques as used in qualitative research, namely by observing, interviewing, and documenting. Before making observations, researchers sought information regarding the time that the Tjimahi Heritage community would use in carrying out their historical activities. At the end of January 2023, researchers searched Tjimahi Heritage's social media accounts, especially Facebook and Instagram to get this information. After the researchers traced the two social media accounts, information was finally obtained that Tjimahi Heritage would carry out historical activities in the form of a visit to the Indonesian Army's PUSDIKPAL (Pusat Pendidikan Peralatan TNI AD) located in the city of Cimahi which will be held on February 5, 2023. So, in the end, the researchers conduct research on that date.

On February 5, 2023, the researchers made direct observations when the Tjimahi Heritage community conducted an excursion to the Indonesian Army's PUSDIKPAL (Pusat Pendidikan Peralatan TNI AD) located in Cimahi. In this activity, the researcher had the opportunity to interview the head of the Tjimahi Heritage community with the initials M (48). From the results of these interviews, the researcher obtained information that Tjimahi Heritage is a community where most of the members are residents of Cimahi who have the same vision and mission to work in the field of history and care for historic buildings in Cimahi. The main objective of establishing Tjimahi Heritage is to develop education, especially historical consciousness, especially for Cimahi residents, so that they know and love the historical heritage of the Cimahi city. The background of the Tjimahi Heritage community began with a Facebook group called 'Urang Cimahi' in 2012, where in the group's interaction column much-shared information in

the form of descriptions and photos, which then many people shared historical photos of Cimahi. Then from the chat in the group, many discussions focused on the history of Cimahi. However, because 'Urang Cimahi' is a general group, in the end, people who discuss history then create a special group, namely 'Tjimahi Heritage' to share information specifically related to the history of Cimahi and its surroundings.

According to M, the Tjimahi Heritage Facebook group facilitates many people to discuss history with each other, especially the history of the city of Cimahi and its surroundings. From these discussions, many historical sources were explored together. Initially, the main source used as a reference for discussing the history of Cimahi was a book by Nina Herlina Lubis entitled 'Sejarah Kota Cimahi'. Then from the discussion, the group members dig up a lot of information from the National archives and Dutch archives to get more in-depth information regarding the history of the city of Cimahi. With the limitations that existed from discussions on the Tjimahi Heritage Facebook group, finally, M took the initiative to explore directly around the city of Cimahi. Another purpose of holding roaming activities is to meet each other among members because from 2012 to 2015 each member has never hold an official meeting. From the exploring activity, there were many interesting discussions about the history of Cimahi, especially a lot of information that was not taught in school. M also explained that a fun way of learning is to visit historical resources directly rather than just sitting in class. Because by going directly to historical resources, people will get direct experience from these historical sources so it is hoped that this will get critical thinking that is useful in reconstructing historical events related to these historical sources.

The Tjimahi Heritage Community made its first cruising activity with the theme "Baros Internment Camp". M assisted by several other colleagues announced the Tjimahi Heritage Facebook group which turned out to be very responsive. The number of participants who took part in the cruising activity was around 60 people who came from various areas such as Cimahi, Bandung, Lembang, and its surroundings, as well as from various ages and backgrounds such as elementary, middle, and high school students to adults and the general public. After exploring the Baros Internment Camp, Tjimahi Heritage then carries out routine activities almost every month such as exploring old graves in Cipageran, Leuwigajah, Cibeber, making visits to several military education centers, and also holding 'Ngampar Samak' discussions at the DPRD hall of Cimahi. The activities of the Tjimahi Heritage community then developed again such as book reviews, inviting resource persons to seminars, and conducting writing classes which were conducted in 2017-2018 at the Hotel Tjimahi and Tekno Park Baros. M explained that from these various activities, many people gave positive responses such as always being present at every activity and inviting other people to take part in these activities. It is hoped that the instilling of historical consciousness in the community, especially students in Cimahi and its surroundings, can be carried out more effectively.

When Indonesia was experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tjimahi Heritage community had difficulties in carrying out roaming activities, especially those related to permits. M explained that in 2020-2021, the Tjimahi Heritage community will focus more on publishing a book entitled "Prahara Cimahi". The reference source for the book comes from a book that is a relic of historical actors from Cimahi during the independence war whose distribution is still limited. So, with the publication of the book Prahara Cimahi which was launched on November 10, 2021, at the 'Historic' building, of course, after obtaining the blessing of the family of the perpetrators of this history, it is hoped that it will provide many benefits, especially as reading material and a reference source of information relating to events

surrounding the war of independence in Cimahi and surrounding.

Apart from carrying out outdoor activities, the Tjimahi Heritage community has also developed a social media platform as a source of information about the community's activities and other historical materials. The social media platforms used by Tjimahi Heritage are Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube. M explained that the purpose of using the social media platform is so that the delivery of historical information can be spread more quickly and widely. This is following the principle of the soul of the times (*zeitgeist*) where many people today are active on social media. It is hoped that more and more people will see and read the content shared by the Tjimahi Heritage community, especially among students so that historical consciousness grows within the community. According to M, historical consciousness is very important for everyone to be able to understand and live up to their identity and that of their nation. In addition, with an consciousness of history, people will be able to take the values contained in past historical events that can be used as lessons in the present to shape a better future.

To instill historical consciousness to the people, it is necessary to present good information as well. Therefore, M explained that the sources used in each tour material as well as those shared on social media came from members' studies and research by browsing Dutch libraries on the internet. Tjimahi Heritage has a special team tasked with reviewing the sources to be used which of course have an adequate educational background. According to M, the special team has access to trace sources, especially those from Dutch libraries on the internet, which makes it very easy for the Tjimahi Heritage community to dig up the information needed to reconstruct history in Cimahi and its surroundings. Thus, in every material presented both when exploring and sharing on social media platforms, the Tjimahi Heritage community always includes reference sources whose credibility can be accounted for.

## **CONCLUSION**

Historical consciousness is an important element that must be owned by everyone to have a good understanding of history related to himself and the surrounding environment. Historical consciousness can also be an initial capital that must be owned by people as the first step in the formation of national consciousness. By having a strong historical consciousness, everyone can take values from historical events that have occurred as lessons for life in the present and a better future. To instill good historical consciousness, the main step that can be taken is education, especially in learning history. Historical communities can also be a good alternative to instill historical consciousness as part of non-formal education.

The Tjimahi Heritage Community is a community engaged in the history and preservation of old buildings in the city of Cimahi. The purpose of establishing the Tjimahi Heritage community is to instill historical consciousness in the general public, especially students. To provide valid and accountable information, the Tjimahi Heritage community uses credible sources presented in every outdoor activity or uploaded on its social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube. Various interesting historical activities such as city tours, book reviews, historical studies, and writing classes can attract the general public to become more familiar with history, especially concerning where they live. This is of course expected to increase historical consciousness among the general public. The use of social media platforms also has a significant influence in instilling historical consciousness in the younger generation, because many of today's generations carry out activities on social media. Thus, by

instilling historical consciousness that is increasingly widespread in society, it is hoped that this will bring a positive influence to society that can be applied in their daily lives as well as for the interests of the nation.

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