

The Historical Site of Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit Sawahlunto, West Sumatra, as a Learning Resource for Social Science Education

Siti Nur Azizah¹, Budiwirman²

¹Social Science Education Study Program, Sekolah Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Padang

²Arts and Culture Education, Universitas Negeri Padang

Email: sitinurazizah11223@gmail.com, budiwirman1959@fbs.unp.ac.id



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Abstract. The Mbah Soero Sawahlunto Coal Mine pit, located in the Segar Valley District of Sawahlunto City, West Sumatra, is one of Indonesia's historical heritage sites. It is the fifth recognized heritage site related to the coal mining industry in the country. The first coal mine in West Sumatra was discovered in Padang Sibusuk by Ir. C. De Groot, followed by the discovery of the coal around the Ombilin trunk by Ir. W.H. De Gereve. During the Dutch colonial period, coal was extracted using deep mining methods and a sandfilling system. This study aims to integrate the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit as a valuable learning resource in Social Science Education, specifically for junior high school students. The research employs the historical method with a qualitative descriptive approach, using data collection techniques such as literature review, observation, interviews, and documentation. Social Science Education, particularly in historical learning, is closely connected to the presence of historical sites in Indonesia, offering an engaging and interactive way for educators to teach students about their cultural heritage. The findings of this study show that incorporating the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit into the educational curriculum can enhance students' understanding of Indonesia's industrial history and cultural heritage. By using this site as a resource, educators can provide a richer and more engaging learning experience. In conclusion, the integration of historical sites like the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit into the Social Science Education curriculum offers students a deeper connection to their history, fostering awareness and appreciation of their cultural heritage. This study can serve as a reference for future research on the use of heritage sites as educational tools.

Keywords: Historical Site, New Coal Mine, Social Studies Education

INTRODUCTION

Social Science Education (SSE) is an integrated field of study that simplifies, adapts, selects, and modifies concepts and skills from history, geography, sociology, anthropology, and economics into a unified approach to learning. It is a multicultural subject that combines these disciplines in a way that helps students understand human activities in both schools and universities. Social studies education aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage with societal issues and challenges (Supriatna, 2009). The concept of SSE is not merely a sub-discipline of the social sciences but an educational program designed to improve human quality. It brings together multiple perspectives from fields such as history, geography, sociology, and economics, making it an essential part of the educational curriculum (Soemantri, 1976). According to the Social Science Education Council (SSEC) and the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), SSE incorporates a variety of subjects, including political science, law, anthropology, psychology, and sociology, offering a comprehensive approach to understanding social phenomena (Setiawan, 2013).

The history of Social Science Education in Indonesia has evolved through a series of challenges, particularly during the years 1969-1974, when five major problems in the field of education were identified.

These included issues related to quality, quantity, effectiveness, relevance, and the development of a productive younger generation for national development. As a result, social studies education in Indonesia seeks to develop students' abilities to engage with and understand social issues. It encourages students to have a positive attitude towards societal challenges, to develop problem-solving skills, and to contribute to improving the social and economic conditions of their communities.

One important aspect of Social Science Education is its relevance to local history and heritage. In this context, the historical site of the Mbah Soero Sawahlunto Coal Mine Pit serves as an important educational resource. Social Science Education not only provides theoretical knowledge but also connects students to real-world history, such as the history of coal mining in West Sumatra. The integration of historical sites like the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit into the curriculum can make learning more engaging and meaningful for students, as they gain a deeper understanding of Indonesia's industrial and cultural heritage. By using this historical site as a learning resource, students can better appreciate the history and social impacts of the coal mining industry in Indonesia (Tantri et al., 2018).

However, despite the importance of such historical sites, there remains a research gap in how these sites can be effectively utilized in Social Science Education. Previous studies have examined the use of historical sites in education (e.g., Sumarno, 2017; Tantri et al., 2018), but there is limited research on integrating specific heritage sites, like the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit, into the Social Science curriculum at the junior high school level. This research gap highlights the need to explore how local historical sites can be used not only as a resource for historical learning but also to foster students' understanding of the social, cultural, and economic contexts of their heritage.

The purpose of this study is to explore the relevance and potential of the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit as an educational resource in Social Science Education, particularly for junior high school students. This research aims to demonstrate how integrating historical sites into the curriculum can enrich students' learning experiences and help them connect with the broader historical and cultural narratives of Indonesia.

METHOD

In writing using the historical method by studying and exploring values, factors to understand the past. Past findings are used as material for the present and the future. So that in this case it can be described systematically, objectively and can interpret the materials obtained so that the truth can be accounted for (Moleong, 2005). Based on the source, there are two types of data sources in this paper, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data in question is the original source or first-hand source. Meanwhile, secondary data can be obtained second-hand or through respondents who are closely related to the topic of discussion in writing (Sugiyono, 2016). To obtain complete information or data needed in this writing, the following data collection techniques are used; (1) Literature Study Technique, This technique is a data collection technique carried out by understanding books, articles, newspapers, magazines, archives and documents that have to do with the problems written. The places that can be visited by the author are a) Adinegoro Public Library of Sawahlunto city, b) Padang State University Library, c) Journal on the Sinta platform, c) Observation Technique, (2) Observation technique is a data collection that is done through observation and recording of everything that is related to the object of research. The implementation of observation is carried out directly at the place. In this study the authors conducted observations in the city of Sawahlunto, West Sumatra. (3) Interview technique, The interview technique is the process of obtaining an explanation to collect information using questions and answers with informants. The informants of this writing are; a) Mr Sudarsono (Mbah Suero Coal Pit Museum Guide), b) Mrs Febi Dwi Lianda (Teacher of SMAN 1 Sawahlunto). (4) Documentation technique, This technique is done by collecting writings based on real evidence from the sources obtained. This technique is used to find out the reality or description of events through photographs, pictures and others.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

History of Sawahlunto City

Sawahlunto consists of two words, Sawah and Lunto, meaning "rice fields irrigated by the Lunto rod". It is said that the story spread that the first settlers found a narrow flat area to be a rice field. Sawahlunto is a small village, surrounded by wilderness and hills that connect with a narrow lowland (Dedi, 2018). The layout of the city is like a frying pan. The location of Sawahlunto does not excite from this economic point of view in the minds of Dutch officials. As for the former population in Sawahlunto was not much which was then combined with small villages such as Kubang, Bancah, Sijantang, the population

at that time was only estimated by the Dutch to be only 500 people in the mid-19th century (Erwiza, 2010).



Figure 1. Sawahlunto in the past (Source: troppenmuseum.nl)



Figure 2. Sawahlunto city now (Source: Author, 2024)

Dutch colonials called Sawahlunto with Lunto Kloof (Kloof = Valley) This is because it is located in a valley surrounded by hills. This condition was recorded in a portrait taken by Is.Th.F.A Delprat (Andi et al., 2016). In the past, the people of Sawahlunto mostly grew rice and farmed on limited land, because most of the land surface was not suitable for farming, so Sawahlunto was considered an area with no potential. But it must be reviewed again. Because after a Dutch geologist Ir.W.H. Van De Greeve discovered coal content there in 1868. This became a centre of attention for the colonials (Rahmadani et al., 1942).

History of Mbah Soero Ombilin Sawahlunto Coal Mine

This history begins with a Dutch colonist named Van Kool who deliberately came to Sawahlunto in 1901. This is a question because Sawahlunto is a quiet village that is covered by wilderness. It turns out that without realising that there is black gold or coal in the bowels of Sawahlunto, this is what makes Dutch colony officials willing to come from afar on a ship for months, crossing the high seas that are sometimes attacked by storms for the sake of black gold or coal. As we know, coal can be transformed into guilder sheets.

The discovery of coal in Sawahlunto by the Dutch is inseparable from the existence of a Dutch control in the economic field of society at that time. Control in the economic and political fields took place simultaneously in the Minangkabau domain. In the economic sector, it can be seen in the presence of the Dutch colonial government that came to Minangkabau marked by the forced planting work system. The story explains that coffee was planted on the land of the masses. Furthermore, the Dutch colony also sent an expedition aimed at finding natural resources in Minangkabau such as iron, gold, silver, cement and coal. In history, the name Ir. C. De Groot is mentioned as the first discoverer of coal in the Padang Sibusuk area, which is located 20 km from Ombilin in 1858. The expedition pioneered by Ir. C. De Groot was later followed by Ir. W.H. de Greve at that time De Greve was then followed again by R.D.M Verbeek. In society and history, it is Ir. De Greve who is very meritorious and remembered in history (Rahmadani et al., 1942).

There are two stages of the mining permit process, namely, first, the process of land acquisition from local indigenous people then the second is mining from the Dutch Colonial government (Hira & Rika, 2017) . Historically, land acquisition from local indigenous people was resolved by Minangkabau customary law, while the issue of mining concessions was related to the Dutch colonial government (Andi et al., 2016). The Ombilin Coal Mine was officially established in 1891, on 28 December 1891, which then began production in 1892 (Ramadhani, 2018). The mining method in the Dutch era used the deep mining method or underground mining with a sand filling system. The holes that were dug were not just one but many, so that later they would be connected to each other and form underground roads. The first mining was in the Durian River area. The selection of this area is due to the fact that the mining area has good quality and coal content that has a large size. The implementation of coal mining begins with digging step by step, the results of mining are then carried out using the shoulders of the labourers (Rahmadani et al., 1942).



Figure 3. Mbah soero Mine entrance (Source: Author, 2024)

The Ombilin coal mine is inseparable from orang rantai. Orang rantai are two words that kept the Dutch colonists busy to make a profit by using the slavery system in the new coal mine. Orang rantai or Kettinganger in Dutch is a term that is well known to the rua people in Minangkabau. As their nickname suggests, they were chained by the neck, hands and feet, similar to prisoners of forced labour in England. Orang rantai was nicknamed for Dutch political prisoners, criminals, and criminals. The Dutch political prisoners were people who fought against the Dutch, they were indigenous people who wanted to defend the land owned by their ancestors who were seized by the Dutch. They were also considered terrorists because they damaged the authority and power of the Dutch who did not want to become "Dutch Kacung".

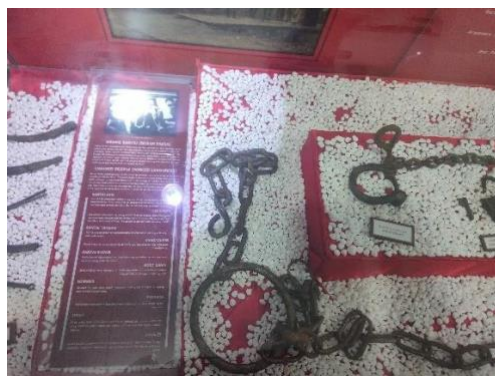


Figure 4. The ratai used by the chain people (Source: Author, 2024)

The story of the origin of the chain people arrived in Sawahlunto. There is a story from one of his great-grandchildren in Sungailliat, telling that his ancestor was a powerful warrior in the world of martial arts on Bangka Island. He had many students who came from everywhere to practice silat, this was to defend the country from the threat of Dutch rule. The Dutch colony was afraid that they would become

troublemakers, so the Dutch colony imprisoned the sakti warrior who then expelled him from Bangka and sent him as a prisoner in chains in Sawahlunto. Furthermore, the criminals, namely robbers, were then arrested and thrown into Cipinang and Glodok prisons.



Figure 5. Coal Mine Pit Workers (Source: Author, 2024)

Mbah Suoro mine pit is one of the famous mines in Ombilin Sawahlunto. Since 2007, the Mbah Suoro pit has been officially opened to the public. The name attached to the Mbah Suoro mine pit is a name taken from one of the foremen named Soerono, he was assigned in the 20th century by the Dutch East Indies government to oversee mining activities. There is a story that was heard about the figure of the foreman, it was told that the foreman came from Java who had the character of a hard worker, firm, and devout in religion who was then respected because he had immune science. Furthermore, there is another version that describes the figure of the foreman who has a cruel character, often whipping and torturing subordinates who are disobedient to him. Furthermore, it was also found that the figure of the foreman was very influential in mining activities in Sawahlunto so that the name of the foreman was immortalised as a tourist site which is now known as Mbah Suero Coal Mine Pit (Administrator, 2019).



Figure 6. Equipment of the Miners (Source: Author, 2024)

The Mbah Suero Sawahlunto coal mining site can be used as a learning resource for junior high school students. It is intended that students can understand and know about the history that existed in Indonesia during the colonisation of the Dutch colony. students are expected to be able to maintain and be able to continue to future generations. That way the history of the mbah suero Sawahlunto coal mine site can be well preserved and then the younger generation can learn about existing history.

Learning resources are something that can be used and can be utilised by educators which aims to make it easier for students in the learning process. Learning resources according to Marwoto, namely learning resources are all sources of human data and goods as a separate source to be able to facilitate the teaching and learning process which can be passed through messages, materials, and the environment, as well as historical relics (Paramita, 2019). The use of the Mbah Soero Coal Mine Pit site as a learning

resource can be said to be a different thing. So that in its application it is necessary to plan and design in the teaching and learning process for students. the coal pit site can be used as a learning resource for Social Science Education, one of which is learning history by going through the history of coal mining to the history of the worship of chain people as forced labourers in coal mining pits. Basically, the people of Sawahlunto are quite familiar with the history of their city which is called a city that has a black gold mine. But this is not known by students outside West Sumatra. this is interesting to be used as a learning resource for students to provide a new understanding of the history that exists in the country of Indonesia. The sawahlunto coal mine pit site is a historical site that has values that need to be known not only by the people of West Sumatra but the wider community such as students, teachers, and other students must also know the coal mine site.

The coal pit site can be a source of learning by students to be able to know the history of the Indonesian state at that time. History is not just a fairy tale or story, but can be proven by evidence and facts and existing data sources. As for the coal pit site, there are historical values that are not only studying theory but can be a solution to improve the deepening of social science education learning material which can then stimulate the stimulus of students in teaching and learning activities (Aulia & Siti, 2022). Utilisation of the Lubang Tambang Batu bara site as a learning resource can be done by conducting a tour guided by the teacher or to streamline time can be done visually through the Youtube application, so that students wherever they are they can access and learn about the Lubang Tambang Batu Bara site as student learning (Anwar et al., 2020). In the learning process, teachers can be creative in using technology as learning media that can be used in the ongoing learning process. The technology used varies according to the facilities available at school, for example, projectors and laptops used to display visual video learning (Azizah et al., 2023). as for some Youtube video access that can be accessed by educators and students. The following is attached an access link in visual video learning, as follows;

Tabel 1. Theme Reference and Video Link for Mbah Suoro's mining site as a learning resource for Social Science Education

No	Tema Vidio	Link Akses Video
1	Jejak Masa Lalu Lubang Tambang Mbah Soero di Sawahlunto	https://youtu.be/i6b6A5SGyc?si=o_qlvijhp_hid63VJ
2	Lubang Tambang Mbah Soero (Jelajah Museum Nusantara) Sawahlunto Sumatera Barat.	https://youtu.be/1_2QPEzhUzg?si=TH-OGVNs9-ERmnvG

The utilisation of the Mbah soero Coal Pit site as a learning resource for Social Science Education subjects as knowledge about the history that exists in the city of Sawahlunto West Sumatra Indonesia. It is hoped that educators and students can learn and increase knowledge of the history that exists in the country of Indonesia. A great nation is a nation that appreciates the services of heroes and preserves existing history. So that children and grandchildren will be able to understand and know the history that exists in the country of Indonesia.

CONCLUSIONS

The Mahabharata Soero coal pit site located in Sawahlunto city begins with the history of the city built from coal mining. After the discovery of coal, the Dutch government then built a building such as offices, residences, and then facilities like in European buildings. These heritage buildings are still very strong in Sawahlunto city. The heritage buildings were diverted as a place of community learning activities such as schools and museums in Sawahlunto City. The historical heritage in the black gold mining area is not only fixated on the Mahabharata Soero coal mining pit museum in Sawahlunto city. There are several icons such as the Ransum Warehouse Museum or referred to as a public kitchen during its time. Then there is the Pek Sin Kek house as a Chinese family residence built in 1916. There is also a tall tower that is the chimney of a

steam power plant engine which is currently the tower of the Nurul Iman mosque. Furthermore, there is a railway museum where old trains can be seen transporting coal. Furthermore, there are three Silo buildings shaped like giant chimneys that used to have a function as a coal storage area, and are now used as cultural heritage and used as a rock climbing arena in the city of Sawahlunto. The existence of buildings and relics of these buildings makes Sawahlunto City as one of the cities that has a history.

The utilization of the Sawahlunto Mahabharata Soero coal mine pit site as a learning resource can take advantage of historical values. This aims to stimulate student learning motivation in learning activities. This provides benefits for many people and future generations. The author realises that this article is not entirely perfect. The author is aware of the lack of time and references in writing this article. The author apologises if the reader may find errors and shortcomings in this article so that further research is expected in developing history-based Social Science Education learning resources in Indonesia and the world. The author hopes that in the future there will be extraordinary writers to help in improving this article. Then the author also hopes that historians and culture will continue to exist in the education system.

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