Sociocultural Multiculturalism in New Capital of Indonesia *IKN Nusantara*: Academic and Student Perspectives

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Abstract

The New Capital of Indonesia IKN Nusantara is a new capital city initiated by the 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Jokowi Widodo, which is originally a forest area that is transformed into the center of government in Penajam Paser Utara Region of East Kalimantan Province. This article aims to analyze the perspectives of academics and students at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarma University related to multiculturalism in the New Capital of Indonesia IKN Nusantara by using the Liker Scale theory for instance (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Moderate, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree. The data used in this article were from 92 academic staff and students at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University. The results revealed that (1) people in East Kalimantan Province already know the diversity and coexistence with 66 respondents equal to 71.73%, (2) already understand the differences of 64 respondents equal to 69.56%, and (3) were ready to live side by side in a frame of religious tolerance where 64 respondents or the same as 69.56%. It meant that multiculturalism has been applied in East Kalimantan in terms of the academics and students in the Faculty of Cultural Sciences regarding the New Capital "IKN Nusantara". The highlight is multiculturalism and tolerance have been implemented in East Kalimantan and multi-ethnic conflict might happen when discrimination or the local community are not accommodated properly.

Keywords: Multiculturalism; Social culture; New capital of Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an archipelago country which has a diverse and multicultural society. This is due to the socio-cultural and geographic diversity and breadth. Because Indonesia's territory consists of many islands, reaching approximately 17,667 large and small islands. The people living on the island have a variety of cultures, resulting in a diverse, multicultural society. According to Eagleton, T (2016) states that culture is a kind of ethical pedagogy that prepares us to become political citizens by freeing the ideal or collective self that is buried within humans. Of course, different cultures which are labeled as multiculturalism must be a concern, at least we can take the example of tribal clashes that often occur in Papua and Shia and Sunni Kaun conflicts in Arab lands or the Middle East, etc. Thus, Jokow's ideology in developing Indonesia with modern and unity of diversity as the prominent goal to compete and

play a role to reinforce (Alamsyah, et al, 2019). Therefore, referring to (Syaifuddin, 2006) discusses this issue largely by connecting the concept of multiculturalism with the concept of civilizational and cultural complexity in Indonesia, the concept of nation-states, global trends, and also with religious conflicts. A policy strategy is needed to face the sphere which is various ethnicities as local communities who live around the region and live together. Multiculturalism in Indonesia is a nation's power which might still be in the slogan the unity of diversity. However, strategic intelligence thinking has a broad spectrum by looking at the importance of multidisciplinary aspects in a policy that includes specific variables ranging from social, political, economic, defense and security, geography, logistics and communication, government, and diplomacy (Salya, 2022). The model is being measured in order to support national plan management. Because Indonesia is a multicultural nation, disputes between different techniques could arise. In order to maintain energy security, economic security, cultural security, and a way to reduce conflict, it is necessary to adopt a multicultural education that takes into account regional ethics, customs, faith, and tolerances (Zarbaliyev, 2017). Therefore, in order for equality to emerge, multiculturalism must disregard social injustice, racial disparities, and economic issues (Lee et al., 2020).

According to (Elly M. Setiadi, et al, 2006) states the culture developed by humans will have implications for the environment in which that culture develops. A culture will emit the characteristics of its people that are visible from the outside. So, not only will the assimilation of local culture coexist in IKN Nusantara in the future, but also the presence of foreign culture through cultural ambassadors through the cultural attachés of each country. Describing the issue of culture and multiculturalism will be of interest because in Kalimantan itself there are many local cultures and ethnicities that are local communities on the Earth of Kalimantan. Furthermore, regarding to (Tantawi, 2019) defines culture in a broad sense as involving all aspects of human life which include language systems, technological systems, livelihood systems, knowledge systems, organizational systems, art systems, and belief or religious systems. According to Awang et al. (2018), a multicultural society serves as the basis for the development of peaceful community members. Thus, the environment, actors, and schools are all involved in the process of educating students to internalize multicultural principles. The interdependence of knowledge, procedure, and acceptance of multiculturalism's values determines the internalization process's success (Firdaus, et al., 2020).

The move of the capital to East Kalimantan has been declared legal through Law Number 3 of 2022 concerning the National Capital (IKN), which has become known as IKN Nusantara. Of course, building IKN does not only prepare infrastructure development and the supporting environment, but also builds the readiness of the population, both native residents, migrant residents who live in Kalimantan or East Kalimantan Province, and migrant residents who only come to earn a living in the IKN area. The differences in characteristics of the two will have an impact on socio-cultural changes known as Socio-Cultural Transformation. The moving of the Capital City to East Kalimantan is based on some strategic considerations both the position of the island of Borneo and the geopolitics as well, which is the new capital right now located in the middle of Indonesia. It is also free of earth quicker. Therefore, the efforts

to move the capital city have been carried out since the Dutch East Indies era. After independence, efforts to transfer the *IKN Nusantara* were also carried out by Indonesian leaders, namely Soekarno, Soeharto, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and Joko Widodo, for various reasons such as security, economics, geography, and demography. The relocation of *IKN* causes a cultural struggle between local culture and immigrants, which can lead to a new culture and even a culture shock (Jaelani and Risa, 2023). Nonetheless, multiculturalism is a good model for cultural integration for Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation with 250 million people, but in actuality, the world in which it exists now has been hegemonized by power relations in terms of politics, the economy, and everyday life (Saifuddin, 2017).

Based on a study carried out by Fristikawati, Y., Alvander, R., & Wibowo, V. (2022), it is explained in the results of their research that socio-cultural transformation is faced with current challenges (digital literacy, regional government readiness, and the potential loss of indigenous housing) and future challenges (massive urbanization, the emergence of new cultures, and conflicts due to social inequality). By looking at the potential above, of course, we have to anticipate it by involving the relevant parties to design strategic measures in the form of collaboration between the Central Government, Regional Government, Universities, Private Sector, NGOs, and the community. According to (Amin, M, 2018) stated that in multicultural education, every civilization and culture is in an equal and equal position, so it needs to be introduced in schools so that children from an early age gain knowledge about how to respect ethnic and religious differences which include four values between others: the value of equality, the value of tolerance, the value of democracy, and the value of pluralism. And, in another article, based on (Purnomo, N. A., & Demartoto, A. 2023) shows that pluralism has a positive impact on the dynamics of society's socio-cultural life. Optimal communication, information, and education regarding pluralism and multiculturalism play an important role so that a pluralist society can understand the differences in various socio-cultural characteristics in social interaction with a more open view of society, respecting each other and respecting diversity. The study above has similarities with the analysis of multiculturalism from the perspective of students and academics at Mulawarman University.

Kusno, A., & Yahya, M. (2023) The results of the study revealed that there were several parts of the statement that were strongly suspected of offending the people of Kalimantan, namely moving to the place where Jin had abandoned his children, the market for *kuntilanak gendruwo* why build in Penajam, Kalimantan, and only monkeys (who will live 70 Vol. 18, Nomor 1, Juni 2023 in the new IKN). This statement has been proven to have caused offense, commotion, and anger from the community, leaders, and traditional institutions. Thus, security is a factor that needs to be taken into account when the Indonesian capital is moved from Java to Kalimantan. This shifts the site of the government and economic centers from Java to Kalimantan (Hakim, 2022). Every nation anticipates that neither foreign nor internal dangers will get close to or even take over the capital. A strategic military unit equipped with all the installations and essential components of a sufficient and potent armament system (defense system) must be on constant watch to guard the nation's capital (Supriyanto, 2018). The government must also take note of the horizontal tensions that led to widespread community segregation in Kalimantan during the past era to guarantee

socio-cultural stability (Setyorini, 2019). Since President Joko Widodo's second term ended in 2019, the Indonesian government has consistently advocated for the relocation of the capital city. President Jokowi announced at the time that *Penajam Paser Utara* Regency (PPU), East Kalimantan Province, would serve as the site of the new capital city of Indonesia (Lyons, 2019).

This study aims to describe the opinions of students and academics who are also cultural practitioners at Mulawarman University regarding the euphoria of the people of East Kalimantan with the presence of IKN Nusantara, whether they have prepared themselves to become main actors in the land where they were born or whether it is just a euphoria that has become an "empty message" as the term goes. . What differentiates this research from (Fristikawanti et al, 2022) article which explains that socio-cultural transformation has the potential to give rise to conflict. So, this research will look at the impact of multiculturalism from the perspective of students and cultural practitioners. The Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University, sees the potential of the existence of *IKN Nusantara* in East Kalimantan Province, which is also the largest campus in this province. The main point or focus of this research is that there is a great potential for conflict or just an analysis that assumes that the people of East Kalimantan are not yet modern and are not ready to accept the principles of multiculturalism that are present on Bumi Etam, known as East Kalimantan. The opinions of cultural practitioner students and academics can also be a future reference for potential conflicts that could occur so that research related to IKN Nusantara can be strengthened by new information through updated studies. Referring to (Fernando, et al, 2023) expressed the importance of multicultural education as social capital for the younger generation to form awareness in understanding diversity tolerance. When two or more community groups in a certain location have divergent opinions, conflicts may result (Ubaidillah, 2018). A group of people is referred to as a culture if they have common symbols, personalities that have been extensively recorded, biological structural reflections, and intangible emotions. According to Syarif (2020), a multicultural society is one that is composed of numerous distinct cultural groupings based on factors such as tribe, race, religion, nation, language, and income.

Thus, multicultural education, for the younger generation is expected to minimize and break the chain of ethnic conflicts in the future, which needs collaboration among parties for instance parents, schools, governments, and stakeholders. Kalimantan region is the center for the construction of the new and new Indonesian capital city government. Therefore, increasing the capacity of young generations from an early age is for sustainable development

METHOD

This article focuses on cultural diversity (Multiculturalism) in the New Capital of Indonesia *"IKN Nusantara"* which became a new miniature of Indonesia. This article used a quantitative approach, and the quantitative data is in the form of numbers, from either counting or scaling (Punch, 1998, p. 58). Likewise, the research used the Liker Scale approach which includes: (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Moderate, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree. The data are from students and academic staff from the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University, where data was

obtained from 92 students and academics from 3 study programs for instance Indonesian Literature, English Literature, and Ethnomusicology with the following percentages consisting of 60 (65%) women and 32 (35%) %) men. It was further explained that the data collection technique was carried out by distributing questionnaires via *Google Form flat form* to students and academics at Mulawarman University from March 27 to April 1, 2023, with the total respondents for instance 32 males and 60 females consisting of various ethnicities, races, and religions.

Population and Sample

It was stated that the population in this study was 92 total respondents consisting of academic staff and students at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University. A total of 32 respondents or 35% were male and 60 respondents or 65% were female. The population and sample in this research are active students from the English Literature, Indonesian Literature, Ethnomusicology, study programs, and educational staff. The method used is a quantitative method and the data collection technique is carried out by distributing questionnaires using Flat Form Google Form. The distribution of percentages between male and female responses can be seen in Figure 1.
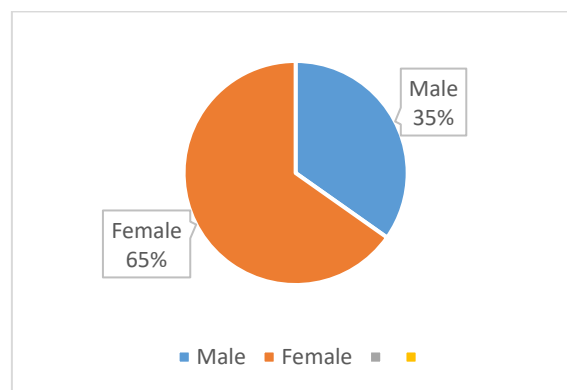

Figure 1. Kind of gender

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the results of distributing online questionnaires via *Google Form,* data was collected, then the data was classified according to the questions and processed using the Microsoft Excel software program and the data obtained was as shown in the following Table 1.

Table 1. Understanding of pluralism

Criteria	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly Agree
Local people and residents with the Identity Card in East Kalimantan already understand pluralism (multiculturalism).	0	2	24	51	15
	0,00%	2,17%	26,09%	55%	16,30%

Table 1 illustrates that the people of East Kalimantan Province, both native residents and residents with East Kalimantan's identity card, already understand pluralism with the distribution that 51 respondents said agree or the equivalent of

55%, 15 respondents equivalent to 16.30% said very agree (SS), and as many as 24 respondents, equivalent to 26.09%, stated that they were Ordinary (BS), so that 66 respondents or 71.73% already understood life in plurality and coexistence, although the number of people who said it was normal was also quite high. However, respondents believe that the people of East Kalimantan, both native residents and East Kalimantan residents who have East Kalimantan's identity card, have implemented living in pluralism. Thus, this condition will be a breath of fresh air for the presence of IKN Nusantara where the potential for conflict over differences does not occur.

Table 2. Understand the differences

Criteria	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly Agree
East Kalimantan Province could be a miniature Indonesia because local communities really understand the differences.	0	2	26	51	13
	0,00%	2,17%	28,26%	55,43%	18,84%

Table 2 shows that the people of East Kalimantan Province really understand the differences in distribution 51 respondents said Agree or equivalent to 55.43%, 13 respondents equivalent to 18.84% said Strongly Agree, and as many as 26 equivalent to 28.26% of respondents stated that it was Moderate, so it can be concluded that 64 respondents or 69.56% understood that the people of East Kalimantan already understand pluralism and coexistence, although those who said it was normal were also quite high. However, respondents believe that the people of East Kalimantan, both local people and immigrant residents with identity cards who live in East Kalimantan, already understand pluralism. Likewise, this condition was a great issue in terms of *IKN Nusantara* where the potential for conflict over differences does not occur.

Table 3. Coexistence and religious freedom

Criteria	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree
The community is ready to live side by side in religious freedom	0	6	23	46	18
	0,00%	6,52%	25%	50%	19,56%

Table 3 shows that society was ready to live side by side in religious freedom with a distribution of 46 respondents stating Agree or the equivalent of 50%, 18 respondents equivalent to 19.56% stating Strongly Agree, and 23 respondents or the same with 25% stating Ordinary Moderate so that it can be concluded that 64 respondents or 69.56% understand that the people of East Kalimantan are ready to live side by side and respect religious freedom (tolerance) for certain ethnicities and religions and as many respondents as saying normal Moderate 23 or 25% is also still quite high, meaning there is no concern that multiculturalism could cause conflict.

Table 4. Social problem for the new capital *IKN Nusantara*

Criteria	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly Agree
Social problems such as unemployment, criminal cases, and land disputes arise in *IKN Nusantara*, but the local community already understands the impacts that might occur.	0	7	23	49	13
	0,00%	7,61%	25,00%	53,26%	14,13%

Table 4 shows that social problems increased in line with the presence of the New Capital of Indonesia *IKN Nusantara* such as unemployment, and crime but public awareness of these impacts was already known where amount 49 respondents, or 53.26% understood the social problems that arose as a result of the movement of *IKN Nusantara*, amount 13 respondents, equivalent to 14.13%, stated that they were strongly agree, and 23 respondents or equal to 25.00% stated that they were moderate, so it was concluded that 62 respondents or 67.39% really understand that the people of East Kalimantan already understand the impacts that could be caused by the presence of the Archipelago Capital in East Kalimantan Province, but 23 respondents said that was normal, equivalent to 25.00%, which was also quite high, meaning that there are still many people who didn't understand the impacts that can be caused by *IKN Nusantara.*

Table 5. The implementation of multiculturalism

Criteria	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly Agree
Multiculturalism has been implemented by the people of East Kalimantan for a long time.	0	9	23	49	13
	0,00%	9,78%	25,00%	53%	14,13%

Table 5 shows that multiculturalism has been implemented well in East Kalimantan where 49 respondents stated agree or 53.26%, while 13 respondents, or 14.13% strongly agree, and 23 respondents, or the same with 25.00% moderate overall 62 respondents agree that multiculturalism has been implemented by the people of East Kalimantan, meaning that the literacy and understanding of the people of East Kalimantan towards diversity within a multicultural framework has been implemented in society. Strengthening maintains harmony in coexistence, thus, it is always well maintained to create safe and peaceful social conditions.

Table 6. Collaboration between government and community organization

Criteria	Strongly Agree	Agree	Moderate	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The government and community organizations need collaboration on how to protect and respect each other in society.	0	0	4	44	44
	0,00%	0,00%	4,35%	48%	47,83%

Fig 7 shows that in order to maintain a conducive atmosphere, it is deemed necessary to sit down with the government and associations 44 respondents Strongly

Agree or the same as 47.83%, and respondents who stated Agree also have the same number 44 respondents equal to 48% and those who stated Normal (B) were 4 respondents or equal to 4.35%, overall the community generally strongly agrees that the government needs to sit together with the associations to protect and respect each other. with the others. There needs to be a friendly relationship between the government and the community to coordinate and exchange ideas between ethnic groups and community members.

CONCLUSION

Socio-cultural multiculturalism in *IKN Nusantara*, East Kalimantan Province, according to the perspective of academics and students at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University, through the results of a questionnaire via Google form, shows that academics and students see that multiculturalism has been implemented in East Kalimantan Province and that society has lived side by side peacefully and religious tolerance has been implemented well, but to maintain all of this the government must sit together with the community to maintain the existing conditions of diversity. Furthermore, regarding respondents, 92 students and academics from the Faculty of Cultural Sciences include: (1) the people of East Kalimantan already understand pluralism and coexistence with 66 respondents or 71.73%, (2) already understand the difference between 64 and 69, 56%, (3) are ready to live side by side within the framework of religious tolerance with 64 respondents equal to 69.56%. It can be concluded that the pluralism of society in East Kalimantan works without hesitation of conflict as long as the synergy among stakeholders forms a collaboration.

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