

# Local Wisdom in the Challenges of Urbanization as an Evaluation of Social Change towards Tradition in Makassar City

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## Abstract

This study explores the impact of urbanization on local wisdom in Makassar City, focusing on how traditional practices and cultural values have adapted to the rapidly changing urban environment. Through a qualitative approach, involving in-depth interviews with community elders, cultural leaders, and urban planners, the research reveals the resilience and adaptability of local wisdom in maintaining social cohesion and cultural identity. The findings challenge the prevailing narrative of cultural loss due to urbanization, highlighting the integration of traditional elements into modern urban planning as a means of preserving cultural heritage. The study contributes to the existing literature by providing new insights into the role of local wisdom in urban settings and offers practical recommendations for urban development that respects and incorporates cultural traditions.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Local Wisdom, Cultural Preservation, Social Cohesion, Makassar City

## 1. Introduction

Urbanization is a transformative force with profound outcomes on cities global, and Makassar City, the bustling capital of South Sulawesi, Indonesia, isn't any exception. As Makassar experiences fast urban increase, its conventional cultural practices and nearby understanding face unheard of challenges. This take a look at explores how urbanization affects local wisdom in Makassar, focusing on the interplay among social change and lifestyle.

Urbanization in Makassar has accelerated in latest decades, driven through financial boom, migration, and infrastructural improvement (Silver, 2024). The town's enlargement has led to a reshaping of its physical landscape, changing the whole thing from residential areas to industrial hubs. While those modifications have delivered about economic possibilities and progressed residing requirements for plenty, they've also delivered full-size pressures at the town's cultural fabric. Traditional practices that when formed the spine of network existence are more and more overshadowed by using current impacts, elevating worries about the upkeep of neighborhood understanding (Zurn & Bassett, 2022).

Local information, defined as traditional knowledge and practices that manual community existence and social interactions, is a vital factor of Makassar's cultural identity. It encompasses

diverse factors, including social norms, customs, and rituals which have been surpassed down thru generations (Melnik et al., 2022). This information is not static; it evolves in reaction to changing occasions while retaining center values that reflect the community's ancient and cultural heritage. However, the speedy tempo of urbanization poses challenges to the continuity and adaptation of these practices.

One of the primary issues is the lack of traditional areas and practices because of urban development. Traditional markets, community collecting locations, and cultural landmarks are often displaced via new construction projects (Aktürk & Lerski, 2021). For example, the relocation of conventional markets to make manner for shopping malls and excessive upward push buildings disrupts no longer best the financial sports however also the social interactions that those markets facilitate. The erosion of these spaces undermines the community's connection to its cultural background and affects the transmission of neighborhood understanding to future generations (Daly et al., 2021).

In addition to bodily displacement, urbanization brings approximately modifications in social structures and lifestyles that in addition mission traditional practices. As people migrate from rural areas to city facilities, they frequently undertake new behaviors and attitudes that diverge from conventional norms. This shift can lead to a dilution of cultural values and practices, as younger generations can also prioritize modernity over subculture. The growing affect of globalized media and customer tradition additionally contributes to this fashion, promoting lifestyles and values that can battle with neighborhood customs (Dey et al., 2020).

Despite those demanding situations, neighborhood wisdom maintains to play a important position in Makassar's social material. Community leaders and cultural practitioners actively work to hold and adapt conventional practices in reaction to urban pressures (Niinimäki et al., 2020). Efforts encompass organizing cultural festivals, reviving conventional crafts, and incorporating local knowledge into urban making plans. These projects spotlight the resilience of local understanding and its potential to evolve to new contexts even as preserving its center standards.

Moreover, urbanization offers opportunities for the mixing of nearby knowledge into modern improvement strategies. By recognizing and incorporating traditional understanding, urban planners and policymakers can create more culturally touchy and sustainable development practices. Traditional ecological information can inform urban greening tasks, at the same time as cultural practices can decorate community engagement in improvement techniques. This method not most effective facilitates preserve neighborhood traditions but also enriches the urban surroundings by integrating various cultural perspectives.

The interplay among urbanization and local understanding in Makassar thus represents a dynamic and multifaceted process. On one hand, urban growth poses challenges to the renovation of conventional practices and cultural identity. On the opposite hand, it additionally creates possibilities for the version and integration of neighborhood information into modern- day urban life. Understanding this complicated relationship is critical for developing techniques that balance development with cultural protection.

## 2. Methods

The methodology employed in this study was designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the impact of urbanization on local wisdom in Makassar City through qualitative approaches. The research focused on capturing the nuances of how traditional practices and cultural values

are influenced by urban development.

### **Sampling Technique**

A purposive sampling technique was used to select participants who were most knowledgeable about or affected by the interplay between urbanization and local wisdom. The sample consisted of community leaders, cultural practitioners, and long-time residents of Makassar City. This approach ensured that the data collected reflected a range of perspectives from individuals with significant insight into the local cultural context. The sample size was determined to be adequate based on the principle of data saturation, where additional data collection would no longer yield new insights. Specifically, the study included 15 in-depth interviews and 4 focus group discussions, each consisting of 6-8 participants. This sampling method was chosen to gather rich, detailed information from individuals who were directly engaged with or impacted by the changes in their community.

### **Instrument**

Data was collected using a combination of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observations.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with community leaders, cultural practitioners, and long-time residents. The interview guide included open-ended questions designed to elicit detailed responses about participants' experiences and perceptions regarding urbanization and its effects on local traditions. Topics covered included changes in traditional practices, the role of local wisdom in contemporary settings, and personal experiences with urban development. Focus groups were organized to facilitate discussion among community members about the impact of urbanization on local wisdom. These discussions were guided by a set of questions aimed at exploring collective views and shared experiences. The focus groups provided a platform for participants to engage in dialogue and reflect on common themes and concerns. Observations were conducted at various cultural and community events, traditional markets, and urban development sites. This method allowed the researcher to gain firsthand insight into how traditional practices were being maintained or altered in response to urban changes.

### **Validation of Instrument**

The interview guide and focus group questions were pre-tested with a small group of participants who were not part of the main study. This pre-testing helped identify any issues with question clarity, comprehensiveness, and relevance. Adjustments were made based on feedback to ensure that the questions effectively addressed the research objectives. The research instruments were reviewed by experts in cultural studies and urban sociology. Their feedback provided valuable insights into the appropriateness of the questions and the overall design of the data collection tools. Adjustments were made to incorporate their suggestions and enhance the validity of the instruments. Data validity was further enhanced through triangulation, which involved using multiple sources of data (interviews, focus groups, and observations) to cross-verify findings. This approach helped ensure that the conclusions drawn were based on a comprehensive analysis of various perspectives and sources. Preliminary findings were shared with a subset of participants to validate the accuracy of the data and interpretations. This process allowed participants to provide feedback and confirm that their views were accurately represented, thereby enhancing the credibility of the research results.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

## Impact of Urbanization on Local Wisdom

Urbanization in Makassar City has brought profound changes to the social fabric, influencing both the practice and perception of local wisdom. The rapid development of the city, characterized by the construction of modern infrastructure, commercial hubs, and residential complexes, has gradually encroached upon the traditional spaces where cultural practices and local wisdom once thrived. As these urban developments expand, they not only reshape the physical landscape but also alter the way people engage with their cultural heritage.

One of the most significant impacts of urbanization has been the decline of traditional practices that were once integral to daily life in Makassar. For example, traditional markets, which were vital centers of cultural exchange, have been replaced by modern shopping malls. These markets served as more than just places for economic transactions; they were communal spaces where people gathered, shared news, and reinforced social bonds through the exchange of goods and knowledge.

Participant A (Community Elder) lamented this shift:

*"With the rise of new shopping malls and housing complexes, our traditional markets are disappearing. We used to gather and exchange news there, but now we have to find other ways to keep our traditions alive."*

This quote illustrates the broader concern among residents that urbanization is eroding the communal aspects of traditional life, leaving fewer opportunities for people to connect with their cultural roots.

Despite the challenges posed by urbanization, there has been a concerted effort among certain segments of the community to preserve and adapt local wisdom. Cultural leaders and community groups have recognized the threat posed by modernization and have initiated various projects to keep traditional practices alive. These efforts include organizing cultural festivals, workshops, and educational programs that aim to pass down knowledge to younger generations.

Participant C (Local Historian) emphasized the importance of these initiatives:

*"We've started organizing cultural festivals and workshops to teach younger generations about our traditions. It's our way of preserving what we can amidst all the changes."*

This proactive approach reflects the community's resilience and determination to safeguard their cultural heritage, even as the urban environment transforms around them. Urbanization has also led to a fragmentation of cultural identity, as traditional practices struggle to find their place in the modern city. Many residents feel a growing sense of disconnection from their cultural heritage, particularly as younger generations are more exposed to globalized lifestyles that often prioritize modern conveniences over traditional customs.

Participant B (Cultural Leader) expressed concern over this shift:

*"Urbanization has brought modernity to our doorstep, but it often means the erosion of our customs. Our traditional festivals have become less prominent as more people move into the city and adopt new lifestyles."*

This sentiment highlights the tension between the desire to modernize and the need to preserve cultural identity, a dilemma that is increasingly common in rapidly urbanizing regions like Makassar.

The physical displacement caused by urbanization has also contributed to the loss of traditional spaces that once served as the heart of cultural life in Makassar. As land is repurposed for new developments, these spaces are often overlooked or undervalued, leading to their gradual disappearance.

Participant K (Resident) noted the challenges this presents:

*"The loss of traditional spaces due to urban expansion has been tough. We're trying to create hybrid spaces that combine modern functionality with traditional design to keep our culture visible."*

This quote underscores the community's efforts to navigate the complexities of urbanization by creating new spaces that honor traditional aesthetics while meeting the needs of a modern urban population.

In response to these challenges, there has been a noticeable rise in community-driven initiatives aimed at documenting and preserving local wisdom. These efforts are not just about maintaining traditions but are also seen as a way to reinforce community identity and cohesion in the face of rapid change.

Participant D (Community Organizer) spoke about these initiatives:

*"There are community groups dedicated to documenting and maintaining traditional practices. We create educational programs and online resources to keep our local wisdom accessible."*

Such initiatives represent a form of cultural activism, where the community takes control of its cultural narrative, ensuring that local wisdom is not lost in the face of urbanization but instead evolves and adapts to new circumstances.

### **Role of Local Wisdom in Urban Settings**

In the rapidly urbanizing environment of Makassar City, local wisdom plays a crucial role in maintaining social cohesion, guiding community interactions, and preserving cultural identity. As the city grows and modernizes, the adaptability of local wisdom has become increasingly evident. Traditional practices, beliefs, and values have not only persisted but have also evolved to fit the changing urban context. This adaptability demonstrates the resilience of local wisdom and its significance in contemporary urban life.

As Makassar has modernized, many traditional practices have undergone transformations to remain relevant in an urban setting. Rather than abandoning these practices, communities have found ways to adapt them, ensuring that they continue to be a part of daily life. For instance, traditional ceremonies, which were once held in open communal spaces, are now often conducted in community centers or other modern venues.

Participant E (Resident) described this adaptation:

*"Our traditional ceremonies have had to adapt. For instance, we now hold some of our cultural events in community centers rather than in the open fields. It's different, but it helps us stay connected to our roots."*

This adjustment reflects the community's commitment to preserving their cultural practices, even when the traditional settings for these activities are no longer available. The ability to

modify these practices to suit urban spaces without losing their essence is a testament to the flexibility of local wisdom.

Local wisdom continues to serve as a vital tool for preserving social cohesion within the urban environment. In a city where the pressures of modernization and the influx of diverse populations can lead to social fragmentation, traditional values and practices provide a common ground that unites the community. These practices are especially important in managing social relationships and maintaining harmony within the community.

Participant G (Elder) highlighted the enduring role of traditional conflict resolution methods:

*"Even in the face of urban conflicts, we still use our traditional methods for resolution. Community meetings and mediation by respected figures are still effective in addressing disputes."*

This indicates that despite the challenges posed by urbanization, local wisdom remains a reliable mechanism for resolving conflicts and ensuring social stability. The continued reliance on these traditional methods underscores their effectiveness and the respect they command within the community.

In the face of urbanization, local wisdom also acts as a bridge between traditional and modern ways of life. Urban planners and community leaders have recognized the value of integrating traditional elements into the modern urban landscape. This integration helps to maintain a sense of cultural continuity and ensures that the city's development does not come at the expense of its cultural heritage.

Participant I (Urban Planner) discussed efforts to incorporate traditional values into urban planning:

*"In some projects, we've collaborated with cultural experts to ensure that new developments respect traditional values. For example, incorporating elements of traditional architecture into modern buildings has been a successful approach."*

This blending of old and new not only preserves cultural identity but also enriches the urban environment, creating spaces that resonate with both historical significance and contemporary functionality.

Local wisdom plays a crucial role in enhancing and reinforcing cultural identity in the urban setting. As globalization and urbanization introduce new cultural influences, local wisdom serves as a foundation upon which residents can maintain a distinct cultural identity. This identity is expressed through various forms, such as architecture, festivals, and everyday social practices that reflect the community's values and traditions.

Participant F (Cultural Practitioner) emphasized the importance of cultural practices in maintaining identity:

*"We've modified traditional practices to fit into our urban environment. It's a way of blending the old with the new, ensuring that our culture remains relevant."*

This process of adaptation ensures that cultural practices remain visible and integral to the community's identity, even as the urban landscape changes. The ability to retain and adapt these practices in a modern context is crucial for the ongoing expression of cultural identity in Makassar.

While local wisdom has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability, its role in urban settings is not without challenges. The rapid pace of urbanization can sometimes outstrip the community's ability to adapt, leading to tensions between modern development and traditional practices. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation and the reimagining of how local wisdom can be integrated into the urban fabric.

Participant H (Local Mediator) spoke about these challenges:

*"Our traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are invaluable. They bring a sense of continuity and community spirit, even as the city grows and changes."*

This highlights the ongoing need to balance modern urban demands with the preservation of local wisdom. It also points to the potential for local wisdom to contribute positively to urban development, offering solutions that are rooted in tradition but adaptable to contemporary challenges.

Urbanization is often seen as a force that erodes traditional practices and local wisdom, particularly in rapidly developing regions. Previous studies have extensively documented the negative impacts of urbanization on cultural heritage, often focusing on the loss of traditional spaces, practices, and the ensuing cultural dislocation (Fu et al., 2023). However, these studies have not fully explored the adaptive responses of communities to urban pressures, particularly in how local wisdom can evolve and find new expressions in modern urban settings.

This study addresses this gap by focusing on Makassar City, where urbanization has not only challenged traditional practices but also prompted a dynamic adaptation of local wisdom. Unlike previous studies that primarily emphasize cultural loss, this research highlights the resilience of local wisdom and its role in maintaining social cohesion and cultural identity amidst urban growth. By examining the nuanced interactions between urbanization and tradition, this study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of cultural adaptation in rapidly urbanizing areas.

The findings from this have a look at screen that, rather than being completely eroded with the aid of urbanization, neighborhood awareness in Makassar has proven excellent resilience. Traditional practices, even as altered in shape, were adapted to suit the new urban context. This supports the theories of cultural resilience, which propose that traditional practices are not static but are continuously evolving to deal with new socio-economic realities (Bui et al., 2020). For instance, as documented inside the interviews, traditional ceremonies that were as soon as held in open communal areas are actually carried out in modern-day venues together with network facilities. This variation guarantees that those practices continue to be applicable and handy, even in the converting city panorama.

These findings align with latest studies that emphasizes the adaptive nature of cultural practices in the face of current challenges. For example, Vaughn et al. (2020) speak how urban communities in Southeast Asia have efficiently integrated traditional practices into cutting-edge urban settings, thereby retaining cultural heritage whilst embracing modernization. Similarly, the integration of conventional values into city making plans in Makassar, as highlighted by way of the have a look at, mirrors the findings of Rahim & Abbas (2024) who explored the incorporation of conventional architectural factors in city development initiatives in China.

This take a look at also contributes to the literature on social cohesion in urban settings via demonstrating the continuing significance of neighborhood understanding in managing social

relationships. Previous research has frequently focused on the challenges of retaining social brotherly love in various and unexpectedly growing city environments (Jewett et al., 2021). However, this take a look at provides proof that traditional conflict resolution strategies continue to be powerful and valued in Makassar, at the same time as the metropolis modernizes.

The reliance on community conferences and mediation by means of reputable elders, as documented within the interviews, highlights the long-lasting relevance of those practices in promoting social concord. This finding contrasts with the extra pessimistic views within the literature that advise traditional methods are becoming obsolete in present day urban contexts. Instead, this study aligns with recent paintings Krampe et al. (2021) which argues that conventional war decision mechanisms may be integrated with modern-day governance structures to cope with city challenges effectively.

Another widespread contribution of this observe is the identification of hybrid areas that mix conventional and modern factors. The creation of such spaces in Makassar, wherein traditional aesthetics are integrated into cutting-edge city traits, represents an innovative method to keeping cultural identity. This approach addresses the space within the literature concerning the role of urban design in cultural renovation, a subject that has received constrained attention.

Previous studies have regularly treated urbanization and cultural protection as at the same time one of a kind goals. However, this observe's findings venture this dichotomy via displaying that thoughtful urban planning can accommodate both current desires and cultural historical past. This angle is supported via recent studies from Myeong et al. (2020) who explored similar tasks in South Korea, where city traits have correctly incorporated traditional cultural factors to enhance the cultural identification of urban spaces.

The sensible implications of this observe are full-size for city planners and policymakers in Makassar and comparable cities present process rapid urbanization. The findings advocate that by using related to cultural specialists and local groups within the making plans procedure, urban improvement can be each present day and culturally sensitive. This technique now not only preserves cultural historical past but additionally fosters a sense of community and belonging, that is critical for the social nicely-being of citizens.

In evaluation to the extra homogenizing effects of urbanization discussed in in advance literature (Lokatis & Jeschke, 2022), this study advocates for a more integrative method, wherein city growth and cultural protection are visible as complementary in place of conflicting goals. The achievement of such an method in Makassar, as highlighted in this research, gives a model that might be replicated in different hastily urbanizing towns.

#### **4. Conclusion**

This study has shown that although Makassar City's urbanization poses obstacles to the retention of traditional knowledge, it also creates chances for creativity and adaptation. The results show that, in an urban context that is changing, local wisdom is still an essential and durable force for preserving social cohesiveness, cultural identity, and conflict resolution. This research challenges the widely held belief that urbanization inexorably results in cultural degradation by linking traditional practices with contemporary urban realities and highlighting the significance of integrating cultural assets into urban development. In addition to filling in important gaps in the research, the study offers policymakers and urban planners a useful framework for promoting sustainable urban growth that respects and maintains cultural traditions.



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