

# The History of Yogyakarta, an Education City

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**Abstract.** Yogyakarta is one of historical city which has a considerable influence in the development of Indonesia, both after and before Independence Day. Its biggest contribution is its role in initiated education in Indonesia. Yogyakarta has already been a pioneer which gives nationality spirit to develop education in Indonesia. As long as time flows, the role has continuously developed and improved until Yogyakarta has finally given a powerful influence toward education in Indonesia

**Keywords:** City; History; Education; Role; Yogyakarta

## 1. Introduction

A City is a system of human network which is marked by the dense crowd and colored by the heterogeneous social and economical classes with their materialistic characters. A region can be called as a city if it meets three requirements, which are: the number of inhabitant, the diversity of the called job and the region's public facilities.

Apparently, there has not yet been a certain definition of a city of education. Some articles stated that a city can be called a city of education if it possesses a sufficient medium and infrastructure as well as society's support in building the educative character.

In fact, Yogyakarta's vision itself, which is "*To create a qualified city of education, a cultural tourism, a firm growth of merit service, an environmentally friendly city as well as civilized society which carries the spirit of Mangayu Hayuning Buwana*"<sup>1</sup>, is indeed support education. Yogyakarta's vision as a city of education is then clarified by its missions which declares "*To make formal education institutions, informal education institutions, as well as its human resources capable of mastering knowledge and technology and be competitive in order to create a qualified educational system*"<sup>2</sup>

In some articles, Yogyakarta is often said as a student city or an education city. This city is marked by the dynamics of Indonesian students from every regencies ranging from elementary to university. Unfortunately, as there has not yet existed an exact definition of an education city, the statement which states Indonesia as a city of education evokes a controversy whether or not Yogyakarta is suitable to be named as an education city.

## 2. The Beginning of Education in Indonesia

The existence of education in Special Region Yogyakarta has actually developed for a long period of time. It is even older than the emergence of modern education or Western education which was introduced by the Dutch government through colonization. However, the form was still a traditional one. The education system was inherited by the younger generation from the experiences of former generation.<sup>3</sup> The education form in this stage was still in the simplest form, which was a family education, a primary one.<sup>4</sup>

Beside traditional education, there were also other forms of traditional education which were the life method, manner, morality and others characters. Those traditional educations were basically based on the precept of the ancestors. Furthermore, the teaching method was an implied one. It used symbols, idioms, and etcetera.

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<sup>1</sup> www.jogjakota.go.id, accessed on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2011. At 13.10 GMT+7. Mangayu Hayuning Bawana means having a dreams to perfect the society.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> B Sularto, *Monografi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta*, (Jakarta: Proyek Pengembangan Media Kebudayaan Ditjen. Kebudayaan Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan RI, 1981), pg. 126.

<sup>4</sup> Dra. Sri Sutjiatiningih dan Sutrisno Kutoyo, *Sejarah Pendidikan Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta* (Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikan dan kebudayaan, 1980/1981), pg. 11.

Moreover, the arrival of Hindi's culture (Buddhism and Hinduism), approximately in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, has enriched and perfected educational culture in Indonesia. In the present, we know many kinds of formal classical educational institutions like *padepokan*, *peguron kraton*, *peguron pertapaan*, monastery, and dormitory.<sup>5</sup> It can be proven through the carving on the wall surface of Borobudur temple which tells about the existence of Buddhist monks to children and adult. The teachers were Brahmins or Buddhist monk and the students were called *cekel*, *jantrik*, *jejanggan* and etcetera. At that time, there was also non formal education such as black smith. At this era, the one who taught or delivered knowledge was called *empu*.

Furthermore, after the presence of Hinduism and Buddhism religion, Islamic religion came to Indonesia. Then the influence of Islamic religion and culture in Indonesia, especially in Yogyakarta, enriched Indonesia's cultural diversity, especially in educational sector. After that, Islamization occurred massively through mosque, Islamic discussion, and also Islamic boarding school. There are a big number of Islamic boarding school and Islamic discussion in all over Indonesia such as in Wonolelo, Wot Galeh, Wonokromao and etcetera. Those Islamic education mediums are usually held *modin*, *haji*, Islamic teacher and theologian.

The history of the development of Indonesian modern education, as well as in Yogyakarta, could not be separated from the implementation of Ethic Politic by the Dutch government in colonization era which was officially applied in 1907. Based on Conrad von Deventer, the Ethic Politic covers three areas, which are education, migration and emigration. As a consequence, schools were established by the Dutch government ranging from lowest level to the highest.<sup>6</sup> These schools were actually established for the Dutch interest which was to fulfill the need of cheap and educated human resources. Specifically in Yogyakarta, the schools which were established by the Dutch were named *Gubermen Schools*. These schools were in the same level with the first and second grade of elementary school.

Actually, before the implementation of Ethic Policy itself, there has already been schools named ELS (Europeesche Lagere School) which were established specially for the Dutch or European children and also for Native Indonesian's children whose parents were official governments of Dutch in Indonesia. The school existed in limited number and big cities only. After graduating from ELS, the students could continue their study in HBS (Hogere Burger School). In addition, the implementation of Ethics Policy evoked the rising of the nationalistic movements of Indonesia. Not only political movement, at that time, there was also educational movements. Many local educational institutions were established by national movement figures such as Sarekat Islam School, Muhammadiyah School, and especially Taman Siswa School in Yogyakarta which was established by Ki Hajar Dewantara.

### **2.1. Taman Siswa**

Taman Siswa was the first National Institution which was established on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 1902. Its complete name was "National Onderwijs Instituut Taman Siswa". It was directed by RM Suwardi Suryaningrat who was popular with the epithet Ki Hajar Dewantara.<sup>7</sup>

### **2.2. Sarekat Islam School**

*Sarekat Islam* or Islamic Union was an organization whose fundamental base was Islamic precept. Islamic Union was actually an continuance of *Sarekat Dagang Islam* (SDI) or Islamic Trade Union which was led by H. Samanhudi. Then because of Haji Oemar Said Cokroaminoto's advice, SDI's name then was changed into SI (*Sarekat Islam*). Islamic Union was officially established in September 10<sup>th</sup> 1912. Moreover, Islamic Union did a hard effort in establishing schools in all over Indonesia such as Kedungjati, Cianjur and Ujung Kulon.

### **2.3. Muhammadiyah**

Muhammadiyah association was founded in November 18<sup>th</sup> 1912 by K.H Ahmad Dahlan. The goal of Muhammadiyah is to enlarge and heighten Islamic education in modern way and also to firm the Islamic faith in modern way in order to create an Islamic society whose way of life is entirely based on Qur'an and

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*. hlm.58

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*. hlm. 77

Sunnah.<sup>8</sup> In order to reach the goal, Muhamaddiyah founded many schools which spread in every region in Indonesia under the control of Teaching Council.

Alike a capital of a country, Yogyakarta is a magnet for youth throughout Indonesia. Yogyakarta wanted to participate in Indonesia's development as a new independent country. However, in order to build a country, many educated and trained human resources are needed. Therefore, the government of Indonesian Republic then established University of Gajah Mada, the first public University which was legitimated in December 19<sup>th</sup> 1949. This university was a composite of some universities which were formerly existed. They were:

- Universities in Klaten which were established in 1946 which included medical , dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and agriculture.
- Technical college which was founded in February 12<sup>th</sup> 1946 in Yogyakarta.
- Private universities and college association institute which was established in March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Yogyakarta. They were Law College and Literary.<sup>9</sup>

After that many academies establishment follow. In art, Fine Arts Academy was established in 1950. In religion, Islamic Public College was also founded in 1951. Then various educational institutions both public and private were started to appear in Yogyakarta so it can be said that almost all of branches of sciences had their own institution. It was the main reason of Yogyakarta developing as city of student and the center of education.

### **3. Yogyakarta's Role as a City of Education towards the Development of Education in Indonesia**

Yogyakarta, as a city of education indeed brought a wide effect for both Yogyakarta's citizen as well as Indonesia's citizen in wide. Here were the roles of Yogyakarta toward Indonesian's education.

#### **3.1. As a Pioneer the Emergence of Schools in Indonesia**

The truth is that the emergence of schools in Indonesia was initially begun with the existence of Taman Siswa College and Muhamaddiyah. Taman Siswa College was borned in 1922. It was started with the establishment of Muhammadiyah organization which founded Taman Siswa College. Taman Siswa then was one of the pioneer of the development of education in Indonesia and inspired many national leaders to did the same thing. As a result, after Taman Siswa was established, many other educational institutions started to appear in almost all regions in Indonesia.

#### **3.2. As a Pioneer of Universities in Indonesia**

History has recorded University of Gajah Mada as the oldest university in Indonesia. It was founded in 1949 exactly at the end of Yogyakarta as a capital of Indonesia from 1946. Although formerly there have been many institutions and Universities which were established by the Dutch government, formally and legitimately, University of Gajah Mada was the first university which was established in Yogyakarta and even in Indonesia the whole. The only reason is because at that time, most of universities existed in Yogyakarta were based on religio and was not educational regulations.

#### **3.3. Yogyakarta as a Mecca of Indonesian Education**

The existence of schools and universities in Indonesia which were inspired by Yogyakarta as a pioneer had made Indonesia as a mecca of education in Indonesia. Yogyakarta had need made as a parameter of education in Indonesia.

There are still a lot of things that support Yogyakarta as a mecca of education in Indonesia. Some of them are the existence of Indonesia's Education Museum, the implementation of studying hour from 19.00 to 10.00 when all students have to study and not allowed to do other activities beside that, and many more.

## **4. References**

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* hlm. 88

<sup>9</sup> Dra. Sri Sutjiatiningsih dan Sutrisno Kutoyo, *Sejarah Pendidikan Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta* (Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikan dan kebudayaan, 1980/1981), pg. 148-149.

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