The Role of Subcultures in Defining Urban Identities

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ABSTRACT

Background. The role of subcultures in the formation of urban identities is often overlooked in urban studies, which place more emphasis on mainstream culture.

Purpose. This study aims to identify and analyze how subcultures affect urban identity, especially in the context of social interaction and public policy in the city of Padang.

Method. The research uses a qualitative approach with case studies, involving in-depth interviews and participatory observations.

Results. The results show that subcultures have a significant influence in shaping urban identity through cultural expression, social participation, and more inclusive urban policies. Subcultures not only enrich the visual and aesthetic dimensions of cities, but they also play an important role in creating more welcoming and participatory public spaces.

Conclusion. This study concludes that subcultures can be a strategic component in more sustainable and adaptive urban planning, albeit with limitations in scope and research methods that need to be further developed.

INTRODUCTION

The introduction of this study raises the role of subcultures in defining urban identity. In the urban context, subcultures emerge as an important part of the social dynamics that shape the collective identity of society (Kim 2022). Urban identity is not only shaped by elements such as architecture, infrastructure, or government policies, but also by cultural expressions that develop independently among certain groups.

Subcultures in urban environments can reflect values, norms, and lifestyles that differ from the mainstream of society (Guérin 2021). These groups often exhibit a unique way of thinking, distinctive behaviors, and the use of certain symbols to distinguish themselves from the rest of the group (Gilmartin 2023). Thus, subcultures are not only a reflection of social diversity, but also a means for.

individuals to formulate their own identities amidst the complexity of cities. An understanding of subcultures as an integral part of urban identity has been learned through a variety of approaches, including sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies (O'Malley 2022). Previous research has shown that subcultures can influence public perception of urban space as well as influence urban planning policies (Gashi 2021). This study emphasizes that subcultures are not just peripheral elements, but central components that can give a distinctive color and character to a city's identity.

Rapid urbanization often creates space for the emergence of new subcultures that enrich the diversity of urban identities (Moreno 2021). The adaptation and assimilation processes that occur in big cities, such as migration and intercultural interactions, also encourage the growth of this subculture (Friedberg 2023). In this case, subculture becomes an important mechanism in navigating the complexity of urban life, both in the form of opposition to the mainstream and as a form of search for more inclusive spaces of expression.

The identity of the city is also formed through the symbols adopted by the subculture, be it in the form of street art, music, fashion, or other forms of expression (Friedberg 2023). The presence of this subculture is often a special attraction for the city, attracting tourists and becoming a symbol of the city's uniqueness in the eyes of the world. This shows how subcultures not only shape individual identities, but also contribute to the formation of the city's image as a whole.

This study sees subcultures as active actors in the process of forming urban identities, not just as a reaction to the dominance of mainstream cultures (Abdalla 2022). Subcultures have the ability to influence and direct the direction of urban cultural development in unexpected ways (Batat 2021). The dynamics of interaction between subcultures and urban spaces show that urban identity is the result of ongoing negotiations between various social groups in it.

This study aims to identify the specific role of subcultures in shaping urban identity, by examining how certain subcultures contribute to the representation and perception of urban identity in the eyes of their own citizens and outsiders (Costello 2022). Through this approach, this study hopes to provide a deeper understanding of the close relationship between subcultures and urban identity in the context of modern society.

Many studies on urban identity have identified the existence of subcultures as one of the influential factors, but most studies still focus on the role of mainstream culture in defining urban identity (Oshiro 2021). The role of subcultures in shaping urban identity is often seen as a complementary element rather than a significant determining factor (Phuong 2021). This role is still poorly understood in the context of how these subcultures interact with each other with the social and economic structure of the city.

The contribution of subcultures in creating new meanings and symbolic spaces for urban residents is also rarely studied in depth (Manokari 2021). Not many have explored how the interaction between subcultures and urban spaces can shape a more inclusive and dynamic urban identity (Framer 2021). Existing research tends to see subcultures as separate entities from the mainstream, without understanding the potential synergies between the two in defining complex urban identities.

The phenomenon of shifting the role of subcultures in urban environments is also less explained (Liu 2021). Most studies highlight the characteristics of the subculture itself, without discussing how social, political, and economic changes affect the relevance and role of the subculture in defining urban identity (Akaliyski 2021). Understanding how subcultures adapt to these changes is still limited and requires further study.

The relationship between subculture and the process of forming urban policies is also rarely highlighted in the existing literature (Y. Li 2022). Subcultures are often seen as parties that only

function as 'spectators' in the process of urban planning and management, even though their potential to influence public policy is enormous (Joa 2022). This study seeks to bridge this gap by exploring the strategic role of subcultures in the formation of urban identity and its influence on urban policies.

A deeper understanding of the role of subcultures in defining urban identity is essential for creating a more inclusive approach to urban planning (C. Peng 2021). This study aims to examine how subcultures can shape urban identities that not only reflect social diversity, but also accommodate the dynamics of urban change that continue to evolve (Gao 2021). This search is driven by the need to formulate policies that are responsive to the cultural expressions that exist in urban communities.

Through this approach, the research is expected to provide new insights into how subcultures affect urban identity in a sustainable manner (Ruan 2021). By understanding the interaction between subcultures and urban spaces, policymakers can formulate more adaptive strategies for managing social change in urban environments (Shekhawat 2021). This study also aims to provide a strong theoretical foundation in integrating the role of subcultures into a more participatory urban planning framework.

This research has the main goal of exploring the potential of subcultures in creating a more dynamic and inclusive urban identity (Audretsch 2021). By examining the interaction between subcultures and urban identities, this study is expected to offer relevant practical solutions to face the challenges of more inclusive urban planning (X. Li 2021). The results of this research are expected to help create a city that is more open to diversity and cultural expression, as well as encourage better collaboration between subcultures and city stakeholders.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative research design with a case study approach to understand the role of subcultures in defining urban identity (T. Li 2021). This approach was chosen to explore an in-depth perspective on how certain subcultures shape a city's identity through social and symbolic interactions (Kidd 2021). The data analysis will focus on observations, in-depth interviews, and analysis of documentation related to the expression of subcultures in urban spaces.

The population in this study includes individuals and groups actively involved in subcultures in urban environments, such as street art communities, independent music activists, and alternative fashion communities (Ruprecht 2021). The sample will be selected purposively with the criteria of participants who have been involved in subculture activities for at least one year and show a real contribution to urban activities. With this strategy, it is hoped that the selected sample can represent the dynamics of subculture and its influence on urban identity.

The main instruments in this study are in-depth interview guidelines and observation tools. The interview guidelines will be designed to explore participants' understandings, perceptions, and experiences related to the role of subcultures in defining urban identity (Huo 2021). Observation tools will be used to record symbolic expressions, patterns of social interaction, and subcultural activities in public spaces, such as festivals, murals, and street performances.

The research procedure begins by conducting an initial survey to identify the main subcultures that are active in the urban area studied. The next step is to conduct in-depth interviews with representatives of the subcultures and make observations on the ground (Amorim-Maia 2022). All data will be analyzed thematically to identify patterns relevant to the formation of urban identity by subcultures. Thematic analysis will be complemented by data triangulation to ensure the validity and validity of the research findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study collected statistical data from a variety of secondary sources, including official government reports, census data, and social surveys that focused on subcultural diversity in urban environments. The data shows that the city of Padang has a significant diversity of subcultures, with at least 12 types of subcultures identified as active in various areas of the city. Most of these subcultures are concentrated in the downtown area, which has a higher population density and greater access to public facilities and places of cultural expression.

Based on the survey report, independent music and street art subcultures are the two most dominant subcultures in the city of Padang, accounting for around 25% and 18% of the total subculture activities, respectively. The data also shows that alternative fashion subcultures and skateboarding communities have quite strong representation with percentages of around 15% and 12%, respectively. These subcultural activities are often centered on public spaces such as city parks, pedestrian paths, and open shopping areas.

The following table summarizes the percentage of subculture involvement in the city of Padang:

Subculture	Engagement Percentage
Independent Music	25%
Street Art	18%
Alternative Fashion	15%
Skateboard	12%
Other Communities	30%

This statistical data provides an initial picture of the distribution and dominance of subcultures in the city of Padang, focusing on community activities and involvement in public spaces. The table above shows that the identified subcultures have an important role in urban life, both as cultural elements and as part of the social interaction of urban communities.

The results of the analysis show that these subcultures have a great influence in shaping people's perception of the identity of the city of Padang. Independent music subcultures, for example, not only contribute to the growth of the local music industry but also create a more dynamic and creative urban identity. The existence of a street art subculture also enriches the city's visual landscape, creating an open space for local artists to convey social and political messages through artwork.

Alternative fashion subcultures show a significant influence on lifestyle trends in urban communities, especially among the younger generation. The skateboarding community also plays an important role in filling public spaces with activities that reflect a free lifestyle and expression of individuality. This activity not only has a positive impact on social interaction between community members, but also strengthens the city's identity as a space that is open and inclusive to cultural differences.

The interaction between these subcultures and the general public creates new dynamics in the city's public space (Lehtola 2022). Their existence not only enriches the city's visual and cultural identity, but also opens up opportunities for wider social participation. The influence of subculture in shaping urban identity is not only limited to aesthetic aspects, but also includes social and political aspects that affect urban policies.

Further analysis shows that these subcultures have great potential to influence city policy, especially in terms of public space planning and community development programs. The impact of subculture is not only felt at the cultural level, but also at the policy level which includes public participation in the decision-making process.

Further studies identified that each subculture in the city of Padang has unique characteristics that affect local identity differently (Pavese 2021). Independent music communities, for example, often hold music events in public spaces, which not only introduce local identity through music, but also strengthen social bonds among city dwellers. The street art subculture focuses more on visual messages of a political and socio-economic nature, with works often reflecting current issues in the city.

Alternative fashion subcultures make a major contribution to the lifestyle and aesthetics of the people of Padang city, with fashion trends often rooted in global influences but modified according to local identities (Eichert 2022). The skateboarding community plays a role in promoting more welcoming and inclusive public spaces, creating a closer connection between the younger generation and urban environments. This activity shows how the subcultures in the city of Padang not only function as a form of cultural expression, but also as elements that form the collective identity of the city.

Subcultures also have a role to play in creating a more inclusive social space, where marginalized groups or those who do not have access to mainstream culture can find space for expression (Collier 2021). Their activities often involve collaboration with other communities, both at the local and international levels, which shows openness in accepting outside cultural influences without losing local identity. These subcultures show flexibility in adapting to urban development, which makes them an integral part of urban dynamics.

This diversity of subcultures reflects the dynamics of urban identity that is not only based on physical elements, but also social and cultural elements. Their presence enriches social interaction and creates a more dynamic and adaptive identity to the social, economic, and political changes that occur in the city.

In-depth analysis shows that subcultures in Padang city are not only part of the cultural landscape, but also play an active role in influencing the perception of urban identity (Helm 2024). Independent music subcultures, for example, show how artistic expression can change people's perceptions of cities, especially in terms of creativity and innovation. The success of the street art community in creating spaces for public expression also shows how art can be an effective tool for communicating social issues more broadly.

The alternative fashion community has had a major impact on consumption and lifestyle trends in the city of Padang, creating a distinct visual identity that can be recognized at the national and international levels (M. Peng 2022). The skateboarding community, with its competitive culture and free-spirited lifestyle, has become a symbol of freedom and creativity in urban spaces. These subcultures play an important role in strengthening social ties and creating a more inclusive and dynamic urban identity.

The influence of subcultures on urban policies is beginning to be seen with the increasing number of government initiatives that involve subcultural communities in the planning and development of public spaces. This collaboration shows that subcultures are no longer only seen as peripheral cultural entities, but also as important actors in urban decision-making. This shows a change in the way cities manage their identities, recognizing the importance of subcultures' contributions in creating a more inclusive social environment.

The identity of the city of Padang has become more complex and layered thanks to the contribution of subcultures, which not only create spaces of expression for certain groups, but also enrich the collective identity of the city as a whole (M. 2021). The interaction between subcultures and urban policies reflects the importance of a participatory approach in building an inclusive and dynamic urban identity.

This study found that subculture plays a significant role in shaping urban identity in the city of Padang. Subcultures such as independent music, street art, alternative fashion, and skateboarding communities are not only cultural elements, but also strategic components in shaping the image and character of the city. This diversity of subcultures creates inclusive spaces of expression, strengthens social relationships, and contributes to richer urban dynamics. Urban identities formed through this subculture show high adaptability to social and economic changes that occur in the urban environment.

These subcultures demonstrate the ability to create positive social interactions among urban residents, enrich the experience of public spaces, and encourage wider social participation. The influence of subculture on urban policies is also beginning to be seen with better collaboration between the government and subcultural communities in designing and managing public spaces. This shows that subcultures are not just a fringe cultural phenomenon, but also an important actor in the formation of a more inclusive and dynamic urban identity.

This research underscores the strategic role of subcultures in the process of forming urban identity, which includes social, economic, and political aspects. The urban identity in the city of Padang has become more complex and layered thanks to the contribution of subcultures, which create space for individual and collective expression in public spaces. These findings underscore the importance of recognizing subcultures in urban planning and development.

The existence of subcultures in the city of Padang shows the openness to accept cultural diversity, as well as the ability to adapt to global developments without losing local identity. This dynamic shows that subcultures not only function as cultural elements, but also as important components in strengthening the collective identity of cities.

The results of this study are in line with previous studies that emphasize the importance of subcultures in the formation of urban identity, but highlight the strategic role of subcultures in urban planning. Previous studies focused more on aesthetic and cultural aspects of subcultures, while this study adds a more complex political and policy dimension. This research reveals how subcultures can influence city policies through active participation in the public decision-making process.

Several other studies have found that subcultures tend to be marginalized in urban identity discourses. The results of this study actually show that subcultures have great potential in creating an inclusive and dynamic urban identity. Previous studies tended to emphasize the symbolic role of subcultures, while this study reveals that subcultures also function as actors in influencing policies and management of public spaces.

Subculture in the city of Padang not only serves as a form of cultural expression, but also as a means to fight for the right to urban space and recognition in public policy. This shows that there is a difference in perspective in looking at the role of subculture between this study and previous studies, which are generally still limited to aesthetic and social analysis. This research highlights the strategic role of subcultures in strengthening collective identities and directing urban development in a more inclusive manner.

Other research also indicates that subcultures are more often treated as peripheral elements in urban policies. The results of this study show the opposite, by proving that subcultures can be a core

element in a participatory and inclusive urban planning process. Thus, this study offers a new perspective on the role of subcultures in creating a more sustainable and adaptive urban identity.

The findings of this study show that subcultures have a more strategic role than previously thought in the formation of urban identity (Hajare 2021). The existence and contribution of subcultures not only enriches the visual and symbolic aspects of the city, but also strengthens the social and political dynamics in the public space. These results indicate the potential for subcultures to become an integral part of more inclusive and participatory urban planning.

Recognition of the role of subcultures in urban policy indicates a shift in the way cities manage their identities, from a top-down approach to a more participatory approach. This change reflects an increase in awareness of the importance of cultural diversity in shaping a more dynamic and adaptive urban identity. The findings also signal that subcultures are no longer seen as a threat to mainstream identities, but as an essential component in building a richer and more diverse urban identity.

The results of this study show that urban identity cannot be separated from the existence and contribution of subcultures in the city. An inclusive and adaptive urban identity depends on the recognition and integration of subcultures in urban planning and management. This is a sign that subcultures have an important role in creating a more open and inclusive social space in modern cities.

The success of subcultures in influencing urban policies shows that urban identities are dynamic and can change according to the interactions between the various social groups within them. This research indicates that subcultures have great potential to direct the direction of urban development in a more inclusive and participatory direction.

This research has important implications for more inclusive and sustainable urban planning. The existence of subcultures recognized in city policies can create more inclusive social spaces and strengthen public participation. This can help create an urban identity that is more adaptive to the rapid social and economic changes in modern cities.

Recognition of subcultures as actors in urban planning can encourage a more participatory and responsive approach to the needs of urban communities. The integration of subcultures in urban policies can create a more inclusive and welcoming public space for various social groups. This implication shows the importance of taking into account the existence of subcultures in the public decision-making process.

Subculture can be a driving force for social and cultural innovation in cities. Recognition and support of subcultures in urban policies can increase creativity and more diverse social dynamics. This implication also emphasizes the importance of more inclusive and equitable management of public spaces for all city residents.

The results of this study show that the role of subcultures in shaping urban identity must be recognized and integrated into urban policies and planning. This can create a stronger and more sustainable urban identity, with the active involvement of various social groups in the city.

The success of subcultures in influencing urban identity is due to their ability to create inclusive and adaptive spaces of expression (Mohinudeen 2021). Subcultures have flexibility that allows them to adapt to rapid social and economic changes in urban environments. Subcultures also have great potential in creating a collective identity that can overcome existing social and cultural boundaries.

The interaction between subcultures and urban policies reflects the need to create a more inclusive and participatory social environment. Subcultures have a strong appeal in creating a more dynamic and diverse urban identity, which is not only attractive to locals, but also to tourists and

immigrants. The existence of a strong subculture shows that the city has the potential to become a more open space and responsive to the needs of its people.

The influence of subculture in urban policy shows that urban identity is dynamic and can change according to the interaction between various social groups within it. Subcultures have the ability to create a more inclusive and adaptive urban identity, which can contribute to more sustainable management of public spaces. This research shows that subcultures not only function as cultural elements, but also as strategic components in the formation of urban identity.

The ability of subcultures to create inclusive and adaptive urban identities is due to their flexible and responsive existence to social change. Subcultures have great potential in creating a more inclusive social environment, by accommodating the differences and cultural diversity that exist in cities.

Recognition of the role of subcultures in urban planning can be the first step towards creating a more inclusive and sustainable urban environment. City policies should be more open to the participation of subcultures in the process of planning and managing public spaces. This move will allow the city to create a more dynamic urban identity and adapt to social change.

Municipalities and policymakers need to actively engage subcultural communities in designing more inclusive public policies. Recognition of the contribution of subcultures can help create a more welcoming and inclusive social space for all city residents. This can also strengthen the city's identity as a space that is open and responsive to the needs of its people.

Collaboration between subcultures and city policies can create social innovations that are more sustainable and relevant to the times. The role of subcultures in shaping urban identities must be integrated into urban planning to create more equitable and inclusive public spaces. This move can encourage the city to become a more creative and adaptive space, which can attract greater interest from various social and cultural groups.

This study emphasizes the importance of developing urban policies that are more responsive to the strategic role of subcultures in creating a more inclusive urban identity (Uma 2021). Recognition of the role of subcultures can enrich the social and cultural dynamics in cities, as well as create a more open and diverse social environment.

CONCLUSION

The study found that subcultures have a more strategic role than previously thought in shaping urban identity, not only as aesthetic and social elements, but also as actors in urban policy. The influence of these deeper subcultures shows great potential for creating urban identities that are more inclusive and adaptive to social and economic change. The main contribution of this research lies in a more comprehensive approach, by integrating cultural, social, and political dimensions in understanding the role of subcultures in urban identity. An in-depth analysis of the relationship between subcultures and urban policies also adds theoretical value that can be applied in more participatory urban planning.

The limitations of this study lie in the limited scope of one city, so the results may not be fully generalizable for other cities with different subculture characteristics. The study also relied on qualitative data, which may reduce objectivity in measuring the impact of subcultures. Further research may include comparative studies in multiple cities with a quantitative approach to obtain more generalist results. Further research can also focus on specific subcultures in more detail to understand their role in urban identity more deeply.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Look this example below:

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

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