

A Preliminary Study: Portraying the Situation within Child-friendly Integrated Public Space in the Midst of COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT : This research aims to portray the situation within Child-friendly Integrated Public Space (well known as RPTRA, an abbreviated version of Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak) in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. RPTRA itself is an urban project in the Province of Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, which provides a safe and comfortable playground for city residents, especially children. Previous research regarding RPTRA generally discussed how RPTRA provides certain social functions for city residents, for instance building social interaction and giving space for relaxation as well as recreation. This means that RPTRA is seen as a space where those various activities take place. Within the context of COVID-19 pandemic, this research attempts to take another point of view. It rather depicts an unequivocal and subtle space contestation within the situation in the RPTRA. The tension exists between the management made by the local government and the real needs of city residents. In other words, it can be argued that RPTRA is not only a space where various activities happen, but also a space which has its own dynamics of formation influenced by many related aspects, such as economy, politics, and culture. The theoretical framework uses the concept of space production from Henri Lefebvre. This concept itself states that in the production of space, there exists social conflict between abstract space and social space. The former indicates city plans made by urban planners, while the latter describes real activities of city residents. This research employs a qualitative approach by taking a case study on RPTRA Rusun Tanah Tinggi (Rustanti), Jakarta, Indonesia, which is located in a densely populated and middle-lower class settlement. Online in-depth interview and visual participatory are used as a research method. The finding shows that on one hand, the staff of RPTRA, representing local government, focus on the maintenance of RPTRA facilities and the promotion of urban gardening as a leading program. On the other hand, city residents rather need social services that can alleviate their social burdens in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and more health protocols implementation. This conflict of both sides thus must be solved well, so that the distance between abstract and social space could be erased gradually.

KEYWORDS : Child-friendly Integrated Public Space, urban management, production of space, abstract space, social space, Henri Lefebvre, Indonesia, COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION

Under the bright and shining sun, three children sat together at the edge of the field. One girl, out of these children, then stood up and tried to take several fallen leaves on the ground, while at the same time took the soil with her bare hands. Meanwhile, the other boys, who look younger, were just looking at the girl. After finishing her “business”, the girl walked and approached the boys. She put the soil in front of them and mixed it with the-already-tore leaves. Her tiny hands looked dirty. She had sweat dripping down from her hairline and down her face. “Just wait for a

while. I am trying my best to make a special lunch for us. Do not go anywhere,” said the girl to the boys. “Don’t worry. We will be patiently waiting for our lunch,” those boys replied. Afterwards they smiled, laughed, and became happy. They enjoyed “masak-masakan” (*the cooking play*) even though they didn’t have any appropriate and sophisticated toys. They just used everything, especially natural things, that they could find in the field. I was smiling at them, when they looked at me and showed me their sweet smiles. All of these activities happened at the field of Child-friendly Integrated Public Space which exists in the middle of several middle-lower class flats (an English translation of “rusun” or an abbreviation of “rumah susun”) Tanah Tinggi, Central Jakarta, Indonesia. This is one of many realities that happens nowadays in Child-friendly Integrated Public Space Rusun Tanah Tinggi, an area located between high buildings and skyscrapers in the center of Jakarta as the capital city of Indonesia.

Child-friendly Integrated Public Space, or popularly known as RPTRA (an abbreviation of Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak), is an urban public space project which is basically an implementation of the concept of Child-friendly City (CFC). The concept of CFC itself was primarily made and proposed by The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Permanasari *et al.*, 2020). Anyhow, it seems that the massive development of the city within recent years did not provide a safe and comfortable public space for city residents, especially children to do their various activities (Egaratri, 2017). Piece by piece of land were, slowly but surely, occupied by private companies in order to accumulate their capitals (Firman and Fahmi, 2017). Whereas public space is an important requirement on how a city could be home for its residents (Kourtiti *et al.*, 2020). Attention to the process of building and maintenance of public space can contribute to the social atmosphere of society. City residents can interact, communicate, and socialize to one another (Cunningham, 2011; Kathiravelu and Bunnell, 2018; Mouratidis, 2018).

To bring the aforementioned instruction of the Ministry into reality, in 2015 the former governor of Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, made a pilot project called “Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak” or more popularly known as RPTRA. This pilot project was made in 6 different administrative areas of Jakarta, such as Gandaria Selatan, Cideng, Cililitan, Sungai Bambu, Kembangan Utara, and Pulau Untung Jawa. The realization involved several stakeholders, for instance urban planner, architect, sociologist, and city residents themselves. Some Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted along the process of realization so that local government

could really get aspirations from city residents, because city residents are the one who experience the real impacts of the existence of RPTRA in Jakarta (Permanasari *et al.*, 2020). Thus, city residents must be involved and take a certain role in the process of RPTRA's planning and building. In other words, local government must employ the methodology of participation. Three actors of city development, which are state, market, and society should build a good relationship, collaboration, and team work to succeed the project of RPTRA in Jakarta (Martinussen, 1999).

Previous research state that city residents experience positive impact from the existence of RPTRA. RPTRA is a safe and comfortable playground for children. There are several playing equipment within RPTRA that facilitate outdoor play for them. Besides, RPTRA might be a place where children can study and have a discussion together. RPTRA provides some indoor facilities, such as a library where children could read various kinds of books as well as study. Moreover, city residents, in general, could also enjoy and use all facilities provided in RPTRA. People from various backgrounds could come and do their activities, for example doing sport, enjoying the view or scenery, listening to the music, or just chit-chatting with friends or family (Aji *et al*, 2016; Prakoso and Dewi, 2018; Sutanto and Junadi, 2018; Zerlina and Sulaiman, 2020).

At the beginning of 2020, people from all over the world were shocked by the presence of COVID-19 virus which initially came from Wuhan, China. This virus spread quickly to all countries due to the intensity of interaction, encounter, and mobility of global society. The government of Indonesia itself officially announced its first COVID-19 case in March 2020. This first case happened in Depok, West Java, one of several city satellites near Jakarta as the capital city of Indonesia. Almost every aspect of human life was influenced by the presence of this virus. This also happens with the management of RPTRA in Jakarta. City residents could not go and gather in public places anymore, including RPTRA. The government urged all residents to stay at home, either for working or studying. Therefore, the number of COVID-19 victims hopefully would decrease day by day.

Local government of Jakarta thus also decided to close all RPTRAs in Jakarta. Consequently, RPTRA could not be a place for city residents to gather and do their various activities anymore. Nevertheless, staff of RPTRA still do certain maintenance of RPTRA where they work. As time went by, after certain periodic assessments, some RPTRAs were opened again with several strict health protocol rules, for instance physical distancing, wearing masks, and using hand sanitizer.

Even though those health protocols were already practiced, the social service of RPTRA could not be provided as in the past before COVID-19 pandemic. Rustanto and Akhmad (2020), in their research, have not seen yet certain innovation and adaptation from the staff of RPTRA in providing social service to city residents. The staff of RPTRA only focused on how to maintain physical facilities and equipment within each RPTRA. They suggest that staff of RPTRA could conduct social services digitally, so that city residents who live in surroundings could still experience these social services during COVID-19 pandemic.

In observing and reflecting on the process of RPTRA's management, this research takes the context of COVID-19 pandemic as a background and especially uses a case study of RPTRA where located in a densely populated as well as middle-lower class settlement, which is Rusun Tanah Tinggi (*Tanah Tinggi flat*) or well-known as "Rustanti". On one hand, this research attempts to describe and explain all efforts made by the staff of RPTRA to manage and maintain RPTRA Rustanti in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, this research also wants to compile various hopes and expectations of city residents on how RPTRA should be managed during COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative approach by taking a case study of RPTRA Rusun Tanah Tinggi (Rustanti). RPTRA Rustanti is located in a densely populated as well as middle-lower class settlement in Sub District Tanah Tinggi, District Johar Baru, Central Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia. This research was conducted from May until August 2021. In order to collect the data from the research field, this research uses online in-depth interviews (Bryman, 2012) and visual participatory (Glaw *et al.*, 2017) of the residents who live around RPTRA Rustanti and also snowball sampling method. There were 8 interviewees who joined online in-depth interviews and visual participatory methods. They gave some relevant and important information regarding the management of RPTRA Rustanti during COVID-19 pandemic. These 8 interviewees consist of 4 staff of RPTRA and 4 city residents. Staff of RPTRA includes the staff of Sub District Tanah Tinggi and the staff of RPTRA Rustanti itself who are responsible for the daily management of RPTRA Rustanti. Meanwhile, city residents include the chiefs of Tanah Tinggi flat ("ketua RW" and "ketua RT"), members of local youth group ("karang taruna"), and the other residents. The data from in-depth interview and visual participatory method were then analyzed with the concept

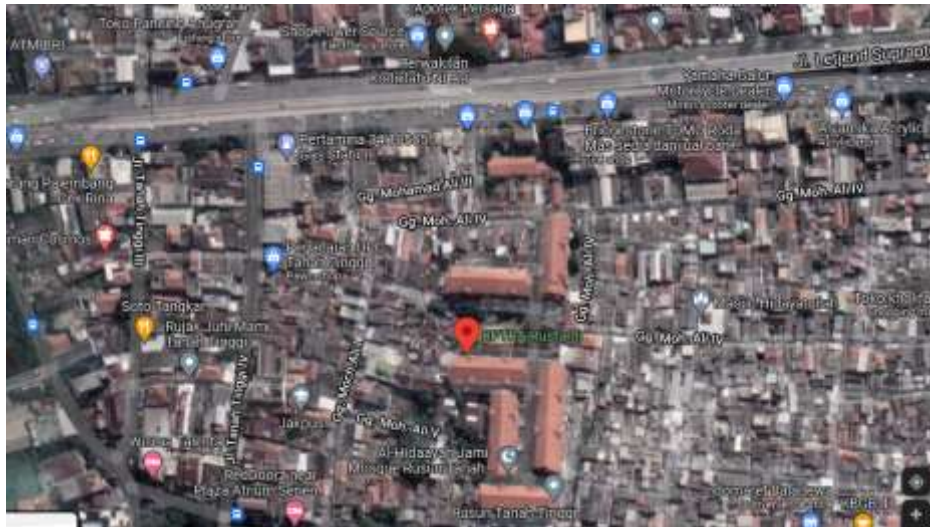
of space offered by Henri Lefebvre. At the end, some points of discussion and conclusion were taken to describe and explain the process of RPTRA Rustanti's management in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.



Picture 1. Children are playing in RPTRA Rustanti's field (June 2021, from author's field observations)



Picture 2. Tanah Tinggi flat, Central Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia
(August 2021, from author's field observations)



Picture 3. The location of RPTRA Rustanti in the middle of 6 Tanah Tinggi flats (September 2021, from Google Map)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theoretical framework employed by this research to portray and analyze the phenomena of RPTRA Rustanti during COVID-19 pandemic is the concept of space offered by Henre Lefebvre, a french sociologist. Lefebvre argues that space is divided into two, which are abstract space and social space. Abstract space is a concept and plan on how an area of the city would be managed. This analytical concept is made by urban planners, technocrats, architects, scientists, and other related stakeholders. To some extent, according to Lefebvre, the formation of abstract space is much influenced by capitalism which dominantly inquire for benefit and accumulate their capitals. As a result, there are many high buildings as well as skyscrapers owned by this group in a big city like Jakarta (Gusnadi and Setiadi, 2019; Tjoei and Kesuma, 2019).

Meanwhile, the second space is social space. Social space refers to how city residents use spaces within the city concretely in daily life. They could easily do their activities without any obstacles and hardships. In other words, this social space is the opposite of abstract space where it is located in a conceptual as well as abstract realm. Also, city residents are not familiar with this abstract space (Gottdiener *et al.*, 2019; Zieleniec, 2018).

Lefebvre argues that these spaces confront one another. In order to fight for the rights of city residents before capitalism, Lefebvre suggests that there should be a continuity to implement the right to the city. The concept of right to city does not only mean that a city might be an inclusive space for any resident from various backgrounds, but also those who live in a city should really

have rights and possibilities to define themselves and to decide how spaces within the city should be formed and managed. Thus, they will not experience social exclusion from the process of planning and management of the city (Biagi, 2020; Marcuse, 2009).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Efforts of RPTRA Rustanti's Staff to Maintain RPTRA during COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic has influenced almost every aspect of society. One of those aspects is the management of RPTRA as one of many public places in a city. There are several changes adapted by RPTRA in Jakarta in its management during COVID-19 pandemic. In general, the number of RPTRA visitors has decreased. Furthermore, the staff of RPTRA are hitherto trying to find proper social services regarding COVID-19 pandemic situation despite several difficulties. These struggles also happen in RPTRA Rustanti. There are several efforts made by RPTRA Rustanti's staff to maintain RPTRA in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.

Firstly, following the instruction and policy made by the local government, staff of RPTRA Rustanti have once closed and locked all facilities of RPTRA, either indoor or outdoor (field). They closed all indoor rooms, such as the office and library, for an unspecified time. City residents could not use those facilities inside the RPTRA. Only the staff and few interested persons could enter and access those indoor rooms.

It was also the same with the field of RPTRA Rustanti (outside part). Staff of RPTRA Rustanti once closed the field as the implementation of local government policy to reduce the rate of COVID-19 spread. They closed and locked all entrance gates, so that the residents could not go in and access the field. However, many residents rejected this policy. They did protest. They said that the field of RPTRA Rustanti must be open for all residents who live nearby. They, especially children, are eager to use all facilities in the field as their place to do various activities, for instance playing soccer, kites, enjoying views, or sunbathing. In order to protest, several children ruined the entrance gates. Moreover, some of them also jumped over the fence to go into the field and play there. They insisted on doing it regardless of the many dangers that could happen. They just wanted to play and do their activities in the field.

One of the staff told this,

“RPTRA Rustanti is different from any other RPTRAs. We only closed the inside part of RPTRA. So, children could not read books in the library and gather in the indoor rooms. But, for the outside part, we just let them be free. We have once closed the field as the instruction and policy from the local government. But, some children were ruining the entrance gate as a form of protest. They think that the field belongs to them. So, we, the staff cannot close it and forbid them to come in. Finally, we decided to let them in. They could play in the field, for instance playing soccer... As I told you earlier, we also have fences. But when we decided to close the field, children chose to jump over the fence or some of them ruined the fence.”



Picture 4. One of several entrance gates to RPTRA Rustanti’s field (August 2021, from author’s field observations)

Finally, after certain assessment and evaluation, staff of RPTRA Rustanti decided to open all entrance gates to the field. They let the children and other residents use the field freely. Even though, they still warn some children to go home when *maghrib* (time for evening prayer for Moslem, around 6 p.m.) comes. They do not want the children stay late in the field. One of many obstacles experienced by the staff is that there is no support from the parents and residents surrounding to warn the children. When the staff of RPTRA warned the children to go home, some parents and residents, who do their activities surrounding, did not do anything. Here is an interesting story from the staff,

“I just want to take one simple example. When maghrib comes, all children in the field must go home. We have warned them, let’s go home, take a bath, and sholat (pray). Well, actually,

there are some parents and residents surrounding, but they do not help us. They do nothing! I hope that they also help us to warn the children to go home, take a bath, and sholat. So, there is teamwork among us. But, in reality, there is no teamwork. None of them helps us. I have experienced this for 5 years.”

Secondly, during COVID-19 pandemic, staff of RPTRA Rustanti committed to maintain all assets and facilities in RPTRA Rustanti. They make a schedule to take care of those belongings everyday. Every morning and late noon they water all plants and trees, mow the lawn, and clean up all facilities, such as the bathroom, library, meeting room, and field. Therefore, even though these facilities could not be accessed by the public, they are still in a good condition.

Here is a story from a staff of RPTRA Rustanti,

“So, during COVID-19 pandemic, RPTRA was closed to the public. There is no activity from outside. Regarding this situation, we are still committed to clean up and maintain all facilities, for example indoor and outdoor facilities. Also, we water all plants and trees every morning and late noon.”

Nevertheless, from the field observation, it seems that there are still some broken facilities or playing equipment in the field, for instance the swing in the corner of RPTRA Rustanti’s field as can be seen in Picture 4. If they just let this situation be, it would be dangerous for the children. They do not know, ignore it, and just simply decide to use this playing facility within RPTRA Rustanti.



Picture 5. Playing facilities or equipment within RPTRA Rustanti. It seems that one swing is broken in the corner of RPTRA Rustanti (August 2021, from author's field observations)

Thirdly, staff of RPTRA Rustanti actually have already made an innovation during COVID-19 pandemic, which is planting organic plants in a small garden, such as vegetables, herbal plants, and so on. They use two techniques, which are planting in a soil as a regular method and hydroponic. When they employ the hydroponic method, they plant all prepared seeds or plants in well-designed pipes and water it everyday. Afterwards, when the harvest time comes, they harvest and sell it to certain persons, for example residents in Rustanti and also the buyer from outside Tanah Tinggi flat who has certain connection with the staff of RPTRA Rustanti. Some of the vegetables that they sell are spinach and lettuce. If there are some vegetables left, the staff will give it to the residents freely or bring it home.

One of the staff told this,

“During this COVID-19 pandemic, all staff of every RPTRA should have initiatives to do something different in their RPTRA. We, ourselves, here decided to plant some vegetables. There are two methods that we use. Firstly, the hydroponic system. Secondly, we plant them in the soil as usual. We rather focused on the hydroponic method, from the beginning to the end, from the process of sowing until harvesting... We also have some herbal plants and herbs... When the harvest time comes, we will sell it to those who have already ordered. Some of them are Rustanti residents. Others are from outside. When there are vegetables left, we can share it with the residents or bring it home.”



Picture 6. Hydroponic plants in RPTRA Rustanti (June 2021, from author's field observations)



Picture 7. Staff of RPTRA Rustanti is harvesting fresh spinach (August 2021, from interviewee/staff's documentation)

It seems that from this activity, staff of RPTRA Rustanti would offer certain concept regarding food security. It means that they would teach the residents, especially Rustanti residents, to have a capability to manage and cultivate land surroundings so that they could produce sufficient food during this difficult situation. In other words, city residents have an independence and competence to fulfill their own needs regarding food.

Fourthly, in collaboration with “Puskesmas” (local public health center), national military or army, and police, staff of RPTRA attempted to provide vaccination program which are conducted in RPTRA Rustanti's field. They provide this program especially for the residents in Rustanti which is located in a densely populated settlement. Therefore, it would ease residents' access to get the free vaccination program. Rustanti residents just need to come to RPTRA Rustanti's field, register, and get the free vaccination. This program itself occurs in August 2021 and now is still running in progress.

There are several portable tents in RPTRA Rustanti's field as can be seen in Picture 7. Staff of RPTRA also provide tables and chairs to support this vaccination program. Some of them are assigned to help the local health center officer to register the residents who want to get this

vaccination. After this vaccination activity has finished that day, the staff would afterwards keep the tables and chairs inside the meeting room within RPTRA and use them the next day.

A staff kindly share a story,

“Now we are much engaged in the vaccination program. I mean, here in Tanah Tinggi, we open a program for free vaccination especially for Rustanti residents. Many... There are many of them. So, some of us are assigned to provide this program. That’s it.”



Picture 8. Vaccination program is conducted in RPTRA Rustanti (August 2021, from interviewee/resident’s documentation)

Picture 9. Staff of RPTRA Rustanti help some residents in vaccination program (August 2021, from interviewee/staff’s documentation)

Hopes and Expectations of Rustanti Residents towards Management of RPTRA during COVID-19 Pandemic

There is a glimpse of sadness and disappointment inside the deepest heart of Rustanti residents. During COVID-19 pandemic, they could not access social services that they used to get before the coming of COVID-19 pandemic. However, they realize that this limited and restricted access was enforced to reduce the number of COVID-19 victims in Indonesia, especially in

Rustanti area where they live and do their daily activities. They have several hopes and expectations on how RPTRA Rustanti should be managed during COVID-19 pandemic.

Firstly, as already previously mentioned, Rustanti residents still want to have access to RPTRA Rustanti's field as they use it for various activities. In the morning, some of them go out from their flat and do sunbathing in the field under the morning sunshine as they believe that morning sunshine brings many nutrients and vitamins for their body as well as improve their immunity during the COVID-19 pandemic. They usually do it from 7 to 9 in the morning. Afterwards, RPTRA Rustanti's field would be used as a place for the vaccination program from 9 a.m. to around 12 p.m. and would be continued by the second session from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Some of the residents come to join this program. In the late noon, several children start to gather in the field. They usually play kites, soccer, or just run around the field with their friends. Some of them probably choose to play traditional games, like *masak-masakan* (cooking play). Three times a week, there will be some adults doing gymnastics or aerobics together. This activity will be led by an invited professional instructor.

Here is an information from a resident,

“At the late noon, around 4 p.m., there is usually gymnastics or aerobics in RPTRA Rustanti's field. After that, the children will use it to play soccer... Vaccination program is usually held at 8 a.m. until around 12 a.m... In the morning, some residents use the field as a place for sunbathing. The morning is usually very nice. There is an open place, nice, and the sunshine is also nice, very warm. It is around 7 to 9 a.m.”



Picture 10. A boy is playing kite in RPTRA Rustanti's field (August 2021, from author's field observations)



Picture 11. Some children are playing between the fence and playing facilities (August 2021, from author's field observations)

Their hopes are not without reasons. They do realize that they live in a flat where they do not have a proper and enough place for their children to play and do various activities. The space is limited. They live in narrow rooms. If they do activities or the children play in the aisle, it would be sure that they will disturb other residents as they live closely to one another. If they insist on doing those various activities, there would be possibly social conflict among Rustanti residents.

One interviewee shared a story,

“Here is the situation. We do live in narrow rooms. I mean, we do not have enough space to play and do various activities up here. If we insist on doing our activities up here, we could not express ourselves freely. Oppositely, if we do it in the field, we have freedom. We will not disturb other residents.”

Secondly, the residents hope that the staff of RPTRA Rustanti could continue their social services as they did before COVID-19 pandemic, for example giving lesson learning/discussion and “pengajian” (Moslem prayer learning) to the children. The staff could give these services in the indoor rooms of RPTRA Rustanti. They hope that these services could be delivered directly onsite. They prefer not doing it online.

The parents feel that their children are already exhausted and bored with online learning provided by the school. Their social fatigue is indeed real. Furthermore, they realize that it is difficult to guide their children through online learning in front of the computer all day long. They would be grateful if the staff of RPTRA Rustanti could give these services directly. Surely, they are still concerned with the health protocol. Therefore, they hope that, for example, these social services could be delivered in gradual and scheduled meetings, joined by limited children, and surely using strict health protocol. They imagine that these social services could reduce social burdens caused by COVID-19 pandemic on their shoulders.

Here is a story from a resident,

“In my opinion, we should not follow the very strict rule. So, they should not stop all the activities as well as social services during COVID-19 pandemic, such as lesson learning and

pengajian (Moslem prayer learning). Those all are gone. I hope that they could give several sessions for our children, surely using health protocol. Those are really helpful for the children.”

Thirdly, the residents hope that the staff of RPTRA could do disinfectant spraying routinely. They do realize that the number of activities in the RPTRA is very high. If we do not notice and give attention to this situation, the possibility of COVID-19 infection would become high as well. Therefore, they hope that the staff of RPTRA could do disinfectant spraying routinely in all areas of RPTRA Rustanti. By doing so, at least the possibility of COVID-19 infection within Rustanti could be reduced gradually.

A resident shared an expectation,

“For the staff of RPTRA Rustanti, I hope that they could provide a routine program for spraying disinfectant in our beloved Rustanti, either once in two days, three days, or perhaps every day. Why? Because we use this RPTRA every day. We do various activities, not only the children but also the adults. They should not only clean the RPTRA regularly, but also spray disinfectant. It is really important.”

DISCUSSION

The following question that we could discuss is: How do we analyze the finding of this research using the concept of space by Lefebvre? At least, there are four points that I would share in this part of the paper regarding the aforementioned question.

Firstly, during COVID-19 pandemic, it seems that the management of RPTRA Rustanti based on certain concept or analytical abstraction made by the staff of RPTRA Rustanti, ranging from the policy maker in the level of local government until the staff of RPTRA itself who are responsible of doing the daily maintenance of RPTRA Rustanti. The intention to reduce the number of COVID-19 victims has influenced the local government to make a proper policy, which is to close and lock RPTRA Rustanti. Therefore, the residents could not access any facilities provided in RPTRA Rustanti. The indoor rooms, including the library, were closed. All the entrance gates to RPTRA Rustanti’s field were locked.

Encountering such a difficult situation, the staff of RPTRA Rustanti have actually attempted to make certain innovations in managing RPTRA Rustanti. For instance, they tried to

plant hydroponic plants in a small garden in RPTRA Rustanti. They wanted to show that COVID-19 pandemic could not stop them from making creative innovations. They could harvest some vegetables and sell it to their friends or Rustanti residents. To some extent, they would bring certain cultural conception about food security.

These phenomena clearly reflect on what Lefebvre says as abstract space. Within this abstract space, the staff of RPTRA Rustanti have certain analytical concepts on how RPTRA should be managed, for instance reducing COVID pandemic victims and food security. Then, they tried to implement these concepts in several activities that they attempted to make. Thus, I would say that the dominant aspect that influences is the socio-cultural aspect. This socio-cultural aspect triggered them to implement all analytical abstractions and concepts that they have planned. The following critical question then is: How far can this concept answer the real needs and concrete hopes of the residents as the one who live, stay, and do their activities in RPTRA Rustanti in their daily life?

Secondly, I argue that the concept of space offered by Lefebvre is very useful in describing and explaining certain phenomena in our life, most importantly in reducing the distance between abstract space and social space. When we can reduce this distance between both spaces, it means that the existence of a public place is not only really important but also very useful for residents' life. Public places can answer the needs and hopes of residents. Otherwise the more far distance between both spaces, the more excluded residents from the process of planning, building, and management of the city where they live. The contestation between these spaces or interests is then something that we should analyze more clearly, especially in the case of RPTRA Rustanti's management during COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision to close RPTRA Rustanti's field seems counterproductive for Rustanti residents. During COVID-19 pandemic, they are bored as well as exhausted and do not have enough space in their rooms in the flat to do their activities, especially children. They need a public place where they can do various activities safely and comfortably without any hesitation to disturb their neighbors who live next to them. Surely, the staff of RPTRA Rustanti should understand this hope and expectation. Therefore, they can afford residents' needs without ignoring the importance of health protocol.

It is also the same with the concept of food security. The staff attempted to implement this concept by planting hydroponic plants in a small garden in RPTRA Rustanti. Is this concept

wrong? No, exactly not. This concept is indeed good. However, during this COVID-19 pandemic, how far can this concept be a priority that should be done by the staff of RPTRA Rustanti? Or, how far can this concept involve the role of residents in its daily implementation? I argue that a good concept yet cannot answer people's needs would just widen the distance between abstract space and social space as already mentioned by Lefebvre.

Thirdly, I assert that the health protocol awareness of Rustanti residents is already good. There are some indications that support this argument. For example, the residents fully support the vaccination program provided by the staff of RPTRA which takes place in RPTRA Rustanti's field. The "karang taruna" (youth local group) are willing to change their plan for an annual activity which usually takes place in RPTRA Rustanti's field. This group of youth realize that the vaccination program is something more important today. Furthermore, they also expect that the staff of RPTRA could provide disinfectant spraying routinely. All of these are good signs. The staff of RPTRA Rustanti should put this expectation into reality as well as tirelessly building awareness of practicing health protocol. The staff of RPTRA Rustanti should creatively find more innovation in promoting the importance of health protocol towards Rustanti residents.

Fourthly, it is also important to involve the role of Rustanti residents in all programs provided by RPTRA Rustanti. It is clear that the role of the residents is still limited. It seems that all programs provided by RPTRA Rustanti during COVID-19 pandemic are still dominated by the staff. Thus, there is a significant gap between the role of the staff and Rustanti residents. If the staff of RPTRA Rustanti still dominate the implementation of the programs, it would possibly be clear that the sense of belonging of the residents would diminish gradually.

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 pandemic is indeed one of significant social disruptions experienced during the historical management of RPTRA Rustanti in Jakarta, Indonesia. RPTRA used to be a place where people, especially children, could gather and do their activities. In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, there were several changes made by the staff of RPTRA to adapt with the situation. Within these changes, there is implicitly a space form and contestation as conceptualized by Henri Lefebvre, which are abstract space and social space. Within abstract space, the staff of RPTRA Rustanti implement some abstract ideas, for instance closing all facilities in RPTRA, cleaning and maintaining the facilities, and planting hydroponic plants. However, we should know that

subsequently they open the access towards RPTRA Rustanti's field regarding some protests from the residents. Meanwhile, in the social space, Rustanti residents hope that the staff of RPTRA Rustanti could provide social services, such as lesson learning and "pengajian" (Moslem prayer learning) as they usually do before COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the residents hope that the staff of RPTRA could provide routine disinfectant spraying in RPTRA Rustanti. The encounter of these spaces then causes a space contestation where each of them brings their own interests. Nevertheless, this encounter does not always cause contestation. There is "meeting" space where the needs of both sides meet one another. This "meeting" space is realized within the opening access of RPTRA's field and the vaccination program provided by the staff of RPTRA Rustanti. We should indeed appreciate this form of "meeting" space and continue the good things that already happened. Afterwards, it is clear that the task of RPTRA Rustanti's management is to decrease the distance between abstract space and social space gradually. This task is not only a responsibility of the staff of RPTRA but also all Rustanti residents. The involvement of residents' role within all programs is the implementation of the concept of right to city as also suggested by Lefebvre.

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