



Original Article

The Impact of Sei Alalak Bridge Infrastructure for The Community In Alalak Sub-District, Barito Kuala District As A Symbol Of Change From A Historical Perspective

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Abstract:

Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure is a form of the government's real effort in encouraging the construction of bridges on Trans Kalimantan Road, Alalak District, Barito Kuala Regency, South Kalimantan Province. Its strategic location makes the Sei Alalak bridge not just an ordinary connecting infrastructure. The method used in this research is a literature study with descriptive analysis. The results showed that the impact felt by the community in Alalak District from the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure as an important link that facilitates movement and increases social interaction between the two communities. In addition, the bridge also facilitates and improves access to health services, education and employment opportunities. Meanwhile, the impact of the Sei Alalak bridge on the community's economy is that it opens up many housing development sites. This encourages some people to plan property investment as a form of long-term investment. In addition, with the widening of the road, the value of land in Alalak District has also increased. As a whole, the Sei Alalak Bridge stands as a symbol of change that reflects economic, social, and cultural progress in the historical development of Banjarmasin and its surroundings. The bridge connects more than just geographical areas; it connects people to new opportunities and a more inclusive social dynamic, carving out a new chapter in the history of the area.

Keywords: Infrastructure Development, Sei Alalak Bridge, community change



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Introduction

Over time, infrastructure development will continue to occur in various human civilizations that mark important milestones in the passage of time. In essence, bridge construction is a marker of technological progress, economic growth, and social integration in various parts of the world. In recent years, infrastructure development has become a major focus of the government, encompassing not only physical changes but also developments in various diverse aspects of society. The ultimate goal of infrastructure development is to improve the quality of life, thereby strengthening economic resources and ensuring the welfare of society as a whole. Infrastructure development is a planned effort or series of growth and change to build infrastructure or something that is the main support for the implementation of the development process (Siagian, 2008). The lack of facilities and infrastructure will leave the region far behind as an economic center and struggle to transform into a manufacturing center. Regional infrastructure is directly related to promoting economic growth. In addition, the expansion of transportation and infrastructure will increase the potential for regional development. Transportation is a crucial enabler of regional economic growth (Husein et al., 2019). Both the facilitation of seamless transportation and trade are essential for regional development. Society is inextricably linked to the phenomenon of development (Purbasari, 2018). The history of bridge construction reflects the evolution of society in response to shifts in mindset, values, and economic needs. In the context of modern life, which is characterized by planned changes, both rapid and slow changes, it is important to recognize that the progress achieved is in the form of diverse community development, which is aimed at achieving specific goals.

The development of bridge infrastructure is not merely a matter of physical construction; it is also an investment in the long-term development of a region. As a connecting access point, the bridge plays an important role in the region's transportation infrastructure. It facilitates the movement of people, goods, and information, and it connects remote areas with other areas. The transportation system can support this by providing high accessibility, mobility, and strategic benefits. These include reducing travel time and costs, increasing travel safety, and reducing production costs and maximizing local economic productivity (Prasetyo & Djunaedi, 2019). Thus encouraging key long-term growth and prosperity evenly. President Joko Widodo inaugurated the Sei Alalak Bridge on Thursday, October 21, 2021 in Banjarmasin City, South Kalimantan Province. The bridge, which has a length of 850 meters, was constructed with financing derived from State Sharia Securities (SBSN). The construction of the Sei Alalak Bridge cost IDR 278,400,521,000.00. The solid Sei Alalak Bridge spans the Alalak river, facilitating the smooth movement of the community. President Joko Widodo has asserted that the presence of the Sei Alalak Bridge will further strengthen relations between regions in South Kalimantan, accelerate the flow of transportation between regions, and streamline logistics costs (Pratiwi, 2021).

The construction of the Sei Alalak Bridge has undoubtedly brought about observable changes in the community of Alalak Subdistrict. These changes may be observed in the form of alterations in income levels and the implementation of business activities by the community. Such activities may include the opening of new businesses, as well as the distribution of goods and services. The bridge, which is situated over the Alalak River, connects the main access road of Banjarmasin City with various cities in

South Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan. The utilization of the Sei Alalak bridge is not limited to its primary function as a bridge; it also serves as a source of livelihood for the surrounding community. The area adjacent to the bridge is lined with numerous food carts and stands, providing a source of income for many residents. During the construction phase of the Sei Alalak bridge, which lasted approximately three years, community access was relocated and redirected to an alternative route that crossed the Sei Alalak 2 bridge, as well as additional river ferry routes, particularly those serving two-wheeled vehicles from Alalak to Banjarmasin. However, since the completion of the Sei Alalak bridge, the Sei Alalak bridge and ferry crossing are less traveled by many people because the road access can be passed by the Sei Alalak bridge. This is due to the fact that the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge has caused social changes in the surrounding community, namely those that occur on the Sei Alalak 2 bridge and ferry crossing in North Alalak.

A number of previous studies have addressed the construction of bridges in Sei Alalak. One such study is the journal by Wulandari & Effendi (2022), which examines the impact of the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge on the activities of traders in the area. In his writing, he elucidated the impact of the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge on the economic conditions of the merchant community around the project in Alalak Kayu Tangi Ujung. It can be observed that the distribution channel of goods was in a state of good condition, thereby enabling local traders to perceive the positive impact of the development. In the journal by Rahman & Riandoko (2022) with the title "Study on the Effect of the Construction of the Sei Alalak Bridge on Land Value in Alalak District," the authors explain the value of land in relation to the Sei Alalak bridge. They find that the value of land is significantly affected by its distance from vacant land, but not by its distance from the nearest road widening. This is due to the unfinished and uneven road widening on all sections of the Trans Kalimantan road in Alalak District. The related journal that examines the impact of the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge is the work written by Gunawan et al. (2023), which discusses "The Impact of the Sei Alalak I Bridge Development Project on the Social and Economic Life of the People of Alalak Utara Village, Banjarmasin." This work posits that infrastructure development plays a very important role in spurring economic growth. The socio-economic impact of the community in North Alalak Village is manifested in the form of assistance or compensation from the government for bridge construction. The significance of this research lies in its ability to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of the Sei Alalak bridge in its development process, examining it from various perspectives.

Methods

Literature study is a method used by researchers in writing this article. Nazir (2014) in Putrihapsari & Fauziah (2020) said that literature study is research conducted by examining various literature studies by researchers for the needs of their research. The data obtained in literature study research is obtained by searching for various references relevant to the topics and problems that researchers examine. The references obtained become the main basis for literature study research. Researchers in this study sought various kinds of references obtained through various sources consisting of books, journals, or the internet. For data analysis used by researchers using descriptive analysis. Furthermore, data from various literatures were analyzed using descriptive analysis methods. The descriptive analysis method is describing facts followed by an analysis that not only describes but also provides sufficient understanding and explanation. The result of this study is the impact of the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure for the community in

Alalak District, Barito Kuala Regency as a symbol of change from the press.

Results

Description of Sei Alalak Bridge

The Sei Alalak bridge construction project replaced the 30-year-old Kayutangi I bridge, and now stands firmly, with all the advantages of being able to be passed by all types of public vehicles up to 10 tons. The condition of the bridge, which is located on both sides of Banjarmasin City and Barito Kuala Regency, is no longer adequate to support the increasing mobility of the population, given the area's status as a location for urban development. The existence of the Sei Alalak Bridge is of vital importance in supporting community activities, particularly in the South Kalimantan-Central Kalimantan region and Kalimantan in general, which is also part of the Trans Kalimantan Southern Cross Section. The Sei Alalak Bridge has a bridge span length of 850 meters and a width of 20 meters. It comprises four lanes with two directions, and it is believed to be able to unravel congestion in an area where population growth has accelerated sharply in recent years. The Sei Alalak Bridge is purported to be more robust and capable of bearing vehicle axle loads of up to 10 tons, due to the utilization of bored piles with a depth of 70 meters and a diameter of 1.8 meters as the primary structural support for the bridge.

The Impact of Sei Alalak Bridge Infrastructure in Social, Economic, and Cultural Aspects

Recent research indicates that the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure has a significant impact on social, economic, and cultural changes in the community. This impact can be manifested in the form of changes in community structure, social behavior, and social, economic, and cultural changes. It is therefore important to pay attention to these aspects in the process of infrastructure development in order to improve the quality of life of the community. During the process of running the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge, it took a long time of approximately two years and eight months. However, the estimate was almost three years due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which slightly hampered the construction process. During the construction phase, access was limited and often required a lengthy and arduous journey due to a number of alternative road flows experiencing severe congestion exceeding capacity, particularly in the morning and afternoon, when it is rush hour for people to go to school or work. The afternoon return flow is the time to go home (Gunawan et al., 2023). Other alternative roads are through river routes using ferries, which are time-consuming, costly, and present safety risks that cannot be guaranteed.

The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge has provided a crucial support for the socio-economic activities of the Alalak sub-district community. The bridge has facilitated the smooth running of social, economic, and cultural activities in the sub-district by providing easy access. The completion of this bridge construction has contributed to the sustainability of these activities. The construction of the bridge has facilitated access to the city of Banjarmasin and Barito Kuala Regency, as well as to the communities in the Alalak District. The bridge has become a vital link that facilitates movement and increases social interaction between the two communities, thereby enhancing access to health services, education, and employment opportunities. Furthermore, the Sei Alalak bridge has been constructed with a robust and contemporary design, thereby enhancing the safety of road users and reducing the incidence of accidents. The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge has provided a crucial support for the socio-economic activities of the Alalak sub-district community. The bridge has facilitated the smooth running of social, economic, and

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The impact of bridge infrastructure development on the economy can be observed in the reduction of distance between production centers and marketing areas, the reduction of travel time, and the reduction of transportation costs. These savings in distance, time, and costs facilitate economic progress. However, the effectiveness of the bridge as an economic facilitator is contingent on the quality of the infrastructure provided by the government. Without adequate supervision, the bridge may not be as beneficial as it could be. It is evident that physical facilities will always be needed, particularly in the case of bridges, which act as links between different locations. Without the necessary infrastructure or an inadequate infrastructure, the commodities produced will be of low value (Aldillah, 2020). The results of research by Wulandari and Effendi (2022) indicate that the economic conditions of the trader community around the project in Alalak Kayu Tangi Ujung were adversely affected by the procurement of goods, which was found to be quite hampered at the time of the project. The number of buyers was reduced, resulting in a reduction in income for the traders. Consequently, the traders anticipated that once the construction of the Sei Alalak bridge was complete, the procurement of goods would become more efficient, leading to an increase in the number of buyers and, consequently, an increase in their income. Furthermore, the Sei Alalak bridge serves as a popular photographic location for photographers, who can generate income from the sale of images of passing motorists.

As defined by Nabila & Widiyastuti (2018), accessibility is the ease of reaching a destination, which involves comfort, safety, and travel time. It can be considered an entrance or passage to something. Areas that were once deserted have become more crowded and developed. The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure makes Alalak Sub-district easily accessible from outside the urban area. The construction of the Sei Alalak Bridge and the widening of the road have had a significant impact on the value of land in Alalak District (Rahman & Riandoko, 2022). The increasing number of housing development sites has prompted some individuals to consider property investment as a long-term investment strategy. The findings of this study indicate that the completion of this bridge construction has created new opportunities and enhanced the economic potential of the surrounding community, particularly those in Alalak District. The development of regions must be oriented towards improving the welfare of community members. This development orientation requires certain tips (Ola et al., 2021). Development policy is believed to be a cultural process involving a set of cultural values owned by an individual, community, nation, and state. The priority of sustainable human development in other econometric development models has been studied as an important element for human and community development (Asmin, 2018). The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge has facilitated increased accessibility and connectivity, creating a potential cultural heritage site where people can gather, interact, develop cultural identity, and integrate historical values.

The Impact of Sei Alalak Bridge Infrastructure as a Symbol of Change from a Historical Perspective

The development of the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure as a symbol of change from a historical perspective can be seen as part of an effort to improve infrastructure capabilities in Indonesia. In a historical context, the Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure can be considered a symbol of change because development has a broad and deep impact, not only on physical and economic aspects, but also on social and cultural aspects. The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge is not merely an infrastructure project; it is also a symbol of change that reflects the social, economic, and cultural transformation of Barito Kuala Regency. The bridge has overcome the geographical isolation that had hindered development, paving the way for greater social integration, economic growth and diversification, and strengthening local cultural heritage (Scanlon, 2024). From a historical perspective, the Sei Alalak bridge is of critical importance as infrastructure in shaping a better future, while honoring and preserving a valuable cultural heritage (Brühwiler, 2020; Hein et al., 2022). Infrastructure development can symbolize significant changes in the history of a region. These changes can be observed in various aspects of life, including technological advances, economic growth, and shifting patterns of society, as well as the formation of new identities (Inam et al., 2023; Karimi et al., 2024). Historical awareness has been fostered within the community. Individuals have developed a sense of connection to their city's history and a responsibility to care for their surrounding environment, which contributes to a sense of belonging (Cakranegara, 2020). However, it is crucial to acknowledge that development can also have adverse effects. Historical studies must consider the positive and negative consequences of development, as well as its capacity to shape communities and regions in the future.

Conclusion

The construction of the Sei Alalak bridge has had a profound impact on various aspects of community life, including social, economic, and cultural factors. The social impact of the bridge infrastructure is a significant factor in facilitating movement and increasing social interaction between the two communities. This, in turn, has led to an improvement in access to health services, education, and employment opportunities. The impact of the Sei Alalak bridge on the community's economy is twofold. Firstly, it opens up numerous locations for housing development. Secondly, it has prompted some individuals to plan property investment as a form of long-term investment, due to the widening of the road and the subsequent increase in the value of land in Alalak District. The Sei Alalak bridge infrastructure is not only considered a mainstay of community access, but the connectivity achieved can also be regarded as a cultural heritage, where the community can gather, interact, and develop cultural identity. In a historical context, the Sei Alalak Bridge stands as a monument to change and development that continues to carve new stories in the history of the area.

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