



## The Surabaya City Government's Creativity in Making Surabaya a Healthy City

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**Abstract** The city of Surabaya is known by various names such as the City of Heroes, Industrial City, and Harbour City. Recently, it has also been recognized as a Healthy City. This status was achieved through efforts at both local and global levels. This study explores the elements that contribute to Surabaya's recognition as a healthy city. Utilizing a qualitative research approach, the study involved subjects from the Surabaya City Government, community leaders, and selected residents. Data was gathered through methods including observation, interviews, literature reviews, and document analysis. The findings indicate that Surabaya's success as a healthy city is supported by multiple factors: substantial land assets, an adequate regional budget (APBD), a sufficient number of hospitals, effective empowerment of street vendors (PKL), and the establishment of Kader Surabaya Hebat (KSH). The Surabaya City Government has effectively leveraged the region's potential to achieve these results.

**Keywords:** Government's, Creativity, Healthy, City, Potential.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Surabaya is commonly known as the "City of Heroes," a title bestowed by Soekarno, the inaugural president of Indonesia, in 1950 (Halim, 2013: 119). This designation honors the bravery of Indonesian youth who fought to secure the nation's independence. In recognition of their sacrifices, a monument dedicated to heroes was erected in Surabaya.

In addition to its title as the City of Heroes, Surabaya is recognized as a harbour city. During the Dutch colonial era, a port was established in Surabaya to facilitate the export of agricultural goods from Java to Europe. Over time, Surabaya's harbour evolved into a modern naval and trading hub, serving not only Indonesia as a whole but particularly the eastern regions of the country (Hartono, 2007: 88).

Along with its development, Surabaya City changed from an agrarian area to an industrial city. This change did not happen suddenly but through a very long process. From the 16th century until the 18th century, Surabaya was an agrarian city (Baskoro, 2017: 158). At the end of the 19th century, several factories emerged, including shipping, food, beverage, and others. The existence of these industries was a place for people to work (Ginsburg, 1989: 78). According to Dick (2002: 253), industrial economic activities are the cause of Surabaya City as an industrial city.

Around the beginning of the 20th century, Surabaya City turned into an industrial city. People competed to find jobs because the opportunities to get a job in Surabaya City were getting bigger besides farming. In 1835, several sugar factories were built around Surabaya,

namely Buduran, Waru, Karang Bong, and Ketegan. In 1837 they were built in Candi, in 1839 in Seranten, Gedek, Watutulis, and Balongbendo; and in 1940 they were built in Sruni (Kombard, 2000: 248). The presence of these factories became a magnet for people to migrate to Surabaya City in droves.

To support the development of the city, the colonial government built facilities and infrastructure including roads and means of transport. In 1859, public transport was introduced in the form of horse-drawn carriages. Horse-drawn carriages were used as transport to work. Departure in the morning and return in the afternoon. In 1877 this public transport was named dokar. In addition to the dokar, in 1879 the railway line from Surabaya-Malang was inaugurated (von Faber 1931: 197-201). The construction of the railway line served as a means of transporting passengers over long distances as well as distributing plantation products.

Surabaya has been a city since the colonial era. Today Surabaya is the second largest city in Indonesia after Jakarta. The area of Surabaya City is 326.81 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population in 2023 of 2,987,863 people. The amount of Surabaya City budget in 2023 is Rp. 11.2 trillion (Surabaya City in Figures 2023).

In 2023 Surabaya City received several achievements both regionally, nationally, and regionally. In this paper, only some of them are described that are related to health in Surabaya City:

1. ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award in the category of Cleanest Big City Air.
2. Indonesia Healthcare Innovation Award, for accelerating stunting reduction and citizen love app.
3. Swasti Saba Healthy District/City Award and Community-Based Total Sanitation (STBM) Award 2023, best pratama category 1.
4. Detik Jatim Awards 2023 Category Opening Employment for Poor Families.
5. Regional Award for Lowest Stunting Rate, Highest Stunting Rate Reduction, Lowest Stunting Rate, National Media Tribun News.
6. Accelerators to End Stunting and Extreme Poverty, national media Jakarta.
7. Awarded the Jatim Bangkit Awards 2023 in the category of Regency / City with the Best Recovery Programme from the Impact of the Pandemic.
8. Inotek Awards for East Java Province 2023, Best Innovation in Labour Intensive Application.

9. Green Leadership Nirwasita Tantra Award Government Entity Category Best Large City in Environmental and Forestry Management Year 2022, Ministry of Environment and Forestry RI.
10. Second best in reducing maternal mortality rate in Indonesia.
11. First Best Stunting Specific Intervention at Regency/City Level in Orphan.
12. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Award from the central BPJS.
13. The 2022 Adipura Kencana Award in the Metropolitan City category from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
14. Adiwiyata Mandiri Award from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
15. National Adiwiyata Award from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
16. Nirwasita Tantra Award from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
17. Proklim Award from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
18. The award is a Certificate of Eradication (eradication) of *Frambusia* and a Certificate of Elimination of Filarisation from the Indonesian Ministry of Health.
19. Herd Immunity Community Award from the Indonesian Ministry of Health in the category of Institutions (Surabaya City Government), Health Service Facilities and Individuals (Head of Puskesmas) (<https://surabaya.go.id/page/0/49215/penghargaan>).

## **2. METHODS**

This research was conducted using a qualitative method. The object of study is all factors that affect health in Surabaya City. Subjects of research: Surabaya City Government, community leaders, and Surabaya City residents. The research subjects were determined purposively. Data collection techniques were observation, interview, literature study and document study. All of these techniques were used in tandem. The collected data was then read, grouped, abstracted, categorized, and examined for validity. Data analysis was carried out since the research began and ended until writing the results of the research report.

## **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Achievements such as those mentioned above can be achieved because of several supporting factors that exist in Surabaya City. These factors include:

### **Large Land Area**

Surabaya City Government has a large amount of land. In 2023, the land area is 64,496,988.25 M<sup>2</sup>. The allocation of this asset is divided into several parts: public services

covering 46,740,406.12 M<sup>2</sup> (72%), leased 8,201,210.13 M<sup>2</sup> (13%), and 9,555,372 M<sup>2</sup> (15%) for labour intensive (<https://bpkad.surabaya.go.id/berita/pemkot-surabaya-manfaatkan-aset-lahan-kosong-miliknya-untuk-padat-karya>).

Large land assets provide flexibility for the Surabaya City Government to carry out development in various fields. For example, the creation of city parks can be easily done because it has enough land. There are several parks in Surabaya City: Wonorejo Seedling Garden, Apsari Park, Undaan Fruit Park, Bungkul Park, Expression Park, Flora Park, Historical Park, Keputran Park, Kombes M. Duriyat Park, Fireflies Park, Elderly Park, Mundu Park, Pakal Park, Palliative Park, Rainbow Park, Indonesia-Korea Friendship Park, Friendship Park, Achievement Park, Ronggolawe Park, Skate & BMX Park, and Lotus Park (<https://www.surabaya.go.id/id/page/0/37265/taman---taman-di-kota-surabaya>).

Sufficient city park have many impacts on society, in addition to beauty, city parks are also green open spaces. Green open spaces such as Koohsari's research (2015) have various benefits including: a place to exercise and also social interaction. Likewise, research conducted by Tambunan (2021: 305), that the availability of green open space can reduce community depression in urban areas. Enough green open space is used by the people of Surabaya City as a place to exercise and also socialize. Through exercise, people get physical health, while through socialization it can reduce depression levels.

In general, the city park owned by Surabaya City is in accordance with its function. Each of these city parks has a different function. Research conducted by Saputri (2018: 40) shows that Bungkul Park is very effective in socio-cultural terms; Wonorejo Seedling Park, Flora Park and also Taman Prestasi are effective in aesthetics; and Mundu Park is effective in economic terms. This shows that each city park in Surabaya City has more functions than other city parks. However, all of these city parks have a positive impact on public health.

### **Street Vendor Empowerment**

Street vendors (PKL) are usually a problem in big cities. Their presence creates a negative stigma: dirty, disorganised, congested, and so on. This assessment makes sense because generally the presence of street vendors causes problems for others, especially for the local government.

In contrast to Surabaya City, the presence of street vendors is not always a problem but they can also solve problems. This can be seen in the existence of culinary centres fostered by the Surabaya City Government. Sufficient land ownership makes the Surabaya City Government more free to place those who work as street vendors in one place.

Since 2019, the Surabaya City Government has established 44 street vendor centres (Lutfiana, 2022: 33). The PKL centres are able to accommodate approximately 1,300 families. Admittedly, of the centres fostered by the Surabaya City Government, four were unsuccessful, but the others were relatively successful.

When it comes to curbing street vendors, Surabaya City Government has hardly experienced any significant resistance from street vendors. They want to follow the city government's programme because every street vendor registered in the street vendor centre (as a mentor) will receive benefits. The benefits are security, cleanliness and beauty (Tualeka, 2021: 24). In addition to these facilities, the street vendors also receive regular guidance from the city government.

The empowerment of street vendors in Surabaya City is mutually beneficial for street vendors and the Surabaya City Government. The street vendors get security and facilities while the city government can create a clean, orderly, beautiful and safe city. This benefit also has an impact on public health in Surabaya City. Sufficient community income will have an impact on adequate nutritional intake. Adequate nutritional intake will keep people healthy. Poor people can be reduced and the beauty and cleanliness of the city is increasingly guaranteed.

### **Adequate Regional Budget**

On 10 November 2022, coinciding with Heroes' Day, the Surabaya City Government and the Surabaya City Council agreed on a budget for 2023 of Rp 11,257,640,114,475. This figure is very large compared to the APBD of cities in Indonesia. According to Surabaya Mayor Eri Cahyadi, 40% of this APBD is earmarked as a work-intensive programme (<https://www.surabaya.go.id/id/berita/70661/dok-apbd-surabaya-2023-disahkan-sebesar-rp-112-triliun-tepat-di-hari-pahlawan>).

A high regional budget has an effect on the Human Development Index. The higher the PAD, the greater the public services provided by the government and vice versa (Fernandes, 2022: 21). The relatively large APBD of Surabaya City gives the government more freedom to provide better public services.

Public services that are directly felt by small communities are relocating street vendors. PKL are not only moved but they are nurtured starting from training, marketing, providing application facilities, funding and others. The Surabaya City Cooperative and Micro Business Office routinely monitors and supervises each PKL centre (Failina, 2023: 336). This public service can be carried out of course because it is supported by an adequate budget.

In addition to fostering street vendors, Surabaya City Government is also trying to alleviate poverty and reduce malnutrition and stunting. This is done by providing jobs to low-income people (MBR). Every idle land owned by the municipal government is managed for agricultural land and other businesses such as car washing, laundry, sewing, etc. From the data obtained, there are 20 locations that have been inaugurated and 14 new locations are being prepared for labour-intensive housing for low-income people (<https://bpkad.surabaya.go.id/berita/pemkot-surabaya-manfaatkan-aset-lahan-kosong-miliknya-untuk-padat-karya>). The existence of labour-intensive programmes for low-income people can reduce the number of poor people in Surabaya. Sufficient community income certainly has an impact on public health.

### **Adequate Number of Hospitals**

Surabaya is the capital city of East Java Province, which provides its own advantages. Many office centres of the East Java Provincial Government were built in Surabaya City. Likewise, hospitals under the auspices of the East Java Provincial Government were built in Surabaya City. From the data obtained, there are 58 hospitals in Surabaya, including RSIA = 14; RSUD = 3; Mental Hospital = 1; Surgical Hospital = 2; Eye Hospital = 2; Lung Hospital = 1; Dental & Oral Hospital = 1; Cancer Hospital = 1; Hospital. = 33.

Dr Soetomo Hospital, which is the largest hospital in Surabaya and also in East Java, is a hospital under the East Java Provincial Government. However, due to its presence in Surabaya City, the people who use the hospital facilities are mostly Surabaya residents. Likewise, Airlangga University Hospital is located in Surabaya, so the people who use it are mostly people who live near the area.

To improve the quality of their services, several hospitals and *health* centres in Surabaya have used the *e-health* system (Rachmawati, 2022: 942). This system is done to reduce long queue piles from patients. The long time in the registration process affects patient satisfaction (Paramesthi, 2023). Through *e-health* the long queues that have occurred so far can slowly be overcome.

### **Synergising with the Community**

To maximize health services to the community, the Surabaya City Government does not only leave it to hospitals or those in the medical profession. In 2021, the Surabaya City Government made a breakthrough by cooperating with its citizens to become Kader Surabaya Hebat (KSH). The appointment of KSH is based on the Mayor's Decree No. 4 of 2022

concerning the provision of service fees/honorarium for community servants in Surabaya City. The recruited KSHs are people from the neighbourhood level and serve in the area.

The existence of KSH is very positive for both those who enter as cadres and the target community. Those who participate as cadres will get additional income from the government. For the general public, the existence of KSH is very helpful, especially the lower community who live in small alleys. KSH is the government's endeavour to serve the first level of health. They are tasked with helping the community with health awareness. They go directly to the neighbourhood level to record the health of toddlers, record pregnant women, the condition of children who are stunted, births, BPJS ownership, etc. (Judi, 2023: 53).

In addition to data collection, the role of cadres is no less important in the field: of communication, information and education. The existence of KSH in Surabaya, which numbered 28,848 cadres in 2023, had a very positive impact, this can be seen from the decrease in the number of stunting toddlers from 923 in December 2022 to 651 people on 30 June 2023 (Fatlakah, 2023: 307). The role of KSH is not only in terms of health but also serves education and other social issues. KSH is a liaison between the Surabaya City Government and its people at the lowest level.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Some of the achievements obtained by Surabaya City in relation to health are supported by several factors. The most dominant factor: Surabaya City Government has a very large land asset, city government policy in empowering street vendors (PKL), a sufficient Regional Budget (APBD), sufficient number of hospitals, and the formation of Kader Surabaya Hebat (KSH).

Sufficient facilities can be maximized for the welfare of the community. The Surabaya City Government is very creative in utilizing all of its potential. These potentials support each other to create Surabaya City into a healthy city.

#### **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author would like to thank the Rector of Wijaya Kusuma University Surabaya who has been willing to fund this research. The author would also like to thank the informants who cannot be mentioned one by one who have been willing to provide information so that this research can be completed.

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