



# Settlements Growth and Development in Semarang City Centre Area, Indonesia

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## ABSTRACT

Semarang is among the important metropolitan regions of Indonesia, and it is affected by the growth and development of the composing residential areas, especially in the central area. The main focus of this research is to analyse and understand the current problems, including aspects of land use, residential patterns, residential development directions, and characteristics of the communities in residential growth areas. We used Quick Bird image data as the primary data source, and maps and statistical data as the secondary. Descriptive statistics and spatial analysis were used in analysing the data. Semarang city centre area consisting of six districts that were selected as study area. Results indicate that there has been a 2.08% expansion of residential areas during a decade, from 2006 to 2016. Population in the expansion areas increased by 4.33%, while the majority of the population has average education level. They mostly work in manufacturing industries, construction, and various trade and services facilities. There are three residential patterns identified in the study area, i.e., clustered, random and dispersed. Although much land suitable for residential use is still available in the study area we learned that growth of residential areas occurs also in areas with land unsuitable for this particular use, such as preserved and disaster-prone areas. These findings can help planners to reformulate policies and strategies for future residential development.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Urban growth is a complex and dynamic process involving changes in the physical and functional components of the built environment (Sahana, Hong, and Sajjad, 2018), in which residential growth and development are essential. Residential is generally called as settlement and it is specifically referred to as a house (Hammond C W, 1979; Hudson, 1974). The main factor affecting the physical expansion of a city is the population growth rate and land consumption per capita (Bagheri and Tousi, 2017). Urban expansion characteristics are often locally specific, based on determinants such as economic, social, demographic, and planning (Xu and Zhang, 2017; You and Yang, 2017). Urban expansion rate is generally twice higher

than population growth rate (Seto, Fragkias, Güneralp, and Reilly, 2011) and one of the triggered problems is the tendency of over-concentration in certain areas causing imbalance or uneven distribution of service centres. Meanwhile, access to opportunities and employment is often the top reason for people in choosing a residential location (Christiaensen and Todo, 2013; Rodríguez-Pose and Hardy, 2015; Satterthwaite, 2006). It makes the city centre or downtown area most favourable because the large-scale modern activities, social infrastructure and decision-making centres are entirely available in the area (Donaghy, 2013).

Urban growth also implies changes in land use or land cover (Patino and Duque, 2013). In this paper, the built-up area is broadly defined as having

residential, commercial and industrial uses. Therefore, the growth direction of a city can be tracked based on the direction of the residential growth. It is often found that conservation areas and green open spaces such as city parks are transformed into built-up areas. Fast and irregular city expansion driven by the high rate of economic growth has been criticised as being the primary cause of green land loss, social inequality and urban environmental damage in China (Cheng and Masser, 2003; Ding, 2009; Wang, Krstikj, and Koura, 2017; Yeh, 1999). In Semarang, urbanisation and urban sprawl cause changes in land use (Aprillia and Pigawati, 2018). Thus it becomes essential for land managers and decision-making authorities to monitor urban growth (Patino and Duque, 2013).

Many current urban problems in Indonesia have the origin in the high population growth rate, the increasing housing need being the main issue. Weak law enforcement and low public awareness of the spatial plan result in the improper use of space. The development of urban residential areas is usually controlled through policy instruments such as master (spatial) plans, development plans and zoning regulations. Policies are designed to manage urban development, aiming to create cities able to meet the people needs (McGill, 1998; Porter, 2012; Richardson, 1993; Werna, 1998). Residential areas around the world may change spatially; yet, the patterns of spatial change might vary as along with their driving factors (Mahavir, 1996; Sarkar, 2010).

Residential growth is significantly affected by the accessibility to the city centre with its complete infrastructure and facilities (Bitta Pigawati, Yuliasuti, and Mardiansjah, 2017). It may have caused many residential areas in Semarang suburbs to occupy pieces of unsuitable land, e.g. the disaster-prone land. Housing providers in developing countries usually agree that residential areas are provided for low-income society (Keivani and Werna, 2001). This is not a good practice, and against best practices. The 1999 guideline on housing density in Ireland, for example, recommends planning authorities that an increase in housing density in large cities (with the population of 5,000 people or more) should be directed to establish a sustainable residential pattern in a suitable location (Government of Ireland, 2009). Meanwhile, Sweden has implemented urban planning reforms related to time-efficiency policies to build housing areas as a basis for reducing housing shortages in growth areas (Granath Hansson, 2017). In the United States, there are concerns about the construction of low-density housing because it is built in an unsuitable location in rural areas, which have a lot of natural resources (Mockrin, Reed, Pejchar and Jessica, 2017).

The attractiveness of Semarang City as the centre of its metropolitan region has led to the rapid growth and physical development of the city centre

area. This area, which was originally a residential area, has developed into various uses such as offices, commercial uses, and communication centers. Semarang city centre area has high population density and witnesses rapid demographic changes. The highest concentration of population density in Semarang is on the radius of four kilometres from the city centre and decreases significantly towards the periphery (Handayani and Rudiarto, 2014). The population of Semarang City reached 1,729,428 people in 2016 distributed in an area of 373.7 km<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, the population density of Semarang is of 4,628 people/ha (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018).

Along with the development of Semarang City as a metropolitan centre, the residential districts in the city centre area grow rapidly and spread to all directions. This phenomenon may threaten the sustainability of development, as some studies concerning the broader spatial dynamics have indicated (Buchori and Sugiri, 2016; Buchori et al., 2015; Buchori et al., 2017). Hence, the question is “what patterns and characteristics are there in the rapid growth and development of residential areas in Semarang city centre area?” The main objective of this research is, therefore, to analyse and comprehend the residential growth and development in Semarang City Centre Area focusing on residential patterns, development directions, and characteristics of residents in the residential expansion area on a period of 10 years (2006-2016). The research has used the quantitative descriptive method and spatial analysis using the Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing technology.

## 2. STUDY AREA

The area selected for study is the city centre area of Semarang, consisting of six districts (*kecamatan*), namely the districts of Candisari, Gajahmungkur, Gayamsari, Semarang Selatan (South Semarang), Semarang Tengah (Central Semarang) and Semarang Timur (East Semarang), which are shown in Figure 1.

The area covers 41.56 km<sup>2</sup>, and recorded decline in the number of population from 453,426 people in 2006 to 420,220 inhabitants in 2016 (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018). Land morphology shows mostly flat and hilly areas. Four districts located in the north, namely, Semarang Tengah, Semarang Timur, Gayamsari, and Semarang Selatan overlap flat lands, while the land where the other two districts are located is hilly with gentle to steep slopes. The study area includes at least three disaster-prone sectors. Flood-prone areas are found in Semarang Tengah, Semarang Selatan, and Gayamsari, while land subsidence-prone areas are found in Semarang Tengah, Gayamsari, and Semarang Timur; another landslide-prone area is in

Gajahmungkur (Government of the City of Semarang, 2011).

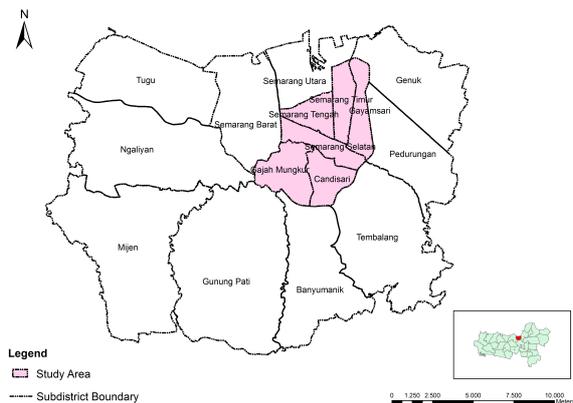


Fig.1. The study area. Semarang city centre area.

### 3. THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Theoretical framework

It is essential to discuss some views in defining the city to understand city growth and development. A city is a relatively large, dense and permanent residential area inhabited by people with various social positions, whose livelihood is dominantly non-agricultural (Daldjoeni, 1987). Urban development occurs in metropolitan areas throughout the world, especially in developing countries (Lal, Kumar, and Kumar, 2017).

City development implies physical change as a result of urban development. City development is determined by various factors, eventually improving the level of productivity and the quality of life (Glaeser, Kallal, Scheinkman, and Shleifer, 1992). The concentric zone theory, proposed initially by Burgess, McKenzie, and Wirth (1925), is a model of urban development that proliferates itself from its original centre expanding outwards. Meanwhile, multiple nuclei model deals with urban spatial development based on the central growth theory proposed initially by Harris and Ullman (1945). City growth starts from a centre to become a complex form caused by the appearance of new nuclei with the function of growth centres.

The city centre area is defined as a saturated zone in which residential growth has reached the maximum level (Cats, Zhang, and Nissan, 2016; Chadwick and Collins, 2015). City centre is the core of a city that has been growing from a residential into central business district (Bourne, 1982), which functions as a centre of economic activities, housing facilities and relatively complete types of infrastructure (Ferreira and Condessa, 2012; Simich et al., 2005). Its central location has high accessibility as a result of rapid development. An essential indicator of city development is the increase of the built-up land for residential purposes. Furthermore, in other cases, for

instance the housing system in Nigeria, the reasons for housing shortages in Nigeria include poverty, high level of urbanisation, high prices of building materials, and imperfect building technology (Festus et al., 2015). Many of the Semarang suburbs are inhabited by industrial workers who have low income and education level.

Any residential area has a dynamic structure that can grow and develop at any time. Residential areas can develop according to a multi-directional pattern, and therefore can be distributed linearly while others clustered in several places (Olajoke, 2017). The formation of residential areas is a functional process based on patterns of human activities, physical and non-physical aspects that directly affect these activities and land utilisation (Rapoport, 1969). It caused by several factors, both physical and non-physical, that can be locally specific. The spatial pattern of residential areas is a continuous dependency relationship between the physical and human elements (Wulangsari, 2014). Relationships between elements in the physical environment create a space in which humans are interconnected and perform activities so that a residential pattern may represent the physical characteristics of the housing area and the socio-economic conditions of residents (Hudson, 1974; Whyne-Hammond, 1985).

The residential pattern gives an impression on housing distribution and density (Zee, 1979). Complex facilities and infrastructure in an area act as an attraction factor for people when choosing a location to live. Factors affecting this selection are accessibility, space and land availability, availability of residential facilities and infrastructure, and basic physical and environmental conditions (Budihardjo, 1991). In terms of factors influencing residential growth we mention the natural physical, social, and geographic factors (Sumaatmadja, 1989; Yang, Xu, and Long, 2016), physical characteristics of residential environment, availability of facilities and services, social environment, ethnic and demographic factors, and housing characteristics (Golledge and Stimson, 1987). Accordingly, factors that affect residential patterns vary and usually include the distribution of infrastructure and social facilities for transportation and socio-economic activities of steepness areas and the size of national population, economic factors, per capita income and topographic conditions (Ahmed, 2009; Clarke, 1985; Maza, Villaverde, and Hierro, 2013; Oruç, 2013; Whyne-Hammond, 1985).

The residential pattern is a reflection of population adjustment to the environment, the level of which is highly dependent on the socio-economic and cultural factors of the population. Social status is one of the driving factors for residential clustering (Pacione, 1984). It is generally caused by social class and the availability of land to build residential dwellings. People tend to choose residential locations based on

environmental characteristics such as location, education, crime rate, environmental quality, socio-demographic composition facilities, residential characteristics and land prices (Pigawati, Yuliasuti, and Mardiansjah, 2018). The residential pattern can be determined based on the model and analysis of the nearest neighbourhood analysis, that is, by using the nearest neighbour parameter (T) (Hagget, 1985).

Remote sensing refers to the activities of recording, observing, and perceiving (sensing) objects or events in far-away (remote) places (Weng, 2010). This technique can provide information on changes in magnitude, direction, and land use pattern (Marble, Dadhich, and Hanaoka, 2012). There have been many approaches to map urban areas with remote sensing satellite imagery and monitor changes in land cover from a local to a global scale (Akintunde, Adzandeh, and Fabiyi, 2016). The technique is useful for mapping and monitoring the natural and human-made features. Remote sensing technique strongly supports urban studies (Bhatt, Gupta, and Gogoi, 2006), and together with GIS, it can also be used to map and analyse the residential distribution (Pigawati and Rudiarto, 2011).

### 3.2. Methods

Both primary and secondary data were used in this research. The primary data sources are QuickBird images of the study area in 2006 and 2016. The secondary data sources include official maps and population data of the study area. Descriptive statistics and geospatial techniques were used to analyse data collected. The steps of the analysis were as follows: a). Analysis of land use in the study area for ten-year period (2006-2016), conducted through QuickBird imagery interpretation and overlay technique; b). Analysis of residential growth and development through QuickBird imagery interpretation and overlay technique; c). Analysis of residential patterns and the expansion directions using ArcGIS software, nearest neighbourhood and spatial analysis techniques; d). Analysis of factors affecting the residential growth and development using descriptive statistics; e). Analysis of the characteristics of the residential expansion in the study area.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Land use in the city centre

The built-up area in 2006 was of 30,992,481 m<sup>2</sup> (74.57% of the total area). After 10 years, it increased to 31,540,675 m<sup>2</sup> (75.89%). The largest percentage of land use in Semarang city centre area is for residential purposes, i.e. 23,806,224 m<sup>2</sup> (57.28%) in 2006 and 24,300,299 m<sup>2</sup> (58.47%) in 2016, or an increase of 494,075 m<sup>2</sup> of residential use.

Land conversion was noticed in some locations, namely in Candisari District, where land used for trade and services was turned into residential area.

Table 1 shows land use changes in the study area during the ten years while Figure 2 shows the changes in the spatial distribution in 2006 compared to 2016.

Table 1. Land use change in Semarang city centre area of 2006 – 2016.

District	Non Built Up Area (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	1.225.683	1.058.180	-167.503
Gajahmungkur	3.888.411	3.655.396	-233.015
Gayamsari	2.841.120	2.784.273	-56.847
Semarang Selatan	408.594	408.587	-7
SemarangTengah	157.437	80.855	-76.582
Semarang Timur	2.048.279	2.034.049	-14.230
<b>Total</b>	10.569.525	10.021.341	-548.183
% x Total area	25,43	24,11	-1,32
District	Built Up Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) Industry		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	0	0	0
Gajahmungkur	3.555	4.938	1.383
Gayamsari	83.370	88.008	4.639
Semarang Selatan	17.974	17.974	0
SemarangTengah	13.561	13.561	0
Semarang Timur	318.448	318.448	0
<b>Total</b>	436.908	442.930	6.021
% x Total area	1,05	1,07	0,01
District	Built Up Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) Trade and Services		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	411.299	400.284	-11.016
Gajahmungkur	194.700	172.439	-22.261
Gayamsari	362.987	387.054	24.067
Semarang Selatan	1.557.032	1.557.039	7
SemarangTengah	3.407.471	3.464.761	57.289
Semarang Timur	813.855	813.855	0
<b>Total</b>	6.747.343	6.795.430	48.087
% x Total area	16,24	16,35	0,12
District	Built Up Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) Residential		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	4.903.018	5.081.536	178.518
Gajahmungkur	4.983.334	5.237.227	253.894
Gayamsari	2.892.524	2.920.664	28.140

Semarang Selatan	3.946.400	3.946.400	0
SemarangTengah	2.561.531	2.580.823	19.292
Semarang Timur	4.519.418	4.533.648	14.230
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.806.224</b>	<b>24.300.299</b>	<b>494.075</b>
% x Total area	57,28	58,47	1,19
District	Built Up Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) Total		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	5.314.317	5.481.820	167.503
Gajahmungkur	5.181.589	5.414.604	233.015
Gayamsari	3.338.880	3.395.727	56.847
Semarang Selatan	5.521.406	5.521.413	7
SemarangTengah	5.982.563	6.059.145	76.582
Semarang Timur	5.651.721	5.665.951	14.230
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.992.481</b>	<b>31.540.675</b>	<b>548.183</b>
% x Total area	74,57	75,89	1,32
District	Total Area (m <sup>2</sup> )		
Candisari	6.540.000		
Gajahmungkur	9.070.000		
Gayamsari	6.180.000		
Semarang Selatan	5.930.000		
SemarangTengah	6.140.000		
Semarang Timur	7.700.000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.560.000</b>		
% x Total area	100,00		

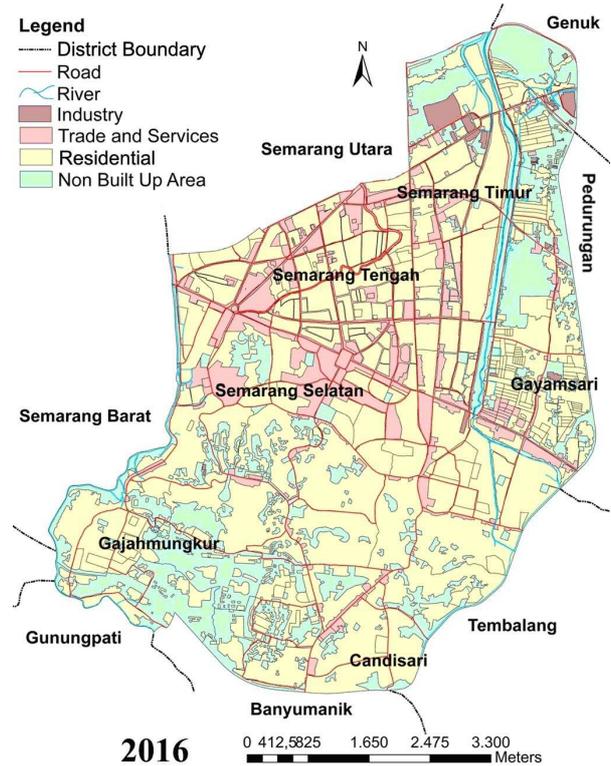


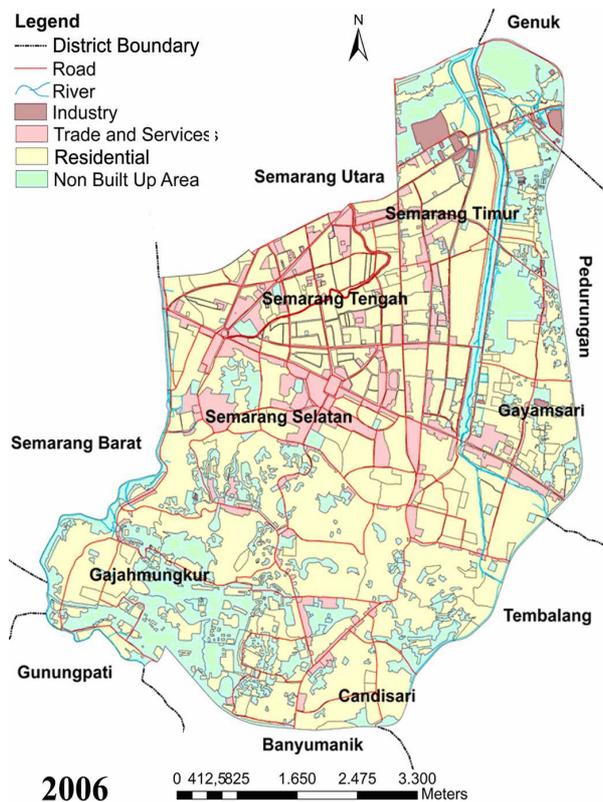
Fig. 2. Land use in Semarang city centre area in 2006 and 2016.

#### 4.2. Growth and development of residential areas in the period 2006-2016

Gajah Mungkur and Candisari Districts have fairly larger residential areas compared to the other districts. These districts have a large type of housing with open spaces built since quite a long time ago. On the other hand, residential development in Semarang Selatan District has been vertical due most probably to its location that is close enough to the Central Business District (CBD). Most of the land in Semarang Selatan is used for trade and service activities while the remaining is designated to green open spaces. Land price in this district is therefore quite high. Table 2 shows the growth and development of residential areas in the period 2006-2016.

Table 2. Growth and development of residential areas in the analysed area 2006-2016.

District	Residential area (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	2006	2016	Δ
Candisari	4,903,018	5,081,536	178,518
Gajahmungkur	4,983,334	5,237,227	253,894
Gayamsari	2,892,524	2,920,664	28,140
Semarang Selatan	3,946,400	3,946,400	0
Semarang Tengah	2,561,531	2,580,823	19,292
Semarang Timur	4,519,418	4,533,648	14,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,806,224</b>	<b>24,300,299</b>	<b>494,075</b>



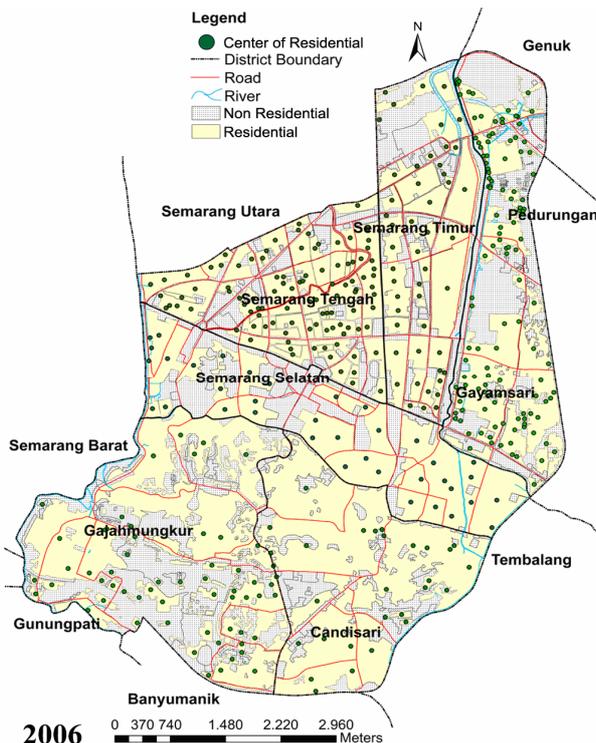
The expansion of housing areas in the study area occurred in five districts, spreading over twenty-one villages. The largest residential expansion in Gajahmungkur District is of 253,894 m<sup>2</sup>. Figure 3 shows the spatial distribution of the residential development in the period 2006-2016.



Fig. 3. Expansion of residential areas 2006-2016.

### 4.3. Residential patterns

Residential patterns show the nature of residential distribution resulting from the relationships between factors determining the nature of the distribution.



2006



Fig. 4. Distribution of centre points in residential areas, in 2006 and 2016.

Figure 4 shows the distribution of residential areas' centre points in 2006 and 2016.

The nearest neighbourhood analysis was employed to determine the patterns by using ArcGIS software (the spatial function of Statistics Tools, Average Nearest Neighbourhood). Figure 5 shows the results of the statistical analysis of the spatial patterns.

The residential patterns found in the study area are clustered, random, and dispersed. Social classes and access to facilities generally cause residential clustering. People choose their residential areas based on characteristics such as location, education, crime rate, environmental quality, socio-demographic composition facilities, residential characteristics and land prices (Pigawati et al., 2018). Meanwhile, random residential pattern is an indication of homogeneous physical space related to the social composition (Sarkar, 2010), and dispersed pattern provides an impression of physical distribution that is related to the density of the residents (Zee, 1979).

Table 3. Residential patterns in 2006 and 2016.

District	Residential pattern	
	2006	2016
Candisari	Random	Random
Gajahmungkur	Random	Random
Gayamsari	Clustered	Random
Semarang Selatan	Random	Dispersed
Semarang Tengah	Clustered	Dispersed
Semarang Timur	Dispersed	Dispersed

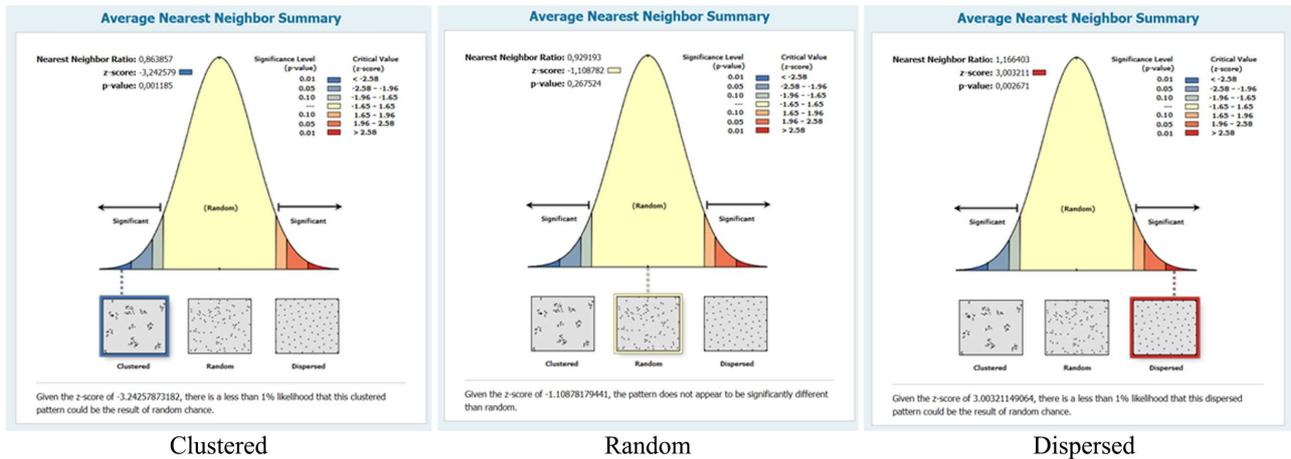


Fig. 5. Spatial statistics of residential patterns.

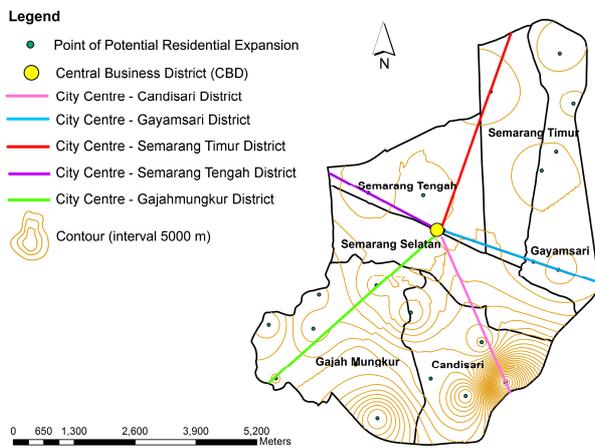


Fig. 6. The contour of potential expansion of residential areas in the period 2006-2016.

Also, dispersed residential pattern is frequently found in residential areas with steep topography. Table 3 shows changes in residential patterns in 2006 and 2016. Figure 6 indicates the potential contour of residential expansion in the period of 2006-2016, displaying a contour image of expansion potential scattered across the study area.

Meanwhile, Figure 7 shows the graphs of relationships between the expansion of the residential area and the distance to the CBD. This figure represents the development pattern of residential areas which is significant to the distance from the CBD. In Gajah Mungkur and Candisari districts, the same pattern was observed, that the housing areas have expanded farther from the CBD. On the other hand, the expansion direction in Gayamsari and Semarang Tengah Districts was towards the CBD.

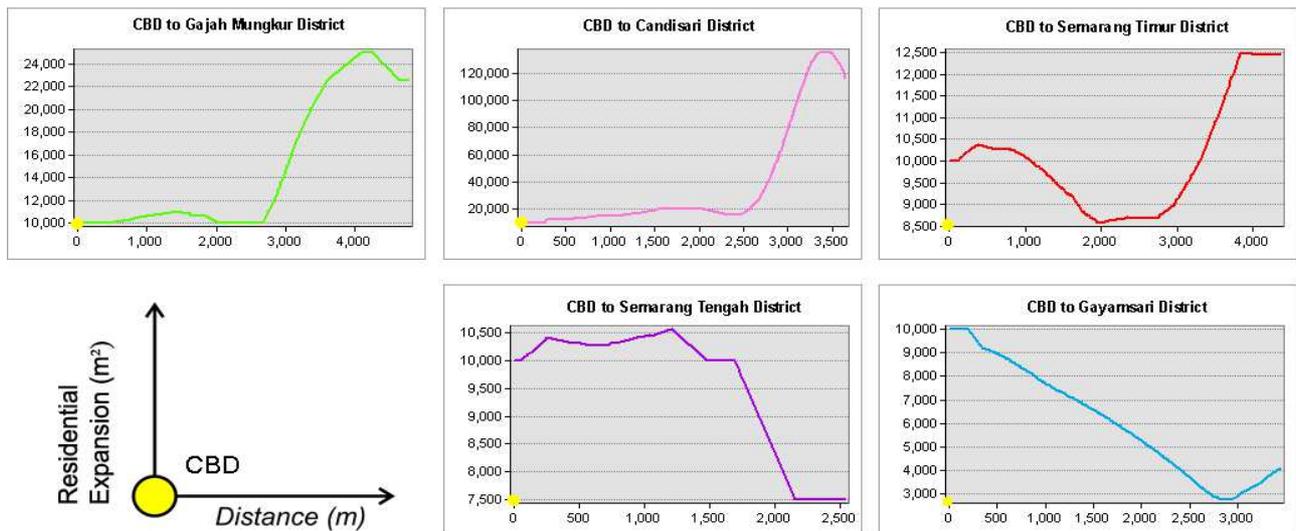


Fig. 7. Graphs of residential expansion and distance from CBD.

#### 4.4. Residential development factors

The analysis of factors affecting the development of residential areas was performed by

using statistical techniques. Correlation analysis was used to find the relationship between two variables. The relationship of the two variables can occur due to a causal relationship or by mere chance. Two variables

are said to correlate if changes in one variable will be followed by those in the other one regularly, whether in the same direction (positive) or in the opposite one (negative).

Results show that there is a significant relationship between the expansion of residential areas and several other research variables. The correlation coefficients (C) confirm the influence of these variables on the expansion of residential areas in the period 2006-2016. The most influencing is infrastructure availability with a correlation coefficient of 0.88, followed by accessibility (C = 0.59), education (C = 0.57), and travel time to city centre/CBD (C = - 0.47). Meanwhile, distance from CBD (C = 0.03) has not significantly influenced the residential expansion in the study area.

Planning for future development of residential areas in this area should, therefore, take these factors into account.

#### 4.5. Characteristics of residential areas expansion

Population in the residential expansion areas has increased by 4.33% from 2006 to 2016.

The analysis shows that the majority of the population work as industrial and construction labourers (47.02%) and engage in trade and service activities (17.06 %). The education level of almost all of them (90.86%) is high school or below.

Residential areas in the analysed area that is supposed to be a conservation area is of 146,310 m<sup>2</sup> (29.61% of the total residential expansion area). Also, as much as 87,643 m<sup>2</sup> (17.73% of the total residential expansion area) of flood prone area is used for housing. Two other unsuitable areas used for housing are the subsidence-prone area of 68,839 m<sup>2</sup> (13.93%) and landslide-prone area of 188,442 m<sup>2</sup> (38%). A bit fortunate, perhaps, is that the image data shows the potential for disasters in the study area as minor.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

The patterns of residential growth and development in Semarang city centre area show the internal restructuring process mainly characterised by filling in or converting the non-built-up land. However, residential areas also occupy land, which was previously used for trade and service activities, especially in the form of changed function from shopping complex buildings to *Rukos* (*Rumah Toko*, literally means House Store), mixed use of residential and trade or service activities.

The dominantly horizontal residential expansion has occurred in Gajah Mungkur and Candisari Districts. Unfortunately, housing has also expanded to unsuitable plots of land, namely

conservation and disaster-prone areas. The two districts are morphologically hilly and prone to disasters although at a minimum scale. Results of this study also show that many of the inhabitants of the residential expansion areas are of low education level and working as industrial labourers and construction workers. The others engage in trade and service activities. Some of them are also temporary residents.

The other districts, especially Gayamsari and Semarang Timur, are also exposed to residential development with the availability of non-built-up land and relatively flat topography. However, the growth and development of residential areas was not as massive as in the case of Gajah Mungkur and Candisari. It may be affected by the higher land prices compared to those in other districts.

Figure 8 shows the directions of residential development in Semarang city centre area, Indonesia.

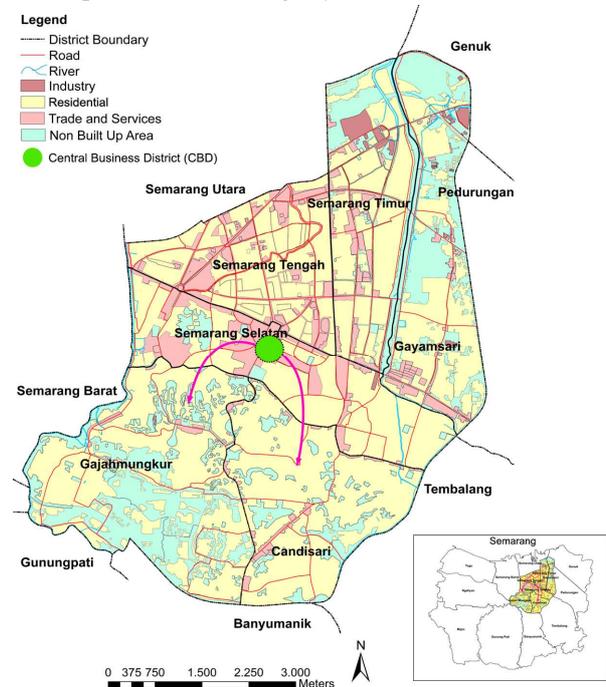


Fig. 8. Directions of residential development.

Another interesting aspect is that there has been no expansion of residential areas in Semarang Selatan District. It is perhaps due to the condition of non-built-up land in this district that is mostly used as green open spaces in the forms of city parks and other public facilities. This condition limits the chances of developing residential areas.

There is a particular type of relationship between the expansion of the residential area and the distance from the CBD that is affected by the availability of land and the location of facilities. Research results show that the non-built-up area for residential development is still available in all the districts. However, the trend in the period 2006-2016 delivers an essential lesson; that is, future residential expansion may go further and exploit even the

unsuitable land. Therefore, the policy of limiting the growth of residential areas should be enforced more strictly to coordinate development to comply with the city spatial plan.

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