



## Karo Traditional House, Siwaluh Jabu in Dokan Village and its role in North Sumatra Tourism

Aynen Kresensia Br Sembiring<sup>1</sup>, Rani Evilona Purba<sup>2</sup>, Jenny D. Manurung<sup>3</sup>,  
Nael Simarmata<sup>4</sup>, Meisuri<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1-5</sup> English Literature Study Program, Department of English Language and Literature,  
State University of Medan, Indonesia

Email : [aynenkresensia@gmail.com](mailto:aynenkresensia@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** *The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village is a historical relic of the Karo tribe, which still stands today. The Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village is a cultural tourist attraction that is often visited by tourists. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to review the condition of the traditional house and the role of the Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village on tourism in North Sumatra. The method used in this research is a qualitative research method which collects data from interviews conducted and information from journals and books. From the research that has been done, it is found that the condition of the traditional house of Siwaluh Jabu in Dokan village is still good but one of the traditional houses has been damaged and is no longer occupied. The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village also has an important impact on tourism in North Sumatra.*

**Keywords:** *Traditional House, Cultural Heritage, & Tourism*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

North Sumatra is an area that is so rich with tourist attractions, ranging from nature to historical heritage. One of them is the traditional house of the Karo tribe, Siwaluh jabu, which is located in Dokan village, Karo district. This traditional house is one of the historic tourist attractions, where this traditional house is still original, which is a relic of the Karo tribe. Traditional houses in Karo district continue to decrease until there are only a few left, therefore this heritage must continue to be preserved so that it is not lost.

A traditional house is a historical heritage of a tribe that must be preserved so that it is not lost. Karo's traditional house, Siwaluh Jabu, is a relic of the Karo tribe that must be maintained, not only as a medium for introducing Karo tribal culture but also as a medium for cultural preservation so that it is not lost. Siwaluh traditional house can also be used as a tourist attraction for North Sumatra, everyone can come to see and enjoy the building. The Karo traditional house, precisely the one in Dokan village, holds a lot of history. The Karo traditional house, precisely Siwaluh jabu, is a traditional house that is still the original legacy of the Karo Tribe which until now still stands and is occupied by people living in Dokan village. The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house has many meanings in it, starting from the ornaments in the house to the building, and its unique building.

Siwaluh Jabu is a traditional house of the Karo tribe which means a large house consisting of eight parts and the head of the family (Halim, E. A., 2020). The Siwaluh jabu traditional house is made of round wood, with artificial boards, bamboo, and a palm fiber roof, which in the manufacturing process does not use nails (Simarmata, T., & Sinurat, Y.W. B., 2015). Inside the Karo traditional house there are several ornaments that decorate the house. Ornaments on traditional Karo houses have a very important meaning, both in terms of aesthetics and symbolism. The traditional Karo house, known as Siwaluh Jabu", is often decorated with various ornaments that symbolize the values of life and local wisdom of the Karo people. With the presence of the Siwaluh jabu traditional house, Sumatra's tourism has increased and had a big impact.

One of the regions in North Sumatra that still has various cultural heritages is Karo Regency (Sinulingga, R. A., & Mahagangga, I. G. A. O., 2016). The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house has a positive impact on North Sumatra tourism, especially in attracting tourists interested in local culture and history. The unique architecture of this traditional house, with distinctive ornaments full of symbolic meaning, is an attraction for visitors who want to learn more about the local wisdom of the Karo tribe. In addition, the presence of this traditional house in cultural tourism areas, such as in traditional Karo villages, encourages the growth of the tourism sector in North Sumatra, improves the local economy through tourist visits, and strengthens regional cultural identity. This traditional house also serves as a medium of cultural education for the younger generation and tourists, enriching the tourist experience in North Sumatra.

However, there are still few people who realize that the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house is so important, not only as a historical relic of the Karo tribe, but also as a medium for cultural preservation, and a tourist attraction for North Sumatra, with this traditional house, the tourist attraction of North Sumatra will increase, with the increase in tourism coming, the culture in North Sumatra will be more widely known

Sharing research has been done starting from the role, meaning, importance of Karo traditional houses. Sharing research has been done starting from the role of Karo traditional houses to tourism, the impact on tourism, the meaning of the building, and the importance of preserving historical heritage. But so far no one has explained in detail about the impact and role of the siwaluh jabu traditional house on tourism in North Sumatra. In line with this, the purpose of this research is to provide more in-depth knowledge and information about the Karo traditional house, namely Siwaluh Jabu, and its impact on tourism in North Sumatra, so that more people know how much it is necessary to preserve the heritage of the house.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Historical Sites**

History is everything that happened in the past (Khoirotun, A., Fianto, A. Y A., & Riqqoh, A. K., 2014). History is an event or occurrence in the past that relates to human life, both individuals and groups, in various aspects such as social, political, economic, and cultural. History includes the processes, changes and developments that occur over time and how these events affect present and future conditions. Historical sites are places where there is information about historical relics, and one example of a historical site is a traditional house (Mursidi, A., & Soetopo, D., 2019). However, in general, historical sites are a location or place that has historical value because it has important events in the past or has relics from ancient times related to human life, culture, or certain civilizations. Historical sites are often buildings, monuments, artifacts or archaeological remains that provide physical evidence of events or activities that influenced the development of a nation, culture or society.

- **Cultural Heritage**

Cultural heritage plays an important role in shaping a community's local identity (Indrawati, M., & Sari, Y. I., 2024). Cultural heritage is defined as the product or result of cultural of different traditions as well as spiritual achievements in the form of values from the past that become the main elements of a group or nation, from the past that become the main element in a group or nation (Wiandari, F., & Meutia, C. I., 2021). Cultural heritage is any form of cultural wealth that is passed down from previous generations and has historical, social, and cultural value that is important to a society or nation. This heritage can be in the form of intangible cultural heritage, such as oral traditions, customs, ceremonies, music, dances, and local knowledge; as well as tangible cultural heritage, such as historical sites, buildings, artifacts, and works of art.

- **Traditional House**

Khairunnisa and Elah said that a traditional house is a primary need for every human being, therefore everyone must have a house, especially for every family to have a house building as one of the places that has many functions for human life (Harahap, K. & Nurlaelah, E., 2023). A traditional house is a house that characterizes or is typical of a region's buildings (Eka, R., 2018). Tourism according to law number 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism is everything that has uniqueness, beauty, and value in the form of diversity of natural, cultural and man-made wealth which is the target or destination of tourist visits (Erianto, E., 2020). In general,

traditional houses are traditional buildings that reflect the cultural identity and local wisdom of a tribe or ethnic group in Indonesia. Traditional houses are usually designed in accordance with the natural and environmental conditions in their area of origin, and reflect the cultural values, beliefs and customs adopted by the local community. Traditional houses have distinctive features that reflect local wisdom and the natural environment in which they are built. Usually made from natural materials such as wood and bamboo, they are often designed with unique, sloping roofs to cope with the local weather. Many traditional houses are built on stilts to protect against moisture and flooding as well as for air ventilation. In addition, traditional houses are adorned with distinctive carvings or ornaments laden with cultural and spiritual symbolism. Its function is not only as a place to live, but also as the center of the community's social, cultural and ritual activities.

- **Tourism**

Tourism is a manifestation of the symptoms of human instinct since antiquity, namely the desire to travel, more than that tourism with its various motivations will generate demand in the form of services and other supplies (Simarmata, T., & Sinurat, Y.W. B., 2015). In general, tourism is a travel activity carried out by a person or group of people to a place outside their daily environment, either for the purpose of recreation, business, education, or other interests. In a broader context, tourism includes various services and facilities that support these travel activities, such as transportation, accommodation, culinary, and tourist attractions which include natural beauty, cultural heritage, and entertainment. Tourism also plays an important role in the economy of a region, as it can increase revenue through tourist visits and job creation.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is qualitative research. Qualitative research method is a research approach that focuses on in-depth exploration of social phenomena, behavior, experiences, or human interactions in a natural context. Method which collects data from interviews conducted with selected dokan villagers, then asking questions about the karo traditional houses in the village and the impact on the village. Other information is collected from previous research in the form of journals. After carrying out the data collection stage, the data will then be analyzed, from the data that has been collected, at the last stage is to make a report in the form of a journal. 1). Collecting data, collecting data from interviews and previous research in the form of journals. Interviews were conducted with selected people and asked questions to be answered about the traditional siwaluh jabu house in Dokan village. For this

research information, collect data from previous research such as journals. 2).Data Analysis, the data that has been collected, about information related to the traditional house of siwaluh jabu in Dokan village, and its impact on tourism in North Sumatra, will be analyzed which will produce findings. 3). Report writing , data that has been found and analyzed will be transferred into a report made in the form of a journal.

#### **4. RESULT & DISCUSSION**

##### **The condition of the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village**

###### **a. Total traditional houses**

There are 5 Siwaluh Jabu traditional houses in Dokan village. 4 of these traditional houses are still occupied, but one of the houses called the middle house has been abandoned because it is damaged and has not been repaired. The average number of people who live in this house is 5 to 6, not fully anymore.

###### **b. The condition of the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan Village**

This year there were some improvements made, but there is one traditional house that has not been renovated because it is no longer occupied, but it is not yet known whether there will be renovations this year or not. So far the karo traditional house is still original, there are only changes to the outside of the house such as the stairs of the traditional house that are used to replace them because they have been damaged, for the inside of the house is still original and there has been no change at all.

##### **Impact of the Siwaluh Jabu Traditional House on Dokan Village**

The big impact on Dokan village with the presence of the traditional house is the easier flow of village funds for the development of Dokan village either through the government or volunteers who come to Dokan village or just know the traditional house of Dokan village. Not only that, when tourists or visitors come to the village, they often bring souvenirs for the village.

###### **a. Community utilization of the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in the village**

From the results of the analysis so far there are no Dokan villagers who live there utilizing traditional houses to sell souvenirs near traditional houses.

###### **b. The number of visitors who come in a week**

From the analysis that has been carried out, it was found that in a week at least three times visitors come by car with a group, but sometimes in a week it can also be only once or twice. But so far every week there must be visitors who come, although sometimes the number who come in a week is uncertain.

c. Traditional houses in Dokan village make this village a cultural village

The presence of traditional houses in Dokan village has made it a cultural village, because there are only a few traditional houses left in Karo district.

### **Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village as a medium for cultural preservation and introduction to the history of the Karo tribe**

From the analysis that has been carried out, it is found that the existence of the Karo traditional house in Doakn Village certainly makes it a medium for cultural preservation, first, the traditional house is one of the evidence of the history of the Karo tribe, second, with the existence of the traditional house, of course cultural festivals are often held such as traditional dances, typical Karo music performances and many more, by holding this, of course the community looks like young people are more familiar with the culture of the Karo tribe and know it more deeply, from this of course the presence of the traditional house can maintain and preserve the culture of the Karo tribe. The history of the Karo tribe can also be known from this traditional house from the building, ornaments on the building.

### **Impact of Siwaluh Jabu Traditional House on Tourism in North Sumatra**

The siwaluh jabu traditional house is a traditional Karo house, which holds a lot of history about the Karo tribe. The Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village must be maintained so that it is not lost due to lack of attention. The Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village is not only a cultural heritage but also a cultural tourist attraction in North Sumatra which has a positive impact on North Sumatra tourism.

The following are some of the benefits of tourism for an area (Yoeti in Saragih, M. G., at all, 2021) :

#### 1. From an economic point of view

The benefits of tourism from an economic point of view are that tourism generates large foreign exchange for the State so as to improve the country's economy. improve the country's economy. The contribution of tourism shows an increasing trend from year to year.

#### 2. From a Cultural Perspective

Other benefits that arise from the tourism industry, among others, can also be seen in terms of culture. With the rapid development of the tourism industry, it will bring understanding and understanding between cultures through the interaction of tourist visitors (tourists) with the local community where the tourist area is located. From this interaction, tourists can recognize and appreciate the culture of the local community and also understand the local cultural background adopted by the community.

### 3. In terms of the environment

Tourism also brings benefits to the environment because a tourist attraction if you want to get visits from tourists must be maintained so that we become accustomed to maintaining and caring for our environment so that it is kept clean.

### 4. In terms of Social Value and Science

The benefits of tourism that we get in terms of social values are that we become more friends from various countries and we can find out the habits of people from each country so that we can learn the good habits of each country.

### 5. In terms of Opportunities and Job Opportunities

Tourism also creates employment opportunities. Hotel and travel tourism facilities are "labor-intensive" businesses. By comparison, there are far more people working in hotels and restaurants than in other businesses.

The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan Village, North Sumatra, is one of the symbols of traditional Karo culture. This house has a significant impact on North Sumatra tourism, especially in terms of cultural preservation, architecture and ethnic tourism attraction. Not only as a tourist attraction but it is a means to introduce the culture of the culture that exists in North Sumatra. This traditional house is a cultural tourist attraction that is the wealth of North Sumatra. The biggest impact of this cultural tourism object is to make North Sumatra rich in cultural tourism objects so as to make North Sumatra more famous to outside areas, not only that the Siwaluh jabu traditional house also makes North Sumatra have its own characteristics.

The following are some of the impacts caused by these historical relics, namely the Siwaluh jabu traditional house.

- a) Cultural Preservation: The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house is a reflection of the local wisdom of the Karo people that reflects kinship relationships and traditional social systems. With this traditional house, cultural tourism in North Sumatra is maintained and encourages tourists to understand more about Karo traditions. The Siwaluh jabu traditional house is a cultural heritage that will maintain the culture that has existed since long ago.
- b) Tourist Attractions: Dokan Village, which has 5 Siwaluh Jabu traditional houses, has become a cultural tourism destination. Tourists will be interested to see firsthand the distinctive architecture, social life and traditional ceremonies that are still carried out around these traditional houses. Making North Sumatra famous for its cultural attractions and the culture within.

- c) Local Economy: Tourism coming to the village will have a positive economic impact on the local community, with small businesses growing. Traditional houses become the center of attention and attract tourists to stay longer, shop for local products, and engage in cultural activities.
- d) Education and Cultural Awareness: Cultural tourism focused on the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house not only provides economic benefits, but also helps raise awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage. The younger generation of Karo can learn about inherited traditional values and make it a relevant attraction for tourists. Then everyone can learn about the culture that exists in North Sumatra.
- e) Promotion of North Sumatra: This traditional house has become one of the tourism icons that help promote North Sumatra on the national and international scene. As a strong cultural symbol, Siwaluh Jabu gives North Sumatra a unique identity on the Indonesian tourism map.

The traditional Karo house of Siwaluh Jabu in Dokan village must be maintained and preserved so that it is not lost to the times. Not only as a tourist attraction but also a cultural heritage and national wealth that must be preserved. The Siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village also has a positive impact on young people as a means of cultural preservation where cultural parties are often held in Dokan village, of course this makes many young people more familiar with Karo tribal culture. Overall, the Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan Village makes an important contribution to the development of tourism in North Sumatra, both in terms of cultural preservation and the local economy.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The condition of the siwaluh jabu traditional house in Dokan village is still good, but there is one house that has been damaged and is no longer occupied. This traditional house is still original until now but there are stairs on the outside of the house that have been changed due to total damage, but so far the inside of the house is still original. The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village is a cultural heritage that must continue to be preserved and maintained, so that it is not lost due to the times. The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village is a means of cultural preservation, and the introduction of existing cultures in North Sumatra to the outside world. Therefore, this traditional house must be preserved and maintained.

The traditional houses of Dokan Village in North Sumatra, namely the Siwaluh Jabu traditional houses, contribute significantly to tourism in the region by attracting tourists interested in traditional Karo culture and architecture. As one of the cultural heritage sites,



these traditional houses encourage the preservation of local culture and are a major attraction for domestic and foreign tourists who want to experience traditional community life. With the presence of this cultural tourism object, North Sumatra is better known by the outside world again. The Siwaluh Jabu traditional house in Dokan village makes North Sumatra rich in culture and cultural attractions.

## 6. REFERENCES:

- Halim, E. A. (2020). Konservasi Bangunan Bersejarah Pada Rumah “siwaluh Jabu” Desa Lingga. *Serat Rupa Journal of Design*, 4(2), 135-145. <https://doi.org/10.28932/srjd.v4i2.1433>
- Simarmata, T., & Sinurat, Y. W. B. (2015). Eksistensi Warisan Budaya (Cultural Heritage) sebagai Objek Wisata Budaya di Desa Lingga Kabupaten Karo. *ANTHROPOS: Jurnal Antropologi Sosial dan Budaya*, 1(2), 148-157. <https://doi.org/10.24114/antro.v1i2.5084>
- Sinulingga, R. A., & Mahagangga, I. G. A. O. (2016). Upaya Konservasi Rumah Adat Karo Dalam Menunjang Pariwisata Budaya Di Desa Lingga Kabupaten Karo Sumatera Utara. *Jurnal Destinasi Pariwisata*, 4(2), 139-145. <http://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/destinasipar/article/view/25431>
- Khoirotnun, A., Fianto, A. Y. A., & Riqqoh, A. K. (2014). Perancangan Buku Pop-up Museum Sangiran Sebagai Media Pembelajaran Tentang Peninggalan Sejarah. *Jurnal Desain Komunikasi Visual*, 2(1), 1-8. <https://www.neliti.com/id/publications/248040/perancangan-buku-pop-up-museum-sangiran-sebagai-media-pembelajaran-tentang-penin>
- Mursidi, A., & Soetopo, D. (2019). Peninggalan Sejarah Sebagai Sumber Belajar Sejarah Dalam Penanaman Nilai-nilai Kebangsaan Di Kecamatan Muncar Kabupaten Banyuwangi. *Jurnal Ilmiah Kependidikan*, 13(1), 41-57. <https://jurnalnasional.ump.ac.id/index.php/khazanah/article/view/6165>
- Wiandari, F., & Meutia, C. I. (2021). Local Heritage (Warisan Budaya) Dan Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris. *PIONIR Jurnal Pendidikan*, 9(2), 109-125. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22373/pjp.v9i2.9009>
- Eka, R. (2018). Karakteristik Fisik Rumah Adat Gorontalo (Dulohupa Dan Bantayo Pobo'ide). *Jurnal Arsitektur, Kota dan Permukiman (LOSARI)*, 7-11. <https://www.neliti.com/id/publications/317123/karakteristik-fisik-rumah-adat-gorontalo-dulohupa-dan-bantayo-poboide>
- Saragih, M. G., at all. (2021). *Kajian Dasar Pariwisata*. Bekasi: Penerbit Andalan.
- Indrawati, M., & Sari, Y. I. (2024). Memahami Warisan Budaya Dan Identitas Lokal Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Penelitian dan Pendidikan IPS (JPPI)*, 18(1), 77-85. <https://doi.org/10.21067/jppi.v18i1.9902>
- Erianto, E. (2020). Deskripsi Potensi Dan Strategi Pengembangan Pariwisata Di Kota Berastagi Kabupaten Karo. *GOVERNANCE: Jurnal Ilmiah Kajian Politik Lokal dan Pembangunan*, 7(1), 18-24. <https://doi.org/10.56015/governance.v7i1.36>

Harahap, K. & Nurlaelah, E. (2023). Eksplorasi Keunikan Rumah Adat Batak Karo Dalam Mengungkapkan Nilai Filosofis Dan Sudut Pandang Matematika. *JNPM (Jurnal Nasional Pendidikan Matematika)*, 7(1), 179-191. <https://doi.org/10.33603/jnpm.v7i1.7870>