



Urban Multiculturalism and SDG 11: The Role of Little India in Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development in Medan

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Abstract

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The operationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level necessitates that municipal governments integrate socio-cultural diversity into urban development frameworks. Medan is characterized by a pronounced multicultural composition; nevertheless, scholarly inquiries specifically examining the Little India precinct as a tangible manifestation of multicultural space in relation to SDG 11 remain notably limited. This study seeks to interrogate the nexus between the multicultural attributes of the Little India precinct, the localization processes of the SDGs, and their collective contribution to advancing SDG 11, which is oriented toward fostering inclusive and sustainable cities. A qualitative documentary research design was employed, entailing systematic analysis of government policy instruments, official publications, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and secondary data concerning the socio-cultural and economic conditions of Little India. The analytical framework integrates Urban Multiculturalism and SDG localization theories to critically examine the interplay between cultural identity, social dynamics, heritage conservation initiatives, and urban development trajectories. Findings elucidate that the Little India precinct constitutes a distinct multicultural space, evidenced by the enduring presence of the Tamil Indian community, cultural practices, religious institutions, culinary and commercial enterprises, and sustained inter-ethnic interactions. These findings demonstrate that Little India substantively contributes to the attainment of SDG 11 targets, specifically through the reinforcement of social inclusivity, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the provision of accessible public space. Consequently, the conservation of cultural quarters transcends the mere safeguarding of local identity, functioning instead as an integral strategic component of urban development that aligns with the localized implementation of the SDGs.

INTRODUCTION

The phenomena of urbanization, migration and population mobility have progressively transformed cities into dynamic spaces of encounter, wherein diverse ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural groups converge, interact, and cohabitate (Hidayati, 2021). These processes are not merely demographic in nature; they fundamentally reconfigure the social fabric of urban environments, engendering increasingly heterogeneous societies characterized by cultural pluralism and complex patterns of social stratification (Vertovec, 2007). Such dynamics have rendered urban communities markedly diverse, thereby giving rise to multicultural urban societies in which multiple cultural systems, value frameworks, and modes of belonging coexist within shared territorial boundaries. Multiculturalism, as both an ideological construct and a normative framework, emerges from this condition of diversity and posits that such differences can be accommodated within a cohesive societal structure, enabling coexistence without the eruption of intergroup conflict (Prakasita & Harianto, 2017). In the urban context, multiculturalism extends beyond mere demographic plurality to encompass institutional arrangements, policy orientations, and spatial configurations that recognize and facilitate the expression of cultural difference as a legitimate and valued component of city life (Fincher & Iveson, 2008).

The global discourse on inclusive and sustainable urban development has gained considerable momentum following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (Leal Filho, 2020). Among the seventeen goals, SDG 11, formally articulated as “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”, constitutes the principal international normative framework directly addressing the challenges of contemporary urbanization (*Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | United Nations Development Programme*, n.d.). This goal foregrounds the necessity of urban development trajectories that guarantee equitable and inclusive access for all segments of society, with particular attention to ethnic and cultural minority groups whose needs and aspirations are frequently marginalized in conventional planning paradigms. Within this normative framework, the preservation of cultural heritage, the provision of inclusive and accessible public spaces, and the reinforcement of local cultural identity emerge not as ancillary considerations but as constitutive elements essential to the realization of sustainable urban futures (Küfeoğlu, 2022). Accordingly, SDG 11 provides both a normative imperative and an analytical lens through which to examine how multicultural urban spaces may contribute to, or inhibit, the broader pursuit of inclusive and sustainable city development.

Medan, the provincial capital of North Sumatra, stands as a salient exemplar of a city characterized by profound ethno-cultural diversity. As the largest metropolitan center beyond Java and a strategic gateway to Indonesia’s western archipelago, Medan has historically functioned as a destination for migratory flows, resulting in its

constitution as a settlement hub for a wide array of ethnic groups, including but not limited to the Malay, Batak, Javanese, Chinese, Minangkabau, Acehnese, and Tamil Indian communities (Hotman & Damanik, 2024). Among the urban spaces that most vividly embody Medan's multicultural character is Little India, situated within the Kampung Madras area. This precinct operates as a living multicultural space, wherein the Tamil Indian community maintains a discernible and enduring presence, actively preserving its distinct linguistic heritage and cultural identity. The quotidian landscape of Little India is marked by the continuous practice of Hindu religious traditions, the proliferation of Indian culinary establishments and commercial enterprises, the annual celebration of major cultural festivals such as Thaipusam and Deepavali, and the routinized cross-ethnic interactions that constitute the everyday life of the city's inhabitants (Rizky Prayoga et al., 2021). In this sense, Little India transcends its functions as a mere ethnic enclave, instead representing a dynamic site where cultural identity, social practice, and urban space intersect in the ongoing production of multicultural urbanism.

A body of extant scholarship has examined the Little India precinct in Medan from a variety of analytical vantage points, encompassing historical trajectories, ethnic identity formation, cultural tourism, and the conservation of cultural heritage (Kurniawan, 2020). The present study is anchored in two principal conceptual variables, namely Urban Multiculturalism and SDG 11. Urban multiculturalism posits ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity as constitutive elements of the urban environments, manifested through the presence of distinct ethnic communities, the performance of cultural celebrations and religious practices, the operation of economic activities rooted in cultural identity, and the inter-group interactions that unfold within public spaces (Ahn, 2024). In parallel, SDG 11 comprises a series of interdependent targets germane to multiculturalism, particularly in the domains of social inclusion, the safeguarding of cultural heritage, and the provision of public spaces that are both safe and readily accessible to the populace.

Furthermore, this study establishes a connection between the existence of multicultural urban spaces and efforts to cultivate ethnically inclusive cities at the local level. Accordingly, the research aims to analyze the characteristics of Little India as a multicultural area, to assess its contribution to the attainment of SDG 11, and to identify the factors that facilitate and impede its development as an ethnically inclusive urban space within the city of Medan. It is anticipated that this research will yield a more comprehensive understanding of the role of multicultural areas in supporting inclusive and sustainable urban development, while concurrently offering recommendations to the local government regarding the management of cultural diversity as an integral component of Medan's urban development strategy.

In light of the aforementioned phenomenon, the authors undertake and examination of the ways in which the multicultural characteristics inherent to the Little India district of Medan contribute to the localization processes of the SDGs, with particular reference to the attainment of SDG 11, specifically concerning social inclusion, cultural preservation, and the provision of accessible public spaces. By deploying the analytical frameworks of Urban Multiculturalism and Localizing the SDGs, this research is anticipated to yield a twofold contribution; academically, by enriching the existing body of literature on SDG 11 through a cultural lens and within the context of Southeast Asia, and practically, by serving as a reference point for the Medan City government in the formulation of inclusive and sustainable urban development policies.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative research design employing a case study approach to examine Little India as a multicultural urban area and its contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 in the city of Medan. This methodological approach was selected on the basis of its capacity to facilitate the investigation of contemporary phenomena within their real-life settings, specifically the interrelationship between multicultural space and the localization of the SDGs in Little India, which is intrinsically linked to the broader social, economic, and policy dynamic operating within Medan (Rahardjo, 2017).

The data utilized in this study consist of secondary data obtained through library research and from the official website of the City of Medan. These data were systematically analyzed through the examination of documents pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) of the City of Medan, publications issued by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), local government reports, and policy documents related to the development of the Little India district and urban development within the City of Medan. Concurrently, the literature review examined scholarly books, articles published in scientific journals, findings of previous research, and other academic sources pertinent to the concepts of Urban Multiculturalism, Localizing the SDGs, and SDG 11 concerning inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Data analysis was undertaken using descriptive qualitative analysis techniques, encompassing the sequential stages of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing (Qomaruddin & Sa'diyah, 2024). The data thus obtained were subsequently analyzed using the Urban Multiculturalism framework, which scrutinizes cultural identity, social dynamics, and spatial practices within the Little India district. Thereafter, the Localizing the SDGs approach was employed to examine how these multicultural

characteristics can be mapped onto efforts to achieve the SDG 11 targets at the city level, thereby supporting inclusive and sustainable urban development in the city of Medan.

This study is subject to certain limitations, as it relies exclusively on documentary research without resource to direct observations or interviews; consequently, the findings constitute a reconstruction derived from literature and formal documents. Accordingly, the results of this study should be regarded as an initial mapping exercise, which necessitates further ethnographic research or in-depth interviews to substantiate the findings and afford greater contextual depth.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Multicultural Characteristics of the Little India District in the City of Medan

The formation of a multicultural society in the city of Medan is inextricably intertwined with the historical trajectory of the Deli tobacco plantations, which began expanding in 1863. This development was initiated by tobacco merchants originating from Java, namely J. Nienhuys, Van der Falk, and Ellio, who were granted land concessions by Sultan Mahmud Perkasa Alam of Deli for tobacco cultivation. The establishment and subsequent expansion of these plantations stimulated the influx of laborers from diverse regions, including China, Java, Minangkabau, and Tamil India (Kurniawan, 2020). The Tamil community first arrived in 1873 from Penang, consisting of 25 individuals, to fulfill the labor demands of the Deli tobacco plantations. As plantation activities intensified, the Tamil labor force expanded progressively, ultimately establishing them as one of the principal ethnic groups within the Deli region (Sahfutra, 2021). Beyond their engagement as plantation laborers, segments of the Indian community also pursued livelihoods as traders, entrepreneurs, livestock breeders, and moneylenders. In acknowledgment of their contributions, the Dutch colonial administration allocated residential land to them in the Petisah area, which subsequently evolved into Kampung Keling, presently designated as Kampung Madras or Little India (Kurniawan, 2020).



Figure 1. Picture of Little India in Kampung Madras, Medan City
Source: Photo taken by the Author

Administratively, this residential area encompasses the neighborhoods of Petisah, Petisah Hulu and Madras Hulu, situated within the sub-districts of Medan Petisah and Medan Polonia, with a core area spanning approximately 10 hectares (234,412 m²). The name “Kampung Madras” derives from the region of origin of the majority of the Tamil community in India, and the area has since evolved into a center of Indian cultural identity, recognized as “Little India” within the city of Medan. The historical significance of this area received formal acknowledgment in 2026, when the Medan City Education and Culture Department proposed it for designation as a North Sumatra Provincial-Level Cultural Heritage Site. This proposal documented approximately 20 recorded cultural heritage elements, illustrating the area’s historical layering in both spatial and social dimensions, in accordance with Law No. 11 of 2010 on Cultural Heritage and Medan City Regional Regulation No. 2 of 2012 (Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Kota Medan, n.d.-a). The city of Medan, functioning as a space of multiculturalism, demonstrates concerted efforts to accommodate ethnic diversity as an integral component of the city’s identity. The development of the Little India district in Kampung Madras as a cultural tourist destination further reflects the local government’s efforts to link cultural heritage preservation with the economic and social development.

Various elements of Indian cultural heritage, including culinary traditions, places of worship, ritual practices, and commercial enterprises, persist and remain integral to the identity of the Kampung Madras area. A focal point of this cultural landscape is the Shri Mariamman Temple, which has been formally recognized as a Cultural Heritage Site through the Decree of the Mayor of Medan No. 433/28K/X/2021

issued on 28 October 2021, Document No. 64/CB/B/2021 (Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Kota Medan, n.d.-b). Kampung Madras is further distinguished as a prominent center for Indian cuisine and commerce, exemplified by the availability of Indian dishes (such as *biryani* and *roti canai*), spices, Indian-style mini-markets, and jewelry. The Indian community in this area exhibits a notable degree of openness in its economic, social, and educational engagement with other ethnic groups, including Malay, Batak, Chinese and Javanese populations. Despite such integration, the community continues to preserve symbolic spaces, most visibly through the performance of religious rituals at temples. The active participation of diverse ethnic groups in celebrations such as Deepavali, coupled with the high volume of commercial transactions, attests to the dual function of public spaces in Kampung Madras: they act simultaneously as bastions for the preservation of cultural identity and as arenas for harmonious multi-ethnic interaction (Siregar et al., 2025). These findings indicate that Little India functions not merely as a symbol of Tamil Indian cultural heritage, but also as a significant locus of social interaction within the urban fabric of Medan, bringing together individuals from a multiplicity of ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

From the perspective of urban multiculturalism, the city is conceptualized as a space that enables diverse cultural groups to coexist, sustain their distinct identities, and engage in equitable interactions within the fabric of urban social life (Ash Amin, 2002). In his book entitled *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*, Kymlicka contends that equality cannot be realized solely through the universal allocation of identical individual rights. He argues that cultural minority groups further require group-differentiated rights to safeguard their language, traditions, religion and cultural identity amid the predominance of the majority culture (Kymlicka, 1996). Multiculturalism, therefore, is understood to encompass not merely cultural diversity, but also the recognition of minority group identities within the public sphere. In this context, Little India as a manifestation of urban multiculturalism characterized by group-differentiated rights is distinguished by the enduring presence of places of worship, commercial centers, traditional Indian cuisine, and an array of cultural symbols that continue to be preserved within the city of Medan.

The distinctive character of the Little India area may also be analyzed through the concept of ‘ethnic enclave’, an urban locality that functions as a hub for the activities of a particular ethnic group while simultaneously maintaining connections with the broader community. Drawing on their study of the Little India area in Singapore, Purwantiasning et al. (2025) observe that Little India operates not only as an economic center for the Indian community, but also as a site for the preservation of cultural identity and a venue for cross-cultural social interaction (Purwantiasning et al., 2025). These defining features of Little India, grounded in the ethnic enclave concept, are evident in Kampung Madras, Medan, as demonstrated by the presence of the Shri Mariamman

Hindu temple, an array of spice shops, traditional Indian restaurants, and street decorations that incorporate Indian cultural symbols and elements. Collectively, these signify that a group's cultural identity can be sustained within an urban environment to the present day. Moreover, the Little India area in Kampung Madras is by no means exclusive; it remains open to individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds including Malay, Batak, Chinese, and Javanese communities, as well as to both domestic and international tourists. Kampung Madras thus functions as a space in which multiple cultural groups coexist and construct their identities through social interaction. This phenomenon illustrates that Little India has operated as a 'cultural encounter space' that reinforces social interaction among different community groups. It constitutes a multicultural space that not only embodies the cultural identity of the Tamil Indian community but also serves as an arena for interaction, identity negotiation, and the cultivations of social harmony among ethnic groups within urban life, particularly in the city of Medan (Ash Amin, 2002).

2. Little India's Contribution to the Implementation of SDG 11 in Creating an Inclusive and Sustainable City

Within the framework of 'Localizing the SDGs', this process is defined as adapting global targets and policies to the specific context and capacity of a given city, encompassing both local social and cultural dimensions while accounting for distinctive local circumstances and characteristics. Localizing the SDGs constitutes, at its core, a governance challenge that requires local authorities to implement global targets within the limits of local capacity (Fox & Macleod, 2023). Sterling et al. (2020) underscore that the localization of the SDGs extends beyond the mere implementation of global policies at the local level; it also entails the recognition of local characteristics, cultural identity, and community well-being as integral components of sustainable development (Sterling et al., 2020). The existence of Little India in the city of Medan may be understood as a tangible manifestation of SDG 11 at a local level, achieved through the preservation of local cultural identity as a constituent element of sustainable development. Little India possesses not only economic and tourism value, but also contributes to inclusive urban development by safeguarding the cultural identity of the Indian Tamil community (Klopp & Petretta, 2017).

Furthermore, a study conducted by Jönsson and Bexell (2021) on the localization of the SDGs demonstrates that the successful implementation of these goals at the local level is significantly contingent upon the capacity of local governments to integrate local values into the development agenda (Jönsson & Bexell, 2021). The Medan City Council has manifested this commitment through its long-term development vision for 2025–2045, articulated as "*Medan Kota Global, Inklusif, Maju, dan Berkelanjutan (Medan: A Global, Inclusive, Progressive, and Sustainable City)*," which emphasizes the importance of local wisdom, regional potential, innovation and

community creativity (Dinas Kominfo Kota Medan, 2024). This vision may serve as a fundamental foundation for the development of the Little India area as a multicultural space that not only preserves the cultural heritage of the Tamil Indian community but also supports the realization of an inclusive and sustainable city, in accordance with the objectives of SDG 11.

From the perspective of SDG 11, the existence of Little India bears considerable relevance to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, as well as to the promotion of public spaces that are safe, inclusive and accessible to all members of the community. This aligns with a statement by Bappenas, which affirms that inclusive public spaces play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life, strengthening social integration, and ensuring equal opportunities and a decent standard of living without the marginalization of minority groups (*Perpres No.59 Tahun 2017 Tentang SDGs – SDGs Indonesia*, n.d.). The Regional Secretary of Medan City, Aulia Rachman, has stated that inclusivity entails the creation of an environment that supports and empowers all individuals through the recognition of diversity and the provision of equal opportunities for everyone to participate in social, economic and political life. Little India in Kampung Madras constitutes one urban space that exemplifies how ethnic diversity can coexist and contribute to the development of the city of Medan (Dinas Kominfo Kota Medan, 2024).

The existence of Little India demonstrates that local cultural heritage possesses not only historical and identity-related value, but also contributes substantively to the implementation of SDG 11 at a local level. It illustrates how cultural preservation can proceed in tandem with increased social interaction, strengthened inclusivity in public spaces, and the advancement of the local economy in Kampung Madras, Medan. As emphasized within sustainable development discourse, the success of urban development is not measured solely by physical development and infrastructure, but also by the government's capacity to safeguard cultural diversity, reinforce social cohesion, and provide equal opportunities for all residents. Accordingly, Little India can be regarded as an exemplar of the localization of the SDGs in the city of Medan, integrating the preservation of cultural identity with inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development.

3. Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Little India as an Ethnically Inclusive Urban Space

As one of the cultural districts that embodies ethnic diversity in the city of Medan, Little India possesses considerable potential to be developed as an ethnically inclusive urban space that supports inclusive and sustainable urban development. The presence of this district not only foregrounds the Tamil Indian community, which has long constituted an integral part of Medan's historical trajectory, but also reflects the city's capacity to accommodate and preserve the cultural identities of minority groups

within the public sphere. Consequently, Little India has the potential to serve as a model for managing multicultural districts that contribute to the implementation of SDG 11.

This opportunity is further reinforced by the fact that Medan is a multi-ethnic city inhabited by a diverse array of communities (Hotman & Damanik, 2024). Such diversity functions as social capital, fostering cross-cultural interaction and strengthening social cohesion within the urban populace. Moreover, the Medan City Government's commitment to establishing an inclusive city is evidenced through formal legal recognition in the proposal for Provincial-Level Cultural Heritage Site status, which bolsters legal protection and funding for conservation, as well as through a regional development vision that creates avenues for the development of cultural districts as an integral component of urban development. Within the context of localizing the SDGs, the existence of Little India can serve as an instrument for integrating local values and cultural diversity into the city's development agenda, while simultaneously supporting the preservation of cultural heritage, which is one of the targets of SDG 11.

From an economic standpoint, Little India holds significant potential as a cultural tourism destination. The range of commercial activities, traditional Indian cuisine, cultural celebrations, and distinctive architecture and cultural symbols can serve as tourist attractions that contribute to the local economy. The development of this area not only has the potential to increase tourist visits but may also generate business opportunities for the local community through the trade, services, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (UMKM) sectors. Thus, Little India possesses not merely cultural value but also plays a role in supporting sustainable local economic development.

Notwithstanding its potential as a multicultural space that supports inclusive urban development, the development of Little India in the city of Medan faces challenges commonly encountered in managing urban cultural areas. Sterling et al. (2020) explain that the process of localizing the SDGs frequently encounters difficulties in integrating place-based values and local cultural identities into broader development agendas (Sterling et al., 2020). This condition is reflected in the need to strike a balance between preserving cultural heritage, reinforcing the area's social functions, and meeting the demands of ever-evolving urban development. An analysis of the opportunities and challenges for the development of Little India as an ethnically inclusive urban space is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Little India as an Ethnically Inclusive Urban Space

Aspects	Opportunities	Challenges
Social	Inter-ethnic interaction that strengthens social cohesion within the community	The decline in younger generation's participation in cultural preservation
Cultural	The preservation of Tamil culture through traditions, cuisine and religious activities	The erosion of cultural identity due to social change and modernization
Economic	The development of cultural tourism and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (UMKM)	Competition with modern businesses and changes in consumer behavior
Policy	Support for the vision of Medan as an inclusive and sustainable city	There is still a need to strengthen the coordination and integrated management of cultural areas
SDG 11	Supporting targets SDG 11 related to inclusive cities, cultural preservation, and public spaces	The integration of cultural areas into sustainable development implementation still needs to be strengthened.

Source: Author's Analysis (2026)

The table presented above indicates that Little India possesses considerable potential to support inclusive and sustainable urban development. From a social perspective, Little India in Medan functions as a space for cross-ethnic interaction that strengthens tolerance and social harmony among the city's residents. In terms of cultural preservation, the presence of temples, traditional Indian cuisine, and various Indian cultural celebrations serves as a mechanism for safeguarding the identity of the Tamil Indian community, which has long constituted an integral element of the city's historical fabric. Furthermore, the thriving trade and cultural tourism activities in Kampung Madras contribute to the local economy through a range of culture-based enterprises.

Little India in Medan embodies Indian Tamil culture, underscoring the imperative of striking a balance between urban development and efforts to preserve the historical and cultural values that define the area's identity. SDG 11 emphasizes the importance of protecting and preserving cultural heritage as a constituent element of sustainable development. However, preserving cultural areas within urban settings requires policy

support from the Medan City Government, effective governance, and community participation to ensure that the identity of the Little India area in Medan is sustained.

A further challenge pertains to ensuring the sustainability of Little India so that it is not subsumed by the forces of modernization. Little India serves not solely as a hub for economic activity and cultural tourism, but also as a social space that represents the presence of the Tamil Indian community within the city of Medan. Accordingly, the sustainability of Little India in Medan is determined not only by its physical aspects, but also by its ability to preserve cultural practices, community-based social activities, and the involvement of the younger generation in safeguarding the cultural heritage embedded in Kampung Madras.

From the perspective of Urban Multiculturalism, the management of areas such as Little India requires ongoing efforts to ensure that cultural diversity continues to occupy a meaningful place within urban life. Consequently, the principal challenge in developing Little India in Medan relates not only to the physical development of Kampung Madras, but also to sustaining the relevance of its cultural identity and social function as a space for cross-ethnic interaction that supports the realization of an inclusive and sustainable city, in accordance with the principles of SDG 11 (Kymlicka, 1996). Therefore, the development of Little India requires collaboration among the local government, the Tamil Indian community, business owners, and the wider public to ensure that this area remains a vibrant cultural space capable of adapting to the city's ongoing development.

CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates that Little India in Kampung Madras constitutes a tangible manifestation of a multicultural space that has evolved in tandem with the historical formation of the city of Medan by diverse ethnic groups. The presence of the Tamil Indian community, which has been settled in the area since the colonial period, has not only bequeathed a historical legacy but has also shaped a cultural identity that persists to the present day through a range of social, economic, religious, and cultural practices. This area serves simultaneously as a site for the preservation of cultural identity and as an open social meeting place for the broader community, thereby forming an integral component of an urban development strategy oriented towards social inclusivity, the strengthening of local identity, and the attainment of SDG 11.

Although it holds considerable promise as an ethnically inclusive urban space, the development of Little India in Kampung Madras faces a number of challenges that warrant careful attention in the future planning of the city of Medan. With appropriate policy support, Little India possesses the potential to become a model of ethnically inclusive urban development that integrates cultural preservation, social inclusivity, and economic development within the framework of implementing SDG 11 in the city of

Medan. In this respect, robust synergy is required among local government, the Tamil Indian community, business stakeholders, and the wider public to ensure that cultural values are safeguarded while simultaneously generating sustainable social and economic benefits. Ultimately, this study affirms that cultural diversity constitutes not an impediment to urban development, but rather a strategic asset capable of strengthening social resilience, broadening community participation, and supporting the realization of an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable city.

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