




# Shrinking City Phenomenon in a Small City at East Coast Area of North Sumatra

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## ABSTRACT

City dynamics must be seen as a complex system with varying degrees of non-linear interaction of space and time. Cities are not constantly growing. At some point it will shrink and may die. Many factors cause such as globalization, suburbanization, post-socialism, and changes in demographic structure and so on. In many studies, the shrinking city phenomenon is mostly carried out in developed countries. However, developing countries are not impossible to experience this phenomenon. Each city experiencing the shrinking city phenomenon has different characteristics. In developing countries, local government policies that depend on various aspects of central government policies have a level of vulnerability to shrinking city phenomenon. Changes in central government policy on the small city have an impact on changes in the economic structure of the city. Moreover, limited resources and the absence of small city innovation make it increasingly difficult for cities to grow

**Keywords:** shrinking city, trade policy impact

## 1. Introduction

The failure of modern urban planning thinking is if the object of planning experiences a shrinking cities. Shrinking cities is defined as a decrease in the population of a city and is "scary" because it has an impact on "falling" house prices, the number of residents who lose jobs, the decline in economic activity, the number of empty or unoccupied houses, the number of vacant offices, unused and unobstructed infrastructure such as road networks, drinking water, drainage, and sewerage, schools have no activity, the abundance of vacant land, high pollution such as soil and water pollution, litter or scattered industrial carcasses, unorganized landscape, high unskill, high level of outward migration, especially the population who have higher education, and can increase crime [1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14]. In addition to having an impact on the internal cities, shrinking cities also has an impact on the hierarchical system of cities or intercity relations. The relationship between cities can be seen from the function and role of the city towards others. If the function of the city has been lost then the relationship of the cities will also change. Shrinking cities has an impact on the loss of several city functions such as settlement centers, collection and distribution centers for goods and so on. If these functions are lost then the orientation of movement to the city is getting smaller and may even be lost. This will change the constellation of city relations. The impact caused makes city managers (governments) and their residents often unprepared to deal with it, because they have made a lot of investments.

The development of small and medium-sized cities in developing countries such as Indonesia there are small and medium-sized cities that experience shrinking cities not due to factors as described by Leadeater (2009) and Cunningham-Sabot and Fol [3]. Several studies have analyzed the causes and typologies of urban shrinkage in different contexts. Leadbeater [15], [30] emphasized that cities depending on a single industry are highly vulnerable to economic shifts, while Pallagst [29] and Audirac [19] discussed how urban shrinkage can also occur amid metropolitan growth, reflecting the dual nature of contemporary urbanism. The city is based on single-industry resources and is still operating but experiencing shrinkage. In addition, when the increase in transportation networks is getting higher, the city experiences urban shrinkage. That is, what is described in literature or experience in developed countries is very different and even the opposite of what happens in cities of developing countries. That is, there are other factors that have not been made clear why a city can experience shrinking. In much of the literature, in explaining the process of shrinking cities it can be seen how the macroeconomic and demographic levels [2][3][4][5] changing cities that are associated with micro-levels such as income levels and population mobility. Likewise, at the intermediate level, namely at the policy level, both business actors and government policies play a role in the shrinking cities process. For example the experience of socialist countries [5].

However, the explanation of the process of shrinking cities experienced by socialist countries is seen from national policies where crises occur nationally and cities follow. Meanwhile, the explanation of the shrinking cities process in the perspective of local politics has not been explained much. The assumption is that the policies of the elite of business actors will affect the policies of local governments. Such forms of influence such as tax payments, the amount of labor absorption, local welfare programs and others [16]. However, how the process of mutually influencing policies between elites of business actors (dominant) and local government policies has not been explained much. It is in this context that this research will be carried out.

Understanding the dynamics of cities should be seen as a complex system of various levels, the interaction of space and time that is not linear [22]. The evolution of the city depends on the historical factors of the city, geographical location factors, natural population growth, migration from village to city, infrastructure development, government policies, and the strategies of business actors (corporate strategies) as well as political and economic forces including globalization [7][8][22][12]. The process can take place sooner or later depending on local and global influences [22]. The sooner or later process is interpreted by the growth of the city and the shrinkage of the city [6][7][9][8][12][13]. Especially at this time, globalization provides new opportunities for cities around the world to be able to grow faster while at risk of shrinkage due to losing to global competition [4]. Even globalization can create larger gaps between cities. Thus it is not surprising that there are cities that experience shrinkage because they are unable to compete and adapt to these changes.

From the records of UN-HABITAT [8], cities in western countries such as in Europe and some cities in North America have experienced a sharp decline in population in the last 50 years [6][9][8][12][13]. It was identified that 40% of all cities in Europe with a population of more than 200,000 inhabitants experienced a decrease in the number of inhabitants both in the short and long term [9]. In line with this, Oswalt and Rieniets [6] said in the last fifty years there have been 370 cities in the world with a population of more than 100,000 people experiencing a shrinkage of at least 10% and it is projected that in the future it will experience a double increase [6][10][14]. This is the case in Latin America and the Caribbean which experienced a shrinkage of the city's population of about 2.8 million, as well as in Africa reaching 370,000 inhabitants in the same period [8].

Several studies have discussed the dynamics of small cities and urban shrinkage [15], [19], [23]. However, there is still a lack of research focusing on policy responses in small Indonesian cities. Depreciation of the city has become a condition considered ordinary [6][9][8][12][13] and synonymous with the experience of cities in developed countries (the developed world). However, this phenomenon is beginning to be experienced by cities in developing countries. According to UN-HABITAT [8] records, out of 1,408 cities, 143 cities or 10.2% experienced a reduction in population (negative growth rate) in the period 1990–2000. In this period, there was a 13 million reduction in population, and more than half (6.8 million) occurred in cities in China. The rest occurred in other Asian cities. Similar phenomena occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, which

experienced a shrinkage of about 2.8 million, and in Africa, reaching 370,000 inhabitants in the same period [8].

Shrinking cities can happen anywhere, including metropolitan areas and suburbs with populations between 1–2.5 million. Shrinkage can occur in city centers while suburban areas experience population overflow, related to urban sprawl. Suburban areas are characterized by strong industrial infrastructure and large labor settlements. When deindustrialization occurs, many industrial activities relocate, causing shrinkage in suburban areas as well. These activities have also moved outside the suburbs [20][3][11][27]. Large cities (with populations of 150,000–450,000) experiencing shrinkage are generally major industrial or port cities. The occurrence of shrinking cities in these large cities is generally caused by deindustrialization. Their economies are usually based on mining, port industries, or single industries. When these economic activities decline, other economic, social, and demographic activities also decrease [3][28][4]. In addition, medium-sized and small towns may also experience shrinkage. This generally happens when cities are isolated from infrastructure or urban networks. Small cities that are not connected to metropolitan networks are also affected by globalization processes, as seen in small towns in France [3].

The purpose of this study is to identify the condition of urban elements that influence the shrinking city phenomenon and to assess the factors causing cities to experience such phenomena. The phenomenon of shrinking cities has also occurred although it has not been a concern [17], especially in developing countries. For example, in Indonesia, if we look at population growth of cities during 1990–2000, several cities experienced a decrease in population, including small and medium-sized cities in Java Island such as Surakarta City, Yogyakarta City, Kediri City, Madiun City, and Magelang City [18]. However, when compared to the 2010 Population Census, these cities experienced a population increase compared to 2000, but the numbers were still lower than in 1990. It can be concluded that shrinking cities can occur anywhere and at any scale—small, medium, large, or metropolitan [8]. In China, for example, shrinkage mostly occurs in middle cities (population 500,000–1 million) and large cities (1–5 million), while in India, it is more common in small cities [8]. Observations made between 2000–2005 revealed that 30 of 414 large and metropolitan cities experienced shrinking [7][20][21]. Therefore, recognizing this symptom is essential so that it can be anticipated through better city management.

#### Research Gap and Purpose:

Existing literature on urban shrinkage has mainly focused on demographic and economic dimensions in developed countries, while studies in developing contexts—particularly Indonesia—are limited. There remains a lack of understanding of how local policies, governance, and business elites contribute to the process of shrinking cities. Therefore, this study aims to identify the key urban elements influencing the shrinking city phenomenon and to analyze the socioeconomic and policy factors leading to urban decline in small and medium-sized Indonesian cities.

## 2. Method

This research approach uses product-life theory as a foundation. Based on this theory, the development of the city is strongly influenced by the dynamics of the dominant economic activity of the city where there are booms and busts of the product will affect the growth and shrinkage of the city. The perspective used in explaining the process of shrinking cities is the political economic perspective. In the context of this study, the role of the elite business actors (the dominant ones) is very crucial. The policies they took were very influential in the development of the city. That is, the elites of business actors have a great bargaining in determining the development of the city, in particular associated with the labor market and its influence on the secondary and tertiary sectors that depend on the main economic activities [2][3][4][5]. On a city scale, it affects the city's financial receipts which affects the provision of public services [2].

### **3. Result and Discussion**

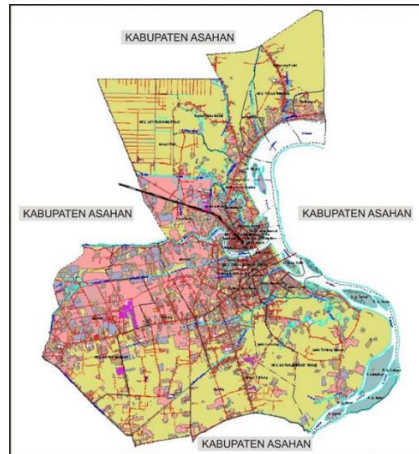
This section presents the findings and analysis of the study on the phenomenon of urban shrinkage in Tanjungbalai City, North Sumatra.

Tanjungbalai City is one of the cities in North Sumatra which is located on the east coast of Sumatra Island. Tanjungbalai City has developed since the establishment of plantations around it by opening various accesses such as road and rail networks. To access outside and to sell plantation products, a port was built so that Tanjungbalai City became a port city. Tanjungbalai City consists of 6 sub-districts and 31 sub-sub districts. Tanjungbalai City was once dubbed the most populous city in Southeast Asia. Based on Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 1987, regarding changes to the boundaries of Tanjungbalai City and Asahan Regency, the area of Tanjungbalai City was changed to approximately 60 km<sup>2</sup>.

The geographical location of Tanjungbalai City, which is very close to Malaysia and is connected by a port, is the main factor that causes easy circulation of the legal and illegal economy from Malaysia. Starting from the rampant trade in illegal second-hand goods at “Mongonsidi Plaza” located on Jalan Monginsidi, Medan City, it has encouraged the arrival of a lot of secondhand goods from Tanjungbalai City as well. In addition to fishing activities, the economy of Tanjungbalai City is influenced by economic activities by trading used goods. Initially it was small but then it grew and occupied the ward area (TPO Tanjungbalai) which is an asset of PT. KAI that is not utilized. This is the beginning of the traders of secondhand clothing retailers holding their wares together. Then this trading activity developed, not only in Tanjungbalai City but in almost all of North Sumatra and even to Riau and Aceh. In 1990, the business of importing used goods from abroad or commonly called monza became the lifeblood of the economy in Tanjungbalai.

The development of the secondhand trade began in 1980 and the city government's policy of allowing it to make the trade in secondhand goods increased. However, the central government's policy to protect domestic products has an impact on the prohibition of importing goods from abroad, especially illegal goods. The Indonesian government issued the Minister of Trade Regulation No. 229/MPP/Kep/7/1997 concerning General Provisions in the Import Sector, as amended by Regulation of the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Number: 54/M-DAG/PER/10/2009 concerning General Provisions in the Import Sector, Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2014 concerning Trade, and Regulation of the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Number 51/MDag/Per/7/2015 concerning the Prohibition of the Import of Used Clothing. As a result of the ban, many used goods trading businesses were closed which of course had an impact on the economic activities of the city of Tanjungbalai. The central government implemented several trade regulations to control the import of used goods, including Minister of Trade Regulation No. 229/MPP/Kep/7/1997 [23], Regulation No. 54/M-DAG/PER/10/2009 [24], and Regulation No. 51/M-Dag/Per/7/2015 [25]. These policies aimed to protect domestic industries but had unintended local impacts on cities like Tanjungbalai, where the economy relied heavily on second-hand goods trading. Since then, the city's economic activities have diminished and the city has lost its magnetism. Gradually the city became quieter. Areas and buildings that were once used for trading have returned to being deserted.

As illustrated in Figure 1, Tanjungbalai City is located on the east coast of North Sumatra and is bordered by Asahan Regency. The city area is divided into six districts with distinct spatial functions, as outlined in the Spatial Plan (RTRW) 2013–2033. The map shows the distribution of urban land uses, including residential zones, industrial areas, river corridors, and port areas. This spatial pattern confirms the city's strong dependence on maritime and trading activities, which historically supported its economic growth but also made it vulnerable to structural change when trade regulations shifted.



**Figure 1.** The Regional Spatial Plan for Tanjung Balai City for 2013-2033 [31]

Although population data in general have not shown a decrease in the population, in recent years it has seen a decrease. In plain view, the activities of the population also decreased and the activities of the population decreased and moved to the surrounding cities. the phenomenon of urban shrinkage in Tanjungbalai is still emerging, the challenge is very acute. As an important stimulus for the city's economy. Port activities and trade in used goods have always been considered a strategic focus for the city government to attract population growth and trade agglomeration. However, the potential for urban development depends on its basic economic conditions, so the effect of closing the secondhand trade on urban development varies. Thus, we cannot assume that the presence of used goods trading activities always means opening up opportunities for greater urban development. For the city of Tanjungbalai which is experiencing population loss, the closure of the secondhand trade has weakened the agglomeration capacity of economic factors and further exacerbated the loss of urban population.

As shown in Figure 2, the used-goods market in Tanjungbalai City once played a central role in supporting the local economy and providing employment opportunities for many residents. The dense trading activity along the market corridors reflects the city's dependence on informal trade and cross-border commerce. However, after the implementation of the national policy banning the import of second-hand goods, these market activities have significantly declined. The image clearly illustrates the scale of informal economic interaction that previously sustained the city's vitality before the enforcement of the trade restriction.



**Figure 2.** Market activity  
(Source : <https://tanjungbalaikota.go.id/> [33]).

This has important policy implications. Based on an understanding of the potential negative impact of the policy of closing used goods trade on Tanjungbalai City, the city government must make an appropriate plan and take immediate action to overcome the negative impact. It is essential to strengthen the competitiveness of a shrinking city. On the one hand, urban development strategies for shrinking cities need to be refined to create a more suitable economic structure. This should match the city's competitive advantage in terms of resource features, location, allocation of factors of production, and market expansion other than the secondhand trade.

Overall, the results and discussion suggest that the phenomenon of shrinking cities in Tanjungbalai is not merely demographic but rooted in economic policy shifts and regional dependency structures. This highlights the importance of aligning local economic resilience with national trade policies.

**Table 1.** Tanjung Balai Population Data by Gender and Age Group (2010–2020)

Age Group up to 65+	Total Population by Gender and Age Group (Soul)									
	Male					Female				
	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-4	9199	9043	9682	10102	9930	9834	9748	9659	9564	9646
5-9	9680	9699	9458	9847	10037	10170	10270	10333	10346	8327
10-14	8902	8883	8457	8788	8846	8957	9087	9229	9366	8273
15-19	7743	7786	7950	8238	8262	8320	8372	8411	8468	8489
20-24	6647	6845	7101	7337	7400	7501	7612	7708	7775	8586
25-29	6750	6592	6590	6842	6794	6787	6811	6850	6910	8153
30-34	6084	6244	6148	6368	6379	6414	6443	6466	6488	7254
35-39	5544	5609	5692	5907	5963	6012	6069	6115	6155	6426
40-44	4601	4666	4759	4941	5037	5118	5195	5271	5326	5805
45-49	3947	4055	4170	4332	4459	4548	4638	4724	4801	5099
50-54	3192	3267	3374	3518	3657	3736	3825	3911	3997	4127
55-59	2273	2420	2651	2758	2971	3081	3180	3269	3352	3339
60-64	1355	1486	1779	1839	2105	2252	2397	2533	2656	2429
65+	2016	2056	2102	2189	2357	2483	2630	2798	2977	3206
Tanjungbalai	77933	78651	79913	83006	84197	85213	86277	87277	88181	89159
	Female									
0-4	9199	9043	9682	10102	9930	9834	9748	9659	9564	9364
5-9	9680	9699	9458	9847	10037	10170	10270	10333	10346	8118
10-14	8902	8883	8457	8788	8846	8957	9087	9229	9366	7819
15-19	7743	7786	7950	8238	8262	8320	8372	8411	8468	7867
20-24	6647	6845	7101	7337	7400	7501	7612	7708	7775	8242
25-29	6750	6592	6590	6842	6794	6787	6811	6850	6910	7432
30-34	6084	6244	6148	6368	6379	6414	6443	6466	6488	6616
35-39	5544	5609	5692	5907	5963	6012	6069	6115	6155	5980
40-44	4601	4666	4759	4941	5037	5118	5195	5271	5326	5541
45-49	3947	4055	4170	4332	4459	4548	4638	4724	4801	5092
50-54	3192	3267	3374	3518	3657	3736	3825	3911	3997	4317
55-59	2273	2420	2651	2758	2971	3081	3180	3269	3352	3614
60-64	1355	1486	1779	1839	2105	2252	2397	2533	2656	2646
65+	2016	2056	2102	2189	2357	2483	2630	2798	2977	4220
Tanjungbalai	77933	78651	79913	83006	84197	85213	86277	87277	88181	86868
	Total									
0-4	17946	17641	19030	19845	19535	19353	19179	19014	18837	18928
5-9	18588	18625	18254	18992	19396	19704	19936	20116	20171	18464
10-14	17519	17482	16756	17397	17483	17694	17945	18223	18520	17185
15-19	15410	15496	15771	16332	16330	16433	16526	16614	16725	16335
20-24	13082	13473	13779	14225	14320	14487	14660	14817	14926	16017
25-29	13216	12907	12866	13354	13233	13210	13250	13329	13444	14342
30-34	11847	12158	12094	12524	12530	12602	12644	12681	12710	13104
35-39	10905	11033	11187	11598	11740	11855	11983	12099	12188	12135
40-44	9243	9374	9562	9928	10098	10256	10405	10558	10688	10867
45-49	7892	8108	8338	8667	8915	9088	9257	9424	9574	9893
50-54	6415	6567	6875	7170	7478	7653	7835	8020	8196	8314
55-59	4504	4795	5317	5530	5999	6253	6476	6679	6870	6966
60-64	2906	3188	3678	3803	4334	4627	4935	5240	5520	5302
65+	4972	5042	5092	5310	5621	5869	2885	6488	6854	7197
Tanjungbalai	15444	15588	15859	16467	16701	16908	17118	17330	17522	17504
	5	9	9	5	2	4	7	2	3	9

Source: Badan Pusat Statistik Tanjungbalai [32]

Table 1 shows the population distribution of Tanjungbalai City from 2010 to 2020, categorized by gender and age group. The data reveal that while the total population appears relatively stable over the decade, there has

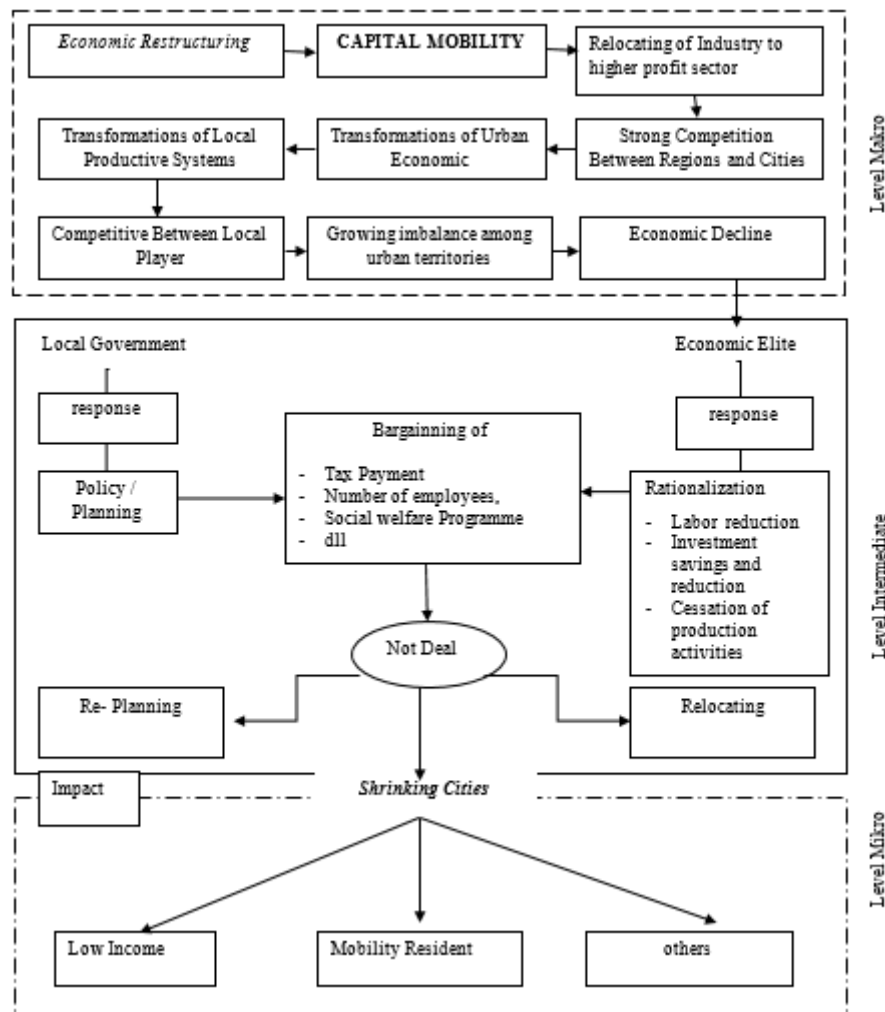
been a noticeable fluctuation within certain productive age groups (15–44 years old). This trend indicates a gradual outmigration of the working-age population, likely driven by the decline in local economic activities following the restriction of second-hand goods trade. The decrease in the productive population segment also corresponds with reduced economic vitality and urban dynamism, which are characteristic features of shrinking cities in developing regions.

This section presents the results and discussion of the study, highlighting the factors influencing the shrinking city phenomenon in Tanjungbalai. The findings are derived from field observations, secondary data, and policy analysis, and are discussed to understand their implications for urban transformation.

Shrinking cities cannot only be explained from one theory. However, in this study, product-life theory is used as a basis to explain the shrinking cities. According to this theory, each product will follow stages: (1) product innovation or introduction, (2) growth or expansion stage, (3) product maturation/maturity stage and (4) stagnant or decline stage. Associated with the growth and shrinkage of the city, product-life cycle theory is relevant to explain the dynamics of the city because the "product-life cycle" is an important element in the economic activity of the city, regardless of the type of product. The dynamics of "product" which is described by growth and decline indicated by changes in production (including standardization), changes in external demand due to competitors from other cities and lack of innovation affect the development of the city.

Moreover, when the city's economy depends on one activity or single-economic activity. This domination has consequences for the city's economic activities that control the labor market, prevent other activities from entering and reduce dependence on other products because they supply themselves. From a political perspective, they have great bargaining power in determining the development of the city. Based on this product-life cycle theory, shrinking cities occur because the products that are the economic base of the city experience a decline. The decline in external demand caused production activities to decline so that companies restructured their workforce thereby increasing unemployment. Not only in the primary sector but also in the secondary and tertiary sectors which depend on the main economic activities [2][3][4][5]. On a city scale, it affects the city's financial receipts which affect the delivery of public services [2]. This worsens the image of the city [11]. As a result, many city dwellers will go out to get a better life (Figure 3).

From the explanation of the product-life cycle theory associated with shrinking cities, there is an important point. That is, when a city has a dependence on only one economic activity, the development of the city is strongly dominated by developments or changes that occur in that activity (product-life cycle). That is, when there is a decrease in economic activity, it can cause shrinking cities [16]. This is reinforced by [26]. which states that cities that rely on single-industry resources are very vulnerable to shrinking cities [26]. To that end, the solution offered is to diversify the city's economic activities. On the other hand, the research of Cunningham-Sabot, and Fol [3], states that the isolated factor or the disconnection of small towns with infrastructure networks makes the city experience urban shrinkage [3]. This means that the dependence on single-industry resources and urban networks is very important to influence the development of small and medium-sized cities in particular. Tanjungbalai City itself with the central government's policy of shutting down economic activities and reducing port activities caused the city to shrink.



**Figure 3.** Shrinking City Process In Single Economic Activity

#### 4. Conclusion

The slowly process of shrinking cities makes stakeholders less aware of it [3][5]. In practice, city managers' awareness of the shrinking cities phenomenon is still very small and tends to ignore it. Even limited urban planning or political strategies on a national, regional and local scale consider shrinking cities as part of the urban life scenario [27]. So when they experience it, city managers and planners often have difficulty in overcoming them. Shrinking cities should be able to give understanding to city managers to think that the assumption that cities will continue to grow is wrong. For this reason, it is necessary to change the paradigm and perspective in planning. The challenge now is how to change the paradigm of perpetual linear growth into cycles that include shrinkage [12]. In a different language, this is an opportunity to change the urban planning paradigm from “smart planning for growth” [8][4] combined with “smart planning for contraction” for a vibrant city life. better [8]. The shrinking cities have made politicians, city managers and planners aware that the future is increasingly difficult to predict. Moreover, the dimension of planning time is getting longer. For this reason, a new strategy that can be implemented is planning that is not oriented to long-term growth or no longer growth-oriented [5]. Although it is not explained how long the shrinking cities planning time dimension is. But what is more important is the strategy that is more flexible than the strategy itself to face the future that cannot be predicted with certainty [5]. Following the logic of modern planning, shrinking cities is a failure or “accident” of planning. Because shrinking cities is a condition that must be prevented and avoided. Realizing this, the rationale is to make plans and strategies that address the causes of shrinking cities.

Planning and strategy to prevent and avoid shrinking cities include: (1) Diversification of the city's economic base. From the explanation above, it is stated that the development of the economic base of the city is closely

related to the development of the city. If the city's base economy develops, the city also experiences growth and growth and vice versa if the city's economic activity declines, the city experiences shrinking. That is, if the city's economic base only relies on one or a few types of activities, the city is very vulnerable to shrinkage. On the other hand, if the economic base of the city is large or diverse, it will be more difficult for the city to experience shrinking cities. From this logic, the effort that can be done to prevent and avoid shrinking cities is by encouraging the diversification of economic activities in the city. (2) Controlling the dominance of economic activity actors. Previously, it was explained that the dominance of economic activities in one or a few activities has the consequence that the city's economic activities can control the labor market, prevent other activities from entering and reduce dependence on other products because they supply themselves. From a political perspective, they have great bargaining power in determining the development of the city. Therefore, the government needs to make arrangements and restrictions so that the dominance of activities is limited, such as land tenure, sector control, as well as providing space for investment in other sectors. In addition, from the experience of cities that are dominated by one or a few economic activities, if there is a shrinking city, the condition will last longer and it will be more difficult to bounce back. (3) Improving the quality of the environment and public services. One thing that can encourage residents to move is due to limited access to good public services and poor physical and social quality of the environment. Therefore, the city government needs to provide and maintain the quality of the environment and public services as a good pull factor so that residents stay in the city. (4) Increase the capacity of city residents. This is related to the ability of urban residents to be able to access economic resources and the ability to develop economic activities. This is meant to avoid what is meant by job spatial mismatch. (5) Maintaining the health quality of city residents 6. Controlling land use and development, especially housing development by maintaining a balance between supply and demand. Still following modern thinking, as said by [28] the concept of growth has dominated in modern society, so that overcoming shrinking cities is seen as the same as the development process such as growth.

If shrinking cities has occurred, the effort made is to try so that cities that are experiencing shrinking cities can grow or rise again. The planning and strategies carried out in this context include: (1). Demolition through demolition. This is intended to balance the availability of houses or buildings with the needs of the available population [14]. (2) Public Redevelopment / Revitalization. Following the conventional logic that is usually done by the government, namely by redevelopment or public redevelopment. This is aimed at improving the economic conditions in the shrinking areas and improving their physical condition. Efforts that can be made with revitalization by making areas experiencing shrinkage have attractiveness again. (3) Planning for less. if the efforts made through revitalization fail, namely smart decline which is defined by planning for less – fewer people, fewer buildings and less land use or reducing land consumption (reduced land consumption). For example, by doing reforestation for parks and recreational areas. (4) Publicly-Owned Land, Shrinking cities causes a lot of empty houses and buildings. In order to be used, it is administered and made public property so that it is easier to re-manage [14]. In addition, with the administration of abandoned properties (administer abandoned properties). In America, this effort was made to facilitate the handling of publicly-owned land banks [14]. In Brazil, it is carried out with the concept of "statute of the city, this is done to attract residents, especially infrastructure development for low-income communities [11]. (5) Stable Population. through maintaining a stable population. This is associated with lower birth rates and aging, especially in developed countries. For this reason, policies are made to encourage the population to increase the birth rate. Even though it is a lifestyle. In contrast to modern thinking, postmodern thinking views shrinking cities as an unavoidable condition. Therefore shrinking cities are accepted as "given". With this response, the chosen planning and strategy is "living with shrinkage", where the focus is on improving the quality of life rather than trying to increase urban growth [10]. In a postmodern perspective, shrinking cities is an opportunity for cities to change their "face" to be different from their situation, including their economic activities, as well as an opportunity to be more natural and follow their ecology.

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## 6. Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript and agree with its submission to the *International Journal of Architecture and Urbanism (IJAU)*. The research was conducted independently without any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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