

## ETHNIC GROUPS AND SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN KELURAHAN KESAWAN MEDAN CITY

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### ABSTRACT

*Kesawan sub-district is one of the sub-district that has many roles in the history of Medan. Initially, the Kesawan sub-district was a Malay sub-district in 1880, and then since the Dutch colonial era, ethnic Chinese began to enter the Kesawan sub-district along with compensation for the expiration of Chinese employment contracts as workers at deli tobacco plantations owned by the Dutch government. Over time, the Kesawan sub-district was sought by ethnic Chinese as a trading area to develop into Chinatown. Currently, the Kesawan sub-district has various ethnicities scattered in each sub-district area. Ethnic groups consist of groups whose members each identify themselves with the other by creating parameters. Ethnically diverse communities tend to group themselves, creating patterns of settlements. In some studies, it was found that kinship factors can be the determining factor in the formation of settlements closely related to social ties, cultural and religious rules, and economic activities. Based on this fact, it can be said that each ethnic group can influence the location of its residents and the principles it adheres to. Patterns of settlements created from ethnic groups can identify specific identities that are more highlighted so as to have differences with other settlements. The results of the study found that most of the settlement patterns of the Kesawan sub-district are influenced by ethnic Chinese who mostly work in the trade sector, while ethnic Tamils are also seen on the outskirts of the Kesawan sub-district.*

*Keywords: Medan, Kesawan, ethnic, residential*

### INTRODUCTION

Kelurahan Kesawan is one of the villages in West Medan Sub-District, Medan City [1]. Kelurahan Kesawan is known for its area filled with historical buildings in Medan. In the history of Medan, Kelurahan Kesawan started from a Malay village in 1880 [2]. The opening of plantations in the Dutch colonial era changed the order of Kelurahan Kesawan [3]. The entry of ethnic Tionghoa in Kesawan as a form of compensation for the expiration of the Tionghoa people's employment contract as a laborer on the Dutch government's Deli Tobacco Plantation. This area is sought by the Tionghoa community as a trading area so that Kesawan, especially on Ahmad Yani St. is growing and becoming a Chinatown area (ethnic Tionghoa settlement) and trading area. In 1889 there was a fire that scorched most of the buildings on Ahmad Yani St., which had

wooden building materials. Efforts to repair the impact of the fire were carried out while replacing the main material of the building with bricks [4,21].

Kelurahan Kesawan is one of the faces of Medan civilization. Various architectures in the building in Kelurahan Kesawan show the life of the city is still displayed today. As the center of trade and government in the past, Kelurahan Kesawan can be the forerunner of the establishment of Medan as a metropolitan city [5].

Kelurahan Kesawan has various ethnicities scattered throughout the village. The various ethnicities can create a grouping and become a pattern of settlements in Kelurahan Kesawan. The ethnic distribution is closely related to the location of their respective residences and the

expressions raised to create a spatial dimension. Reardon and O'Sullivan's research (2004) found two spatial dimensions of ethnic settlement, namely two grouping dimensions/evenness and dimensions of isolation/availability [6].

Looking at the phenomenon, it is necessary to identify how ethnic groups occupy settlements in Kelurahan Kesawan and the form of the pattern of settlements as an influence of the ethnic spread that occupies the blocks in Kelurahan Kesawan.

### Settlement Patterns

Finch in Wicaksono (2008) explains that settlements are places of human life and a place to do various activities so that the pattern of settlement can be interpreted as the pattern of a place or an area where gathering and living together use the local environment to maintain, take place and develop their lives [7].

According to Jayadinata (1992:46-51) the pattern of settlements can be distinguished by grouping/concentration, namely [8]:

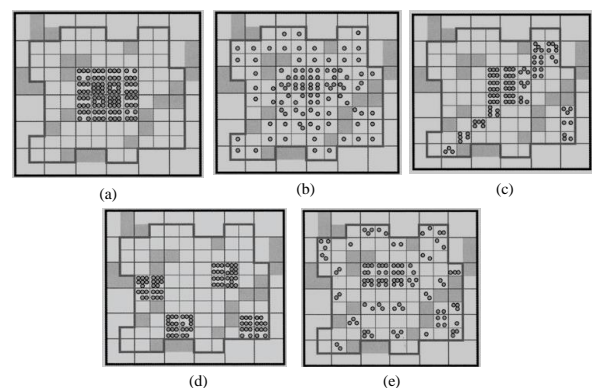
1. The pattern of settlements is focused, which occurs in agglomerated rural settlements and is a village, among others: settlements centered along the way, square-shaped settlements, street-turning settlements, and concentration settlement development.
2. The pattern of scattered settlements, i.e. occurring in disseminated rural settlements, such as countries in Western Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, and so on.

Meanwhile, Wiriaatmadja (1981:23-25) in Jessica (2012:14-15) discusses the spatial patterns of village settlements based on the spread and location of the road, namely [9]:

1. The pattern of settlements scattered far from each other, which generally occurs on newly opened land and there is no major road, whereas the people have a piece of land, which at any given time must be worked on constantly.
2. The pattern of settlements gathered in a village extends along the road of traffic (land/river) while the land is behind it.

3. The pattern of settlements accumulated in a village, while the land is located outside the village.
4. The pattern of settlements that are gathered and arranged circularly follows the shape of the road. The pattern of settlements by gathering in a village, following a circular path, while the land is behind.

According to Galster et al (2001), the pattern form of urban settlements can be distinguished into five parts, namely: (1) compact development; (2) scattered development; (3) linear strip development; (4) polynucleated development; (5) leapfrogging development. The differences of these patterns can be seen in **Figure 1** [10].



**Figure 1.** Pattern shape of urban settlement: (a) compact development; (b) scattered development; (c) linier strip development; (d) polynucleated development; dan (e) leapfrogging development (Source: Galster, 2001)

Norbert-Schulz (1979:21) reveals the structure of settlements described through the identification of places, trajectories, and boundaries as the main components, further oriented through hierarchy and a network of roads or trajectories, which appear in a built environment, perhaps physically or non-physically that attaches not only important to orientation but also the real object of identification. The idea of the area is formed from environmental patterns, built environment settings, characteristics of socio-cultural activities, and typical economic activities [11].

### Grouping Settlements by Ethnic Group

An ethnic group is a group of people whose members identify themselves with their neighbors and are usually based on the same

lineage [12,19]. Its identity can be characterized by the recognition of others about the characteristics of the group such as cultural, religious, language, behavioral, and biological similarities [13,18].

According to Barth (1988:11) in Jessica (2012:16) revealing the geographical restrictions of ethnic groups occur by themselves due to factors such as racial, social, cultural, and language differences [7]. For example, ethnic Minangkabau, who occupies the geographical area of West Sumatra, has cultural characteristics of ethnic groups that are not the same as other groups, such as the use of Gadang houses and certain decorations in their homes [14]. Meanwhile, Suparlan (2004) said groupings in multiethnic societies occur due to the absence of certain stereotypes that arise from the experience of a person or a number of people who are members of ethnicity in relation to another ethnicity [15,17]. Lowi in Muyati (1995:29) said that kinship can also be a particular factor towards the establishment of settlements or housing that are closely related to the form of social bonds, cultural and religious rules, and the establishment of economic activities so that in general it can be said that kinship groups affect the location and governance of housing according to the principles adopted [16,20].

Based on the theory above, it can be concluded that the pattern of settlements can be influenced by ethnic differences. The dominant ethnicity in a settlement can create a certain identity that can be highlighted so that it has differences from other settlements.

## **METHOD**

This study uses qualitative research with a descriptive approach. According to Sugiono (2010:9), qualitative research is a study in which researchers are placed as key instruments, data collection techniques are carried out by merging, and data analysis is inductive. According to Poerwandi (2005), qualitative research produces and processes descriptive data, such as interview transcripts and observations.

According to Nana Syaodih Sukmadinata (2011:73), qualitative descriptive research is intended to describe and describe existing

phenomena, both natural and human engineering, that pay more attention to characteristics, quality, and interconnectedness between activities.

The reason for choosing qualitative descriptive research is because this research explores the phenomenon of settlement patterns that occur in Kelurahan Kesawan which is influenced by the ethnicity that exists in Kelurahan Kesawan.

Techniques for data collection used in this study include:

- **Observation**  
Observations were made on settlements in Kelurahan Kesawan. This technique is used to obtain information about the patterns of settlements and ethnic characteristics that appear in their settlements.
- **Documentation**  
Documentation is done in Kelurahan Kesawan by taking photos of buildings in Kelurahan Kesawan and related them to the typology of buildings with ethnicity in Kelurahan Kesawan.
- **Literature Studies**  
Literature studies were conducted to support the theory about ethnic groups that influenced the pattern of settlements and related them to the history of Kelurahan Kesawan.

The element of assessment of settlement patterns in this study is to divide the zoning of regional services in Kelurahan Kesawan and ethnicities living in the zoning.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **General Geographical Conditions**

Kelurahan Kesawan is located in West Medan District, Medan City, North Sumatra Province. The boundaries of Kelurahan Kesawan are:

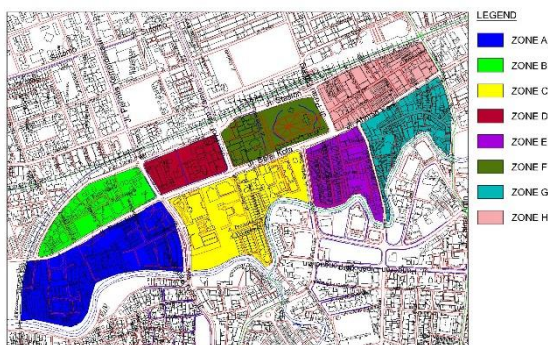
- North : Kelurahan Silalas
- South : Kelurahan Pulo Brayan
- West : Deli River
- East : Kelurahan Glugur Kota

To facilitate in determining the pattern of settlements and ethnicities in it, researchers

divided the Kelurahan Kesawan zone into 8 zones, namely:

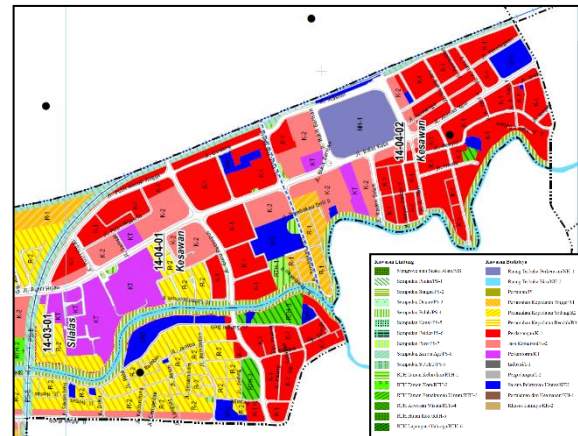
- Zone A, covering an area bounded by Guru Patimpus St., Kol. Yos Sudarso St., and Deli River.
- Zone B, covering the area restricted by Kol. Yos Sudarso St., Putri Merak Jingga St., and Guru Patimpus St.
- Zone C, covering an area bordered by Guru Patimpus St., Putri Hijau St., Raden Saleh St., and Deli River.
- Zone D, covering an area bounded by Guru Patimpus St., Putri Hijau St., Prof. H. Yamin St., and Putri Merak Jingga St..
- Zone E, covering an area bordered by Raden Saleh St., Hindu St., Balai Kota St., and Deli River.
- Zone F, covering an area bordered by Balai Kota St., Stasiun Kereta Api St., Pulau Pinang St., and Prof. H. Yamin St.
- Zone G, covering an area bordered by Hindu St., Ahmad Yani St., Palang Merah St., and Deli River.
- Zone H, covering the area bordered by Ahmad Yani St., Pulau Pinang St., MT. Haryono St., and Kereta Api St..

The map of the location of the zone in Kesawan Village can be seen in **Figure 2**.



**Figure 2.** Zoning division of Kelurahan Kesawan  
(Source: Research Analysis)

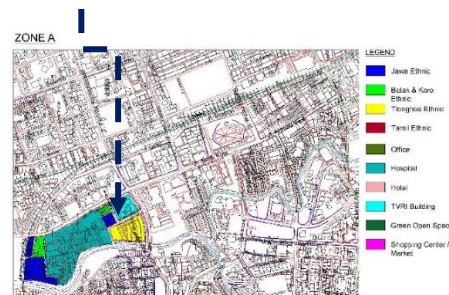
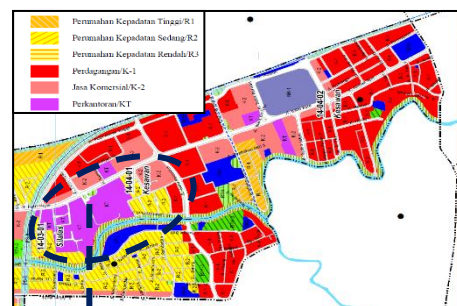
In determining the ethnic influence on the pattern of settlements in Kesawan Village, it is necessary to see how the land use map in Kesawan Village. The land use map in Kesawan Village can be seen in **Figure 3**.



**Figure 3.** Land use of Kelurahan Kesawan  
(Source: RDTR Medan)

### Ethnic in Zone A

Judging from the spatial pattern map, zone A is dominated by office areas, followed by residential areas with medium density, commercial services, and trade. Based on the observations, zone A is more occupied by ethnic Javanese, followed by Batak & Karo ethnicity, and the least occupied by ethnic Tionghoa. Javanese and Batak & Karo ethnicities occupy more blocks near the hospital area. Meanwhile, ethnic Tionghoa occupies more of the blocks near the TVRI Building. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 4**.

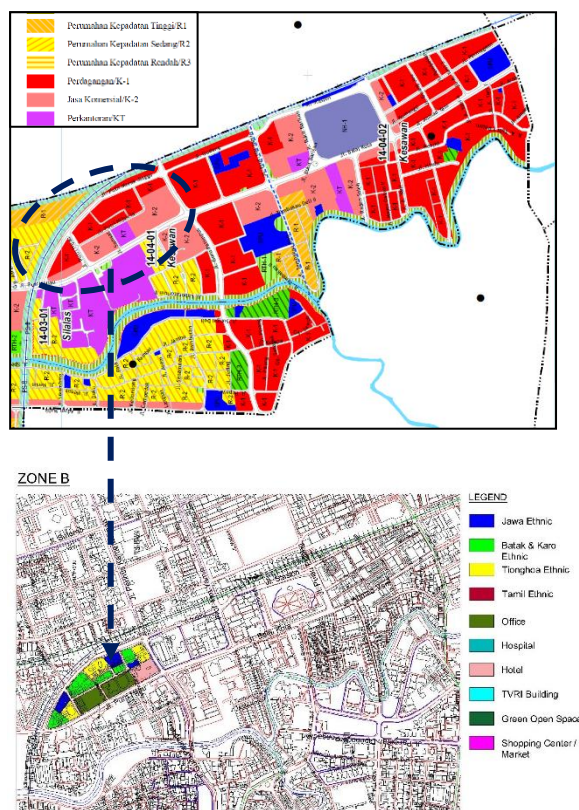




**Figure 4.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone A (Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone B

Judging from the spatial pattern map, zone B is dominated by trade, followed by commercial and office service areas. Based on the observations, Batak & Karo's ethnicity with Javanese ethnicity dominates more than ethnic Tionghoa. Batak & Karo ethnicities are more likely to occupy the blocks behind office buildings and intersections of Puteri Merak Jingga St. and Putri Hijau St., while ethnic Javanese occupy the blocks along with the Batak & Karo ethnicities. Ethnic Tionghoa tends to occupy blocks in the direction of Puteri Merak Jingga St. because the area is a function of the trade sector. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 5**.

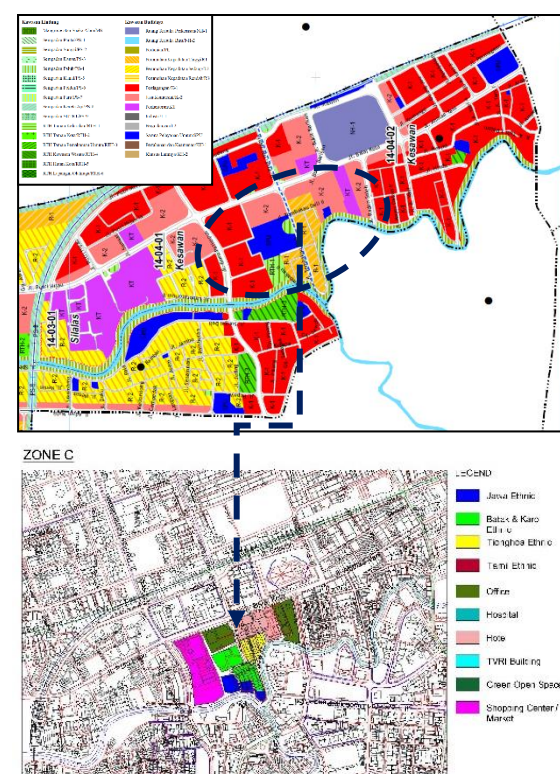


**Figure 5.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone B (Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone C

Judging from the pattern of space, zone C has the function of commercial domination area and

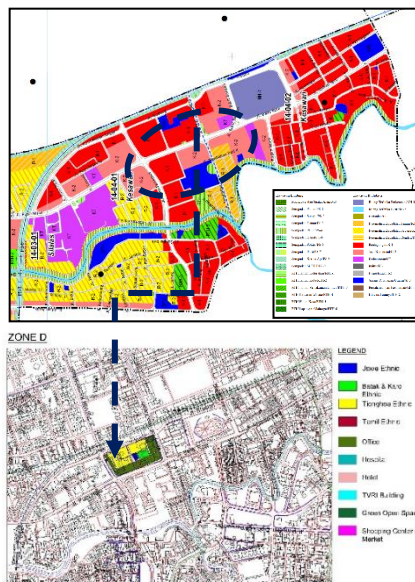
commercial services, followed by the function of public service facilities and settlements with medium density. Based on the observations, zone C is more likely to have commercial building functions. Batak & Karo ethnicity dominated more in zone C, followed by ethnic Tionghoa. Ethnic Javanese occupy a few blocks in zone C. Ethnic Javanese are more likely to occupy the blocks towards the Deli River, then followed by the Batak & Karo ethnicities in front of it. Meanwhile, ethnic Tionghoa tend to occupy the blocks behind the commercial functions of hotel buildings. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 6**.



**Figure 6.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone C (Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone D

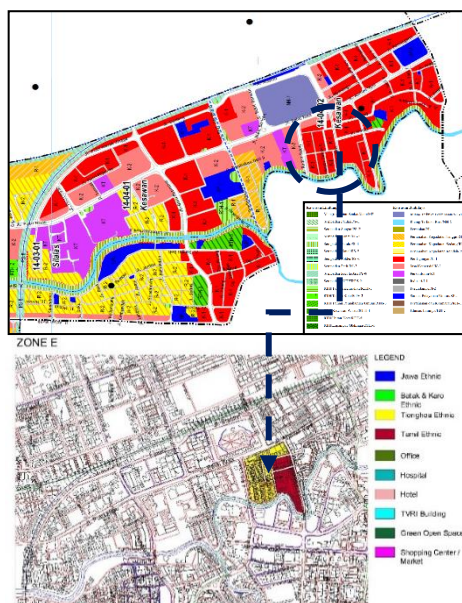
Judging from the spatial map, zone D is dominated by trade areas. Based on the observations, zone D is more likely to have the function of office buildings. In this zone, ethnic Tionghoa looks more dominant while ethnic Javanese and Batak & Karo look a little occupying the blocks in zone D. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 7**.



**Figure 7.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone D  
(Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone E

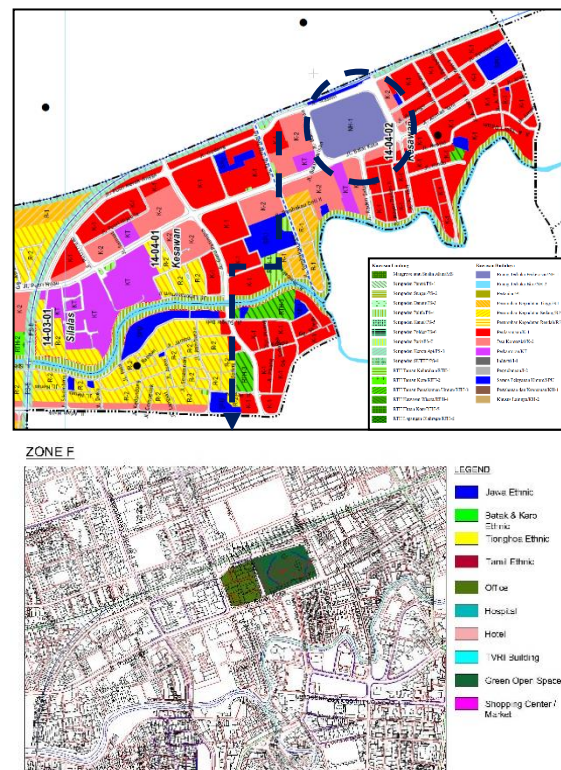
Judging from the spatial pattern, zone E is dominated by trade areas. Based on the observations, ethnic Tionghoa is seen to dominate more throughout zone E, while ethnic Tamils occupy blocks near the Deli River and tend to gather closer to Hindu St. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 8**.



**Figure 8.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone E (Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone F

Judging from the spatial pattern map, zone F is an open space area. Based on the observations, there is no significant ethnicity in this zoning because this zoning is dominated by the Green Open Space area and the Indonesian Post Office. A map of the zoning function of the region can be seen in **Figure 9**.



**Figure 9.** Map of the function of zone F region  
(Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone G

Judging from the spatial pattern map, zone G is a trading area. Based on observations, ethnic Tionghoa appears to dominate this zoning. Ethnic Tionghoa tends to occupy blocks towards Ahmad Yani St. because of the function of the building as a trade sector. Meanwhile, ethnic Javanese tend to occupy blocks towards the Deli River. The minimum number of ethnicities is Tamil and tends to occupy blocks towards Hindu St. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 10**.

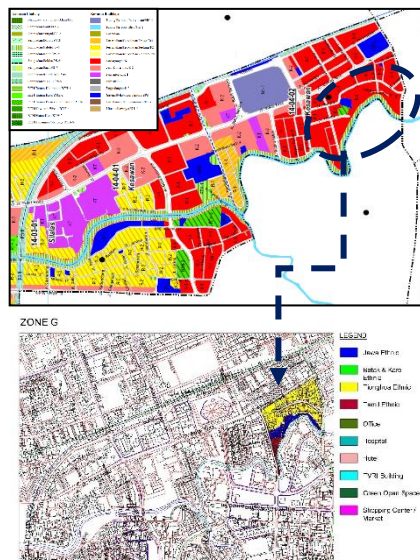


**Figure 11.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone H (Source: Research Analysis)

### Overall Ethnic Distribution in Kelurahan Kesawan

After the researchers conducted a mapping of the distribution in each zoning area, it was obtained that ethnic Chinese tended to occupy more blocks towards the city center engaged in the trade sector. Meanwhile, Javanese and Karo ethnic are seen occupying blocks located on the outskirts of Kesawan Village. Ethnic Tamils tend to form a pattern of settlements that merge into one area that leads to Jl. Hindu.

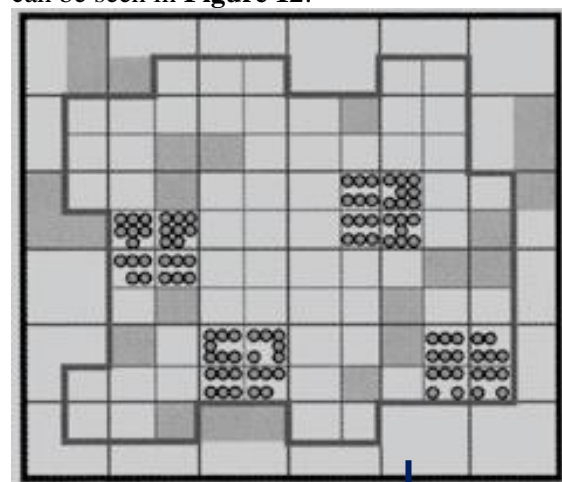
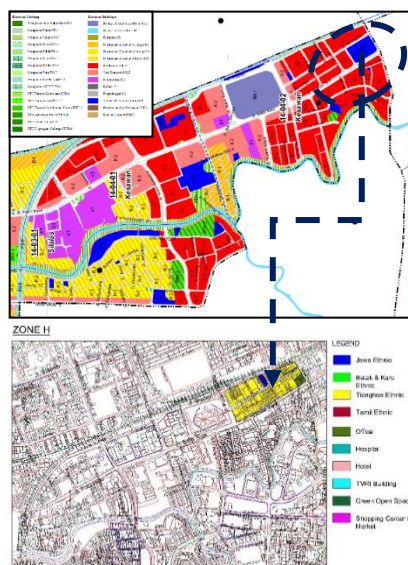
Judging from the pattern of settlements, the ethnic groups that occupy space in the spatial pattern form a pattern of polynucleated development settlements, where each ethnic group is not divided and forms its own group. The distribution map and the shape of the settlement pattern formed in Kesawan Village can be seen in **Figure 12**.



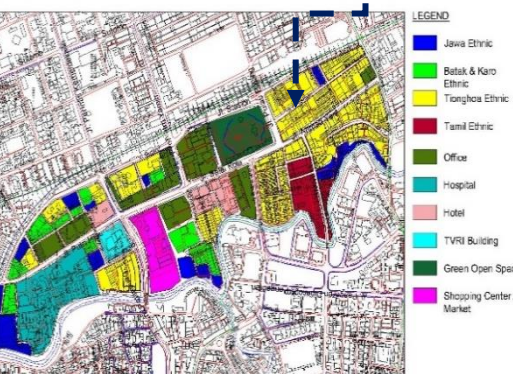
**Figure 10.** Spatial pattern map and ethnic distribution map of zone G (Source: Research Analysis)

### Ethnic in Zone H

Judging from the spatial pattern map, zone H is dominated by trade areas. Based on observations, ethnic Tionghoa looks very much at this zoning. This is influenced because the region is engaged in the trade sector. However, a small minority of Javanese ethnic form a pattern of settlements in this zone. The map of ethnic distribution can be seen in **Figure 11**.



Polynucleated Development



**Figure 12.** The pattern of ethnic distribution settlements in Kelurahan Kesawan (Source: Research Analysis)

## **CONCLUSION**

In general, each ethnic group in Kelurahan Kesawan forms a pattern of polynucleated development settlements. Kelurahan Kesawan is a more engaged area in the trade sector. In general ethnic Chinese live in settlements that lead to more trade sectors, so it can be concluded that the majority of ethnic Chinese have a livelihood as traders. Ethnic Chinese patterns are also seen occupying blocks traversed by the main road passed by the community.

Tamil ethnic groups form a pattern of settlements that do not spread to other areas in Kelurahan Kesawan and have settled in the vicinity of Jl. Hindu. Meanwhile, Batak & Karo ethnic still seen occupying the blocks engaged in the trade sector, so it can be concluded that the majority of Batak & Karo ethnicity has a role in the trade sector.

Javanese ethnicity tends to form a pattern of settlements located on the outskirts of the Deli River and the outskirts of Kelurahan Kesawan so that it can be concluded that Javanese ethnicity has more residence far from the direction of the city center.

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