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## The Role of Dance Studios as a Medium for Preserving Traditional Arts in the Era of Modernization

Diwani Elfarisyah<sup>1</sup>, Juliani<sup>2</sup>, Dewi Agustin<sup>3</sup>, Imelda Ariska<sup>4</sup>, Sintia<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> Institut Syekh Abdul Halim Hasan Binjai, Indonesia

Email: [diwanielfarisyah@gmail.com](mailto:diwanielfarisyah@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [juliani@insan.ac.id](mailto:juliani@insan.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>,

[deewiagus123@gmail.com](mailto:deewiagus123@gmail.com)<sup>3</sup>, [imeldaariska111@gmail.com](mailto:imeldaariska111@gmail.com)<sup>4</sup>, [tyasntyaa18@gmail.com](mailto:tyasntyaa18@gmail.com)<sup>5</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to explore the role of dance studios (sanggar tari) in preserving traditional arts amid the challenges of modernization. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis. The findings indicate that traditional arts possess aesthetic value, spirituality, and play a significant social role in shaping cultural identity. However, modernization presents major challenges such as shifting values, identity crises among the younger generation, and the dominance of popular culture. In this context, dance studios serve as non-formal educational institutions that not only teach technical skills but also instill values of character, tolerance, and social responsibility. The studios act as cultural preservation centers by fostering youth, organizing performances, collaborating with the government, and innovating learning methods. Measures such as integrating traditional dance into local curricula, utilizing digital media, and government support are key factors in the successful preservation of traditional arts. Dance studios also provide inclusive spaces that promote intercultural social interaction while strengthening community bonds. Thus, dance studios hold great potential as agents of traditional art preservation and character building in the era of globalization. This study recommends increased and integrated support to ensure the sustainability of studios as guardians of local culture amidst the currents of modernization.*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi fungsi sanggar tari dalam menjaga keberlangsungan seni tradisional di tengah tantangan modernisasi. Dengan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, data diperoleh melalui observasi partisipatif, wawancara mendalam, dan pengumpulan dokumen. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa seni tradisional memiliki nilai estetika, spiritualitas, serta peranan sosial yang signifikan dalam pembentukan identitas budaya. Akan tetapi, modernisasi menciptakan tantangan besar seperti perubahan nilai, krisis identitas di kalangan generasi muda, serta dominasi budaya populer. Dalam konteks ini, sanggar tari berfungsi sebagai lembaga pendidikan nonformal yang tidak hanya mengajarkan keterampilan teknis, tetapi juga menanamkan nilai-nilai karakter, toleransi, dan tanggung jawab sosial. Sanggar menjadi tempat pelestarian budaya melalui pembinaan generasi muda, penyelenggaraan pertunjukan, kerja sama dengan pemerintah, serta inovasi dalam metode pembelajaran. Langkah-langkah seperti integrasi tari ke dalam kurikulum lokal, penggunaan media digital, dan dukungan pemerintah menjadi faktor kunci dalam keberhasilan pelestarian seni tradisional. Sanggar juga terbukti mampu menghadirkan ruang inklusif yang mendorong interaksi sosial antarbudaya, sekaligus memperkuat ikatan komunitas. Dengan demikian, sanggar tari memiliki potensi yang besar sebagai penggerak pelestarian seni tradisional serta penguatan karakter bangsa di era globalisasi. Penelitian ini merekomendasikan peningkatan dukungan sepadu untuk menjamin keberlangsungan sanggar sebagai penjaga budaya lokal di tengah arus modernisasi.

## **PRELIMINARY**

Traditional art is a cultural heritage that contains aesthetic, spiritual, and social values that reflect the identity and character of a society. In Indonesia, traditional dance has an important function as a medium for cultural expression as well as a means of educating the nation's noble values. However, in the era of rapid globalization and modernization, the existence of traditional art faces various challenges. Shifting values, the identity crisis of the younger generation, the dominance of popular culture, and the influence of digital technology are factors that threaten the sustainability of traditional art as part of the social and cultural life of society.

Modernization is a process of social transformation towards a more rational, efficient, and technology-based lifestyle. This change often has an ambivalent impact on local culture. According to Inglehart and Baker, modernization can cause a shift from traditional community-oriented values to more individualistic and materialistic modern values (Hadisi & Muna, 2015). In this context, the younger generation as agents of cultural inheritance begin to experience a disconnection from their cultural roots, resulting in a serious cultural identity crisis.

Amidst these challenges, dance studios act as non-formal educational institutions that have great potential in preserving traditional arts. Not only as a place for training dance skills, dance studios also serve as a space for character building, strengthening cultural identity, and cross-generational social interaction. In UNESCO's view, non-formal education is a form of learning that is flexible, contextual, and relevant to the needs of society. Dance studios, in this framework, function as a means of community-based and inclusive cultural learning.

This study aims to explore the role and function of dance studios in maintaining the sustainability of traditional arts amidst the challenges of modernization. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to describe in depth the social dynamics, learning processes, and adaptation strategies carried out by dance studios in facing the modern era.

Theoretically, this study refers to the theory of cultural preservation (Smith, 2006) which emphasizes the importance of community participation in preserving intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the theory of character education from Lickona (1991) is used to explain how art learning in studios can shape moral, emotional, and social values in students. With this approach, it is hoped that the research can contribute to efforts to strengthen cultural preservation and develop character education amidst the flow of globalization.

## **METHOD**

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive method that aims to provide an in-depth description of the role, function, and strategy of dance studios in protecting and maintaining traditional arts amidst the challenges of modernization. This method was chosen because it can capture the social dynamics, cultural values, and meanings that exist in traditional art practices and non-formal education carried out through dance studios.

Data collection was conducted through direct observation of activities in the dance studio, in-depth interviews with the studio founder, dance instructors, and studio members, and collection of documents in the form of photos and archives of studio activities. Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner so that researchers could obtain flexible data but still focus on the core of the research. Participatory observation was also applied to understand social interactions, group dynamics, and learning processes that take place in the studio. Data sources in this study include key informants such as studio managers and founders, dance trainers, students (dancers), and local community leaders who are directly related to studio activities. Secondary data sources include documents, activity reports, and literature related to traditional dance, modernization, and preservation of local culture.

The data collected consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data includes the results of interviews and field observations, while secondary data is obtained through literature studies (Assingkily, 2021), documentation of studio activities, and relevant regulations or policies regarding cultural preservation and non-formal education. Data analysis was carried out by applying the Miles and Huberman interactive model which includes three steps, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. Data reduction is carried out by sorting and summarizing important information according to the focus of the research.

Data presentation is done in the form of a systematic descriptive narrative to facilitate understanding of the patterns and themes that emerge. After that, conclusions are drawn to find meaning, relationships between data, and implications for the preservation of traditional arts in modern times. With this qualitative approach, the study is expected to comprehensively reveal how dance studios contribute to increasing cultural awareness, character education, and the regeneration of traditional arts amidst the development of globalization and modernization.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Understanding Traditional Art***

Art comes from the Latin word “ars” which means skill or expertise. In a broad sense, art refers to the way human’s express creativity and skill in creating something that has aesthetic value and beauty. Art that is considered beautiful can vary according to each person's view. Experts also have views on what art is.

According to Alexander Baum Garton, art is beauty that has a positive purpose, namely, to make the audience feel happy. Meanwhile, Aristotle stated that art is a charming form, does not deviate from reality, and is an imitation of nature. Ki Hajar Dewantara argued that art is the result of beauty that can arouse positive emotions for its observers, so that every human action that can influence others has the potential to produce a work of art. On the other hand, Seyyed Hossein Nasr stated that Islamic art is a manifestation of Oneness. This shows that Islamic art has a strong relationship with the special characteristics of Arab society, where the Qur'an was revealed.

Thus, Islamic art is likely a form of local cultural expression that is in line with the goals of Islamic teachings. In a deeper sense, if we follow the core meaning of Islam, which is “saving oneself”, Islamic art reflects the human soul displayed in various forms such as visual and sound arts. This is something that can direct individuals to a path based on Islamic values. Art is not only limited to a certain type, but includes various forms of manifestation, such as visual art, performance, literature, music, and digital art. Each type of art has its own way of conveying ideas, feelings, or messages. Over time, art continues to develop, influenced by changes in culture, technology, and human thinking.

Art reflects its time and the society that created it. Thus, art is more than just technical skill; it is also a creative expression and a profound understanding of the world. Art plays a vital role in shaping culture, encouraging change, and providing a means for humans to communicate profoundly (Yunisa & Brutu, 2025).

### ***The Concept of Modernization and Its Challenges to Local Culture***

Modernization is a series of changes in social, economic, political, and cultural aspects that aim to make society more advanced and developed. This is a global phenomenon that affects almost all elements of human life. In the context of this article, modernization is closely related to: first, changes in values and norms: There is a shift from traditional values (such as collectivism, mutual cooperation, and spirituality) to more modern values (such as individualism, materialism, and efficiency) (Lindita et al., 2021).

Second, cultural globalization: Introducing foreign or global culture into everyday routines, making it more dominant than local culture. Third, large-scale technological and media developments: The development of the internet, social media, and television has created a powerful channel for the spread of global popular culture to the younger generation. Fourth, urbanization and rural-urban migration: The physical movement of people from rural to urban areas has resulted in many individuals, especially young people, being cut off from their traditional culture.

Challenges of Modernization to Local Culture. This journal shows several major challenges that arise due to modernization, including: (1) Identity crisis among the younger generation. Young people often seek their identity outside the context of local culture. This creates a dependency on foreign or popular culture, resulting in their distance from their own cultural roots. (2) Decreasing awareness of culture. Young people tend to follow global trends, so they rarely understand local languages, customs, and arts from traditional cultural heritage. This leads to a loss of understanding of a nation's cultural heritage. (3) The existence of dominant individualistic and materialistic values. Modernization tends to shift communal and spiritual values to values that prioritize individual freedom, personal achievement, and material wealth. (4) Lack of attachment to the country. The younger generation increasingly considers themselves as "global citizens" who are not connected to national culture or local identity, thus

contributing to a low sense of responsibility for social and political issues in their own country. (5) Impact of tourism and commercialization. Globalization also enters through the tourism sector which encourages changes in local culture to become commercial, changing the substance of values to merely a form of performance.

Positive Solutions and Approaches, although modernization faces many challenges, this journal shows that the impact is not always negative. If managed well, then: (1) Technology can be used for cultural and political education through social media platforms, cultural documentaries, and other educational content. (2) Schools can strengthen character and citizenship education to instill the importance of preserving local cultural identities. (3) The involvement of government and society is very important in formulating cultural preservation policies, strengthening local communities, and organizing cultural festivals.

### ***Definition of Dance Studio***

A studio is an educational institution that aims to prepare students to become individuals who have knowledge, skills, and expertise that will be useful for them in the future. An art studio functions as a location or facility for communities or groups of people to carry out various activities such as dance, painting, crafts, and the like. An art studio is included in non-formal education which acts as a place to obtain education or training outside the formal education system. A studio is a meeting place for a group of people that is usually held irregularly or on a certain schedule to conduct research, discuss, and discuss various topics in a particular field. A studio also includes educational activities outside of school, namely learning received in the family, in non-school institutions, or in the community (Sukma et al., 2023).

The existence of a studio in an ethnically diverse environment provides advantages in the context of multicultural education. By accepting various forms of dance from many ethnicities, the studio has become an inclusive place that accommodates various cultures. This shows that learning art is not only about mastering skills, but also to increase awareness of cultural diversity. This approach is very important in shaping the character of children to be open and tolerant of differences. The challenge in maintaining active participation of members, especially when children's interest decreases due to certain types of dances, emphasizes that art learning needs to be designed in a creative and flexible way. The studio must continue to innovate with interactive learning methods to maintain children's interest in the long term. This is one of the crucial elements in maintaining the continuity of cultural preservation programs through non-formal education.

The personal motivation of the founder of the studio who came from an artistic environment shows that cultural values instilled from an early age can be a great strength in supporting cultural preservation. This studio is not just a place to learn to dance, but also functions as a channel for transferring values, ethics, and a strong cultural identity. Overall, Sanggar Siswo Langgeng Budoyo can be considered successful in integrating the functions of art and character education in one dynamic social interaction space. The dynamics of the groups formed within it show that non-formal education based on arts and culture has great potential to form a generation that is not only technically skilled, but also has high social awareness and cultural awareness.

The Dance Studio not only acts as a dance training center, but also plays a role as an effective place in shaping the character of its members. Through intense interaction in group dynamics such as teamwork, practice discipline, leadership, and responsibility in performances, members of the studio indirectly develop positive values within themselves. Analysis of group dynamics in this studio shows a process of internalization of cultural values, discipline, solidarity, and deep commitment. Everyone learns to place themselves in the group structure, understand their respective roles, and resolve conflicts in a constructive way. This makes the studio a social learning space that supports character development, especially in moral, emotional, and social aspects.

### ***The Role of Dance Studios in Traditional Arts***

The art studio is not only a place for practice or education, but also an active socio-cultural actor that promotes and strengthens local cultural identity through various direct involvements in the community (Putri et al., 2023): First, a Preservation & Development Container. The Acharya Budaya Art Studio is the main place for the preservation of traditional dance in Blitar Regency. Through regular

training and free fees, the studio has succeeded in producing dancers who represent the region in various regional and international events.

Second, Facilitating Dance Activities. Organizing activities such as dance technique training, performances, and creating new dance works based on local cultural identity. Third, collaboration with External Institutions (Lindita et al., 2021). The studio actively collaborates with various institutions including local governments and other cultural institutions to disseminate traditional dance arts to the wider community. Fourth, Social and Cultural Contributions. Through performances and new works, the studio helps spread cultural awareness and provides a space for appreciation for the community, supporting the sustainability of local traditions.

### ***Dance Studio Strategy in the Modernization Era***

To preserve cultural heritage in the current era of globalization, there are several obstacles, one of which is technological advances. To preserve dance as a form of local wisdom amidst the rapid global influence, there are several strategies that can be carried out, including (Resti Anggela et al., 2025): first, fostering and regenerating the younger generation. Involving the younger generation by creating an art studio where they learn, and practice dance consistently is very important. This approach ensures that knowledge and techniques related to dance can be passed down from one generation to the next. By including dance in school programs as part of the local content curriculum, children will appreciate their local culture more from an early age.

Second, socialization and fostering community interest. Involving the wider community to spark enthusiasm in learning and preserving dance through performances that are often held at various traditional and community meetings. Holding dance classes and training sessions that involve residents and the public to ensure that this cultural practice continues to grow and gain recognition. Third, sustainable cultural management and administration. Creating a conservation strategy that involves local governments, dance groups, and cultural figures to ensure the sustainable preservation of dance through inclusive methods that are rooted in community values. Fostering partnerships among various stakeholders, such as artists, government institutions, and the media that advocate for the protection and advancement of dance.

Fourth, embrace digital platforms and innovative contexts. Utilize digital tools such as social media (YouTube, TikTok, Instagram) to showcase and promote dance to younger audiences who are already familiar with the online environment. By creating new stories and meanings that are in line with the current context while preserving authentic dance traditions. Fifth, government assistance and funding. Obtain financial support from local communities or city governments for training, performances, and procurement of dance-related equipment. Provide legal status and official recognition to dance instructors and studios to support the existence and sustainability of dance preservation efforts.

## CONCLUSION

This paper highlights the significance of traditional arts, especially dance, as part of a cultural heritage that reflects the identity, values, and character of a community. In the view of thinkers such as Aristotle, Ki Hajar Dewantara, and Seyyed Hossein Nasr, art is a profound expression of beauty, spirituality, and social reality. In the context of local culture, traditional arts have an essential role as a means to express creativity as well as a tool for character education. However, modernization presents major challenges for the sustainability of traditional arts, such as identity crises in the younger generation, the dominance of foreign cultures, and changes in values from collectivity to individualism. Modernization also affects the reduction of community ties with local culture. However, if managed wisely, modernization can be an opportunity to strengthen cultural preservation through technology, education, and inter-sectoral cooperation. In this case, dance studios become significant institutions in preserving and developing traditional arts. The studio functions as a place for practice, as well as a space to maintain, educate character, and strengthen cultural identity. With a creative, participatory, and inclusive learning approach, dance studios can be an effective medium in forming a young generation that is not only technically proficient, but also has high cultural and social awareness. Strategies for preserving dance in modern times include regeneration through education, community involvement, sustainable management, utilization of digital platforms, and support from the government. The combination of these strategies is key to maintaining the existence of traditional arts amidst the ongoing flow of globalization and modernization.

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