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## THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PRESERVING LOCAL CULTURAL WISDOM IN KAPUAS HULU DISTRICT

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### ABSTRAK

Artikel ini secara kritis mengulas peran penting pendidikan dalam menjaga kelestarian kearifan lokal dan budaya di Kapuas Hulu, Kalimantan Barat. Berdasarkan analisis menyeluruh terhadap berbagai kajian literatur, artikel ini menyajikan pemahaman mendalam tentang bagaimana sistem pendidikan dapat menjadi tulang punggung dalam upaya melestarikan warisan budaya yang kaya dan beragam. Dalam konteks ini, kajian ini memberikan pencerahan terkait strategi dan langkah-langkah konkret yang dapat diadopsi oleh lembaga pendidikan untuk menguatkan hubungan antara generasi muda dengan nilai-nilai budaya lokal mereka. Ditemukan bahwa integrasi nilai-nilai budaya dalam kurikulum pendidikan, penyelenggaraan kegiatan ekstrakurikuler yang mengangkat budaya setempat, serta pemberian pengetahuan mendalam tentang tradisi-tradisi lokal memiliki dampak yang signifikan dalam memupuk rasa memiliki dan menghormati warisan budaya. Selain itu, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa pendekatan pendidikan yang berfokus pada kearifan lokal mampu menciptakan hubungan yang lebih kuat antara individu dengan identitas budaya mereka. Dengan demikian, secara keseluruhan, temuan kajian ini menegaskan pentingnya kerjasama antara dunia pendidikan dan kebudayaan dalam menjaga kontinuitas dan relevansi budaya Kapuas Hulu di era globalisasi yang terus berkembang.

*Kata kunci:* Budaya, Kearifan lokal, Pendidikan

### ABSTRACT

This article critically reviews the important role of education in preserving local wisdom and culture in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan. Based on a thorough analysis of various literature reviews, the article presents an in-depth understanding of how the education system can become the backbone of efforts to preserve a rich and diverse cultural heritage. In this context, the study sheds light on strategies and concrete measures that can be adopted by educational institutions to strengthen the connection between the younger generation and their local cultural values. It was found that the integration of cultural values in the education curriculum, the organization of extracurricular activities that promote local culture, and the provision of in-depth knowledge about local traditions have a significant impact in fostering a sense of belonging and respect for cultural heritage. In addition, the results show that an educational approach that focuses on local wisdom can create a stronger connection between individuals and their cultural identity. Thus, overall, the findings of this study confirm the importance of cooperation between the worlds of education and culture in maintaining the continuity and relevance of Kapuas Hulu's culture in the ever-evolving era of globalization.

*Keywords:* Culture; Local wisdom; Education

### A. INTRODUCTION

Kapuas Hulu, a regency located in the province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia, is renowned for its abundant natural resources and rich cultural diversity. The region is inhabited by various ethnicities and tribes who have long maintained their local traditions and wisdom. However, like other regions in Indonesia, Kapuas Hulu has not escaped the impact of globalization that is increasingly widespread. According to Nurlela, S. (2021), globalization has a significant impact on local wisdom in Kapuas Hulu.

The impact of globalization has triggered significant changes in the mindset and lifestyle of

Kapuas Hulu people. Outside cultures, brought in through mass media, technology and global trade, have influenced local cultural values that have been firmly held for centuries. Ari & Nurul (2016) (Ari, 2016) Globalization is very influential on the challenges of character and moral preservation, both domestic and foreign challenges that can adversely affect generations in Indonesia and especially Kapuas Hulu, has become a major factor influencing changes in the mindset and lifestyle of the Kapuas Hulu community. Younger generations exposed to outside cultures tend to experience changes in attitudes and values, causing intergenerational cultural gaps and posing a threat to the sustainability of local cultures. According to Budiarto (2019), Kapuas Hulu district faces significant challenges in maintaining its local wisdom in the midst of widespread globalization.

In the midst of these challenges, the role of education becomes very important in the effort to preserve local wisdom and traditional culture of Kapuas Hulu. According to Ridwan, A. (2020), education has a crucial role in encouraging appreciation of local culture. Education not only functions as a conveyor of academic knowledge, but also as a means of character building, developing cultural awareness, and encouraging appreciation of local cultural heritage. Therefore, the integration of local cultural values into the education curriculum is a strategic step to ensure that the younger generation of Kapuas Hulu can understand and appreciate their cultural heritage. However, major challenges are faced in integrating local cultural values into the education system. The lack of resources and support for the development of cultural education programs, the lack of training for teachers and education staff in facilitating cultural learning and the lack of integration of local cultural values in the education curriculum are some of the obstacles that need to be overcome. In this context, partnerships between educational institutions, local governments and local communities are crucial. Close cooperation between various parties can help create an educational environment conducive to the preservation of Kapuas Hulu's culture. Through joint efforts, education can be an effective instrument in preserving the rich culture that is the identity and pride of the Kapuas Hulu people.

Education also plays an important role in building awareness of the importance of conserving the environment and natural resources in Kapuas Hulu. Along with rapid economic growth and social change, pressure on the natural environment is increasing. Environmental education integrated into the education curriculum can help change people's mindsets with regard to environmental sustainability, preserving the forests and rivers that are the lifeblood of local communities. In addition, education can also act as a bridge between tradition and innovation. By providing access to new knowledge and technology, education can help Kapuas Hulu communities to remain relevant in the modern era without losing their cultural roots. Kusumawati (2018) notes that teachers in Kapuas Hulu primary schools have a great responsibility in ensuring that local cultural values are not forgotten in the education process. By understanding and applying local cultural values in learning activities, teachers can be effective agents in maintaining cultural heritage.

Thus, education in Kapuas Hulu has a very important role in maintaining the sustainability of local wisdom and preserving traditional culture. According to Kusumawati (2018), basic education in Kapuas Hulu has a very important role in maintaining the sustainability of local wisdom and preserving traditional culture. The integration of local cultural values in the basic education curriculum is a strategic step to ensure that the younger generation of Kapuas Hulu can understand, appreciate and maintain their cultural heritage. Through the integration of local cultural values into the curriculum, the development of environmental awareness, and improved access to knowledge and technology, education can be a driving force to preserve Kapuas Hulu's cultural and natural diversity for generations to come. Thus, according to Budiarto (2019), education in rural areas, including Kapuas Hulu, plays an important role in maintaining and preserving local wisdom. Based on the above, this article will discuss the impact of

globalization on local wisdom, efforts to integrate culture in education, community involvement in preserving local culture in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan. The integration of local wisdom in the education curriculum is one way that is a strategic step to ensure that the younger generation of Kapuas Hulu can remain connected to their cultural roots while facing the ever-evolving currents of globalization.

## **B. METHODE**

This research uses a descriptive approach with literature review, interviews, and observation as secondary data collection methods. The first step of the research was to conduct a literature search related to the role of education in preserving local cultural wisdom, both in Kapuas Hulu district and other areas that have similar contexts. In this study, six scientific journals were reviewed, one book, and several other documents such as research reports and official documents related to education and culture. Secondary data will be collected through document analysis, including local education policies, implemented education programs, as well as the results of previous studies highlighting the role of education in preserving local cultural wisdom. Furthermore, interviews will be conducted with various relevant parties, such as community leaders, educators, traditional leaders, and the local government of Kapuas Hulu District. Interviews were conducted to obtain direct views and understanding of the role of education in preserving local cultural wisdom, as well as to identify the challenges and opportunities faced in this study. The number of informants interviewed was as follows: Community leaders (3 people) Educators, (2 people) Traditional leaders (2 people) and Government officials (1 person) A total of 8 informants were interviewed. The interviews were conducted to identify the challenges and opportunities faced and to gain a first-hand understanding of the implementation of existing education programs and their impact on the preservation of local cultural wisdom. Direct observation of educational activities related to the preservation of local cultural wisdom in Kapuas Hulu District will be conducted to understand the implementation of existing educational programs and their impact on the preservation of local cultural wisdom.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Kapuas Hulu has an abundance of local cultural wealth, reflected in the ethnic diversity, traditions and local wisdom that are still well-maintained by the local community.

### **Impact of globalization on local wisdom in Kapuas Hulu**

The current development of globalization in Indonesia is very rapid both in terms of technology and others. Therefore, local culture should not be alienated or lost because of the outside culture. Despite having a strong cultural wealth, Kapuas Hulu is also affected by the impact of globalization. Mass media, technology and global trade bring in outside cultures that can threaten the preservation of local culture. In the socialization event of the Kapuas Hulu Regency Social Cultural Care Association (IP2SB) which discussed the impact of the influence of outside culture on the younger generation of the Indonesia-Malaysia border, a number of speakers such as the Kapuas Hulu Regency Education and Culture Office assessed that outside culture has now begun to erode local cultural customs, where a number of young people have begun to dare and disrespect their elders. This is certainly a result of the development of globalization which is the impact of the influx of outside culture. However, on the other hand, there are certain values that are in crisis due to the influence of globalization and foreign cultures, but not all ethnicities are affected by this and still maintain the norms of their cultural customs.

### **Kapuas Hulu Government's Integration Efforts to Strengthen Cultural Elements in Education**

The role of education in preserving Kapuas Hulu culture is very important. Education not only serves as a conveyor of knowledge, but also as a means of character building, developing cultural awareness,

and encouraging appreciation of local cultural heritage. Kapuas Hulu Regent Fransiskus Diaan said customs and culture can be used as a bulwark against the negative influence of globalization, especially for the education generation in the Kapuas Hulu region. Fransiskus Diaan said with the availability of books that contain culture, customs and customary law such as the book that has been launched entitled "Customs and Customary Law of Dayak Tamambalo Apalin". The preservation of customs and culture through customs and customary law books is very important, so that the customary and cultural values of ancestral heritage are maintained and preserved, especially in the Dayak Tamambalo Apalin community. The book of customs and customary law can also be a reference and literacy in the world of education, especially in Kapuas Hulu, this book is an effort to be able to preserve customs and culture so that it is recognized by future generations and is not lost by changing times. With the efforts of the Kapuas Hulu district government, it is hoped that it will become a fortress from negative influences in the midst of the swift flow of information and the development of globalization today.

#### **Community Involvement in the Preservation of Local Culture in Kapuas Hulu**

In the process of preserving local culture in Kapuas Hulu, including the involvement of generations of local cultural literacy activists and traditional and cultural leaders in Kapuas Hulu in the production of customs and cultural books, communities are also involved in the preservation of local cultures through various cultural activities that are reflected through work activities such as farming, which is an activity to produce rice. With various traditional rituals such as Gawai Dayak for the Dayak tribe or thanksgiving by reading congratulatory prayers for the Malay tribe carried out during the harvest period. Apart from work activities, cultural preservation also occurs during traditional marriage or birth processions, where there are several areas in Kapuas Hulu that still apply the buang-buang tradition before the procession is carried out in order to avoid bad luck or bad things that might happen. The involvement of the community and traditional leaders in the preservation of Kapuas Hulu's local culture is evidence that the values agreed upon by previous ancestors are still maintained and preserved properly so that it is expected to be able to show a cultural identity that must continue to function and be maintained for the present and the future.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

From the literature review, it can be concluded that there is an awareness of the importance of preserving local wisdom in Indonesia, including in Kapuas Hulu district. The researchers highlighted the role of education as one of the main instruments in maintaining traditional culture, focusing on the integration of local cultural values in the education curriculum and the role of teachers in the learning process. Despite its strong cultural wealth, Kapuas Hulu is also affected by the impact of globalization. Mass media, technology and global trade bring in external culture that can threaten the preservation of local culture from the mask of external culture has now begun to erode local cultural customs in Kapuas Hulu. The role of education in preserving Kapuas Hulu culture is very important. Education not only functions as a conveyor of knowledge, but also as a means of character building, developing cultural awareness, and encouraging appreciation of local cultural heritage. As well as the involvement of the driving generation of local cultural literacy and traditional and cultural leaders in Kapuas Hulu in the preservation of Kapuas Hulu's local culture is proof that the values agreed upon by the previous ancestors are still maintained and preserved properly.

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