

PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL GAMES THROUGH CHILDREN'S DOLANAN FESTIVAL

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Abstract - *The Children's Dolanan Festival in Karangnongko is an annual event held to preserve traditional games as part of Indonesia's cultural heritage. This festival was held in Karangnongko Village with the participation of 10 padukuhan in the Giripurwo area. This festival is not only an entertainment event, but also functions as an educational means for the younger generation to get to know and love traditional culture. This research uses qualitative descriptive methods to investigate phenomena in the lives of children who participate in this festival. The results show that this festival creates a positive cycle where children become interested and active in playing traditional games, which ultimately encourages cultural preservation. This festival also contributes to building national character by teaching noble values such as cooperation, mutual cooperation and honesty.*

Keywords: *Cultural Preservation, Development Of National Character*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Children's Dolanan Festival in Karangnongko is an annual event which aims to preserve traditional games which are part of Indonesia's cultural heritage. Held in Karangnongko village, this festival presents various games that were often played by children, such as stilts, gobak sodor, team dam daman, and benthik. The Children's Dolanan Festival in Karangnongko is also a special moment because it invites participation from 10 padukuhan in the surrounding area. Each community is invited to participate by performing traditional games typical of their region, so that this festival becomes an opportunity to share and enrich cultural insight between residents.

This festival is held as part of the Giripurwo Village Anniversary commemoration, which adds meaning and togetherness to this celebration. This anniversary celebration is a symbol of appreciation for the history and development of the village, as well as strengthening a local identity that is rich in tradition. With the theme of local wisdom and togetherness, this festival is not only an entertainment event, but also an educational means for the younger generation to get to know and love traditional culture.

The main function of children's games is for recreation or fun. This shows that playing makes people happy and makes them want to do it again and again. Other child support functions include teaching, social, folklore, and psychology. The purpose of children's play is to teach. learn the shape, color, size, and texture of new objects. As children get older they learn new game skills, this opportunity really helps children which cannot be learned through lessons at school or through books. The function of games is seen from a psychological perspective, namely to foster the development of children's souls and reasoning. The folkloric function of children's dolanan, especially in Java, is to preserve cultural elements that are familiarly known and seen as very important¹.

Traditional games seem to be a culture that is still preserved with various symbols that can display identity. The proof is that traditional children's play generally uses regional languages, so that the characteristics of local culture become clearly visible. In this festival, children are invited to participate actively, introducing them to the excitement of games without gadgets, and fostering a sense of love for local culture. It is also hoped that this festival can be a reminder of the importance of maintaining and passing on existing traditions to the next generation.

2. METHOD

The research in this article uses a qualitative descriptive method, which is included in the type of qualitative research. Descriptive research is a research strategy in which researchers investigate events or phenomena in the lives of individuals, either individually

¹ Enis Herawati, "Character Values Contained in Children's Playthings at the 2013 DIY Children's Play Festival", UNY Journal, February 2015, <https://journal.uny.ac.id/index.php/imaji/article/download/4045/3499>

or in groups, and ask them to tell stories about their life experiences. This information was then rearranged by the researcher in the form of a descriptive chronology¹.

Work Procedures

To enliven the Children's Dolanan Festival, we gathered children who would be taking part in the competition, invited them to practice, and made simulations of the equipment that would be used in the competition. Training sessions are held for approximately one week, with matches between teams as part of the training.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dolanan traditional games are categorized into three groups, namely: games for playing (recreative), games for competing (competitive) and games that are educational. Traditional recreational games are generally played to ll free time. Traditional competitive games have the following characteristics: they are organized, competitive, played by at least 2 people, have criteria that determine who wins and who loses, and have rules that are mutually accepted by the participants. Meanwhile, traditional games are educational, there are educational elements in them³.

Gunungkidul Regency will be rich with tourism progress and customs, traditions and culture that are still maintained and preserved. Government Ward Giripurwo Gunungkidul in collaboration with the Children's Forum is holding a Children's Dolanan Festival on Saturday, August 10 2024 at Balong Field, Giripurwo, Purwosari, Gunungkidul. The Children's Dolanan Festival is a revitalization e ort to preserve various traditional dolanan in the era of globalization. This festival was attended by 10 dukuhans in Giripurwo, namely Gubar, Gumbeng, Jlumbang, Kacangan, Karangnongko, Klampok, Sumur, Temon, Tlogowarak, and Widoro.

Padukuhan Karangnongko is one of the hamlets in Giripurwo Village that participates in the Children's Dolanan Festival activities. The Children's Dolanan Festival consists of various competitions including gobak sodor, benthik, dam-daman, and stilts. Karangnongko Hamlet sent 7 people for the gobak sodor competition, 3 people for the benthic competition, 3 people for the dam-daman competition, and 2 people for the stilt competition. Preparations for the competition were carried out 2 days before the competition took place, where competition practice was carried out every afternoon together with the children of Karangnongko village.

At the beginning of providing information regarding Padukuhan Karangnongko's participation in this children's dolanan festival, most of the children showed quite a high level of interest in participating in this festival. However, many children still feel unfamiliar with several types of competitions that are held, such as dam-daman competitions and gobak

¹ Rusandi, Muhammad Rusli, "Designing Basic/Descriptive Qualitative Research and Case Studies", AUJPSI (Al-Ubudiyah: Journal of Islamic Education and Studies), 17 June 2021 <https://jurnal.staiddimakassar.ac.id/index.php/aujpsi/article/download/18/18/90>

sodor competitions. This is certainly a challenge for us, where we have to teach these two types of competitions from scratch to children within a limited time span. However, this is not a big problem because the children themselves have developed a high sense of curiosity from the start so we can teach these competitions more easily.

The emergence of a high level of interest among children towards the Children's Dolanan Festival is a good start in the process of preserving traditional games. This is because the sense of interest that arises in children is the main key in efforts to preserve traditional games. When children feel interested and happy with traditional games, they will naturally continue to play them. Apart from that, the sense of interest that arises in these children also creates a kind of positive cycle in preserving traditional games.

This positive cycle occurs when children start to be interested in and enjoy traditional games, they will actively look for opportunities to play them. This will encourage them to invite their peers to join in playing, so that traditional games become more popular among children.

In Karangnongko village itself, this positive cycle can be seen in the behavior of children who intensely play traditional games in their free time, for example during the Giripurwo Cup competition, many children gathered at the guard post to play checkers before the Giripurwo Cup match took place. . This happens intensely almost every night. Apart from that, the children who took part in the dam-daman game were not limited to the children who yesterday represented the Karangnongko padukuhan in the children's dolanan.

³ Siti Supeni, Oktiana Handini, Lukman Alhakim, "Children's Dolanan Song Festival as a Media for Implementation Culture-Based Child-Friendly Schools to Strengthen the Character of Elementary School Students in Surakarta City", Journal of Community Service for the Archipelago (JPkMN) Vol.3 No 2, February

2023 <https://ejournal.sisfokomtek.org/index.php/jpkm/article/view/679/493>

festival but were also carried out by other children, this certainly shows that there was an invitation from the children yesterday. taking part in the children's dolanan festival for other children who do not take part in the festival.

The increasing popularity of traditional games among children will certainly attract the attention of parents, teachers and the wider community. They will begin to realize the importance of preserving traditional games and support various activities related to traditional games, such as festivals, competitions or workshops. Support from various parties will further enrich and develop traditional games, so that they become more interesting and relevant to the times. In this way, children's interest in traditional games will increase, and this positive cycle will continue to repeat itself.

In a broader context, this positive cycle also contributes to building national character. Traditional games often teach noble values such as cooperation, mutual cooperation, honesty

and sportsmanship. These values are very important to form a young generation who has strong character and integrity.

In order for this positive cycle to continue, continuous efforts are needed from various parties. Parents, teachers, society, government and various related institutions must work together to create an environment that supports the growth and development of traditional games. Thus, traditional games will not only become a thing of the past, but also become part of a bright future.

4. CONCLUSION

The Children's Dolanan Festival in Karangnongko has succeeded in being an effective effort in preserving traditional games as part of Indonesia's cultural heritage. This festival is not only an entertainment event, but also an educational facility that fosters children's interest and involvement in traditional games. The active participation of children shows that this festival creates a positive cycle that encourages the popularity and preservation of traditional games. Apart from that, this festival also plays an important role in building the character of the younger generation by teaching noble values such as cooperation, mutual cooperation and honesty.

Future research could conduct a comparative study between the Children's Dolanan Festival in Karangnongko and similar festivals in other areas. This will provide insight into variations in the preservation of traditional games across different regions and how local factors influence their effectiveness.

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