



The Values of Local Wisdom in the Muang Jong (*Salamat Laut*) Tradition of the Sawang Tribe in Selinsing Village, Belitung Timur Regency

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ABSTRACT	ARTICLE INFO
<p>As the era of globalization goes on in the entire order of the nation's life, it requires the Indonesian state to be aware of things that have a negative impact, such as the impact of the development of anti-character values. The development and preservation of cultural values and local wisdom is very much needed. This study aims to describe the values of local wisdom in the Muang Jong (sea salvation) tradition of the Sawang tribe in Selinsing Village, East Belitung Regency. This study uses a qualitative approach with the type of descriptive research. Data collection techniques were carried out using interviews and observations. The data obtained in this study were analyzed through data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions/verification. The results of this study show that 1) the background of the Muang Jong tradition is that it started when the Sawang people were in the ocean and they got a disaster where they were finally saved by the God of the Sea. After that incident, there was the Muang Jong tradition where this tradition is an expression of gratitude for the Sawang Tribe community to the God of the Ruler of the ocean. 2) The values of local wisdom contained in the Muang Jong tradition are spiritual values, religious values, mutual cooperation values, togetherness values, artistic values and historical values. 3) Efforts to preserve and introduce the values of local wisdom contained in the Muang Jong (sea safety) tradition of the Sawang Tribe is to collaborate with the local government to introduce the tradition through the tourism office and policies from the local government. In addition, to preserve the Muang Jong tradition for the youth of the Sawang Tribe is to directly involve the youth in a series of Muang Jong tradition activities.</p> <p>© 2022 Jurnal Civicus</p>	<p>Article History: <i>Submitted/Received 10 Feb 2022</i> <i>First Revised 28 Apr 2022</i> <i>Accepted 29 Jun 2022</i> <i>First Available online 30 Jun 2022</i> <i>Publication Date 30 Jun 2022</i></p> <hr/> <p>Keyword: <i>Local culture,</i> <i>Muang Jong Tradition,</i> <i>Values of Local Wisdom</i></p>

1. INTRODUCTION

In line with the Globalization Era that is occurring throughout the nation's life, Indonesia must be aware of negative things that have an impact on the development of the nation's character values so that it needs protection and enhancement of cultural values and local wisdom (Yohanes, 2021). Moving on from this, Civic Culture or civic culture began to examine ideas in terms of cultural images with the aim of developing citizen identities.

The issue of national character and culture has now become the sharp focus of society. Therefore, reinforcing character education is very necessary. One of these reinforcements is the excavation of local wisdom values which must be defined as an understanding of the pattern of people's life adapted to the times (Sukmayadi, 2016).

Indonesia is rich in a distinctive culture, namely the views of the local community with an abundant and valuable culture so that it can be embedded and can go hand in hand with community groups (Sartini, 2009). East Belitung Regency is no exception, which is located in the Bangka Belitung Archipelago Province with the culture of the Sawang people in Selingsing Village, Gantung District. The Sawang tribe is synonymous with its marine tradition, namely the Muang Jong tradition which has been passed down by the ancestors so as to build a unique culture which is thought to have developed since the 16th or 17th century (Saepuloh, 2019).

According to (Anggara, 2018), the Muang Jong Tradition of the Sawang Tribe is part of local privileges and also a social event, because this ritual ceremony contains local wisdom values of people who live simply. However, when there was a government policy in the decade of the 80s which required the Sawang Tribe to live on land, the community built a residential house in the form of stilts on the coast of Selingsing Village, Gantung District, East Belitung Regency.

The impact of this policy resulted in the Sawang Tribe's culture beginning to erode due to the loss of the adaptation framework and life guidelines for people living in the sea and even starting to be alienated from their own cultural life, religious system, and also their own economic system (Anggara, 2018). Not only that, the cultural identity of the marine people is also fading due to their low relationship with the sea. The increase in tourist destinations and visits in East Belitung Regency has also made the implementation of the Muang Jong ritual ceremony lose its local wisdom and sacred values as a culture of the Sawang Tribe community. The government only focuses on increasing the tourism industry on Belitung Island without ever considering the value of local wisdom that grows and develops in the Muang Jong tradition so its sustainability and inheritance to the next generation is starting to be threatened.

Muang Jong 's traditions can be preserved and continue to be passed on to future generations. The government's efforts to improve the tourism sector have added positive programs, both in developing the culture of the Sawang people or in the arts. But of course, there must be a distinction between the development of cultural and natural tourism, which can be seen from the attention and defense of local wisdom values contained and believed by the surrounding community.

However, along with the government policy which obliges the Sawang people to live on land, it results in a transition of elements in the Muang Jong traditional ceremony and also a decrease in the value of Muang Jong's local wisdom. As well as local government efforts to increase visits or cultural tourism destinations for the Sawang Tribe community as cultural attractions to attract tourist arrivals and for financial gain by encouraging tourism without balancing the values of local wisdom. The government should be able to take care of the

preservation of the culture of the Sawang Tribe by introducing local wisdom values contained in the Muang Jong tradition to tourists, not just looking for financial gain.

In connection with the results of previous research, the authors were led to continue research on Local Wisdom Values in the Muang Jong (Sea Survival) Tradition of the Sawang Tribe in Selinssing Village, East Belitung Regency. The author's reason for raising this title is because there has been no previous research that discusses local wisdom values in the Muang Jong tradition and also efforts to preserve local wisdom values in the Muang Jong tradition because the majority of the younger generation of the Sawang tribe do not know the values of local wisdom in the Muang Jong tradition.

This study aims to provide information and advice to the local government which is carried out by the sons of the region themselves related to the problems arising from the government empowerment program so that it is expected to be able to provide consideration for the government in regulating the preservation of local wisdom values in the Muang Jong tradition of the Sawang tribe in the middle tourism boom.

2. METHODS

The type of research used by researchers is a descriptive method in which an explanation of an event or situation is obtained through a systematic, accurate, and factual description discussing facts and the nature of the population emphasizing the form of sentences, and images not based on numbers due to the application of qualitative methods.

The use of this method is expected to provide a concrete representation of the complete and comprehensive situation and facts of the research object. Researchers also carried out participatory observation, as well as structured interviews and free interviews in hopes of obtaining more in-depth data. The descriptive method is expected to make it easier for researchers to find the data needed.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Muang Jong Tradition Background (Good Sea) Sawang Tribe

The background of the Muang Jong tradition cannot be separated from the history of the Sawang people themselves. Sawang Tribe on Belitung Island were a group of people with livelihoods as fishermen who are also known as "Sea People", due to their majority activities at sea, living nomads at sea, live in a boat, and follow instincts as a nomadic tribe in the sea.

The Swang tribe is known for its strong physique and tough sailors because of their nomadic habits. Once upon a time, a group of Sawang people who were in the middle of the sea were struck by a disaster so they were saved by the incarnation of a god who is believed to be the ruler of the sea and since then the Sawang people have held the Muang Jong ritual.

This was clarified again from the expression of the Traditional Chief of the Sawang Tribe, Sunardo (58 years) where he explained: "The Muang Jong tradition began when a disaster struck a group of Sawang people who were in the middle of the sea. In the end they were saved through the incarnation of a god who was later believed to be the ruler of the seas. Since then, the Sawang people have held the tradition of Muang Jong. The Muang Jong tradition means Muang/Waste/Throw away, while Jong is the name of the Sawang people which means boat. The tradition of Muang Jong is actually like sea alms. Apart from that, it is

also to commemorate the spirits of their ancestors who died because of the ferocious waves at sea.

Muang Jong tradition is a tradition that exists as an expression of gratitude for the ancestors of the Sawang people because when they were hit by a disaster, they were saved by the god of the sea. This is further clarified by the expression of the Sawang Tribe Traditional Elder, namely Udin Latief (73 years) who explains:

Muang Jong tradition begins with gratitude for the kindness of the gods who rule the ocean because they used to save our ancestors when they were hit by a disaster at sea. They saved our ancestors through incarnations where in the end our ancestors were taken to a gusong where there was also a boat we called Jong and also on the boat there was a small hut we called Ancak. From there the Muang Jong tradition was born, which is none other than this tradition as an expression of our gratitude for the help of the ruler of the oceans and for the blessings that the ocean has given us.

Therefore, the Muang Jong Tradition is carried out once a year as a form of a request for protection and safety for anyone who makes a living at sea. Aside from being a sign of gratitude and a plea to the God of the sea, the Muang Jong tradition also symbolizes a sign of gratitude to nature so that we love and care more for the environment. It aims to maintain the balance of nature. This Muang Jong tradition is related to natural events and beliefs

Based on the results of the analysis above, it can be concluded that the background of the existence of the Muang Jong tradition is a form of gratitude for the ancestors of the Sawang Tribe because the God of the sea has saved them and also the Muang Jong tradition is a form of a request for protection and safety for anyone who earns a living at sea.

3.1.2. The values of local wisdom contained in the Muang Jong tradition

Value comes from the Latin word *vele're* which means cultured, useful, enable, valid, so in general value can be interpreted as something that is seen as useful, good and right according to a person's or group's beliefs. Value is the quality of things that make things liked, desired, pursued, valued, and useful and can make people who live them become dignified ([Nawali, 2018](#)).

Value is standard that forms the basis of humans in carrying out things in life. Value is considered something valuable because of its normative nature ([Nuraini, 2017](#)). The Muang Jong tradition is a culture that has been preserved by the Sawang people as a sign of gratitude to the God who rules the seas.

The Muang Jong tradition has values contained in it and we can see from several aspects, the values contained in the Muang Jong tradition are spiritual values, mutual cooperation values, togetherness values, artistic values, and historical values. This was clarified by the Traditional Head of the Sawang Tribe, namely Sunardo (58 years) who said: the most important values contained in the Muang Jong tradition are spiritual values which are a sign of our gratitude to the god of the sea who has provided safety and enjoyment. besides that, it also contains values such as the value of mutual cooperation, the value of togetherness, the value of art, and the value of history.

Values are beliefs that make a person act based on his own choice according to his heart and mind. Values in the Muang Jong tradition are implicit, but values are also expressed through actions such as when carrying out activities before and after an event. Here are some explanations of the values contained in the Muang Jong tradition, namely:

Spiritual Value

It is undeniable that the Muang Jong tradition in the Seberang Hamlet of Selinssing Village

has a strong element of spiritual value. This can be seen from the purpose of holding the Muang Jong tradition which is an expression of gratitude for the Sawang people for the marine products they get and for their safety when they go to sea.

According to ([Machmud, 2015](#)), spiritual value is the highest value which is absolute because the source of this value is the creator. This spiritual value includes everything that is useful spiritually. Spiritual values in this case are closely related to religious values even though in terms of concepts they are very different but both are integrated and unified. Religious values are closely related to spiritual values.

Likewise, said that spiritual values are things that are useful for spiritual needs. ([Hamzah, 2021](#)) This spiritual value is divided into four, namely:

- (i) Religious values are contained in a philosophy of life that can be trusted for its truth, for example, the values contained in the holy book.
- (ii) Aesthetic value is sourced from the element of human feeling, for example, regional art or the appreciation of a song.
- (iii) Moral values are values regarding the good and bad of action, for example, smoking habits in school children.
- (iv) The truth/empirical value is sourced from the process of thinking using reason and in accordance with the facts that occur, for example, science that the earth is round.
- (v) Based on the description above, spiritual values are thoughts, words and actions that come from the heart and are spiritually useful. Spiritual value itself is a universal value and has several kinds, one of which is religious value.

Collaborative Value

Mutual cooperation is traditional cooperation with feelings, mutual support, and mutual need as a community sentiment ([Husna & Setyowati, 2020](#)). Mutual cooperation is carried out on the basis of humans who are unable to live alone, so they have to depend on each other.

The Sawang Tribe Society is synonymous with a mutual cooperation culture in which this culture produces a habit. This is reflected in the implementation of the Muang Jong tradition where this tradition will not be able to run smoothly if the community works alone. Therefore, the community must be responsible for preparing the processes and all the necessities for the implementation of the Muang Jong tradition. With the growing solidarity among them, they will not encounter any problems when preparing for the Muang Jong tradition procession, which is an expression of gratitude to the god of the sea and respect for their ancestors.

Based on the description above, the value of gotong-royong grows because humans realize that they cannot live alone, so eventually a sense of solidarity grows which forms a culture and habit of helping each other.

Togetherness Values

Togetherness has four elements that are created and maintained by the individuals who are members of it, namely: one heart and one mind, not selfish, humble, and willing to sacrifice. Togetherness is the basic capital inside society at various levels and groups in their own environment and even their relations with the outside world ([Arditama & Lestari, 2020](#)).

With a sense of togetherness, people will help each other and will create a unity that cannot be separated, so that a great sense of empathy is instilled and can encourage one another to solve a problem ([Sakinah & Dewi, 2021](#)). The existence of the value of diversity in the Muang Jong tradition is basically formed because of a sense of empathy and a sense of unity which is highly respected by the Sawang Tribe community, where we can see the value of togetherness

in the Muang Jong tradition during the preparation process for the Muang Jong tradition as well as during the Muang Jong tradition held.

Artistic Value

The art performance shown in the Muang Jong tradition consists of several performances, including Bediker, riding the jincing, fishing, numbak, sea measles, and the final stage of throwing Jong into the sea. This art performance by the Sawang Tribe community aside from being a means of their rituals is also a means of entertainment and friendship with the surrounding community as well as with the Sawang Tribe people who live in different areas.

Aside from being a means of entertainment, art also has a function namely, as a pick-up call for spirits, summoning supernatural powers, and driving away evil spirits. Commemorating the ancestors by imitating their valor and alertness, commemorating the level of one's life, commemorating the level of one's life, commemorating certain moments in the cycle of time, and embodiment of the urge to reveal the beauty of the universe.

Historical Value

The Muang Jong tradition is inseparable from historical values because it has been passed down from generation to generation. The Muang Jong tradition lives on in the Sawang Tribe community where this tradition is very valuable, valuable and very important to them because this tradition is also their identity which reminds them of where they came from. The historical values that exist in the Muang Jong tradition guide them in behaving and giving direction to their lives like their previous ancestors. Apart from that, with the Sawang people respecting and preserving the traditions of Muang Jong, they will get safety and prosperity in life.

The historical value in the Muang Jong tradition is very important for the Sawang Tribe community where through this tradition it is intended that the younger generation of the Sawang Tribe do not forget their identity and so that they can learn about their heritage and appreciate it as their ancestors did.

The results of observations of the local wisdom values contained in the Muang Jong tradition above explained that there are several values contained in the Muang Jong tradition, namely: spiritual values, mutual cooperation values, togetherness values, artistic values, and historical values.

3.2. Discussion

A great nation is a nation that does not forget its culture and can develop existing culture into a culture that is known by the general public ([Suwahyu, 2018](#)). The culture that prevails in society is a form of local wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation in society ([Njatrijani, 2018](#)).

As explained above, it is basically very important to preserve and introduce this culture because it is a form of inheritance from our past ancestors. Therefore, we should preserve it, because by preserving it, we have maintained our identity.

One of the local wisdom in East Belitung Regency, to be precise in Selinssing Village, Dusun Seberang is the Muang Jong tradition, where this tradition aims as a form of gratitude for the people of the Sawang Tribe to the God who rules the sea. There are various kinds of efforts that have been made by the Traditional Head and Traditional Elders of the Sawang Tribe, namely by working with the local government through the tourism office to introduce the Muang Jong tradition to the general public. In addition, through local government policies.

The efforts made to preserve the Muang Jong tradition for the Sawang youth are to involve them directly in the committee for the Muang Jong tradition activities and also usually the Traditional Heads and Traditional Elders of the Sawang Tribe hold discussion forums where they discuss and tell stories about their origins until their existence the Muangjong tradition. This is done so that the youth of the Sawang Tribe as the next generation know and understand the series of Muang Jong traditional events so they don't forget their identity as known as tough sailors. Efforts are being made to preserve the Muang Jong tradition by collaborating with the local regional government to introduce this tradition through the tourism office and policies from the local government. In addition to preserving the Muang Jong tradition for the youth of the Sawang Tribe, it is by involving youth directly in a series of Muang Jong traditional activities. Besides that, the Traditional Elders and also the Traditional Head often hold discussions and tell stories to the youth. This was done so that the Muang Jong tradition could continue to be carried out and not become extinct.

Udin Latief (73 years) also expressed an opinion, namely : In this we fully entrust the traditional head, but that does not mean we just let go. Here we usually hold discussions and tell stories with the youth about values and why we must continue to carry out and also preserve the Muang Jong tradition. besides that we directly involve youth to participate in the process until the Muang Jong tradition is completed.

The results of observing the efforts made to preserve the Muang Jong tradition are collaborating with the local regional government to introduce this tradition through the tourism service and policies from the local government. Apart from that, to preserve the Muang Jong tradition for the youth of the Sawang Tribe is by directly involving the youth in a series of activities of the Muang Jong tradition. Apart from that, traditional elders and also traditional heads often hold discussions and tell stories to the youth. This is done so that the Muang Jong tradition can continue to be carried out and not become extinct.

4. CONCLUSION

The Sawang tribe is a tribe that lives in the coastal area of Belitung Island and still preserves the traditions of Muang Jong. which this tradition relates to natural events and beliefs. This tradition is carried out once a year. The background of the Muang Jong tradition began when the Sawang people were at sea and they had a disaster in the ocean where they were finally saved by the god of the sea. After that incident, the Muang Jong tradition emerged, in which this tradition is an expression of gratitude for the people of the Sawang Tribe to the God of the Seas. The Muang Jong tradition is also a medium for communicating between human beings and making a liaison between the real world and the unseen world. The local wisdom values that exist in the Muang Jong tradition are spiritual values, religious values, mutual cooperation values, togetherness values, artistic values, and historical values.

Efforts to preserve and introduce local wisdom values contained in the Muang Jong (safe sea) tradition of the Sawang Tribe are collaborating with the local government to introduce this tradition through the tourism office and policies from the local government. In addition to preserving the Muang Jong tradition for the youth of the Sawang Tribe, it is by involving youth directly in a series of Muang Jong traditional activities.

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