



## The Vital Role of Civics: Understanding Local Identity and Preserving Cultural Heritage in Promoting Local Culture: (An Ethnographic Study in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency)

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to understand the preservation of local identity and cultural heritage in promoting local culture through universal cultural elements of Sumberdem Village community, including location, natural environment, art and origin as well as ethnic history, language, economy. In this research, the method used is a qualitative method with an ethnographic approach to understand and study local culture in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency. Data collection was done through interviews, observation, and documentation. The data obtained were then analyzed descriptively and interpretatively in accordance with the qualitative approach used in this study. The results showed that the understanding of local identity and preservation of cultural heritage in promoting local culture is very important to maintain the identity and history of a community. It also highlights the importance of involving the younger generation in preserving local culture and implementing policies that support the preservation of local culture. Preserving local culture plays an important role in maintaining cultural heritage for future generations. Local cultural preservation efforts should be encouraged continuously, with community involvement being crucial in raising awareness of the importance of preservation.

**Keywords:** *Vital Role of Civics; Local Identity; Cultural Heritage Preservation; Local Culture*

### **Introduction**

Indonesia is a country rich in diverse cultures. Indonesian culture is a combination of national, local and foreign cultures that existed in Indonesia before its independence in 1945. Indonesia is famous for its incredible cultural diversity. With a variety of different cultures and ethnicities, Indonesia's collection of islands displays a wide range of customs and languages. This diversity has attracted interest in various fields including marketing, management, and international business where proficiency in understanding diverse cultures is essential.

Understanding local identity and preserving cultural heritage is crucial in promoting local culture. Civics can contribute to a deeper understanding of local identity and cultural heritage preservation.

Meanwhile, cultural tourism can help in honoring local identity and introducing local culture to the wider community. Preserving local culture is also important to strengthen the fundamentals of local culture as a pillar of national culture.

The purpose of the vital role of civics in understanding local identity and preserving cultural heritage in promoting local culture is to build a better understanding of local identity and preserving cultural heritage in society. Civics can help build greater awareness and understanding of local identity, as well as the importance of preserving cultural heritage in society. In today's industrialized context, understanding local identity and preserving cultural heritage is crucial in promoting local culture. This can help increase the attractiveness of cultural tourism, introduce local culture to the wider community, and strengthen national cultural identity. The important role of civics can contribute to building a better understanding of local identity and cultural heritage preservation in society. It can also encourage active participation from the community in local cultural preservation and development efforts.

The vital role of civics in understanding local identity and cultural heritage preservation in promoting local culture is to explore the vital role of civics in promoting local culture and cultural heritage preservation in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency. Civics is a concept that refers to the active involvement of citizens in the social and cultural life of society. In this context, civics can help develop a better understanding of local identity and cultural heritage preservation in Sumberdem Village.

Some of the challenges that may be faced in this research are: Researchers need to understand the local language and culture to be able to communicate with the community and understand their views on local identity and cultural heritage. In promoting local culture in the midst of globalization and modernization. Researchers need to consider effective ways to promote local culture amidst strong globalization and modernization. Researchers also need to consider ways to integrate the understanding of local identity and cultural heritage with economic and social development in Sumberdem Village.

Some relevant references for this research may include: The results of previous research, (Aini, Winarno, et al., 2022) entitled Preservation of Mentaraman Traditional Cultural Potential as an Icon of Art and Culture Village in Pagelaran Village, Malang Regency. This research aims to communities who participate in tourism management have an important role as a driver of the development of a tourist area. In order to optimize the value of traditional cultural arts, the participation of local communities as area managers is an aspect that must be seriously considered in efforts to develop the tourism sector.

The results of previous research, (Aini, Wahyuni, et al., 2022) entitled Caring for Karawitan: Mentaraman-Pagelaran Cultural Village. This research aims to find out how often karawitan musical instruments are used in various types, and to introduce the traditional cultural potential of Mentaraman as a symbol of art and culture in Pagelaran Village, Malang Regency.

The results of previous research, (Sugeng et al., 2023) entitled Recognition of Cultural Diversity and Multiculturalism Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. This research aims to study various models and theories of multiculturalism applied through recognition politics in several countries.

This research is highly relevant in today's industry as there are more and more efforts to promote local culture and cultural heritage preservation in Indonesia. However, there are still many challenges faced in these efforts, such as a lack of understanding of local identity and a lack of support from the government and community. In addition, it aims to understand the preservation of local identity and cultural heritage in promoting local culture through the universal cultural elements of the Sumberdem Village community, including location, natural environment, art and origin as well as ethnic history, language, economy. Therefore, the researcher raised the title "The Role of Vital Civics: Understanding of Local Identity and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Promoting Local Culture: (Ethnographic Study in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency)".

## Research Methods

In this research, the method used is a qualitative method with an ethnographic approach to understand and study local culture in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency. The purpose of this research is to observe local identity as well as efforts to preserve cultural heritage in supporting local culture. The ethnographic method was used as an approach that allows further understanding of human behavior in its social and cultural context. Data collection was done through interviews, observation, and documentation. The data obtained was then analyzed descriptively and interpretatively in accordance with the qualitative approach used in this study.

## Research Results

The results of this research provide several studies related to the preservation and promotion of local culture and heritage in Indonesia. Local culture and heritage have ideological meaning as a movement to strengthen culture, history and identity. Local cultural values are embedded in various forms of art, such as art that contains religious, social and artistic values. Local culture and heritage are strong, and their preservation is very important to maintain their existence. The implementation of local cultural policies, such as village cultural policies, is essential for preserving local culture and strengthening the sense of community ownership.

Some of the results of interviews and documentation conducted during research in the field regarding the Role of Vital Civics: Understanding Local Identity and Preserving Cultural Heritage in Promoting Local Culture in Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency.



Picture 1.

Warm Welcome by the Community and Mrs. Purwati S.E as the Village Head of Sumberdem Village

The warm welcome from the community and Mrs. Purwati S.E. as the village head of Sumberdem Village was one of the most memorable things about the visit to the village. The people of Sumberdem Village welcomed us with smiles and hospitality that made us feel at home. Mrs. Purwati S.E., as the village head of Sumberdem Village, also welcomed us very warmly. She expressed her welcome and hoped that our visit could benefit the village.

The warm welcome from the community and Mrs. Purwati S.E. made us feel very happy and well received in Sumberdem Village. This also added to our positive impression of the village. Here are some of the things that made the welcome of the community and Mrs. Purwati S.E. so warm and memorable:

### 1. Smiles and friendliness of the community.

The people of Sumberdem Village welcomed us with smiles and friendliness that made us feel welcome. They were also happy to help us to get around the village and get to know more about their village.

### 2. Welcome speech from Mrs. Purwati S.E.

Mrs. Purwati S.E., as the village head of Sumberdem Village, expressed her welcome to us in a very friendly and warm manner. She also hoped that our visit could benefit the village.

### 3. Explanation of the village.

Mrs. Purwati S.E. happily explained about the village to us. She told us about the history of the village, the potential of the village, and the various development programs being run by the village.



Figure 2.  
Meaning of the Village Name Sumberdem

The name of the village, 'Sumberdem', comes from the Javanese language which consists of two words, 'Sumber' and 'Dem/Adem'. The word 'Sumber' can be interpreted as a water source, while 'Den/Adem' means cool. Therefore, it can be understood that 'Sumberdem' refers to a cool water source. The reason for using the word 'source' is because there are many water sources in this village. Sumberdem Village has cool water because of its geographical location in the Kawi Mountains region.

According to residents in Sumberdem Village, the word "source" is used because there are many water sources in the village. The water in this village is also cold due to its location in the Kawi Mountains area.

Kawi Mountains is a mountainous area that has a fairly high altitude, so the air temperature is cold. This makes the water that comes from the mountains also cold. In Javanese, the word "source" means spring. It can also be interpreted as origin or place of origin. The word "dem/adem" in Javanese can be interpreted as cold. It can also be interpreted as calm or peaceful.

Thus, the name Sumberdem Village can be interpreted as a cold spring or the origin of cold water.



Figure 3.  
Setyo Budoyo Activity Preparation

One of Indonesia's cultural treasures that is important to preserve is the art of Setyo Budoyo. This art is one of the symbols of identity and pride of the people of Sumberdaya Village. Setyo Budoyo in Sumberdaya Village Setyo Budoyo is a traditional Javanese art form originating from Sumberdaya Village, Wonosari Sub-district, Malang Regency. It combines dance, music and performing arts. Setyo Budoyo is usually performed at cultural events such as weddings, circumcisions, and traditional village ceremonies. It is also often performed outside the village, such as at art and cultural events. Setyo Budoyo has contributed a lot to the development of traditional arts in Sumberdaya Village. The group has succeeded in preserving traditional arts and introducing them to the wider community.

According to residents in the village, Setyo Budoyo is a traditional performing arts group from Sumberdaya Village, Wonosari District, Malang Regency, East Java. The group was established in 1970 and has become one of the icons of the village. Setyo Budoyo has a wide range of traditional arts, such as traditional dance, traditional music, and karawitan. This art group often performs at various events, both inside and outside the village.

According to Mrs. Purwati S.E, Setyo Budoyo is famous for its traditional dances. This art group has a variety of distinctive traditional dances, such as jaranan and others.



Figure 4.  
Jaranan Dance.

Jaranan dance from Sumberdem Village, Malang Regency, East Java is one of the most popular jaranan dances in East Java. This dance has its own characteristics, namely using colorful costumes and



decorated with feathers. This jaranan dance from Sumberdem Village is usually performed at traditional events such as weddings, circumcisions, and holidays. This dance is also often performed in various art events such as festivals and carnivals.

Jaranan Sumberdem dance is performed by a group of dancers wearing typical Javanese costumes, namely blangkon, lurik shirt, and sarong. The dancers are accompanied by gamelan music and the sound of jaranan made of bamboo. Jaranan Sumberdem dance movements are very dynamic and energetic. The dancers will dance with fast and agile movements. This dance is also known as "Jaran Kepang Dance" and is a traditional Javanese dance that involves horse-shaped puppets and is often accompanied by gamelan music.

According to residents in Sumberdem Village, this dance movement depicts the life of Javanese people who are cheerful and full of enthusiasm. Sumberdem Jaranan Dance has a deep meaning. This dance symbolizes the spirit of togetherness and mutual cooperation of the Javanese people. It also symbolizes the hope for a better life.



Picture 5.  
Reog Dance

Reog dance is a famous cultural heritage of East Java. It is one of the most famous traditional dances in the region. The term "reog" itself comes from the word "riyokun", which means good ending. In addition, this Reog Dance is accompanied by various musical instruments such as drum, demung, saron, peking, gong, kempul, and slenthem. The goal is to preserve and introduce Reog Dance to a wider audience.

According to residents in Sumberdem Village, reog dance is usually performed at traditional events, such as wedding, birth and harvest ceremonies. It is also often performed at entertainment events, such as cultural festivals and carnivals.

According to Mrs. Purwati S.E, reog dance is usually accompanied by dynamic gamelan music. The dancers will dance to the rhythm of the music. Their movements are usually agile and energetic.



Figure 6.  
Source of Water in Sumberdem Village

Sumberdem Village Water Source is a natural water source located in Sumberdem Village, Wonosari, Malang, Indonesia. The name Sumberdem comes from the Javanese language which consists of two words, namely "Sumber" and "Dem", which means cold water source. The village has made efforts to preserve and protect the Sumberdem Village Water Source. In 2023, a tree planting program will be conducted in the forest around the water source to promote afforestation and conservation. In addition, a movement to preserve the water source and local fish species is also carried out in Sumberdem Village.



Figure 7.  
Source of Water in Sumberdem Village

The natural spring in Sumberdem Village, known as Sumberdem Village Spring, originates from the Arjuno Mountains. This spring has a fairly large water discharge, which is around 100 liters per second. The local community relies on this spring for their daily needs such as drinking, bathing and washing. Although relatively unknown to the wider community, Sumberdem Village Spring holds great potential as a tourist destination.

According to Mr. Isnurhadi, the name "Sumberdem" comes from a combination of two words: "sumber," which means source or spring, and "dem," which means cold. Therefore, "Sumberdem" can be interpreted as a cold spring. The reason for using the word "source" is because there are many springs located in this village. Due to its geographical location in the Kawi mountain range, Sumberdem Village has naturally cold water.

According to Mrs. Purwati S.E, this water source is used to meet the clean water needs of the Sumberdem Village community. In addition, this water source is also used for agricultural irrigation purposes. Therefore, it is important to preserve the Sumberdem Village Spring so that it can continue to be utilized by the people of Sumberdem Village.

From the above research, the search results show that Understanding Local Identity and Preserving Cultural Heritage in Promoting Local Culture is very important to maintain the identity and history of a community. it also highlights the importance of involving the younger generation in preserving local culture and implementing policies that support the preservation of local culture.

## ***Discussion***

### **The Vital Role of Civics**

Preserving the nation's culture is a shared responsibility, especially in this modern era. The younger generation needs to understand that culture is the strength of the Indonesian nation in facing various global challenges. Preserving the nation's culture is a shared responsibility, especially in today's modern era (Nanggala & Malihah, 2020). The younger generation needs to see culture as Indonesia's national strength in facing various global challenges. The vital role of civics in the context of culture refers to the important role of citizenship in promoting and preserving local culture. The vital role of civics in the cultural context can also refer to the importance of civic skills and knowledge in facilitating civic behavior that contributes to the preservation and development of local culture. And it can be said that the vital role of civics in the cultural context is a concept related to the importance of citizenship in promoting and preserving local culture.

### **The Vital Role of Civics in Local Identity and Cultural Heritage Preservation**

Local identity and the preservation of cultural heritage are important issues in the sustainability of a region's culture. Civic culture is a concept that is closely related to cultural identity and local wisdom found in every region in Indonesia. (Winataputra, 2012 in Juwandi, 2022). Civic culture refers to a culture that supports citizenship, which contains a set of ideas that can be manifested effectively in cultural representations. Citizenship culture is "a culture that supports citizenship that contains a set of ideas that can be manifested effectively in cultural representations with the aim of shaping citizen identity". Values in citizenship, attitudes and behaviors that reflect Pancasila, civic virtues or civic morality, the existence of a culture that supports citizenship, and is related to the process of psychosocial adaptation of individuals from the culture of society are part of civic culture.

Local wisdom as a cultural wealth of a region, includes moral values, knowledge, and serves as a contextual source of learning (Rahmatih et al., 2020). The emergence and development of local wisdom in society is part of the nation's identity, character and culture. Efforts to implement civic virtue are needed so that Indonesian youth can better understand their role in the social environment of society. In order to strengthen the community's cultural identity, it is important to maintain and preserve local cultural values. This can be done through the preservation of cultural heritage, the implementation of civic attitudes in Indonesia's young generation, and strengthening civic culture values in society as part of its cultural identity.



## **Local Culture as Cultural Heritage and its Preservation Efforts.**

Local culture is a cultural heritage that needs to be preserved and maintained. Local culture reflects the identity of a group or community. According to (Yoka Febriola, 2016: 13 in Dai et al., 2023) Cultural heritage itself is a reflection of the past in the form of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The presence of local culture is very important in promoting local traditions and preserving cultural heritage. Local culture is a cultural resource that represents outstanding cultural values based on local wisdom at the community level in a village, district or province. Local culture originates from indigenous people and is regional in nature.

Cultural heritage is an artifact that reflects the value systems, beliefs, traditions, lifestyles and history of a culture that continues to be inherited from the past to the present. Cultural heritage implies a collective bond shared by a community that represents its past, present and future history and identity. Cultural heritage and local identity play an invaluable role in understanding the depth and diversity of society (Gunawan & Sulistyoningrum, 2016 in Simanjuntak et al., 2023). The preservation of cultural heritage is important in maintaining national identity and local wisdom. According to (Dai et al., 2023) there are many ways to maintain and preserve this cultural heritage to keep it alive in the community. Some of the ways include documentation, training for the younger generation, and other efforts that are considered effective in fostering these values. These efforts can be done both by researchers and by those who are the direct heirs of the cultural sources themselves. Efforts to preserve cultural heritage must be carried out by all levels of society and supported by the government. Therefore, the preservation of local culture as a form of local wisdom must always be encouraged.

## **The Vital Role of Civics in Building Public Awareness**

Civic education or citizenship has an important role in shaping public awareness. Through civic education, the younger generation can cultivate a sense of awareness of state defense and foster a sense of love for the country. In addition, civic education can also help build the nation's character and create a society that has a strong national spirit. Humans and culture are closely intertwined, both shaping human life. Humans gather as a socio-cultural entity that becomes a society (Aulia & Arpanudin, 2019).

The vital role of civics is crucial in building public awareness of the importance of preserving local culture. Voluntarily conserving local culture is one tangible way to engage in such preservation efforts. This needs to be considered considering the benefits that can be obtained from the existence of local culture in maintaining morality. Awareness to the community at large of the importance of preserving culture and being able to maintain that culture within the community itself. Civic culture itself is a set of ideas that effectively shape the character or identity of citizens in a cultural context (Febrian et al., 2023). Civic culture is "a culture that supports citizenship and contains a set of ideas that can be effectively realized in cultural representations for the purpose of forming citizen identity". In this context, the cultural village policy can also be an effective model for preserving local culture.

## **Local Identity and Cultural Heritage Preservation in Promoting Local Culture.**

Local identity and heritage preservation in promoting local culture. The existence of local culture is crucial in promoting local heritage and cultural preservation. In addition, it demonstrates the important role that citizenship plays in raising awareness among communities about the importance of preserving local culture and wisdom.

Local wisdom is the identity or cultural personality of a nation that allows them to absorb and even transform external cultures from other nations into their own characters and abilities (Lumbaa et al., 2023). Through preservation efforts, we can maintain knowledge and inspire the next generation to love the historical values and national identity contained in local culture.

The preservation of local culture can be done with various efforts, including utilizing existing resources and potential. This does not only involve the routine implementation of culture or tradition every year, but also includes many efforts in preserving the culture (Nuraini et al., 2023). The preservation of local culture is important in maintaining the nation's identity. This preservation movement aims to strengthen the nation's culture, history, and identity. Efforts to preserve and develop local culture are carried out by village communities through a local cultural management system. The management of village local culture aims to strengthen the village's cultural identity and improve the overall welfare of the community.

People need to realize that local culture is the identity and unique characteristics of the nation that must be preserved. The preservation of cultural heritage in tourist villages is a release of efforts to maintain the cultural identity of a region. The diversity of cultures in Indonesia makes this country has a very valuable wealth. Therefore, the preservation of cultural heritage in tourist villages is very important to maintain Indonesia's cultural identity and desirability. Preserving local culture is not only important for maintaining the identity of the Indonesian nation, but also important for maintaining the sustainability of world culture. Each culture has its own distinctiveness and uniqueness.

### **Conclusion**

Preserving local culture plays an important role in maintaining cultural heritage for future generations. Efforts to preserve local culture should be encouraged continuously, with community involvement being crucial in raising awareness of the importance of preservation. Ethnographic methods can be used to study the culture and behavior of individuals within their social and cultural context. Emphasizing the importance of local identity and preserving cultural heritage is crucial in promoting local traditions. Implementing cultural policies at the village level can be an effective model for preserving local culture. Thus, this study makes a valuable contribution to understanding the important role played by community engagement in promoting local culture and preserving cultural heritage in Sumberdem Village, Malang District. Cultural wisdom consisting of socio-religious backgrounds such as "religious" values makes Indonesia equally responsive to domestic laws related to international laws that are in accordance with human rights capacity. openly accepting self-identity without imposing personal desires is a necessary foundation for building better days among indigenous tribes who generally face while inheriting the culture.

### **Advice**

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