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The Role of Women in Culture and Performing Arts in South Sulawesi

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Abstract

Women in South Sulawesi play an important role in preserving and revitalizing culture and performing arts in South Sulawesi. This study reveals how women are actively involved in various aspects of artistic and cultural life, from traditional dances rich in symbolic meaning, to their roles in theatrical and musical performances that enrich local cultural heritage. Through in-depth interviews with local artists and cultural figures, as well as analysis of the resulting works of art, this research illustrates the diverse and important contributions made by women in realizing and maintaining South Sulawesi's cultural identity. By deepening understanding of the role of women in this context, this research also raises questions about the changes and challenges faced by women in facing modernization and globalization, as well as their potential to become agents of change in maintaining the sustainability of culture and performing arts in the future.

Keywords: *The Role of Women in South Sulawesi, Performing Arts*

1. Introduction

South Sulawesi, as part of Indonesia which is rich in cultural diversity, shows the important role of women in reviving and preserving its traditional performing arts. South Sulawesi culture is not only reflected in traditional rituals and religious ceremonies, but also in the art forms played, sung and performed on local stages. Behind this artistic wealth, women have an invaluable contribution, both as keepers of cultural knowledge passed down from generation to generation and as the main movers in traditional dance, music and drama performances.

The role of women in performing arts in South Sulawesi is

not only limited to aspects of technical implementation, but also includes maintaining cultural values and conveying stories through works of art. They often act as key players in the telling of myths, history and folklore passed down from generation to generation. Their involvement not only strengthens local cultural identity, but also reflects a very dynamic role in influencing the development and influence of performing arts in the South Sulawesi region.

In general, the study of women is still very interesting to explore. Moreover, each region in Indonesia has its own

characteristics of a woman's life. In South Sulawesi, the characters in each tribe in South Sulawesi are different. Because South Sulawesi has 3 tribes, namely the Makassar tribe, the Bugis tribe and the Toraja tribe. Based on this, this researcher examines the character of Makassar women through regional dance. The regional dance is the Padengan dance which comes from the Makassar tribe. Padengan dance is an iconic dance from South Sulawesi, this dance has also become an important part of culture in South Sulawesi. The Padengan dance performance is very distinctive because it was first danced by Makassar women gracefully and gently, but what is even more unique is that even though the movements are soft, the drum beats are very loud and loud. That's a brief introduction to the Padengan dance.

In South Sulawesi the dance is generally performed by women. So the role and position of women in culture in South Sulawesi has special characteristics that have not yet been revealed scientifically. As we know, women have the same position as men, the only difference is their role. The roles of men and women can change roles. Therefore, the background to this research is that women have something special in terms of research.

Literature review is used to search for literature related to the research object as well as find out whether the research has been carried out or not. The author looks for information from previous research and journals as comparison material, both regarding existing strengths and weaknesses, regarding theories related to the title used to obtain the literature review

Research entitled "Bugis Women: Dynamics of Gender Actualization in South Sulawesi" by Andi Ima Kesuma, Irwan in 2019. This research aims to dissect and analyze the role, status and function of women in the traditional worldview of society in South Sulawesi in particular in the Bugis-Makassar community both in lontara and pappaseng. Relationships in research related to the study of Bugis women in South Sulawesi. The contribution made in this research is a source of reference regarding views about women from the Bugis-Makassar tribe.

The next research is entitled "The Position of Bugis Women in Siri Traditions, Rituals and Cultural Norms". Andi Bini Fitriani & Mia Siscawati in 2021. Research results show that the Bugis tribe is said to be a very civilized ethnic group; has deep cultural values that are very proud of because they developed rapidly long before colonialization and Islam entered Indonesia. However, behind the highly proud civilization of the Bugis tribe, there are various fundamental philosophical values buried in the concept of *siri'* which have the potential to cause gender inequality and injustice. The contribution given in this research is related to the concept of *Siri'* culture in the culture of the Bugis tribe. The research means that Bugis women are shaped by the traditions, rituals and norms of the *Siri'* culture through a systematic cultural process at every phase of their lives. *Siri'* culture makes a huge contribution to the process of self-formation of Bugis women. The next contribution in the research provides a basis for thinking about Bugis women.

The next research is entitled "*Siri'* and the Access of Bugis Makassar Women to Property Rights". By Rosmah Tami. Published in the journal Brill Journal. Rosmah Tari's research is related to struggle A mother is defending her child's inheritance which her husband left behind, but her husband's brother wants to seize the property rights of her children. The mother submitted her problem to the legal realm for processing. This

research has contributions related to the culture of the Bugis tribe and views on the *Siri'* philosophy adhered to by the Bugis community.

2. Research Methods

The research method used in this research was conducting in-depth interviews with South Sulawesi women and cultural figures regarding the role of women in South Sulawesi culture and performing arts. The research is also supported by a literature review related to performing arts and South Sulawesi women.

The intended literature study is to collect various data as a source of information from readings contained in books, journals, document archives and so on related to female dancers in South Sulawesi and matters related to the required research data. Meanwhile, interviews are a data collection technique that is carried out by asking questions directly to key informants or informants. This research uses planned and unstructured interviews. The researcher prepared an interview plan (schedule) but did not use a standard format and sequence. Conduct interviews directly such as meeting informants and indirectly by interviewing via Whatsapp or telephone to obtain data related to South Sulawesi women and other related data (Herlina, 2020).

Furthermore, in analyzing the data the author refers to the opinions of Miles and Huberman. According to Miles and Huberman, Rohidi's translation (2011: 234-240), data analysis is described in three main streams, namely: data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions from the first two, and has provided a basic framework for the analysis carried out. The data validity checking technique used by researchers is Triangulation. Triangulation in credibility testing is defined as checking data from various sources in various ways and at various times (Sugiyono 2013:372-374). There are three data validity checking techniques used, namely: source triangulation, technical triangulation, and time triangulation.

3. Results and Discussion

The role of women in culture and performing arts in South Sulawesi displays a rich cultural heritage that not only preserves traditions, but also celebrates the diversity and beauty of local arts. In this region, women have a significant role in various forms of performing arts, including traditional dance, music, drama and traditional rituals. They not only maintain cultural knowledge passed down from generation to generation, but also play an active role in maintaining the authenticity and sustainability of this art as an integral part of the identity of the people of South Sulawesi.

Traditional dance is one of the most prominent forms of artistic expression in South Sulawesi, and women often play leading roles in these performances. From ritual dances performed in traditional ceremonies to dances depicting mythological or historical stories, women not only play important characters but are also responsible for conveying moral and spiritual messages contained in dance movements that are full of symbolism.

Apart from dance, women are also active in the traditional musical arts of South Sulawesi, such as gamelan and various other traditional musical instruments. They are often the core players in traditional music groups and have a vital role in maintaining the harmony of sounds and rhythms that are typical of this regional music. Women's involvement in the art of music reflects not only their technical skills but also their sensitivity to the cultural

nuances embedded in every melody played.

In the context of traditional drama, women also play an important role as actors and tellers of stories. Traditional dramas in South Sulawesi often feature stories about local history, mythological figures, or daily life values. Women not only play important characters but also bring emotional nuance and artistic intelligence that enrich their interpretation of the stories they act in.

In addition to participating in performing arts, women are also often custodians of cultural knowledge, passing on oral traditions and customary practices from generation to generation. They act as protectors of cultural values inherited through the performing arts, thus playing a vital role in maintaining the sustainability and relevance of South Sulawesi culture in this modern era.

4. Conclusions and Suggestions

The role of women in culture and performing arts in South Sulawesi is the main pillar in maintaining and enlivening the rich and diverse cultural heritage of this region. Through their active participation in traditional dance, music, drama, and as custodians of hereditary cultural knowledge, women not only enrich the performing arts with their technical skills and artistic interpretations, but also play a central role in conveying cultural values and realizing cultural identity. the people of South Sulawesi.

To strengthen the role of women in culture and performing arts in South Sulawesi, it is important to increase support and recognition of their contributions. Concrete steps could be:

1. Education and Training: Provide access to formal education and practical training in the performing arts for women from all walks of life to maintain and develop their skills.
2. Economic Empowerment: Encourage creative economy initiatives that support women artists and craftspeople, such as expanding the market for their local art works or supporting local art cooperatives.
3. Promotion and Performances: Hold regular cultural festivals and art performances featuring women's works, as well as increase their promotion through social media and digital platforms.
4. Preservation and Innovation: Combining the preservation of traditional values with new innovations in the performing arts, which can maintain the relevance of South Sulawesi culture in the modern era.

By implementing these suggestions, it is hoped that women in South Sulawesi can continue to be strong pillars in maintaining, developing and enlightening the rich culture and unique performing arts of this region for future generations.

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