

# THE INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL ART TO BUILD STUDENTS' CHARACTER IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE

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## ABSTRACT

*Along with era development which is very fast and sophisticated, various influence from outside culture effected on the life pattern of community, so the art value, cultural value, moral value and character value of nation nowadays are replaced. To face this phenomena, students should be reintroduced to culture and art existed in Indonesia particularly in each regions in order that the lofty values of this nation keep maintained. Elementary school age is very suitable to inculcate those values in order that this nation character become strong and capable to create positive young generation. Character has tight relation to attitude and value. One's character is build based on daily experience, what he see, what he hear and his habit. As adult individual, teacher has task to introduce local art to students in elementary school age to build students' character.*

**Keywords:** *local art, students' character*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Seeing the advance of technology development today, it is not surprising that young generation including students are more interested in modern culture brought by western people. Today it is found that students prefer foreign culture to local culture. It can be seen from some annual events held by school, such as art performance, talent performance and farewell party. Students prefer to perform modern art such as dance and western songs. Students think that traditional art is out of date, and consider that modern culture is more popular and up to date. Whereas local art and culture have many values and meaning which can make students' moral become better.

Traditional culture in our nation is countless, because it is so diverse started from traditional dance, language, musical instrument, and many more. But nowadays, it is hard to find traditional culture in our country, even it almost not used anymore in various occasions. We seldom find young people who are interested to perform their local traditional culture. It because they think

that traditional culture is not interesting, so they feel ashamed to admit traditional culture as their culture. It is one result of modernization effect.

It is inevitable that mass media such as television, internet and social media give big influence to young generation. The group who are easiest to be influenced by modernization is youth. Youth usually marked by process of searching identity. Therefore, in elementary school age, it is appropriate to introduce the arts in their own region in order that students familiar with and love their own local art and create student who has character.

As explained by Indrayuda (2014) in his study that Minangkabau traditional dance in entertainment industrial performance in Koto AnauSolok and in Salido or Painan, West Sumatra had been marginalized by its community who support it. The reason why this dance is marginalized is because its form not suitable anymore with development of its community taste. Community who enjoy the art and also community who support *Piringdance* in Koto Anauamd*Rantakdance* in Salido, had been turned their attention to

art which capable to indulge the present art taste, namely creation arts. Creation arts such as Hip Hop dances, creation dance which is rooted in local dance and modern dance such as background dance.

Furthermore, Rusliana (2011) explained that the worsen of tradition dance in competition in market competition is caused by various aspects such as the dance form which is not actual, design and performance and music technique arrangement which are monotone and the package of performance without neat pattern. Tradition dance tend to has long duration, complex, has rigid rule and lack of variation in its movement, so it make the spectators feel bored and tired while watching its performance.

Elementary school age is the right time to inculcate the values of traditional culture existed in their own region. Because this country is well-known by its diversity in culture, language, tribe, religion and race. Each region has art, culture and language difference. Therefore, student need to be introduced with that local art since early age. The art from each region has its own philosophy and value contained in it such as custom value, moral value and character value. It aims to inculcate those values in its local community. The following is explanation of how to introduce local art to build students' character in elementary school age.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

### **A. The Importance of Local Art**

Globalization and technology advance nowadays had been effected on the existence of traditional art in community. Art has many positive values which are beneficial for people, particularly young generation. Art not only seen as entertainment which has esthetical value, but has educational value which can make behavior and moral of young generation become better. It is strongly related to human as individual creature as well as social

creature who needs good interaction with people and community in his/her environment.

According to Sustiwati (2011), local dance art full of philosophical messages, whether in spiritual, moral and social aspects of its community. The effort to disseminate local dance art for Indonesian children through creation and collaboration performance activity will be able to increase their appreciation toward local cultural art. Therefore, as nation youth, students should know the tradition art wealth of their own nation. In a such, appreciation toward local dance art is expected to help students to know their identity and to understand the pluralism of their national identity.

The aim of local art education is not detached from the aim of national art education in the effort to succeeded Indonesian human development in a whole, namely (1) introduce some lofty values of Indonesian culture to students, to be understood and animated, so they can overcome the culture shock they face, 2) grow and inculcate self-esteem in students in order to have culture awareness and not isolated or taken away from their own cultural environment, 3) inculcate pride, love motherland and responsibility to their own culture and grow attitude of mutual respect, broaden students' insight about cultural values to strengthened nation personality (local art education institution, 2004).

According to Smith who was cited by Janet R (2006), the advantage of art education is there is commitment to understand it deeply from general education started from Kinder Garden until 12<sup>th</sup> grade in which students learn to understand art, to understand it historically, to appreciate esthetical value, to make a artwork, and to think it critically. Based on that opinion, it can be realized that in fact, it is necessity to introduce art to elementary school children in order to deepen understanding historically and to introduce esthetical

value and to develop creativity and equally important is to think on how art can develop students' character since they are in elementary school.

The important reason is that local art is heritage for young generation. As the study conducted by Kurniawan (2016) that *Luambek* performance as the most popular art in Padang Pariaman Regency nowadays is very worrying. *Luambek* art is an art which is in highest position customarily and also its existence is very important in custom ceremony in Pariaman. However, the fact shows that this local art is seldom to be performed because this *Luambek* art is less inherited to next generation in villages. This should be deserved special attention from government and custom leaders and the artists themselves because if this condition not managed well, then sooner or later *Luambek* art will be extinct and there will be many villages custom ceremonies in Pariaman which will be lost of its sanctity and custom art touch.

This also seen in the result of study conducted by Sukmawati, Noni and Zubir, Zaiyardam (2015). Some arts begin to disappear, particularly tradition art. Which are left just hidden potential and distributed in various places, so its actualization is not surfaced. Even, in certain arts, its activity is increasingly reduced and disappear. The community who sustain it only know that that art has ever existed and never emerged to surface again.

In this context, tradition art performance is in condition which should be observed in three positions, namely: extinct and almost extinct, survive/develop. The art which is almost extinct is caused by many factors both internal and external. Several factors among others are: 1. There is no support from the artists themselves. 2. Conflicted with cultural values prevailed. 3. People not interest in it. 4. Unable to against modern culture expansion.

The effect is people attention has shifted into artistic and esthetic values of modern dance and that creation which is finally traditional dance of our culture heritage is ignored and marginalized. In turn, the traditional dance of culture heritage is threatened to be extinct.

## **B. The Character Which Need to Be Developed Through Art in Elementary School Students**

Elementary school years is initial period to develop not only physical and cognitive aspect development, but also value and moral aspects including character inculcation. As suggested by Susanti (2011) in her study that Indonesian people had experienced the crisis of identity searching. They should find again their identity through redefinition and reconstruction of cultural lofty values through local wisdom values which need to be learned substantively. Implementing local wisdom values through learning process by building character education in school needs revitalization of relevant local culture to build character education.

Character education based on local wisdom enable students to love the values of their own region. Students love to their region can realize their region defense. According to Susanti (2011), "Regional defense is capability of a region showed by its people ability to self regulate in accord with the concept believed with tough mental, high spirit, and by utilizing the nature wisely."

The character formation cannot be done in instant, but it needs time in its implementation to see the change in students who have strong character. Children are introduced with their nearest environment and through this way students can love their region in wholehearted. The discipline and hard work values are taught to students in learning process without gap between the value prevailed in their own culture

environment. It is what means by ethno pedagogic based- education which is full of local wisdom value content.

### **C. The Strategy to Introduce Local Art**

The character in children need to be developed since early age, the development process can be done with various ways. The character development in elementary school students can be done by storytelling and role play techniques, art expression, games and telling about themselves. As young generation, elementary school students need to enriched with knowledge of art and local culture, in order not disappear and forgotten. Teacher need to think about what can be done to introduce local art and culture while developing character in elementary school students.

According to Ustia, Nurul (2016), introducing and developing traditional art can be done by various ways among other by technology which is available now such as print media, mass media and internet media. To make children more interested, the art is introduced by using mobile technology in the form of AR (Augmented Reality) game. Augmented Reality (AR) is variation of Virtual Environment (VE) or Virtual Reality. This technique is chosen because many children who use smartphone and often play games in their smartphone so by creating this AR game, it will ease the introduction of art through something favored by children.

According to Gunawan, et al (2013), in accord with the study which had been conducted by some researchers, students only learn art and culture when there is school exam and they do not familiar with art. Thus, students will be more interested to use learning tool which can help them to learn art and culture in Indonesia country.

The similar thing had been done as said by Satrioadi that AR technology

which capable to combine virtual world and real world can be used to introduce *papua* culture so people can learn to familiar with culture by more interactive and interesting way. The use of android based-gadget is one effectiveness to encourage people to familiar with culture (Ustia, Nurul, 2016).

Furthermore.Santoso (2015) express that application of Indonesian dance, art and culture learning is formed through motion picture, dance photographs, dance and musical instrument video which can stimulate students' interest to learn, so students are more interested and it is easier to understand it. Its application also present broader information about the dances which existed in 34 Provinces accompanied by the video example of its dances.

### **D. The Importance of Introducing Art to Students in Elementary School**

Elementary school years is the right time to introduce art to students particularly traditional art. Through art lesson, students not only familiar with art but they also trained to explore their potential and creativity. Art lesson can turn students' emotion into positive things. Art has many benefits in forming students' good character. Unconsciously, with art they can acquire values, moral message, and positive behaviors contained in art.

As expressed by Lestari (1989:160) in her study that by learning dance art, students can become better individual, capable to cooperate with group, tolerate, capable to interact with others, not delinquent and have polite manner. Art education also can train children's skill and movement coordination as well as vehicle to introduce, cultivate and inculcate art and cultural values of nation. It also implicate that dance art education capable to create

good behavior among children in accord with cultural values of nation.

### III. CONCLUSION

Local culture as nation identity need to be inherited to next generation. This local culture inheritance need to become our concern. It can be done from basic level in which children are introduced to local art, and this local art needs to be preserved through activities held by school. It should be done to minimize and anticipate the extinct of that local art. Children since in elementary school need to be habituated with positive artistic activity for value and strong character formation.

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