

# Community and Local Government Synergy in Building Regional Cultural Validation

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## Abstract

*Cultural diversity in Indonesia is one of the charms that this equatorial country has. And of course this cultural diversity must be preserved so that it does not become extinct and is also lost in foreign cultures that enter Indonesia in this era of globalization. In managing this culture, of course the local government, the community, and the customary institutions formed in the midst of the community must work together and synergize to carry out cooperation to preserve culture. And the research conducted this time is to describe and also analyze the implementation of synergy, supporters and also obstacles to community and local government cooperation to build regional cultural validation. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The synergy of the local government and the community in carrying out cultural preservation can be seen from several factors such as programs, implementers, to facilities and infrastructure. This form of cooperation and synergy is expected to provide positive results for regional cultural validation as well as social change in society. Other supporting factors are regulations that are easy to apply in the community environment and also the application of principles and also regulatory provisions. The inhibiting factors themselves are human resource capacity and also the problem of conversion areas and also regional autonomy.*

**Keywords:** synergy; regional culture; local government

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that is quite rich with cultural diversity. And all of them are spread throughout Indonesia where the types of culture, traditions to local wisdom in each region are different. Likewise, the forms of cultural preservation are also different. This cultural diversity has an attachment to nature and society. These three things cannot be separated. In fact, culture is a nation's wealth that must be preserved for the national interest which is the identity of the Indonesian nation. In order to maintain these cultures, the Government of Indonesia through the local government must carry out development and preservation in order to take advantage of Indonesia's riches such as this culture for the welfare of society in accordance with national goals.

Indonesia is an archipelagic country. And for the sake of the implementation of these national goals, a decentralization of power was carried out in accordance with Law no. 32 of 2004 which contains the principle of Decentralization for the sake of development and also the preservation of local government represented by SKPD. And the SKPD is closely related to culture in which there is the participation of the community and also the local government to preserve culture and traditions in the local area.

Based on the ideas of Koentjaraningrat (1984), cultural preservation is a very large system where there are various components that have a close relationship with the subsystems of life in society. Culture is the forerunner of life and also the way people live in their respective regions. Culture, tradition and also local wisdom are made by the community and of course there is no community, of course there will be no culture. This further proves that culture is an act of society.

With regard to cultural preservation, the central government has enacted regulations regarding guidelines for implementing cultural preservation in each region. Local government events as well as

welcoming ceremonies now present the local culture. This is done to preserve the local culture so that it does not become extinct. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 39 of 2007 which regulates the Guidelines for Community Facilitation in the Field of Culture, Palaces, Customary Institutions in the preservation and development of regional culture, proves that the government through the Minister of Home Affairs pays sufficient attention to the preservation of the culture of society in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the Joint Ministerial Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Culture and Tourism Numbers 42 and 40 of 2009 concerning Guidelines for Preserving Culture, became a collaboration at the ministry level to preserve culture in Indonesia.

In carrying out the preservation of regional culture, the regional government together with the community and also traditional institutions collaborate and also synergize by establishing the concept of cooperation in which the government will facilitate community organizations to carry out cultural preservation in the environment in which the community lives and lives. This local government will act as the object and the people will be the subject for cultural preservation in Indonesia. The community through traditional organizations or institutions will regulate matters related to cultural preservation in the area with the support of the local government in helping to preserve and also build regional cultural validation so that it is not erased by the influx of foreign cultures.

From this research, a description and synergy analysis will be obtained from the local government and the community in order to preserve culture and also validate regional culture in order to make regional culture known again in society. Then in this study also discussed the inhibiting factors of the synergy and cooperation of the local government and the community.

## METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method which is a way to understand the phenomenon regarding cultural preservation and also build regional cultural validation by the community and also the local government. According to Moleong (2006: 6) research in this way is an additional motivation by describing the form of words into a special context in these natural conditions. A qualitative approach is a method based on philosophy which is often used to examine objects and their natural conditions. Researchers will take data and also analyze it by doing it in combination such as inductive data analysis, triangulation and also an emphasis on meaning rather than generalization.

Based on the ideas of Usman and Akbar (2003: 4) that this descriptive research is research with the aim of making research more systematic, factual and also more accurate by presenting data and facts that exist in the community environment. This descriptive research does not only test certain hypotheses, but also describes the conditions that exist in society.

Meanwhile, according to the thoughts of Dr. Achmadi and Narbuko (2003: 44) that this descriptive research is research that is intended to solve problems by analyzing data and interpreting it to the public. This research is of course intended to solve existing problems in the field based on data and facts. Researchers analyze the role of the government and also the community in building regional cultural validation and also the preservation of this culture.

Informants or respondents from this study are people who have the competence to provide information about situations and conditions in society. And also they know the problem to be studied. Informants and respondents who participated in this study were:

1. Key informants are the main respondents who are in the local government to provide information about what the local government has done and will do to build regional cultural validation in their neighborhood.
2. The main informants in this study are community leaders who have a major role in preserving regional culture. This informant has an important role in building regional cultural validation.
3. Additional informants in this research are the community consisting of the younger generation where they participate in efforts to preserve and build regional cultural validation in the environment where they live.

Based on the narrative of Sugiyono (2014) that data collection techniques are a strategic step in research. Because the purpose of this study was to obtain data with 3 data collection and retrieval techniques consisting of interviews, observation and documentation. Interviews in this study were conducted with respondents regarding the efforts and steps taken to build cultural validation in the area where they live. Through observation, systematic recording is carried out directly and indirectly. Meanwhile, the documentation method is carried out to find the data needed to clarify research that is closely related to the role of local government and the community. The collected data were analyzed descriptively by analyzing inductive data based on drawing conclusions from facts and also data obtained in the research process.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In carrying out preservation and building regional cultural validation, local governments have an important role to play in preserving regional cultures in their respective regions. And local governments have a legal basis and also guidelines which consist of:

1. Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 39 of 2007 which contains Guidelines for Facilities for Community Organizations in the Field of Culture, Palaces, Traditional Institutions in preservation, Development of Regional Culture.
2. Joint Regulations of the Minister of Home Affairs & Minister of Culture and Tourism Number 42 of 2009 and Number 40 of 2009 concerning Guidelines for Cultural Preservation.
3. Local regulation

The synergy between the local government and also the community and traditional institutions is one of the important roles in preserving culture and also building regional cultural validation from the onslaught of foreign cultures that enter Indonesia. And many influences participate in the preservation of this culture. There are implementers in the technical and non-technical sectors in preserving traditions, culture and local wisdom. In regulations relating to the implementation of synergy and also cooperation between the local government and the community to implement the conservation program, local government officials such as the Head of Service and the Head of the Region become the main actors in this implementation. The local government becomes the executor on the technical side.

Meanwhile, in the non-technical sector, the community as well as customary institutions or organizations become executors in the non-technical sector. And the process of cooperation or synergy between the local government as well as the community and customary institutions is running quite well and in accordance with the basic provisions that contain utilization, protection and also development which are presented in several forms. The synergy strategy carried out by the local government and also the community is in accordance with Doctorof's (1997: 76) thinking which consists of trust, communication, creativity and also feedback from implementers in building cultural validation of the area.

These synergy programs are very effective in carrying out cultural preservation in every region, especially in North Sumatra with the principle of synergy consisting of coordination, integration and synchronization between local governments and the community. The program organized by the local government is cultural heritage and also the development of tourist destinations that have the potential to build regional cultural validation around the communities where people live.

In terms of facilities and infrastructure in cultural preservation, it supports the implementation of the synergy program to build regional cultural validation. This of course must be in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 39 of 2007 which must have the full support of the government both at the central and regional levels. Utilization of facilities and infrastructure must be done as effectively as possible so that implementation can run smoothly.

The synergy between the local government and the community as well as traditional institutions or cultural organizations to preserve culture in each region, especially in North Sumatra, has the aim of building regional cultural validation and maintaining the original culture in North Sumatra so that it is not eroded by foreign cultures that enter. in the midst of this vibrant community.

A continuous and sustainable synergy is certainly able to provide an attractive packaging so that it can be an attraction for people to get to know more closely the regional cultures where they live. And of course without any element of eliminating and also reducing the value of local culture. With an ideal synergy process according to Doctorof (1997: 76) towards implementation that is principled in coordination, integration and also synchronization which brings positive results.

The cultural values of people's lives in North Sumatra are a form of identity for the people in the province of North Sumatra. And based on Koentjaraningrat (2005: 75 – 76) which is the implementation of a cultural preservation program as one of the steps to introduce culture to the younger generation as well as immigrant communities in the province. The government also sets an educational curriculum and cultural lessons in every school. So that information and knowledge about local culture can be obtained by today's younger generations.

Development of tourism potential is also one way to build regional cultural validation in North Sumatra. Utilization of areas that have tourism potential through tourism development and certain programs to produce tourist destinations that can attract outsiders to get to know the regional culture in those places. The development of this tourist destination, of course, must pay attention to environmental preservation or eco-tourism and be able to place the strength and potential of local communities as cultural and tourism development which aims to build regional cultural validation and its preservation.

Of course this method is in accordance with Cox's narrative in Dowling & Fennel (2003: 2) which states that local governments and communities must pay attention to and consider the principles of sustainability and protection of cultural aspects and not separate other aspects in their management.

There are supporting factors as well as inhibiting factors in the process of synergy between the local government and the community in order to build validation of the regional culture. The supporting factor which is quite concrete is the existence of government regulations, namely Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 39 of 2007 which contains Guidelines for Facilities for Community Organizations in the Field of Culture, Palaces, Traditional Institutions in Preservation, Development of Regional Culture and also Joint Regulations of the Minister of Home Affairs & Minister of Culture and Tourism Number 42 of 2009 and Number 40 of 2009 concerning Guidelines for Cultural Preservation where the two regulations support local governments to preserve culture and also make regional cultural validation stronger.

Apart from that, other supporting factors are the principle of synergy and also the regulatory provisions of the actors from the implementers in the preservation of this culture. The successful implementation of the synergy between the local government and the community in cultural preservation in North Sumatra complements each other and also accepts and applies these principles based on and guided by central government regulations. In addition, the awareness of each party to apply the principle of synergy and also the guidelines.

There are supporting factors, of course there are inhibiting factors. The human resources involved in the process of preserving this culture are still very low. This has hampered the implementation of synergy between the local government and the community because some communities still have old or traditional mindsets that do not want to do these things. And this inhibiting factor actually has an impact on social change and also the progress of the community environment which is considered to be a threat to society with this thought. This inhibiting factor must of course be considered in more detail. The reason is without any inhibiting factors, of course the progress of the synergy process cannot run optimally.

Another factor is the problem in the area of conservation and also regional autonomy which results in the absence of a special regional regulation to clearly and in detail regulate regional cultures, traditions and local wisdom in North Sumatra. Regulations are only made in general terms which cover all cultures and traditions in Indonesia. With the existence of regional regulations that specifically regulate conservation and also synergy between local government and the community, it will certainly be easier to implement.

And according to the community and a number of respondents, the process of synergy between the community and local government must be carried out to preserve and build the validity of regional culture. It was noted that there were around 92.6% who said they agreed with the synergy process. While the rest

disagree with the cooperation between the government and the community in efforts to preserve this regional culture.

Regulations from the government can become the basis and also guidelines for building validation of regional culture so that it can be preserved and also last a long time and can be passed down from generation to generation. And there were around 73.8% of respondents who agreed that regional regulations could become the main basis. Meanwhile, 18.3% said they did not agree with the regulation, with the rest not knowing.

Then the inhibiting factors in the synergy process must get special treatment in order to facilitate cooperation between the government and the community. It was noted that 89.7% of respondents agreed to treat factors that were considered to hinder the synergy process so that it could run optimally and also realize the ideals of cultural preservation. And the rest said they did not agree with the special treatment.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion from this research is that the synergy of the local government as well as traditional and cultural institutions and organizations in order to preserve culture and build regional cultural validation has been carried out to the fullest although it still requires continuous and continuous time so that culture in North Sumatra is not swallowed up by foreign cultures that enter. This can be seen by the collaboration between the community and the local government which has quite good communication and collaboration as implementing actors for the program of preserving this culture.

Collaboration and also cooperation between the community and local government is going quite well in cultural preservation. This can be seen by the maintenance of cultural values as well as traditions and local wisdom that exist around the community. These values are well maintained by developing tourism potential in North Sumatra as one of the drivers of cultural preservation by introducing regional cultures to people who come to this province. Culture, tradition and local wisdom are one of the products that are one of the attractions and are also the characteristics of the local community. In this case the people of North Sumatra have a distinct characteristic. So you can see how culture, tradition and local wisdom can be a special attraction for people who come to this area.

Factors supporting the synergy of local government and also traditional institutions in preserving culture are one of the legal bases for the implementation of this cooperation and also synergy based on regulatory provisions by these executors. There are supporting factors, of course, there are inhibiting factors that make the process of synergy between the government and the traditional institutions or organizations not work as they should. Minimal and low human resources must be improved so that the process of cooperation and synergy between the government and the community can run optimally and optimally.

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