

PRESERVATION OF THE HODA HODA MONSAC DANCE IN SUPPORT CULTURAL TOURISM ON SAMOSIR

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Abstract

Samosir Regency, North Sumatra, cultural preservation is the main focus in tourism development. The Monsak Hoda-hoda dance, which is a blend of tor-tor, martial arts, and horse accessories from the Toba Batak community in North Sumatra, is one of the cultures that is preserved. Although this dance has the potential to become a cultural tourist attraction, efforts to preserve it still face several challenges, such as the existence of the gondang sadinding and Christianity entering the Toba Batak area. Therefore, the preservation of the Hoda-Hoda Monsak dance is important to maintain the continuity of this cultural heritage. In this conservation effort, the active role of the government and related stakeholders is required. as well as introducing and educating the Samosir people about the importance of preserving the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance through outreach and training. Apart from that, promotion of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance as part of cultural tourism and further research regarding its history, meaning, and efforts to preserve and develop this dance also need to be carried out. Thus, efforts to preserve the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance can help promote cultural tourism in Samosir and maintain the continuity of this cultural heritage so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

Keywords: Sustainable Culture Tourism, Cultural Preservation

Introduction

North Sumatra is one of the provinces in Indonesia which is rich in culture and traditional arts. Several tribes living in the province, such as Batak, Nias, Mandailing and Malay, have different and very distinctive arts and culture. The unique culture of North Sumatra is also reflected in the variety of traditional dances, music and clothing that are still preserved today. Traditional Batak dances such as Tor-Tor, Sipatiti and Monsak and Nias dances such as Fataele and Moyo are very popular cultural attractions in North Sumatra. Apart from dance, traditional music is also known in North Sumatra. For example, gondang sabangun and gondang hasapi are types of traditional Batak music which are very popular in the province. North Sumatra also has historical sites that can be used as cultural tourism destinations. Some of them are the Maimun Palace in Medan, the Bahal Temple in Padang Lawas and the Sipirok Archaeological Site in South Tapanuli. With its wealth of art and culture, North Sumatra is a very attractive cultural tourism destination in Indonesia.

The capital of North Sumatra is located in Medan. This city is also the third largest city in Indonesia (Pinem & Natalia, 2009). Cultural tourism in Medan is

very diverse, starting from the Maimun Palace, Medan Grand Mosque, Tjong A Fie Mansion, to the Old Fish Tax Culinary Center which is famous for its grilled fish dishes and satay padang. Apart from that, there are also Buddhist temples such as the Maha Vihara Maitreya which are the center of religious activities for Buddhists in Medan.

Culture is a system that includes ideas, feelings, actions and works created by humans in social life (Sari, 2018). This culture is passed down from one generation to another by learning. Culture is divided into two forms, namely tangible culture and intangible culture. According to (Sari, 2018) Culture can also be interpreted as a complex result of human actions in general, both tangible and intangible. Culture in the form of objects is referred to as material culture, for example buildings for places of worship, works of art, dances, and paintings. Intangible culture is cultural diversity that is not in the form of objects, such as dance, music, visual arts, and performances, as well as customs and cultural inheritance that are passed down from generation to generation. Protection of this intangible culture is necessary in order to understand the richness of Indonesian culture and anticipate recognition from other parties (I Putu Rio Wijaya et al., 2022). Thus, culture is something that is very complex and includes many aspects of human life. Culture does not only include objects or human creations, but also includes values, norms, customs, language, and ways of life that characterize a society or nation. Culture becomes the identity of a nation or society, and influences the way humans think and act.

Samosir Regency is located in North Sumatra and is currently developing its tourism by prioritizing cultural preservation. One of the tourism potentials owned by Samosir Regency is Lake Toba, which is the largest volcanic lake in the world and has stunning natural beauty. Apart from that, Samosir Regency also has stunning hilly contours and is an ideal place for walking or trekking. Not only that, Samosir Regency is also rich in Batak culture and has many interesting historical relics to visit. Tourists can visit historical sites such as Pusuk Buhit, which is a sacred place for the Batak tribe, as well as the tomb of King Sidabutar which is one of the famous historical relics in the area. The uniqueness of Samosir Regency is a strong attraction for tourists to visit the area. Tourists can enjoy the natural beauty, history and culture that are different from other regions in Indonesia. Apart from that, Samosir Regency also has many inns and restaurants serving delicious Batak specialties which are an added value for tourists visiting the area.

Monsak Hoda-Hoda Dance is a combination of tor-tor dance and traditional martial arts originating from the Toba Batak community, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Monsak is usually performed by several people called parmonsak and is played on a stage or open field. Monsak shows are divided into two types, namely shows for entertainment and fights. Monsak performances for entertainment are presented by prioritizing the beauty of the movements where the parmonsak imitate fighting movements combined with tortor movements. The tortor movements displayed in this show are often added value to the audience because the tortor movements are dynamic and energetic (MARYONO, 2015). In this show, the parmonsak usually wear traditional Batak clothes consisting of ulos, sarong, and are equipped with a hat or headband. Meanwhile, the monsak fight is an actual fight where the

parmonsak are allowed to make physical contact with the aim of defeating the opponent. Monsak fights are usually carried out within the Batak community as a form of customary problem solving. In monsak fights, parmonsak usually wear special clothes made of impact-resistant material so they don't get injured when they are hit by an opponent's blow. Monsak has an important value for the Batak Toba community because apart from being a martial art, monsak is also a means of strengthening kinship and solidarity between parmonsak and the local community. Therefore, the author feels that he must research the monsak dance because its existence and preservation are very important for the Toba Batak people as part of their cultural heritage which must be maintained and preserved.

Literature Review

Culture tour

According to (Scientific, 2018) Culture-based tourism is a type of tourism activity that utilizes culture as its focus or object. Culture-based tourism is a type of tourism activity that focuses on culture as the main object. This tourism activity not only explores the beauty of nature, but also involves interaction with local culture. Tourists usually visit the area to get to know and learn about the customs, arts, culture, history, and way of life of the local people. The uniqueness of culture-based tourism is the opportunity to understand local culture and values, as well as make a positive contribution to the local community. This tourism activity can help preserve culture and cultural heritage, because it increases awareness of the importance of preserving cultural uniqueness and beauty.

Preservation

Preservation is providing protection and management of culture from the destruction of time (Adam, 2020). Culture that has been well preserved from generation to generation can be eroded by modernization and the influx of foreign cultures which are influenced by external factors such as the tendency of the younger generation to embrace foreign cultures that offer freedom, as well as internal factors such as the lack of education from the public regarding their own culture. Advances in technology and globalization have also accelerated the entry of foreign cultures into Indonesia and have influenced the younger generation. Therefore, the younger generation needs to understand the cultural values around them so they can filter out foreign cultures properly. By understanding strong cultural values, it can later become the basis for the formation of a new culture that does not forget its original culture.

Cultural Preservation

Preserving culture is an effort to maintain the entire heritage from the ancestors, revive the community's enthusiasm for maintaining and developing local culture so that it does not become extinct (Adam, 2020). Loving the diversity of Indonesian art and culture is a shared responsibility because everyone has the right to enjoy and protect this cultural heritage. Preserving culture is not only an obligation for certain groups, but for all Indonesian citizens without exception. As part of the national identity, the culture that is currently owned must be maintained so that it does not fade or disappear. As citizens, we have the responsibility to appreciate, understand, and introduce Indonesian culture to the next generation so

that these cultural values are still alive and known. By strengthening the nation's culture, it can enrich and strengthen national identity as a nation that is rich in cultural diversity.

Research Methods

This type of research is qualitative using descriptive methods, which involve analyzing words that arise from social and cultural phenomena (Srirahayu & Desfiarni, 2020). The object of the research was the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance in Pardomuan Village, Onan Runggu District, Samosir Regency. Data collection techniques were carried out by means of library research, in which the authors used several sources of literature as references in preparing this paper. The steps to analyze the data are collecting data, describing the data and concluding the data.

Results and Discussion

The Monsak Hoda-hoda dance is a rare traditional dance originating from Pardomuan Village, Onan Runggu District, Samosir Regency, North Sumatra. The Monsak Hoda-hoda dance has been around since 1894. Monsak can be interpreted as martial arts, while hoda is a Batak language which when translated into Indonesian means horse. So the Monsak Hoda-Hoda Dance is a dance blend between Tor-tor and pencak self-defense using horse accessories (Friends, 2021). Monsak, a martial art, can be represented in two different forms. The dancers dance alternately with elegant and dynamic movements accompanied by Gondang Sedinding music. The accessories used include horse statues consisting of a body and head (rangin), head straps (tali-tali), masks, ulos, sarongs and costumes. Making Rangin is done at the Mangan Hoda Debate or Sapangan Hoda event, which is a ritual ceremony by giving a horse as the center of attention or the main dish. The presented horse later became the forerunner of horse dolls that humans could ride. The process of making Rangin is carried out using a sacred ritual, but nowadays it is difficult to find it anymore.

Monsak fights and martial arts dance performances are presented to entertain in traditional ceremonies. The two forms of presentation of monsak have similarities in the arrangement or order of presentation. However, the difference lies in the purpose of serving monsak. The battle of monsak pursues victory with a power struggle that requires supernatural powers as a tool to defeat opponents. Meanwhile, parmonsak prioritize the beauty of movement in presenting monsak as entertainment. In monsak presentations, gondang sadinding music always accompanies him and the gondang haro-haro repertoire accompanies monsak movements. The presence of this repertoire is the hallmark of monsak presentation.

The basic monsak movement begins with a stance that is wider and lower than the usual stance. In this position, a person stands in a semi-squat with the legs apart and in line with the shoulders. Both legs are lifted alternately following the shift in the body's center of gravity, so that the movement becomes more dynamic and flexible. When performing the basic monsak movement, a monsak practitioner rubs his hands against his back in preparation for attacking, parrying, or defending. Apart from that, Mossak's basic movements also involve parrying techniques that come from a story inspired by a person burning a bonfire in the middle of a forest.

When he feels the heat in his hand, he rubs it against his back to relieve the heat. Then, suddenly a branch fell and he did a reflex parry. This movement was later adopted as a basic technique in monsak. In the basic monsak movement, parry techniques can be done with the hands, elbows or feet, depending on the situation and combat conditions. Apart from that, Mossak's basic movements also involve attacking techniques using the hands or feet, which are performed with high speed and precision.

According to (MARYONO, 2015), there are two reasons why the Monsak Hoda-hoda Dance is rarely shown, namely the existence of the gondang sadinding as a traditional ceremony accompaniment is one of the main causative factors. The Toba Batak people prefer keyboard music to accompany traditional ceremonies. This music is definitely not allowed to accompany monsak performances and even parmonsak do not want to perform monsak performances if accompanied by keyboard music. Another factor that caused the monsack to almost disappear was the arrival of Christianity into the Toba Batak region. The Toba Batak people consider monsak to be connected with the supernatural and consider it contrary to religion. So that nowadays no one wants to study monsak because they are afraid of having contact with the unseen.

Efforts that can be made to preserve the Hoda-Hoda dance

In order to preserve the Hoda-hoda Monsac Dance, some efforts that can be made are as follows:

1. Collection and documentation of information

Gathering and documenting information is one of the efforts that can be made to preserve the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance. In this effort, local communities, cultural organizations, and government agencies work together to collect and document information about the history, meaning, and techniques of the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance, and retain that information for use in learning and teaching. The information gathering process can involve interviews with traditional dancers and musicians, historians, local community leaders, and people with knowledge of the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance. Information obtained from interviews may include the origins of dance, symbolic meanings associated with dance movements and accessories, and choreographic and musical techniques. Apart from interviews, Information can also be collected through written sources such as books, articles and historical documents. These sources can provide more complete and detailed information about the history and meaning of the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance. After the information is collected, the next step is to document the information. Documentation can be done through various media such as photos, videos or audio recordings. This documentation can be used for learning and teaching about the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance, both by traditional dancers and musicians as well as by the general public who wish to learn this dance. Preserving this information is also very important, so that it remains accessible and used by future generations. Information can be published through books, articles, or website to ensure this information is accessible to the wider community. By collecting and documenting information about the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance, it is hoped that this dance can continue to be preserved and become an important part of Indonesia's cultural heritage.

2. Training and empowerment

Training and empowerment of traditional dancers and musicians is very important in efforts to preserve the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance. Through training, dancers and musicians can develop and sharpen their skills in this dance. Apart from that, training can also help them understand the meaning and philosophy behind this dance, so that they can better understand and appreciate the uniqueness and beauty of this dance. Empowerment of dancers and musicians is also very important. The local community can help promote and develop the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance by holding performances and cultural events that include this dance. In addition, they can assist in building strong networks with cultural and governmental institutions that can assist in promoting and protecting this cultural heritage.

Some of the efforts that can be made in training and empowering traditional dancers and musicians include:

- a. Conduct basic and advanced technical training in the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance for dancers and musicians.
- b. Conduct training on the meaning and philosophy behind this dance to help dancers and musicians understand this dance in greater depth.
- c. Conduct event management and cultural promotion training to help local communities promote and develop this dance.
- d. Organize performances and cultural events involving this dance to increase public appreciation of this dance.
- e. Build networks with cultural and governmental institutions that can assist in promoting and protecting this cultural heritage.

3. Promotions and shows

Spreading and performing the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance is an important effort to preserve this traditional dance. By promoting and displaying it, it will be easier for people to recognize and appreciate traditional culture in their area. Here are some things you can do to promote and perform the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance:

Participate in cultural festivals and events: One of the best ways to introduce the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance is to participate in cultural festivals and events. This dance can be performed as part of an event, thereby increasing public awareness of its existence and reaching a wider audience. **Creating videos and social media content:** In today's digital age, social media can be an effective tool for promoting the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance. Videos of this dance can be uploaded on various social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook. That way, people around the world can learn about this dance and are interested in learning it or visiting its origins. **Collaborating with other artists and musicians:** Collaboration with other artists and musicians can be an effective way to introduce the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance. This dance can be combined with different music genres or combined with dances from other regions. This can attract the attention of a wider audience and introduce Monsak Hoda-hoda dance to more people. **Show tours:** Show tours can be an effective way to introduce Monsak Hoda-hoda dance to various places, both at home and abroad. In this tour, dance groups can work with related parties to arrange performance schedules. Apart from introducing the dance to various venues, touring shows can also be a potential source of income for dance groups. This dance can be combined with different music genres or combined with

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4. Awards

Giving an award is an act of giving recognition or appreciation to someone who has made a positive contribution in a particular field or thing. In terms of preserving and promoting the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance, giving awards to people who have contributed can be a form of recognition for their efforts in maintaining and promoting the culture of the area. Giving this award can motivate those who contribute to continue to fight for the preservation of the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance. In addition, the award can also increase their self-confidence and motivate them to continue to develop their skills and creativity in preserving and promoting this dance. Not only that, awarding can also help introduce the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance to the wider community and get more support from the community and government in its conservation efforts. Thus, the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance can be better known and appreciated by the wider community and continues to be maintained as an important part of regional culture.

In this context, awards can be given in various forms, such as certificates of appreciation, cash awards, or other awards that are commensurate with the contributions that have been made. Awards can also be given at events attended by various parties, including the public, cultural figures, and government officials. Therefore, awarding can be an effective way of promoting and preserving the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance and other regional cultures.

5. Increased government support

Giving an award is an action that aims to give recognition or appreciation to someone who has made a positive contribution in a particular field or thing. In terms of preserving and promoting the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance, giving awards to

individuals who have contributed can be seen as a form of recognition for their efforts to maintain and promote the culture of the region. Giving this award can be a motivation for those who have contributed to continue fighting for the preservation of the Hoda-hoda Monsak dance. In addition, the award can also increase their self-confidence and motivate them to continue to develop their skills and creativity in preserving and promoting this dance. Not only that, giving awards can also help introduce the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance to the wider community and get more support from the community and government in its conservation efforts. Thus, the Monsak Hoda-hoda dance can be increasingly recognized and appreciated by the wider community and maintained as an important part of regional culture. To give awards, it can be done in various forms such as certificates of appreciation, cash awards, or other forms of appreciation in accordance with the contributions that have been made. Awards can also be given at events attended by various parties, including the public, cultural figures, and government officials. Therefore,

6. Formation of Dance Community

The formation of a dance community is a collaboration between the local community, cultural organizations, and government agencies with the aim that a dance can continue to be practiced and learned by future generations. Some detailed steps that need to be taken in forming a dance community are as follows:

a. Identify the goals and vision of the dance community:

The first step in forming a dance community is determining the purpose and vision of the community. Goals can be preserving traditional dances, teaching dance to the younger generation, or promoting culture through dance. With a clear vision, work plans and strategies to achieve goals can be well formulated.

b. Form a group consisting of dance experts and dance enthusiasts:

The dance community must consist of people who are competent in the field of dance, such as dancers, choreographers and dance instructors. In addition, the group should also consist of dance enthusiasts who are enthusiastic about learning and developing their skills in certain dances.

c. Make a work plan:

After the vision and group have been formed, the next step is to make a detailed work plan that contains the duties and responsibilities of each group member. This work plan should cover activities such as dance training, dance performances, and cultural promotion programs.

d. Identify resources and funding:

Resources and funding are important factors in the formation of dance communities. Therefore, the group must identify available resources, such as practice rooms, dance equipment, and funds needed for community operations and dance training. Dance communities can also seek help from cultural organizations and local government agencies.

e. Promote and develop dance community activities:

Once the dance community is formed, the group must promote their activities to the local community and more widely. This can be done through dance performances at local events, holding dance training for the community, and participating in cultural events. Dance communities can also develop their activities by making dance performances more creative and innovative.

The preservation of the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance has a positive impact on cultural tourism in Samosir. Some of the benefits of preserving the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance for cultural tourism in Samosir include:

a. Attract tourists

Monsak Hoda-hoda dance can be an attraction for tourists who are interested in learning and enjoying local culture in Samosir district. Where tourists will be interested in watching the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance accompanied by regional music.

b. Increase tourist visits

By preserving the Monsak Hoda-hoda Dance, it can increase the number of tourists visiting Samosir Regency. This can make a positive contribution to tourism and the local economy.

c. Enhance the tourist experience

Tourists who witness the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance can experience a closer experience with local culture and can understand the uniqueness and beauty of the culture of the area.

d. Introducing local culture

Monsak Hoda-hoda dance can be a tool to introduce the local culture of an area to tourists. This can help broaden tourists' understanding of Indonesia's rich and diverse culture.

e. Maintain tourism sustainability

Preserving the Monsak Hoda-hoda Dance can help maintain the sustainability of tourism in Samosir Regency. By attracting tourists and providing a different experience, it can extend the duration of visits and increase tourist visits.

f. Increase cultural awareness

Preserving the Monsak Hoda-hoda Dance can help increase public and tourist cultural awareness about the value and uniqueness of local culture. This can help people become more proud of their cultural identity and strengthen a sense of unity, as well as provide tourists with a better understanding of Indonesia's rich and diverse culture.

g. Improve the local economy

With the increase in cultural tourism visits to Samosir Regency, it can make a positive contribution to the local economy. This can help the local community in improving their economic welfare.

h. Maintaining cultural heritage: Dance Monsak Hoda-hoda dance is part of the cultural heritage of a nation or region. By preserving it, Pardomuan Village can maintain its cultural identity and prevent the loss of cultural heritage that has been passed down by their ancestors.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been done, it can be concluded that the preservation of the Hoda-Hoda Monsak dance has a very important role in supporting cultural tourism in Samosir. This dance is a form of cultural heritage that enriches the richness of Indonesian culture and needs to be preserved so that future generations can enjoy it.

Through efforts to preserve the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance, the Samosir people can strengthen their cultural identity, improve their quality of life and create

sustainable economic opportunities. The Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance has potential as a cultural tourism attraction that can attract visitors to Samosir. However, efforts to preserve the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance are still faced with several challenges, such as the existence of the gondang sadinding to accompany traditional ceremonies is one of the main causal factors. Another factor that caused the monsack to almost disappear was the arrival of Christianity into the Toba Batak region. The Toba Batak people consider monsack to be connected with the supernatural and consider it contrary to religion.

In addition, efforts to preserve and develop the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance can also be an opportunity for local economic development and strengthen the cultural identity of the Samosir people. Thus, the preservation of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance can be a form of effort to strengthen and promote cultural tourism on Samosir, which in the end will have a positive impact on economic and cultural development in the area.

Based on the results of the research and conclusions previously described, the author provides several suggestions to support efforts to preserve the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance in supporting cultural tourism on Samosir, including:

- a. There needs to be an active role from the government and related stakeholders in supporting the preservation of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance. This can be done through the provision of adequate funds and facilities, as well as the formation of regulations that can guarantee the continuity of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance.
- b. It is necessary to introduce and educate the Samosir people about the importance of preserving the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance. This education can be carried out through socialization and training activities involving the community, especially the younger generation, so that they can become agents of change and strengthen the preservation of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance.
- c. It is necessary to promote the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance as part of cultural tourism in Samosir. This promotion can be done through social media, websites, exhibitions and other cultural tourism activities. This is expected to attract tourists and encourage local economic development in Samosir.
- d. Further research is needed regarding the history and meaning of the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance, as well as efforts to preserve and develop it. This research can provide new insights and solutions to the problems faced in preserving the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance.

With the support and efforts of the government, community and related stakeholders, it is hoped that the Monsak Hoda-Hoda dance can continue to be preserved and become a unique and interesting form of cultural tourism on Samosir.

In addition, the preservation of the Hoda-hoda Monsak Dance has a positive impact on cultural tourism in Samosir. Some of the benefits of preserving the Monsak Hodahoda Dance for cultural tourism in Samosir are attracting tourists, increasing tourist visits, adding to tourist experiences, introducing local culture, maintaining tourism continuity, increasing cultural awareness, improving the community's economy, and maintaining cultural preservation. maintain cultural heritage. By preserving the Hodahoda Monsak Dance, Pardomuan Village can maintain its cultural identity and prevent the loss of cultural heritage that has been

passed down by their ancestors. Therefore, the preservation of local culture and traditions can make a positive contribution to tourism and the local economy and help preserve very important cultural heritage.

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