

The Role of Cangkuang Temple in Forming the Social and Cultural Identity of Local Communities

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Abstract

The formation of the social and cultural identity of local communities is a dynamic process involving various internal and external factors. Social identity reflects the way individuals identify themselves within a particular social group, while cultural identity describes the relationship between individuals and their cultural heritage. In the context of local communities, identity formation is influenced by elements such as belief systems, traditional values, language and cultural practices passed down from generation to generation. This research aims to understand how the social and cultural identity of local communities is formed, maintained and transformed along with social, economic changes and the influence of globalization. Data collection was carried out through field observations and in-depth interviews with local community members in certain areas. The research results show that the process of forming social and cultural identity is not only based on traditions and customs, but is also influenced by interactions with the outside world, such as migration, technology and economic changes. In addition, this research found that the social and cultural identity of local communities is flexible and adaptive, but still maintains the essence of the underlying values. The process of interaction with other cultures often gives rise to hybrid forms of identity that enrich local culture without losing its traditional roots. In its conclusion, this research emphasizes the importance of preserving local culture as an effort to maintain social identity amidst the currents of modernization and globalization.

Key words: social identity, cultural identity, local community

1 INTRODUCTION (11pt)

Temples are one of the historical relics of the past and most of the temples in Indonesia are relics of the Hindu-Buddhist kingdom (Rustiyanti, S. (2018). Cangkuang Temple, which is located in Leles District, Garut Regency, West Java, is one of the historical relics that Unique in Indonesia. As the only Hindu temple found in the Sunda region, Cangkuang Temple has important historical, archaeological and cultural value. The past has witnessed the process of cultural acculturation with Islam as can be seen from the presence of the grave of Arif Muhammad, a figure who propagated Islam, around the temple complex.

In the temple area there is Kampung Pulo which is a traditional Sundanese village that still preserves its ancestral customs (Fauziah, S. (2017), there is also the grave of Arif Muhammad who was known as a Mataram soldier. He came to the Garut area after the failed invasion of Batavia in the 19th century. The 17th then settled in the Cangkuang area and played a role in the spread of Islam. The presence of his grave around Cangkuang Temple illustrates the religious and social shift experienced by the local community from Hindu influence to Islam but while still maintaining deep-rooted local cultural values and values. causes acculturation.

The process of cultural acculturation occurs when several cultures interact closely with each other intensively over a long period of time (Imam Subqi, Sutrisno: 134). This cultural acculturation is reflected in the lives of the people of Pulo Village, who live around Cangkuang Temple. Groups or individuals from different cultures may adopt elements of another culture, such as language, customs, religious practices, or lifestyle, without completely losing their original cultural identity. Acculturation occurs naturally in intense social interactions, such as through migration, trade, colonization, or relations between groups in one geographic area.

The natural and cultural tourist attraction of Cangkuang has existed since the VIII century and has an area of 340,755 Ha. Situ and Cangkuang Temple are located in Cangkuang Village, Leles District, Garut Regency (Sriwardani, N., & Savitri, S. (2019). Cangkuang Temple is one of the oldest Hindu temples in West Java, which represents traces of Hindu history in this area before Islamic influence dominates. The Cangkuang area, which includes the natural lake Situ Cangkuang, ancestral graves, and the traditional village of Kampung Pulo, has an important role in forming and maintaining the social identity of the local community which is reflected through inherited values, traditions and daily life practices. from generation to generation.

The existence of Cangkuang Temple is not only an object of historical study, but also has strong sociological relevance in the formation of the social and cultural identity of local communities. Social identity is an individual's self-concept which includes knowledge about their membership in a group and involves values, emotions, participation, a sense of caring, and a sense of pride as a member of the group (Gultom, E. A., Sinaga, W. A., Situngkir, R. L., & Sari, Y. (2024).

Social identity refers to an individual's awareness of their membership in a social group (Hogg & Abrams). This means that a person understands himself as part of a particular group so that this can be a main component in forming self-identity. Social identity helps shape a person's self-concept and places him or herself in a certain position in complex social relationships (Rahmawati, I.: 2018).

According to Henri Tajfel (1982), social identity is a person's knowledge about their membership in a particular social group, as well as the values and emotions associated with that membership. Hogg & Reid (2006), articulating the role of norms in the perspective of social identity, Hogg & Reid emphasizes that group norms are a representation of dynamic social identity, so that social identity is the knowledge that a group member has about his group which is considered to be in accordance with the existing identity of the group. himself (Utami, F. N. H., & Silalahi, B. Y. : 2013).

Stuart Hall (1990), cultural identity reflects the shared historical and cultural experiences among a group of people and cultural identity refers to the special character of an individual or member of a certain social category group (Santoso, B. (2006). Cultural identity is a basic awareness of the characteristics specifically the group a person belongs to in terms of living habits, customs, language and values (Dorais, 1988). is an important thing when placed on the basis of the belief that society knows best what is needed (Dewi, M. H. U. (2013).

This research aims to examine the role of Cangkuang Temple in forming the social and cultural identity of local communities. Using a sociological approach, this research will explore how this historical legacy influences social structures, cultural values, and community interactions in the context of everyday life. It is hoped that a deeper understanding of the influence of Cangkuang Temple on local communities can contribute to efforts to preserve this cultural heritage and enrich the study of cultural sociology in Indonesia.

2 RESEARCH METHODS

Creswell argues that qualitative research is research with an inquiry process of understanding that is based on the methodological tradition of inquiry that explores

social problems in society. Researchers create complex and holistic pictures, analyze words, report detailed views from informants and conduct research on the environment in natural situations (Cresswell, 2010, p. 258). In qualitative research, data is collected through field observations, in-depth interviews, and filling out questionnaires. Field observations were conducted to understand situations and social interactions in the original context of the community, while in-depth interviews allowed participants to share views and experiences in detail.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the interview with Mr. Zaki Munawar, SH, it can be concluded that Kampung Pulo has its own characteristics, both in terms of history and culture. This village is located in the middle of the Situ Cangkuang area, and is so named because of its location on this small island. The history of Kampung Pulo starts from the Hindu era, until it finally underwent a transformation into a Muslim-majority society when Embah Dalem Arif Muhammad began to spread Islamic teachings after his defeat in the war against the Dutch. Until now, even though the people of Kampung Pulo are 100% Muslim, they still preserve several Hindu traditions, such as traditional rituals.

Kampung Pulo culture is also very strong with various unique rules and traditions. For example, the number of houses cannot exceed six and can only be occupied by a maximum of six heads of family. Apart from that, other traditions that are still carried out include the ceremony of bathing heirlooms every 14 Maulud, as well as traditional rituals in building a house.

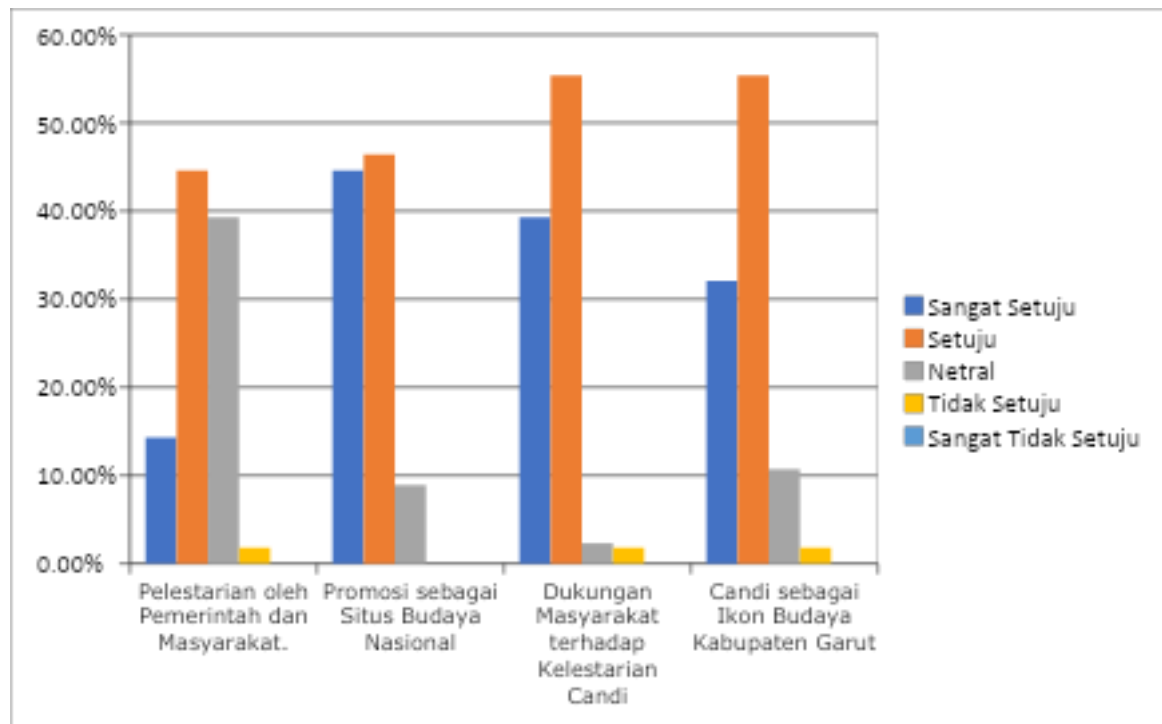
Some old customs are starting to disappear due to the influence of globalization, such as the prohibition on wearing footwear and using umbrellas when entering villages. However, some elements of animism and dynamism still survive, even though they are not Islamic teachings, such as burning incense, providing flowers and water from seven wells. This reflects that even though religion has shifted, several local cultural traditions are still preserved by the people of Kampung Pulo.

The following is a description of the survey results measuring respondents' perceptions of Cangkuang Temple based on data from 56 respondents in 12 questions. Each question focuses on aspects of the history, culture and socio-economic impact of Cangkuang Temple. These results use a Likert scale from "Neutral" to "Strongly Agree", and summarize respondents' views regarding the role of temples in society.

Table 1. Perceptions of Historical and Cultural Values

No	Rated aspect	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Don't agree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Local Cultural Identity	30,4%	62,5%	7,1%	0%	0%
2	Community Social Bonds	16,1%	66,1%	16,1%	1,8%	0%
3	Understanding Local History	25%	69,6%	5,4%	0%	0%
4	Center for Traditional and Cultural Activities	17,9%	58,9%	23,2%	0%	0%

Graph 1. Perceptions of Historical and Cultural Values



In conclusion, Cangkuang Temple is seen as a strong and important symbol that reflects local historical and cultural values for the surrounding community. This is evident from the high percentage of people who agree that temples represent local cultural identity, where 62.5% agree and 30.4% strongly agree. The absence of respondents who disagree shows that Cangkuang Temple has a central role in showing regional cultural characteristics.

Apart from that, Cangkuang Temple is not only of historical value, but also plays a role in strengthening social ties. As many as 66.1% of respondents agreed and 16.1% strongly agreed that Cangkuang Temple could unite society through its inherent cultural symbols. This proves that the temple functions as a significant social unifier.

Cangkuang Temple is also considered a source of local historical knowledge. The majority of respondents (69.6%) agreed and 25% strongly agreed that the existence of Cangkuang Temple helps in understanding regional history. The absence of disagreement emphasizes the importance of temples in conveying history and cultural heritage.

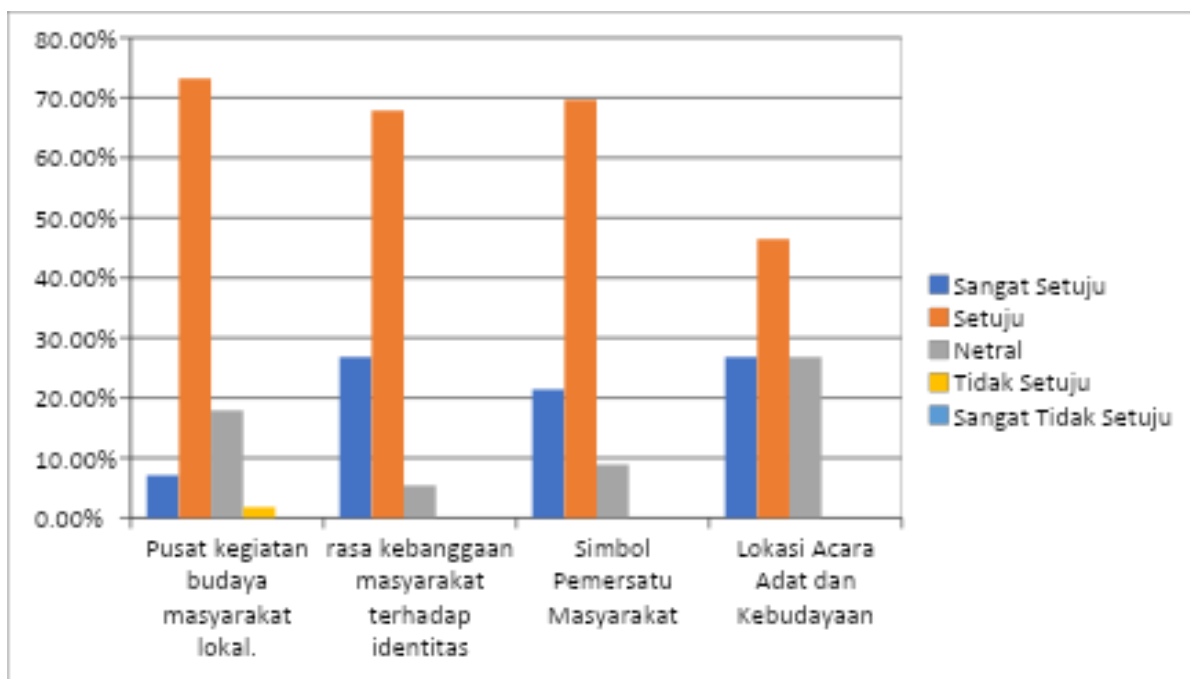
On the other hand, although most respondents (58.9%) agreed that Cangkuang Temple is often the center of traditional and cultural activities, there was still a percentage who were neutral, namely 23.2%. This shows the need for additional efforts to increase community involvement in cultural activities around Cangkuang Temple so that the social and cultural functions of Cangkuang Temple are more optimal.

Overall, Cangkuang Temple is not only valued as a historical site, but also as an important social and cultural asset, whose role can continue to be maximized to support cultural preservation and social cohesion in society.

Table 2. Perceptions of the Social Role of Temples

No	Rated aspect	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Don't agree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Center for local community cultural activities.	7,1%	73,2%	17,9%	1,8%	0%
2	people's sense of pride in their identity	26,8%	67,9%	5,4%	0%	0%
3	Symbol of Uniting Society	21,4%	69,6%	8,9%	0%	0%
4	Location of Traditional and Cultural Events	26,8%	46,4%	26,8%	0%	0%

Graph 2. Perceptions of the Social Role of Temples



In conclusion, temples have important value as a symbol of pride and unification in the social life of society. Most respondents (73.2%) agreed that temples are centers of cultural activities, indicating that temples still function as active gathering places for local communities. This confirms that temples play a central role in facilitating social interaction through cultural events.

The existence of the temple also arouses people's sense of pride in their identity, with 67.9% agreeing and 26.8% strongly agreeing. This shows the positive psychological effect of temples in strengthening feelings of attachment and pride in regional history and identity.

Apart from that, temples are seen as a symbol of unifying society. Strong support for this function was seen from 69.6% of respondents who agreed and 21.4% strongly agreed that temples play a role in creating social unity, with no respondents disagreeing. This signifies the important role of temples in facilitating social cohesion among citizens.

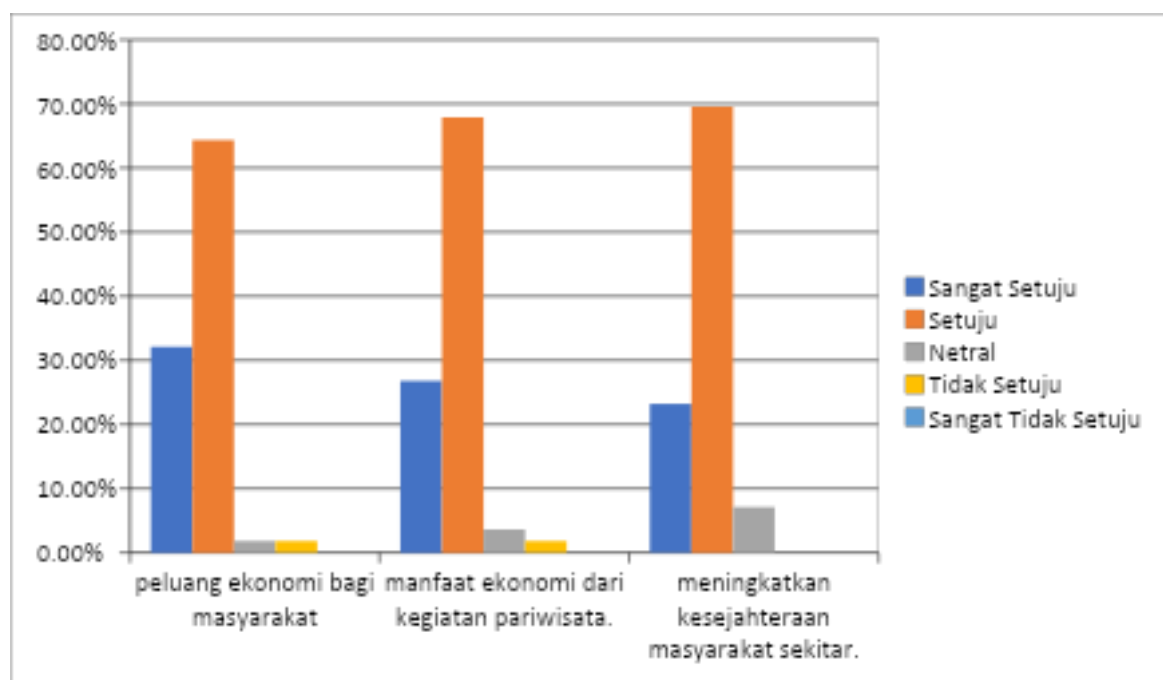
As locations for traditional and cultural events, temples also receive attention, with 46.4% of respondents agreeing and 26.8% strongly agreeing that temples are often chosen as venues for traditional events. However, there are still 26.8% who are neutral, indicating the potential to further optimize the function of temples as centers of cultural events, so that the social role of temples can be stronger and the benefits felt by the wider community.

Overall, temples have a significant social role, not only as cultural sites but also as unifiers and sources of pride for the community, whose role can continue to be developed in local social and cultural activities.

Table 3. Perceptions of the Role of the Economy

No	Rated aspect	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Don't agree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	economic opportunities for society	32,1%	64,3%	1,8%	1,8%	0%
2	economic benefits from tourism activities.	26,8%	67,9%	3,6%	1,8%	0%
3	improve the welfare of the surrounding community.	23,2%	69,6%	7,1%	0%	0%

Graph 3. Perception of the Role of the Economy



In conclusion, Cangkuang Temple has had a significant positive impact on the economy of the surrounding community, especially through the tourism sector and emerging economic opportunities. This is evident from the majority of respondents who agree that the existence of temples opens up economic opportunities for the community, with 64.3% agreeing and 32.1% strongly agreeing. Cangkuang Temple provides employment opportunities in the tourism sector, selling local products, and providing services, so its contribution to the community's economy is very real.

Tourism activities centered on Cangkuang Temple also bring direct economic benefits to local residents. As many as 67.9% of respondents agreed and 26.8% strongly agreed that temple tourism had a positive impact on the economy, especially through increasing tourist visits which encouraged economic turnover around temples.

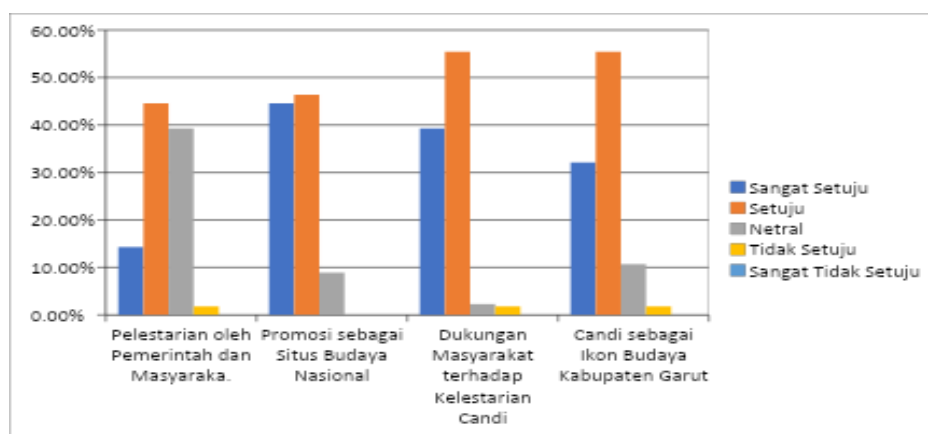
Apart from that, the existence of the temple contributes to improving the welfare of the surrounding community. This was reinforced by 69.6% of respondents who agreed and 23.2% strongly agreed that the existence of temples had a positive impact on their welfare. This means that the temple not only acts as a cultural icon, but also as a source of economic prosperity that supports the standard of living of the local population.

Overall, the temple has important economic value for the surrounding community, both in creating job opportunities, supporting economic activities, and improving the welfare of residents through tourism and related economic activities.

Table 4. Perceptions about development and preservation

No	Rated aspect	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Don't agree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Preservation by the Government and Society.	14,3%	44,6%	39,3%	1,8%	0%
2	Promotion as a National Cultural Site	44,6%	46,4%	8,9%	0%	0%
3	Community Support for Temple Preservation	39,3%	55,4%	2,3%	1,8%	0%
4	Temple as a Cultural Icon of Garut Regency	32,1%	55,4%	10,7%	1,8%	0%

Graph 4. Perceptions about development and preservation



In conclusion, temples are considered important as cultural heritage which requires preservation and continuous support from various parties. The majority of respondents acknowledged the existence of conservation efforts from the government and society, with 44.6% agreeing and 14.3% strongly agreeing, although 39.3% remained neutral. This indicates that community involvement in preservation can be increased so that the temple remains sustainable in the future.

In addition, the promotion of Cangkuang Temple as a national cultural site received strong support, with 46.4% agreeing and 44.6% strongly agreeing. This support reflects public awareness of the importance of promoting Cangkuang Temple to attract wider public attention and increase appreciation of its historical value.

The community also showed significant support for the preservation of Cangkuang Temple, with 55.4% agreeing and 39.3% strongly agreeing. This support confirms the collective awareness to protect Cangkuang Temple as part of the cultural heritage for future generations.

As a cultural icon of the district, Cangkuang Temple was recognized by 55.4% of respondents who agreed and 32.1% who strongly agreed as a symbol of local identity. However, 10.7% who were neutral indicated the need for increased outreach so that people better understand the important role of Cangkuang Temple in their culture.

Overall, Cangkuang Temple is not only seen as a historical relic but also functions as a symbol of the cultural, economic and social identity of the surrounding community. To maximize this potential, collaboration between government, society and the private sector is very necessary so that the preservation and promotion of temples can run optimally, maintain their sustainability and provide broad benefits to society.

From the results of research on Cangkuang Temple, several conclusions can be drawn regarding the influence of this historical heritage on social structure, cultural values and community interactions in everyday life:

1. Influence on Social Structure

Cangkuang Temple functions as a center for social interaction that strengthens relations between residents. Because it is considered a symbol of culture and identity, this temple creates a social space where people can gather for traditional ceremonies, cultural celebrations, and other collective activities. The social interaction that occurs around this temple shows the existence of a naturally formed hierarchy and structure, where people involved in preserving and maintaining the temple—such as traditional figures or community leaders—have a central role in society. The temple is also a focal point for activities involving various social levels of society.

2. Cultural Values

Cangkuang Temple plays an important role in maintaining and strengthening local cultural values. Based on survey results, this temple is considered a symbol that strengthens the cultural identity of the local community. As cultural heritage, temples help instill historical and cultural values in the younger generation, strengthening a sense of pride in their ancestral heritage. Traditional events held at temples play a role in preserving local traditions, although not all residents are actively involved in these traditions. However, the involvement of some people in this tradition shows that traditional cultural values are still respected and maintained.

3. Interaction in Daily Life

In everyday life, the existence of Cangkuang Temple influences social interactions by becoming a center for cultural activities that unite society. The use of temples as gathering places for traditional ceremonies, cultural celebrations, and community events strengthens the sense of togetherness and social solidarity. In addition, this temple strengthens the community's sense of pride in their cultural identity, which is reflected in the way they interact with each other and appreciate their historical heritage. However, some respondents indicated that involvement in temple-related traditions may have decreased among certain communities, indicating a change in the way they connect with this cultural heritage.

Overall, Cangkuang Temple has a big influence on the social structure of the local community by becoming a center for social interaction, maintaining cultural values, and becoming a symbol that strengthens community identity. This historical heritage is an important element that shapes patterns of interaction and daily life around the temple.

Based on the results of research on Cangkuang Temple, the influence of the temple on local communities is expected not only in the context of physical preservation, but also in strengthening broader cultural awareness. The following are several points regarding the expected contribution from local communities regarding the preservation of this cultural heritage and its potential contribution to the study of cultural sociology in Indonesia:

1. The Role of Local Communities in Preserving Cultural Heritage

The research results show that local communities have an important role in maintaining and preserving Cangkuang Temple. Active community support is needed to ensure the sustainability of this cultural heritage. It is hoped that their participation in preservation activities, such as maintaining cleanliness, physical maintenance of the temple, as well as involvement in ceremonies and traditions related to the temple, will continue. Local communities are considered to be at the forefront of cultural heritage preservation, and their involvement in various aspects of preservation also plays a role in creating a strong sense of ownership of the temple.

2. Increased Cultural Awareness

Through the influence of Cangkuang Temple, it is hoped that people will become more aware of the importance of the historical and cultural values they inherited. This awareness can encourage the preservation of traditional traditions and rituals which further strengthen local cultural identity. Communities who feel proud of their cultural heritage tend to have greater motivation to be involved in conservation efforts, both through active participation in cultural activities and in voicing the importance of protecting temples as symbols of their community's identity.

3. Contributions to Cultural Sociology Studies

The influence of Cangkuang Temple on local communities provides an opportunity for academics and researchers to enrich the study of cultural sociology in Indonesia. This temple is a concrete example of how cultural heritage can influence social structure, shape community identity, and create distinctive patterns of social interaction. The study of interactions between society and cultural heritage such as the Cangkuang Temple opens insight into how traditional values are maintained and transmitted in modern society, as well as how tradition and social change can dialogue with each other.

4. Culture-Based Tourism Development

Local communities can also play a role in promoting Cangkuang Temple as a cultural site that has tourism potential. With community involvement in the development of culture-based tourism, the existence of temples is not only seen as a historical object, but also as an economic asset that provides benefits for community welfare. Well-managed cultural tourism can help fund conservation efforts and promote local cultural values at national and international levels.

5. Challenges and Potential for Sustainability

Even though the research results show a positive public perception of the role of Cangkuang Temple, there are still challenges in preserving traditions and culture related to the temple. Some respondents showed a neutral attitude towards involvement in traditions, which may reflect social changes in society. Therefore, it is important to create educational programs that can integrate cultural heritage with modern society, so that temple preservation remains relevant and sustainable.

In this way, it is hoped that Cangkuang Temple can become an inspiring example in preserving cultural heritage, contribute to the study of cultural sociology in Indonesia, and support local communities to be actively involved in efforts to preserve their cultural heritage.

3 CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the conclusions from research regarding people's perceptions of temples show that temples are seen as important symbols in reflecting the historical, cultural and economic values of local communities. Temples are thought to strengthen social ties, unite communities, and increase a sense of pride in local identity. Apart from being a cultural site, the temple also makes an economic contribution through the tourism sector, creates job opportunities and supports the welfare of the surrounding community.

Despite conservation efforts from the government and community, increased involvement is still needed. Support for the promotion of temples as national cultural sites and icons of Garut Regency shows collective awareness of the importance of temples to regional cultural identity. Collaboration between various parties is very necessary to ensure the sustainability and optimization of the benefits of the temple for society as a whole.

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