

LEMPU' AS A PILLAR OF CHARACTER EDUCATION: AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE LOCAL WISDOM OF THE BUGIS TRIBE IN SCHOOLS

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ABSTRAK

The preservation of local wisdom values is crucial in shaping the nation's character, one of which is the value of Lempu' from Bugis culture, which emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity. This paper explores the role of Lempu' value in character education in schools as an effort to preserve local culture and build students' character. This research uses a qualitative method with a literature review approach to analyze the implementation of Lempu' values in the curriculum and educational practices. The study results show that the integration of local cultural values, such as Lempu', can improve students' moral quality, strengthen social relations, and form honest and responsible individuals. Teachers act as role models in teaching this value, while its implementation in the curriculum and school activities can create an educational environment that supports students' holistic character development. The implementation of the Lempu' value not only strengthens students' character, but also becomes a strategic step in preserving Bugis culture in the midst of globalization.

Keywords: Bugis Culture, Local Cultural Wisdom, Lempu', Character Education

INTRODUCTION

The preservation of local culture, especially those related to local wisdom values, is an important aspect in shaping the character of the nation. In Indonesia, various tribes have wisdom values that are very valuable to be

preserved and applied, one of which is the value of *Lempu'* from the Bugis tribe. In Bugis words, honesty is called *lempu'*. *Lempu'* means straight as opposed to crooked. (Rahim, 2011). *Lempu'* is a value that teaches the importance of honesty in social life, which is applied in all aspects of Bugis life, both in family life, society, and in educational practices. (Tenriawaru et al., 2022) *Lempu'* is a straight behavior, in the sense of admitting, saying, or giving information that is in accordance with reality. In line with this (Yassa et al., 2023) Honest means sincere, true, good or fair, so the opposite words are cheating, lying, betrayal, misguided, bad, deceit, persecution, and the like. Applying *Lempu'* values in education, especially in schools, contributes significantly to strengthening students' character, as well as introducing and preserving Bugis culture to the younger generation. This paper aims to explore the role of *Lempu'* values as part of character education in the context of preserving local culture in educational institutions, as well as examining how local wisdom-based teaching methods can improve students' integrity and responsibility. (Megawati et al., 2024) As a value contained in Bugis culture, *Lempu'* plays a very important role in shaping one's personality and integrity. *Lempu'* teaches that honesty is the key to maintaining harmonious relationships between individuals in society, which in turn influences the character education process in schools. This underlies the importance of this study, which tries to see how the value of *Lempu'* can be integrated in educational practices in schools, and how its application can affect students' character building. As a form of integrating local wisdom in character education, *Lempu'* value has a high relevance to be applied in the context of formal education. For example, in primary or secondary schools, character education based on *Lempu'* can shape students into individuals who are not only smart in academics, but also wise in social behavior. Character education that includes the value of honesty is not only important in shaping students' morals, but also in teaching students to be responsible and trustworthy individuals.

One of the methods used in this research is a qualitative method with a literature review approach, in which the author collects and analyzes relevant literature regarding the preservation of local culture and the value of honesty in character education. This research focuses on how the value of *Lempu'* in Bugis culture can be learned and applied in school education, with the aim of seeing its impact on student character building. Through a qualitative approach and literature analysis, the article explores previous research that shows that the application of cultural values in character education not only has a positive impact on students' morals and ethics, but also increases mutual respect and strengthens social integration within the educational community.

In a broader study, many studies show that the integration of cultural values in education has a positive impact on the formation of student character, as well as being an important effort in preserving local wisdom that must be

maintained in the context of modernization. (Dahlan, 2023) Character education based on local values such as *Lempu'* plays a very important role in improving the moral quality of students. Where, the form of representation of student character values has changed. Behavioral changes are evidenced from unpleasant behavior to positive behavior. In learning to write drama, students' character values based on local wisdom also appear in learning to write drama based on local wisdom. One of them is the value of honesty (*lempu'*). This research also refers to a study conducted by (Mujiburrahman, 2021), Local wisdom-based character education is considered worthy of being adopted by education policy holders in the formation of student character in schools. Students' character education determines the output of graduates who are ready to face honest competition in the future. Therefore, integrating the value of *Lempu'* in character education in schools is a strategic step to maintain and preserve Bugis culture, while strengthening students' integrity and morality.

The importance of cultural preservation and the application of local wisdom values in education is also increasingly recognized in the context of globalization which increasingly threatens the existence of local culture. In order to preserve *Lempu'* and other cultural values, schools can play an important role by integrating them into the character education curriculum. As expressed by (Nugraha & Hasanah, 2021) schools as educational institutions should be a place that facilitates the learning of cultural values that are relevant to the surrounding community. In this way, schools are not only a place to learn academic knowledge, but also a place to instill and strengthen moral values that will form a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also virtuous. The implementation of *Lempu'* values in schools can be done through various ways, for example by integrating honesty values in existing subjects, providing good examples through teacher behavior as role models, and holding activities that encourage students to practice honesty values in their daily lives.

In conclusion, this article emphasizes that the application of *Lempu'* values in character education in schools is not only relevant to strengthen students' character building, but also important in efforts to preserve Bugis culture. Through education based on local wisdom, especially the value of honesty contained in *Lempu'*, the younger generation can be encouraged to become more honest, responsible, and respectful of their culture. Therefore, it is important for schools to integrate cultural values in the curriculum and daily learning activities, in order to create an education that not only emphasizes on the mastery of knowledge, but also on character development based on the noble values of the nation.

METHODS

This study used a qualitative approach with literature review techniques to identify, select, and analyze relevant information regarding the implementation of *Lempu'* values in character education in schools, as well as efforts to preserve Bugis local wisdom in the context of education. The data collection process was conducted through a literature study, in which researchers collected various academic sources, articles, journals, books and previous research reports related to the value of honesty in Bugis culture, particularly the concept of *Lempu'*, and its implementation in character education. The sources were selected based on their relevance and credibility, with a focus on literature that examines the application of local values in education and their influence on student character building in schools.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Importance of Honesty in Character Education

Honesty is one of the main aspects in student character building because it is the foundation in building meaningful and harmonious relationships in society. In the context of education, honesty creates an environment that is conducive to the teaching and learning process. (Lickona, 2013) honesty is a value that must be taught at school and becomes the main value in educating. In line with this (Faidin et al., 2022) honesty is important to be taught to students, because without honesty, students will very easily practice bad traits, these bad traits can be prevented by habituation from an early age. Therefore, honesty is an important value in education that must be instilled from an early age, because it is the basis for preventing students from developing bad behavior and forming good character.

The value of *lempu'* in Bugis culture not only emphasizes the importance of speaking and acting honestly, but also upholds transparency in every action, both in the family and school environment. This is in line with the view of (Nucci et al., 2014) which asserts that successful character education must integrate local moral values such as honesty to form students with integrity. Honesty, in this case, acts as a moral foundation that strengthens students' integrity and shapes them into responsible individuals. For example, in daily practice, teachers can instill honesty by assigning tasks that require students to work with integrity, such as group assignments that demand honest collaboration and do not rely on cheating. By providing constructive feedback and rewarding students' honesty, schools can create a sustainable culture of honesty.

The Role of Teachers as Role Models in Teaching the Value of *Lempu'*

Teachers have a central position in educating students, including in teaching the value of *Lempu'*. (Salirawati, 2021) As educators and role models, teachers not only deliver teaching materials but also reflect the desired values to be instilled in students. In this case, the honest and responsible attitude shown by the teacher will be modeled by students. Teachers play an important role in instilling the value of *Lempu'* to students through exemplary behavior. The honest attitude shown by teachers in interacting with students, colleagues, and the school community will become a model of behavior that is internalized by students. As stated by (Bandura, 1977) in his social learning theory, “Students learn through observation of the behavior of adults, especially teachers, as authority figures in schools.” In Bugis culture, teachers who practice the value of *Lempu'* are not only educators, but also role models who are respected by students and society. Therefore, teachers must demonstrate integrity through consistency between words and actions that reinforce the value of honesty in education.

Implementation of *Lempu'* Value in Curriculum and School Activities

Integrating *Lempu'* values in the education curriculum is an important step in the preservation of Bugis culture and students' character building. Character education based on local wisdom such as *Lempu'* can be included in various subjects, not only limited to lessons on Pancasila or citizenship, but also in daily activities carried out at school. (Tilaar, 2004) states that “An effective curriculum is one that not only transfers knowledge but also builds students' character through local cultural values. In line with this (Sidabutar, 2024) explains that the implementation of local wisdom values in the curriculum is important for strengthening national identity and holistic student character building.

The application of local values in education can be included in the Civics subject (Pancasila and Citizenship Education), teachers can emphasize *Lempu'* values as part of the discussion on honesty, responsibility and integrity. These values can be discussed in the context of students' daily lives, such as when interacting with friends, family and society. In addition, extracurricular activities that encourage cooperation, such as scouts or student organizations, can also be a good place to instill the values of honesty and responsibility. These activities not only teach cooperation but also reinforce the moral values instilled by *Lempu'*.

The Impact of *Lempu'* Value on Student Character Building

The consistent implementation of *Lempu'* value in schools has a significant impact on student character building. Students who internalize this value tend to have honest, responsible, and trustworthy personalities. This is in line with the findings (Fitriyah et al., 2022) which show that local cultural value-based education must be developed in a systematic and planned learning

process, such as the value of honesty needs to be instilled more strongly because it has a very broad benefit in the life of the nation and state. In addition, students who understand the importance of the value of *Lempu'* will be more respectful of others, able to maintain good social relationships, and become more responsible individuals in society. This implementation also supports the long-term goal of education, which is to produce young people who are not only academically intelligent but also have high morality (Lickona, 2013).

CONCLUSION

The application of *Lempu'* values in character education in schools has a strategic role in shaping students with integrity, honesty and responsibility. *Lempu'* values, which emphasize honesty as part of Bugis local wisdom, have proven to be relevant in efforts to preserve local culture and strengthen students' morals. Teachers play an important role as role models by demonstrating these values through real and consistent actions in daily interactions. The integration of *Lempu'* values into the curriculum and school activities helps to create an educational environment that supports students' holistic character development, not only academically smart, but also moral and ethical.

Strengthening local cultural values such as *Lempu'* in the midst of globalization is an important step to maintain cultural identity and form a young generation capable of facing future challenges with strong morality. By adopting local wisdom values in education, schools can contribute to preserving cultural heritage while creating a generation with noble character.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank my friends who have provided assistance and support, both directly and indirectly, so that this paper can be completed properly. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, especially the Faculty of Education for the knowledge, input, and guidance that has been provided. All the knowledge and experience I have gained so far has become a valuable foundation that supports the completion of this paper.

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