

Educational and Cultural Value of the Pakarena Anida Dance: A Medium for Passing on Local Wisdom in High Schools

Nur Indah Swara Rahman¹, Johar Linda², Asia Ramli³

^{1, 2, 3} Program Studi Pendidikan Seni, Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This paper addresses modernization's propensity to undermine local wisdom. This research asks how the Pakarena Anida Dance can teach young people educational and cultural values in a sustainable way. This study seeks to (1) identify and define the educational values in each Pakarena Anida Dance movement, property, and accompaniment. (2) the Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar's role in preserving this dance is to carry on indigenous wisdom. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. We chose this approach to provide a rich, in-depth, and holistic picture of the phenomenon under study. The main subjects of the research are Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 (High School 5 Makassar), with a focus on the studio managers, trainers, and students who are actively involved in learning the Pakarena Anida Dance. Participatory observation, in-depth interviews with key informants, and document analysis of studio curriculum and training methods collected data. Research shows that the Pakarena Anida Dance is a rich source of local wisdom. Education emphasizes discipline, ethics/courtesy (particularly amongst men and women), patience, and respect for ancestors. An integrated approach to technical dance instruction and cultural philosophy at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar helps students internalize these principles. This study contributes theoretically to performing arts studies as a source of socio-cultural knowledge and practically to educational institutions and local governments in developing cultural preservation policies based on non-formal education and arts communities.

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Corresponding Author:

Nur Indah Swara Rahman,

Program Studi Pendidikan Seni, Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

Email: nurindahswara@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as an archipelagic nation with extraordinary multicultural richness, faces significant challenges in preserving its cultural heritage amidst the massive flow of globalization and modernization (Fauzan, 2025; Samsul Hady et al., 2025). Global popular culture increasingly exposes younger generations, often leading to shifting values and ultimately a cultural identity crisis (Edensor, 2020; Jensen & Arnett, 2012; Lieber & Weisberg, 2002). The consequence of this shift is the erosion of local

wisdom—time-tested knowledge, beliefs, understandings, and practices—that serve as the foundation of the ethics, morals, and social sustainability of indigenous communities.

Local wisdom serves not only as a legacy of the past but also as a practical guide for facing contemporary challenges (Aldyan et al., 2024; Eko & Putranto, 2019), from environmental management to character development. Therefore, we need effective, relevant, and engaging media to transfer and internalize the values of this wisdom to future generations (Arifin et al., 2025; Mursidi, 2025). In the cultural context of South Sulawesi, traditional performing arts play a vital role as a living and dynamic medium for transmission (Wijaya, 2024).

Traditional dances of South Sulawesi, particularly Makassar, possess immeasurable philosophical depth (Padalia & Sahnir, 2023). One dance rich in meaning and value is the Pakarena Dance (Sari & Syahrir, 2024). The Pakarena dance, which literally means "player" or "dancer," is not simply a series of aesthetic movements but rather a visual narrative about the cosmos, myths, and ideal behavior in society (Daeng & Rahim, 2025; Malik, 2025). This dance symbolizes the serenity, patience, and refinement (le'leng) that a woman should possess (Pramana et al., 2025; Syahrir & Alimuddin, 2024).

In this context, the Pakarena Anida dance (a variant or development of the more general Pakarena) is the primary focus (Khalik & Mustika, 2022; Pramana et al., 2025). Although researchers have widely studied Pakarena, in-depth exploration still requires a specific focus on the Anida variant, especially in the context of non-formal education in art studios. The Pakarena Anida dance is not only an art form but also a living curriculum that teaches ethical, aesthetic, and spiritual values aligned with the local wisdom of the Makassar people (Pramana & Nugrahaeni, 2019).

The transmission of local wisdom can no longer rely solely on the institution of the family or formal schools (Arsal et al., 2023; Perbawasari et al., 2024). Art studios have taken on a crucial role as non-formal institutions bridge this gap. Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar, the entity selected in this study, has a significant track record in training and shaping the character of young dancers. Through a consistent training process, this studio teaches dance skills and instills the philosophy behind each movement.

The training process at the studio serves as a socio-cultural laboratory (Ascenzi et al., 2021; Salama & Patil, 2025), where values such as discipline, hard work, collaboration, and respect for teachers and traditions (passikio) are directly practiced. Thus, the studio becomes an active agent of cultural change, ensuring that the essential values of local wisdom remain relevant and internalized by millennials and Gen Z (Amin & Ritonga, 2024; Musthafa & Darmawan, 2024).

Although studies on the Pakarena Dance and local wisdom already exist (Ibrahim & Rachmat, 2021; Pramana et al., 2025), this study has several novel aspects that make it important and unique. Most Pakarena studies tend to be general or focused on classical Pakarena (Pramana & Nugrahaeni, 2019). This study specifically examines the Pakarena Anida Dance, which may have different or more contemporary interpretations of movements and philosophy, making it relevant to the transmission of local wisdom in the current era. This study goes beyond merely describing cultural values

(anthropological) but explicitly analyzes them from the perspective of educational values (pedagogical). This article creates a more comprehensive dual analytical framework: how culture is transmitted (cultural mechanisms) and how culture shapes character (educational mechanisms). Additionally, by making Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar the subject of qualitative descriptive research, this study provides detailed empirical data on the operational mechanisms and internal practices of a non-formal studio in transmitting wisdom. This work fills a gap in literature, which often focuses on formal institutions (Chaer & Rochmah, 2021; Lestari & Suyanto, 2024; Pornpimon et al., 2014). Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to provide concrete recommendations regarding the integration of local wisdom embodied in the Pakarena Anida Dance into both formal and non-formal education curricula, serving as a practical guide for cultural and educational stakeholders in South Sulawesi.

Building upon the above background, the main research question is: How does the Pakarena Anida Dance at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 function as a medium for transmitting local wisdom, and what educational and cultural values have been successfully internalized by students? This research is highly significant because it will provide a profound understanding of the revitalization of traditional values through dance, while also emphasizing the strategic role of non-formal institutions in culture-based character development amidst the challenges of globalization.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. This approach was chosen because the focus of the research is on an in-depth understanding (*verstehen*) of the social processes and meanings contained in the Pakarena Anida Dance as a medium for transmitting local wisdom. Qualitative research allows researchers to understand the cultural context holistically and capture the perspectives of research subjects holistically. The goal is to describe in detail and comprehensively how the mechanisms of transmission of educational and cultural values occur at the research location, as well as to identify the specific values embodied in the dance without conducting statistical hypothesis testing. The primary research location is Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 (High School 5 Makassar), South Sulawesi. Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 has 176 students, consisting of 24 administrators, 75 members, and 77 prospective members who are affiliated with High School 5 Makassar. This location was chosen based on the consideration that the studio is one of the non-formal institutions that is active and consistent in preserving and teaching the Pakarena Dance to the younger generation, making it an ideal arena for observing the process of cultural transmission.

Key informants in this study were selected using purposive sampling based on their direct involvement and in-depth knowledge of the Pakarena Anida Dance and its transmission process. The research subjects consist of:

1. Studio Managers/Founders: To obtain information regarding the studio's vision, mission, and policies regarding cultural heritage.
2. Pakarena Anida Dance Trainers/Instructors: To obtain in-depth information regarding the movement philosophy, instilled values, and training methods used.

3. Students (Active Dancers): To obtain information regarding their direct experiences (emic perspective) in learning dance, their understanding of values, and the impact of dance on their character.
4. Local Traditional/Cultural Leaders (Optional): To verify and contextualize the local wisdom values in the Pakarena Anida Dance.

To ensure data validity and triangulation, several data collection techniques were used:

1. Participant Observation: The researcher will be involved in Pakarena Anida Dance training activities at the Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar to directly observe the process of knowledge transfer, social interactions, and the application of values in dance practice.
2. In-Depth Interviews: Conducted in a semi-structured manner with key informants. The interviews aimed to elicit detailed information regarding the dance's philosophy, symbolic meaning, and how these values were intentionally internalized during the training process.
3. Documentation: Data collection from various written and visual sources (photos, videos, notes, archives) relevant to the studio's activities and the philosophy of the Pakarena Anida Dance.

The qualitative data collected was analyzed using an interactive model (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana), which consists of three simultaneous activity streams:

1. Data Reduction: Selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming data emerging from field notes. Data irrelevant to the research objectives was eliminated.
2. Data Display: Organizing the reduced data in narrative form, tables, matrices, or charts for ease of understanding, allowing conclusions to be drawn.
3. Conclusion Drawing/Verification: Researchers draw initial conclusions, which are then verified and tested for validity by returning to field data (triangulation) to ensure the conclusions are robust and credible.

Data validity will be checked using source triangulation techniques. This is done by comparing the same information from different sources (for example, comparing a trainer's explanation of the value of discipline with observations of student behavior and the views of the studio manager) to achieve credible and accountable data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This study presents in-depth findings obtained through participant observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05/ High School 5 Makassar. The findings are grouped into three main sections: identification of values, inheritance mechanisms, and the studio's contributions.

Identification of Educational and Cultural Values in the Pakarena Anida Dance

The Pakarena Anida Dance, as a complex artistic manifestation, has proven to be a medium rich in philosophical messages and local wisdom values. These values are internalized in three main aspects of the dance: movement, props/costumes, and musical accompaniment. The following presents the gentleness in meaning in the Pakarena Anida Dance, a variety of fairy tales, in Figure 1.



Figure 1. The Pakarena Anida Dance

Inherited Educational Values

The educational values identified are identified as character-building elements relevant to Makassarese ethics:

1. Discipline (*Accana*): Reflected in punctuality in practice, obedience to the instructor, and most importantly, synchronization of movements between dancers and with the rhythm. A single rhythmic or movement error is considered disruptive to collective harmony, teaching the importance of personal responsibility for the group.
2. Patience and Perseverance (*Timmoka*): The Pakarena dance tends to have a slow tempo and repetitive movements, yet it requires extraordinary muscle control (especially finger and wrist movements). Mastering this technique demands great patience, which pedagogically fosters a never-give-up mentality.
3. Ethics and Politeness (*Siri' and Pesse'*): This dance is steeped in social etiquette, particularly in poses and eye contact. Female dancers are required to display refinement and composure (*le'leng*). This teaches politeness in public appearances and respect for social norms.
4. Emotional Balance (*Malino*): Dancers must maintain a calm and level facial expression (without smiling or frowning) regardless of the difficulty of the movements. This value teaches self-control and emotional regulation.

Inherited Cultural Values (Local Wisdom)

The most prominent cultural values are closely related to the Makassarese way of life:

1. Reverence for Ancestors and Nature (Passikio): Several movements in the Pakarena Anida Dance symbolize interactions with the upper world (khayangan) and the lower world (bumi), reflecting the Tumanurung myth. This instills a deep respect for history, origins, and the universe.
2. Gentleness and Beauty of Women: This dance visually glorifies the ideal image of Makassarese women: graceful, gentle, yet possessing inner strength. The feet, which barely touch the ground, and the slow body movements symbolize refinement and dignity.
3. Property Philosophy (Fan): The fan (Pabbukku') is the central property. The open fan symbolizes readiness and perfection, while when closed, it symbolizes secrecy and wisdom. This philosophy teaches that everything must be done at the right time and with careful calculation.
4. Solidarity and Harmony (Sipakatau): The musical accompaniment (Gandang and Puik-puik) is played collectively. The dancers' synchronization with the rhythm is key, teaching that a successful performance is the result of collaboration and harmony of all elements.

Mechanisms for Passing on Values at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar

Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar has proven to be more than just a place for technical dance training, but also a non-formal educational institution that uses a holistic approach to passing on values. The following presents the philosophy of each type of movement in the Pakarena Anida dance in Figure 2 and Figure 3 (*Anyungke kipasa, Ma'biring Kassi'and Bombangna, Sitaklei, Kelong Dongang- Dongang, Gerak Accarammeng, Gerak Sulapa' Appa', Anging Kama'lino, and Gerak Renjang*).



Figure 2. Each Type of Movement in the Pakarena Anida Dance



Figure 3. Dongang-Dongang Movement - Horizontal Inheritance Between Dancers

Intentional Training Methods

The studio's trainers employ methods that consciously integrate philosophy into practice:

1. **Philosophical Storytelling:** Before or after a practice session, the trainer always provides a short lecture (Storytelling) about the mythological background, ethics inherent in the dance, and ancestral stories (Tumanurung) relevant to the movements. This ensures that dancers understand the "why" of dancing, not just the "how."
2. **Cultural Discipline Practices:** Studio rules, such as the obligation to kiss the trainer's hand (as a sign of respect), the prohibition on foul language, and the commitment to practice time, directly reflect the values of Siri' and Pesse' (shame and compassion).
3. **Emphasis on Process:** Trainers consistently emphasize the importance of the slow and perfect process of mastering movements (le'leng) over the speed of stage performance, reinforcing the values of Patience and Perseverance.

Knowledge Transformation (Internalization Process)

Interviews with students indicate that this transfer process is effective. Most informants reported positive changes in their daily behavior:

"After dancing Pakarena, I became more careful when moving and speaking in public. I feel I must maintain le'leng (grace/refinement) as taught in the dance. This is not only on stage, but also at school." (Quote from an active dancer)

The Studio's Strategic Contribution to Local Wisdom

The findings indicate that the existence of Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar is a strategic contributor to preserving the Pakarena Anida Dance and local wisdom.

1. **Conservation and Adaptation:** The studio successfully balances conservation of the classical dance form with adaptations that make it relevant. They maintain the essence of the movements and philosophy, while presenting performances that appeal to contemporary audiences, ensuring the survival of the culture.

2. Creating a Culture-Based Learning Environment: The studio serves as a safe space where young people can interact and identify with their cultural identity without fear of being labeled "outdated" by their peers.
3. Values Penetration Agent: Through performances at various public events and school invitations, the studio not only trains dancers but also acts as an agent introducing and instilling local wisdom values to the wider community.

In summary, the research findings confirm that the Pakarena Anida Dance, taught through a holistic and philosophical approach at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar, serves as a successful living curriculum in transferring educational values (*discipline, ethics*) and local wisdom (*Passikio, Siri', Pesse'*) to the next generation.

Discussion

This discussion section aims to analyze the research findings by linking them to theoretical concepts of cultural inheritance, the role of performing arts, and character education. This analysis also provides a space to present the novelty and practical implications of the findings obtained at Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05/High School 5 Makassar.

Pakarena Anida Dance as a Cultural Socialization Process

The finding that the Pakarena Anida Dance contains educational values such as discipline, patience, and ethics aligns with the theory of cultural socialization. According to Vygotsky, learning occurs through social interaction ([Newman & Latifi, 2021](#); [Taber, 2025](#)), and in this context, the Pakarena Anida Dance functions as a cultural tool. (1) Internalization of Values through Practice: Dance movements that require complete control, slow rhythms, and calm facial expressions (*le'leng*) are not only technical requirements but also physical representations of the values of *Siri'* (self-esteem) and *Pesse'* (shame/social ethics). The repetitive process of practice internalizes these values in the dancers' habits, which then manifests in their daily behavior. Additionally, the studio, through the instructor's role (as a more knowledgeable other), provides a structured environment where dancers are pushed beyond their dance abilities, as well as their character traits, such as restraint and respect for tradition (*Passikio*), which fall within their Zone of Proximal Development ([Abtahi, 2018](#); [Karimi-Aghdam, 2017](#); [Xi & Lantolf, 2021](#)).

The Role of the Arts Studio in Non-Formal Heritage

The research results strongly support the argument regarding the important role of non-formal institutions, particularly arts studios, as effective agents of cultural heritage in the modern era. Unlike formal education, which often separates academic subjects from cultural practices ([da Silva et al., 2024](#); [Santos & Rios, 2021](#)), the Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar combines the technical aspects of dance with the delivery of philosophy and folklore. The instructor's philosophical storytelling method is key to successfully transferring values, not just skills. This aligns with the concept of

enculturation, where values are taught in a living context (Karim, 2021; Yoon et al., 2020). Furthermore, the studio becomes a space where traditions are revived and adapted to be relevant to the younger generation (Relevance Theory) (Allott, 2013). By learning the Pakarena Anida Dance—a form that may be a modern adaptation of the classical Pakarena—students feel connected to their past without feeling alienated from the present.

Strengthening Local Wisdom (Passikio) through Dance Symbolism

Findings regarding cultural values such as respect for ancestors and nature (Passikio) are significant. In the context of Makassarese local wisdom, Passikio is the foundation of social ethics. Analysis indicates that the movements symbolizing the relationship between heaven and earth are not merely choreography but rather visualizations of Makassarese cosmology. When dancers engage in these movements, they indirectly acknowledge and respect the order of the universe and the role of Tumanurung. This strengthens their collective identity as part of a cultural community. Additionally, the fan, serving as a central prop, affirms the transmission of local wisdom through cultural objects. The philosophy of the fan teaches wisdom and caution in acting, which is an important element of Pesse' (compassion/moral responsibility).

Novelty and Theoretical-Practical Implications

This research provides key novelties that distinguish it from previous studies of the Pakarena Dance. This research has successfully mapped explicitly how educational values (discipline) become a tool for achieving cultural values (le'leng or refinement), demonstrating that these two domains of values are not separate, but rather mutually reinforcing in the Pakarena Anida Dance. An in-depth case study of the Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar provides empirical evidence of a successful inheritance mechanism at the community level, which can serve as a model for preserving local wisdom in other regions.

The local government needs to provide formal support and recognition to the arts studio curriculum as a strategic partner in character education. The values contained in the Pakarena Anida Dance can be integrated as a learning module on ethics and culture within the formal school curriculum in South Sulawesi. The Pakarena Anida dance at the Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 Makassar is a concrete example of a living cultural heritage, effectively serving as a character education system and the transmission of local wisdom. The studio's heritage process has successfully created a strong bridge between traditional Makassar values and the character demands of the younger generation in the modern era.

4. CONCLUSION

The Pakarena Anida Dance is a rich and holistic medium for transmitting values. This dance is not merely an aesthetic performance but rather a life curriculum rich in philosophical meaning and the social ethics of the Makassar people. Several important values were successfully internalized by students, including educational values (such as

discipline, patience, and emotional balance) and cultural values (such as respect for ancestors/nature (Paskio), refinement (le'leng), and social ethics (Siri' and Pesse'). These values are passed down through the symbolism of movements, props, and musical accompaniment. Sanggar Bhakti Seni 05 at High School 5 Makassar has proven to be a highly strategic institution in this transmission. By utilizing training methods that integrate technical practice with philosophical storytelling, the studio has successfully bridged the intergenerational gap and ensured that local wisdom remains relevant to the younger generation amidst the tide of modernization. Overall, this research confirms that traditional performing arts, such as the Pakarena Anida Dance, play a vital role in character building and preserving cultural identity based on local wisdom.

It is recommended that the studio develop a guide or module that documents in writing the philosophy and values embodied in each Pakarena Anida dance movement. This will ensure consistency and depth in the process of transmitting values. It is recommended that the character education values identified in the Pakarena Anida Dance (e.g., discipline, social ethics, and Siri') be thematically integrated into local content subjects in formal schools, making them more contextual and relevant for students in South Sulawesi. Comparative research between the Pakarena Anida Dance and other Pakarena variations, or with traditional dances from other regions, should be conducted to identify universal and region-specific patterns of local wisdom transmission. A longitudinal study is needed to measure the long-term impact of learning the Pakarena Dance on the character formation and social behavior of students after they graduate from the studio.

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