



Revitalization of Maritime Culture as a Pillar of National Resilience in Indonesian Coastal Fisherman Communities

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia as an archipelagic country has a rich maritime culture and plays an important role in national resilience, both from economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Maritime culture includes the values, knowledge, skills, and practices passed down from generation to generation in coastal communities. This research uses a qualitative descriptive research method. This method focuses on explaining data descriptively and describing events or data with qualitative explanatory sentences. Based on the findings that modernization, exploitation of marine resources, and climate change are the main challenges that threaten the sustainability of maritime culture. To revitalize maritime culture, various strategies can be implemented, such as maritime-based education, preserving traditions, developing a sea-based economy, utilizing technology, and increasing public awareness. Several foreign countries, such as Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands have implemented various strategies for revitalizing maritime culture which can be a reference for Indonesia. Through a holistic approach and collaboration between government, local communities, and the private sector, maritime culture can be maintained and developed as strategic capital for sustainable development

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is known as the largest archipelagic country in the world with more than 17,000 islands stretching along the equator (Manurung, 2018; Wahyudin, 2016). Its vast water area makes it one of the countries with the largest maritime wealth in the world (Manurung, 2018). Indonesia's marine resources include various fisheries products, coral reefs, and energy reserves such as oil and natural gas. In addition, the strategic geographical position on international trade routes adds to the great economic potential of the maritime sector (Mei, 2017). With a long history as a maritime nation, Indonesia has been a center of trade and culture since the days of the Srivijaya and Majapahit kingdoms, which shows how important the sea is in shaping national identity (Manurung, 2018; Prasetya, 2018).

Maritime culture has become an inseparable part of the lives of coastal communities in Indonesia (Oktavianus, 2019). The fishing community, spread from Sabang to Merauke, depends on marine products for their livelihood. Local traditions, such as sea alms ceremonies and traditional boat building, show the close connection between coastal communities and the sea (Nainggolan et al., 2023). Maritime culture also includes language, art, and rituals of coastal communities that often reflect respect for the sea as a source of life (Putri et al., 2020). This is not only the foundation of the local economy, but also a cultural treasure that enriches national identity (Madani, 2022). However, maritime culture in Indonesia faces various serious threats (Prasetya, 2018). Rapid modernization has shifted the traditional values of coastal communities, replacing them with a more industrial lifestyle. Excessive exploitation of marine resources, such as illegal fishing and damage to coral reefs, has threatened the sustainability of marine ecosystems (Gonggong, 2020). Climate change, with phenomena such as rising sea levels and warming water temperatures, also has a significant impact on the lives of coastal communities and the sustainability of the marine sector (Ardiwidjaja, 2016).

In response to these challenges, the Indonesian government has implemented various policies to support the revitalization of maritime culture and development of the maritime sector (Kome et al., 2024). Programs such as sea highways, strengthening the national fishing fleet, and protecting coral reefs are some of the efforts to ensure the sustainability of marine resources. Initiatives such as National Maritime Day and the development of marine tourism destinations also demonstrate the government's commitment to raising public awareness of the importance of the marine sector (Imron & Wahyono, 2018). However, much still needs to be done to ensure that this policy has a real impact on coastal communities (Soselisa & Soselisa, 2023).

Although much research has been conducted on maritime culture and the maritime sector in Indonesia, there are several gaps that still need to be filled. Most previous research tends to focus on economic or ecological aspects, while socio-cultural aspects often receive less attention (Fatmasari, 2016). In addition, the lack of comprehensive data on the adaptation of coastal communities to climate change is a significant deficiency. This research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the dynamics of maritime culture and adaptation strategies of

coastal communities to education and modern challenges (Nainggolan et al., 2023; Helmi & Satria, 2012).

Education plays an important role in maintaining and developing maritime culture (Siswanto, 2018). The integration of local content related to maritime culture in the school curriculum can help the younger generation know and love Indonesia's marine riches (Nurissobakh et al., 2018). Community-based education programs can also increase public awareness about the importance of preserving the marine environment (Nurhayati et al., 2023). Education can be one of the main keys to maintaining the continuity of Indonesian maritime culture. On the other hand, technological support is an important factor in the maritime sector. The use of modern technology in fisheries management, coral reef mapping, and climate change mitigation can increase the efficiency and sustainability of this sector. Technology can also help traditional fishermen increase their productivity without damaging the ecosystem (Sarjito, 2023). Through integrated steps, Indonesia has the potential to become a world maritime power that is not only economically strong but also able to preserve its cultural riches and marine environment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Maritime Culture and its Importance in Coastal Communities

- **Definition and Scope:** Maritime culture refers to the traditions, knowledge, practices, and identity that coastal communities develop around the sea and marine resources.
- **Historical Context:** Indonesia, being an archipelagic country, has a deep-rooted maritime culture, with fishing, seafaring, and ocean-related practices historically integral to its social fabric.
- **Cultural Practices:** Fishermen communities in Indonesia often possess unique local knowledge about fishing techniques, sustainable resource management, boat-building traditions, and rituals.

2. National Resilience and Maritime Identity

- **National Resilience:** In this context, national resilience refers to the capacity of a country to withstand and recover from various challenges (natural disasters, economic shocks, social upheavals). Indonesia's maritime culture plays a significant role in this resilience, especially considering the importance of coastal areas to the nation's economy and identity.
- **Cultural Identity and Unity:** The maritime culture helps bind different regions of Indonesia, creating a shared sense of identity and community. This unity could be an essential pillar for national resilience, especially in the face of globalization and changing social dynamics.

3. Challenges Facing Coastal Fishermen Communities

- **Environmental Degradation:** Overfishing, coastal erosion, pollution, and climate change have all threatened the sustainability of fishing practices and maritime traditions.
- **Economic Pressures:** Global competition, modern fishing techniques, and the encroachment of industrial activities have also affected traditional fishing communities.

- **Loss of Traditional Knowledge:** Younger generations may be less inclined to follow traditional practices, leading to a gradual loss of maritime knowledge and culture.

4. Revitalization Efforts

- **Cultural Preservation Programs:** There are various initiatives to preserve maritime traditions through education, workshops, and community-driven cultural projects.
- **Sustainable Fishing Practices:** Efforts to balance economic needs with environmental sustainability, such as community-managed marine areas (CMAs), are examples of how maritime culture is being revitalized.
- **Policy and Government Support:** Government initiatives to promote maritime culture, such as maritime tourism and the protection of coastal ecosystems, play a role in revitalization.

5. Case Studies

- **Revitalization in Specific Communities:** Exploring successful case studies of coastal communities where maritime culture has been preserved or revitalized, such as the role of traditional fishermen in Bali, North Sumatra, or the Maluku Islands.
- **Community and Government Partnerships:** How collaboration between local communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government bodies has supported the revitalization of maritime traditions.

6. Conclusion: The Role of Maritime Culture in Strengthening National Resilience

- Maritime culture is crucial for fostering both community cohesion and environmental stewardship, which are essential elements for resilience in the face of modern challenges.
- Revitalization efforts are not just about preserving traditions, but about adapting them to current needs and ensuring their continuity for future generations.

METHODOLOGY

This research will use descriptive qualitative research methods. This method focuses on explaining data descriptively and describing events or data with qualitative explanatory sentences (Moleong, 2014). Qualitative research aims to understand phenomena such as the behavior, perceptions, motivations, and actions of research subjects holistically. This explanation is conveyed in the form of words and language, especially in a natural context, and uses various scientific methods (Kriyantono, 2006). This method allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the qualitative aspects of the phenomenon under study. Qualitative research aims to explain phenomena through data collection as in-depth as possible. This research does not prioritize population size or sampling, in fact other populations or sampling are very limited. Descriptive approach to create systematic, factual and accurate descriptions, images or paintings regarding the facts, properties, and relationships between the phenomena being investigated.

In this research, the data collection technique used was a literature review (Bungin, 2007). Literature review is a qualitative research method that

produces descriptive data in written form. This method allows researchers to collect information from various text sources that are relevant to their research topic, such as books, journal articles, and other documents. Literature reviews allow for in-depth analysis of a particular theme or problem, and allow researchers to build a strong theoretical framework based on related literature (Sugiyono, 2018). This research uses qualitative methodology to ensure that the data obtained can be analyzed in depth against relevant texts. This approach allows researchers to explore and interpret various views and thoughts related to their research topic. By using a literature review, researchers can build strong arguments and support their findings with a strong theoretical basis, based on information obtained from the selected literature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Maritime Culture

Maritime culture is a social and cultural heritage that developed in coastal communities as a result of their interactions with the sea. This concept includes values, knowledge, skills and practices that are closely related to marine life, including ways of survival, traditional traditions, and spiritual connections with marine ecosystems (Chairunnisa et al., 2019). Maritime culture not only supports the lives of coastal communities but is also part of the national identity for countries like Indonesia which are rich in maritime potential (Nainggolan et al., 2023). Maritime culture is increasingly developing with technological innovation in the maritime sector (Octavianus, 2019). Marine ecosystem conservation efforts reflect awareness of the importance of maintaining a balance between the use and preservation of marine resources for the sustainability of future generations (Imron & Wahyono, 2018).

1. Values in Maritime Culture

The values contained in maritime culture are often rooted in harmony with nature and a sense of responsibility towards the marine ecosystem (Mukhlis & Setyadiharja, 2017). Coastal communities, especially traditional fishermen, respect the sea as a source of life and an entity that must be preserved (Putri et al., 2020). The value of mutual cooperation is also very strong in this culture, seen from cooperation in fishing activities to fair distribution of catches within their communities. Spiritual values, such as respect for the sea as a sacred place, also strengthen people's relationship with the maritime environment.

In this condition, maritime communities have a high dependence on the sea as a source of livelihood, both through fishing, trade, and tourism. The sustainability of maritime culture does not only depend on coastal communities, but on all aspects and the role of government (Wicaksono et al., 2024). The importance of sustainable management of marine resources to maintain ecosystem balance and the survival of coastal communities. Success in fishing and shipping activities is strongly driven by efforts to preserve solidarity between community members (Zamzami, 2016).

2. Traditional Knowledge of the Sea.

Traditional knowledge is an integral part of maritime culture. This knowledge includes understanding the weather, ocean currents, fish seasons,

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and navigation using natural signs such as stars or wind patterns (Hairudin & Wahyuni, 2019). This knowledge is passed down from generation to generation, often through oral stories or direct practice at sea (Murdi et al., 2023). This knowledge also includes understanding marine ecology, such as the right time to catch fish so that fish populations are maintained and techniques for protecting coral reefs from being damaged (Andesfi & Prasetyawan, 2019).

3. Skills in Maritime Culture

Skills in maritime culture involve technical abilities that support life at sea, such as making and repairing boats, sewing fishing nets, and traditional fishing techniques (Jayanti et al., 2023). On the other hand, the ability to navigate and catch management is also an important part of this skill. These skills not only reflect technical ability but also precision, creativity, and adaptation to dynamic sea conditions (Ndiba & Lumpe, 2024)

4. Practices in Maritime Culture

Maritime cultural practices include the daily activities of coastal communities, from going to sea, processing catches, to traditional ceremonies related to the sea (Zubir & Ahmad, 2022). Ceremonies such as sea almsgiving or fishermen's feasts demonstrate people's spiritual connection to the sea as well as gratitude for the resources provided. This practice also includes traditional management of marine resources, such as determining fishing zones based on seasons to maintain ecosystem balance (Marlina et al., 2020).

National Resilience

National resilience includes a nation's ability to survive and develop amidst challenges (Puspitawati, 2017). Maritime culture, which integrates economic, social, cultural and environmental values, can become one of the pillars of national resilience (Allokendek et al., 2024). By exploiting the potential of maritime culture, Indonesia can strengthen its position as an independent and strong archipelagic country on the global stage. For example, sustainable maritime sector development not only improves the welfare of coastal communities but also strengthens Indonesia's competitiveness in the fields of international trade and tourism (Barata, 2020).

To ensure maritime culture contributes optimally to national resilience, synergy is needed between traditional values and government policy. The government must encourage programs that support the preservation of maritime culture, such as empowering coastal communities, developing environmentally friendly technology, and protecting marine ecosystems. Apart from that, education about maritime culture needs to be strengthened so that the younger generation understands the importance of the sea in maintaining the sustainability of the country. In this position, maritime culture is not only a heritage, but also strategic capital in realizing holistic national resilience.

1. Maritime Culture on Economic Resilience

Maritime culture has a major contribution to national economic resilience (Alifa et al., 2024). The sea provides abundant natural resources, such as fish, coral reefs and petroleum, which are the backbone of the economy for many coastal communities (Oktoyoki et al., 2023). In addition, the maritime sector, including fisheries, sea transportation and marine tourism, provides employment opportunities for millions of people in Indonesia (Marlina et al., 2020). By integrating a maritime culture that focuses on sustainable use,

economic resilience can be strengthened through responsible management of marine resources based on local wisdom.

2. Maritime Culture Towards Social Resilience

Maritime culture also plays an important role in building social resilience. The values of mutual cooperation, solidarity and a sense of togetherness that are reflected in the lives of coastal communities become strong social capital to face various challenges (Asmal & Latief, 2023). In the midst of modernization and globalization pressures, maritime culture can bind the collective identity of coastal communities, prevent social fragmentation, and strengthen cohesion between community members (Rochyat & Sunarto, 2020). The strong social resilience of coastal communities indirectly helps maintain national stability.

3. Maritime Culture towards Cultural Resilience

Maritime culture is an important part of Indonesia's cultural heritage (Kepel et al., 2024). Traditions, art, language, and rituals related to the sea reflect the nation's identity as a maritime country (Rahardjo, 2019). Preserving maritime cultures, such as sea alms ceremonies and traditional fishing techniques, helps maintain cultural diversity while strengthening a sense of pride in national identity (Farhaeni & Martini, 2023). By preserving maritime culture, Indonesia can fight cultural erosion due to globalization and ensure that its ancestral heritage remains alive and relevant for future generations.

4. Maritime Culture Towards Environmental Resilience

Maritime cultural concepts rooted in local wisdom often include sustainable natural resource management practices. Traditional coastal communities, for example, have customary rules that prohibit excessive exploitation of the sea, such as fishing out of season or destroying coral reefs (Friedlander, 2018). By re-adopting these values, environmental resilience can be increased to face threats such as climate change, marine pollution and ecosystem degradation. For example, the Bajo Mola community in Wakatobi National Park maintains conservative traditions such as *duata sangal*, *parika*, and *pamali* to manage sustainable marine ecotourism (Marlina et al., 2020). Likewise, Panglima Laôt in the city of Sabang formulated regulations to encourage a sustainable coastal and marine environment (Aswita et al., 2023). Maritime culture can be a community-based solution to preserve the marine environment.

Maritime Culture Revitalization Strategy

Public awareness about the importance of maritime culture needs to be increased through campaigns and mass media (Rahmawati, 2019). Programs such as National Oceans Day or campaigns about the dangers of marine pollution can help people, including those living in urban areas, to appreciate the sea and maritime culture more (Alamsyah, 2023). Efforts to revitalize maritime culture require collaboration between various parties, including the government, the private sector, and local communities. The government can create supportive policies, such as protecting marine ecosystems and financing maritime-based projects (Suryanto & Nugroho, 2022). The private sector can invest in maritime infrastructure, such as ports or marine product processing sites (Handoko & Prasetyo, 2020). Meanwhile, local communities act as guardians of cultural values and maritime traditions which are the foundation of this revitalization program. The revitalization of maritime culture must also be oriented towards

developing a sea-based economy (Wijayanti, 2021). This strategy includes empowering coastal communities through support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that focus on marine products. The development of marine tourism can also be a strategic step to encourage economic growth in coastal communities. By providing market access and training, education, and modern technology, coastal communities can improve their standard of living without abandoning local culture and traditions according to Table (1).

Table 1. Maritime Culture Revitalization Strategy

Strategy	Description	Implementation Example
Education	Integrating maritime cultural values in formal education and community training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime-based curriculum in schools. - Fisheries technology training for traditional fishermen.
Preservation of Maritime Traditions	Preserving and promoting traditions and customs related to maritime culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime culture festival. - Documentation of sea alms traditions and traditional navigation.
Ocean Based Economic Development	Empowering coastal communities through developing marine product-based businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for marine product MSMEs. - Marine tourism such as snorkeling in coral reef areas.
Utilization of Technology	Utilizing modern technology to support the preservation and development of maritime culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital platform for promotion of seafood products. - GIS technology for mapping marine ecosystems.
Multi-Party Partnership	Building cooperation between government, private sector and local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime-based project financing by government and private sector. - Joint marine conservation program.
Increasing Public Awareness	Increase public awareness about the importance of the sea and maritime culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Marine Day Campaign. - Production of films or books about Indonesian maritime culture.
Marine Environmental Conservation	Integrating marine environmental preservation with traditional maritime culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibition of fishing with explosives. - Planting artificial coral reefs.

Strategy	Description	Implementation Example
Maritime Infrastructure	Improve facilities that support the activities of coastal communities and the maritime sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of a small port in a coastal village. - Fish catch processing place.
Global Promotion	Promoting Indonesian maritime culture to the international level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in world maritime exhibitions. - Marine cultural tourism with a traditional education package.
National Policy Integration	Align the revitalization program with government policies in the maritime sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Maritime Axis Support. - Marine resource management regulations based on local wisdom.

Various developed countries have transformed to create a revitalized maritime culture through education and technology. This education not only aims to preserve culture but also to prepare the younger generation to face global challenges in the maritime sector. On the other hand, the use of modern technology can help traditional fishermen increase their catches without damaging the ecosystem. This initiative must be balanced with technical training so that coastal communities can make optimal use of technology and still respect local cultural principles. The following is a comparison of maritime culture revitalization strategies from 5 foreign countries that are different from Indonesia in table (2).

Table 2. Comparison of Maritime Cultural Revitalization From 5 Foreign Countries

Country	Source	Strategy	Description	Implementation Example
Japan	Rots & Haugan , 2023	Preserving Fisherman's Traditions	Preserving sustainable traditional fishing traditions, such as environmentally friendly fishing methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ukai traditional fishing technique (using cormorants). - Sea culture festivals such as Tenjin Matsuri.

Norway	Føre <i>et al.</i> , 2022; Afewerki <i>et al.</i> , 2023	Fisheries Technology Innovation	Combining modern technology with sustainable ocean management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High technology based aquaculture for salmon farming. - Implementation of environmentally friendly fuel ships.
New Zealand	Walker <i>et al.</i> , 2024; Maxwell <i>et al.</i> , 2020	Preserving Maori Heritage	Integrating Maori maritime culture in the management and conservation of the maritime environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaitiakitanga (the principle of marine protection in Maori culture). - Creation of custom-based marine protected areas.
Australia	Morrison <i>et al.</i> , 2023	Maritime Tourism Development	Optimizing sea-based tourism to support local economy and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of marine tourism, such as snorkeling and diving. - Empowering local communities as tour guides.
Portugal	Soares, 2019; Carvalho <i>et al.</i> , 2016	Revitalization of Historical Maritime Heritage	Leveraging the history of maritime exploration for cultural preservation and economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of ancient caravel ships for cultural tourism. - Commemoration of important maritime days such as Vasco da Gama Day.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Maritime culture is an important asset for Indonesia and other maritime countries, both from economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. As an archipelagic country, Indonesia has abundant marine wealth and a strong maritime history, which contributes to national resilience. However, modernization, exploitation of marine resources and climate change are serious threats that can erode maritime culture and disrupt the welfare of coastal communities. To revitalize maritime culture, various strategies can be implemented, such as maritime-based education, preserving local traditions, developing a sea-based economy, utilizing technology, and increasing public awareness. Countries such as Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands have developed unique strategies to preserve and optimize their maritime sectors. Learning from these countries can be a reference in developing policies and programs for the revitalization of maritime culture in Indonesia. The synergy between the government, local communities, and the private sector is the main key in ensuring that maritime culture remains sustainable and can develop in line with the challenges of the times. Policies that support sustainable marine management, strengthening the maritime economic sector, and environmental protection must be a priority in maintaining the sustainability of maritime culture. With a comprehensive and sustainable approach, maritime culture can not only be preserved but also become strategic capital for national development that is competitive at the global level.

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations, so it is necessary to conduct further research related to the topic of REVITALIZATION OF MARITIME CULTURE AS A PILLAR OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE IN INDONESIAN COASTAL FISHERMAN COMMUNITIES in order to improve this research and add insight for readers

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