

An Analysis of the Preservation Efforts of the Hongde Sport Association Lion Dance Club in Promoting Chinese Culture in Surabaya

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ABSTRACT

Keywords:

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Barongsai is a traditional Chinese performing art that carries strong cultural, spiritual, and social values. In Surabaya, Hongde Sport Association is one of the active clubs that strives to preserve the existence of barongsai through various artistic and cultural initiatives. This study aims to analyze the preservation efforts of Barongsai Club Hongde Sport Association and its role in promoting Chinese culture in Surabaya. This research employs a descriptive qualitative method with data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The results indicate that Hongde Sport Association carries out cultural preservation through regular training, member regeneration, participation in cultural events, community collaboration, and performance adaptation to societal developments. Moreover, the club functions as a cultural medium that introduces Chinese cultural values to the public through performances and educational activities. The conclusion of this research is that Hongde Sport Association contributes significantly to sustaining the existence of barongsai and strengthening Chinese cultural identity in Surabaya.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country rich in cultural diversity, one of which stems from the acculturation of the Chinese community that has long settled and developed in various regions, including Surabaya. One form of Chinese culture that remains widely recognized by the public today is the traditional lion dance performance. The lion dance not only serves as entertainment during Chinese New Year celebrations, but also carries symbolic meanings related to hope, prosperity, and harmony (Wang, 2021). As a traditional art form, the lion dance plays an important role in preserving Chinese cultural identity and strengthening social relationships among different community groups (Gomes, 2020).

The existence of the lion dance within modern society faces various challenges, including declining interest among younger generations, competition from popular culture, and limitations in facilities and funding. Therefore, the preservation of the lion dance has become an urgent necessity to ensure that this art form continues to be recognized, appreciated, and passed down to future generations. Cultural preservation is not only concerned with maintaining existing art forms, but also involves efforts of adaptation and innovation in order to remain relevant to contemporary developments without losing its traditional values (Setyawan, 2019).

In Surabaya, one of the communities actively engaged in preserving and promoting the lion dance is the Hongde Sport Association. This club not only focuses on technical training in lion dance performance, but also organizes various cultural activities, public performances, and collaborations with communities and institutions. The role of the Hongde Sport Association has made the lion dance more accessible to the wider public and has helped to enhance understanding of Chinese culture. Therefore, the existence of this club holds a strategic contribution to the preservation and promotion of Chinese culture in Surabaya (Hongde Sport Association, 2025).

This study aims to analyze the efforts undertaken to preserve the existence of the Hongde Sport Association Lion Dance Club and to examine the extent of its role in promoting Chinese culture to the wider community. This research employs a qualitative method, utilizing interview, observation, and documentation techniques to collect data from the club's activities and members. It is expected that this study will contribute to the development of Chinese cultural studies in Indonesia and serve as a reference for future research related to the preservation of traditional arts.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method aimed at providing an in-depth description of the efforts to preserve the existence of the lion dance carried out by the Hongde Sport Association in Surabaya (Sugiyono, 2017). A qualitative approach is selected as this study emphasizes processes, meanings, and cultural activities within the lion dance community (Miles et al., 2014). Data were collected through interviews,

observations, and documentation. Interviews were conducted with the management, coaches, and members of the Hongde Sport Association Lion Dance Club to obtain information regarding their activities, preservation strategies, and the challenges they face (Moleong, 2018). Observations were carried out by directly examining training sessions and lion dance performances to understand the practical implementation of preservation efforts in the field. In addition, documentation was used to gather supporting data, including photographs of activities, archives, and publications related to the club (Koentjaraningrat, 2015). All data were analyzed using descriptive analysis, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Creswell, 2016). The findings of this study are then presented to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of the Hongde Sport Association in the preservation and promotion of Chinese culture in Surabaya.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study obtained through interviews with the Hongde Sport Association (Hongde SA) as the primary source. The collected data were then analyzed to understand how efforts to preserve the existence of the lion dance are carried out, as well as how this organization plays a role in promoting Chinese culture in Surabaya.

The interview results are presented in tabular form to facilitate readers in identifying the relationship between the field findings and the researcher’s analysis. The tables presented below serve as the basis for discussing preservation strategies, cultural promotion activities, as well as the challenges faced by Hongde SA.

Table 1. Analysis of the Preservation of the Hongde Sport Association Lion Dance Based on Interview Findings

Hongde organizes regular weekly training sessions focusing on stamina, lion dance techniques, and team coordination.	Consistent training helps maintain the quality of lion dance performances and ensures the continuity of the community’s activities.
Recruitment of new members is conducted regularly, with most recruits consisting of adolescents and young adults.	Ongoing recruitment supports the regeneration of performers, thereby maintaining the continuity of the group’s existence.
Hongde actively participates in performances at Chinese New Year celebrations, cultural festivals, business opening ceremonies, weddings, and government events.	Engagement in diverse events enhances the visibility of the lion dance in the community and broadens the scope of Chinese cultural promotion.

Activities and performance schedules are disseminated through Instagram.	Social media reinforces Hongde’s public image and functions as a tool for attracting new members and performance opportunities.
The management consistently instills values of discipline, cooperation, and team cohesion among its members.	The cultivation of these values fosters a cohesive community environment, which is crucial for sustaining the organization’s continuity.

Based on the summary of findings presented in the table above, it can be understood that each aspect of the Hongde Sport Association’s activities is interconnected in maintaining the continuity of the lion dance in Surabaya. The findings indicate a consistent pattern of preservation efforts, ranging from internal development to external promotion strategies. Based on these points, the following section will provide a more in-depth discussion of the forms of preservation, the role of Hongde in promoting Chinese culture, as well as the challenges faced and the efforts undertaken to address them.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study on the Analysis of the Preservation of the Hongde Sport Association Lion Dance Club’s Existence in Promoting Chinese Culture in Surabaya are as follows:

1. The Hongde Sport Association preserves the lion dance through regularly scheduled training sessions, ensuring that the quality of performances, techniques, and team coordination are maintained.
2. The regeneration process is carried out by opening new member recruitment periodically, primarily targeting adolescents and young adults, thereby sustaining the continuity of the community.
3. Hongde actively performs at various events, including Chinese New Year celebrations, cultural festivals, business openings, weddings, and government activities, which broadens the lion dance’s exposure within the community.
4. Social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok are utilized as tools for promoting activities and documenting performances, thereby enhancing Hongde’s visibility and attracting new members.
5. The instillation of values such as discipline, cohesion, cooperation, and a sense of belonging among members serves as a crucial factor in maintaining the organization’s continuity and team quality.
6. External support from the Chinese community, Chinese New Year committees, temples, and sponsors further strengthens Hongde’s existence and provides more performance opportunities.
7. The main challenges faced include the high cost of costumes and equipment, limited training space, and members’ busy schedules, which affect the intensity of training.

8. Efforts to overcome these challenges are carried out through more structured financial management, collaboration with various parties, and adjustments to training schedules to maintain flexibility.
9. Educational activities, such as workshops, collaborations with schools, and performances at cultural events in Surabaya, help broaden public understanding of the lion dance.

Overall, the Hongde Sport Association has successfully demonstrated that the preservation of the lion dance can be achieved through a combination of consistent training, member regeneration, active promotion, and adaptation to the needs of modern society.

This study contributes to the understanding of cultural preservation practices within Chinese-Indonesian communities, particularly through the role of lion dance organizations in maintaining cultural identity and social cohesion in modern society. The findings also demonstrate how traditional cultural practices can adapt to contemporary challenges through digital promotion and community engagement.

Future research is recommended to explore comparative studies between lion dance communities in different regions of Indonesia or other Southeast Asian countries in order to identify broader patterns of cultural preservation. In addition, further studies may examine the role of digital media and younger generations in sustaining traditional Chinese cultural practices in the era of globalization.

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