

Community Socio-Cultural System in Bojonegoro District, East Java

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Received: 01-11-2024**e-ISSN :** 2987-9140**Accepted:** 24-01-2025**Volume :** 2 No. 3, (2025)**Published:** 01-02-2025**Page :** 33-44**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.26740/ijgsme.v2n3.p33-44>**Abstract**

Bojonegoro Regency, East Java, is an area with a rich culture that reflects a mix of ethnicities, traditions and local beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation. This research aims to identify the socio-cultural elements of the Bojonegoro community as well as the impact of modernization on the local social structure and culture. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach with data collection through literature study and participant observation. The research results show that the people of Bojonegoro still uphold the values of mutual cooperation, traditional arts and traditional rituals which reflect a strong cultural identity. However, modernization through the oil and gas energy sector and information technology has triggered changes in consumption patterns, lifestyles and gender roles. Adaptation to these changes is seen through cultural innovation that remains rooted in traditional values. It is hoped that this study will become a reference in preserving local culture and formulating policies based on local wisdom.

Keywords: Bojonegoro, socio-cultural system, modernization, tradition**1. INTRODUCTION**

Bojonegoro Regency, which is located in East Java Province, has a rich culture that reflects ethnic diversity, traditions and local beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation. According to Musahadah & Ganefwati (2023), the people of Bojonegoro are known for their strong customs, which are influenced by a combination of Javanese Mataraman culture and typical coastal culture that is embedded in everyday life. The socio-cultural system in this area not only includes social relations between residents, but also values, norms and cultural practices that play an important role in shaping the identity of local communities.

The socio-cultural system in Bojonegoro is based on the values of togetherness and mutual cooperation which are still highly respected by the local community (Munawaroh, 2015). This habit is reflected in various social activities such as traditional events, feasts, and community service. Apart from that, religious values also play an important role in shaping the morality and ethics of society, where the majority of the population adheres to Islam with strong religious traditions.

Understanding Bojonegoro's socio-cultural system is not only to preserve local cultural heritage, but also to support sustainable development rooted in local wisdom (Pradana et al., 2018). In the development context, the study of this socio-cultural system can be a basis for

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designing policies that suit the characteristics of local communities. Therefore, this research aims to comprehensively examine the socio-cultural system of the Bojonegoro community, which includes aspects such as social structure, patterns of relationships between residents, traditional values, and the influence of globalization on local culture.

Understanding the socio-cultural system in Bojonegoro Regency is very important because this area reflects the social and cultural diversity of East Java which is rich in traditions, customs and distinctive values. Bojonegoro is one of the areas in East Java which is famous for its strong local culture, as well as traditions that have been maintained from generation to generation by its people. According to Triantoro & Andriyanto (2022), this strong culture can be seen from arts such as wayang thengul, tayub, and the earth alms tradition, which are not only entertainment but also have deep spiritual and social meaning for society.

Understanding the socio-cultural system of Bojonegoro can provide a broader picture of how local communities in East Java maintain their cultural identity in everyday life, even though they are faced with the influence of modernization (Nursant & Yudhiasta, 2024). This district also shows how its people carry out social values such as mutual cooperation, solidarity between residents, and close relationships within the community (Diantika, 2020). These values are still visible in various social activities such as community service and traditional events that involve the participation of the entire community.

Bojonegoro also shows the dynamics between tradition and modernity, where local culture must adapt to current developments and the flow of globalization (Veralidiana, 2010). By studying the socio-cultural system in Bojonegoro, we can see how local communities manage cultural identity amidst ongoing social changes. This is important as a reflection of the survival strategy of the East Javanese people as a whole in maintaining their cultural diversity amidst external influences.

An in-depth understanding of the socio-cultural system in Bojonegoro is not only important for the local community but also for those who want to understand the socio-cultural diversity in East Java. This understanding is also useful for designing policies that respect local cultural values and encourage cultural preservation in a multicultural society. With this background, it is hoped that this article can make a scientific contribution to efforts to preserve and develop distinctive local culture and enrich the literature on culture and social systems in Indonesia, especially in the East Java region.

2. METHOD

This paper's research method, which focuses on the Community Social and Cultural System in Bojonegoro Regency, is a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The Descriptive Qualitative Approach focuses on describing and analyzing the social and cultural elements that exist in Bojonegoro. This approach helps in understanding cultural phenomena in depth. Data collection uses literature studies by collecting data from relevant literature such as books, journals, government reports, and articles discussing Bojonegoro culture and society. This includes research on local cultural characteristics and social changes resulting from modernization. Participatory Observation is also carried out by visiting Bojonegoro or obtaining data from direct observation, participatory observation can add insight. Focus on traditional events, religious practices, or traditional celebrations to understand people's daily lives. Data analysis is used for thematic analysis by identifying patterns or themes related to

social structure, cultural values, the influence of modernization, and community responses to socio-culture in Bojonegoro. Interpretation and Validation through findings with other sources to strengthen results or find different perspectives, for example through comparison with case studies of other areas in East Java that experienced similar modernization.

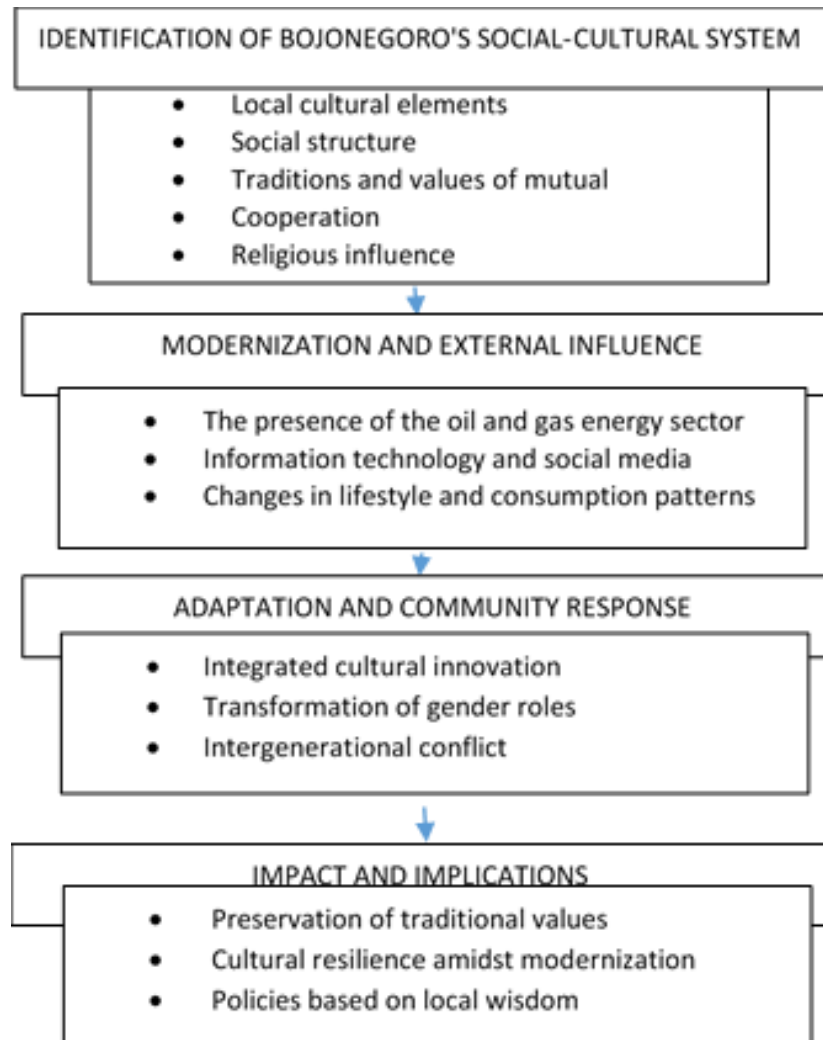


Figure 1. Research Framework

Figure 1 is a diagram of the thinking framework for this research. This chart shows the flow of understanding from identification of the socio-cultural system to the impact and recommendations produced on the people of Bojonegoro, East Java

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General characteristics of Bojonegoro

Bojonegoro is a district in East Java that has unique geographical, demographic and historical characteristics, all of which play a role in shaping the cultural identity of its people.

• *Geographic Location*

Bojonegoro is located in the western part of East Java Province and directly borders Central Java Province to the west. The Bengawan Solo River, the longest river on the island of Java,

crosses the Bojonegoro area, making this area geographically and economically strategic. Its location close to traditional trade centers makes Bojonegoro a meeting point for various cultures and influences from the surrounding area (Setyawan & Sumarno, 2015). Apart from that, Bojonegoro is known as an area rich in natural resources, especially petroleum, which attracts migration from various regions.

• *Demographics*

The majority of people in Bojonegoro are ethnic Javanese with Javanese as their daily language, often using a typical East Javanese dialect that is different from dialects in other regions (Ayuningsih, 2018). The people of Bojonegoro tend to uphold the values of togetherness, mutual cooperation and social solidarity, which can be seen in joint activities such as earth charity and community service. Apart from Javanese, Bojonegoro is also inhabited by small groups of other ethnic groups who come to work, especially in the oil and gas sector. The majority of the population are farmers, but the presence of the energy sector, especially oil and gas, attracts workers from outside, which enriches the socio-cultural diversity in Bojonegoro.

• *History*

The history of Bojonegoro plays a major role in forming the cultural identity of its people. In the past, this region was part of large kingdoms in Java, such as Majapahit and Mataram, which left strong traces of Javanese culture (Liani et al., 2021). The historical influence of this kingdom can be seen in traditional arts such as wayang thengul and tayub which is often performed in traditional ceremonies. Apart from that, traces of Dutch colonialism are also visible in Bojonegoro, especially in the plantation and infrastructure sectors, where physical remains and colonial traditions are still visible today.

Social System and Community Structure in Bojonegoro

The social system and community structure in Bojonegoro have distinctive characteristics and are formed from a combination of traditional Javanese cultural values, religious influences, and modern socio-economic dynamics. The following are several main aspects that describe the social system and structure of society in Bojonegoro:

• *Traditional Social Hierarchy*

As part of Javanese society, the social structure of the Bojonegoro community is still heavily influenced by the concept of patron-client or traditional hierarchy, where the role of community figures, such as village elders, kyai and village heads, is highly respected and has a great influence in social life. The values of respect for older and experienced people are also still upheld, and can be seen in daily interaction patterns that are full of good manners.

• *The Role of Family and Community*

Nuclear and extended families have an important role in the social system in Bojonegoro. The family is not only seen as the core unit in society, but also as a source of support in economic and social life. The culture of mutual cooperation or community service is often practiced in extended family and community activities, especially at important events such as celebrations, weddings and other traditional events. Family and community solidarity makes the people of Bojonegoro very bonded and supportive of each other.

• *Religious Values in Daily Life*

The majority of Bojonegoro people adhere to Islam, which has a major influence on the social system in this region. Social life in Bojonegoro is colored by religious activities, both in the form of recitations, activities at mosques, and celebrations of Islamic holidays such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Kyai and other religious figures play an important role in guiding society, not only in religious aspects but also in other social issues.

• *Institutions and Social Institutions*

At the village level, social institutions such as community associations (RW), neighborhood associations (RT), as well as traditional and religious institutions play an important role in managing the social life of the community (Farid et al, 2024). These institutions not only regulate village administration, but also serve as a coordinating forum for various community activities, such as infrastructure development, traditional events, and handling social problems.

• *Gotong Royong sebagai Nilai Sosial*

Mutual cooperation is a social value that is deeply rooted in the lives of the people of Bojonegoro. This tradition is reflected in various aspects of life, such as community service activities, helping neighbors at celebrations or funerals, and participation in village social activities. This value of mutual cooperation makes the people of Bojonegoro connected and have high solidarity, and forms strong social resilience in facing various challenges.

• *Adaptation to the Influence of Modernization and New Economic Sectors*

Since the discovery of oil and gas reserves in Bojonegoro, the local community has experienced changes in their social system. The energy sector brings in workers and outside influences that change socio-economic dynamics. There has been a shift from an agrarian society to more diverse sectors, including jobs in the energy sector. However, the people of Bojonegoro still try to maintain their local culture, such as by involving immigrants in traditional events or social activities.

• *Division of Gender Roles*

Bojonegoro society still places traditional roles on gender, where men are often considered the head of the family and main breadwinner, while women play more of a role in domestic affairs. However, with the development of education and new economic sectors, women's roles are expanding, especially in microeconomic activities and small businesses. These changes reflect society's adaptation to economic demands while maintaining traditional values

Elements of Local Culture of the Bojonegoro Community

The local cultural elements of the Bojonegoro community are rich in traditional values and are an integral part of the cultural identity of the area. The following are some of the main local cultural elements that characterize the people of Bojonegoro:

- **Language**

Javanese is the main language used daily by the people of Bojonegoro, with a distinctive East Javanese dialect that is different from other regions. This language not only functions as a means of communication, but also as a medium for transmitting cultural values. The use of krama and ngoko language, which differs depending on social status and age, shows social etiquette and etiquette in Javanese culture.

- **Traditional Arts**

Thengul Wayang: Thengul wayang is a typical Bojonegoro art that is different from shadow puppetry, using three-dimensional wooden puppets with colorfully painted faces. These puppets tell local stories and are a means of entertainment and education for the community.

Thengul Dance: This dance is a development of the thengul wayang art and displays dynamic movements that depict the life of the people of Bojonegoro. Thengul dance is usually performed in cultural events and traditional ceremonies.



Figure 2. Illustration of the Thengul Dance

Figure 2 illustrates the typical Thengul dance from Bojonegoro. The Thengul dance is performed with expressive faces and humorous demeanor which symbolizes that the people of Bojonegoro are always happy with their motto, "Don't forget to be happy". The Thengul dance always appears dynamic with a combination of broken movements, this symbolizes that the lives of the people of Bojonegoro are always enthusiastic and work hard, because the people of Bojonegoro is "Energetic and Productive".

Tayub: Tayub art is a traditional dance performance accompanied by gamelan music and is usually played at traditional events or village celebrations. Tayub is a symbol of hospitality and is attended by the public as a form of entertainment.

- ***Traditional Traditions and Rituals***

Earth Almsgiving: Earth almsgiving is an annual ritual carried out after harvest as a form of gratitude to God for the abundant produce of the earth (Aristasari, 2024). Earth alms activities involve joint prayers, processions and artistic performances, which aim to strengthen social and spiritual ties between residents (Dariyo & Rahaditya, 2020).

Larung Offerings in Bengawan Solo: The people of Bojonegoro have a tradition of throwing offerings in the Bengawan Solo River, as a form of respect for nature and a request for safety. This ritual has a symbolic meaning as an expression of gratitude as well as preserving tradition.

- ***Traditional Houses and Traditional Architecture***

Traditional houses in Bojonegoro, although rarely found, have typical Javanese architectural characteristics with natural building materials such as wood and bamboo (Setyabudi et al., 2022; Prasetya, et al., 2023). The simple shape of the house with a pyramid roof shows familiarity with nature and the community's need to create a place to live that suits the climate.

- ***Local Crafts***

Batik Jonegoroan: Bojonegoro has a distinctive batik called Batik Jonegoroan, with motifs inspired by natural elements and the surrounding environment, such as teak wood, the Bengawan Solo River, and rice. This batik has become a cultural identity that is introduced at official events and as typical regional souvenirs.

Teak Wood Crafts: Because Bojonegoro is rich in teak forests, teak wood crafts are one of the superior products. This craft includes making furniture, carvings and home accessories that have aesthetic and economic value.

- ***Traditional Culinary***

Ledre: Ledre is a typical Bojonegoro snack made from rice flour and coconut, in the form of thin and crunchy rolls. Ledre has become a popular souvenir and part of the local culinary identity.

Sego Buwuhan: Sego buwuhan is a rice dish served with various side dishes, such as fish, chicken, and vegetables, as well as special chili sauce. This food is often found in traditional markets and is a culinary characteristic of the Bojonegoro people.

- ***Local Trust and Mutual Cooperation Values***

Local beliefs that are strong with traditional values, such as respecting ancestors and maintaining the balance of nature, are still visible in Bojonegoro. The value of mutual cooperation is also an important element in community culture, seen in community service activities, celebration events, and assistance between residents in certain situations.

• *Religious Celebrations*

The majority of Bojonegoro people are Muslim, and religious activities are an important part of their social and cultural life, Geertz (1960). Apart from celebrating Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, various activities such as reciting the Koran and celebrating the Prophet's birthday have become an opportunity to gather and strengthen social solidarity (Anita, 2023).

• *Modernization and External Influence of Bojonegoro society*

Modernization and external influences have brought significant changes to the social, cultural and economic systems of the Bojonegoro community. The impact can be seen in various aspects of daily life, including the way people interact, try and maintain traditions amidst change. The following are some of the main influences of modernization and external influences on the people of Bojonegoro:

• *Economic Changes with the Presence of the Oil and Gas Industry*

One of the biggest influences of modernization in Bojonegoro is the exploitation of oil and gas (oil and gas) in this region. According to Yulianto & Raharjo (2019), the oil and gas industry has opened up employment opportunities and attracted labor migration from various regions, thereby increasing social diversity. The presence of this industry also encourages the development of infrastructure, such as roads, public facilities and health services. However, these economic changes bring challenges, such as a shift from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector, which can affect the long-term stability of the local economy and dependence on non-renewable natural resources.

• *Influence of Media and Information Technology*

Access to the internet and social media has introduced the people of Bojonegoro to foreign culture and global values (Widodo, 2017). The younger generation, in particular, is more exposed to modern lifestyles through social media, which influences their lifestyle, the way they dress and their aspirations. Information technology also opens up access to online education and training, which allows the people of Bojonegoro to be more empowered and develop economically and intellectually. However, the influx of this influence also brought changes in interaction patterns and traditional values which previously emphasized simplicity and togetherness

• *Lifestyle Changes and Consumerism*

Modernization has increased people's purchasing power and consumption patterns, especially with economic growth caused by the oil and gas industry and other business sectors. This has an impact on people's lifestyles, which tend to be more consumerist and begin to abandon simple living habits. The emergence of modern shopping centers, restaurants and entertainment reflects a more individualistic lifestyle compared to traditional mutual cooperation values. This shift can reduce the value of social solidarity if it is not balanced with awareness of maintaining local traditions.

• *Gender Role Transformation*

The influence of modernization has also changed gender roles in Bojonegoro society. Women are now more involved in various fields, both as workers, business actors and decision makers in the family. This is due to increased access to education and work opportunities, which

allows women to play a larger role in the family economy. Although these changes have had a positive impact in terms of gender equality, challenges remain in maintaining a balance between traditional values and the demands of new roles in the family and society.

• *Adapting Tradition to Modern Innovation*

The people of Bojonegoro are starting to combine modern elements in their traditions to remain relevant to current developments (Sutrisno & Rofi'ah, 2023). For example, traditional events such as almsgiving or tayub are now often held in a more open format and promoted via social media to attract local and foreign tourists. Thus, this innovation supports the preservation of local culture and introduces traditions to the younger generation and outsiders who are interested in Bojonegoro culture. However, according to Spradley (2019). This change creates challenges in maintaining the essence of tradition so that it is not displaced by purely commercial demands.

• *Shifting Educational Values*

Modernization has changed the way the people of Bojonegoro view education, especially with increasing awareness of the importance of skills and expertise that are relevant to the job market (Fahma et al., 2023). Parents now tend to encourage their children to continue their education to college and take majors that are in line with technological or industrial developments (Green, 1999). Better access to education is also supported by technology-based training and courses which are increasingly common in Bojonegoro.

• *Intergenerational Conflict*

The impact of modernization and external influences often gives rise to value conflicts between the older and younger generations (Anderson, 1991; Anderson, 2003, & Inglehart, 2020). The older generation, which tends to be conservative and more traditional, faces challenges in accepting the changes brought by the younger generation, which is more open to external cultural influences, (Koentjaraningrat 2009). This conflict is often seen in terms of how to dress, understanding of social norms, and approaches to family and community roles. However, this conflict also opens up space for dialogue to find a balance between traditional values and the demands of modernity.

The community socio-cultural system in Bojonegoro District, East Java, is deeply rooted in local traditions, values, and practices that have been passed down through generations. This system is characterized by a strong sense of community, with social interactions often centered around family, religion, and agriculture. The majority of the population in Bojonegoro still adheres to traditional customs and ceremonies, which play a significant role in shaping the social fabric of the region. Additionally, the influence of Islam, as the dominant religion, is evident in many aspects of daily life, including local governance, education, and community events. Siradjuddin (2024), argued, despite modernization and economic changes, the socio-cultural system remains resilient, preserving the values of mutual cooperation (gotong royong) and respect for elders. However, challenges such as the impact of urbanization, industrialization, and shifting cultural norms are gradually transforming these traditional structures, which calls for adaptive strategies to maintain the region's unique cultural identity while embracing development (Mohyeddin, 2024).

4. CONCLUSION

The socio-cultural system of the Bojonegoro people is a combination of traditional Javanese values and the increasingly widespread influence of modernization. Strong local cultural characteristics, such as mutual cooperation, traditional arts (wayang tengul, tayub), and earth charity traditions, reflect a cultural identity that is still maintained amidst the challenges of globalization. The presence of the oil and gas industry and access to technology and social media have accelerated lifestyle changes, expanded economic opportunities and shifted traditional roles in society. However, the people of Bojonegoro show wise adaptation by maintaining traditions through innovation, while accepting positive influences from outside.

The influence of modernization also encourages transformations in gender roles, education and consumption patterns, although it brings challenges such as the potential for intergenerational conflict and shifts in the value of social solidarity. The people of Bojonegoro need to continue to maintain the basic values that shape their identity, while being open to innovation that brings progress. This research emphasizes the importance of policies that respect local wisdom, so that development can be in line with cultural preservation. As Bojonegoro continues to develop, maintaining a balance between cultural heritage and modern progress will be important in maintaining its unique cultural identity and supporting social cohesion.

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