

Revitalization of Tolerance Values Through Local Cultural Traditions: Efforts to Preserve Local Culture in The Young Generation In The Traditional Game of Congklak

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Abstract

Traditional games are more than just a pastime, they help preserve local culture and teach important social values like patience, cooperation, and tolerance. This study looks at how the traditional game of congklak can be used to instill these values in children. Through a qualitative approach, data was gathered from interviews, observations, and documentation involving students, arts and culture teachers, and cultural activists in Central and West Java. The results show that congklak helps children develop skills like strategic thinking, empathy, and mutual respect. By playing the game, they learn to wait their turn, handle losing gracefully, and collaborate with others. However, the study also points out the growing disappearance of traditional games as digital entertainment becomes more dominant. The research recommends bringing congklak into schools, organizing community workshops, and creating digital versions of the game to keep it relevant for today's generation. Suggestions include developing mobile apps, holding traditional game festivals, and training teachers to introduce congklak as part of character education. Congklak have a role in shaping children's character while keeping cultural heritage alive. For these efforts to succeed, collaboration between schools, communities, and policymakers is essential to ensure that traditional games remain a valuable part of children's learning experiences.

Keywords: Local Cultural, Traditional Game, Congklak Game

1. INTRODUCTION

In this modern era of globalization, foreign cultures easily infiltrate and influence people's lives, especially the younger generation. This phenomenon is eroding the noble values inherited through local culture. One important value that is starting to fade is tolerance, which is the attitude of mutual respect, appreciation, and acceptance of differences. Yet, tolerance plays a crucial role in maintaining harmony within a diverse nation and state.

Local culture has long been an effective vehicle for instilling moral and social values, including tolerance. Traditional folk games, such as congklak, are not merely entertainment but also a means of character development. In congklak, children learn honesty, sportsmanship, togetherness, patience, and the ability to accept both defeat and victory with grace. These values align with the concept of tolerance, which is essential for developing inclusive individuals.

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Traditional games have a role in teaching children about self control, emotional balance, and essential values such as empathy, cooperation, and mutual respect (Halimatus Sadiah et al., 2020). As part of Indonesia's rich cultural heritage, these games serve as more than just entertainment, but they can act as tools for character education and social development. Games like congklak foster critical thinking, patience, and teamwork, embedding moral lessons through simple yet engaging gameplay (Kinesti et al., 2021).

Children's early years are considered the "golden age" for character building, where they absorb values and knowledge rapidly from their surroundings (Agusti et al., 2018). Introducing traditional games during this period supports their cognitive, social, and emotional growth while reinforcing cultural identity. By playing congklak, children engage in interactive play that enhances verbal and physical communication, promotes honesty, and sharpens strategic thinking (Humairo & Amelia, 2021).

Despite its cultural and educational significance, traditional games like congklak are increasingly marginalized by the rapid development of digital entertainment. The shift towards online and mobile games reduces opportunities for children to engage in face to face social interactions that foster empathy and cooperation (Dadan & Widodo, 2020).

Education about the importance of preserving traditional games is carried out through introduction and training to the community, especially the younger generation and children (Larista & Sari, 2021). This trend threatens not only the preservation of cultural heritage but also the transmission of social values that traditional games inherently carry.

Research highlights that integrating traditional games into school curricula and community activities can help counteract this trend. By reintroducing congklak in formal education and public events, children can reconnect with their cultural roots while developing essential character traits such as patience, discipline, and sportsmanship (Nasution D et al., 2023).

The traditional game of konkrak is played between two people facing each other on a board filled with shells and coffee beans called konkrak. The congklak has 16 holes, 14 smaller holes with the same diameter and a larger diameter compared to 2 smaller holes at each end. The final hall is called the House/Warehouse, where players can collect the Concrack Seeds that have been distributed (Humairo, V. M & Amelia, Z, 2021). Without realizing it, we are playing the Dakon/Congklak game.

This study aims to explore how the traditional game of congklak serves as a medium for instilling tolerance and fostering social harmony among children. Through in depth observations and interviews conducted in Central and West Java, the research investigates the broader implications of revitalizing traditional games in modern educational contexts (Wardani, n.d.). If we understanding the cultural and educational value of congklak, this study seeks to provide practical recommendations for sustaining local traditions while enhancing the moral and social development of the younger generation. (Prakoso, A et al., 2020).

2. METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach aimed at understanding how the traditional congklak game serves as a medium for instilling tolerance values in younger

generations (Suryawan, 2020). The research was conducted in Central Java and West Java, regions known for their active cultural communities engaged in preserving local traditions.

The subjects of this research consisted of three groups, namely: Students (aged 10–15 years): Representing the younger generation directly involved in congklak games. Arts and Culture Teachers: Educators responsible for teaching traditional values through formal and extracurricular activities. Local Cultural Activists: Individuals in preserving local traditions and introducing them to the community.

To ensure comprehensive data collection, the study utilized three primary techniques Semi structured interviews were conducted with students, teachers, and cultural activists. The interviews aimed to gather insights into how congklak is perceived as a medium for teaching tolerance, cooperation, and empathy. Each interview lasted approximately 45 to 60 minutes and was recorded with the consent of the participants. The questions were open-ended, allowing participants to elaborate on their experiences and reflections regarding the cultural and educational significance of congklak.

Researchers observed congklak being played in schools, cultural communities, and local festivals. This participatory approach allowed the researchers to document real-time interactions among players, focusing on social behaviors such as turn-taking, communication, and collaborative problem-solving. Field notes were taken during these observations, detailing moments where key character values emerged naturally through gameplay. Supporting documents, such as photographs, video recordings of the congklak sessions, and written records of cultural events, were collected. Archival data on the history of congklak were also reviewed to provide context on its cultural significance (Savila & Tjahjaningsih í, 2023).

The data collected were analyzed thematically using the following steps: All interview transcripts, observation notes, and documentation were systematically coded to identify recurring themes. Keywords related to tolerance, patience, cooperation, and respect were highlighted and categorized. The coded data were organized into tables to visually map the frequency of each character value emerging from different sessions and participant groups. Patterns of behavior and thematic links between the game and character development were highlighted. The final stage involved cross referencing the data from interviews and observations to ensure consistency. Triangulation was used to validate findings by comparing insights from multiple sources (students, teachers, and cultural activists). Any discrepancies were resolved through follow-up interviews and re-observation if necessary.

The analytical process also included quantifying the frequency of specific character values mentioned during interviews and observed during gameplay. This quantification formed the basis for generating the percentage data presented in the results section, which reflects the extent to which particular values, such as religious, nationalist, independent, and cooperative traits, were embedded in the congklak game experience.

This methodological approach ensured that the findings were not only descriptive but also grounded in verifiable and reproducible data (Taherdoost, 2022). Research Approach This research uses qualitative approach with a descriptive design. This approach aims to understand in depth how the traditional game of congklak can be a medium for instilling the values of tolerance in the younger generation. This method allows researchers to explore the research subjects' experiences, perceptions and meaning of the phenomena being studied.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Traditional games have a important role in instilling social and cultural values, including tolerance (Emi Matura et al., 2024). In the context of the congklak game, values such as patience, sportsmanship, and cooperation are embedded in each stage of the game. Children learn concepts of honesty, sportsmanship, and responsibility through social experiences involving rules and interactions. Traditional games like congklak provide an ideal environment for this process as children not only compete but also collaborate in a fun and interactive setting (Alvisari et al., 2024; Ramadhani et al., 2025). The dakon game in Yogyakarta has been shown to foster patience and empathy, reinforcing the belief that traditional games shape children's character through interpersonal interactions.

Children are taught to wait their turn patiently, show perseverance when counting seeds, and think strategically to defeat their opponents (Susilo, Hariadi, Salliyanti, 2018). The game also teaches them to accept defeat graciously, reflecting sportsmanship in practice. By playing congklak, children learn to respect their opponents' strategies, fostering mutual respect and reinforcing social bonds. As such, congklak serves as an educational tool that nurtures tolerance, cooperation, and sportsmanship. Additionally, traditional games develop analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and social capabilities, supporting the development of children's character.

The integration of various character values is evident in the congklak game. Observations and interviews indicate that the game promotes patience, cooperation, empathy, honesty, and independence. Children are encouraged to follow rules, develop strategies, and solve problems independently. Playing in groups strengthens solidarity and empathy by fostering collaboration and interaction. Traditional games like congklak contribute to instilling discipline, responsibility, and perseverance in elementary school students (Lutfi et al., 2024). This reinforces the argument that traditional games are not just a source of entertainment but play a crucial role in character building from an early age.

However, despite the positive implications of congklak in fostering character values, several limitations were identified during the study (Gustiana et al., 2017). One notable limitation is the declining interest in traditional games due to the widespread popularity of digital entertainment. Many children prefer interactive online games that offer visually engaging experiences, making it challenging to reintroduce congklak in modern settings. Additionally, access to traditional games is often limited to rural areas where cultural practices are more preserved, leaving urban children less exposed to such activities. This discrepancy highlights the need for more inclusive revitalization strategies that can bridge the gap between traditional practices and modern technological advancements.

Digital adaptations of congklak, such as e-comics and mobile applications, have been developed to attract younger audiences (Prasetyo & Anggoro, 2013). While this approach shows promise, its effectiveness is limited by the lack of consistent cultural education in schools. The absence of structured integration in curricula diminishes the long term impact of such initiatives.

Some parents and educators view traditional games as outdated, resulting in a lack of motivation to promote them actively (Young et al., 2012). This highlights the importance of

collaborative efforts between educational institutions, communities, and policymakers to emphasize the cultural and educational value of traditional games.

Practical implications suggest that integrating congklak into the school curriculum, particularly within cultural arts subjects and extracurricular activities, can foster wider engagement. Festivals, workshops, and interactive sessions involving traditional games can provide hands on experiences, helping children develop an appreciation for local culture while enhancing their social skills.

Traditional games are considered special by the public because they are different from the developing modern games, such as Conglak games which play an important role in instilling tolerance values in the younger generation.

Traditional Indonesian games stimulate various aspects of child development, including:

- Cognitive aspects: imagination development, creativity, problem solving and strategy.
- Motorcycles: Durability Exercise, Flexibility, Motor Sensor Skills, Rough Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills.
- Social aspects: fostering relationships, collaborating, training social maturity with peers, training socialization skills, training roles with more mature people/society (Prakoso et al., 2020).

Conglak games are played by two people as children play PlayStation, but PlayStation is also played by two people, but the difference is seen when one of the players loses (Wahyu & Fitrotul, 2024). Today's technological developments have eliminated the existence of traditional sports games in all regions, both young and adult generations, beginning to enjoy digital games called online games (Kinesti et al., 2021).

The traditional game of congklak not only serves as entertainment, but is also full of important cultural values, including tolerance. Through interactions in this game, players learn to appreciate differences, work together, and communicate effectively, all of which are the basis of tolerance. In the game of congklak, players are required to understand their opponent's strategy and respect their turn to play (Sadiyah et al, 2020). This teaches the importance of appreciating differences of opinion and strategy, which is the essence of tolerance (Welli Mailona, 2023).

As a cultural heritage of Indonesia, congklak has an important role in preserving local traditions and wisdom (Tjahjaningsih et al., 2022). Despite facing challenges from the development of technology and digital games, various efforts to preserve congklak have been made by the government and the community (Safitri et al., 2022). Research shows that the game of congklak can also instill character values in elementary school students, such as honesty, discipline, hard work, creativity, curiosity, independence, communication, responsibility, and appreciating achievement. Therefore, efforts to revitalize traditional games such as congklak are very important to prevent traditional games that have developed in society from being swallowed up by time (Fatimah et al., 2024). This traditional game is a means to preserve the socio-cultural values that have developed in society (Rohmatin, 2020). Thus, the congklak game not only acts as a means of entertainment, but also as an effective

medium in instilling values of tolerance and preserving local culture in the younger generation (Larista & Sari, 2021).

Without realizing it, the game of congklak provides many benefits, including improving and training analytical skills, training and improving children's creativity, and training and improving children's creativity, as well as training and improving patience and accuracy and so on (Susilo et al., 2018). This can be seen from the process of the game which is reinforced by the findings of researchers through the table below:

Table 1. Analysis of character values in the game of congklak

No	Congklak game technique	Character value	
1	Determine the location and collect stone	Hard work Deliberation Nationalist Mutual cooperation	Integrity Cooperation Love of the Homeland Independent
2	Make congklak hole in the ground	Independent Hard work Creative Mutual cooperation	Independent Cooperation Independent Love the environment
3	I always play congklak with stones according to the specified number	Religious	Honesty
4	Do hompimpa	Self-confident Independent Honest	Self-reliant Faithful and pious Religious
5	Ake a stone in one of his circles	Self-confident Independent	Creative Self-reliant
6	Put one stone in each hole	Honesty Integrity Independence	Self-reliance Discipline Hard work
7	Feeding his circle	Creative Sporty	Independent Religious

Source: Rosyidah et al, ____; Oktaviyanti et al, 2021

From the results of the observations and interviews, it can be concluded that the character values that are internalized in the traditional congklak game are as follows:

Table 2. Character Values In The Congklak Game

No	Character	The character value that appears	Presentation
1	Religious	Love peace Have faith and piety Love the environment	75%
2	Nationalist	Love of the homeland Appreciate diversity	33%
3	Independent	Hard work Learning Creative Discipline	80%
4	Mutual cooperation	Cooperation solidarity	66%

Source: Rosyidah et al, ____; Oktaviyanti et al, 2021

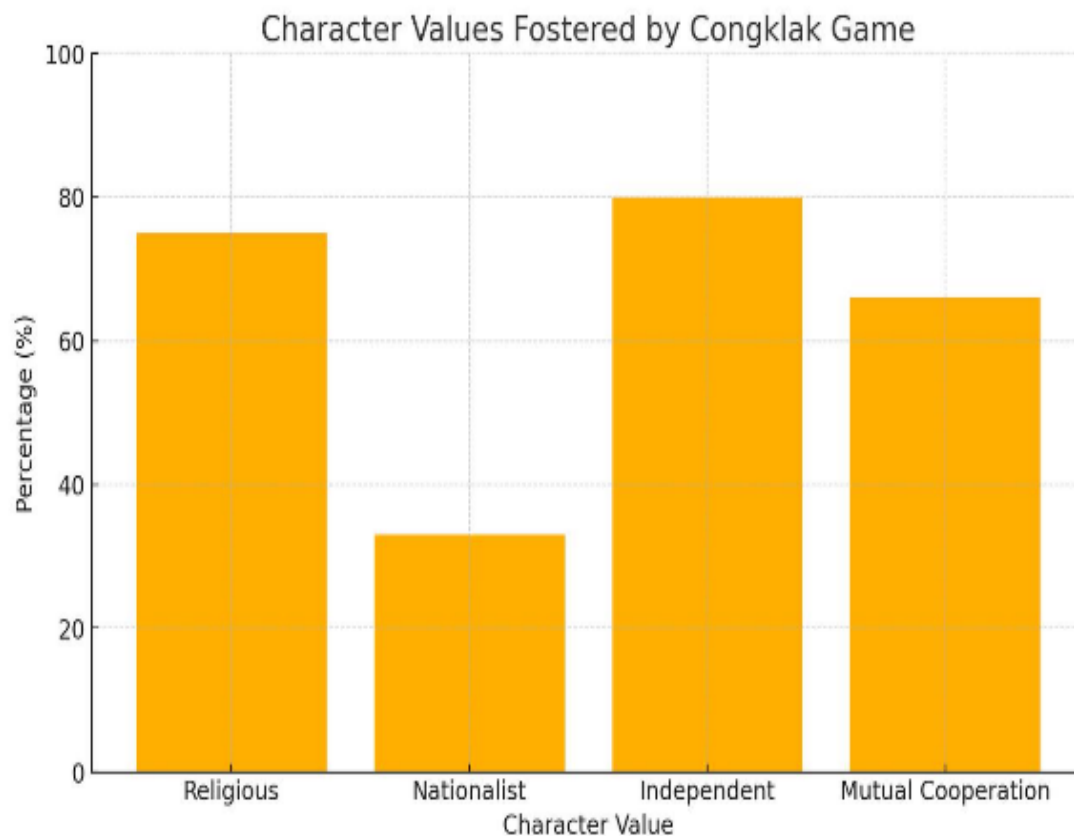


Figure 1. Character Values

Based on the description of the research results above, the Traditional Congklak / Maen Bawigame integrates character values including training patience, sportsmanship, honesty, discipline, deliberation, cooperation, creativity, nationalism, solidarity, faith and devotion, environmental love, hard work, improving analytical skills and numeracy skills (Lacksana, 2017). With the highest percentage of occurrence, namely independent character with a percentage of 100%, then religious character with a percentage of 75%, and mutual cooperation character with a percentage of 66%. Here are some character values contained in the game of congklak:

- Cooperation

In the game of congklak, players must understand the strategy and playing pattern of their opponents. This trains the ability to work together, especially if the game is played in groups.

- Honesty

Players are taught to obey the rules of the game and play honestly without cheating, reflecting the importance of integrity in life.

- Patience

The process of playing congklak requires precision and patience because players must count the congklak seeds carefully and take steps carefully.

- Strategy and Problem Solving

This game teaches players to think strategically and solve problems, such as determining which hole to take to get maximum results.

- Sportsmanship

Players are invited to accept defeat with an open heart and appreciate the victory of the opponent, which is an important value in building social relationships.

- Accuracy and Focus

When playing congklak, players are required to focus on counting the seeds and making the right moves, training concentration and accuracy.

- Respect for Traditional.

The game of congklak is a cultural heritage that is full of traditional values. By playing it, the younger generation is taught to appreciate and preserve the nation's culture.

- Religious and Faithful and Devout.

The game of congklak reflects the values of faith through the appreciation of the values of harmony, mutual respect, and gratitude for inherited traditions. Playing fairly also teaches a sense of responsibility to God for good behavior towards others.

- Creative.

Congklak players are required to think creatively in developing strategies, determining effective steps, and utilizing congklak seeds to obtain maximum results.

- Sportsmanship.

Congklak trains players to be sporty, accept defeat with an open heart, and respect the victory of the opponent. This is important in building healthy social relationships.

- Hard Work.

To win the game, players must work hard through mature strategies and careful calculations. This value reflects the importance of the struggle to achieve goals.

- Discipline.

In the game, players must follow the rules in an orderly manner, not violate turns, and obey the applicable regulations. This teaches the importance of discipline in life.

Congklak, also known as dakon in some regions of Indonesia, is a traditional game that has been passed down from generation to generation. This game involves a perforated board and small seeds as game tools 2022. In a cultural context, congklak is not just entertainment, but also a means of learning and preserving traditional values. The image of someone playing congklak is a symbol of cultural harmony and social interaction that is rich in meaning. This game is not only a means of entertainment, but also a medium for preserving tradition, learning strategies, and building character. Therefore, it is important for us to continue to preserve and introduce congklak as one of the cultural assets of the Indonesian nation.



Figure 2. congklak game <https://images.app.goo.gl/88aBkRp2QSncKUcx7>

In facing the challenges of globalization, young people are often exposed to foreign cultures, which influence their perspectives and behavior (Nurmela et al, 2023). One impact is a declining understanding and appreciation of the noble values inherent in local culture, including tolerance (Harding, 199). Tolerance is a fundamental aspect of social life, especially in a country as diverse as Indonesia. However, this value is often not well internalized among the younger generation, who are more exposed to the digital world and global culture.

Local culture, such as the traditional game of congklak, has great potential as a means of instilling moral and social values, including tolerance (Nurhidayah et al., 2024). In congklak, children learn about cooperation, respect for differences, patience, and how to interact with respect and mutual appreciation. These values are highly relevant to the formation of national character, which is based on the principles of tolerance and togetherness.

The phenomenon of declining interest in traditional games among the younger generation presents a major challenge to efforts to preserve local culture (Yuniarto, et al., 2023). Therefore, efforts are needed to revitalize this traditional game as a medium to revive the values of tolerance in line with character education. One approach that can be used is to utilize Social Sciences learning as a forum to introduce and develop these values among students.

Social studies, as a subject that teaches students about society, culture, and social values, plays a crucial role in fostering tolerance in the younger generation (Aramudin & Susanti, 2024). By incorporating traditional games like congklak into the social studies curriculum, students not only learn about the nation's culture and history but also understand the concept of tolerance through direct experience (Afriansyah et al, 2024). This approach is expected to strengthen their understanding of the importance of respecting differences and foster a sense of social solidarity.

Revitalizing the value of tolerance through traditional games, incorporated into social studies, is a strategic solution for preserving local culture while building a national character that is tolerant, inclusive, and respectful of diversity.

4. CONCLUSION

This study shows how the traditional congklak game can help teach children important values like patience, cooperation, and tolerance. Through interviews, observations, and documentation, it became clear that congklak helps develop traits such as mutual respect, perseverance, and teamwork. However, these findings reflect experiences in Central and West Java, where the research was conducted. The impact of congklak may differ in other regions, influenced by local traditions, school environments, and how involved families and communities are in preserving cultural practices.

While the study found that congklak often encourages collaboration and empathy, this might not happen consistently in every setting. The limited scope of the research means the results shouldn't be generalized too broadly. Instead, the findings highlight what congklak can offer in certain contexts, and more research is needed to confirm its broader impact. To build on the potential of congklak as a tool for character education, several practical steps can be taken:

- Congklak can be part of arts, culture, or extracurricular activities. Schools can create lesson plans that emphasize teamwork, patience, and fairness through the game. Teachers can lead discussions after each session, encouraging students to reflect on the values they experienced during play.
- Developing digital versions of congklak could attract younger audiences who are more drawn to technology. This could take the form of interactive apps or online competitions that maintain the core values of the traditional game while making it relevant in the digital age.
- In cities where traditional games are less common, outreach programs can introduce congklak in community centers, libraries, and public spaces. This would give urban children a chance to experience congklak, helping bridge the gap between rural and urban cultural experiences.

Even though congklak shows promise as an educational tool, the study acknowledges the limitations of relying mainly on observations and interviews. Future research could explore experimental approaches to compare congklak with other games, offering clearer insights into its unique contributions to character development. Long term studies could also track how regular exposure to congklak shapes children's social and emotional growth over time. Congklak is more than just a game, it carries cultural significance and has the potential to shape the next generation's values. But for congklak to remain relevant in today's world, there needs to be a balance between preserving tradition and adapting to modern education and technology.

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