

History of the Rami Alms Tradition in Preserving Local Culture in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin District (1970-2022)

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Abstrak

Desa Kertayu yang terletak di Kecamatan Sungai Keruh, Kabupaten Musi Banyuasin, memiliki tradisi bernama Sedekah Bumi yang berupa persembahan makanan tradisional lemag sebagai wujud rasa syukur atas hasil panen yang melimpah. Tradisi ini menghadapi tantangan perubahan sosial, ekonomi, dan teknologi yang dapat mengancam keberlangsungannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami sejarah dan pelestarian tradisi Sedekah Bumi di Desa Kertayu pada tahun 2015 hingga tahun 2020. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian sejarah, kajian meliputi heuristik, kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa pelaksanaan Sedekah Bumi melibatkan seluruh warga masyarakat dan menunjukkan kolaborasi yang kuat serta menjunjung tinggi nilai-nilai. Aktivis budaya memainkan peran penting dalam upaya adaptasi dan pelestarian, sementara masyarakat secara aktif menjaga relevansi tradisi dengan mewariskan nilai-nilainya kepada generasi muda.

Kata kunci: sedekah bumi, kebudayaan, pelestarian budaya, musu banyuasin.

Abstract

Kertayu Village, located in Sungai Keruh Sub-district, Musi Banyuasin Regency, has a tradition called Sedekah Bumi, which involves offering lemag, a traditional food, as a form of gratitude for abundant harvests. This tradition faces challenges from social, economic, and technological changes that could threaten its continuity. This study aims to understand the history and preservation of the Sedekah Bumi tradition in Kertayu Village from 2015 to 2020. Using historical research methods, the study includes heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results show that the implementation of Sedekah Bumi involves all community members and demonstrates strong collaboration and upheld values. Cultural activists play a crucial role in adaptation and preservation efforts, while the community actively maintains the tradition's relevance by passing its values to the younger generation.

Keywords: alms earth, culture, cultural preservation, musu banyuasin.

INTRODUCTION

One of the traditional ceremonies is called the Earth Alms Ceremony, in the form of a procession where people hand over the produce they have produced to nature. This ceremony is usually marked by a folk feast, which can take place at the village hall, on agricultural land, or at another location revered by the local community. This ceremony developed on the island of Java, especially in areas that have a strong agricultural culture (Arinda, 2014).

Each region has its own way of carrying out this tradition, which is a modification of ancestral traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. In many traditional ceremonies, gifts from the land are usually used as a form of gratitude for the blessings that have been received by the community (MR Maulana et al., 2022).

Kertayu Village, located in Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency, is an area rich in cultural heritage and local

traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. One of the traditions that still continues in this village is the Earth Alms tradition. This tradition consists of giving alms to lemang, a typical regional food, as a form of expression of gratitude to God for the abundant harvest. This lemang almsgiving is also a symbol of the community's sense of solidarity and togetherness in sharing the produce of the land (S. Sutarto, 2016).

The Hemp (Earth) Almsgiving tradition is carried out by distributing Lemang in Kertayu Sungai Keruh Village, Musi Banyuasin Regency. This tradition has been part of the cultural heritage passed down from generation to generation and still continues today. The people of Kertayu Village really enjoy and feel the excitement and joy of this tradition, especially during lemang fighting activities (AR Maulana et al., 2022).

Preserving local culture is a sustainable and complex effort, including collaboration between communities, government, cultural institutions, academics and various other parties. By keeping local culture alive, we not only enrich our own lives, but also make an important contribution to global cultural diversity and heritage (Nahak, 2019).

The increasingly rapid social, economic and technological changes that can affect the sustainability of local traditions. Globalization and modernization can threaten the existence

of traditions such as earth charity. In the context of ongoing globalization and modernization, local traditions are often neglected and threatened with extinction (Febrianty et al., 2023). This research was conducted to explore the history of the Earth Alms tradition in Kertayu Village, as well as to understand the role of this tradition in preserving local culture between 2015 and 2020.

During this period, there have been various social, economic and technological changes that could have an impact on the continuity of the Earth Alms tradition. Globalization and modernization can trigger a shift in cultural values, and have the potential to destroy local traditions which play an important role in building community identity. Therefore, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how the Earth Alms tradition in Kertayu Village is able to survive and adapt in facing the challenges of the times (AR Maulana et al., 2022).

METHOD

The research method used refers to historical research methods, namely data collection steps (heuristics), source criticism steps (verification), interpretation steps, and historiography or history writing steps (Daliman, 2018). The first stage of this research is heuristic. In this step, researchers collect data through various sources in the form of books, journal articles, and data related to the

topic discussed in this research (Hudaidah et al., 2023). To complete the data in this research, researchers used the interview method to collect sources. Next, the second stage is in the form of source criticism. Source criticism is carried out by testing the truth and accuracy of the source (Herdiani, 2016). There are two types of source criticism, namely internal and external criticism. The third next stage is interpretation. Interpretation is the stage where researchers look back at the sources obtained from the interpretations of previous researchers (Fadli, 2021). Interpretation consists of two types, namely monistic interpretation and pluralistic interpretation. After that, the final stage is historiography. At this stage, the researcher will present a research report based on the data that has been collected, which can be accounted for, and arrange it in the form of a historical narrative. The report on the results of this research will be written based on facts found by researchers and will be related to the research topic, namely earth alms activities in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh Village, Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2015-2020.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Geographical Conditions of Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency

Kertayu Village, which is one of 11 villages located in Sungai Keruh District, Musi

Banyuasin Regency, has interesting characteristics. With an area of around 7.800 hectares. Geographically, the territorial boundaries of Kertayu Village can be explained as follows: in the north it is bordered by Tebing Bulang, in the south by Sukalali, in the west by Sindang Marga, and in the east by Kertajaya. In terms of distance traveled, Kertayu Village is located around 14 kilometers from Sungai Keruh District City, 35 kilometers from the city of Musi Banyuasin (Sekayu) Regency, and around 159 kilometers from Palembang City (BPS Musi Banyuasin, 2018).

With its strategic geographical position, Kertayu Village has the advantage of maintaining smooth communication between its residents and other villages in Sungai Keruh sub-district and Musi Banyuasin district. Adequate infrastructure such as well-connected roads, available transportation facilities, and guaranteed security within the village supports effective interactions between residents and visits from outside (Herdiani, 2016).

Demographic Conditions of Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency

Based on administrative data recorded in 2020, the population of Kertayu Village reached 2.333 people, with details of 1.195 men and 1.138 women. In 2019, the majority of Kertayu Village residents

depended on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods, especially the profession as farmers which accounted for 80% of total employment. This figure reflects the large dependence on the agricultural sector, especially in the business of developing rubber plants (BPS Murky River, 2020). Additionally, the fact that most of the population is involved in the agricultural sector also indicates a high level of agricultural knowledge and skills among the local population. This reflects their strong cultural heritage in agriculture and their commitment to preserving the agricultural traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation.

This village is divided into six hamlets, each of which is managed by a village head, who is appointed directly by the village head. The main role in the hierarchy is held by the village head, who is supported by the Village Secretary, BPD (Village Consultative Body), LPM (Community Empowerment Agency), as well as the positions of Head of Government, Head of Welfare, and Head of Services. This structured government framework has proven to be very effective in managing and serving the interests of the community in accordance with its structure. With a well-defined organization, the Kertayu Village government is able to carry out its duties efficiently. This ensures optimal service to residents, as well as effectively

accommodating community needs and aspirations.

Earth Alms Tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency

The Earth Almsgiving tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency, is not just a cultural celebration, but is a long series of history that is full of meaning. Initially, this village was hit by a terrible disaster in the form of an epidemic called Aboh, a vomiting pandemic that claimed the lives of many residents. This tragic incident was the trigger for the beginning of the Earth Alms tradition as a joint effort by the community to ask for spiritual help and salvation. Over time, this tradition developed into a symbol of togetherness, trust and hope for safety, coloring people's daily lives and becoming closely attached as an inseparable part of the identity and values of Kertayu Village (Musese & Misnawati, 2022).

This tradition has stages that follow rituals that have been maintained from generation to generation. Starting from the selection of ingredients used, the cooking process carried out collectively by housewives, to the process of bringing these foods together as part of the hemp alms. Each stage is filled with the values of togetherness, kinship and caring. This moment strengthens social relations in the Kertayu Village community, creating

strong emotional bonds between different generations (Agustini et al., 2019).

The tradition of berebot lemang or throwing lemang at the caretaker's house, carried out in a group, has become a distinctive identity that differentiates the hemp almsgiving tradition in Kertayu Village from similar traditions. This is not just a ceremony, but also the culmination of deep values and tightly binding norms, reflecting gratitude to God for the good fortune given to the Kertayu people.

At every Alms Earth celebration, the people of Kertayu Village take part in a pilgrimage procession to the sacred grave of Puyang Burungjauh as part of the ritual. The process of cooking lemang together in a group is a moment that combines cooperation and togetherness between them. The climax of the event was realized when the lemang that had been cooked together was distributed to all the people who were present, creating a memorable and valuable moment of togetherness. The presence of important figures, such as the Regent, marks respect for traditions that are still upheld (D. Sutarto, 2016).

Preserving the Earth Almsgiving Tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency

The direct involvement and support of Kertayu Village leaders reflects their enormous commitment to preserving and encouraging the continuation of the Alms

Alms tradition. They don't just see it as an annual celebration, but as a crucial element of collective identity that must be maintained. Local leaders view Sedekah Rami as the foundation of togetherness, a symbol of collective strength and unity in society, and they act as protectors and advocates to ensure these traditional values are preserved and passed on intact to the next generation.

Understanding the importance of preserving Alms Hemp does not only come from local community awareness, but also involves the involvement of local government. This involvement confirms deep concern for the preservation of cultural heritage and emphasizes that maintaining these traditions is a shared responsibility between the community and local government. The support provided by the local government creates a solid foundation for the preservation of culture and continuity of traditions, considering Sedekah Rami as a symbol of cultural strength and social unity that must be cared for and celebrated by all residents of Kertayu Village (Umam, 2021).

The annual Jute Alms celebration is not just a cultural symbol that is guarded to preserve, but is also a real force that strengthens ties between residents. In celebrating the success of agricultural products, they also maintain unique culture and identity, making Sedekah Rami a spiritual and social fortress that maintains integrity and closeness among

the Kertayu Village community. Through every ritual and procession, Sedekah Rami not only maintains the legacy of our ancestors, but also strengthens the bonds of togetherness that are not shaken by changing times.

Implementation of the Earth Charity Tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2015-2017

The Earth Almsgiving tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency is a cultural heritage that has been preserved for many years. Through a series of interviews with traditional activists, local communities and the government, various aspects that were at the core of implementing this tradition in the 2015-2017 period were revealed.

A traditional activist in Kertayu Village who plays a role in maintaining this tradition explained the intense preparation process in carrying out Sedekah Bumi. Ritual preparations, including collecting the materials to be used and ensuring the ritual space is in the best condition, are an essential part of the preparation stage. In maintaining the continuity of traditions, the main values that we want to maintain are togetherness, harmony and care.

In the 2015-2017 period, a number of special efforts were made to maintain the relevance and participation of the

community in the Earth Alms tradition. These initiatives involve activities such as holding community meetings open to all levels of society, holding open events, and establishing regular communication with residents to maintain the continuity of this tradition and increase participation levels.

The importance of the role of traditional activists in maintaining this traditional heritage is undeniable. MD, a traditional activist from Musi Banyuasin Regency, emphasized that preserving the stories and values in this tradition is the main focus. Through their efforts, the noble values contained in the Earth Alms tradition in Kertayu Village can be well maintained and passed on to future generations. Maintaining the narrative and cultural substance is key to preserving and enriching this tradition.

Implementation of the Earth Charity Tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2018-2020

The Earth Charity tradition in Kertayu Village, Musi Banyuasin Regency, has become an integral part of the community's lifestyle, with its preparation and implementation requiring the participation of many people and organized stages. One resource person, who is also a cultural activist, emphasized that the process of preparing this tradition is a kind of ritual with close collaboration, showing how important unity is in

maintaining and continuing this valuable tradition. From site planning to involvement of local communities, each stage has a crucial role and requires careful coordination to ensure meaningful implementation.

The preparation process involves technical steps, such as the collection of special materials and careful maintenance of the cleanliness of the shrine. Each stage demands attention to small details, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the authenticity of the ritual materials and respect for the values espoused. More than just a technical act, this process also evokes a sense of collective responsibility towards cultural heritage, illustrating that the sanctity of rituals lies not only in the performance, but also in attention and respect for the values contained in these traditions.

To maintain relevance and increase community participation in the Earth Alms tradition in Kertayu Village, a number of concrete steps have been taken. Involving more inclusive community meetings and maintaining regular communication, these efforts aim to keep this tradition current and in demand by all levels of society (Lestari et al., 2018). Wider inclusion in related activities is also sought to strengthen social ties and encourage active participation from all residents, with the aim of maintaining the relevance of traditions, fostering broad involvement, and strengthening close ties between the

Kertayu Village community. (Rachmawati et al., 2021). In addition, significant efforts are being made to preserve the stories and key aspects of this tradition through educational approaches and direct interaction with the younger generation. In this way, the younger generation not only receives cultural heritage, but is also actively involved in maintaining the integrity and relevance of the Earth Alms tradition amidst changing times.

Adaptation of the Earth Charity Tradition in Kertayu Village, Sungai Keruh District, Musi Banyuasin Regency in Facing the Challenges of the Times

The adaptation of the Earth Charity Tradition in Kertayu Village, Musi Banyuasin Regency, is an illustration of how old traditions face the challenges of modern times. Interviews with sources from various backgrounds opened up horizons about the meaning of more than just ritual, but as a foundation that strengthens togetherness, harmony and care in the lives of the people of Kertayu Village. The preparation and implementation process involves the entire community network, including ritual preparation, collection of materials, and coordination between residents with broad participation. In it, a strong spirit of mutual cooperation is felt, where each individual plays a role in maintaining the continuity and success of the ritual, making Sedekah Bumi a moment to

celebrate and foster unity in a heterogeneous society.

Traditional activists have a key role in maintaining the continuity of traditions. They become custodians of noble values, involved in event organization, community meetings, and efforts to facilitate participation, keeping these traditions alive and relevant. The real challenge comes from the impact of modernization, which can affect people's interest in old traditions (Inscription, 2020). Community efforts to maintain and introduce Sedekah Bumi to outsiders are key in keeping the values and meaning of this tradition known and appreciated. Even though there are adaptations in its implementation, the essence of Sedekah Bumi, namely togetherness, gratitude and friendship, remains an unwavering important point in their lives (Kiftiyah et al., 2002).

Efforts to modernize the Sedekah Bumi tradition in Kertayu Village are carried out without sacrificing core values. Even though it challenges the times with adaptations, this tradition remains a part of people's lives, proving loyalty to cultural roots and the ability to change it according to the needs of the times without losing a strong cultural identity. In maintaining, preserving and adapting these traditions, the community shows extraordinary tenacity in caring for their cultural roots. Apart from being a series of annual rituals, Sedekah Bumi is a

foundation that strengthens solidarity in a dynamic society. These efforts reflect an active involvement in nurturing the core of this tradition, maintaining its relevance in the context of ever-changing times. With a wise approach, the people of Kertayu Village continue to adapt to the challenges of modernization without losing the substance of the values that are characteristic of this tradition, enriching and perfecting old traditions to remain attractive and strong as pillars of community unity in the future (Masrurroh et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

The adaptation of traditions in the face of changing times is a reflection of the strength of social values and togetherness. Traditional activists play a crucial role in preserving noble values, while the community is actively involved in efforts to maintain the relevance and value of these traditions. The challenges of modernization are faced with hard efforts to maintain the continuity of this tradition and spread its values to the younger generation.

In an effort to preserve the hemp alms tradition, the people of Kertayu Village demonstrated extraordinary cultural resilience. This tradition is not just an annual ceremony, but a strong foundation that strengthens social ties and maintains their identity. The adaptations made are proof of how strongly this

tradition is embedded in everyday life, maintaining the values of togetherness and gratitude unwavering even though times continue to change.

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