

BUILDING A GENERATION OF SOLIDARITY IN THE BOOK "WHAT'S THAT?" BY LAKSMI MANOHARA AND AIRA RUMI

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Abstract. As an effort to increase awareness of the importance of solidarity. Parents need to build the values of solidarity in the younger generation. For this reason, the purpose of this research is to explain the solidarity of the introduction of Sisingaan art as a means to foster a sense of togetherness and social responsibility. This study uses a qualitative method, which emphasizes in-depth understanding rather than quantitative measurement. The main focus is on the interpretation of narratives and illustrations related to the theme of solidarity. This qualitative data will be analyzed to identify emerging patterns, themes, and meanings. The results of this analysis are expected to provide valuable insights into how solidarity is understood and manifested in specific social contexts

Keywords: early childhood, solidarity, mutual cooperation, asingan arts

INTRODUCTION

Solidarity is a close relationship that connects individuals with groups in a community, built on a common moral foundation and beliefs. This bond is strengthened through shared experiences, creating a sense of mutual belonging and responsibility among community members. In other words, solidarity is the glue of individuals into a whole unit, where each member feels bound and contributes to common well-being. According to Emil Durkheim, solidarity is an important foundation of social life, which is manifested through mutual trust between members in a group or community. This trust becomes the glue that binds individuals, creating a sense of security and comfort in interaction and cooperation (Saidang & Suparman, 2019).

Empathy is a fundamental ability that allows us to understand and feel what others are going through, more than just intellectually understanding, empathy involves the ability to really put ourselves in the shoes of others, see the world from their point of view, and feel the emotions they feel. By empathizing, we can feel the joys and sorrows of others, understand their needs, and respond in a loving and understanding way. Empathy is key to building strong and meaningful relationships, and to creating a more caring and inclusive society (Stuart & Scott, 2018). Not only empathy, but care also plays an important role, encouraging individuals to provide real help to others in need.

Caring is an essence impulse in a person who helps others, either through material or energy assistance. The main purpose of social care is to ease the burden of people in need, so that they can overcome difficulties and live life more easily. In other words, caring is a tangible manifestation of our sense of empathy and responsibility as part of society to help and support each other (Saraswati, Dhi Bramasta, 2000). The concern that grows in Indonesian society is then manifested in mutual cooperation, a collaborative practice to achieve common goals.

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Gotong royong is a characteristic of Indonesia's cultural heritage which has become a deeply rooted personality of the nation and culture. This term refers to cooperation to achieve a common goal, reflecting the behavior of working together, shoulder-to-shoulder, and helping each other. Instilling the character of mutual cooperation in early childhood is very important so that they are able to work

with others, build relationships in teams, and work together to achieve certain goals. Gotong royong also helps children build friendships, prosocial attitudes, and positive responses to common goals, as well as increase social interaction and foster a sense of solidarity. In the early childhood education environment, mutual cooperation helps children build positive relationships, participate in solving problems, contribute in groups, and help each other (Iswantiningtyas et al., 2023). Realizing the importance of social interaction, mutual cooperation in the early childhood education environment is an effective means to meet these needs.

As social beings, every child must need the help of others because humans are basically interdependent and cannot live alone. Therefore, building good cooperation is essential in community life. Cooperation, which is an activity carried out between fellow human beings, aims to achieve a common goal, facilitating the completion of complex work to be easier and more efficient. Instilling the values of cooperation from an early age is crucial, as this will help children develop good social skills. These skills include various important aspects such as a sense of responsibility, the ability to respect the opinions of others, a spirit of togetherness, and concern for others. Thus, cooperation is not only a way to achieve goals, but also a means to form the character of children who are empathetic and contribute positively to society (Qory Jumrotul Aqobah, et al, 2020).

Culture has an important role in distinguishing the identity of a region. Subang Regency, West Java, has a distinctive art called Sisingaan, which is proof of cultural wisdom with high artistic value. This wisdom is reflected in the performance of the Sisingaan parade or procession, which is a characteristic of folk art that thrives in agrarian society. In addition, cultural wisdom also emanates from the musical instruments accompanying waditra and traditional dance movements used. Sisingaan has a background that is closely related to the values of patriotism, so the dance movements and rhythms in the performance are dynamic. This art not only strengthens community solidarity, but also reflects the complexity of ideas, ideas, values, norms, and behavioral guidelines in society. This is manifested in various objects resulting from people's creativity. Art also functions to determine norms, behaviors, and preserve customs and cultural values. In creating works of art, it is important to pay attention to the norms and habits of the community so that they do not conflict with existing values, considering that there are future generations who will continue it.

The development of civilization has given rise to various forms of art, both traditional and modern. Sisingaan is one of the results of the creativity of the people of Subang Regency which has undergone changes since the Dutch colonial period. These changes include the shape of the lion doll which is now made of better materials with more attractive color creations, as well as a more complete musical instrument compared to the simple bamboo musical instrument used previously. Changes also occurred to the costumes used in the show. Cultural values related to aesthetics are very prominent in the arts, even becoming the main norm. Sisingaan has a high aesthetic value, which is implemented in the combination of colors on the lion dolls and the costumes of the players, the harmonization of dance movements and rhythms, and the aesthetics of the togetherness of the dancers and performers. This is the basis for further research on Sisingaan art. Sisingaan art is an icon that makes Subang Regency proud. This area has unique characteristics because it consists of mountainous, mainland, and coastal areas, which causes the socio-cultural conditions in Subang to be different from other areas in West Java Province (Rachmawaty, 2013).

Learning Sisingaan dance provides a number of significant benefits for children. In addition to helping them become more active and positive, this activity also plays an important role in preserving and maintaining the existence of Sisingaan dance as a cultural heritage. Although there are differences in mastery of techniques and variety of movements between the Sisingaan dance performed by children and adults, the values contained in it remain relevant. One of the main benefits of learning Sisingaan dance is its ability to build the character of mutual cooperation in children. Through this activity, children learn about the importance of cooperation, solidarity, and cohesiveness in achieving common goals. The Sisingaan dance, which cannot be done independently, is the right place to instill these values. In addition, learning Sisingaan dance is also able to foster children's love for art that needs to be preserved and maintained. This is in line with the goal of the Sisingaan Tresnawangi Art Studio, which strives to maintain and pass on Sisingaan dance to the younger generation, especially children. Thus, learning Sisingaan dance not only provides individual benefits for children, but also contributes to the preservation of regional culture (Soleha, 2021).

RESEARCH METHOD

The type of research used is a qualitative approach with a document research method, where various sources such as writings, films, drawings, and monumental works are used as complementary data (Natalina Nilamsari, 2014). The main data source used is *the book What Is It?* by Laksmi Manohara and Aira Rumi (2022), published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. Data collection techniques are carried out through the process of reading and taking notes, which are considered crucial to maintain the focus of research and organize relevant information (Rita Kumala Sari, 2021). The data collected were in the form of excerpts from stories that reflected the moral and artistic aspects. Data analysis is carried out through three stages, namely data reduction, data classification, and data verification (Miles and Huberman, 2014). Data reduction was used to select citations that contained children's learning motivation, then data classification was carried out to group the citations based on the existing finding patterns. The last stage is verification, which aims to examine the quotes based on early childhood learning theories, so that a deep understanding of the learning motivations contained in the research material is obtained.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

As a children's reading material that is full of educational value, *what is it?* presenting a literacy experience that is able to foster curiosity while instilling positive character. Through a warm storytelling style and close to the world of children, this book invites readers to understand how a simple journey can become a meaningful learning space. In the book *What's that?* The adventure of three friends Tia, Kaep, and Ade to the Sisingaan parade in Cisupa Village is not just an ordinary trip, but an expedition full of meaning. The obstacles they faced in the middle of the forest, from the slippery muddy roads, the lush trees that blocked the view, to the mysterious voices that broke the silence of the night, were a true test of their courage and cooperation. More than just a physical challenge, each obstacle that is successfully overcome further ties their friendship together.

The trip is also a vehicle for introduction to the rich art of Sisingaan, a unique tradition that is the pride of Cisupa Village, as well as local culture that is full of noble values. Through interaction with the local community and first-hand experience witnessing the Sisingaan parade, Tia, Kaep, and Ade learned about the importance of courage in facing challenges, cooperation in achieving common goals, and concern for others and the surrounding environment.

In the end, the book *What's That?* Not only to invite children to enjoy exciting adventures, but also to be an active part of the preservation of regional culture. By cultivating a sense of love and responsibility for the heritage of our ancestors, *What is it?* inspiring the younger generation to appreciate and preserve their cultural identity, so that Indonesia's rich traditions remain alive and relevant in the midst of globalization.

1.1 Gotong Royong as a Strength in Overcoming Challenges

What Book ? The work of Laksmi Manohara and Aira Rumi highlights gotong royong not only as a social action, but as an essential force that allows the characters to overcome various obstacles on their journey. Gotong royong is displayed as a practical solution and a deep value.

In the book titled *What?* It tells the story of three children named Tia, Kaep and Ade who went to Cisupa village to see the art of sisingaan. In the middle of the road, a child named Tia was mired, Kaep and Ade quickly helped her. It is not just a physical act, but a symbol of moral support and solidarity (p. 4). They continued their journey when they arrived in the middle of the dark forest feeling frightened, and they calmed the kaep, this action showed empathy and responsibility to take care of each other (pp. 8-9). Because the journey was quite long and tiring they rested by eating uras and bananas, they divided the food evenly, showing togetherness and availability for various available resources (pp. 11-12). Gotong royong, is a fundamental value in Indonesian culture. This book reminds young readers of the importance of this value in everyday life. Gotong royong teaches about interdependence and that by working together, we can achieve things that are impossible to

achieve alone. In the context of an increasingly individualistic society, this book provides a relevant message about the importance of community and mutual support. What Book ?Subtly teaches that mutual cooperation is not only about big actions, but also about small everyday actions that build strong relationships. Helping on a muddy road or calming a frightened friend is a concrete example of how mutual cooperation can be practiced in daily life.

1.2 **Appreciation of Sisingaan Bersama Arts as a Shaping of Cultural Identity**

What Book ? The work of Laksmi Manohara and Aira Rumi tells that the experience of seeing the art of Sisingaan together is not only a travel destination, but also a catalyst for cultural appreciation and identity formation. Togetherness in enjoying traditional arts strengthens social ties and cultural pride.

In the book titled *What?* The three children were excited to see the Sisingaan parade even though they had to travel a considerable distance to show interest and enthusiasm for the local culture. (p. 3) The dancers parade a huge lion out of wood, the lion's head swaying. Tia, Kaep, and Ade participated in the dance of the Sisingaan parade very excitingly, with drum and trumpet music, providing an overview of the richness and beauty of traditional arts and active participation and appreciation of cultural arts. (pp. 22-23)

Sisingaan is a cultural heritage that needs to be preserved. By introducing this art to children, this book contributes to the preservation of culture. The experience of seeing and enjoying the arts together builds a sense of togetherness and pride as part of a cultural community. In the context of globalization, understanding and appreciating one's own culture is important to strengthen national identity.

What Book ? The work of Laksmi Manohara and Aira Rumi does not only present Sisingaan as a spectacle, but as an experience that involves emotions and active participation. Togetherness in enjoying cultural arts creates strong social bonds and instills a sense of love for cultural heritage. Participation in dancing together is a symbol of deep appreciation and belonging to the culture.

Table 1. Shaping of Cultural Identity

Theme	Data
Empathy	Gotong Royong is not only a social act, but as an essential force that allows the characters to overcome various obstacles in their journey.
Artistic appreciation	The experience of seeing the arts of Sisingaan together is not only a travel destination, but a catalyst for cultural appreciation and identity formation. Togetherness in enjoying traditional arts strengthens social ties and cultural pride.

CONCLUSION

Through an in-depth analysis of mutual cooperation and appreciation of Sisingaan art, this article shows that *What Is It?* is an effective children's book in instilling important values for the younger generation. This book teaches about the importance of cooperation, empathy, and pride in one's own culture, preparing children to become responsible members of society and contribute positively to the nation.

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