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Embroidering Elegance: A Woman's Journey into the Treasures of Local Wisdom in Traditional Indonesian Weaving and Writing

Suryanti¹, Herwan Fakhri^{1*}, Ahmad Akmal¹, Sri Sundari¹, Eriswan¹

¹Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpanjang, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This research explores women's empowerment through the traditional artistry of Songket Pandai Sikek in Tanah Datar, West Sumatera, Indonesia, focusing on the intricate fusion of skillful craftsmanship and written communication. The decline of traditional weaving practices, attributed to the advent of non-mechanical looms, prompts an investigation into the essence of Local Wisdom in women's empowerment through Songket Pandai Sikek. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive approach, the study employs written observations, interviews, and document analysis as data collection methods involving various informants. The findings, meticulously communicated through writing, highlight the profound significance of local wisdom interwoven into the art, sourced from written prose and oral traditions expressed in songs. Nature-inspired motifs in the Songket weaving process serve as intentional carriers of tales, expressed in prose or melody, becoming integral components of the fabric's narrative. The research also emphasizes the artisans' adaptability to changes, narrated through written narratives, illustrating the evolution and preservation of Pandai Sikek weaving. The study contributes valuable insights through the written word by examining the interplay of local wisdom, women's empowerment, and Songket Pandai Sikek's intricate artistry. It underscores the enduring allure of Songket Pandai Sikek and its pivotal role in empowering women /by incorporating local wisdom. Ultimately, the research articulates the cultural and social impact of this traditional craft in West Sumatera, establishing a meaningful connection between local wisdom, women's empowerment, and the meticulous artistry of Songket Pandai Sikek, all embedded with profound written and oral narratives.

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1. Introduction

Indonesia, with its diverse society, takes great pride in the wealth of its cultural heritage, particularly in the intricate artistry of crafting songket. This fabric stands as a testament to unique and distinctive characteristics beyond mere textile; it embodies a profound and artistic expression of Indonesia's cultural identity. The patterns and motifs adorning songket carry deep philosophical meanings, elevating it to more than just a piece of cloth. The cultural value of songket is intricately woven into the fabric of Indonesian society, cherished as a precious

¹Corresponding author:

Email addresses: herwanfh@gmail.com (Herwan Fakhri)

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heritage that demands safeguarding and preservation for the benefit of future generations. Recognizing the significance of this cultural treasure, the Indonesian government has taken proactive measures to ensure its continuity. Educational and governmental institutions have implemented policies mandating traditional batik and songket uniforms. This strategic move is aimed at not only promoting the use of traditional attire but also at preserving the essence of batik and songket fabrics. In doing so, the government actively celebrates their artistic and historical significance, as highlighted by Husamah (2009: 01). This approach reflects a thoughtful and written commitment to maintain the cultural richness encapsulated in the art of crafting songket.

Traditionally, the meticulous crafting of songket patterns was the domain of skilled artisans, employing manual techniques. However,

technology ushered in non-mechanical looms and innovative weaving tools, bringing both positive and negative implications to the art of songket. On one hand, technological advancements led to increased production, enhancing the accessibility of songket fabrics and making them more widely available to the public. Conversely, the shift from songket's ceremonial and sacred use to practical daily wear has somewhat altered its traditional artistic value (Kusumaningrum, 2011:2). Adhering to the principles of concise and precise writing, this statement succinctly outlines the dual impact of technological modernization on songket. Despite the changes in functionality and production methods, songket is significant in contemporary Indonesian society. The landscape is marked by the emergence of numerous craft centers, ranging from large-scale enterprises to smaller setups, contributing to the vibrant and diverse batik and songket fabrics industry. These centers, embodying the principles of cultural preservation, serve as places of production and as cultural hubs that nurture and showcase the artistry and creativity of the Indonesian people. In conclusion, the enduring significance of songket serves as a profound testament to Indonesia's cultural richness and artistic ingenuity. Its intricate patterns, carrying deep-rooted meanings, stand as a symbolic representation of the nation's heritage and identity. As the government and local communities collaboratively adhere to the principles of cultural conservation, working to preserve and celebrate this remarkable cultural legacy, the art of crafting songket is poised to continue thriving. Its timeless beauty and cultural significance will undoubtedly inspire and resonate with future generations.

In the current era of advanced technology, the traditional art of songket weaving faces significant challenges, with a decline in the number of traditional songket weavers due to the prevalence of machine-woven songket in the market. Machine-woven songket can be produced in a much shorter time, taking only five days, compared to the traditional forty-day process (Ahmad, 2008). The convenience and speed offered by machine-woven songket have altered the dynamics of the songket industry, posing a threat to the survival of the traditional weaving practices. The history of Songket Pandai Sikek is believed to stretch back hundreds of years, with the introduction of golden thread and silk marking the beginning of the development of embroidery and weaving arts, including songket (Sedyastuti, et al., 2021). Despite its long history, the exact origins of this traditional art remain shrouded in mystery.

The traditional art of songket weaving, exemplified by the intricate patterns and meticulous craftsmanship of Songket Pandai Sikek, unfolds in a series of carefully orchestrated steps deeply rooted in traditional practices. The initial stage, "mancukia," sets the foundation for the weaving process. Here, skilled artisans meticulously create motifs on a flat surface using thin and long wooden sticks, a step that mirrors the precision required in the subsequent weaving process. The results of mancukia are then intricately woven with Makauh and banang suto, and the evolving motif is deftly "stored" on one end using a lidi—a type of woven thread. This unique method ensures the symmetry of the Pandai Sikek woven patterns, reflecting the meticulousness inherent in crafting songket (Kusumaningrum, 2011). This process continues until half of the complete motif is formed, at which point the "stored" motif on the lidi is delicately pulled up, contributing to the overall precision of the final creation. While common motifs are part of the repertoire, the art of songket weaving accommodates customized motifs based on customer requests. Notably, the Sungayang and Koto Gadang motifs stand as characteristic patterns from their respective regions, embodying the diversity and cultural significance inherent in songket designs (Husamah, 2009).

In conclusion, the traditional art of songket weaving, exemplified by Songket Pandai Sikek, grapples with both challenges and opportunities in the modern era. While machine-woven songket offers convenience and speed, the preservation of traditional methods is crucial to safeguard the artistry, cultural heritage, and identity woven into this timeless craft. Additionally, Songket Pandai Sikek, rooted in Nagari Pandai Sikek, Tanah Datar, including Jorong Tanjuang, stands as a beacon of the region's cultural legacy. Despite challenges in mastering intricate techniques, the dedication of local artisans has ensured the preservation and continuation of this esteemed cultural heritage. Jorong Tanjuang Pandai Sikek's songket weaving industry is indirectly yet crucial in empowering women within the community. Learning the art of songket weaving becomes a conduit for preserving local wisdom and cultural identity, and women, in particular, assume pivotal roles in this process.

Through their pursuit of songket weaving, women refine their artistic skills and cultivate a sense of pride and ownership in safeguarding their cultural heritage (Azizah, 2019).

The empowerment of women through songket weaving is made possible through various avenues of learning and support. Traditionally, the art of songket was passed down through generations, with knowledge and techniques transmitted from experienced weavers to younger women in the community (Smith, 2008). However, in recent times, the development of non-mechanical looms and innovative weaving tools, with the support of the local government, has enhanced the efficiency and accessibility of songket production. This technological advancement has enabled more women to engage in the art of songket weaving and benefit from its cultural significance. Moreover, the involvement of women in the songket weaving industry has also contributed to the socio-economic growth of the community. The production and sale of songket fabrics have provided women with opportunities for income generation, thus contributing to the economic well-being of their families and the broader community (Hidayati, 2016). In conclusion, the development of Songket Pandai Sikek in Nagari Pandai Sikek, Tanah Datar, has been nurtured by the dedication of local artisans, particularly women, who have played a crucial role in preserving and promoting this unique cultural heritage. The art of songket weaving has empowered women in Jorong Tanjuang Pandai Sikek and has become a symbol of pride and identity for the community. With continued support and recognition, the art of songket weaving is poised to thrive and continue its legacy for generations to come.

The community of Jorong Tanjuang primarily comprises farmers, but amidst this predominantly agricultural setting, one remarkable woman, Ibu Fatma, stood out with her determination to bring about positive change. Recognizing that not all women could engage in the physically demanding work in the fields, Ibu Fatma saw an opportunity to empower women in her area through a different avenue (Hidayati, 2002). In 1996, Ibu Fatma embarked on a transformative journey by undertaking an internship in Solo to learn the art of batik-making. Her selection by the industrial department for this training program was a turning point in her life. Throughout the year-long training, Ibu Fatma honed her skills and gained valuable knowledge in the craft of batik-making. This experience served as a powerful inspiration, planting the seed for her vision of creating a weaving craft that would empower women in her community to improve their livelihoods. Driven by her passion and vision, Ibu Fatma, along with her friends, embarked on a diligent pursuit of their dream. Together, they set out to create beautiful and captivating songket weavings, a traditional art that holds great cultural significance in the region (Yuliani, 2006). This collective effort led to the establishment of a home industry in 1996, focusing on the distinctive Tenun Pandai Sikek, particularly the revered Songket Pandai Sikek. The intricacy and artistry of their creations soon gained recognition and admiration from the local community and beyond.

As their expertise and craftsmanship evolved, Ibu Fatma and her team recognized their work's potential to empower women and contribute to the economic development of the community (Yuliani, 2010). They took a significant step in 2007 by obtaining the necessary permits from the industrial and trade department, formalizing their home industry and solidifying their position as skilled artisans in the art of Songket Pandai Sikek. The establishment of this home industry has not only provided a source of income and empowerment for the women in Jorong Tanjuang but has also become a beacon of cultural pride for the community. The Tenun Pandai Sikek, crafted with dedication and passion, carries the legacy of their heritage, reflecting the resilience and creativity of the local people. In conclusion, the inspiring journey of Ibu Fatma and her friends in establishing the home industry for Songket Pandai Sikek in Jorong Tanjuang showcases the transformative power of empowering women through traditional crafts. Their dedication to preserving and promoting the art of Tenun Pandai Sikek inspires others to recognize the value of cultural heritage and its potential to uplift communities and preserve their identity.

In the Songket Pandai Sikek weaving industry, women enjoy unique flexibility in their work arrangements. Unlike traditional fixed employment contracts, the work system they engage in is based on a per-order basis, where they prepare themselves for each incoming customer request. This dynamic setup allows them to be responsive to customer demands and cater to specific requirements, ensuring that each piece of songket fabric is crafted with meticulous attention to detail. One significant advantage of this flexible work arrangement is that women have the option to work from home rather than being confined to a specific workplace. This flexibility is especially beneficial for women who are already homemakers, as they can seamlessly manage household duties while devoting time to their weaving tasks. This means they can earn a livelihood and contribute to their family's income without leaving their children unattended or sacrificing their household responsibilities. Despite the success of the Songket Pandai Sikek weaving industry in preserving the art of weaving, there are challenges in terms of marketability. The intricate and time-consuming production process of songket fabrics contributes to higher pricing, making them less competitive compared to other songket products available in the market. Other regions offer cheaper alternatives that are produced using quicker methods, which attract cost-conscious buyers.

The shift in consumer preferences also impacts the dynamics of the industry. Sellers have recognized the general population's demand for simpler and more affordable songket products. To meet this demand and remain competitive, they have embraced advanced technology and adopted production methods that require fewer employees. As a result, the traditional handcrafting process, which relies heavily on skilled female weavers, has gradually been replaced by more automated and male-dominated production processes. As the industry continues to evolve, there is a need to strike a balance between preserving the traditional art of Songket Pandai Sikek and adapting to changing market demands. Encouraging innovation and creativity while preserving the core essence of the art can pave the way for sustainable growth in the industry. Additionally, efforts to enhance market accessibility, raise awareness about the cultural significance of songkets, and create avenues for women's participation can further empower female artisans and ensure the continuity of this cherished cultural heritage. The Songket Pandai Sikek weaving industry offers women a flexible and empowering work environment, allowing them to combine their household duties with their weaving tasks. However, market challenges and changing consumer preferences have prompted the adoption of more automated and cost-effective production methods, impacting the traditional craftsmanship of songket weaving. Finding a harmonious balance between tradition and innovation will be crucial in preserving the cultural heritage of Songket Pandai Sikek and empowering the women artisans who play a pivotal role in its preservation.

In contrast to the traditional approach used in crafting Songket Pandai Sikek, which has been passed down through generations and upheld despite its time-consuming nature, recent innovations have started to reshape the production process. Non-mechanical weaving tools have been introduced, bringing a new dimension to the art of Songket Pandai Sikek in Jorong Tanjuang. While these innovations have faced challenges due to intense global industrial competition, the people of Jorong Tanjuang have demonstrated resilience in preserving and reviving this almost extinct art form. The Pandai Sikek weaving industry has become a catalyst for empowering the local community, particularly women, as it allows them to preserve and enhance their creativity and skills. The art of Songket Pandai Sikek has served as a platform for these talented women to showcase their craftsmanship and cultural heritage to both local and international audiences. The dedication and expertise of the women weavers in Jorong Tanjuang have resulted in the production of high-quality Songket Pandai Sikek fabrics. Their exceptional artistry and attention to detail have garnered recognition from various customers within Indonesia and beyond. The increasing number of orders received from cities like Bukittinggi, Payakumbuh, Medan, Pekanbaru, as well as from countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Morocco, is a testament to the global appeal and admiration for the unique beauty of Songket Pandai Sikek.

Moreover, the success of the Pandai Sikek weaving industry has positively impacted the socio-economic development of the local community. The economic empowerment of women weavers has not only improved their financial well-being but has also contributed to the overall economic growth of Jorong Tanjuang. As the industry continues to evolve and embrace modernization, there is a need to balance preserving Songket Pandai Sikek's traditional craftsmanship and adapting to changing market demands. This delicate equilibrium will enable the community to continue thriving while preserving its cultural heritage and identity. In conclusion, the innovations in the production process of Songket Pandai Sikek in Jorong Tanjuang have breathed new life into this ancient art form. The Pandai Sikek weaving industry empowers local women, allowing them to showcase their artistic talent and cultural heritage on both domestic and international stages. As the demand for high-quality Songket Pandai Sikek grows, the local community's dedication to preserving this cultural treasure will undoubtedly ensure its continuation for generations to come.

Despite the growing demand for Songket Pandai Sikek fabrics, one significant challenge the weaving industry faces is the limited number of skilled workers available. Moreover, there is a noticeable lack of interest among the younger generation of women in the Jorong Tanjuang area to pursue the craft of Songket weaving. Despite the industry's growth since its establishment, the number of women actively involved in weaving still falls short of its full potential. To address this issue and attract more women to engage in the art of Songket weaving, direct empowerment efforts from the industry itself are essential. In response to the need for more skilled weavers, the Pandai Sikek weaving industry has directly empowered women. The industry owners have initiated empowerment programs, providing hands-on teaching and guidance to aspiring weavers. By having industry founders personally mentor and train the women, the weaving skills and traditional techniques are effectively passed down from one generation to another. This direct approach not only ensures the preservation of the art of Songket weaving but also establishes a strong sense of ownership and pride among the women artisans.

The government's role in the Pandai Sikek weaving industry is primarily focused on promoting and marketing Songket Pandai Sikek fabrics. Events like local bazaars and other occasions are organized to showcase the beauty and cultural significance of these intricate weavings. By highlighting the artistry and

heritage of Songket Pandai Sikek, the government aims to create greater awareness and appreciation for the craft both within the country and on the international stage. While the government plays a supportive role in promoting the industry, the actual skill of weaving is acquired through direct guidance from the industry founders. This emphasis on hands-on learning ensures that women's empowerment occurs organically within the weaving community. As women master the art of Songket weaving, they contribute to the economic growth of their families and community and become the torchbearers of this cultural heritage, preserving it for future generations. In conclusion, despite the growing demand for Songket Pandai Sikek fabrics, the weaving industry faces challenges in attracting and training a sufficient number of skilled weavers, especially among the younger generation of women. To address this issue, the industry has taken a proactive approach by directly empowering women through hands-on training and guidance. By fostering a sense of pride and ownership in the craft, the industry founders ensure the preservation of the art of Songket weaving for generations to come. The government's supportive role in promoting Songket Pandai Sikek further enhances its cultural significance and fosters a greater appreciation for this cherished heritage within Indonesia and beyond.

The process of empowering women includes efforts to enhance their weaving skills and knowledge. This empowerment aims to utilize the available resources within the community. Various programs have been developed to form industrial groups that empower women, providing them with improved access to opportunities. By learning the art of weaving, women can achieve economic growth and gain valuable knowledge and skills, leading to success based on their abilities. The Pandai Sikek weaving industry can serve as a driving force in the community by promoting the utilization of women's potential. The industry does not force women to participate in every order that comes in; instead, it adopts a collaborative approach with its workers. If someone from outside the industry wishes to learn without the intention of working there, the industry never pressures them to join. Throughout the production process, the industry inadvertently teaches us the core values of Minangkabau culture that are reflected in the art of Pandai Sikek weaving.

2. Method

The research conducted in this study follows a qualitative approach, which is well-suited for portraying and understanding real-world phenomena in-depth. With a descriptive type of research, the aim is to develop concepts and gather facts without hypothesis testing. Descriptive research is valuable for collecting extensive data to gain insights into the social conditions of a specific group of people (Moleong, 2010: 3). To ensure the study's effectiveness, the research informants were selected using purposive sampling, where specific objectives or considerations guided the selection process. Purposive sampling allows researchers to target individuals who are most relevant to the study's objectives or utility (Yusuf, 2005: 205). In this study, a total of 27 individuals were carefully chosen as informants based on their significance in providing valuable insights into the research topic.

Both primary and secondary data sources were utilized in this research. Primary data was collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and document study. Observations enabled the researchers to witness firsthand the phenomena under investigation, while in-depth interviews allowed for detailed exploration of the informants' perspectives and experiences. A thorough study of relevant documents also provided essential background information and context for the study. The unit of analysis in this research is the group. By focusing on groups of people rather than individual participants, the study can examine patterns, behaviors, and interactions within the context of a collective. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics and complexities that may arise when studying a particular community or social setting. In conclusion, this research's qualitative and descriptive nature allows for a deeper exploration of the research problem at hand. By employing purposive sampling and various data collection methods, the study aims to thoroughly analyze the social conditions within a specific group. The focus on groups as the unit of analysis contributes to a more holistic understanding of the phenomena under investigation.

3. Result

3.1. Research Results

Every craft and its practitioners serve as reflections of the social, economic, and cultural aspects of a community, and this holds true for the songket craftsmen in Pandai Sikek. In Minangkabau society, the role of craftsmen holds a distinct position, shaping the fabric of the community's identity. The development of songket weaving in Pandai Sikek has brought about positive changes for the craftsmen directly involved in the craft and the entire community. For the craftsmen themselves, the increasing demand for songket fabrics has presented new opportunities to improve their standard of living. As they create exquisite songket handicrafts, these products can be sold to consumers at prices that remain affordable, expanding the market for their

craftsmanship. This has allowed the craftsmen, whether they are owners or workers, to enhance their economic status. With a steady income, they can now comfortably meet their daily needs and support their children's education, providing them with access to higher learning and better opportunities.

Furthermore, the growth of the songket craft industry has had broader implications on the social landscape of the community. With increased economic activity stemming from the craft, businesses such as transportation services, taverns, and shops selling various art and craft items have emerged, further stimulating local entrepreneurship and economic development. This ecosystem of artisanal activities contributes to the overall social dynamics of the region, fostering a sense of interconnectedness among different sectors of society. Moreover, the popularity of songket weaving has spurred some individuals to transition from their traditional agricultural professions to become skilled songket craftsmen. This shift in occupations reflects the allure and potential of the craft, attracting new talents to contribute to its flourishing development. As a result, the craft of songket weaving not only sustains the livelihood of existing craftsmen but also acts as a catalyst for economic diversification and social transformation in the community. In conclusion, the art of songket weaving in Pandai Sikek serves as a microcosm of the broader social, economic, and cultural fabric of Minangkabau society. The craft's growth has brought economic empowerment to craftsmen and facilitated various businesses, fostering a thriving artisanal ecosystem. Additionally, the allure of songket weaving has inspired individuals to embrace new professions, contributing to the craft's enduring legacy and driving positive changes within the community. As the craft continues to evolve, it will undoubtedly remain an essential pillar of Minangkabau's cultural heritage and a source of prosperity for its practitioners and the community at large.

Weaving activities at Pandai Sikek hold a deep-rooted cultural significance as an inheritance from the community's ancestors. However, there has been a prevailing assumption that these traditional crafts are old-fashioned and no longer relevant in modern times. This misconception needs to be debunked as the beauty and cultural value of Pandai Sikek songket continue to hold immense importance. Recognizing the need to preserve the rich heritage of Minangkabau handicrafts, especially Pandai Sikek songket, the Regional Government of West Sumatra has taken proactive steps. One notable effort is the organization of a handicraft exhibition, serving as an ideal platform to showcase woven products and promote the significance of Pandai Sikek songket to a wider audience. Through this exhibition, the craft gains recognition and appreciation from the public, encouraging a renewed interest in its traditional artistry. Additionally, the Adityawarman Museum in the city of Padang has played a crucial role in preserving the cultural legacy of Pandai Sikek songket. The museum has actively expanded its collection of songket cloth, adding 20 more pieces to the original 13. Many of the displayed songket collections in the museum were found to be weathered and had motifs that had faded due to the age of the cloth, some dating back more than 50 years. The museum's initiative to conserve these precious textiles ensures their protection and allows visitors to witness the craft's historical and artistic journey.

The efforts of the Regional Government and the Adityawarman Museum safeguard the cultural heritage of Pandai Sikek songket and elevate its significance in the broader context of Indonesian handicrafts. By promoting the art form through exhibitions and preserving historical artifacts, they cultivate a sense of pride and admiration for this traditional craft among both local communities and tourists. Furthermore, instilling a sense of cultural appreciation in younger generations is equally important to ensure the continuation of Pandai Sikek songket weaving. Education programs, workshops, and community involvement initiatives can be implemented to foster an interest in traditional crafts and encourage young people to embrace the cultural legacy left by their ancestors. In conclusion, the preservation of Pandai Sikek songket weaving is essential to honor the cultural heritage and artistic legacy of the community's ancestors. The Regional Government and the Adityawarman Museum contribute significantly to the craft's recognition and appreciation by challenging misconceptions and promoting the craft through exhibitions and museum collections. Engaging younger generations and fostering cultural appreciation will further ensure that this ancient art form continues to thrive and captivate future generations. With these concerted efforts, Pandai Sikek songket weaving will remain a treasured aspect of Minangkabau culture and an enduring symbol of Indonesia's rich artistic heritage.

Business Profile of Songket Pandai Sikek

The name "Songket Pandai Sikek" is deeply connected to the independent woven songket industry that emerged following a training program in 1996. This training, organized by the West Sumatra province's national craft council, selected individuals from various districts to undergo batik and songket weaving training in Solo, Java. Upon completion of the training, the participants returned to their home region and began to develop their craft, establishing the Songket Pandai Sikek industry. The name "Songket Pandai Sikek" itself bears significance as it is derived from the training experience on Java Island. Although the weavers did not directly work with gold silk threads during the training, the term "songket tenun sikek pandai" was used,

signifying their cleverness and skill in weaving. As they continued to develop the craft, the name "songket woven cloth, clever sikek" stuck, highlighting their intention to create a distinct and characteristic cloth that represents the Minang realm, reflecting the culture and traditions of the region.

Currently, the Songket Pandai Sikek industry employs 44 workers, predominantly women with an average age of over 35 years. While these dedicated women primarily carry out the craft of batik making, the workforce operates with a certain level of flexibility. Only six of the workers are permanent weavers, while the others engage in weaving during their free time, allowing them to balance their personal commitments with their craft. The Pandai Sikek songket weaving industry is a home-based enterprise, offering unique flexibility for the weavers. Although the main workspace is located at the owner's house, the weavers can conduct their work at their homes. This arrangement provides convenience and comfort for the workers, allowing them to weave at their own pace and in a familiar environment. The Songket Pandai Sikek industry's unique history and organizational structure contribute to its distinctiveness in the field of traditional crafts. The cleverness and dedication of the weavers, along with the flexibility of their work arrangements, are essential factors in preserving the art of Songket Pandai Sikek and ensuring its continuation for generations to come. In conclusion, the name "Songket Pandai Sikek" signifies the birth of an independent woven songket industry in West Sumatra following a training program in 1996. The industry's history, organizational structure, and the dedication of its weavers make it a unique and essential part of Minangkabau's cultural heritage. The weavers' cleverness and adaptability in their craft demonstrate their commitment to preserving the tradition of Songket Pandai Sikek, making it a cherished art form that continues to thrive as a testament to Indonesia's rich cultural legacy.

Profile of the Pandai Sikek Songket Weavers

A small proportion of the women weavers in Jorong Tanjuang have had the opportunity to graduate from high school, while the majority have completed their education up to junior high school or elementary school levels. The economic circumstances of their parents have played a significant role in limiting their educational opportunities, as higher education often becomes financially unattainable. As a result, many women are forced to seek employment in the agricultural sector, where they find themselves unable to fully explore and utilize their creativity and skills. The lack of opportunities to grow and progress in their daily work leaves them feeling stagnant in both their skills and personal lives. However, with the establishment of the songket weaving industry in Jorong Tanjuang, these women's lives have seen significant improvements. Unlike agricultural work, weaving songket allows them to work from the comfort of their homes, eliminating the need to endure the harsh outdoor conditions. This shift in their work environment has resulted in greater job satisfaction and a sense of empowerment, as they can now fully unleash their creativity and skills in the craft of songket weaving.

Furthermore, the songket weaving industry has become a transformative force in these women's lives. It offers them an avenue to showcase their artistic talents and apply their traditional skills to produce intricate songket fabrics. The sense of accomplishment and recognition they gain from creating beautiful woven pieces enhances their self-esteem and opens doors for them to gain economic independence and financial stability. With the newfound opportunities provided by the songket weaving industry, the women in Jorong Tanjuang have experienced an upliftment in their quality of life. They no longer feel constrained by their previous limitations and instead find fulfillment and growth through their craft. The industry has become a source of hope and progress for these women, empowering them to reach their potential and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Pandai Sikek songket. In conclusion, the economic constraints that have limited women's educational opportunities in Jorong Tanjuang have been overcome through their involvement in the songket weaving industry. The industry has provided them with a means of livelihood and allowed them to unleash their creativity and skills, leading to a positive transformation in their personal and economic lives. The art of songket weaving has become a catalyst for progress, empowerment, and recognition, contributing to the betterment of the community and the preservation of its cultural heritage.

Factors that Drive Women Weaving in the Songket Pandai Sikek Industry

Women who work in weaving are due to socio-cultural factors, where the values in tradition, namely weaving, become wisdom in the community's livelihood strategies, Jorong Tanjuang Nagari Pandai Sikek and women as weavers because of the customs of the Minang people, that women must be able to weave for generations. , although on the other hand women are also housewives because weaving can be done during free time and the songket patterns that are made contain the meaning of each style so that Minang people understand better the meaning of the patterns they draw, and because of the pleasure factor that is in them in weaving songket cloth. The ability of the craftsmen to be open to various changes is one way to develop the

art of Pandai Sikek weaving. Changes made by the craftsmen in this case the development of the function of weaving. Initially, the Pandai Sikek songket cloth was only used for traditional events and ceremonies. The craftsmen began to realize that Pandai Sikek songkets could be made into various shapes, such as bags, wallets, and sandals. Various changes that have occurred in the Pandai Sikek woven craft have led to modifications to the elements of the art of weaving as a whole. What used to function as part of custom has turned into an object with economic value, so that it has commercial value that can support an increase in family income.

The growth and development of the art of weaving in Pandai Sikek have received significant support from the Regional Government's keen interest in promoting and preserving Minangkabau handicrafts. To further bolster this industry, the Regional Government has taken concrete steps, one of which involves providing soft loans to studios and galleries in Pandai Sikek. Notably, studios such as Fatimah Sayuti, Satu Karya, and Five Brothers have benefitted from these soft loans, which are closely monitored and supervised by the Department of Industry and Trade of West Sumatra Province. The soft loans offered by the Regional Government have proved to be instrumental in empowering the studios and galleries in Pandai Sikek. These financial provisions have enabled the studios to expand their infrastructure and improve their facilities. By enhancing the studio/gallery buildings, the craftsmen now have a more conducive and productive environment to create their exceptional songket fabrics. Additionally, the availability of soft loans has facilitated the acquisition of more raw materials for songket weaving, ensuring a steady supply for the craftsmen.

With the increased support from the government, the studios and galleries in Pandai Sikek have experienced notable progress in their craft. The infusion of funds through soft loans has enabled them to innovate and explore new artistic expressions, thus elevating the quality and diversity of their songket fabrics. Furthermore, these initiatives have strengthened the local economy, as the thriving craft industry generates employment opportunities and contributes to the region's economic growth. The Regional Government's commitment to supporting the art of weaving at Pandai Sikek is a testament to its dedication to preserving the rich cultural heritage of Minangkabau. By investing in and nurturing the craft, the government recognizes the invaluable contribution of traditional arts to the identity and pride of the local community. Moreover, the soft loans initiative demonstrates the government's vision for sustainable economic development, leveraging the potential of traditional crafts to stimulate growth in the creative and cultural sectors. In conclusion, the Regional Government's support through soft loans has played a pivotal role in advancing the art of weaving in Pandai Sikek. With improved infrastructure, increased access to raw materials, and enhanced artistic expressions, the studios and galleries in Pandai Sikek have thrived, contributing to the preservation of Minangkabau's cultural heritage and fostering economic growth. This partnership between the government and the craftsmen underscores the significance of preserving traditional arts and their capacity to enrich the region's social, cultural, and economic landscape.

Local Wisdom Values Developed in Pandai Sikek Songket Weaving and Writing

The intricate motifs employed in Pandai Sikek songket weaving showcase remarkable artistic prowess and signify a profound connection with nature. The craftsmen, driven by a genuine love for their environment, purposefully integrate themes inspired by the region's natural surroundings. Through the meticulous weaving of motifs like the areca nut tree, spinach seed, and braided stick into the fabric, they strive to immortalize and pay homage to the enduring beauty of their surroundings. These motifs transcend mere artistic elements; they carry embedded values and lessons drawn from the natural world, inviting observers to glean wisdom from the intricate patterns. In the cultural tapestry of Pandai Sikek and Minangkabau, the creation of handicraft art objects emerges as an integral expression of their way of life. The symbiosis between these art objects and the community's daily existence is evident, with Pandai Sikek songket weaving serving as more than aesthetic adornments. Instead, these woven masterpieces embody moral messages and values that guide the community's everyday routines. Within the mesmerizing patterns lie sacred values, symbolizing a profound spiritual connection that links the community with both their surroundings and ancestral heritage.

Moreover, the artistry embedded in Pandai Sikek songket weaving transcends mere aesthetics, highlighting the prowess of craftsmen in the realm of written expression. This craft is a testament to the skill and the unwavering dedication of artisans who invest countless hours perfecting each woven masterpiece. The intricate details and precision woven into every piece are reflective of virtues highly valued in Minangkabau culture—thoroughness and patience. In this art form, the ability to articulate a story through intricate patterns requires a level of written expression akin to crafting prose. Beyond their visual allure, the motifs within Pandai Sikek songket serve as eloquent messages woven into the fabric of daily life. They act as written reminders, urging individuals to appreciate and respect nature, embrace their environment's inherent beauty, and navigate life's journey with perseverance and patience. These motifs encapsulate the written expressions of core values upheld by the community, offering a profound understanding of their cultural identity. Through this weaving

of values into art, Pandai Sikek songket becomes a narrative guiding the community's collective journey through life.

In conclusion, Pandai Sikek songket weaving motifs transcend mere decorative patterns; they constitute a profound expression of cultural and moral values, showcasing an adept ability in written communication. Inspired by the surrounding natural beauty, these motifs embody a deep-rooted love for nature and an unwavering commitment to preserving its essence for posterity. Pandai Sikek songket weaving encapsulates sacred values, artistic prowess, perseverance, thoroughness, and patience as symbolic representations of harmony and environmental connection. These values intricately shape the daily lives and cultural identity of the Pandai Sikek and Minangkabau communities, narrating stories through skilled written expressions in their art.

Through the craft, craftsmen convey the essence of their heritage, ensuring that these written values continue illuminating the path for future generations. The integration of handicraft art objects into the daily lives of the Pandai Sikek and Minangkabau people has become second nature. The Pandai Sikek songket weaving serves as a reservoir of moral messages and values and a written reference guide for the community. These values, including sacred values, beauty (art), perseverance, thoroughness, and patience, manifest in the final product and the meticulous creation process. The radiance of beauty emanates from the intricately woven decorative motifs, showcasing the exquisite artistic value inherent in the craftsmanship. The value of perseverance, thoroughness, and patience is evident in the prolonged process of songket cloth production, which spans months. Weaving requires a state of emotional equilibrium, emphasizing the necessity of patience and thoroughness. The enduring results of this weaving art find applications as raw materials for clothing, bags, traditional attire, and play integral roles in wedding ceremonies and the appointment of Panghulu, underscoring the timeless significance of this written tradition.

4. Discussion

From the study of local wisdom in empowering women through Songket Pandai Sikek in Jorong Tanjuang, Nagari Pandai Sikek, X Koto District, Tanah Datar Regency, it becomes evident that local wisdom goes beyond the management of resources from the past to the present. It also encompasses local values and knowledge unique to the area, which lead to new opportunities and benefits for the community, especially for women. The Songket Pandai Sikek industry significantly drives positive change among women, providing them with economic productivity and opportunities for knowledge and skill development. One of the local wisdom elements found in the Songket Pandai Sikek industry is reflected in the motifs used for weaving. The choice of motifs revolves around themes inspired by the natural environment. Through these motifs, the weavers convey a message of love and care for nature, promoting a deeper appreciation and understanding of the environment. This connection with nature fosters a sense of responsibility among the community to preserve and protect their natural surroundings. The cultural significance of these motifs goes beyond aesthetics; they serve as a reminder of the intertwined relationship between the community and the environment, instilling a sense of environmental stewardship.

Furthermore, the Songket Pandai Sikek industry acts as a catalyst for empowering women in the community. Many women who initially lacked skills or knowledge now actively engaged in the weaving industry. The craft provides them with economic opportunities and financial independence, thus transforming their social and economic status. Through their involvement in the industry, women are exposed to new knowledge and skills, enabling them to broaden their horizons and contribute actively to the economic growth of their community. The success of the Songket Pandai Sikek industry in empowering women can be attributed to the preservation and application of local wisdom in its practices. By embracing the values and knowledge rooted in their cultural heritage, the industry has created an inclusive environment that promotes gender equality and empowers women. This exemplifies the ability of local wisdom to adapt and evolve with the changing times, addressing contemporary challenges while remaining true to its cultural roots.

In conclusion, local wisdom is pivotal in empowering women through the Songket Pandai Sikek industry in Jorong Tanjuang, Nagari Pandai Sikek, X Koto District, Tanah Datar Regency. Using motifs inspired by the natural environment conveys a message of love and care for nature, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship within the community. Additionally, the industry's commitment to preserving local wisdom has allowed women to thrive economically and develop their knowledge and skills. This harmonious blend of cultural heritage and progressiveness demonstrates the potential of local wisdom in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future for the community.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of local wisdom in empowering women through the Songket Pandai Sikek industry in Jorong Tanjuang, Nagari Pandai Sikek, X Koto District, Tanah Datar Regency, highlights the multifaceted nature of local wisdom. Beyond the management of resources, local wisdom encompasses the preservation of unique values and knowledge inherent to the area, creating new opportunities and benefits, especially for women. The use of motifs inspired by the natural environment in songket weaving reflects the community's deep appreciation for nature, instilling a sense of environmental stewardship and responsibility. This cultural significance of the motifs transcends aesthetics and reinforces the connection between the community and their natural surroundings. The Songket Pandai Sikek industry emerges as a powerful change agent, empowering women lacking skills and knowledge. By offering economic opportunities and financial independence, the industry transforms women's social and economic status, allowing them to contribute actively to their community's economic growth. The industry's success in empowering women can be attributed to its commitment to preserving and applying local wisdom. By embracing their cultural heritage, the industry creates an inclusive environment that promotes gender equality and fosters women's empowerment. Ultimately, the harmonious blend of local wisdom and progressive practices demonstrated by the Songket Pandai Sikek industry holds promising potential for shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future for the community. Through the preservation and application of local wisdom, the industry not only maintains the community's cultural identity but also paves the way for women's socio-economic advancement, proving that local wisdom remains relevant and adaptable in addressing contemporary challenges.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest

The authors must state that there is no conflict of interest concerning the publication of this paper.

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About the author

Suryanti is a lecturer Institutut Seni Indonesia Padangpnjang, West Sumatera, Indonesia; email: yantisur688@gmail.com

Herwan Fakhri is a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpnjang, West Sumatera, Indonesia, Email: herwanfh@gmail.com

Ahmad Akmal is a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpnjang, West Sumatera, Indonesia,. Email: ahmadakmal650@gmail.com

Sri Sundari is a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpnjang, West Sumatera, Indonesia,. Email: srisundari.isipp@gmail.com

Eriswan is a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpnjang, West Sumatera, Indonesia,. Email: eriswan141160@gmail.com