



## Implementation of *Kaulinan Barudak* in Forming the Character of Catur Silih: *Silih Asah, Silih Asih, and Silih Asuh* in Early Childhood

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### **Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran Kaulinan Barudak dalam melestarikan nilai-nilai Catur Silih dalam budaya Sunda pada era modern. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan studi pustaka. Data diperoleh dari buku, artikel jurnal, penelitian terdahulu, dan publikasi daring yang membahas budaya Sunda, permainan tradisional, dan nilai Catur Silih. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Kaulinan Barudak mengandung nilai budaya silih asih, silih asah, silih asuh, dan silih wawangi yang berkontribusi pada harmoni sosial, pembentukan karakter, dan tanggung jawab anak. Namun, pelestarian Kaulinan Barudak menghadapi tantangan pada era digital akibat dominasi gim elektronik dan keterbatasan ruang bermain. Integrasi permainan tradisional ke dalam pendidikan anak usia dini melalui kurikulum berbasis budaya lokal dan adaptasi teknologi dapat menjadi solusi untuk menjamin keberlanjutan nilai budaya Sunda. Upaya pelestarian ini membutuhkan kolaborasi antara lembaga pendidikan, orang tua, dan pemerintah agar permainan tradisional dapat diperkenalkan kembali secara relevan kepada generasi muda.*

**Kata Kunci:** *kaulinan barudak, catur silih, masa kanak-kanak*

### **Abstract**

This study aims to analyze the role of Kaulinan Barudak in preserving the values of Catur Silih in Sundanese culture in the modern era. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a library research approach. Data were collected from books, journal articles, previous studies, and online publications related to Sundanese culture, traditional games, and Catur Silih values. The results show that Kaulinan Barudak contains cultural values of silih asih, silih asah, silih asuh, and silih wawangi, which contribute to children's social harmony, character development, and sense of responsibility. However, the preservation of

Kaulinan Barudak faces challenges in the digital era due to the dominance of electronic games and limited play space. Integrating traditional games into early childhood education through a culture-based curriculum and technological adaptation can ensure their sustainability. The preservation effort requires collaboration among schools, parents, and the government so that traditional games can be reintroduced to the younger generation in a relevant and meaningful way.

**Keywords:** *kaulinan barudak*, *catur silih*, early childhood

## Introduction

Culture is a fundamental aspect of human life that encompasses various patterns of living and is passed down from one generation to the next. As explained by Wibowo (2013) culture includes the entirety of life patterns that are inherited over time, including values, norms, symbols, and beliefs that are unified within a society. As a marker of community identity and a guide for living, culture plays an essential role in shaping human character, mindset, and behavior. Indonesia, with its cultural diversity covering race, ethnicity, language, and religion, possesses a rich cultural heritage that serves as a unique attraction, including Sundanese culture, which is the second largest ethnic group after the Javanese.

Sundanese culture, which has developed in the communities of West Java, contains various important aspects, including the values of *catur silih*, which consist of *silih asih* (mutual love), *silih asah* (mutual development), *silih asuh* (mutual care), and *silih wawangi* (mutual harmony) (Suryalaga, 2010). These values are reflected in various aspects of Sundanese life, including traditional children's games, known as *Kaulinan barudak*.

*Barudak* refers to traditional Sundanese children's games that incorporate elements of education, entertainment, and the development of children's social and emotional character. According to Saepudin dan Damayani (2016). *Kaulinan Barudak* functions not only as a form of recreation but also carries strong local cultural values such as cooperation, sportsmanship, responsibility, and mutual respect. These games essentially serve as a medium for the internalization of Sundanese cultural values in children's lives from an early age.

The variety of *Kaulinan Barudak* is extensive, with each game having different purposes. Dermawan et al. classified several types of *Kaulinan Barudak*, such as *galah asin*, *engklek*, *oray-orayan*, *sorodot gaplok*, and *egrang*, each of which helps develop children's gross motor skills as well as their social and moral abilities. In the context of character education,

games like *sorodot gaplok*, as studied by Amirudin dan Mukarom (2019), have been shown to instill values of discipline, courage, and solidarity.

However, with the rapid development of technology and modernization, there has been a shift in the implementation of Sundanese cultural values, especially *catur silih*. This phenomenon can be seen in the declining interest in traditional games among the younger generation, who prefer digital and modern games. This condition raises concerns about the possible extinction of the Sundanese cultural values contained within *Kaulinan Barudak*.

In West Java in particular, traditional games—locally known as *Kaulinan Barudak*—play an important role in preserving Sundanese culture. *Kaulinan Barudak* is not merely entertainment but also serves as an educational tool that conveys cultural values through social interaction among players. Games such as *congklak*, *bola bekel*, *sonlah*, and *bancakan* indirectly teach the principles of *silih asah*, *silih asih*, and *silih asub* through collaboration, cooperation, and mutual respect among the children involved in the play (Ekadjati, 1993).

In today's modern era, significant changes have occurred in the way children play, marked by the rising popularity of digital games that reduce physical social interaction. Children today tend to be more physically passive, experience a decline in social skills, and show tendencies toward individualism due to the dominance of screen-based activities (Yoseptry, 2022). In fact, according to Dermawan et al. (2020), young children are beginning to lose opportunities to develop empathy, leadership, and conflict resolution skills directly, as they are less engaged in traditional games that emphasize collaboration and communication. This presents a serious challenge in character development, particularly in instilling local wisdom values such as *silih asah*, *silih asih*, and *silih asub*, which ideally should be nurtured from an early age through contextual and meaningful activities.

The problem addressed in this study arises from these conditions, where *Kaulinan barudak*, as a part of Sundanese cultural heritage, is increasingly threatened by technological advancements and a lack of awareness regarding the importance of preserving local cultural values among children, especially within nonformal educational institutions such as kindergartens. Several previous studies have explored the contributions of traditional games to early childhood development. Amirudin dan Mukarom (2019) found that the traditional game *sorodot gaplok* contains character education values such as cooperation, courage, and responsibility, which are essential for shaping children's character. The study by Rohayati dan Budiarti (2022) showed that the traditional game *engklek* can improve early literacy skills through a fun and communicative approach. Meanwhile, Diantama (2018)

emphasized that traditional games have the potential to shape children's civic character through social interaction and cultural values.

However, most of these studies still focus on aspects of physical, cognitive, or general character development and have not specifically addressed the integration of local cultural values such as *catur silih* (*silih asih*, *silih asah*, *silih asuh*, and *silih mawangi*) into early childhood play activities. In fact, traditional games like *Kaulinan barudak* hold great potential as a medium for transmitting local cultural values in a contextual and meaningful way, particularly in shaping children's personality and moral development in the modern era.

This study aims to analyze the role of *Kaulinan barudak* in preserving the *catur silih* values of Sundanese culture in the digital era. Specifically, it examines how the values of *silih asih* (mutual affection), *silih asah* (mutual development), *silih asuh* (mutual care), and *silih mawangi* (mutual respect) are implemented through various types of *Kaulinan barudak*, while also identifying the challenges and strategies for maintaining the existence of these traditional games amid modernization.

This research employs a literature study approach by analyzing various sources related to Sundanese culture, *catur silih* values, and *Kaulinan barudak*. The theoretical foundation of this study is based on the concept of Sundanese cultural values proposed by Suryalaga (2010) as well as the cultural preservation approach adopted from character education studies rooted in local wisdom. Through this approach, the study is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how *Kaulinan barudak* can be adapted as a medium for teaching Sundanese cultural values that remain relevant in the lives of young children in today's digital age.

The results of this study are expected to contribute theoretically to the development of Sundanese cultural studies, particularly concerning the preservation of *catur silih* values through traditional games. Practically, the findings can be utilized by non-formal education institutions, especially kindergartens, to design learning programs that focus on preserving local culture and strengthening children's character. For the general public, this study is expected to raise awareness of the importance of preserving *Kaulinan barudak* as a medium for transmitting noble cultural values to future generations.

## Methodology

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method using a library research approach to analyze the role of *Kaulinan barudak* in preserving Sundanese cultural values. This

approach refers to the guidelines outlined by Creswell (2013), which emphasizes the importance of in-depth analysis of textual data and cultural context in qualitative research. Data collection was carried out by reviewing various relevant literature sources, including books, scholarly journal articles, previous research documents, and online publications discussing Sundanese culture, traditional games, and *catur silih* values. The collected data were analyzed thoroughly using content analysis techniques to understand the implementation of *silih asih*, *silih asah*, *silih asuh*, and *silih nawangi* values in *Kaulinan barudak*, as well as to examine the challenges and strategies for preservation in the digital era.

## Results and Discussion

### Implementation of *Catur Silih* Values in *Kaulinan Barudak* (Traditional Children's Games)

Sundanese culture upholds noble values embodied in the concept of *catur silih*, which consists of *silih asih* (mutual affection), *silih asah* (mutual learning), *silih asuh* (mutual care), and *silih nawangi* (mutual respect). These values are naturally integrated into various traditional Sundanese children's games, known as *Kaulinan barudak*. According to Saepudin & Damayani (2016), *Kaulinan barudak* functions not only as a form of entertainment but also as an effective medium for teaching cultural values to children.

The value of *silih asih* in *Kaulinan barudak* is reflected through social interaction and collaboration among players. Traditional games such as *sorodot gaplok* teach children to respect one another, develop empathy, and build harmonious relationships with fellow players (Amirudin & Mukarom, 2019). The value of *silih asah* (mutual improvement) is implemented through learning processes that occur during play. These games encourage children to share knowledge and skills. The value of *silih asuh* (mutual care) is reflected in the sense of responsibility and concern among players, as noted by (Dermawan et al., 2020). Traditional games such as *bebentengan* teach children to protect one another and ensure the safety of their teams (Diantama, 2018). Meanwhile, the value of *silih nawangi* (mutual respect or maintaining a good reputation) is implemented through ethics and social norms embedded in the games, which, according to (2020) These are reflected in rules that emphasize honesty, sportsmanship, and respect for opponents.

### Challenges in Preserving *Kaulinan Barudak* in the Digital Era

The preservation of *Kaulinan barudak* faces various challenges in today's digital era. Inggriani Azahra dkk. (2023) revealed that technological advancements have significantly

altered children's play patterns, with many now more interested in digital games that offer visually and aurally stimulating experiences. Herawati dkk. (2021) identified that the decreasing availability of open spaces and the packed schedules of modern children are obstacles to practicing *Kaulinan barudak*, which generally require large play areas and extended time. Furthermore, Kembara et al. (2021) highlighted the lack of systemic support from various stakeholders, including limited teacher training programs, minimal documentation of traditional games, and the insufficient integration of cultural values into educational curricula.

The important role of *Kaulinan barudak* in preserving Sundanese cultural values has been emphasized by Dermawan dkk. (2020) who stress that traditional games must be reintroduced into children's learning processes to maintain their relevance and existence. Traditional games like *congklak* and *bola bekel* can be adapted into more relevant forms aligned with contemporary developments, such as the creation of culturally based educational games accessible via digital devices. In this way, children can continue to learn about and practice local cultural values within a more modern context.

### **Integration of *Kaulinan Barudak* in Early Childhood Education**

Educational institutions, especially kindergartens, play a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of preserving Sundanese culture through *Kaulinan barudak*. Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a highly strategic stage in shaping children's character and morality. Education based on local wisdom, such as the preservation of traditional Sundanese games, can serve as an effective alternative for character development. Fazli dkk.(2022) emphasized that character education grounded in local cultural values can positively contribute to the formation of children's attitudes and behaviors. *Kaulinan barudak*, as a learning medium based on *catur silih* values—such as mutual love, self-development, and mutual care—can be integrated into learning activities in kindergartens. Thus, children not only learn about cultural values but also develop the social and emotional skills necessary for life in society.

On the other hand, one effort that can be made by educational institutions to preserve children's traditional games is by involving them in extracurricular activities focused on traditional play. Through these activities, children can directly learn about Sundanese culture and the life principles embedded in these games. This can also serve as a platform to raise children's awareness of the importance of preserving local culture (Rohayati & Budiarti, 2022).

### Strategies for Preserving *Kaulinan Barudak*

Several strategies can be implemented to preserve *Kaulinan barudak*. Yoseptry (2022) emphasized the importance of integrating traditional children's games into early childhood education programs through the development of local culture-based curricula, teacher training, and parental involvement. It is also important to adapt *Kaulinan barudak* into formats more suitable for the digital age, such as developing traditional game applications and digital documentation, while maintaining the core cultural values. Additionally, strengthening the role of communities in preserving Sundanese cultural values can be done through the formation of traditional game enthusiast groups and the organization of festivals (Fazli et al., 2022).

Furthermore, Herawati dkk. (2021) proposed the development of technology-based applications that introduce *Kaulinan barudak* to children in a fun and educational way. These applications can teach children about Sundanese cultural values through interactive games modeled after traditional play. Utilizing this technology can serve as a bridge between the traditional and digital worlds, allowing children to continue learning about local culture even in the digital era.

However, beyond merely introducing traditional games, such applications have the potential to become a medium for internalizing *catur silih* values in a contextual and relevant manner for today's children. The value of *silih asih* (mutual love) can be fostered through collaborative features, such as multiplayer modes where children play with friends or family members, encouraging affection and appreciation. *Silih asah* (self-development) emerges when children engage in game-based challenges that stimulate cognitive development and problem-solving skills. The value of *silih asuh* (mutual care) is reflected in game designs that emphasize helping each other among players or characters, such as in missions that require cooperation. Meanwhile, *silih nawangi* (mutual respect and harmony) can be instilled through narratives and visual elements in the app that highlight politeness, respect for ancestors, and the spirit of maintaining social harmony.

Therefore, using applications that feature *Kaulinan barudak* not only serves as a visual and mechanical tool for cultural preservation but also as a strategic medium for character education based on local wisdom. This demonstrates that despite digitalization, Sundanese cultural values can still be adapted and meaningfully instilled in early childhood, in line with technological advancement and modern needs.

The importance of government involvement in preserving *Kaulinan barudak* cannot be overstated. The West Java Provincial Government, for instance, can integrate traditional



Sundanese games into educational curricula and establish policies that support the preservation of local culture. West Java Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2017 on the Implementation of Education demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting the teaching of local culture as part of children's character education (Pemerintah Provinsi Jawa Barat, 2017).

### Closing

*Kaulinan barudak* has a strategic role in preserving the values of Sundanese cultural chess silih. Despite facing various challenges in the digital era, preservation efforts can be carried out through comprehensive and adaptive strategies. The success of this effort requires the support and active participation of all stakeholders, ranging from educational institutions, the government, to the wider community. This research makes an important contribution to understanding the role of traditional games as a medium for passing on cultural values, but further research is needed to explore the effectiveness of various preservation strategies that have been identified, as well as to develop more concrete and applicable implementation models.

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