

# Building Creativity in Cultural Diversity Through Performing Arts in Elementary School

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# INTRODUCTION

In the era of rapid globalisation, cultural diversity is an important aspect of education. Primary school as the initial stage of formal education has a strategic role in shaping children's character and creativity. Through the introduction of diverse cultures, students not only learn about universal values, but also appreciate the differences that exist in society. Art performances and exhibitions are one of the effective methods to foster creativity and cultural understanding among students.

Research shows that engagement in arts and culture can enhance students' creative abilities.

According to Pritchard and Tiplady (2019), 'Arts activities, such as performances and exhibitions, encourage students to think critically and collaborate, which are essential skills in the 21st century.' Thus, these activities can build students' self-confidence and social skills, as well as increase their understanding of the cultural diversity around them.





# RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method with a focus on collaboration and innovation. The location and participants of this research are 2 schools, namely SDN Nagasari VI and SDN Karawang Kulon II which have a population of students, teachers and parents who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. The data collection techniques used are observation, semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and documentation. The collected data will be analysed using thematic analysis. The findings from this study show that performing arts can enhance students' creativity, strengthen cross-cultural understanding, and create good cooperation among students with diverse backgrounds.



# Literature Review



## 1. Creativity in Education

Creativity is a key component in education that contributes to the holistic development of students. According to Runco and Jaeger (2019)



## 2. Cultural Diversity in Schools

Cultural diversity is a wealth that can be utilised to enrich learning experiences. Surya and Indah (2020) state that education that focuses on cultural diversity can shape tolerant and respectful attitudes among students. Art activities, such as performances and exhibitions, provide a concrete context for students to

## 3. The Role of Art Performances and Exhibitions

Art performances and exhibitions serve as effective tools in supporting creativity and cultural understanding. According to Hidayati (2021), 'Arts activities in schools not only enhance students' creative skills, but also strengthen their sense of community and cultural identity'

## 4. Arts Integration in the Curriculum

The integration of arts in the primary education curriculum is essential to build creativity among students. Utami (2022) argues that 'Through activities involving the arts, students can learn to think critically, collaborate, and develop interpersonal skills.'





# Result and Discussion

The results of this study show that cultural performance and exhibition activities in primary schools significantly contribute to the development of creativity and understanding of cultural diversity among students. As expressed by Student A, participation in performances increases self-confidence and broadens understanding of friends from different backgrounds. This is in line with research by Putra and Rachman (2020), which states that arts activities can encourage the development of students' character and creativity, as well as strengthen intercultural the school environment.

Observations during the activity also showed that the preparation of the performance greatly supported the social development of students. During the preparation of the performance, a cheerful and collaborative atmosphere was clearly visible, where students helped each other in wearing traditional costumes. Research by Kadir and Salim (2019) supports this finding, showing that collaboration in art projects can improve social skills and cooperation among students, which are important for building a sense of community.

The active interactions seen during the exhibition session indicate that students feel comfortable asking questions and sharing information about their respective cultures. The group discussion at the end of the activity, where students shared their experiences, confirmed that they not only absorbed information but also built collective knowledge about cultural diversity.



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# CONCLUSION

This research shows that cultural performance and exhibition activities in elementary schools have a significant impact in building creativity and increasing understanding of cultural diversity among students. Interviews with students indicated that participation in these activities not only boosted their self-confidence but also broadened their horizons about the cultural backgrounds of their peers. The exhibition activity served as an educational medium that encouraged cross-cultural interaction, which is in line with findings in the literature.

Overall, this study recommends that cultural performance and exhibition activities be integrated into the primary school curriculum. This will not only enrich students' learning experiences but also help build an environment that is inclusive and values diversity. As such, schools can better contribute to students' positive character building and creativity in the future.



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