



Aspects of Bundo Kanduang Minangkabau Cultural Studies

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ABSTRACT

The study of the Bundo Kanduang Minangkabau culture demonstrates the crucial role that these elderly women or mothers play in the matrilineal society of West Sumatra, Indonesia. The role and meaning of Bundo Kanduang are very deep and cover various cultural, social, and spiritual aspects. Bundo Kanduang cultural studies help in understanding how strong the role of women is in Minangkabau culture and maintaining the uniqueness of this matrilineal society. They are protectors of cultural heritage, guardians of cultural values, and respected spiritual leaders. Through their roles and functions, the Bundo Kanduang maintain the continuity of the rich and valuable Minangkabau culture, playing a central role in maintaining harmony and wisdom in this society.

1. Introduction

Minangkabau culture, found in the province of West Sumatra, Indonesia, is one of the few matrilineal cultures in the world. In this culture, women have very strong and respected roles, and one aspect that stands out is the important role of Bundo Kanduang. Bundo Kanduang is the figure of an old mother or old woman who has a central position in the social structure, culture, and customs of Minangkabau society. Bundo Kanduang has a diverse and deep role in the lives of the Minangkabau people, and cultural studies regarding the role and meaning of Bundo Kanduang are very relevant in understanding this matrilineal culture. This study explores the role, function, and symbolism of Bundo Kanduang in Minangkabau culture. This study reveals how important Bundo Kanduang is in preserving cultural heritage, managing inherited assets, educating the younger generation, and playing a role in deep traditional ceremonies.^{1,2}

The study also discusses how Bundo Kanduang is a symbol of wisdom, resilience, and cultural identity in Minangkabau society. The study of Bundo Kanduang culture not only helps in understanding this unique matrilineal culture but also explores the depth of the role of women in Indonesian culture. The study reviews the role of Bundo Kanduang in the family, traditional procedures, traditional ceremonies, and maintaining cultural heritage, as well as how this role reflects the concept of Minangkabau identity and wisdom. This explanation provides a strong basis for understanding how complex Minangkabau culture is and how Bundo Kanduang plays a central role in preserving and celebrating it.^{3,4}

Primary role in the family

Bundo Kanduang plays a very important role in the Minangkabau matrilineal family structure. He is the respected leader of the family and has an authoritative

role in managing household affairs. As family leader, Bundo Kanduang has authority in family decision making. He has a role in managing household matters, making important decisions, and ensuring the welfare of family members. One of Bundo Kanduang's main responsibilities is managing the family's inherited assets. In Minangkabau culture, inheritance is inherited through matrilineal lines, and Bundo Kanduang has a role in maintaining and regulating the distribution of inheritance to female children. Bundo Kanduang is the custodian of traditional family knowledge and Minangkabau culture. They are responsible for maintaining cultural heritage such as folklore, customs, and typical Minangkabau traditions. This reflects their central role in maintaining the family's culture and identity. Bundo Kanduang also has a role in educating the younger generation about Minangkabau cultural values, ethics, and social norms. They act as teachers who guide children in understanding and respecting traditions and customs. Bundo Kanduang often plays an important role in traditional ceremonies and family rituals such as marriages, births, and death ceremonies. They are the keepers of the procedures and traditions that must be followed in these ceremonies. Bundo Kanduang's role reflects the dominant role of women in Minangkabau culture. They are cultural pillars that not only safeguard cultural heritage but also play an important role in managing family affairs and maintaining balance in this matrilineal society. Along with social and cultural developments, the role of the Bundo Kanduang continues to adapt, but traditional values and Minangkabau identity are still respected and maintained by them.⁵⁻⁷

Heritage policy

Family inheritance through matrilineal lines is one of the unique characteristics of Minangkabau culture. In this tradition, family wealth and property are passed from mother to daughter, which differs from many cultures where inheritance tends to follow patrilineal lines. The role of Bundo Kanduang is very important in maintaining and regulating the distribution of family inheritance to female children,

which reflects the dominant role of women in inheritance and property ownership. Bundo Kanduang is the custodian of Minangkabau matrilineal inheritance traditions, ensuring that family treasures and properties are inherited correctly. They are responsible for the inheritance distribution process in accordance with customary procedures and cultural values. This involves ensuring that girls receive their share fairly and in accordance with tradition. In addition, the role of Bundo Kanduang in managing inheritance reflects their important role in maintaining balance in Minangkabau society. They are competent mediators in resolving disputes and conflicts that may arise in connection with the distribution of inheritance. They also carry out a moral role in ensuring that inherited assets are used in accordance with the ethical values adhered to in the Minangkabau culture. In Minangkabau culture, the dominant role of women in inheritance and property ownership shows how strong the role of women is in this matrilineal family and society. This also reflects the importance of maintaining cultural heritage and traditions in everyday life. Bundo Kanduang's role as custodian of matrilineal traditions and division of inheritance is at the core of Minangkabau's unique and valuable cultural identity.⁸⁻¹⁰

Decision-making

Bundo Kanduang's role in decision-making for Minangkabau families and society reflects the depth and influence of this matrilineal culture. They are respected moral authorities and have a central role in various aspects of social and cultural life. Bundo Kanduang has a role in making important family decisions, such as marriage, division of property, or other important issues. They play a mediating role in maintaining harmony and fairness in the decision. As a moral authority in Minangkabau culture, Bundo Kanduang is a role model in ethics and social norms. They ensure that the decisions taken are in accordance with the cultural and ethical values upheld in society. Bundo Kanduang also plays a role in maintaining Minangkabau traditions and customs. They ensure that decisions taken reflect cultural values and preserve traditional heritage. Bundo

Kanduang can also become a social leader in Minangkabau society. They have a role in resolving social disputes or conflicts that may arise in society. Bundo Kanduang often plays an important role in traditional ceremonies and rituals, reflecting their influence and authority in religious and cultural contexts. Bundo Kanduang's role in decision-making and maintaining Minangkabau cultural values is one of the elements that make this matrilineal culture so rich and different. They are custodians of tradition and cultural identity and respected leaders in society. Through their moral and cultural role, the Bundo Kanduang helps maintain balance and harmony in the unique Minangkabau culture.¹¹⁻¹³

Guardian of culture and tradition

The maintenance and transmission of Minangkabau culture is one of the very important roles played by Bundo Kanduang. They are custodians of traditions and cultural knowledge who are responsible for learning and teaching the younger generation. Bundo Kanduang teaches Minangkabau traditions, customs, and cultural values to the younger generation. They ensure that their children and grandchildren understand and respect the cultural heritage of the family and community. They play an important role in maintaining the continuity of traditional Minangkabau dances, songs, and arts. They often become teachers and custodians of knowledge about these arts. Bundo Kanduang often plays a central role in traditional ceremonies and religious rituals. They are responsible for maintaining the procedures and traditions required for these ceremonies. They also play a role in maintaining the Minangkabau language, which reflects an important aspect of cultural identity. Language is a means of transmitting cultural traditions and knowledge. They also preserve mythical stories, folk tales, and legends that describe Minangkabau's history and culture. This helps maintain a strong cultural identity. Bundo Kanduang's role in maintaining and transmitting Minangkabau culture is key to maintaining the continuity of this culture. They are the protectors and main actors in keeping traditional knowledge and cultural values alive in Minangkabau society. In this

way, the younger generation can inherit and understand this unique and valuable cultural treasure.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Social position and symbolism

The highly respected social position and symbolism of Bundo Kanduang in Minangkabau society reflects how important their role and influence are in various cultural and spiritual aspects. Bundo Kanduang is often considered a symbol of resilience and wisdom in Minangkabau society. They are wise parents who have knowledge and experience in dealing with various family and social problems. In some contexts, Bundo Kanduang is seen as a spiritual ruler who connects the family to the supernatural world. They often play a role in religious ceremonies and have authority in spiritual matters. Bundo Kanduang could also become a social leader in Minangkabau society. They are involved in resolving disputes, mediating conflicts, and providing moral direction to society. They often play an important role in traditional ceremonies and rituals such as marriages, births, and death ceremonies. Their position and role in this ceremony reflects respect and recognition of their spiritual and cultural role. Bundo Kanduang received great respect from the Minangkabau people. They are respected and recognized figures in daily life and traditional ceremonies. Their respected social position also influences family and community decision-making. People often seek Bundo Kanduang's views and advice on important issues. The highly respected social position and symbolism of Bundo Kanduang is one of the many elements that make Minangkabau culture so unique. They are at the forefront of maintaining cultural and spiritual values, and their role in maintaining harmony and justice in this matrilineal society is highly respected.¹⁷⁻²⁰

2. Conclusion

The study of the Bundo Kanduang Minangkabau culture illustrates the very important role played by these old women or old mothers in the matrilineal society of West Sumatra, Indonesia. The role and meaning of Bundo Kanduang are very deep and cover various cultural, social, and spiritual aspects. Bundo

Kanduang cultural studies help in understanding how strong the role of women is in Minangkabau culture and maintaining the uniqueness of this matrilineal society. They are protectors of cultural heritage, guardians of cultural values, and respected spiritual leaders. Through their roles and functions, the Bundo Kanduang maintain the continuity of the rich and valuable Minangkabau culture, playing a central role in maintaining harmony and wisdom in this society.

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