



Article Information			
Received:	5 August 2024	Accepted:	3 September 2024
Revised:	2 October 2024	Published:	November 30, 2024
Volume & Pages:	4(2) & 121-140		

Traditional Arts, Spirituality and The Challenges of Modernity: A Study of The Samman Dance in Sumenep, Madura

Abdur Rozaki^a

Yogyakarta State Islamic University, Indonesia

Suaidi^b

Madura State Islamic Institute, Indonesia

^aEmail: abdur.rozaki@uin-suka.ac.id**

^bEmail: suaidisyafie1922@iainmadura.ac.id

**Corresponding Author

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Abstract

Samman ritual dance in Sumenep, Madura, is a cultural heritage reflecting the harmonious integration of spirituality and social life in Sufistic Islam. As an artistic expression rich in symbolism, this dance serves as a medium of worship to God and as a tool of social glue within the local community. This research explores two main dimensions of Samman dance: spiritual value and social value. Spiritual value is seen in the harmony of movement, music, and singing, which creates a contemplative space and strengthens the human relationship with the Creator. Meanwhile, social value is manifested through collective participation, solidarity between individuals, and respect for local traditions that enhance the cultural identity of the Madurese community. However, the challenges of modernization, such as the commodification of culture in tourism, can potentially reduce the sacred meaning of this dance. Through descriptive-empirical and qualitative approaches, this study analyses the function of ritual as a dynamic spiritual and social medium. The study concludes that Samman Dance preservation efforts require a holistic strategy involving local communities, the government, and the younger generation to balance traditional preservation and modern innovation. With this approach, Samman Dance can continue to thrive as a symbol of cultural and spiritual wealth that is relevant in the contemporary era.

Keywords: Spiritual, Social, Dance, Ritual, Samman

INTRODUCTION

Local cultural and artistic traditions play an important role in reflecting the identity of a society (Jiasemfoek, 2012). One of the local cultures and arts in Indonesia is Samman ritual dance (et al., 2021). The Samman ritual dance is a cultural heritage rich in spiritual and social values (Holis & Silvia, 2024). As part of the Sufism-influenced Islamic tradition, this dance serves not only as a form of entertainment, but also as a medium of faith expression and a tool of social glue (Effendi, 2023). Samman dance has become an important symbol as a form of preservation of local wisdom for the life of the Madurese community, especially in Sumenep, which represents a deep connection between art, spirituality and their social life (Jusuf, 1997)

In an academic context, Samman dance is not only seen as a religious ritual, but also an interesting study in debates about the relationship between traditional arts and cultural identity. Researchers such as Turner view rituals as a stage of symbolic expression that reflects the social structure of a society (Turner, 1991). On the other hand, Geertz emphasizes that traditional art practices serve to affirm a community's religious values, although they often undergo adaptation over time (Geertz, 1968). The debate arises as some scholars consider that modernization can reduce the spiritual meaning in this tradition, while others believe that rituals such as Samman remain relevant by rediscovering its values through the integration of contemporary culture.

As part of the Sufism tradition, Samman dance contains deep spiritual meaning. Every movement, chant and harmony in this dance represents the process of getting closer to God. In the Sumenep community, this ritual is often perceived as a medium to calm the soul and increase spiritual awareness. However, criticism has emerged from a modern anthropological perspective that such practices can become mere cultural attractions if they are detached from their religious roots (*Emile Durkheim The Elementary Forms of Religious Life 1995.Pdf*, n.d.) Thus, a study of the spiritual value in Samman Dance is essential to ensure its preservation as a meaningful tradition.

In addition to spiritual value, Samman Dance also has a significant social dimension. The ritual serves as a means of connecting between groups in society, creating solidarity through shared participation in the ceremony. Researchers such as Durkheim highlighted that art and ritual not only unite communities, but also affirm collective identities. However, challenges

arise when modernization and globalization bring influences that have the potential to reduce the intensity of participation of local communities (Smith, 1986)

The debate about the sustainability of traditional arts in a modern context is one of the important issues in the study of cultural anthropology. Some researchers say that traditional arts such as Samman Dance can survive if given the space to adapt to social change without losing its essence (Handler, 1998). An example is the integration of traditional arts into cultural or tourism festivals. However, criticism has been raised that this can create dissonance between the ritual and commercial functions of the arts (Kirshenblatt-gimblett, n.d.).

In this study, the researcher focuses on the two main dimensions of Samman dance, namely spiritual and social in Sumenep District, Madura. The identification of spiritual values is done to understand how each element in this dance reflects the human relationship with God. Meanwhile, the exploration of social values is aimed at analyzing how this ritual affects the interaction and solidarity patterns of the Sumenep community.

This research is expected to contribute to traditional arts literature that integrates a multidisciplinary approach. By analyzing the spiritual and social values of Samman Dance, this study not only explains the meaning contained in the ritual, but also provides insight into the challenges of preserving traditional arts in the face of modernization. In addition, the results of this study can also be the basis for developing a strategy for preserving Samman Dance as an intangible cultural heritage.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a descriptive-empirical method with a qualitative approach to explore the spiritual and social values in the Samman Ritual Dance in Sumenep, Madura. Data were collected through direct observation, semi-structured interviews with dance performers, ritual leaders, and the community, as well as documentation studies of local literature and texts related to Sufism, particularly the teachings of the Khalwatiah Samman tarekat. Analyses were conducted descriptively to identify the spiritual values reflected in the symbolism of the movements, chants, and music, as well as the social dimensions that demonstrate the dance's function as a community glue. This qualitative approach provides an in-depth understanding

of the meaning and function of Samman dance, and supports efforts to preserve traditions amid the challenges of modernization.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Spiritual Value in Samman Ritual Dance

Samman ritual dance in Sumenep, Madura, has a deep spiritual meaning, rooted in the teachings of Sufism, especially the Khalwatiyah Samman order (Khalawatiah et al., 2013). As the beginning of the establishment of this tariqah was founded by Shaykh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim as-Samman al-Madani in the 18th century in Medina, there is no doubt that this tariqah was founded by Shaykh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim as-Samman al-Madani (Bruinessen, 1992). Khalwatiyah Samman is known as one of the tariqahs that emphasise the practice of congregational dhikr to achieve deep spiritual appreciation (Maku, nd.,) This uniqueness makes the Samman Tariqah different from other Tariqahs that emphasize individual dhikr or other meditative methods Different from tarekat, which encourages an individualized approach, it creates a strong collective experience through congregational dhikr, building a sense of community while strengthening the spiritual connection with the Creator.

Through its disciples, the teachings of this tarekat spread to various regions, including Indonesia, and influenced religious practices in Madura. This spread was not only influenced by trade and education, but also through the role of ulama who bridged Sufism values with local traditions (Triminham, 1998). The role of the ulama is not only as teachers, but also as facilitators who are able to translate Sufism values into the local cultural context. The adaptation of the teachings of tarekat Samman in the archipelago shows the flexibility of Sufism in dealing with different cultural contexts, such as integration with traditional performing arts (Hodgson, 2009). In Madura, this art form is adapted into the Samman dance, giving it a unique local feel while still reflecting Sufism values.

Every movement in Samman dance not only functions as an expression of art, but also as a symbol of servitude and self-approach to God. In Sufism, body movements are often interpreted as an unspoken form of inner expression (Schimmel, n.d.). The dance reflects the principle of the human spiritual journey, where each movement represents a particular stage

in approaching the Creator (Geertz, 1968). These movements, such as bowing and turning, are not only aesthetically pleasing but also theologically meaningful. This analysis is in line with the concept of *maqamat* (spiritual stages) in the Sufism tradition (Woodward, 1989), where each stage is a reflection of a Sufi's struggle to approach God with sincerity and humility.

The musical rhythms and chants that accompany the dance aim to create a solemn and contemplative atmosphere. The musical elements in this ritual not only support the movements, but also serve as a means of establishing a spiritual atmosphere (Riddell, 2001). The repetitive rhythms used create a meditative effect, helping participants enter a more focused state of mindfulness (John, 1961). When the music and chanting merge with the dance movements, a harmony is created, allowing ritual participants to achieve a deeper level of concentration. This effect is reinforced by the harmony between music and movement, which is designed to amplify the inner experience (Effendy, 1995)

Arabic chants in praise of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad are an important element of this ritual. The chants reflect the essence of Sufism, namely the adoration of Allah and love for the Prophet Muhammad (Bowen, 2020). The use of Arabic also provides a symbolic connection to the universal Islamic tradition, although local adaptations remain visible in the distinctive rhythms and melodies (Robert & Patricia, 1997). This emphasizes the importance of global Islamic traditions remaining relevant and contextualized within local cultures, enriching the spiritual experience of participants.

These rituals are often led by religious figures who have a depth of understanding of the tariqah. The role of the ritual leader is not only limited to technical guidance, but also includes spiritual supervision to ensure that each participant remains connected to the meaning of the dhikr being performed (Howell, 2001). The presence of this leader reflects the importance of the spiritual hierarchy in the tariqah as a medium of instruction (Ricklefs, 1993). In addition, the leader serves as the custodian of the essence of the ritual, ensuring that Sufistic values are maintained even as the tradition evolves.

The spiritual meaning in Samman dance is not only felt by the performers, but also by the watching public. This dance, although esoteric in nature, has a universal appeal that is able to move the emotions of the general public (Fealy & White, 2008). Audiences often feel an emotional resonance that reinforces a sense of community within the Muslim community

(Kloss, 2018). Through observation, they also can learn profound Islamic values, making this dance an effective medium of da'wah.

However, there are major challenges in maintaining the sacredness of this ritual during modernization. Globalization and the commercialization of culture often place Samman dance as an object of entertainment, obscuring its spiritual value (Peacock, 2017). This tension between preservation of tradition and modern adaptation raises the question of how to maintain a balance between the two. The transformation of rituals into cultural attractions may increase their popularity, but risks reducing their esoteric value.

Preservation efforts must be done carefully so that spiritual values are maintained. One possible strategy is to integrate cultural education into the formal or informal curriculum, so that the younger generation can understand the values behind these rituals (Beatty, 2001). In addition, strengthening local communities as custodians of traditions can be an important step in ensuring the sustainability of rituals (Williams & van Dijk, 1983). Involving local communities in preservation will ensure that these rituals remain authentic and relevant.

Academic research into Samman dance can provide deeper insights into its meaning and function. A comprehensive study can help document elements of the ritual that often go unnoticed (Saleh, 2001). The research also has the potential to offer new approaches to preserving these rituals without diminishing their sacred values (Davies, 2003). Academics can play an important role in facilitating discussions between cultural actors, religious leaders, and the government to create sustainable preservation solutions.

The involvement of the younger generation is crucial in maintaining the sustainability of Samman rituals. The younger generation is often seen as the inheritors of traditions, but without a deep understanding, they may see these rituals as archaic or irrelevant to the modern world (Feener, 2013). By making these rituals part of their cultural identity, the younger generation can ensure that these traditions are not only alive, but thriving. One approach is through community-based festivals, which combine education, art, and technology to appeal to the younger generation without losing its core values (Steenbrink, 2006). Such festivals can also be a venue for collaboration between generations, resulting in the transfer of values and knowledge.

The government and community leaders have a strategic role in supporting the preservation of this ritual. Policies that favor the preservation of traditional culture can provide

space for this ritual to develop without losing its spiritual context (Hooker, 2003). For example, the recognition of Samman dance as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the government could increase public awareness of the importance of this ritual. In addition, the government can provide funding for research, training, and documentation, all of which are important steps in cultural preservation (Latief, 2012). Community leaders, especially religious leaders and local culturists, must also actively advocate the importance of preserving the spiritual values in this ritual, so that it becomes not only a cultural heritage, but also a means of strengthening religious identity.

Thorough documentation of this ritual is an important step towards preserving it. In the digital age, modern technology enables visual, auditive and narrative archiving that can be accessed by future generations (Kersten, 2013). This documentation serves not only as a historical record, but also as an educational and cultural promotion tool (Reid, 2017). With structured documentation, the ritual can be studied by academics, used as a reference by local communities, and promoted at national and international levels as one of Indonesia's cultural treasures. Documenting elements of the ritual, such as the music, dance movements, clothing, and historical narrative, also helps to ensure that the ritual remains holistically understood.

It is also a manifestation of the relationship between art, culture, and religion. Samman dance is proof of how Sufism can adapt to local culture without losing its essence (Taylor, 2003). The art in this dance not only provides aesthetic value, but is also an effective medium for conveying spiritual messages. This shows the flexibility of Sufism as a tradition that is not rigid, but is able to transform according to the needs of the local community. In Madura, the integration of art, culture, and religion through Samman dance creates a unique symbol of identity, combining local and global values in one spiritual expression.

Apart from being an artistic expression, this ritual also functions as a medium for spiritual contemplation. The harmony between movement, music and chanting creates a space for performers and audience to reflect on their relationship with God (England, 2017). In this process, dance becomes more than a performance; it becomes a spiritual experience that unites the performer with the Creator. These elements reinforce Sufism's position as a tradition that bridges between body, mind, and soul, all of which are involved in the process of spiritual appreciation. The audience does not simply enjoy the art, but often feels the spiritual energy emitted from this ritual.

Samman dance in Sumenep is one example of the successful integration of Islamic tradition and local culture. As a cultural heritage, this dance reflects the spiritual richness of the local community and the importance of maintaining traditional values (Mudrika et al., 2023). This integration shows that Islam as a religion can develop harmoniously in the midst of cultural diversity without losing its basic values. On the other hand, local traditions such as Samman dance become a medium to represent an inclusive and adaptive Islam, while strengthening the local identity of the Madurese community.

Finally, a joint effort is needed to ensure this ritual remains alive and relevant. By maintaining a balance between tradition preservation and innovation, Samman dance can continue to inspire modern society without losing its spiritual meaning (Hidayat, 2023). Cooperation between the government, local communities, academics, and the younger generation is needed to create a sustainable preservation model. This ritual does not only need to be seen as a historical relic, but also as a dynamic heritage, capable of continuing to evolve and provide meaning during changing times.

Social Value in Samman Ritual Dance

In addition to the spiritual dimension, Samman dance also functions as a means of strengthening social values in the Sumenep community. Samman ritual dance in Sumenep, Madura, is a cultural heritage rich in social values, representing the harmony between local traditions and Sufism. Like the Saman ritual dance in Aceh (Heniwaty, 2018), Samman dance rituals in Madura essentially also have activities that emphasise solidarity and social cohesion within the Madurese Muslim community (Sabiq et al., 2023). This social dimension is not only reflected in its ritual practices but also in the relationships between individuals that are built around it.

Collective participation is one of the main social values seen in the implementation of Samman dance. This ritual involves various levels of society, both as actors and supporters. Collaboration in preparing the venue, musical instruments, and other needs creates a deep sense of community (Clayton et al., 2021). These gotong royong activities reflect the Madurese social philosophy that values co-operation for a common goal, strengthening lasting social connections.

Respect for spiritual figures as ritual leaders demonstrates the deep social values within this community. The ritual leader, who is usually a cleric or tarekat figure, is not only in charge

of guiding the course of the event but also serves as a symbol of wisdom (Geertz, 1968). Their role teaches people to respect authority based on knowledge and spiritual experience, creating a healthy and mutually supportive social hierarchy.

Equality is another value reflected in Samman dance, where participants come from various social backgrounds. In the context of this ritual, the social and economic status of individuals becomes irrelevant as all participants are seen as equal members of the community (Sabiq et al., 2023). It reinforces a sense of brotherhood and emphasizes that ritual attendance is valued more than one's material attributes or social status. Through movement and song, the dance becomes a medium for conveying socially relevant moral messages. Messages such as self-introspection, humility, and devotion to God are translated through the symbolism of the movements and lyrics (Hidayat, 2007). It teaches values that are relevant not only in spiritual life but also in everyday social interactions, creating a more harmonious society.

Samman dance also strengthens familial relationships within the wider community. The ritual often brings families together, both as participants and supporters. The process of preparing for and performing the ritual creates moments of togetherness that strengthen emotional bonds (Holis & Silvia, 2024). This shows how traditional rituals can function as a social mechanism to strengthen family values. The social value of cooperation (*gotong royong*) is visible in every stage of the preparation and execution of this dance. Collective activities such as setting up the stage, preparing musical instruments, and providing refreshments reflect the importance of co-operation (Richards, 2010). This value not only preserves tradition, but also ensures the active involvement of all community members in cultural preservation.

The inclusivity shown by this ritual reflects the openness of Madurese culture. Although derived from the Sufistic Islamic tradition, this dance involves all circles regardless of tariqah affiliation or religious status (Muttaqin, n.d.). This shows that Samman dance can become an inclusive social space, which brings together various parties in one collective goal.

As a symbol of cultural identity, Samman dance helps maintain the identity of the Madurese community during modernization. In an increasingly globalized world, this ritual is a reminder of the importance of maintaining tradition as an integral part of local identity (Yoga, n.d.). This dance is not only a cultural preservation tool but also a means of educating the younger generation about the importance of local values.

As a medium for da'wah, Samman dance conveys religious values in a way that is easily accepted by the community. Spiritual messages conveyed through movement and singing become a means of informal education for the younger generation (Nash, 2009). This approach is effective because it combines art, spirituality and social elements, making the ritual both engaging and meaningful.

It also provides significant economic benefits to local communities. The presence of spectators, tourists or researchers during the ritual often has an economic impact through the sale of food, venue hire or other services (Baldi et al., 2022). Thus, Samman dance not only supports social values but also contributes to local economic well-being.

The inter-community interactions that occur during this ritual strengthen solidarity across villages. On some occasions, Samman dances are performed by communities from several villages, creating social spaces that strengthen inter-regional networks (Santoso, et al., 2023). These interactions reinforce social harmony that transcends administrative or geographical boundaries.

The cultural education conveyed through these dances ensures the sustainability of the traditions in the future. Younger generations who witness or are involved in these rituals learn about the values contained in them. This informal education ensures that traditional values remain alive in modern society. Therefore, these rituals not only strengthen spiritually but also strengthen social relations by maintaining cultural identity, conveying moral messages, and providing economic benefits (Santoso, et al., 2023). Thus, Samman dance is an example of the harmony between art, tradition, and social life in Madurese society.

Critical Study of Modernisation Challenges and Contemporary Relevance

Samman Ritual Dance today, especially in Sumenep, Madura or in Indonesia in general, is facing great challenges in maintaining a balance between spiritual roles, social functions, and the need for adaptation in the modern era. As a cultural heritage rooted in Sufism, this dance has a deep spiritual value, aiming to bring humans closer to God through the harmony of movement, music and remembrance. For example, the impact of globalization brings great pressure, especially in the effort to make this dance part of the tourism industry to attract a wide audience and provide economic benefits to local communities. This pressure creates a complex dilemma: can the dance retain its sacred essence, or will it be relegated to a mere cultural product that loses its spiritual significance? This transformation reflects how

traditions are often forced to adapt to survive changing times, but also poses a great risk to the integrity of the spiritual and philosophical identity at the heart of Samman Dance. Maintaining this balance is a major challenge that requires serious attention from all parties.

The commercialization of culture is one of the biggest challenges in the preservation of Samman Ritual Dance. As part of tourism efforts, the dance is often promoted as a local cultural attraction that appeals to tourists. Undeniably, this brings significant economic benefits to the community, such as increased income through cultural events, festivals or tourism attractions. However, the consequence is the risk of a shift in focus from spiritual and philosophical values towards a purely entertainment orientation. When these dances are only seen as visual spectacles to meet the expectations of tourists who may not understand the essence of the ritual, the deep spiritual symbolism is potentially simplified or even removed. This not only reduces the sacred meaning of Samman Dance but also weakens its primary function as a medium for spiritual connection between humans and God. In the long run, excessive commercialization may distance the ritual from its Sufistic roots, making it vulnerable to losing its identity as a meaningful cultural heritage. Therefore, a careful and value-based approach to preservation is needed to maintain a balance and minimize the risks between the economic benefits and spiritual integrity of Samman Dance.

The biggest risk of the commodification of Samman Ritual Dances lies in the possibility of losing the sacred value that is at the core of this ritual. The dance, which was originally designed to create a solemn and contemplative atmosphere through the harmony of movements and dhikr together, now faces the potential for a shift in function to mere visual entertainment for the audience. This transformation not only affects the aesthetic elements of the dance, but also weakens the emotional and spiritual connection that should exist between the performer and the audience. When the focus of ritual shifts from spiritual appreciation to commercial exploitation, the deep religious essence risks being marginalized. In this context, the loss of sacredness means the loss of the spiritual power that has been the main strength of Samman Dance, making it more vulnerable to meaning reduction and losing relevance as a medium for connecting people with God. This risk requires serious attention to ensure that any adaptation still honors the spiritual and philosophical core of the ritual.

Some local communities have significant concerns about the impact of not being able to cope with these risks, which would ultimately shift the fundamental values embodied in the Samman Ritual Dance. These concerns are often voiced by spiritual leaders and traditional

chiefs, who see the ritual not only as a cultural heritage, but also as a symbol of a deep appreciation of Sufism. For them, every movement and chant in the Samman Dance is a manifestation of spiritual commitment that should not lose its meaning. However, when this dance is excessively altered to meet market needs, such as tourism or entertainment, there is a risk that future generations will only recognize a “light” version of this tradition—one that focuses on the aesthetic aspects without an underlying philosophical understanding. This loss of spiritual and philosophical meaning is not only detrimental to the tradition, but also threatens the sustainability of the cultural identity passed down through this dance. Therefore, it is important for all parties to be careful in harmonizing modern adaptations with respect for the original values that have become the soul of Samman Dance.

The above modern adaptations indirectly do bring great potential to expand the positive influence of Samman Ritual Dance, especially in raising awareness about the importance of local cultural preservation. By utilizing technological innovations, the ritual can be introduced to a wider audience without compromising its essence. One effective approach is through digital documentation, such as short films, virtual reality footage or online-based educational platforms. Such documentation allows the younger generation and the global community to understand the spiritual and social values embodied in Samman Dance, even without having to be physically present in the ritual. It also serves as an accessible cultural archive, ensuring that important elements of the dance, such as the symbolism of the movements and philosophical meanings, are preserved for future generations. In this way, modern adaptations not only extend the reach of Samman Dance but also strengthen preservation efforts through means that are relevant to the dynamics of the times, for example by providing it in the form of cultural festivals.

Cultural festivals are an effective medium in balancing the preservation of tradition and the modern adaptation of Samman Ritual Dance. Through festivals, this dance can be introduced to a wider audience while maintaining the spiritual narrative and deep values contained in it. A well-designed festival can present Samman Dance not just as a visual spectacle, but as a rich cultural experience. By including educational elements, such as explanations of the history of the dance, the symbolism of the movements, and their philosophical meanings, audiences can gain a fuller understanding of the essence of this ritual. Festivals are also a platform to showcase the social dimension of the dance, demonstrating how Samman Dance strengthens the solidarity and identity of local communities. However, it is

important to ensure that festivals do not only pursue the entertainment aspect, but retain the spiritual depth that is at the core of the dance. With the right approach, cultural festivals not only promote Samman Dance widely, but also help preserve the tradition in its authentic and meaningful form.

One of the important things that must be preserved in this modern era is formal and informal education for the younger generation to provide a good understanding of local wisdom such as ritual Samman dance, as both play an important role in preserving the values of Samman Ritual Dance, ensuring that this tradition remains alive among the younger generation. Through formal education, a curriculum that covers the history, philosophy and symbolism of Samman Dance can provide a deeper understanding of the importance of this ritual as part of cultural and spiritual heritage. This knowledge not only helps the younger generation appreciate the values contained in it, but also builds a sense of responsibility to preserve it. On the other hand, informal education such as workshops, arts training or community performances can engage the younger generation directly in these dance practices. Active participation in these kinds of activities allows young people to be not only spectators but also cultural actors, who understand the essence of the rituals through direct experience. With this combined approach, the younger generation can take on the role of successors to the tradition, ensuring that Samman Dance is not simply remembered but continues to thrive as an integral part of their cultural identity.

The involvement of the younger generation is key in maintaining the continuity of Samman Ritual Dance as a living and relevant cultural heritage holder. In the midst of globalization, the biggest challenge is to ensure that this tradition remains interesting and meaningful to the younger generation who tend to view traditional arts as something old-fashioned. The use of social media and digital platforms is a potential solution to reintroduce this dance through creative visualizations, inspiring narratives, and interactive content that is easily accessible. Collaboration with local content creators or influencers can help popularize the cultural and spiritual values of Samman Dance, while community-based workshops and festivals provide a space for young people to engage directly in the practice of this tradition. The integration of digital technologies such as virtual reality (VR) apps or educational games can also provide an immersive and fun experience, strengthening young people's emotional connection with the tradition. With this creative and innovative approach, the younger generation is not only the audience but also the main actor in preserving and bringing Samman

Dance to life, ensuring the tradition continues to thrive as a symbol of harmony between the past and the present.

The role of local communities as custodians of tradition is vital in ensuring that the Samman Ritual Dance remains rooted in its spiritual and social essence. As the main actors in this ritual, local communities have a deep understanding of the philosophical and religious values contained in it, so they are the most capable of determining the appropriate direction of adaptation. In the face of globalization and modernization pressures, local communities act as a bulwark that keeps changes or innovations in Samman Dance from eliminating its original values. They can resist excessive forms of commodification that reduce the sacred meaning of this ritual to mere entertainment. By integrating local wisdom in every adaptation process, these communities not only protect the authenticity of the tradition but also ensure that Samman Dance remains relevant and meaningful amidst the challenges of the times. The active role of the local community also strengthens the sense of ownership of the tradition, making it a cultural asset that continues to live and be passed on to future generations.

Government support is a strategic element in protecting the authenticity and continuity of Samman Ritual Dance as a valuable cultural heritage. Through cultural preservation policies, such as official recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, this ritual can gain legal protection that ensures that its original values are not eroded by modernization or over-commodification. Furthermore, the government can play an active role in providing funding that supports important initiatives, such as in-depth research to document the spiritual and social elements of the ritual, as well as promotions that introduce Samman Dance on a national and international scale. These efforts not only help expand appreciation of the dance beyond the local community but also create awareness of the importance of preserving traditions that are integral to the nation's cultural identity. With continued engagement, the government can become the local community's main partner in maintaining the sustainability of Samman Dance as a living and meaningful cultural heritage.

Such cross-sector cooperation plays an important role in creating a holistic approach to preserving Samman Ritual Dance as a sustainable cultural heritage. Academics can make a significant contribution through in-depth research documenting the elements of this ritual, such as its spiritual values, movement symbolism and social meanings. This documentation is not only a valuable archive but also a scientific basis for preservation and community education. On the other hand, the private sector, such as tourism companies, has a great

opportunity to promote Samman Dance widely with a responsible approach, ensuring that such promotion does not compromise the sacred meaning and cultural identity of this ritual. Close cooperation between the government and local communities is also at the core of this effort, where the government provides policy support, funding, and facilities, while local communities act as custodians of the tradition ensuring spiritual and social values are maintained. With harmonious cross-sector collaboration, the preservation of Samman Dance can be done comprehensively, making it a cultural heritage that is not only preserved but also continues to be relevant in the modern era.

The main challenge in preserving Samman Ritual Dance is to maintain a balance between preserving the original values and implementing innovations to make it relevant in the modern era. Innovation is needed so that the tradition can adapt to today's social and technological dynamics, such as through more attractive packaging or the use of digital media for promotion. However, such innovation should not come at the expense of the spiritual and social values at the core of the ritual. Preservation that only focuses on aesthetic aspects without paying attention to the religious essence and cultural symbolism can lead to the loss of the sacred meaning of Samman Dance. Therefore, a balanced approach is needed, where every form of adaptation is carried out while respecting the traditional roots and the Sufistic philosophy that underlies this dance. The balance between tradition and adaptation is the key to successful preservation, ensuring that Samman Dance is not only a living cultural heritage, but also relevant and meaningful amidst the challenges of the times.

In facing the various challenges of preserving Samman Ritual Dance, a community-based approach is an effective strategic solution. Local communities, as owners and custodians of the tradition, have a deep understanding of the spiritual, social and cultural meanings contained in this dance. They not only play the role of the main actors, but also act as watchdogs who ensure that any modern adaptations do not undermine the fundamental values that are at the core of this ritual. Involving the local community in every stage of preservation-from planning, to documentation, to promotion-can strengthen the sense of ownership of the tradition, thus ensuring its continuation in its most authentic form. Furthermore, this approach also allows communities to innovate while respecting their cultural roots, making Samman Dance a heritage that is not only preserved, but also dynamic and relevant in the midst of changing times. With the full support of the local community, the preservation of Samman Dance can become a model of inclusive and sustainable tradition preservation.

The Samman Ritual Dance is therefore at the crossroads of tradition preservation and modern adaptation, facing the dilemma of remaining relevant without losing its essence. On the one hand, the preservation of the spiritual and social values at the core of the ritual is essential to maintain its authenticity and meaning. On the other hand, modern adaptations are needed to attract the attention of the younger generation and place this dance in a relevant context in the midst of changing times. With a holistic approach that involves all parties - local communities as custodians of the tradition, the government as policy supporters and resource providers, and the younger generation as successors - these challenges can be overcome. Through collaboration and a balanced strategy, Samman dance can live on as a symbol of harmony that integrates spirituality, art, and social life, making it a dynamic and meaningful cultural heritage in the modern era.

CONCLUSION

The Samman Ritual Dance in Sumenep, Madura, is a symbol of harmony between art, spirituality and social life, reflecting a rich culture rooted in Sufism traditions. As an artistic expression, this dance not only offers visual and musical beauty, but also presents a deep spiritual experience through the harmony of movements, chants and remembrances that strengthen the human relationship with God. In addition, the social values contained, such as solidarity, collective participation, and strengthening cultural identity, make Samman Dance a relevant community adhesive tool amid the challenges of globalization. However, modernization and cultural commodification present the risk of losing the sacred meaning of this dance, giving rise to the need for preservation involving local communities, the younger generation, and cross-sector support. With innovative strategies such as digital documentation, culture-based education, and the organization of traditional festivals, Samman Dance can continue to thrive as a dynamic cultural heritage, representing the deep connection between Islamic tradition and local culture, while serving as an inspiration for modern society.

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