

Revitalization of traditional games through floor murals: integrating visual arts and culture in schools

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ABSTRACT

Problems: Traditional games are an essential part of Indonesia's cultural heritage, providing educational, social, and physical benefits. However, the rapid advancement of digital technology and changing lifestyles have led to a decline in children's engagement with these games, reducing opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. **Purpose:** To address this issue, this study explores the integration of traditional games into floor murals as an innovative approach to revitalizing cultural heritage in school environments. **Methods:** This research employs a literature review method by analyzing academic journals, books, and digital sources, including selected online content, to examine the role of murals in cultural preservation and education. A systematic inclusion-exclusion process was applied to refine the data selection, ensuring relevance to the research topic. **Results:** The findings indicate that floor murals depicting traditional games serve not only as artistic decorations but also as interactive learning media. These murals encourage students to engage in physical activities, enhance their social interactions, and develop a deeper appreciation for local culture. The integration of traditional games into murals provides an alternative to excessive digital screen use, promoting an active lifestyle. Furthermore, murals function as an educational tool that fosters cognitive and motor skill development, encouraging strategic thinking, teamwork, and adherence to rules. **Conclusion:** This study highlights the potential of floor murals as a sustainable strategy for preserving traditional games while enhancing the educational environment. Collaboration between schools, local communities, and artists is crucial to maximizing their impact.

Keywords: Traditional games, floor murals, cultural revitalization.

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Introduction

Traditional games in Indonesia are a cultural heritage with significant historical, educational, and social values. Their existence not only reflects local cultural identity but also serves as a medium for social interaction, instilling values such as cooperation, sportsmanship, and creativity (Alpen et al., 2022). In line with previous studies by Fitri et al. (2020) and Nur et al. (2020), traditional games encompass various positive values, including honesty, personal and social responsibility, a healthy lifestyle, discipline, perseverance, enjoyment, logical and critical thinking skills, creativity and innovation, rule compliance, empathy, social awareness, nationalism, social development, and respect for diversity. However, in the modern era, traditional games are increasingly marginalized due to the dominance of digital technology and changes in children's lifestyles, which involve spending more time on smartphones.

Smartphone addiction has become a growing concern worldwide. In recent years, the increasing use of smartphones has transformed the way children interact with their environment and peers (Mutohir et al., 2023). Recent research by Jain (2025) indicates a shift from outdoor and traditional group play to screen based activities, with younger children (ages 3–5) exhibiting more noticeable isolation during play, while older children (ages 8–10) demonstrate declines in communication, empathy, and cooperation, particularly with excessive screen time. This shift not only impacts children's social interactions but is also correlated with reduced physical activity and an increased risk of anxiety and obesity (Yoluit et al., 2024). However, the

advancement of digital technology and the increasing use of electronic devices have shifted children's physical activity patterns. Traditional games, which were once a primary means of socializing and developing social skills, have become increasingly marginalized as a result of this shift.

One strategy to revitalize traditional games is through mural art. Mural art refers to paintings on large surfaces such as walls, floors, and even ceilings, typically designed to be permanent (Maevskaya, 2022). Beyond serving as an aesthetic element that enhances the school environment, murals can also function as interactive media that invite students to play and learn (Yulani & Linarta, 2024). By integrating traditional games into murals, such as on playgrounds or floors, schools can create spaces that encourage physical activity, strengthen social interaction, and promote cultural awareness among students. Physical activities in the school environment provide opportunities for students to improve their fitness levels, identify aspects needing improvement, and build lifelong skills that contribute to a more meaningful and productive life (Kliziene et al., 2023; Ridha et al., 2024).

Additionally, floor murals featuring traditional games can serve as an innovative approach in education. This method bridges art and culture with learning activities, allowing students not only to understand the history and philosophy of traditional games but also to experience them firsthand. Through this study, it is expected that effective concepts and strategies for revitalizing traditional games through floor murals in schools can be identified.

Method

The data collection process for this article was facilitated by several prominent databases such as Scopus, PubMed, and Web of Science. Search engines including Google Scholar and CrossRef were also utilized to locate relevant references. Additionally, the search was enhanced by using the Publish or Perish journal search application to enrich the data sources obtained.

Data collection was conducted by identifying and gathering credible references to obtain a comprehensive understanding of floor mural concepts and traditional games within educational and cultural contexts. In this study, the keywords "floor murals," "traditional games in schools," and "integration of visual arts in cultural education." were searched using these various search tools. The search was followed by a systematic data extraction process using inclusion and exclusion criteria to filter and increase data specificity (Ratih & Susanna, 2018; Mashud et al., 2024). This methodological approach enabled researchers to obtain literature most relevant to the research topic.

Table 1 presents the description of inclusion and exclusion criteria methods used in this study, providing transparency regarding the applied literature selection process.

Table 1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Type	Inclusion	Exclusion
Research type	Research and trusted media	Non-research sources (e.g., opinion articles, blogs, unverified news)
Publication Year	Last 10 years (2015-2025)	Published before 2015
Participants	Students and the general public	-
Variable study	Implementation of Traditional Games through Floor Murals	Besides the Implementation of Traditional Games through Floor Murals
Scope of discussion	Physical education subjects or within the scope of school	-
Validity	Has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)	Does not have a DOI
Outcome	Implementation of Traditional Games through Floor Murals in schools	-

After implementing keywords across all search tools, four articles were found relevant to this research topic. These articles relate to the concept of floor murals as a medium for revitalizing traditional games in schools and the integration of visual arts in cultural education. Subsequently, these articles were selected through inclusion and exclusion stages to ensure their alignment with the research focus. However, after completing the selection process using inclusion and exclusion methods, it was discovered that none of the articles specifically addressed the theme of this research. Therefore, a broader literature synthesis is needed to fill this research gap and enrich understanding of the role of floor murals in revitalizing traditional games in school environments.

Given the limitations of academic literature specifically addressing the topic of floor murals as a medium for revitalizing traditional games, this research expands data sources by integrating content from the YouTube digital platform. Searches were conducted using keywords such as "floor murals," "traditional games in schools," and "integration of visual arts in cultural education." YouTube content selection was based on criteria of relevance to the research topic, quality of visual documentation, credibility of content creators, and recency of materials (published within the last 10 years). Selected videos were then analyzed using a thematic analysis approach to identify patterns of implementation, challenges, and impacts of floor mural usage in educational contexts. Content validation was performed by examining the institutional affiliations of video creators, references used, and alignment with recognized principles of art education and cultural preservation. Despite limitations in the standardization of digital content, this approach provides valuable practical perspectives on the application of floor mural concepts in revitalizing traditional games in school environments.

Result and Discussion

Based on the results of the literature study, floor murals have the potential to serve as a means of revitalizing traditional games in school environments. Floor murals designed by adapting traditional game patterns can become educational and interactive media for students. A study presented in the video by Redaksi Trans7 Official (2021) titled "Bermain di Mural Permainan Tradisional" (Playing on Traditional Game Murals) shows that this approach allows traditional games, which are becoming marginalized, to be reintroduced in a more contextual manner that aligns with modern developments.

Additionally, CNN Indonesia (2021) in "MURAL Permainan Tradisional" (Traditional Game Murals) discusses a similar perspective, stating that floor murals not only play a role in preserving traditional games but also help reduce children's dependence on online games, thereby encouraging them to be more physically active.

The findings of this research demonstrate that floor murals based on traditional games can serve as an innovative solution for preserving local culture in school environments. This discussion focuses on the implications of these findings and how floor murals can be further developed and widely implemented in the field of education.

Figure 1 below illustrates the application of the traditional game-based floor mural concept when realized in a school environment. This concept is designed to integrate elements of visual art with traditional games, thus creating a learning space that is more interactive, educational, and culturally enriched.



Sumber: (Com Arte; Designs & Lines; Metalbac & Farbe; will Arte Graffiti: Pintura Artística De Brincadeiras Pedagógicas)

Figure 1. Traditional Game

First, floor murals can function as effective learning media. Unlike conventional teaching methods, floor murals allow students to engage in active learning through direct interaction with games depicted on the floor. This perspective aligns with research by Alaska & Hakim (2021), which found that traditional games can serve as learning tools that support children's cognitive and motor development. This approach is also reinforced by the Experiential Learning Theory proposed by Kolb (1984), which states that effective learning occurs when students directly experience concepts learned through physical activities and reflection (Rahmi, 2024). Additionally, Piaget's (1964) research on children's cognitive development, as cited by indriyani & Sobandi (2024), emphasizes the importance of sensorimotor exploration in early childhood learning, which can be enhanced through physical interaction with the environment, such as floor murals.

Second, floor murals increase student engagement in physical and social activities. Traditional games represented in floor murals encourage children to be more physically active, contributing to their overall physical health. Furthermore, participation in physical activities fosters students' social skills, such as teamwork, communication, discipline, work ethic, sportsmanship, sense of responsibility, and perseverance (Ridha & Warni, 2024). This view is consistent with research by Ali et al. (2024), which found that traditional games not only have physically active functions but also positively impact strengthening social interactions and instilling local cultural values. The interactions that occur while playing traditional games encourage children to think strategically, collaborate, and understand game principles that have been passed down from generation to generation (Aulia et al., 2022; Aqobah et al., 2023).

From the perspective of physical education, the Physical Literacy theory developed by Whitehead (2019) also supports the importance of meaningful physical activity in building basic motor skills and increasing participation in physical activity throughout life. The implementation of floor murals based on traditional games supports this principle by encouraging students to move actively while internalizing cultural values. Additionally, Vygotsky's (1978) research on Sociocultural Learning theory shows that learning occurs more effectively in social contexts and through interaction with the environment (José et al., 2024). In this case, floor murals featuring traditional games provide space for students to learn through collaboration, communication, and social observation, which strengthens both their cognitive and social skills.

Third, from an artistic and aesthetic perspective, floor murals enhance the quality of the school environment. Murals displaying traditional game designs not only beautify the school environment but also create a more inspiring and enjoyable learning atmosphere. This aligns with research by Mandaka & Aditiya (2023), which states that visually appealing physical environments can influence emotions, motivation, and individual behavior. Furthermore, research by Bhatt et al (2024) shows that aesthetic environmental design can reduce stress and improve psychological well-being. In an educational context, colorful and interactive floor murals can increase student enthusiasm for learning and create a more positive and enjoyable learning experience. Thus, floor murals function not only as decorative elements but also as a means to support students' emotional and psychological well-being.

Fourth, floor murals have the potential to strengthen local cultural identity. In the era of globalization, many traditional games are overshadowed by modern technology-based games. By incorporating traditional games into floor murals, schools can actively instill a sense of appreciation for local culture from an early age. This aligns with the principle of Local Wisdom-Based Education which emphasizes the importance of education rooted in local culture to build student character that balances global understanding and respect for traditional values (Hidayati et al., 2020). Thus, floor murals serve not only as learning media but also as a means to preserve cultural heritage and nurture generations with high cultural awareness.

However, several challenges must be considered in the implementation process. One primary concern is ensuring the sustainability of floor murals for long-term use. Since murals on floors are more vulnerable to wear and tear due to students' daily activities, choosing durable materials and implementing proper maintenance methods are important aspects that need to be addressed. Additionally, the active involvement of educators in utilizing murals as teaching tools is a key factor in the successful integration of floor murals into school activities.

To ensure the effectiveness of floor murals in revitalizing traditional games, collaboration between various stakeholders including schools, cultural communities, and mural artists is essential. With support from various parties, floor murals can continue to develop as innovative learning media and concrete efforts in preserving local culture.

In conclusion, floor murals are not merely visual elements in the school environment; they function as media that harmoniously integrate education, art, and culture. With proper implementation, floor murals can become a creative solution to maintain traditional games while fostering a more dynamic and educational school environment.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that floor murals based on traditional games can serve as an innovative strategy for revitalizing local culture in school environments. Integrating traditional games into murals not only enhances aesthetics but also promotes physical activity, social interaction, and students' cultural awareness. Additionally, floor murals function as interactive learning media, reducing dependence on digital devices and strengthening local cultural identity. However, the implementation of these murals requires durable materials and active involvement from educators to maximize their benefits. With collaboration among various stakeholders, floor murals can provide a sustainable solution for preserving traditional games while enhancing the quality of education in schools.

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