



Wedding Traditions in Madurese Culture a Study of Values, Rituals, and Gender Roles in the Marriage Process in Mekar Sari Village, Kubu Raya Regency

Amira Fazilah^{1*}, Nurul Fadilah,² Mentari³

¹²³ Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Prodi Sosiologi

Article Info

Article history:

Received 24 May, 2024

Revised 07 Jul, 2024

Accepted 25 Jul, 2025

Keywords:

Marriage Traditions, Cultural Values, Madurese Tribe, Gender Roles, Equality in Marriage

ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore wedding traditions within Madurese culture, focusing on the values, rituals, and gender roles involved in the marriage process in Mekar Sari Village, Kubu Raya Regency. Madurese wedding traditions hold strong values, where marriage is not only considered a bond between two people but also a form of responsibility to family and society. In this research, the author used a qualitative case study approach, involving interviews with the bride and groom, their families, and traditional leaders, as well as direct observation of the wedding ceremony. The results show that in Madurese weddings, the values of family honor and social unity are highly valued. Wedding rituals are not just about ceremony, but also reflect the relationship between two extended families connected by long-standing traditions. Regarding gender roles, women are generally expected to maintain the family's dignity, while men play a greater role in economic matters and decision-making. However, over time, there has been a gradual shift in the younger generation's perspective on gender roles in marriage, with more couples beginning to discuss equality in their relationships. This research reveals that although Madurese wedding traditions and customs are still highly respected, changes are occurring as new values develop among young people. This demonstrates how culture and traditions can adapt to broader social dynamics while maintaining core values.

Corresponding Author:

Amira Fazilah

Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Prodi Sosiologi

INTRODUCTION

Marriage, in the eyes of many people, is not just a bond between two individuals, more than that, marriage is an important event in life that involves many social, cultural, and religious aspects. Especially in Indonesia, the tradition of marriage often reflects deep values that are passed down from generation to generation. One of them is in the Madura tribal community, where marriage is not only a matter for two people, but also involves two large families and a community. As explained by Zainuddin (2016), marriage in the Madurese Tribe has very strong values related to family honor and social solidarity that are clearly visible in every procession.

The Madurese Tribe's wedding tradition in Mekar Sari Village, even though it is far from their homeland, still maintains these values. The procession is not only a social ritual, but also strengthens the bonds of extended family and community (Wulandari, 2020). At every step in this procession, from the proposal to the reception, there is a deep meaning that embraces more than just the personal relationship between the couple. These rituals depict the relationship between families and communities that support each other.

As time goes by, modernization and globalization begin to affect the way the younger generation views marriage. People began to wonder if traditions that had been maintained for so long could survive in a world that continues to develop so quickly (Hadi, 2019). In the context of technological developments and lifestyle changes, are the traditional values in Madurese marriage still relevant or are they starting to adapt to

the changing times without sacrificing their cultural essence. This research aims to understand more deeply how the marriage tradition in the Madurese culture is practiced, especially in Mekar Sari Village. The main focus of this research is to explore the values contained in the wedding procession, understand the rituals performed, and see how gender roles are regulated in the context of marriage. In addition, this research will also explore the extent to which these traditions can survive or adapt to existing social dynamics. Through this understanding, it is hoped that we can better appreciate how the marriage culture in the Madura Tribe remains alive and develops even though it is in the current of changing times.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach to delve deeper into the tradition of marriage in the culture of the Madura Tribe, especially in Mekar Sari Village, Sungai Raya District, West Kalimantan Province, with a qualitative approach, this research aims to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural values, rituals, and gender roles that exist in the marriage process and how these traditions are maintained or adapted over time. Data collection is carried out through observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies that allow researchers to gain rich and diverse perspectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Values in the Madurese Marriage Tradition

Marriage in Mekar Sari Village, as in many other Madurese communities, is more than just a bond between two people. This wedding procession involves two large families and is an important symbol in social and cultural relations. Every step in this procession is full of meaning, reflecting values that have been passed down from generation to generation.

One of the most visible values is family honor. In Madurese culture, maintaining honor is very important, and marriage is a way to strengthen family dignity. This is evident in rituals such as the proposal and flushing, where the bride's family is directly involved and ensures that the procession proceeds with respect. It's not just about the bride, but about making sure that the whole family is involved in this big move.

In addition, there is a very strong value of collectivism. Marriage in the Madurese Tribe is not just a matter of two individuals, but about a community that supports each other. Every stage of the wedding, from the proposal to the reception, involves not only the bride's family, but also the neighbors and the surrounding community. This shows how important solidarity is in their culture, where everyone feels a part in making the event a success.

Rituals in the Wedding Procession

Marriage in Mekar Sari Village is carried out with a series of rituals that require meaning. One of the most core is the proposal process, where the male party comes to ask for the permission and blessing of the woman's family. This moment is not only a meeting of two individuals, but a social ceremony involving the extended family of both parties. Here, many things are discussed, including the dowry given, which is highly respected in this tradition as it is considered a symbol of family seriousness and respect.

After that, there is a flush, which is a symbol of purification for the bride and groom. This ritual is carried out with a sense of solemnity, accompanied by prayers and hopes that the married couple will be blessed with a holy and blessed life. The symbolism behind this flush conveys the message that marriage is not just a new life, but also a great responsibility that must be lived with holiness and honor.

Finally, the wedding reception became the highlight event that celebrated the bond between the two families. At this moment, the bride and groom are not only the center of attention, but also the entire family and the community present. Receptions are not only an event to celebrate marriage, but also to introduce couples to society, strengthen social relationships, and affirm the family's commitment to the marriage.

The Role of Gender in the Wedding Procession

Marriage to the Madura Tribe in Mekar Sari Village is still influenced by traditional gender roles. Men are usually considered the leaders of the family, who make many big decisions, such as in the selection of a spouse and the arrangement of dowry. Women, although they have the right to choose their partners, are generally more passive in this process, with the final decision often influenced by the extended family.

Interviews with some young couples reveal that changes are starting to occur among the younger generation, there is a tendency to have more discussions together in making important decisions regarding marriage. Although the tradition is still maintained, this young couple strives to create a more equal and supportive relationship in every stage of the marriage. This shows that although Madura culture is very thick with gender norms, there is room for a shift in the perspective of equality between men and women in marriage.

Modernization and Adaptation of Traditions

Along with the changing times and the growing influence of globalization, some traditions in Madura weddings began to adapt. In Mekar Sari Village, the younger generation often feels that some rituals that are considered too complicated or expensive, such as dowry processions and large parties, are becoming irrelevant to their condition. Many young couples choose to simplify the event to better suit their social and economic conditions, although there have been changes in the form and execution of the wedding procession, the meaning and essence of the tradition is maintained. Values such as family honor and social responsibility remain a strong foundation in any process. This shows that although the form may change, the cultural values contained in marriage are still alive in the people of Mekar Sari Village.

Challenges in Preserving Traditions

One of the main challenges in preserving wedding traditions in Mekar Sari Village is the balance between maintaining tradition and following the demands of modern times. The younger generation tends to prefer simpler and more practical marriages, which are more suitable for their lifestyle. Many consider some rituals to be something troublesome or too costly, so they prefer to cut back or even skip some of the traditional processions.

However, despite this tendency, the people of Mekar Sari Village still try to maintain their wedding traditions wisely. The involvement of parents and traditional leaders in reminding the younger generation of the importance of each ritual and the values contained in it is key to the preservation of this culture. With a flexible and inclusive approach, this wedding tradition is still acceptable and appreciated by the younger generation.

CONCLUSION

Marriage in Madurese culture, especially in Mekar Sari Village, is more than just a ceremonial between two individuals, an event that binds two extended families, strengthens the relationship between individuals, and strengthens social solidarity within the community. The rituals performed in this wedding procession are full of deep meaning, reflecting important values such as family honor, social responsibility, and the bonds that are forged between the couple and their community.

The strong value of collectivism can be seen in how the family is fully involved in every stage of the procession, from the proposal to the flushing, to the reception. The marriage process is not only about the couple involving personal feelings, but also about the family working together to ensure that the marriage is done in a respectful way and in accordance with tradition. This reminds us that marriage in Madurese society is about building strong social relationships, not only between two people, but also between two families and the wider community.

However, although this tradition is still preserved, we are also seeing inevitable changes, especially due to the influence of modernization and globalization. Among the younger generation, for example, we are starting to see a shift in the way they view marriage and gender roles. Some rituals that were once considered mandatory are now simplified, and roles that were previously more rigid for men and women are now becoming more flexible. Nevertheless, the core values of the marriage tradition are maintained. Family, loyalty, and social responsibility are still highly valued, and the essence of marriage lives on albeit with more seasonally relevant adjustments.

The biggest challenge in preserving this tradition is how to maintain a balance between traditional values and the accelerating development of the times. Changes in the form and manner of marriage have existed, but the core of the tradition of family relationships, honor, and social responsibility remains an irreplaceable foundation. The people of Mekar Sari Village continue to try to maintain this tradition in a more flexible way, adapting intelligently without sacrificing existing values.

Overall, the marriage in the culture of the Madurese Tribe in Mekar Sari Village shows how a tradition rich in meaning and symbolism can remain relevant, despite being under the influence of the changing times, being proof that a strong culture not only survives, but also develops in a more thoughtful way, maintaining a balance between preserving heritage and facing the demands of modernity.

SUGGESTION

As a result of this research, there are several things that can be considered to strengthen the preservation of marriage traditions in Mekar Sari Village, while keeping this tradition relevant to the times. Here are some suggestions to consider:

Education and Awareness for the Younger Generation

It is important for the young generation in Mekar Sari Village to better understand the values contained in the Madura tribal marriage tradition. One way that can be done is to include material about wedding customs in school activities or cultural events in the village. In addition, seminars or discussions

about the importance of this tradition can provide deeper insight into the meaning that exists in each ritual, so that the younger generation not only knows how to carry it out, but also understands the reasons and goals behind it.

Simplifying Rituals while Maintaining Meaning

One way to keep wedding traditions relevant is to adapt some rituals to current social and economic conditions. Although each ritual has a deep meaning, it is good that some of the processions can be adjusted to be more practical and less burdensome for the family carrying out the wedding. With this innovation, the community can still appreciate the values contained in the procession, but in a way that is more in line with the demands of the times.

Empowering Women in Wedding Processions

Changes that can be made can provide more space for women to play a role in each stage of the wedding procession. While the traditional role of women in marriage is clear, providing opportunities for women to be more involved in decision-making will increase equality and encourage their participation in preserving traditions. This can enrich the meaning of wedding traditions in a way that is more inclusive and relevant to today's values.

The Importance of Cultural Documentation

To ensure that this wedding tradition can continue to be preserved, it is very important for the people of Mekar Sari Village to document each stage of the ritual thoroughly. Documentation in the form of writing, photos, or videos can be a legacy for future generations and also help outsiders to better understand and appreciate this rich culture. In addition, this documentation can be a useful source of information in an effort to preserve the tradition of marriage in the future.

Collaboration with Cultural Institutions

The people of Mekar Sari Village can collaborate with local and national cultural institutions to strengthen the preservation of marriage traditions. Cultural programs that involve the community in weddings or cultural festivals will increase awareness about the importance of cultural heritage. This collaboration can also open up opportunities to share experiences with other communities, learn from their traditions, and innovate in adapting traditions without losing their essence.

Government Support for Tradition Preservation

The local and central governments can play an important role in the preservation of wedding traditions in Mekar Sari Village, by providing support in the form of policies that support customs, as well as funding for cultural activities, the government can help ensure that these traditions do not become extinct. In addition, raising the uniqueness of the Madurese tribal wedding tradition can be a means to introduce this culture to the outside world and have a positive impact on local tourism, which can also support the village economy.

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