



Exploring Islamic Values in the *Barapan Kebo* Tradition as a Foundation for Character Education of Youth in Sumbawa, Indonesia

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Date of Submission: 02-01-2025

Date of Acceptance: 12-01-2025

ABSTRACT: The *Barapan Kebo* tradition, a unique cultural event in Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia involves buffalo races held before planting seasons and after harvests. This tradition embodies spiritual, social, and local wisdom values while serving as a cultural tourism attraction and a source of regional income. Beyond its economic and entertainment aspects, *Barapan Kebo* is deeply rooted in community bonding and gratitude expressions to God. This study aims to explore the integration of Islamic values in the *Barapan Kebo* tradition and its role in shaping youth character education. The research adopts a qualitative approach with ethnographic methods. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and document analysis involving community leaders, participants, and observers of *Barapan Kebo*. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and connections between Islamic values and the tradition's practices. The results reveal that *Barapan Kebo* reflects key Islamic principles such as gratitude (*shukr*), cooperation, and social harmony. The tradition teaches youth about responsibility, mutual respect, and the importance of preserving cultural heritage. It also fosters a sense of belonging and unity within the community. In conclusion, *Barapan Kebo* not only serves as a cultural legacy but also as a medium for imparting Islamic values and positive character traits to the younger generation. The implications suggest that integrating cultural traditions with educational initiatives can strengthen moral development and cultural preservation in society.

KEYWORDS: *Barapan Kebo*, Islamic values, character education, Sumbawa, tradition, cultural heritage, community bonding, spirituality, social harmony, youth development.

I. INTRODUCTION

Barapan Kebo is a unique tradition that has long been an integral part of the lives of the people of Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. This tradition involves buffalo races typically held before the planting season and after the harvest season. Historically, *Barapan Kebo* has not only served as a form of entertainment but also embodies profound values reflecting spirituality, social cohesion, and local wisdom [1]. The tradition symbolizes mutual cooperation, togetherness, and gratitude to God for abundant harvests. Additionally, *Barapan Kebo* plays a practical role in assisting farmers in plowing their fields, making the soil more fertile for planting.

The interest in studying *Barapan Kebo* stems from its multifunctional role as an agrarian tradition, a cultural tourism event, and a source of regional income. This tradition not only strengthens the cultural identity of the Sumbawa community but also contains important character education values, particularly for the younger generation. The integration of Islamic values into *Barapan Kebo* further enhances its appeal for research, particularly in the context of character development that aligns with religious teachings [2], [3], [4], [5], [6].

This study focuses on how the *Barapan Kebo* tradition can serve as a medium for character education based on Islamic values. The uniqueness of this research lies in its multidimensional approach, examining this tradition not merely as a cultural activity but also as a vehicle for moral and spiritual learning. Such an approach is rarely explored in previous studies, offering a new perspective on understanding this tradition.



Figure 1: Sumbawa is a region in West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB) known for its unique tradition, Barapan Kebo (buffalo racing). Source: tribatanews.ntb.polri.go.id

The contribution of this research is to provide a deeper understanding of the potential of local traditions such as Barapan Kebo in shaping the character of younger generations. This study also lays the foundation for developing culturally relevant educational strategies to support the formation of youth with strong morals, integrity, and cultural awareness, in line with Islamic teachings.

II. METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with an ethnographic design to explore the Islamic values embedded in the Barapan Kebo tradition and their role in youth character education [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], [14]. Ethnography is particularly suitable for understanding cultural phenomena within their natural contexts, allowing for in-depth exploration of the practices, meanings, and values associated with this tradition [15], [16], [17], [18]. The research was conducted in Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, where Barapan Kebo is widely practiced.

Data collection was carried out using multiple techniques to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon [19], [20], [21], [22], [23]. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants, including local community leaders, tradition organizers, participants, and cultural experts. These interviews focused on uncovering the values and teachings inherent in Barapan Kebo, as well as the tradition's significance for youth character development [10], [24], [25], [26], [27]. Participant observation was also employed, allowing the researcher to immerse in the event and document its practices, rituals, and community interactions [28], [29], [30]. This

method provided valuable insights into the lived experiences and collective perceptions surrounding the tradition.

Secondary data were gathered from relevant literature, such as historical records, local manuscripts, and official documents [31], [32], to contextualize the study and support the analysis. Photographs, videos, and artifacts from the Barapan Kebo events were also collected as supplementary data to enhance the richness of the findings [33], [34].

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis, which involved identifying, coding, and categorizing recurring themes related to Islamic values and character education. The analysis process included familiarization with the data, generating initial codes, and iteratively refining the themes to ensure their alignment with the research objectives. Triangulation was employed to validate the findings by cross-checking data from multiple sources and methods, ensuring credibility and reliability [13], [15], [35], [36], [37], [38].

Ethical considerations were prioritized throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality was safeguarded. The researcher maintained cultural sensitivity by respecting local norms and traditions during the data collection process [39], [40], [41].

This systematic and detailed methodological framework ensures the robustness of the study, providing a reliable basis for understanding the integration of Islamic values in the Barapan Kebo tradition and its implications for youth character education in Sumbawa.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The results of this study provide an in-depth insight into the *Barapan Kebo* tradition as a unique cultural heritage of the Sumbawa community in West Nusa Tenggara. This tradition is not only known as a form of entertainment for the community, but also rich in spiritual, social, and cultural meanings. *Barapan Kebo* has become a symbol of collaboration within the agrarian society, blending traditional elements with local expertise, such as the roles of *sandro*, *jockeys*, and selected buffaloes. Furthermore, this tradition reflects values of family, gratitude to the Creator, and efforts to



preserve ancestral heritage. Below are several key points revealed in this research, covering the history, implementation process, and values embedded in the *Barapan Kebo* tradition.

1. Introduction to *Barapan Kebo*

Sumbawa, one of the regions in the West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB), is renowned for its unique tradition called *Barapan Kebo* (buffalo racing). This buffalo racing competition is not merely a form of entertainment but also carries cultural significance and represents the prayers of the Sumbawa community for abundant harvests.



Figure 2: The atmosphere of the people of Sumbawa, NTB, Indonesia witnessing the *Barapan Kebo* tradition. Source: Indonesia Kaya

2. Cultural Significance and Event Organization

Barapan Kebo is a traditional event involving *sandro* (shamans), jockeys, and the finest buffaloes, held at the beginning of the planting season in Sumbawa. This tradition takes place not only in Pamulung but also in villages such as Moyo Hulu, Senampar, Poto, Lengas, Batu Bangka, Maronge, and Utan.

The event is conducted on waterlogged rice fields with knee-deep mud. Before the competition, the buffaloes are gathered for 3–4 days for assessment, including height and age measurements, to classify them into appropriate categories. The duration of the event depends on the number of buffalo pairs participating.

What sets *Barapan Kebo* apart from the buffalo or cow races in Madura and Bali is the mystical element. During the race, the *sandro* (shamans) showcase their supernatural skills to

support the jockeys and buffaloes. The winner is the buffalo pair that not only reaches the finish line the fastest but also manages to knock down the magical pole, *sakak*, with the help of the *sandro*.

3. Terminology and Cultural Elements

The tradition includes unique terms and elements:

- Noga: A wooden clamp joining a pair of buffaloes for the race.
- Kareng: A triangular plank where the jockey stands during the race.
- Mangkar: A whip used to motivate the buffaloes.
- Sandro: Mystical shamans dressed in traditional black attire.
- Lawas: Local pantun (poetic) chants, often shouted in jubilation when a buffalo successfully knocks down the *sakak*.
- Ngumang: Victory boasts, often recited in poetic *lawas* style, to attract female spectators.

4. Historical Roots and Modern Significance

Historically, *Barapan Kebo* originated as a ceremonial practice in the agrarian culture of the Samawa people, aimed at preparing the clay-like soil for planting rice. Over time, the tradition has evolved into a cultural festival with both spiritual and social dimensions. Today, it serves as a medium for community bonding and gratitude to the Creator for blessings in agriculture.

Despite its evolution, the competition retains its primary focus on respect and pride rather than monetary rewards. Winning buffalo pairs gain immense prestige, with their market value sometimes soaring to Rp100 million.

5. Socio-Cultural Importance and Preservation

The event is a vibrant spectacle attracting large crowds from Sumbawa and neighboring areas. Spectators enjoy the excitement, especially watching jockeys, often covered in mud, skillfully guide their buffaloes. The tradition highlights the values of perseverance, skill, and respect for cultural heritage.

Barapan Kebo is not merely a race but a representation of the Samawa identity and their



relationship with nature. As one of Indonesia's cultural treasures, it is crucial for younger generations to preserve and cherish this tradition, ensuring it does not fade away with time.



Figure 3: A collection of top-performing buffaloes ready to compete in the Barapan Kebo.
Source: Indonesia Kaya

Discussion

The *Barapan Kebo* tradition, as explored in the study, highlights a cultural practice deeply embedded in the social and spiritual fabric of the Sumbawa community. It is not merely an entertainment event, but a symbolic ritual that reflects the values of agrarian society, unity, family, and gratitude to the Creator. In discussing the results of this research, it is essential to examine the relevance of the *Barapan Kebo* tradition with several key theories, such as the theory of values, Islamic values, character education, and other relevant theories.

Theory of Values

The *Barapan Kebo* tradition aligns closely with the theory of values, which posits that cultural practices are built upon shared values that guide behavior and shape social interactions. In this case, *Barapan Kebo* serves as a manifestation of community values such as cooperation, respect, and solidarity. The event involves a collective effort from various community members, from the *sandro* (spiritual leaders) to the *jockeys* and buffalo owners, in a harmonious collaboration that reflects the deep-rooted value of community interdependence. The tradition also carries a symbolic meaning of gratitude towards the Creator, emphasizing the value of thankfulness and humility, which is central to the

community's spiritual practices [42], [43], [44], [45], [46].

Islamic Values

The practice of *Barapan Kebo* also resonates with Islamic values, particularly those related to gratitude, family bonds, and cooperation. Islam teaches the importance of being thankful to Allah for the blessings one receives, as well as maintaining strong ties with family and community. These values are reflected in the *Barapan Kebo*, where the community expresses gratitude for the agricultural blessings by honoring the harvest season and celebrating it through the tradition. Additionally, the roles of *Sandro* and *jockeys* in the tradition mirror the Islamic emphasis on collaboration and mutual assistance (*ta'awun*), which are essential for the wellbeing and success of a society [42], [47], [48], [49], [50], [51], [52], [53], [54], [55], [56], [57], [58].

Character Education

In terms of character education, the *Barapan Kebo* serves as a vehicle for instilling important virtues such as perseverance, discipline, and respect. The tradition requires not only the physical skill of the *jockeys* but also the moral courage to uphold the dignity and reputation of one's family and community. It encourages young generations to understand the significance of tradition, honor their heritage, and cultivate personal responsibility through active participation [59], [60], [61], [62]. The *Barapan Kebo* embodies many aspects of character education, including resilience and the capacity to work towards a common goal, which are key components of developing positive character traits in individuals [63], [64], [65], [66], [67], [68], [69].

Relevance to Social and Cultural Identity

The *Barapan Kebo* tradition is a prime example of how cultural practices serve as markers of social and cultural identity. According to social identity theory, traditions like *Barapan Kebo* help reinforce a sense of belonging and pride within the community. By participating in such events,



individuals strengthen their ties to their heritage and community [70], [71], [72]. This tradition fosters a shared understanding of cultural values and strengthens social cohesion, which is essential in preserving community identity in the face of modern challenges.



Figure 4: This tradition is an expression of gratitude from the community to God Almighty.
 Source: Indonesia Kaya

Preservation of Ancestral Heritage

Moreover, the Barapan Kebo reflects the broader theme of preserving ancestral heritage and passing down cultural practices through generations. The theory of cultural transmission emphasizes how customs and traditions are handed down from one generation to the next, thus ensuring the survival of cultural identity. The community's commitment to sustaining *Barapan Kebo* demonstrates their efforts to maintain their cultural legacy and prevent it from fading into obscurity [73], [74], [75], [76]. This is especially relevant in the context of globalization, where local traditions are increasingly at risk of being overshadowed by global cultural influences [77], [78], [79], [80], [81], [82], [83], [84], [85].

In conclusion, the *Barapan Kebo* tradition encapsulates various aspects of cultural, spiritual, and social values that are deeply intertwined with the teachings of Islam and the principles of character education. The study of this tradition offers significant insights into the role of cultural practices in reinforcing values such as gratitude, cooperation, and resilience, all of which are essential for personal and community development. By understanding the relevance of these theories, we can better appreciate the significance of *Barapan*

Kebo as a living heritage that continues to shape the identity and character of the Sumbawa community.

Table 1: Research Findings and Discussion on the *Barapan Kebo* Tradition in Sumbawa

No.	Research Findings	Relevant Theory	Discussion
1.	Spiritual Meaning in Barapan Kebo	Value Theory	<i>Barapan Kebo</i> reflects the spiritual values within the Sumbawa community, such as gratitude to the Creator. This tradition serves as a means to express thanks and respect for the gifts of nature, aligning with value theory, which governs behavior and social interactions based on beliefs and held values.
2.	Community Collaboration in this Tradition	Value Theory	This tradition prioritizes cooperation among various parties, such as sandro, jockeys, and buffalo owners. Value theory explains that this tradition teaches the importance of collaboration and mutual dependence within an agrarian society.
3.	Respect for Tradition and Family Values	Islamic Values	The respect for family tradition, especially in maintaining reputation and honor, is in line with Islamic teachings on the importance of maintaining family relationships (<i>silaturahmi</i>) and mutual respect



			among community members.
4.	The Role of Sandro and Jockeys in Barapan Kebo	Character Education Theory	Roles played in Barapan Kebo, such as sandro and jockeys, reflect lessons on responsibility, discipline, and integrity. This supports character education theory, which emphasizes the importance of character development through cultural activities.
5.	The Value of Gotong Royong (Mutual Cooperation) in the Tradition's Execution	Value Theory	<i>Barapan Kebo</i> emphasizes the strong value of mutual cooperation among community members. Collective participation in this tradition demonstrates the importance of solidarity in an agrarian community, in line with the cooperative values found in value theory.
6.	The Importance of Cultural Heritage Preservation	Cultural Transmission Theory	<i>Barapan Kebo</i> also serves as a means of preserving cultural heritage passed down from generation to generation. This is relevant to cultural transmission theory, which explains how traditions like this help maintain cultural identity in the face of changing times.
7.	Social	Social	The <i>Barapan Kebo</i>

Bonding in the Sumbawa Community	Identity Theory	tradition strengthens the social identity of the Sumbawa community, where participants and spectators feel connected to their values and history. Social identity theory explains that cultures and traditions like this enhance pride and unity within a community.
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IV. CONCLUSION

The *Barapan Kebo* tradition in Sumbawa, Nusa Tenggara Barat, is a significant cultural heritage that transcends mere entertainment. It embodies profound spiritual, social, and cultural values, reflecting the community's agrarian way of life. Through the collaboration of *sandro* (spiritual guides), *joki* (riders), and the buffaloes, this tradition showcases not only local expertise but also a strong sense of unity, gratitude, and respect for ancestral customs.

The *Barapan Kebo* is more than a competition; it is a community event where the values of family, togetherness, and cooperation are celebrated. It fosters social cohesion and serves as a spiritual expression of gratitude to the Creator for bountiful harvests. Moreover, it acts as a tool for reinforcing family bonds and preserving cultural identity, as it is deeply rooted in the agrarian lifestyle of the Sumbawa people.

From an educational perspective, the *Barapan Kebo* tradition also aligns with the concept of character education. The values of perseverance, discipline, and mutual respect are instilled in participants, particularly the younger generations who take part in or witness the event. This tradition is a living testament to how culture and education can intertwine, reinforcing essential values for the development of individual and collective character.



Thus, the *Barapan Kebo* is an important cultural practice that not only plays a vital role in the social fabric of Sumbawa but also serves as a medium for promoting Islamic values, educational principles, and character development. The preservation and appreciation of such traditions are crucial in maintaining the cultural diversity of Indonesia and fostering a sense of pride and identity among its people.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to the completion of this research. My deepest appreciation goes to my family, especially my parents, for their unwavering love, encouragement, and belief in me throughout this journey. I am also profoundly grateful to the professors and academic mentors who guided me with their invaluable insights and expertise, particularly during the challenging moments of this research. A special thank you to the participants and the community in Sumbawa, who generously shared their time, knowledge, and experiences, making this study possible. To my friends and colleagues, your constant support and motivation have been a source of strength. Finally, I acknowledge the divine guidance and blessings that have been with me every step of the way.

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