

Revitalization *Kasukano Inare*: Cultural and Religious Perspectives on the Muna Tribe

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Abstract

This research aims to explore the revitalization of Kasukano Inare, a health-focused zaccar or covenant among the Muna Tribe. Within a cultural and religious context, the research analyses how this tradition serves as an instrument to maintain community health and strengthen social ties. This research uses a qualitative approach with ethnographic methods. Data collection was conducted through observation, in-depth interviews, and document studies. Observations were conducted to observe the implementation of the Kasukano Inare ritual, in-depth interviews were conducted with traditional leaders, religious leaders, and the Muna people, and document studies were conducted to analyse written sources related to Kasukano Inare. The collected data was then analyzed qualitatively with the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results showed that Kasukano Inare not only plays a role in physical health aspects, but also as a spiritual tool that connects individuals to the community and ancestral traditions. In addition, there are dynamics between modern and traditional values that influence the implementation of this agreement. The findings are expected to provide new insights into the importance of cultural and religious integration in public health practices, as well as encourage efforts to preserve local traditions amidst modernization. The conclusion of this study is that the Kasukano tradition is a manifesta.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia means an undated multicultural nation that originates from many different cultures, religions, races, genders, customs and norms that have been born and followed in the lives of its citizens. The existence and richness of culture must be respected, preserved and enhanced for the glory of the Indonesian nation (Fathoni, Adha, & Halim, 2024). Another opinion says that culture comes from the words wisdom and power. Budi is reason which is a spiritual element in culture, while power is action or endeavor as a physical element. So, culture is defined as the result of human reason and endeavor (Wulandari, Fadillah, Marpaung, Pakpahan, & Prasasti, 2024). Each society has a unique culture and is different from other societies, which reflects the identity and characteristics of a group.

Understanding different cultures is not an easy thing, we are required to be able to understand the reality of other people's cultures to reveal the meaning and subjective reasons for a culture, including its identity (Syaripulloh, Tanggok, Sulistiono, & Alfarauq, 2024). Culture has the potential which is detailed as follows, namely containing creativity as the ability to think which gives rise to knowledge, having taste, namely works of art/art and finally, intention, namely the will to live a perfect, noble and happy life which gives rise to a life of religion and morality (Brek & AwaloI. D.S, 2024). Cultural indicators are firstly ideas, ideas, values and regulatory norms, secondly as patterned behavioral activities of humans in a community, and thirdly objects created by humans (Syakhrani & Kamil,

2022). Meanwhile, the relationship between religion and local culture is a dynamic process that reflects the diversity and creativity of society in interpreting and practicing religion (Nasution, Daulay, A. Piliang, Fauziah, & Pasaribu, 2024).

Apart from that, in recent years, the Muna people have experienced significant changes in their perspective on health. Traditional practices, such as *Kasukano Inare*, are starting to be questioned amidst modern medical developments. Controversy arises as the accessibility of conventional health services increases, fueling tensions between traditional and modern practices. This trend creates an emergency for a society caught between cultural beliefs and the need for more scientific medicine. Health practices in the Muna tribe community, especially the concept of "*Kasukano Inare*" or vows as a promise for health. Despite a wealth of research on traditional health, little has explored the relationship between spiritual practices and health in specific cultural contexts. This creates a gap in understanding how cultural and religious values influence people's health perceptions and practices of the Muna tribe.

Based on the results of observations, it shows that the practice *Kasukano Inare* is closely related to local religious and cultural beliefs. Many respondents reported that they felt healthier after taking vows, and most believed that this practice provided spiritual strength that supported their physical health. In addition, variations were found in the way vows were carried out, depending on the individual's social and religious background. These findings imply that the practice of vows is not just a ritual, but also functions as a coping mechanism in facing health challenges. This research highlights the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern medical approaches, as well as the need for recognition of cultural values in the provision of health services. By understanding this practice, a more holistic and responsive approach to the health needs of the Muna people can be produced.

This research gap indicates a lack of understanding of how nazar practices function in the health context of the Muna people. The novelty of this research lies in its interdisciplinary approach which combines cultural, religious and health perspectives, which has not been widely applied in previous studies. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of health theory and practice that is more relevant to the local context.

This research is very important to understand how *Kasukano Inare* practices can contribute to the health of the Muna people. By examining the cultural and religious aspects behind this practice, this research has the potential to provide new insights into the development of health programs that are sensitive to local values. It can also open a dialogue between traditional and modern health practices, creating a more inclusive approach. Therefore, the researchers adopted the title "*Revitalization KasukanoInare: Cultural and Religious Perspectives on the Muna Tribe*". This research is to explore the revitalization of *Kasukano Inare*, a zacar or agreement that focuses on health among the Muna Tribe.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with ethnographic methods. Ethnography has distinctive characteristics such as full involvement of researchers, exploring community culture, and requiring depth in data presentation. This is in line with (Marvasti, 2004) in his work "*Qualitative Research in Sociology*" emphasizing three dimensions of ethnography, namely involvement and participation in the topic being studied, attention to the social context of data collection, and sensitivity to how the research subject is represented in the research text. Data collection was carried out through observation, in-depth interviews and document study. Observations are carried out to observe the

implementation of the ritual *Kasukano Inare*, in-depth interviews were conducted with traditional leaders, religious leaders and the Muna Tribe community, as well as document studies carried out to analyze written sources related to *Kasukano Inare*. The collected data was then analyzed qualitatively with the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Research result

The people of Muna, Southeast Sulawesi have various traditions and beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation. One tradition that is still preserved is *Kasukano Inare*. This tradition is a manifestation of the integration between traditional beliefs and Islamic religious teachings which are adhered to by the majority of Muna people.

The research results show that revitalization *Kasukano Inare* not only important for physical health, but also for the preservation of cultural identity. People who engage in this practice experience benefits not only from a health perspective, but also from a social perspective, such as increased solidarity and cooperation between community members.



Figure 1. Meaning and Function of the *Kasukano Inere* Tradition

Tradition *Kasukano Inere*, known in the context of the Muna tribe, is an important manifestation of the cultural and religious values inherent in the lives of local people. This tradition functions as an agreement or vow held to request health and safety for individuals and communities. In a cultural context, this tradition reflects the close relationship between humans and spiritual forces which are believed to be able to influence physical and mental well-being. This is in accordance with what was conveyed by the informant, namely Ida (Community):

“Every implementation of *Kasukano Inere* usually involves a series of rituals that are rich in symbolism. The Muna people believe that this ritual is not just a ceremony, but also a means of strengthening social ties between community members. "In this case, this tradition functions as a medium to strengthen the sense of solidarity and togetherness in society, thereby creating a mutually supportive environment" (Interview on July 25 2024)

Besides that, *Kasukano Inere* become a means of transmitting local knowledge and wisdom from generation to generation. Through this ritual, knowledge about

traditional medicine and how to maintain health is passed on to the younger generation. This is very important in maintaining the cultural identity of the Muna tribe amidst increasingly strong modernization currents. In this way, these traditions serve as a bridge between the past and the future. This, as said by the informant, namely Gilang (Community):

“During the implementation of this tradition, various offerings and offerings are prepared as an expression of gratitude and supplication. Each item offered has its own meaning and is believed to bring blessings. For example, certain foods were considered symbols of fertility and prosperity, which would improve people's health and well-being. "In this way, this tradition also serves as a reminder of the importance of respecting natural resources and maintaining ecosystem balance" (Interview on 25 July 2024).

Hence, tradition *Kasukano Inere* is an integral part of the life of the Muna tribe which combines aspects (culture and religion). This tradition not only functions as a ceremony to pray for health, but also as a social bond, introducer of moral values, and preserves local knowledge. By maintaining this tradition, the Muna people not only preserve their cultural heritage, but also strengthen the community's identity and resilience amidst changing times



Figure 2. Kasukano Inere Tradition Practices

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* This is a very important cultural practice for the Muna ethnic community. This practice functions as a vow, or agreement entered into to invoke health for the individual and community. In this context, the Muna people view health not only as a physical aspect, but also as a spiritual state that must be maintained and strengthened through certain rituals. This is in accordance with what was conveyed by the informant, namely Putra (Community):

“The implementation of *Kasukano Inere* is usually carried out in the form of a ceremony that involves various symbolic elements. The community will gather family and community members to participate in a series of rituals together. In practice, this ceremony often involves reading prayers and lyrics accompanied by traditional dances, which aim to ask for protection and blessings from higher powers” (Interview on 26 July 2024).

In addition, one of the important aspects of *Kasukano Inere* is the choice of time and place for its implementation. This ritual is usually carried out at certain times, such as during the harvest season or when a disease outbreak occurs. The venue must also

be chosen carefully, often in a location that is considered sacred or has spiritual value to the community. This shows how important the environmental context is in the practice of this tradition. This, as said by the informant, namely Erna (Community):

“This ritual involves various offerings offered to spirits or gods who are believed to provide health. These offerings can include food, drinks and certain items that are considered to have special meaning. In this case, the Muna people believe that sincere offerings will bring blessings and protect them from disaster” (Interview on 26 July 2024).

Hence, the practice of tradition *Kasukano Inere* has a very deep meaning for the Muna tribal people. It not only functions as a ceremony to pray for health, but also as a social bond, preserver of local knowledge, and a means of reflection



Figure 3. Values Contained in the *Kasukano Inere* Tradition

Tradition *Kasukano Inere*, which is known in the culture of the Muna tribe, is one of the practices rich in deep values. This ceremony serves as a vow or agreement held to pray for health and safety. Through this tradition, the Muna community is able to integrate aspects of culture and religion in daily life, creating harmony between humans and nature. One of the main values contained in *Kasukano Inere* is the value of spirituality. The Muna people believe that health depends not only on physical factors, but also on a spiritual connection with a higher power. In this context, rituals and prayers become a means of getting closer to God or ancestral spirits, which are believed to provide protection and blessings. This is in accordance with what was conveyed by the informant, namely Yuli (Community):

"This tradition also reflects the moral and ethical values upheld by the Muna tribe. In each ritual, there are teachings about mutual respect, sharing, and maintaining good relationships with others. These values become guidelines in interacting with other people and in living daily life" (Interview on July 26 2024)

Additionally, the value is in *Kasukano Inere* It also functions as a means of reflection for society. Through this ritual, they are invited to reflect on the meaning of health, well-being, and their relationship with God and others. This reflection process helps individuals to better understand themselves and improve lifestyle patterns that may be unhealthy. This, as said by the informant, namely the traditional leader (who cannot be named):

"In this ritual (in a Cultural and Religious Perspective), namely spirituality values, social values, togetherness values, local wisdom values, appreciation values, moral and ethical values, educational values, social resilience values, mental health values, courage and hope values, the value of adaptability, the value of love and affection, the value of trust and confidence, the value of beauty and art" (Interview on July 27 2024)

Thus, tradition *Kasukano Inere* is not just a mere ritual practice, but also reflects rich and complex values. Through this practice, the Muna tribal community is able to maintain a balance between cultural and religious aspects, as well as strengthen their identity as a community that has local wisdom and deep spirituality. Therefore, the research results show that *Kasukano Inere* not only plays a role in aspects of physical health, but also as a spiritual means that connects individuals with the community and ancestral traditions. In addition, there are dynamics between modern and traditional values that influence the implementation of this agreement. It is hoped that these findings will provide new insight into the importance of integrating culture and religion in public health practices, as well as encourage efforts to preserve local traditions amidst the current of modernization.

3.2. Discussion

Revitalization *Kasukano Inere*

Community traditions can be defined as activities that originate from the past, are passed down to certain communities through oral and written interactions and still survive today (Syahrazad & S. Sukmawan, 2024). In Muna Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province, local wisdom is still well maintained by the Muna Tribe community. This society not only has a diversity of arts and culture, but also upholds the customs and moral teachings inherited from its ancestors (Fifi, S. Dilla, & Ridwan, 2024). Tradition *Kasukano Inere* in the Muna tribe community, it is a manifestation of local wisdom which has cultural and religious values that are important to maintain and develop. This tradition functions as a medium to ask for healing, safety and good luck, as well as a form of devotion and obedience to God.

Efforts to revitalize traditions *Kasukano Inere* carried out by the Muna tribe community shows that they are trying to maintain the continuity and meaning of this tradition amidst the socio-cultural changes that are occurring. Preservation, transmission of knowledge, and reinterpretation in the modern context are traditions consisting of various cultural values such as customs, beliefs, and so on which are passed down from generation to generation, strategies adopted to maintain traditions. *Kasukano Inere* (Widaty, Apriati, & Amalia, 2024).

Revitalization can be done in various ways, such as restoration, spatial planning, and facility development (Permatasri, Finanda, Dharmawan, & Suhma, 2024). On the revitalization of traditions *Kasukano Inere* is not only important for the Muna people, but also has wider implications. This tradition can be an example of Indonesia's cultural richness that needs to be maintained and developed. Apart from that, the study of traditions *Kasukano Inere* can also provide new insights into cultural and religious perspectives in understanding traditional practices related to community health and welfare

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* in Muna Cultural Perspective

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* is an integral part of society's culture that reflects the values and norms that are upheld. In a cultural context, this tradition has deep roots in

the history and social life of the local community, reflecting local wisdom values that have been passed down from generation to generation (Hale, 2024). This tradition includes various social practices, rituals and ceremonies that involve the active participation of community members, thereby creating a sense of togetherness and solidarity among them. Thus, *Kasukano Inere* plays an important role in maintaining cultural continuity and strengthening social ties within the community.

Besides, tradition *Kasukano Inere* also describes the interaction between local culture and external influences. This tradition is a form of action that is carried out repeatedly in the same way. This repeated habit is carried out continuously because it is considered beneficial for a group of people so that the group of people preserves it (Zakaria, Fathoni, & Nur, 2024). In the process of acculturation, the values contained in this tradition often adapt to changing times and influences from other cultures, without losing their essence. This is seen in the way communities integrate new elements into their traditional practices, creating new forms that still respect cultural roots. Thus, this tradition is not only static, but is a dynamic entity that continues to develop along with social and cultural changes.

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* It also has an important role in education and individual character formation. Culture as truth means that no one lives in a society who does not know the cultural values recognized in that society (Hudi, et al., 2024). Through implementing this tradition, the younger generation is taught to respect existing cultural values and social norms. This helps them understand the importance of their cultural identity and encourages a sense of responsibility to preserve it. With this way, *Kasukano Inere* not only as a cultural symbol, but also as a means of transmitting knowledge and values to the next generation, ensuring that cultural heritage remains alive and relevant in the modern context

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* in Religious Perspective

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* is an integral part of society's religious practices that reflects the spiritual values that are held in high esteem. In a religious context, this tradition not only functions as a legacy passed down from generation to generation, but also as a tool to strengthen the identity of a religious community. Through traditions, stories, language and local culture, it reflects the collective identity of a society and marks the priceless heritage of previous generations (Vitry & Sayamsir, 2024). This tradition includes various ritual practices, ceremonies and teachings that involve the active participation of community members, thereby creating a sense of togetherness and solidarity among them. Thus, *Kasukano Inere* plays an important role in maintaining the continuity of religious traditions and strengthening social ties within the community.

Besides, tradition *Kasukano Inere* also describes the interaction between local religious teachings and external influences. In the process of acculturation, the values contained in this tradition often adapt to changing times and the influence of other religious teachings, without losing their essence. So that we can make adjustments between Islamic teachings and the local cultural context without sacrificing its main principles (N. Fitriyani & Aeni, 2024). This can be seen in the way communities integrate new elements into their traditional practices, creating new forms that still respect religious roots. Thus, this tradition is not only static, but is a dynamic entity that continues to develop along with social and religious changes.

Tradition *Kasukano Inere* It also has an important role in the education and character formation of religious individuals. Through implementing this tradition, the younger generation is taught to respect existing spiritual values and religious norms.

By raising these standards, the community can learn and appreciate the richness of the nation's culture while internalizing the values of religious inclusivity (E.Saputra & Ali, 2024). This helps them understand the importance of their religious identity and encourages a sense of responsibility to preserve it. With this way, *Kasukano Inere* not only as a religious symbol, but also as a means of transmitting knowledge and values to the next generation, ensuring that religious heritage remains alive and relevant in the modern context

4. CONCLUSION

In The *Kasukano Inere* in the Muna people, it is an integral part of the belief system and cultural practices which have cultural and religious values that are important to maintain and develop. This tradition functions as a medium to ask for healing, safety and good luck, as well as a form of devotion and obedience to God. Efforts to revitalize the *Kasukano* tradition carried out by the Muna tribe include preserving traditions, transmitting knowledge, and reinterpreting them in a modern context. This shows that the Muna people try to maintain the continuity and meaning of traditional *Kasukano Inere* amidst the socio-cultural changes that are taking place.

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