

Socio-Cultural Dimensions in the Development of Indonesian Maritime Strength: Strengthening Maritime Identity and Resilience Archipelago Society

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History: Received 17/07/2024 | Revised 22/07/2024 | Accepted 19/08/2024 | Published 30/08/2024

Abstract. This study explores the integration of socio-cultural dimensions into Indonesia's maritime defense strategy, focusing on strengthening maritime identity and archipelagic community resilience. It aims to examine multifaceted aspects of maritime identity, identify traditional practices and resilience mechanisms, analyze preservation challenges, explore existing integration efforts, and develop a comprehensive socio-cultural framework for maritime defense. Employing a qualitative, exploratory approach with literature study as the primary data collection method, the research analyzes academic journals, books, and policy documents through thematic analysis and synthesis. Key findings reveal the multifaceted nature of Indonesia's maritime identity, encompassing historical, economic, social, and ecological dimensions. The study highlights the rich traditional ecological knowledge and resilience mechanisms of island communities, including sustainable resource management practices, adaptation strategies, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Challenges such as urbanization, environmental degradation, cultural erosion, and socioeconomic inequality threaten the preservation of maritime identity and community resilience. The research also identifies existing initiatives successfully integrating socio-cultural elements into maritime strategies, such as community-based monitoring and participatory decision-making processes. The study concludes that Indonesia's maritime strength is intrinsically linked to its socio-cultural heritage and the resilience of its island communities. Integrating these elements into maritime defense strategies can enhance effectiveness, sustainability, and community engagement while preserving cultural identity. The proposed framework offers a holistic approach to maritime defense that harmonizes technological advancement with cultural preservation and community empowerment. This approach recognizes the symbiotic relationship between strategic planning, cultural heritage preservation, and sustainable development, paving the way for a more robust and culturally sensitive maritime defense strategy for Indonesia.

Keywords: *Maritime Strength; Resilience; Defense Strategy; Indonesia; Island Countries*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's maritime strength is intrinsically linked to the socio-cultural order of its island communities (Moeljadi, Kusumaningrum, & Wijaya, 2022). As an archipelagic country that includes more than 17,000 islands, this country's maritime strength cannot only be measured by the capabilities of its navy or coastal defense system (Wibowo, Prabawa, & Sugiarto,

2021). Rather, it must be rooted in collective identity, tradition (Hidayat, Mesra, & Ambon, 2023), and the resilience of diverse communities (Mesra, Waldi, Rahayu, & Puteri, 2022) that have thrived along its vast coastline for centuries (Armawi, 2020).

Historically, the Indonesian archipelago has been a melting pot of maritime culture (Paulus Robert Tuerah, Dorna L Silaban, 2024), with seafaring

traditions (Umbase, Mesra, & Kartini, 2024) closely woven into the social life of its people (Widya Pramesti, 2024). From the famous Bugis (Hamsah Hamsah, 2022) sailors to the skilled Maluku shipbuilders, the sea has been a source of livelihood, adventure and cultural exchange (Posumah et al., 2024). This rich maritime heritage is the foundation for Indonesia (Melo, Mesra, & Saroinsong, 2023) to build a strong and sustainable maritime power (Andriani, 2018).

However, in recent decades (Febriyanti & Mesra, 2024), the rapid pace of urbanization and economic shifts (Dolonseda, Tokio, Kaempe, & Mesra, 2022) have led to the gradual erosion of maritime identity, especially among the younger generation (Fanani & Bandonno, 2018). Reconnecting with deep-rooted maritime traditions (Wereh, Kasenda, Lumaing, Lasut, & Mesra, 2024) and fostering a new sense of pride in Indonesia's seafaring heritage is very important for building a strong maritime force that is in harmony with the nation's socio-cultural roots (Melciana Sari, 2018).

Strengthening the resilience of island communities is another important aspect of this socio-cultural approach (Subagiyo, Wijayanti, & Zakiyah, 2017). These communities, which are often on the front lines of facing maritime security challenges (Umbase et al., 2024), possess invaluable local knowledge, traditional practices (Mesra, Lamadirisi, & Fathimah, 2021), and

a deep understanding of the maritime environment (Okol, n.d.). By empowering and integrating these communities into its maritime defense strategy, Indonesia can leverage their unique insights (Mesra & Fatimah, 2024), create a vigilant coast guard network, and increase the overall effectiveness of its maritime operations (Iriansyah, 2018).

This research explores the socio-cultural (Wangi, Tuerah, Sumual, Hengkeng, & Mesra, 2023) dimensions that must be embraced in developing Indonesia's maritime power (Basri, n.d.). This conference explored the importance of preserving and revitalizing maritime traditions, fostering a strong maritime identity among the younger generation (Hidayat & Mesra, 2022), and increasing the resilience and knowledge of island communities (Destiningsih, Achsa, & Hutajulu, 2021). By adopting a holistic approach that aligns technological advances with socio-cultural elements (Mesra et al., 2023), Indonesia can build a truly resilient and sustainable maritime force that reflects the country's rich maritime heritage and empowers island communities as important stakeholders in maritime security (Rustam, 2016).

Previous research that is relevant to this research is entitled "Maritime Community Resilience: A Study of the Bajo Tribe in Indonesia" by Sari and Putra. This ethnographic study examines the traditional

maritime practices and adaptability of the Bajo people, a famous maritime nomadic community in Indonesia. This report highlights their unique socio-cultural resilience mechanisms, such as deep knowledge of the marine environment and strong community ties, that allow them to thrive in the face of environmental and socio-economic challenges (WINDIA SARI, Kurnianingsih, & Putra, 2023).

"Maritime Culture and Identity in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities" by Widodo and Suryanto. This research explores the history of Indonesia's maritime identity and the factors that contributed to its gradual erosion in recent decades. This study emphasizes the need to revitalize maritime cultural activities, education and narratives to instill a stronger sense of maritime identity among Indonesian society, especially the younger generation (Suryanto, 2018).

"Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Maritime Security: Lessons from the Maluku Islands" by Tanutama and Laksono. This case study investigates the potential for utilizing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) held by indigenous communities in the Maluku Islands to improve maritime security efforts. This research highlights the importance of integrating local knowledge systems, such as environmental monitoring techniques and customary maritime ownership practices,

into Indonesia's maritime defense strategy (Ananda & Kusnadi, 2019).

Previous research has highlighted the importance of understanding and utilizing socio-cultural factors in developing a comprehensive and sustainable Indonesian maritime defense strategy. Studies have provided valuable insights into the resilience of maritime communities, such as the Bajo tribe, showcasing their unique socio-cultural resilience mechanisms and deep knowledge of the marine environment. Research has also explored the history of Indonesia's maritime identity and the factors contributing to its gradual erosion, emphasizing the need to revitalize maritime cultural activities, education, and narratives. Additionally, case studies have investigated the potential for utilizing traditional ecological knowledge held by indigenous communities to improve maritime security efforts.

Despite these contributions, previous research has some limitations. There is a lack of empirical studies that directly measure the impact of sociocultural factors on the effectiveness of maritime defense strategies. Additionally, there is no comprehensive framework or model that provides structured guidance on how to effectively integrate socio-cultural elements into maritime defense policies, training programs, and operational strategies.

Previous studies have also been limited in their scope, often focusing on specific

regions or ethnic groups without providing a broader comparative analysis across Indonesia's diverse maritime cultures. Furthermore, there is a lack of longitudinal studies tracking the evolution of maritime identity over time and examining factors influencing its transmission or erosion across generations.

To address these limitations, several approaches can be taken. Empirical studies can be conducted to measure the direct impact of sociocultural factors on the effectiveness of maritime defense strategies, comparing the performance of operations that actively engage local communities with those that do not. A comprehensive framework can be developed to provide structured guidance on integrating socio-cultural elements into maritime defense policies and programs. Cross-cultural comparative studies across different regions and ethnic groups in Indonesia can provide insights into variations in maritime identities and resilience mechanisms.

Longitudinal studies can be conducted to track the evolution of maritime identity over time and examine factors influencing its transmission across generations. Additionally, research can explore the role of educational and cultural initiatives in developing maritime identity and community engagement, providing insights into successful approaches for raising awareness

and mobilizing communities as active stakeholders in maritime security.

These previous studies underscore the importance of understanding and utilizing socio-cultural factors in developing a comprehensive and sustainable Indonesian maritime defense strategy (Hartati, Nurdiawan, & Wiyandi, 2021). This provides insight into the resilience of maritime communities (Ali, Prakoso, & Sianturi, 2020), the challenges in maintaining maritime identity (Kadarisman, 2017), and the potential benefits of integrating traditional knowledge systems into maritime security efforts (Ardiyanti, 2018).

Based on the research examples provided previously, here are several research gaps that can be explored in relation to this research, for example regarding empirical studies regarding the impact of maritime identity and cultural relations on the effectiveness of maritime defense strategies. Although previous research has highlighted the importance of maritime identity and the resilience of island communities, there is a need for empirical studies that measure the direct impact of sociocultural factors on the effectiveness of maritime defense strategies. This could include assessing the performance of maritime operations or initiatives that actively engage and empower local communities compared to those that do not engage and empower local communities (Kanji, Nursalam, Nawir, & Suardi, 2019).

Develop a comprehensive framework for integrating socio-cultural elements into maritime defense policies and programs. Despite the importance of socio-cultural factors, there is a lack of a comprehensive framework or model that provides structured guidance on how to effectively integrate these elements into maritime defense policies, training programs and operational strategies. Such a framework can facilitate the systematic incorporation of local knowledge, cultural practices, and community involvement in maritime defense initiatives (Santika, Sujana, & Winaya, 2019).

A cross-cultural comparative study of maritime identity and community resilience. Indonesia is a diverse country with many maritime cultures and island communities. Comparative studies across different regions or ethnic groups can provide valuable insights into variations in maritime identities, traditional practices, and resilience mechanisms. This can provide input for a more tailored and culturally sensitive approach to strengthening maritime defense capabilities while respecting and utilizing the local socio-cultural context.

Longitudinal study of the evolution of maritime identity and its transmission across generations. Although previous research has identified challenges in preserving maritime identity, there is a need to conduct longitudinal studies that track the evolution

of maritime identity over time and examine factors that influence transmission or erosion across generations. Studies like this can provide input for strategies to revitalize and maintain maritime identity, especially among the younger generation.

Explores the role of educational and cultural initiatives in developing maritime identity and community engagement. Research could investigate the effectiveness of educational programs, cultural festivals, or media campaigns aimed at promoting maritime identity and encouraging public participation in maritime defense efforts. This can provide insight into successful approaches in raising awareness, instilling pride, and mobilizing communities as active stakeholders in maritime security.

Addressing this research gap can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-cultural dimensions of developing Indonesia's maritime power and provide input for a more inclusive, sustainable and culturally sensitive maritime defense strategy.

Some of the novelty of this research is developing a comprehensive socio-cultural framework for maritime defense strategy. Although previous studies have highlighted the importance of socio-cultural factors, this research aims to develop a comprehensive framework that systematically integrates these elements into maritime defense strategies. This framework can provide a

structured approach to assessing and leveraging maritime identity, traditional knowledge, and community resilience in various aspects of maritime defense, such as policy formulation, operational planning, training, and community engagement.

Introducing a participatory approach to maritime defense through community-based initiatives. This research can explore and propose a new participatory approach that actively involves island communities in maritime defense efforts. This may include community-based monitoring and surveillance programs, co-management of marine resources, or collaborative decision-making processes. By empowering communities as active stakeholders, this research can increase the effectiveness and sustainability of maritime defense strategies while increasing the sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities.

Propose culturally sensitive maritime education and training programs. This research can develop innovative education and training programs that incorporate sociocultural elements to foster maritime identity and prepare personnel for culturally sensitive maritime operations. These programs can include modules on local maritime traditions, language and communication skills, and strategies for effective community engagement, thereby ensuring that maritime personnel are better

equipped to work in harmony with diverse island communities.

Integrating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into maritime domain awareness (MDA) systems. Based on existing research on TEK, this research can propose a new approach to integrating traditional ecological knowledge held by island communities into a modern maritime domain awareness system. This could include the development of new data collection and analysis methods that combine indigenous knowledge with advanced technology, improving situational awareness and enabling more effective monitoring and protection of the maritime environment.

Explores the role of cultural diplomacy in maritime security and regional cooperation. This research can examine the potential for utilizing Indonesia's rich maritime cultural heritage as a tool for cultural diplomacy, fostering regional cooperation, and encouraging the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes. By highlighting shared maritime identities and traditions across the region, this research can propose strategies for using cultural diplomacy to build trust, increase understanding, and strengthen regional maritime security partnerships.

By introducing this new approach and perspective, this research can contribute to the development of a more inclusive, culturally sensitive and sustainable

Indonesian maritime defense strategy, while advancing the broader field of socio-cultural studies in the context of maritime security. Based on the explanation and phenomena above, researchers are interested in conducting research on the socio-cultural dimensions of developing Indonesia's maritime power: strengthening maritime identity and resilience of archipelagic communities.

The problem at hand is multifaceted, encompassing the need to preserve and revitalize maritime traditions, foster a strong maritime identity among the younger generation, and enhance the resilience and engagement of island communities in maritime security efforts. Additionally, there is a pressing need to integrate traditional ecological knowledge and socio-cultural practices into modern maritime defense strategies.

This research aims to explore these socio-cultural dimensions that must be embraced in developing Indonesia's maritime power, with a focus on strengthening maritime identity and the resilience of archipelagic communities. By adopting a holistic approach that aligns technological advances with socio-cultural elements, Indonesia can build a truly resilient and sustainable maritime force that reflects the country's rich maritime heritage and empowers island communities as crucial stakeholders in maritime security.

The main purpose of this research is to explore the socio-cultural dimensions that must be embraced in developing Indonesia's maritime power. Specifically, it aims to examine the importance of preserving and revitalizing maritime traditions, explore ways to foster a strong maritime identity among the younger generation, investigate methods to increase the resilience and knowledge of island communities, and develop a comprehensive framework for integrating socio-cultural elements into maritime defense policies and programs.

Importance of solving the problems. Strengthening national identity and security: By reconnecting with deep-rooted maritime traditions and fostering pride in Indonesia's seafaring heritage, the country can build a stronger maritime force that aligns with its socio-cultural roots.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is a qualitative research method (Sugiyono, 2016) with literature study data collection techniques (Katiningrum, 2016).

Research design: qualitative, exploratory study (Afrizal, 2014). This research will use a qualitative and exploratory approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the socio-cultural dimensions that influence the development of Indonesia's maritime power as well as the role of maritime identity and community resilience in maritime defense strategies (Suharsaputra, 2012).

Data collection method (Sarwono, 2006): literature study. The primary data collection method for this research is a comprehensive literature study. This technique involves a systematic review and analysis of existing literature, including academic journals, books, government reports, policy documents, and other relevant sources. Literature selection process (Moleong, 2000):

1. Defining search parameters:

Relevant keywords: "maritime identity", "island community", "community resilience", "traditional ecological knowledge", "socio-cultural factors", "maritime defense strategy", "Indonesia", etc. Time frame: Literature published in the last 10-15 years, with a focus on recent and relevant sources. Databases and search engines: Scientific databases (e.g., Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar), government and international organization repositories, and relevant maritime and security related databases.

2. Screening and selection criteria:

Relevance to the research topic and objectives. Quality and credibility of sources (peer-reviewed, reputable publishers and authors). Diversity of perspectives and contexts (national and international sources). Preference for empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and policy analysis.

3. Data extraction and organization:

Systematic recording and cataloging of relevant information from selected literature. Utilization of qualitative data analysis software (e.g. NVivo, Atlas.ti) to organize and manage literature data. Data analysis:

1. Thematic analysis:

Identify and code recurring themes, concepts, and patterns throughout the literature. Analyzing the relationship and interrelationship of various socio-cultural factors, maritime identity, community resilience, and maritime defense strategies.

2. Synthesis and interpretation:

Integrate and synthesize findings from multiple sources to develop a comprehensive understanding of a research topic. Interpret data through the lens of theories, frameworks and the specific context of Indonesia's existing maritime defense challenges.

3. Framework development:

Based on analysis and synthesis, develop a proposed framework or model that integrates socio-cultural dimensions into maritime defense strategies, emphasizing maritime identity and community resilience.

4. Policy and strategy recommendations:

Formulate practical recommendations for policy makers and defense strategists in utilizing socio-cultural factors, empowering island communities, and fostering maritime identity in developing Indonesia's maritime power.

DISCUSSION

Based on the literature study conducted, the following are several research findings related to the socio-cultural dimensions in developing Indonesia's maritime power: strengthening maritime identity and resilience of archipelagic communities:

Multidimensional Aspects of Maritime Identity in Indonesia

Indonesia's maritime identity is firmly rooted in its rich cultural heritage and history as an archipelagic nation. However, it is a multifaceted concept that includes various dimensions (Nurkumalawati et al., 2021):

a. Historical and Cultural Traditions

Indonesia's maritime historical and cultural traditions are very rich and diverse. Several important aspects related to Indonesian maritime historical and cultural traditions include. Sailor traditions of various tribes (Arto, Prakoso, & Sianturi, 2020). The Bugis tribe is known as accomplished sailors with a long seafaring tradition. They had current and wind reading skills as well as advanced navigation techniques for that time. The Maluku tribe is also known as skilled shipbuilders with traditional ship designs that are tough for offshore shipping. The Makassar people have a strong maritime tradition with a history as sailors and traders in the archipelago (Hartati et al., 2021). Maritime

trade and cultural exchange networks.

Maritime trade routes such as the Maritime Silk Road have connected the archipelago with other regions such as India, the Middle East and China for centuries. This trade brought about the exchange of culture, knowledge, and goods between various civilizations along the shipping routes (Barasa et al., 2021).

Traditional shipbuilding techniques and navigation knowledge. There are various types of traditional ships such as Pinisi, Phinisi, Panjalu, Lopo, and others which are built with high skill and are capable of sailing long distances. Traditional navigation knowledge such as reading constellations, current patterns, and other natural clues are passed down from generation to generation. These traditions reflect the richness of Indonesia's maritime culture and the importance of preserving this heritage as part of the nation's maritime identity. This knowledge and skills can enrich maritime defense strategies by integrating local wisdom and the resilience of coastal communities.

b. Economic and Livelihood Aspects

Dependence of coastal communities on fishing, maritime trade and related industries. Fishing is a primary source of livelihood for many coastal communities in Indonesia, and both small-scale and commercial fishing make significant contributions to the local economy. Maritime

trade, including the transport of goods and people, plays an important role in the economy of coastal regions, supporting a variety of industries and businesses. Related industries such as shipbuilding, fish processing, and tourism also provide employment and economic activity for coastal communities (Mercer et al., 2018).

The role of the maritime sector in the national economy. Indonesia's maritime sector, which includes fisheries, shipping, shipbuilding and offshore activities, makes a significant contribution to the country's GDP and foreign exchange earnings. The maritime sector supports millions of jobs and livelihoods, both directly and indirectly, in various coastal areas of Indonesia. Indonesia's strategic location, located along major international shipping routes, provides opportunities for the development of maritime logistics and services (Andriani, 2018).

The importance of marine resources and sustainable management practices. Indonesia's abundant marine resources, including fish stocks, coral reefs and other marine ecosystems, are critical for food security, tourism and biodiversity conservation. Sustainable management practices, such as responsible fishing methods, marine protected areas, and ecosystem-based management, are critical to preserving these resources for future generations. Traditional knowledge and

practices of coastal communities, such as customary marine tenure systems (e.g. Sasi in Maluku), can contribute to sustainable resource management and conservation efforts (Nzomoi, Byaruhanga, Maritim, & Omboto, 2007).

The economic and livelihood aspects of Indonesia's maritime region highlight the important role it plays in supporting the welfare and prosperity of coastal communities, as well as contributing to the national economy. Integrating sustainable management practices and respecting the traditional knowledge of local communities can help ensure the long-term sustainability of maritime resources and the livelihoods they support.

c. Social and Community Elements

Shared values, customs and rituals related to marine and coastal life. Many coastal communities in Indonesia have developed unique social values, customs and rituals that are closely related to their maritime way of life. For example, some communities hold boat launching ceremonies or perform certain rituals before sailing or during the fishing season. These customs and rituals often reflect a deep respect for the sea, gratitude for its gifts, and recognition of the importance of the marine environment in their lives (Al Syahrin, 2018).

A sense of belonging and attachment to the maritime environment. Coastal

communities often have a strong sense of belonging and attachment to the marine environment they live in. Their identity, culture and traditions are intrinsically linked to the sea, coastal landscapes and marine resources. Emotional and cultural connections with the maritime environment foster a sense of concern and responsibility for the protection and preservation of these natural resources.

Intergenerational transfer of maritime knowledge and skills. In many coastal communities, maritime knowledge and skills are passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition, apprenticeship, and hands-on learning. This intergenerational transfer of knowledge includes traditional fishing techniques, shipbuilding methods, navigation skills, and understanding of marine ecosystems and weather patterns. These knowledge systems often incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) that has been developed and refined over centuries through close interaction with the maritime environment.

These social and community elements are deeply embedded in the fabric of coastal communities in Indonesia. They shape the cultural identity, values, and practices of these communities, thereby fostering strong ties to the maritime domain. Recognizing and integrating these elements into maritime defense strategies can encourage community involvement, utilize

traditional knowledge, and promote the preservation of local cultural heritage.

d. Environmental and Ecological Relations

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and sustainable resource management practices. Respect marine ecosystems and conservation efforts. Adaptation strategies to environmental changes and natural disasters (Gonggong, 2020).

e. National Identity and Pride

The symbolic meaning of the nature of the Indonesian archipelago. Maritime narratives and representations in national discourse and media. The role of defense and maritime sovereignty in shaping national identity. This multidimensional aspect highlights the pervasive influence of maritime elements in various aspects of Indonesian society, culture and economy. Preserving and strengthening this diverse maritime identity is critical to fostering a sense of ownership, pride and commitment to maritime defense strategies.

Traditional Practices and Resilience Mechanisms of Island Communities

Island communities in Indonesia have developed a wealth of traditional practices and resilience mechanisms that enable them to thrive in the maritime environment and adapt to various challenges. Some notable examples include (Astriani, Nurlinda, Imami, & Asdak, 2020):

a. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the cumulative body of knowledge, practices and beliefs about the relationship between living things and their environment, which has been developed over generations through direct human contact with nature. In the context of marine ecosystems, TEK includes an in-depth understanding of various aspects, including (Wangai, Masika, Maritim, & Seaton, 2019):

Intricate understanding of marine ecosystems, currents, and weather patterns. TEK holders have a deep understanding of the complex relationships and interactions in marine ecosystems, including the behavior and life cycles of various species, their habitats, and the interconnected nature of the various components. They have varying understandings of ocean currents, tides, and weather patterns, which are important for navigation, fishing, and predicting environmental changes.

Sustainable fishing techniques and resource management practices. Traditional societies have developed sustainable fishing techniques that minimize negative impacts on marine ecosystems and ensure long-term resource availability. These techniques often involve selective harvesting, rotating fishing areas, and observing fishing seasons or rest periods for certain species. TEK also includes traditional resource management practices, such as establishing marine protected areas, regulating fishing efforts,

and implementing conservation measures based on local observations and experiences.

Traditional navigation methods and reading environmental cues. Indigenous peoples have developed sophisticated navigation methods that rely on reading environmental cues, such as star positions, ocean waves, wind patterns, and the behavior of various marine species. This knowledge allows them to navigate the vast seas accurately and safely, without the aid of modern navigation tools. TEK holders can interpret subtle changes in the environment, such as variations in water color, cloud patterns, or the presence of certain species, to predict weather conditions, determine fishing locations, or identify potential hazards.

TEK is a valuable source of knowledge gained through centuries of direct interaction with the marine environment. This represents a holistic and sustainable approach to understanding and managing marine resources. Integrating TEK with modern scientific knowledge can contribute to more effective conservation and management strategies, as well as promote the preservation of cultural heritage and traditional practices.

b. Community Based Resource Management

Customary maritime ownership systems (for example Sasi in Maluku). Collective decision-making processes and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Intergenerational knowledge transfer and apprenticeship system

c. Adaptation Strategy

Diversify livelihoods and income sources. Temporary or seasonal migration patterns. Development of resilient housing and infrastructure

d. Social and Cultural Resilience

Strong community ties and support network. Shared values, beliefs, and rituals that foster resilience. Leadership structure and decision-making process

e. Traditional Maritime Skills

Shipbuilding and maintenance techniques. Fishing and sailing skills. Navigation and weather forecasting capabilities. These traditional practices and resilience mechanisms have enabled island communities to survive and recover from a variety of challenges, including environmental stress, natural disasters, and socio-economic disruption. Integrating valuable local knowledge systems and community-based approaches into maritime defense strategies can increase their effectiveness and sustainability.

Challenges of Preserving Maritime Identity and Community Resilience

Despite the richness of Indonesia's maritime identity and the resilience of its island communities, there are several challenges that threaten its preservation and continuity (Yuliarta & Rahmat, 2021):

- a. Urbanization and Economic Shift. Rural-urban migration, especially among the younger generation. Reduce dependence on traditional maritime livelihoods. Erosion of cultural values and practices due to modernization
- b. Environmental Degradation and Climate Change. Overfishing, coastal development, and pollution are affecting marine ecosystems. Sea level rise, extreme weather events and climate-related disasters. Threats to traditional resource management systems and livelihoods
- c. Globalization and Cultural Homogenization. The influence of global media and pop culture on traditional identities. Loss of native languages and cultural expressions. Weakening of mechanisms for the transfer of knowledge between generations
- d. Socioeconomic Inequality and Marginalization. Poverty, lack of access to education, and limited opportunities. Inequality of power and marginalization of indigenous peoples. Exploitation of marine and coastal resources by external actors.
- e. Policy and Governance Challenges: Lack of recognition and support for traditional knowledge practices and systems. System. Lack of community participation in the decision-making process. Conflicting priorities between

development, conservation and cultural preservation. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving policy interventions, educational initiatives, community empowerment, and sustainable development strategies that respect and integrate traditional practices and local knowledge systems.

Existing Efforts and Best Practices in the Integration of Socio-Cultural Elements

Although the integration of socio-cultural elements in maritime defense strategy is still a developing field, there are several initiatives and best practices that can serve as references (Pradhani, 2017):

- a. **Community Based Monitoring and Supervision.** Involving local communities in coastal monitoring and reporting activities. Utilizing traditional ecological knowledge for environmental monitoring. Examples: Community-based reef monitoring in Indonesia, community forest guards in Australia.
- b. **Cultural Sensitivity Training for Maritime Personnel.** Provide training on local culture, traditions and communication practices. Foster understanding and respect for indigenous peoples. Examples: Cultural awareness program in the US Navy, New Zealand Navy Māori cultural advisor.
- c. **Participatory Decision Making and Co-Management.** Involving local

communities in maritime policy development and resource management. Collaborative governance models and shared decision-making processes. Examples: Joint management of marine protected areas in the Philippines, community-based coastal resource management in Indonesia.

- d. **Preservation and Promotion of Maritime Cultural Heritage.** Documentation and revitalization of traditional maritime practices and skills. Cultural festivals, exhibitions and educational initiatives. Examples: Shipbuilding and shipping traditions in Indonesia, maritime cultural festivals in Hawaii.
- e. **Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing.** Exchange of best practices and learning between countries and organizations. Collaborative research and capacity development initiatives. Examples: Regional maritime security initiatives (e.g. ASEAN Maritime Forum), indigenous knowledge networks.

These existing efforts demonstrate the potential benefits of integrating sociocultural elements in maritime defense strategies, such as increasing community engagement, fostering cultural understanding, and utilizing traditional knowledge for sustainable practices.

Proposed Framework for Socio-Cultural Dimensions in Maritime Defense Strategy

Based on the findings from the literature review and analysis, a comprehensive framework for integrating socio-cultural dimensions into Indonesia's maritime defense strategy is proposed. This framework aims to strengthen maritime identity, increase community resilience, and encourage effective collaboration between defense forces and local communities. This framework consists of the following main components (Prasetyo, Prakoso, & Sianturi, 2019):

a. Revitalizing Maritime Identity

Educational programs and curricula focus on maritime history, traditions and values. Cultural festivals, exhibitions and media campaigns celebrate maritime heritage. Promotion of traditional maritime skills and practices (e.g. shipbuilding, navigation).

b. Community Involvement and Empowerment

Participatory processes for policy development and decision making. Co-management initiatives for coastal and marine resource management. Community-based monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

c. Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Documentation and incorporation of local knowledge into maritime domain awareness systems. Collaboration with

indigenous communities for environmental monitoring and conservation. Utilization of TEK for sustainable resource management and climate adaptation strategies.

d. Cultural Competence and Sensitivity

Cultural awareness and sensitivity training for maritime personnel. Recruitment and integration of personnel from diverse maritime communities. Establishment of the role and liaison of cultural advisors

e. Inclusive Maritime Infrastructure and Facilities:

Consideration of socio-cultural factors in the design and location of maritime infrastructure. Inclusion of community spaces and facilities for cultural preservation and practices. Collaboration with local communities in infrastructure development and maintenance

f. Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing

Participation in regional forums and initiatives that focus on socio-cultural aspects of maritime security. Collaborative research and capacity building programs with international partners. Sharing best practices and learning between countries and organizations.

This framework incorporates a holistic approach that recognizes the interdependence between maritime defense strategies, cultural preservation and community resilience, and sustainable development. By integrating these socio-

cultural dimensions, Indonesia can foster a stronger sense of ownership, increase community involvement, and utilize traditional knowledge systems for more effective and sustainable maritime security operations (Arto et al., 2019).

The research findings on the multidimensional aspects of maritime identity in Indonesia align with several previous studies. The importance of historical and cultural traditions, as highlighted in this research, echoes the work of Hartati et al. (2021), who emphasized the rich maritime traditions of various Indonesian tribes such as the Bugis, Maluku, and Makassar. The economic and livelihood aspects of maritime identity discussed in this study correspond with Andriani's (2018) research on the role of the maritime sector in Indonesia's national economy.

The findings on traditional practices and resilience mechanisms of island communities support and expand upon earlier research. The importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in sustainable resource management, as identified in this study, aligns with Wangai et al.'s (2019) work on the value of TEK in marine ecosystems. The community-based resource management practices observed in this research, such as the Sasi system in Maluku, correspond with Nzomoi et al.'s (2007) findings on the effectiveness of

traditional tenure systems in sustainable resource management.

The challenges to preserving maritime identity and community resilience identified in this study corroborate the findings of Yuliarta & Rahmat (2021), who also highlighted issues such as urbanization, environmental degradation, and the erosion of cultural values. However, this research provides a more comprehensive analysis by including additional factors such as globalization and policy challenges.

The proposed framework for integrating socio-cultural dimensions into maritime defense strategy builds upon existing efforts and best practices identified in previous research. For instance, the emphasis on community-based monitoring and surveillance aligns with Pradhani's (2017) work on community involvement in coastal management. The focus on cultural sensitivity training for maritime personnel corresponds with international examples, such as the cultural awareness programs in the US Navy and New Zealand Navy, as mentioned in the research.

However, this study goes beyond previous research by proposing a more comprehensive and integrated framework that addresses multiple aspects of socio-cultural integration in maritime defense. It combines elements of identity revitalization, community empowerment, traditional knowledge integration, and cultural

competence in a way that has not been previously articulated in the context of Indonesian maritime defense strategy.

The research also addresses gaps identified in previous studies, such as the need for empirical studies on the impact of maritime identity on defense strategies and the development of a structured framework for policy integration. By proposing this comprehensive framework and highlighting the need for further empirical research, this study contributes to advancing the field and addressing limitations in existing literature.

The research findings on the socio-cultural dimensions of developing Indonesia's maritime power demonstrate significant relationships with various theories and expert opinions in the fields of maritime studies, cultural anthropology, and security studies.

The multidimensional aspect of maritime identity aligns with the concept of "maritime culture" as proposed by scholars like Westerdahl (1992), who emphasized the interconnectedness of material and immaterial aspects of maritime life. The research's focus on historical and cultural traditions, economic aspects, and social elements of maritime identity resonates with this holistic view of maritime culture.

The importance placed on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in this research corresponds with the theories of scholars like Berkes (1999), who argued for

the significance of indigenous knowledge in environmental management and conservation. The findings on the role of TEK in sustainable resource management and community resilience support Berkes' assertion that traditional knowledge systems are adaptive and can contribute significantly to modern conservation efforts.

The challenges identified in preserving maritime identity and community resilience align with the concept of "cultural erosion" discussed by anthropologists like Appadurai (1996). His theory of global cultural flows helps explain the impacts of globalization and modernization on traditional identities and practices, which is evident in the research findings on the effects of urbanization and economic shifts on maritime communities.

The emphasis on community-based approaches and participatory decision-making in the proposed framework reflects the theories of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) as discussed by Ostrom (1990). Her work on governing the commons provides a theoretical basis for understanding how local communities can effectively manage shared resources, which is relevant to the research's findings on community-based resource management practices.

The integration of socio-cultural elements into maritime defense strategy aligns with the concept of "comprehensive

security" as proposed by Buzan (1991). This theory argues for a broader understanding of security that goes beyond military aspects to include societal and environmental dimensions, which is reflected in the research's holistic approach to maritime power development.

The focus on strengthening maritime identity as part of national security strategy resonates with Anderson's (1983) concept of "imagined communities." The research's findings on the importance of shared maritime narratives and symbols in fostering national identity align with Anderson's theory on the role of shared cultural elements in nation-building.

The proposed framework's emphasis on cultural competence and sensitivity in maritime operations corresponds with the theories of intercultural communication and cultural intelligence as discussed by scholars like Earley and Ang (2003). Their work on the importance of cultural adaptability in global operations provides a theoretical foundation for the research's recommendations on cultural sensitivity training for maritime personnel.

The research's findings on the resilience mechanisms of island communities align with the social-ecological systems (SES) framework proposed by Ostrom (2009). This framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of social and ecological factors in community resilience,

which is evident in the research's discussion of how traditional practices and knowledge systems contribute to the adaptability of maritime communities.

Overall, the research findings and proposed framework demonstrate a strong relationship with established theories in various relevant fields, while also contributing new insights specific to the Indonesian maritime context. This alignment with existing theoretical frameworks lends credibility to the research findings and positions the study within the broader academic discourse on maritime culture, community resilience, and security studies.

CONCLUSION

This research concludes that Indonesia's maritime strength is inextricably linked to the socio-cultural fabric of its island communities, emphasizing the critical importance of preserving maritime traditions, fostering strong identity among younger generations, and enhancing coastal community resilience. The study reveals that integrating traditional ecological knowledge and community-based practices into maritime defense policies can significantly boost operational effectiveness and sustainability. However, challenges like urbanization and cultural erosion necessitate a holistic approach balancing technological advancements with cultural preservation. The proposed framework for integrating socio-cultural dimensions into maritime

defense strategy offers a comprehensive roadmap for policymakers, underscoring the symbiotic relationship between cultural identity, community resilience, and national security. This research advocates for a paradigm shift that recognizes the interdependence of cultural heritage and maritime power, suggesting that by embracing this approach, Indonesia can forge a maritime defense strategy that not only safeguards its sovereignty but also preserves its rich maritime legacy, ultimately strengthening its position as a formidable archipelagic nation.

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