

## Get To Know The History and Function of The West Javanese Angklung Musical Instrument

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### Abstract

*West Java is a collection of various types of very beautiful nature with enchanting cultural attractions. The diversity of existing cultures is shown through the diversity of arts that are staged. This art is an expression of human thoughts, feelings, and ideas that differ from their environment and experience. Along with the development of the times, the growing diversity of art created by humans, as well as various forms of types of works of art, Artworks are one of the cultural products of a nation, which is priceless. Angklung is a popular traditional musical instrument from West Java. Angklung musical instruments have been known by the Sundanese people since the royal era, and have grown in popularity since November 2010, when Angklung was listed as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.*

**Keywords:** Anthropology, Musical Instruments, Angklung, West Java

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## 1. Introduction

West Java is a collection of various types of very beautiful nature with enchanting cultural attractions. The diversity of existing cultures is shown through the diversity of arts that are staged. This art is an expression of human thoughts, feelings, and ideas that differ from their environment and experience. Along with the development of the times, the growing diversity of art created by humans, as well as various forms of types of works of art, Artworks are one of the cultural products of a nation, which is priceless. The place, where the artwork was born, will automatically become a destination, for tourists, meaning that through art will be born tourist destinations based on cultural arts, one of the tourist attractions that introduce cultural

arts is Saung Angklung Udjo, Bandung. (Syarifuddin, D. (2016)).

Traditional musical instruments are Indonesian culture have been attached and become an icon of society, some of which have artistic and cultural roles and values that reflect the identity of Indonesian society. The many types of traditional musical instruments are proof that there are differences in traditional musical instruments in each region. Traditional musical instruments have characteristics of the sounds, shapes and materials used from the area. The difference in how to play traditional musical instruments also makes the special identity of each region. One area that has traditional musical instruments is West Java with angklung musical instruments. Angklung has also been established as a musical educational instrument since August 23, 1968. through the Decree of the Minister of Culture No.082/1968 concerning the establishment of angklung as a musical educational instrument. (Sari, F. L., Sari, N. H. M., Auliya, M., Damayanti, E., & Rizqoh, M. (2023, January)).

Angklung is a popular traditional musical instrument from West Java. Angklung musical instruments have been known by the Sundanese people since the royal era, and have grown in popularity since November 2010, when Angklung was listed as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. So it is not surprising that now angklung is used as a basic music-learning tool in various countries in the world (Oktawirani 2013). Angklung is made of bamboo and sounded by shaking. Each angklung consists of two, three, or four bamboos with an arrangement of two, three, and four tones. Bamboo commonly used to make angklung is black bamboo (awi wulung) and white bamboo (awi temen) (Yoyok & Siswandi, 2008). Angklung has been known by the Sundanese people since the time of the Sunda Kingdom which serves as a spirit generator in battle. In addition, angklung is also used for ritual ceremonies related to agricultural activities, such as planting and harvesting rice (Yoyok & Siswandi, 2008).

The purpose of cultural tourism destinations in Indonesia is to attract as many tourists as possible and how long these tourists can stay in the destinations they visit. This statement shows that all destinations have the same goal: to enrich the ideals, destination owners, employees, and even the surrounding community. There is a way to make the maximum profit. To be able to increase the number of tourists to a destination, many things can be done, namely promoting, adding tourism products, organizational cooperation and improving transportation services.

## **2. Research Methods**

This method uses the descriptive skin method, This type of qualitative descriptive research (QD) is generally used in social phenomenology. One of the social studies is guidance and counselling research. Qualitative descriptive research in the perspective of guidance and counselling can be interpreted as research in the field of guidance and counselling whose purpose is to present a detailed picture of the setting of the guidance or counselling process in schools intended to explore how guidance or counselling occurs, whether the guidance or counselling that has been carried out can be in line to overcome several variables related to the problem studied.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

There are many communities, one of which is a community engaged in the creative industry. The creative industry is defined as an industry that comes from the use of individual

creativity, skills and talents to create welfare and employment by generating and empowering the creative power and inventiveness of the individual. (Pradini,2023)

### **3.1. Traditional Functions of Angklung Musical Instruments**

As a musical instrument, angklung has various functions. The diversity of functions of angklung makes it one of the traditional musical instruments that is classified as interesting and multifunctional. There are at least 5 functions that angklung has including:

**As an accompaniment instrument to songs.** As a musical instrument, angklung can create beautiful tonal harmonization in a song. Especially if it is played by many people in an ensemble. The harmony of the tone in the angklung will be more beautiful if accompanied by other musical instruments, such as bass lodong, bamboo xylophone, and drum. Angklung can also be used for accompaniment to certain performances. For example, angklung reog which accompanies the Reog Ponorogo show. It can also be used in films such as Warok Singo Kobra (1982) and Tendangan DARI Langit (2012). As a musical instrument, angklung has various functions. The diversity of functions of angklung makes it one of the traditional musical instruments that is classified as interesting and multifunctional.

**As an Accompaniment to Rice Farming Activities.** The current function has existed since the time of the Sunda Kingdom (around the 12th to 14th centuries). During the process of growing rice, angklung will be played as companion music as well as a tool to lure Dewi Sri to come down to earth. The goal is that the Goddess can provide fertility to rice that has been planted. Still valid in some areas, for example in the Kanekes area which optimizes the function of this angklung through Angklung Kanekes. There, Angklung Kanekes can be played in a free rhythm (for the Old Baduy people) and can be played in a certain rhythm (for the New Baduy people). The Kanekes community also applies certain rules in playing angklung. For example, angklung should only be played during the period of ngubaran pare (treating rice).

**Religious Accompaniment Equipment.** The people of Sanding Village, Malambon District, Garut, West Java, often use angklung as a means of accompaniment to their sermons, this privilege cannot be separated from historical factors related to this village. Before the 16th century, Sanding villagers still used angklung as part of rice planting ceremonies. But since Islam entered this village in the 16th century, the function of angklung turned into a tool of da'wah. The community will display angklung as part of Badeng art. This art is a means of proselytizing to the people of Sanding Village. There are nine angklungs played with several other musical instruments.

**As a Post-Stroke Therapy Media.** Angklung is not just an ordinary musical instrument. Angklung can be used as a tool for post-stroke therapy. Therapy patients who use angklung will be trained to do cross movements commonly called cross midline. This cross midline can train brain fitness so that the brain bridge or golden bridge becomes more active. By doing these movements, brain fitness will be more trained so that the brain bridge becomes more active. The eye nerve of the therapy patient will also be integrated with the patient's speech nerve and motion nerve.

**As a Practice of Compactness.** Because many people need to play, all Angklung players must be able to work well together. This is certainly good for children because the process of playing and working together in Angklung will form various positive personalities in them. Starting from patience, cooperation, and the ability to take responsibility. Angklung is also

used in traditional art performances such as Wayang Gorek and Ketoprak. Angklung offers unique musical opportunities and enriches the performing arts experience.

### **3.2. Angklung is considered an important cultural heritage in West Java**

The country of Indonesia does have various cultures, including regional musical instruments, one of which is the angklung which is a regional musical instrument that has been popular for a long time. The more you come here, this art also makes the culture of the region richer. This one musical instrument has also gone global and is not only a regional wealth. Angklung has been recognized by UNESCO in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a World Cultural Heritage. Another achievement of angklung to date is recorded in the Guinness Book of World in 2011. Because of the joint angklung game held in Washington, United States, this award was given.

Angklung is a traditional musical instrument from West Java that has its uniqueness and uniqueness. Even musical instruments made of bamboo tubes have become part of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage. Angklung is closely related to customs, arts and cultural identity in Indonesia, played during ceremonies such as rice planting, harvesting and circumcision. Black bamboo specifically for Angklung is harvested for two weeks a year when crickets sing, and cut at least three internodes above the ground, to ensure its roots continue to propagate. Angklung education is transmitted orally from generation to generation and is increasingly increasing in educational institutions.

### **3.3. The History of the Development of West Javanese Angklung Musical Instruments**

Before Indonesia recognized Hindu influence in about the 5th century AD, angklung is believed to have existed. Jaap Kunst in Music in Java argues angklung is also found in the regions of South Sumatra and Kalimantan even though it is a traditional West Java musical instrument. Recorded, the history of the use of angklung in West Java itself began during the Sunda Kingdom, which was around the 12th to 16th centuries. Angklung games in that era were carried out for the worship of Nyai Sri Pohaci as a symbol of Dewi Sri, namely the Goddess of Fertility or Goddess of Rice. In addition to worship, the story recorded in the Song of Sunda also reveals that this musical instrument was played to spur the spirit of soldiers during war. Although its use is very different from today, angklung is still used as a musical instrument for various performances.

For example, the angklung performance was performed by Daeng Soetigna, a national angklung figure, at the 1946 Linggarjati Negotiations after the proclamation. Currently, Daeng himself is known as the Father of Angklung Indonesia who succeeded in creating the instrument with diatonic scales that can be played harmoniously with other musical instruments. The student, Udjo Ngalagena, also continued Daeng's efforts to preserve angklung. Udjo himself is known as the founder of a leading cultural art tourist spot called Saung Angklung Udjo (SAU) in Bandung. Udjo also promoted the widespread use of angklung in Indonesian music education. Saung Angklung Udjo itself was established in 1966 as a centre for angklung learning and performance.

Currently, SAU is operated by Udjo families and children who continue to actively promote angklung and various other arts, especially from Sunda. Not only teaching music and dance classes to its students, but this SAU centre also features daily "Bambu Sore" tour performances, which are home to bamboo handicraft factories that make high-quality bamboo souvenirs and angklung instruments. Until the end of his life, Udjo was also very active in reaching out to

villages and schools to spread angklung culture and finally received support for angklung education from the government.

### 3.4. SWOT Analysis

**Strength:** (1) Angklung has a depth of Indonesian cultural values, being a symbol of traditional identity and wealth. (2) Angklung performances become an attraction for tourists, contributing to Indonesia's cultural tourism industry, and (3) Playing angklung strengthens the sense of community and collaboration within the community.

**Debilitation:** (1) Some remote areas in Indonesia may have limited access to angklung, potentially hindering its preservation, (2) Traditional arts such as angklung may face challenges in competing with modern forms of entertainment, and (3) Financial constraints may hamper efforts to preserve and promote angklung more broadly.

**Chance:** (1) Participation in national and international cultural festivals can introduce angklung to a wider audience, (2) The alignment of angklung in the school curriculum can ensure the transmission of this culture to the younger generation, and (3) The utilization of digital platforms for performances and angklung tutorials can expand its reach and accessibility.

**Threat:** (1) Rapid social change can contribute to the decline in value given to traditional art, (2) With the growth of urban areas, traditional practices such as angklung may face difficulties in finding space for rehearsals and performances, and (3) The decline of skilled angklung makers can affect the quality and authenticity of this instrument.

## 4. Conclusion

West Java has cultural diversity shown through staged art, one of the traditional musical instruments popular in West Java and has been recognized by the Oral Cultural Heritage and Nonbendawi Manusia. Cultural tourism destinations in Indonesia aim to attract tourists and enrich the ideals of destination owners, employees, and the surrounding community. Angklung has various functions, including as a musical instrument to accompany songs, accompaniment to rice farming activities, religious accompaniment, post-stroke therapy media, and as a tool to train compactness. The diversity of functions of angklung makes it one of the interesting traditional musical instruments and traditional musical instruments that existed before Hindu influence entered Indonesia. Angklung was used for worship and spurred the spirit of warriors during the Sunda Kingdom. Today, angklung continues to be promoted and preserved by Saung Angklung Udjo (SAU) in Bandung.

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