

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Study on the Identification of Traditional Game 'KALIK' in Timor-Leste

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There are various traditional games played by children and young adults in Timor-Leste that existed in the past such as Kalik game, Tapa, Paulito, Piaun, Berlindis, Tebe aifunan, Ta ulun, and so on. Some of these traditional games are still exists but some are not exist anymore including Kalik game

One of the activities of the Youth for Change program is to empower stakeholders in the youth sector and this including promoting traditional games such as Kalik, which is rooted in a number of municipalities and played mostly by the youth. Research about traditional sports and games is also part of the sport policy of Timor-Leste.

This study is carried out with the aim to identify traditional children's and youth games and to reintroduce these games to children and youth and the general public. Therefore, it is important for the present generation to preserve, promote and relive Timor-Leste's traditional children's and youth games and to pass them on to the next generation.

The general objective of this study is to explore and identify the originality of a traditional game in Timor-Leste. This study was conducted in seven municipalities including Baucau, Viqueque, Lautem, Manatuto, Manufahi, Ermera and Bobonaro. The method used for this study was qualitative methods. The respondents of this study constituted of individuals and groups who knows and have experience of playing Kalik game in the past and present, households and community leaders and the elderly, with the total of 126 respondents. Interview with these respondents applied Saturation Method approach. The composition of gender is 96.2 per cent male with the average age of 57.3 years old. Male dominates the gender composition as this kind of game mostly played by male children and young adults compared to female children. The majority of respondents are farmers, teachers and civil servant with an average of 10 years experiencing in playing Kalik game.

In Timor-Leste, Kalik is not only being used as traditional food and medicines however, it is also used in the Traditional Sporting Games called "Hana/Tuda Kalik" which mostly played among children and young adults mainly male. "Hana /tuda kalik" is well known and played by the community of Timor-Leste, both in the village and town, although it is less played nowadays compared to the past.

Kalik game has been played mainly among children's and young adults (7-17 years old) in 7 municipalities for generations throughout the history of Timor-Leste's society. The majority of respondents argued that Kalik game first time introduced by Timorese ancestors long time ago before the Portuguese arrival. By the time this game was transmitted over the generation until now. This game rooted in Timor-Leste however, there is no clear date regarding when and where Kalik game was first introduced and played. Most of respondents described that; this game mostly played during Portuguese time and by then it slowly disappeared as Indonesia invades Timor-Leste.

There is no formal training or instruction on how to play Kalik game rather their parents (grandfather and dad's) and colleagues teach them how to play the game. Indeed, some respondents pointed out they learn by their own by watching other people paying. Through the Key Informant Interview, it reveals that Kalik games were creative – play out of pure imagination and items lying around – and children, as well as young adults alike, invented them to keep them entertained.

In relation to originality of Kalik game as a traditional game in this country, 98.5 per cent respondents agree that Kalik game originally is from Timor-Leste. The main reason for this claim is first, from the time of their ancestor Kalik game was already exist and played; secondly, this game played from generation to generation over time; and lastly Kalik is growing well in most of the areas in Timor-Leste. The study revealed that in some areas (e.g., Sanirin, Ponilala, and Venilale), talking about Kalik always link to culture (Uma Lulik) and therefore Kalik become a kind of product that anyone cannot discuss freely without permission from the elders or representative of the Uma Lulik – the reason is that it believe there will be a consequences in terms of sickness or death for someone who discuss about Kalik without noticed to the elderly from the Uma Lulik. However, this kind of permission do not have relation with paying Kalik game; means anyone else can play Kalik at any time anywhere as they agreed to play except discuss about it. The study revealed that in some areas (e.g., Sanirin, Ponilala, and Venilale), talking about Kalik always link to culture (Uma Lulik) and therefore Kalik become a kind of product that anyone who come from Uma Lulik link to Kalik cannot discuss or talking about Kalik without permission from the elders or representative of that Uma Lulik – the reason is that it believe there will be a consequences in terms of sickness or death for someone who discuss about Kalik without noticed to the elderly. However, this kind of permission do not have relation with playing Kalik game; means anyone else can play Kalik at any time anywhere as they agreed to play except discuss about it. In addition, for those who not belong to that Uma Lulik they can discuss or talking about Kalik freely. In addition, Kalik game in Timor-Leste is a kind of game that shows the representations, expressions, knowledge, skills and the object (Kalik) and cultural that associated with Timorese community or groups in the past - and in some cases individual and groups recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

The main purpose of children's and young adults playing Kalik game is to be happy, to make more friends, to learn how to count and also languages, to entertain people, spend leisure time, and just for fun. In some cases, the game can be played between different groups from different villages; so, the game itself makes players/people to know each other and in the end all of them became friends and relatives. Some respondent's claims that playing Kalik game also teach players how to count basic numbers. This is because to decide who is the winner in the game, players need to count for a certain number as agreed.

Kalik game turns out to be played in various ways. The game can be played individually and collectively as a group. Played individually can be up to 5 players; whiles in groups, the two groups or team that against each other must be with the same players. The player in each team can be between two to five players.

To be able to perform Kalik game, the minimums requirements need to be available are the Playing Field - which is flat, no muddy, no grass, and no rocky on the service; and the Equipment – in this case Kalik bean with the minimum number needed is equal to the number of players.

It is commonly agreed that Kalik game is a competition for accuracy in shooting or archery. The aim is to shoot/hit or throws down Kalik bean from the opponent to

reach the agreed winning/championship/finish points that are decided before started the game

The result of the study shows that the modality of Kalik game can be categorized into five models, which includes 1) the hole model 2) The rectangular line model 3) The standing model 4) The Jot down model 5) The kneeling model. However, between those models, the hole and standing models are the two models most popular one being played in the past, and it is still played by children in the village of Wairoke today.

The Kalik game, however, started to lose its popularity among children's and young adults during the Indonesian occupation; and this traditional game is increasingly become unpopular or even extinct/disappear in most of Timor-Leste territories, after the country restored its independence onward.

Some of the factors contributed to the unpopularity of the Kalik game in Timor-Leste, during the Indonesian occupation and post-independent include 1) The availability of various toys and games; 2) The game was never part of school curriculum including school extracurricular activity; 3) Most of young generation don't know how to play the game, as there was no exemplar from their parents/previous generation, neighbour, or surrounding areas; and 4) The influence of modern technology such as Hand Phone - as children can easily access Facebook, YouTube, and various modern online games.

Throughout the study, it is identified that Kalik game still entertains today by the children's; boys and girls, young adults; men and women, and even the elderly in one of a very remote village named Wairoke – Luro, Lautem. Community in Wairoke keep Kalik game alive is because this village is very remote and quite isolated from the outsider.

Elderly/parents in Wairoke pointed out the important reasons to preserve the game of Kalik for their children includes first, Kalik game is considered as the traditional game that has been played and passed on for generations; second, conserving Kalik game especially for children means to cut out any costs related to the purchasing of modern game/toys; and lastly, Kalik beans are offered by the nature, it is free and sustained naturally. From the point of view of history and culture, Kalik game is rooted in this country. However, by the time Kalik game become unpopular or even extinct from Timor-Leste. To avoid further extinction of this traditional game and make it alive for present and future generation, it is recommended:

- 1) To introduce Kalik game in schools as part of the curriculum – extracurricular activities;
- 2) To have a formal competition regularly for Kalik game at school or community in general;
- 3) To register Kalik game to UNESCO as part of the heritage of Timor-Leste;
- 4) For relevant institutions to actively promote Kalik game as a traditional game to younger generation;
- 5) Cooperation between relevant institutions is needed to avoid the extinctions of Kalik plant due to human interventions or climate change; and
- 6) Further study is needed to find out more information regarding Kalik game.