



The Existence of Tuwu Dance in Nias Society

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ABSTRACT

The Tuwu Dance is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Nias people in Indonesia, reflecting their identity and deeply rooted traditions. This research explores key aspects of this traditional dance, including its history, cultural significance, specific movements, and the role it plays in the social fabric of Nias society. The research employs a qualitative approach, incorporating direct observation of dance performances, in-depth interviews with community leaders and cultural practitioners, and analysis of relevant literature to gather comprehensive insights. Findings reveal that the Tuwu Dance is not merely an artistic expression; it embodies values of unity, courage, and spiritual reverence, deeply embedded in the everyday life of the Nias people. The dance involves vigorous and expressive movements, which showcase physical grace and strength, symbolizing resilience and communal solidarity. Furthermore, the Tuwu Dance serves as a vital medium for cultural transmission, ensuring that traditional values and identity are preserved and passed on to the younger generation. In conclusion, the Tuwu Dance plays a crucial role in maintaining cultural continuity and reinforcing social bonds, thus holding a revered place in the hearts of the Nias people.

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INTRODUCTION

Nias Island, with its rich history and culture, remains an exotic mystery that has yet to be explored by the public. In the mass media, information about this island that has a lot of potential is still rarely heard, as if tourist destinations in Indonesia are only centered on big cities and tourist areas that are already well known. In fact, when it comes to natural beauty, Nias is not inferior to Bali or Lombok. Moreover, when it comes to culture, Nias has a wealth of traditional food, crafts, and dances. All these factors make Nias a worthy tourist destination in Indonesia (Telaumbanua et al., 2023).

Nias Island offers stunning natural scenery, from white sandy beaches to charming green hills. Travelers looking for unspoiled natural beauty will find a hidden paradise on Nias. In addition, Nias is also famous for its challenging waves, making it one of the favorite destinations for surfers worldwide. This unique nature of Nias should be the main attraction that lures domestic and international tourists to visit (Widyastuti, 2019).

Not only its natural beauty, Nias is also rich in diverse cultural heritage. One of the prominent cultural aspects is the dance tradition. Traditional dances such as Tuwu Dance and Moyo Dance contain deep historical and philosophical values. These dances are usually performed in various traditional and religious ceremonies, showing how closely dance is related to the daily lives of the Nias people. In addition to dance, crafts such as carving and weaving are also an important part of Nias culture, adding to the uniqueness and appeal of the island.

Traditional dance of the Nias community is one of the rich cultural heritages and plays an important role in the social and spiritual life of the Nias people. Nias Island, located in western Sumatra, Indonesia, is known for its unique and diverse culture, of which traditional dance is a prominent artistic expression. These dances are not just for entertainment but are also full of symbolic meanings that reflect the values, history, and identity of the Nias community (Zebua, 2020).



One of the most famous traditional dances from Nias is the Tuwu Dance. This dance depicts heroic and symbolic stories that are often related to the history and mythology of Nias society. Tuwu dance is known for its dynamic and rhythmic movements, as well as its use in various traditional ceremonies. The dance originally served as a means to encourage workers building traditional houses (*omo hada*) and village fortifications. Today, it is often performed at cultural and religious events, showing how the dance has adapted to changing times without losing its traditional essence.

Apart from Tuwu Dance, the Nias community also has various other traditional dances, such as Moyo Dance and Faluaya Dance. Moyo Dance, for example, is a war dance that expresses the courage and strength of Nias warriors. It is often performed in the context of welcoming ceremonies and victory celebrations. Faluaya Dance, on the other hand, is more ritualistic and is often associated with religious ceremonies and customs that aim to invoke blessings and protection from the gods (Dakhi, [2022](#)).

The social and cultural functions of traditional Nias dance are significant. Through dance, Nias people not only express the aesthetics of art, but also strengthen social bonds and togetherness. Each movement and symbol in the dance have its own meaning that teaches ethical values, morals and togetherness to the younger generation. It is also an effective educational medium, helping to preserve ancestral history and traditions for children and young people.

Nias Island, also known as *Tanö Niha*, is an island located in the west of North Sumatra Province. Administratively, Nias Island has four regencies and one city including: Nias Regency, South Nias Regency, North Nias Regency, West Nias Regency and Gunungsitoli City. Each region has different arts and traditions, but all Nias people agree that they come from the same ancestors, so it is the differences and similarities that unite them in terms of culture and traditional arts (Simanjuntak, [2021](#)).

The Nias tribe is a society that lives in an environment of high customs and culture. The arts of the Nias people include dance, music, painting and sculpture. In Nias culture, traditional dances are important, some of which are *Faluaya*, *Maena*, *Moyo*, *Ya'ahowu*, *Mogaele*, *Manahó*, *Tuwu*, *Famadaya Harimao*, *Famadaya Saembu*, and *Famadaya Jahili*. Faluaya Dance, or commonly referred to as War Dance, is a dance that symbolizes the courage and heroic nature possessed by warriors in defending the village from enemy attacks. Faluaya dance is performed with dynamic and energetic movements, reflecting the strength and courage of the soldiers. Meanwhile, *Maena* is a dance that is often performed in various traditional ceremonies and celebrations, involving many people with uniform and rhythmic movements, symbolizing the togetherness and unity of the Nias people. These dances not only serve as entertainment, but also as a means to express the cultural values, history and beliefs of the Nias people, thus becoming an integral part of their daily lives (Sibuea & Wiflihani, [2022](#)).

Nias dance is not only limited to war dances such as Faluaya, but also includes various other dances that have different meanings and purposes. The Moyo dance, for example, is a dance that is often performed in big events such as weddings or welcoming important guests. It has elegant and graceful movements, reflecting the beauty and richness of Nias culture. Other dances, such as *Ya'ahowu*, are full of spiritual value and are often performed in sacred traditional ceremonies. The movements in *Ya'ahowu* dances are usually slow and meaningful, reflecting the close relationship between humans and nature and their ancestors.

Besides dance, music also plays an important role in Nias culture. Traditional Nias musical instruments such as gongs, drums and stringed instruments are used to accompany traditional dances and traditional ceremonies. Traditional Nias music usually has a strong and dynamic rhythm, reflecting the spirit and soul of the Nias people. This music not only serves as entertainment, but also as a means to convey moral and spiritual messages. In some traditional ceremonies, traditional Nias music is also used to accompany sacred rituals that are believed to bring blessings and protection to the community.

Painting and sculpture are also an important part of Nias culture. The Nias people have a strong tradition of sculpture, especially in the making of wooden statues that are used in various traditional and religious ceremonies. These statues usually depict gods, ancestors or important figures in Nias mythology. Nias sculpture is renowned for the detail and subtlety of its carvings, reflecting the skill and craftsmanship of Nias artisans. Nias painting, although not as popular as sculpture, also has an important place in their culture. Traditional Nias paintings usually depict the daily life, nature, and beliefs of the Nias people, providing a rich picture of their life and culture (Zaluchu, [2020](#)).

Nias customs and traditions are not only reflected in art and culture, but also in their social system and daily life. Nias society is known for its strong kinship system and mutual respect between community members. Values such as gotong royong, solidarity and respect for ancestors are highly upheld in Nias society. Traditional ceremonies such as marriage, birth and death are governed by strict customs and are full of symbolism. Nias people believe that maintaining and preserving their customs and traditions is key to maintaining the harmony and well-being of their community.

Nias culture reflects the history, beliefs and values upheld by its people. Through dance, music, painting and sculpture, Nias people express their identity and maintain the cultural heritage that has been passed down by their ancestors. In this modern era, despite the many changes and challenges faced, Nias people still strive to maintain and preserve their culture, showing how important this culture is to the identity and sustainability of their community (Hirza, [2014](#)).

Traditional Nias dance is an important part of the traditional culture of the Nias people. The uniqueness of Nias traditional dance reflects certain aspects of the life and culture of its people. Not only lies in its aesthetic aspects, but also in the depth of meaning and cultural values contained therein. Traditional Nias dance is a symbol of pride and cultural identity for the Nias people and is an integral part of Indonesia's cultural heritage as a whole. Often each Nias dance contains spiritual and mythological meanings which in its dance movements can reflect the traditional beliefs of the Nias people towards their spirit world and mythology for example, some movements may refer to creation myths or heroic stories about their ancestors and one of them is the Tuwu Dance (Zaluchu, [2020](#)).

Tuwu dance is one of the traditional dance arts that exists in the community on Nias Island, where this traditional dance was originally only practiced in the *Idanogawo* area but over time, this traditional dance has spread throughout the territory of Nias Island. Etymologically, Tuwu itself is a word in the Nias language which means "lift" lifting up higher than others. This dance is called Tuwu Dance because this dance is danced by a Balugu's wife along with her maids dancing and encouraging Balugu and all his bodyguards who are lifting a large stone to be used as a symbol of greatness which proves how great their nobility is and at the same time as a law enforcement tool in the midst of society (Laila & Pratama, [2023](#)).

There has been a lot of research on traditional Nias dance, starting from the meaning of the dance movements, the text of the poem, and also the music accompanying the dance. For example, Sonny Zalukhu discusses Maena Dance in the marriage ceremony of the Nias people, Dharma Kelana Putra discusses the origin of Moyo Dance, Hubari Gulo discusses the musical text of *Hoho Faluaya* in the context of the traditional ceremony of inaugurating noble titles in Bawomataluo Village (Zaluchu, [2020](#)).

As in other dance arts, Tuwu Dance is a means of self-expression that functions as a cultural practice as well as a social ritual. This research aims to highlight the importance of Tuwu Dance for the people of Nias, as well as contributing to the preservation of traditional dance on Nias Island and a deeper understanding of the dynamics of culture in Indonesia.

In its development, Tuwu Dance has undergone various adaptations and changes in accordance with the demands of the times. Although the traditional elements are retained, the dance is also adapted to suit the tastes and needs of the modern generation. Dancers and choreographers continue to experiment with variations of movements, costumes, and musical accompaniment to maintain the relevance of Tuwu Dance in the eyes of today's society. These changes ensure that Tuwu Dance remains alive and thriving, while still maintaining its original essence and values.

Traditional Nias dance also faces challenges in the modern era. Globalization and rapid social change impact the sustainability of these traditions. However, preservation efforts continue through various initiatives by the local government, local communities and cultural organizations. Dance festivals, art training and regular performances are part of the strategy to maintain and develop traditional Nias dance. Thus, Tuwu Dance not only survives as a legacy of the past, but also continues to live and be relevant in the lives of Nias people today and in the future.

This research raises several important questions: 1) How is the origin of Tuwu Dance in Nias Islands; and 2) What is the role of Tuwu Dance in Nias society. This research is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Tuwu Dance and its contribution to Nias cultural identity.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method with an ethnographic approach to understand Tuwu Dance in the cultural and social context of Nias society. The ethnographic approach was chosen because it allows researchers to observe and interact directly with the community that is the object of research, so as to explore the cultural meaning of Tuwu Dance and its role in the lives of Nias people in depth. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. This approach allows researchers to get a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon under study in a broader social and cultural context (Pakpahan et al., [2021](#)).

Primary data was obtained from the results of a field study conducted in April 2024, where researchers conducted participatory observations by participating in community activities, especially those related to the practice of Tuwu Dance, as well as in-depth interviews with dancers, traditional leaders, and community members. The in-depth interviews focused on understanding the meaning of Tuwu Dance, its history, and the community's views on the changes and preservation of this dance. A semi-structured interview approach was used to provide space for participants to convey their experiences, feelings and views freely and in detail.

Participatory observation is carried out by being directly involved in the social environment of the Nias community, especially in traditional events or rituals involving Tuwu Dance. Through this observation, researchers can observe social interactions, cultural values, and behavior patterns related to Tuwu Dance in a real context. The direct involvement of researchers in the field allows a deep understanding of the position of Tuwu Dance in the social and cultural structure of Nias society, as well as its symbolic role in strengthening group identity.

In addition, document analysis was conducted to complement the field data. The documents analyzed include local archives, historical records, articles, and relevant previous research reports. Through this analysis, researchers can trace the development and changes in the practice of Tuwu Dance from the past to the present, as well as understand the preservation policies or initiatives carried out by local communities and external parties.

This ethnographic approach allowed the researcher to gain a deep and holistic understanding of Tuwu Dance as a cultural heritage. This method produces a rich and narrative description, which not only explains the technical elements of Tuwu Dance, but also presents the cultural and symbolic meanings that Nias people have towards the dance. The results of this research are expected to contribute to cultural preservation efforts and a broader understanding of Nias cultural identity in the face of social change and modernization (Sugiyono, [2018](#)).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Origin of Tuwu dance

Tuwu dance is a dance that has developed with different movements and variations in each region of Nias Island. This traditional dance was once often practiced in the *Idanögawo* region, so the Nias people assume that this dance originated there. However, based on interviews conducted by researchers, there is no certainty regarding the exact origin of this dance (Interview with Mr. Faozisokhi Laia).

In Nias, the word "Tuwu" means "lift," which implies elevation to a higher place. This word has two meanings: first, something is placed in a location higher than the ground; second, a person is in a raised or elevated position. Tuwu dance itself depicts the figure of the chief's consort (*balugu/si'ulu*) who invites village girls to dance to entertain the men who are working to build *omo hada* (traditional houses). Their villages, located on hills and surrounded by high fences of wood and large stones, served to deter enemies or prevent escape after entering the village. These large stones and logs are collectively transported from the forest by workers carrying them on their shoulders, causing exhaustion due to the weight of the load and the large amount of material to be carried.

Tuwu dance, rooted in Nias history and legend, is a strong reflection of the culture and traditions of the Nias people. The simple movements first performed by Ratu Barasi Balugu became the inspiration for the dance that is now widely known. The dance serves not only as entertainment, but also as a symbol of respect for history and the ancestors who built the foundations of Nias culture.

In the past, villages on Nias Island often experienced conflict between villages. Nias people-built villages on hills or highlands to make it difficult for enemies to reach the village. In addition, they built tall fences of wood and stone to protect the village and prevent enemies from escaping (Telaumbanua, [2023](#)). These large stones and logs were transported from the forest to the village collectively by workers who carried them on their shoulders. As a result, work often took longer to complete than planned. Seeing this condition, the empress climbed onto the stone table and invited the village girls to sing and dance together to entertain the workers, which successfully restored their morale to complete the work on time. From then on, presenting Tuwu Dance to the workers became a tradition in *Idanögawö* (Harefa et al., [2024](#)).

This historical background then positions Tari Tuwu as an offering dance for those who have worked hard or achieved certain achievements. The dance is performed by several female dancers in pairs, with one main dancer dressed differently as the empress who dances on the table, while the other dancers reinforce the dance patterns. Tuwu dance is dominated by palm movements that are flicked up and down, accompanied by circular body movements following the tempo of the accompanying music. There is a moment when the dancers kneel with their feet slightly on tiptoe, move their hands from bottom to top, then stand up and put their hands on their right and left shoulders alternately. This movement contains the meaning of togetherness and collaboration, implying a message that heavy work can be completed with cooperation (Putra, [2020](#)).

In the past, the powerful Balugu Ngahönö was accompanied by his wife, the wise Barasi Balugu. One day, Barasi Balugu dialogued with her husband about a symbol of greatness that would reflect their greatness. This proposal appealed to Balugu Ngahönö, who then directed his followers to transport two large stones from a distant place as a symbol of power. When the boulders were lifted near the village, the wives greeted them with cheers and hand gestures of joy. From a distance, Balugu saw the beauty of his wife's dancing movements while cheering "*Fazawa! Fazawa! Tuwu Yawa!*" which means lift high, inspiring the group to successfully bring the stone to the village (Simanjuntak, [2021](#)).

In its development, Tuwu Dance underwent a transformation. From simple movements started by the queen, now Tuwu Dance has become more complex. The dancers are trained not only to learn the movements, but also to understand the meaning behind each movement. Traditional music such as gongs, drums and flutes are used to create rhythms in harmony with the dance, adding beauty and rhythm that help dancers maintain consistency of movement. The harmony between music and dance creates a magical atmosphere that captivates the audience (Putra, [2020](#)). The costumes worn by the dancers in Tuwu Dance also play an important role. It usually consists of Nias patterned woven fabric, headdresses, and accessories that add elegance to the performance. The bright colors and intricate designs on these costumes not only enhance the appearance, but also reflect the rich culture and art of the Nias people.

The presentation of Tuwu Dance in various traditional events shows the importance of this dance in the social life of the Nias people. In weddings, traditional ceremonies, and welcoming important guests, Tuwu Dance becomes an inseparable part. This dance serves as entertainment as well as a form of respect and warm welcome for guests (Simanjuntak, [2021](#)).

Meaning and function of Tuwu dance

Tuwu dance, as one of the traditional forms of artistic expression of the Nias people, plays a very important role in their social and cultural life. This dance is not just entertainment or a mesmerizing spectacle, but also full of deep meanings and functions. In Nias culture, Tuwu Dance symbolizes strength, courage and beauty, which are often depicted through dynamic and rhythmic movements. This dance is usually performed in various traditional ceremonies, such as harvest celebrations, welcoming important guests, and religious events, which shows how Tuwu Dance is closely integrated in the daily life of the Nias people (Zebua et al., [2023](#)).

The social function of Tuwu Dance is also very significant, as it serves as a means to strengthen social ties and togetherness among community members. Every time Tuwu Dance is performed, there is a sense of pride and shared identity that is strengthened, reminding the community of their cultural roots and the importance of maintaining and preserving the tradition. In addition, Tuwu Dance also serves as an educational medium for the younger generation, teaching them about cultural, ethical, and moral values that are passed down from generation to generation. (Telaumbanua, [2019](#)).

Tuwu dance aims to encourage the people who are working to find a stone of majesty for a nobleman in the past, called Balugu Ngahono. After the stone was found, Balugu Ngahono planned a party to inaugurate it. Before the party was held, Balugu Ngahono remembered and was inspired to compose movements that had been performed by the Queen. The dance was then named Tari Tuwu, after the first word spoken by the Queen (Rahayu, [2015](#)).

Tuwu dance is a dance performed by several women and accompanied by traditional Nias musical instruments. This dance is performed to welcome guests in various traditional Nias events and is known as a symbol of togetherness and encouragement for the community. Along with the times, the function of Tuwu Dance has changed; this dance is now commonly used as a performance and entertainment dance.

The beauty of Tuwu Dance can be seen from its movements, which take basic elements from Moyo Dance and Tuwu Dance itself, as well as its stages which include the initial entry, respect, core, and closing respect. Beauty is also reflected in the costumes of Tuwu Dance, which are rich in Nias ornamental motifs. The accompanying music, which consists of external and internal music, is energizing, and the diverse floor patterns add to the aesthetics of Tuwu Dance. Today, Tuwu Dance is performed when receiving guests as a spectacle and art form to entertain the community (Telaumbanua et al., [2024](#)).

Apart from being a means of entertainment and cultural preservation, Tuwu Dance also has an important role in education and learning. In schools and educational institutions on Nias, Tuwu Dance is often used as part of the arts and culture curriculum. Through this dance, the younger generation is taught about the history and cultural values of their ancestors. Dancing also helps develop motor skills, discipline, and the ability to work in teams. Thus, Tuwu Dance not only preserves cultural heritage, but also supports the holistic development of children and youth on Nias.

Tuwu dance is also starting to be recognized internationally. In various cultural festivals and international art performances, Tuwu Dance is often performed as a representation of Nias culture. Through performances on the global stage, Tuwu Dance not only introduces the beauty of Nias culture to the world, but also opens up opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding between nations. These performances are often accompanied by explanations about the history and meaning of the dance, giving international audiences a deeper insight into the cultural heritage of Nias (Giawa & Rahmah, [2021](#)).

The preservation of Tuwu Dance is a shared responsibility between the community, government and cultural institutions. Various efforts have been made to ensure that this dance does not become extinct in the midst of modernization. The local government of Nias, for example, has initiated various cultural preservation programs, including dance festivals and art workshops that focus on Tuwu Dance. In addition, cultural communities on Nias actively organize regular trainings and performances to maintain the spirit and skills of dance among the younger generation (Nasution & Rahmah, [2019](#)).

Tuwu Dance is a very valuable cultural heritage for the people of Nias. More than just a dance, Tuwu Dance reflects the values of courage, togetherness and beauty that underpin the social and cultural life of the Nias people. With its multifaceted functions-as entertainment, educational tool, identity symbol, and cultural preservation tool-Tuwu dance plays a vital role in strengthening social ties and maintaining ancestral heritage. Through adaptation and global dissemination, Tuwu Dance continues to evolve and remain relevant, bridging past and present, and inspiring future generations to preserve and value their cultural heritage.

The beauty of Tuwu Dance is not only recognized in Nias, but also in other parts of Indonesia. Tuwu Dance is often performed in cultural festivals and art events in various regions, attracting audiences from various backgrounds. This shows that Tuwu Dance has a universal appeal and is able to bring people together through the beauty of art and culture (Marandra & Muda, [2019](#)).

Tuwu dance also plays a role in the preservation of Nias culture. By continuing to perform this dance in various events, the Nias people keep their traditions and culture from being lost to the times. The younger generation is taught to love and preserve this dance, so that Tuwu Dance can continue to live and develop in the midst of modernization. Apart from being a form of entertainment and cultural preservation, Tuwu Dance also has educational value. Through this dance, the audience can learn about the history, values and beliefs of Nias society. Every movement and music that accompanies this dance carries deep messages about the life and philosophy of the Nias people, providing valuable insights for the audience.

Tuwu Dance is also a potential cultural tourism attraction for Nias. Many tourists are interested in witnessing live Tuwu Dance performances and experiencing the beauty of Nias culture. This not only provides economic benefits for local communities, but also helps promote Nias as a cultural tourism destination rich in tradition and art. Overall, Tuwu Dance is a valuable cultural heritage for the people of Nias. This dance not only enriches Nias culture, but also connects the past with the present, keeping ancestral values and traditions alive and relevant. Through Tuwu Dance, Nias people show their pride in their cultural heritage and share that beauty with the world (Melisa, [2015](#)).

The preservation of traditional dance requires the active involvement of various parties, including the government, educational institutions, art communities, and the general public. The government can play a role by allocating funds and resources to support cultural preservation activities, such as organizing cultural festivals, providing scholarships for talented young dancers, and establishing traditional dance training centers. With adequate support, it is hoped that these activities can run smoothly and effectively in preserving traditional dance.

Educational institutions have an important role in cultural preservation, especially traditional dance. A curriculum that includes traditional dance lessons can help students recognize, understand and love their culture from an early age. In addition, schools can organize dance extracurriculars that teach traditional dances in more depth. Inter-school competitions can also be a motivation for students to excel in dance, which in turn will increase interest and appreciation for traditional dances (Sibuea & Wiflihani, [2022](#)).

Art communities and performers should also be active in the preservation of traditional dances. They can organize *workshops*, seminars and dance training for the general public, so that more people have the opportunity to learn and master traditional dances. In addition, the arts community can work with the government and educational institutions to organize cultural events featuring traditional dances, which can attract the attention of the wider community and raise awareness of the importance of preserving culture.

Community participation in traditional dance preservation is also very important. The community can support by attending cultural events, participating in preservation activities, and teaching traditional dances to the younger generation in the family. In addition, the community can support local businesses that promote traditional culture and arts, such as buying cultural products, attending dance performances, and taking part in community activities related to cultural preservation (Putra, [2017](#)).

The preservation of traditional dances can also be done through the use of technology and social media. Digital platforms can be used to document and disseminate information about traditional dances, making them accessible to more people in different places. Video tutorials, articles and other multimedia content can help people learn traditional dances more easily and practically. Thus, technology and social media can be effective tools in expanding the reach of cultural preservation efforts and attracting younger generations who are more familiar with technology.

Tuwu dance is more than just a performing art. It reflects the soul and identity of the Nias people, a tradition that weaves the past with the present, and an embodiment of the values that make this community strong and united. Through every movement, Tuwu Dance conveys messages of courage, togetherness and beauty, while reminding us of the importance of preserving our priceless cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION

Tuwu dance from Nias is not only a beautiful dance art, but also a profound representation of the life and cultural values of the Nias people. The dance contains symbolic meanings that reflect resilience, courage and a harmonious relationship between humans, nature and their ancestors. Every movement in Tuwu Dance carries a message that connects the present with the past, making it more than just entertainment; it is a cultural heritage that serves to strengthen collective identity, social solidarity and emotional bonds within Nias society. As such, Tuwu Dance is not only an artistic expression, but also an important medium in introducing and passing on moral and cultural values to the younger generation.

This study has limitations, especially in terms of data coverage and reference sources. This study focuses more on analyzing the symbolic and social functions of Tuwu Dance, without exploring the technical or musical aspects of the dance in depth. In addition, limited sources of recent literature on Nias people's perceptions of Tuwu Dance in a modern context are an obstacle in further exploring changes in the value and meaning of this dance in the era of globalization.

Further research is needed to enrich the understanding of the evolution of Tuwu Dance and its significance for Nias society amidst the dynamics of cultural change.

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