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Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia

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Key Words:	Banjar River Culture; Community-Based Learning; Cultural Integration; Early Childhood Social Development; Riverside Communities; Social Skills Enhancement
Abstract:	<p>This study investigates the development of early childhood social skills within Banjarmasin, Indonesia's riverside communities. Social skills are crucial for the holistic development of children, facilitating better interaction, cooperation, and communication, which are essential for their personal and social growth. The unique socio-cultural dynamics of the riverside communities in Banjarmasin provide a distinctive environment for examining how these skills are nurtured. Utilizing a qualitative research design, this study aims to comprehend the socio-cultural context, identify specific social skills developed in early childhood, and assess the effectiveness of various community-based initiatives designed to foster these skills. The purposive sampling method was employed to select informants who could provide in-depth and relevant data. Data collection involved a combination of observations, semi-structured interviews, and active participation in community activities, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the processes involved. The findings reveal that children in these communities enhance their social skills through a learning process deeply embedded in community values, emphasizing interaction and play. Community values, interactive learning, and cultural integration contribute to social skill development. Reinforcing community values such as togetherness, sharing, and mutual respect plays a critical role in socialization. Activities that promote interaction and play are central to developing social skills, with group activities such as cooperative games, creative arts, and storytelling sessions proving particularly effective in encouraging children to work together, communicate effectively, and build confidence. Additionally, the unique Banjar River culture significantly influences social behaviors, with activities specific to the river culture, including riverboat play and traditional storytelling, imparting cultural values and enhancing social competencies among children. The study concludes that leveraging the cultural uniqueness of the Banjar River communities is essential in building social skills in early childhood. Children in Banjarmasin's riverside communities develop essential social skills more effectively by integrating community values and interactive learning within this cultural context. This research highlights the importance of culturally relevant approaches in early childhood education and suggests that similar methodologies could be adapted to other cultural settings to support social skill development. Future research could explore the longitudinal impacts of these community-based initiatives on social skill development and investigate the applicability of these findings in diverse cultural environments. This would provide a broader understanding of how cultural contexts influence early childhood education and socialization processes.</p>

Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study in Riverside Communities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Mariatul Kiptiah ✉

Department of Pancasila and Citizenship Education, Faculty of Training and Teacher Education, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Indonesia

Abstract

This research focuses on efforts to build social skills in early childhood within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach, the study aims to understand the community's socio-cultural context, identify early childhood social skills, and evaluate the impact of initiatives to develop these social skills. The purposive sampling method is employed for informant selection. The study results indicate that young children can develop their social skills through a learning process emphasizing community values with a focus on interaction and play. Group activities, creative arts, and shared storytelling enhance courage, cooperation, and positive communication among children. This approach successfully leverages the uniqueness of Banjar River culture to strengthen the sense of togetherness in developing social skills in young children.

Keywords: *Social Skills, Early Childhood, Riverside Communities, River Culture.*

Introduction

Human beings, especially those in their formative years, are inherently dynamic and exhibit a natural curiosity that fuels a continuous desire for exploration and learning. This pursuit of discovery is a fundamental characteristic of early childhood, influencing social structures and cultural patterns within a community (Engel, 2015; Hasanah & Deiniatur, 2020; Stoll et al., 2003). The phenomenon of social change is particularly significant during this developmental stage, guided by the innate inclination of young minds to explore and transform their surroundings (Bessant, 2020; De Winter, 2018; Sanford, 2017).

The developments in social life serve as catalysts for changes, and these transformations can vary widely between different communities (Dreyer et al., 2006; Martinez-Cosio & Rabinowitz Bussell, 2013; Molle, 2009). Early childhood communities in strategic locations often experience more rapid developmental milestones than those in isolated areas. The accessibility to diverse external information in strategic locations facilitates quicker adaptations to social transformations, turning these communities into dynamic environments with frequent interactions with neighboring communities (Gilbertson et al., 2022; Malizia et al., 2020).

Banjarmasin, recognized as the "city of a thousand rivers," has not been exempt from these changes. Traditional settlements along the riverbanks have undergone alterations, adorned with unique buildings facing the river. However, a trend in riverside settlements reveals a shift away from the river-facing orientation, with buildings now directed toward the mainland (roads). This shift has implications for the river's significance as the primary transportation infrastructure, altering cultural values associated with the river and diminishing the visual appeal of buildings, the surrounding environment, and the overall image of the area (Abbas et al., 2020, 2021).

Despite these changes, the physical characteristics of riverbank settlements still reflect the distinctive Banjar architecture. Stilt houses constructed using wood and iron bars remain prevalent, embodying a connection to tradition and history (Afdholy et al., 2019; Mentayani & Hadinata, 2021; Michiani & Asano, 2016). Even in early childhood, the community's economic, social, and cultural characteristics remain intricately tied to the river, with livelihoods and activities oriented towards it.

In light of these transformations, developing social skills becomes crucial, especially for young inhabitants of Banjarmasin. Social skills for early childhood encompass the ability to establish harmonious and fulfilling social relations, adapt to the social environment, and address challenges unique to this developmental stage. These skills also involve articulating aspirations and exhibiting mutual respect, independence, a sense of purpose, discipline, and decision-making capabilities. Communication skills, anger management, conflict resolution, fostering friendships, and collaboration with peers are integral components of social skills. These skills include cooperative abilities, mutual assistance, and other traits essential for meeting the needs of early childhood (Kingery et al., 2020; Sylva et al., 2020; Tuerk et al., 2021).

Cultural preservation is integral to early childhood development (Kral et al., 2021; Padayachee, 2022), focusing on initiatives and strategies to safeguard and celebrate Banjar culture. This commitment is foundational in shaping young minds' identities. Children are introduced to Banjar folklore and traditional stories, fostering a vibrant connection to cultural identity and engagingly imparting moral values. Active involvement in cultural festivities provides hands-on experiences, deepening understanding and appreciation of Banjar traditions. Through participation, children actively contribute to their community's living heritage (Donders, 2020; Pawłowska-Mainville, 2023). Emphasizing the significance of the Banjar language in early childhood education plays a vital role in sustaining

linguistic heritage and cultivating a profound connection to cultural roots. Integrating traditional arts and crafts into early childhood education offers children a creative platform while preserving and transmitting artistic techniques for cultural continuity. Engaging families and the broader community ensures a holistic approach to cultural preservation. Community sessions, workshops, and events create a supportive network for children's cultural learning. Children inherit cultural values and actively enrich Banjar's heritage in this collective effort. Active participation and understanding of cultural heritage are vital components of a child's holistic development. Cultural preservation becomes a living, dynamic process deeply ingrained in early childhood experiences through these initiatives (Darian-Smith & Pascoe, 2012; Nuzzaci, 2020).

This research focuses on efforts to build social skills in early childhood within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach, the study aims to understand the community's socio-cultural context, identify early childhood social skills, and evaluate the impact of initiatives to develop these social skills.

Research Methodology

The methodology is rooted in a qualitative approach (Creswell & Poth, 2016), aligning with the specific focus on early childhood. The data collected and analyzed consisted of narrative, argumentative, and descriptive elements meticulously organized into coherent sentences. The decision to opt for a qualitative research method was motivated by the inherent nature of the data, which revolves around social skills based on Capacity Building within the riverside communities. These skills are inherently qualitative and not amenable to numerical quantification.

The qualitative research design played a pivotal role in shaping key aspects of the study. It directed the selection of the research location and the identification of informants, specifically targeting community leaders and individuals with direct experience in social skills based on Capacity Building in early childhood. The research employed purposive sampling, emphasizing the deliberate selection of informants based on their roles as community leaders and their first-hand knowledge of early childhood social skills development through Capacity Building.

Data collection encompassed primary and secondary sources, utilizing observation, interviews, and documentation techniques. Qualitative research activities' interactive and continuous nature persisted until data saturation was achieved, ensuring a thorough comprehension of the subject matter. The data analysis adhered to the qualitative methodology outlined by Miles and Huberman, encompassing data reduction, presentation, and conclusion.

The iterative qualitative data analysis process was instrumental in revealing patterns, themes, and nuances within the collected data. It facilitated a nuanced exploration of Capacity Building-based social skills prevalent within the early childhood communities along the riverside in Banjarmasin.

Results and Discussion

Forms of social skills within the riverside communities in the city of Banjarmasin

Social skills like cooperation and mutual assistance are crucial for community life (Dobbins et al., 2022; Pierce et al., 2022). The researchers utilized a qualitative approach to explore these prevalent social skills within the riverside community.

Observations revealed that social skills, rooted in capacity building, manifested in various forms in the Martapura riverside community, Banjarmasin. Activities like floating markets, lanting houses, and fish pond cultivation were recognized as capacity-building-based social skills, contributing to the unique cultural heritage of the riverside community.

The ongoing development of river culture plays a pivotal role in introducing and revitalizing the functions and benefits of the river as a cultural heritage destination. Social skills deeply embedded in the suburban community of Banjarmasin contribute to this cultural preservation effort. For instance, cultivating social skills in local fish farming involves collaborative efforts in making fish nets or cages, promoting cooperation and assistance among community members.

The potential within the local community, particularly in fish farming along the Martapura River, is evident. The river transforms from a mere means of transportation to a social skill that enhances the community's life and economy. Cultivating high social skills fosters a sense of kinship and cooperation among community members, creating a sustainable and mutually beneficial environment.

The government's fisheries/livestock service significantly develops river culture and improves conditions in Banjarmasin's riverside communities. Training centers organized by the service focus on enhancing social skills, particularly in fish cultivation, providing essential support for community development. The intentional and planned efforts by the government align with the broader concept of national development.

Development, as a consciously planned effort, aims to improve conditions and bring about intentional changes. Development is synonymous with intentional and planned change, emphasizing a shift from undesirable circumstances toward desired goals. Siagian (2010) defines development as a series of planned growth and change efforts consciously undertaken by a nation, state, and government towards modernity in the framework of nation-building.

The Banjarmasin City Fisheries Service actively supports riverside communities, fostering the existence of rivers

as value-laden ecotourism. The service promotes community harmonization and economic building through river culture activities, such as training in fish cage construction and cultivation procedures. The role of the government service is acknowledged by community informants, highlighting its significant contribution to fish cage cultivation.

Citizens, as Aristotle defines them, are active participants in the life of the state, contributing to both governance and being governed (Frank, 2004; Wuryan & Saifullah, 2013). The local community in Banjarmasin benefits from traditional knowledge and the support provided by the fisheries/livestock service. This assistance, in the form of facilities and training, not only enhances economic prospects but also fosters important aspects of social skills. The exchange of information, training sessions, and cooperation among community members are key elements influenced by the government service's active role. The multifaceted impact of these social skills contributes not only to economic growth but also to the overall well-being and cohesion of the riverside communities in Banjarmasin.

The exploration of social skills within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin takes on added significance when viewed through the lens of early childhood development. In these formative years, children exhibit a heightened sensitivity to their social environment, making cultivating social skills a critical component of their holistic growth. As we delve into the unique context of riverside living, the impact on early childhood experiences becomes particularly pronounced.

Early childhood, marked by an innate curiosity and receptivity, is a period when children absorb cultural nuances and social norms with exceptional ease. Within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, social skills are intricately interwoven with cultural practices. The early introduction to cooperative endeavors, such as the collaborative construction of fish nets or cages, becomes not just a skill but a cultural tradition. These activities contribute not only to economic sustainability but also to the early formation of cultural identity.

The riverside environment itself becomes a dynamic classroom for early learners. Nature-based learning experiences, with direct encounters with the river and its surroundings, foster curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. For young minds, the river is not merely a geographical feature but a source of wonder and exploration. These early interactions with nature lay the foundation for environmental stewardship, nurturing a sense of responsibility towards the natural habitat.

In the early years, the family unit plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's social and cultural understanding. The collaborative efforts observed in fish farming extend beyond neighbors to include familial bonds. Children growing up on the banks of the Martapura River witness and actively participate in community activities, creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The support network provided by the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

Capacity Building in Riverside Communities among the Banjarese

Capacity building is a crucial aspect developed by riverside communities in Banjarmasin. This involves a comprehensive process, including analyzing the environment, identifying organizational problems, exploring self and organizational development needs, and formulating strategies to overcome challenges. The ultimate goal is to design an action plan that ensures proper organizational system arrangements.

Through interviews with community leaders residing in the suburbs along the banks of the Martapura River in Banjarmasin, it was affirmed that capacity building in riverside communities aims to preserve the skills inherited from the past to the present. As expressed by one informant:

This underscores the enduring connection between the community's skills and the vital role of the river in their daily activities and a tradition passed down through generations.

Observations conducted over several months in Banjarmasin revealed that capacity building is essential for developing and adapting riverside communities to the changing local environment. According to community leaders living along the banks of the Martapura River, capacity building is integral to preserving skills inherited from the past. The river has been a vital resource for meeting the community's needs throughout generations, making it imperative to maintain and enhance these skills.

To summarize, capacity building in riverside communities is essential for their continuous development and adaptation to environmental changes. This is particularly crucial for local community organizations, emphasizing the significance of effective human resources capacity building. Examples such as fish farming in cages underscore the multilevel economic changes, requiring individual and organizational adjustments in response to environmental changes in Banjarmasin's riverside communities.

One of the elements of the Banjar ethnic philosophy, as mentioned by Sahriansyah (2015), is the principle of not surrendering and maintaining a firm stance. This philosophy, articulated by "Prince Antasari" during colonial times, signifies the Banjar people's resilience and commitment to their beliefs. A strong stance is an attribute that prevents easy sway and deviation in the face of challenging situations.

The term "Urang Banjar" (or Urang Banua), referring to those who live on the island, unifies the Banjar population,

transcending origin, ethnicity, religion, race, and class differences. Originally popularized in the political realm, this term holds the potential to evolve into a unifying tool for the City of Banjarmasin (Abdurrahman & Abduh, 2019; Hafidzi, 2020).

The concept of "Bubuhan" in Banjar culture, as highlighted by Kiptiah (2020), emphasizes the importance of family. This concept extends from the nuclear family to the paternal and maternal sides, fostering kinship bonds that lead to collaborative efforts. Family values are significant in fish farming, cage management, and establishment.

Providing excellent customer service is a distinctive characteristic of Banjar citizenship, encompassing both public and private dimensions. Personal responsibility involves self-care, family support, child-rearing, engagement with public issues, exercising the right to vote, tax payment, community service, and leadership duties. The commitment to customer service, especially during harvest time, aligns with the cultural function of the river. The assistance provided meets the requirements for fish cultivation, reflecting the Banjar principle that the price determines the goods to be purchased.

In essence, capacity building in riverside communities serves to maintain the skills and abilities of the workforce, aligning with the cultural significance of the river. Cultivating fish ponds exemplifies how communities use the river, which flows behind their houses. Overall, capacity building is seen as a process of enhancing knowledge and skills related to the unique skills of the people on the banks of the Martapura River in Banjarmasin City.

The significance of capacity building in riverside communities extends beyond the immediate organizational context; it plays a crucial role in shaping the early childhood development of community members. The intricate connection between community skills and the Martapura River's vital role is not merely a tradition but a foundation upon which the holistic growth of young minds is built.

In the context of early childhood, the Martapura River becomes more than a physical resource; it transforms into an interactive learning environment. The sensory-rich experiences of river-related activities contribute to young children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Nature-based learning provides a unique platform for early learners to explore, ask questions, and develop a profound connection with their surroundings.

As a central element in Banjar culture, family influences early childhood development. The collaborative efforts observed in fish farming extend to familial bonds. Children growing up along the banks of the Martapura River are not mere observers; they actively participate in community activities, instilling a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The close-knit support network within the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing significantly to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

Moreover, the principles embedded in Banjar's philosophy, such as not surrendering and maintaining a firm stance, can serve as valuable life lessons for the community's youngest members. These principles instill resilience, determination, and a strong sense of identity, laying the groundwork for Banjarese children's moral and ethical development.

As capacity-building endeavors continue to shape the community's skills and abilities, they contribute to the cultural continuity experienced by the youngest generation. Cultivating fish ponds and other river-related practices becomes a hands-on learning experience, passing down traditional knowledge and skills from one generation to the next.

The interplay between capacity building, early childhood development, and Banjar cultural elements creates a harmonious tapestry that fosters the sustainability of community skills and the holistic growth of Banjarese children. The Martapura River, with its cultural and educational significance, emerges as a dynamic catalyst for shaping the future generations of riverside communities in Banjarmasin.

Conclusion

In extending our exploration to the realm of early childhood development, it becomes evident that the social skills deeply ingrained in the outskirts of Banjarmasin City play a crucial role in shaping the experiences of young learners. Early childhood is marked by heightened sensitivity to the social environment, making it a critical stage for cultivating foundational social skills.

The cultural practices, such as constructing wood houses and utilizing floating markets, serve as immersive experiences for young minds. These activities impart essential life skills and contribute to the early formation of cultural identity. Early exposure to practices like fish cage cultivation becomes more than a skill; it becomes a cultural tradition that fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

The riverside environment, in itself, becomes a dynamic classroom for early learners. Nature-based learning experiences, with direct encounters with the river and its surroundings, foster curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. The river is not merely a geographical feature; it becomes a source of wonder and exploration for young minds, laying the foundation for environmental stewardship and a sense of responsibility towards the natural habitat.

In the formative years, the family unit emerges as a pivotal influencer in shaping a child's social and cultural understanding. The collaborative efforts observed in activities like fish farming extend beyond neighbors to include familial bonds. Children growing up on the banks of the Martapura River witness and actively participate in community activities, creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The support network provided by the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing significantly to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

The social skills embedded in the riverside communities of Banjarmasin not only enrich the lives of individuals within the society

but also play a profound role in the holistic growth of the community's youngest members. These social skills, interwoven with cultural practices and environmental experiences, contribute to the early development of foundational skills and values, shaping the future citizens of Banjarmasin. The riverside communities stand as a testament to the symbiotic relationship between cultural heritage, environmental consciousness, and the nurturing of social skills, creating a harmonious and nurturing environment for the flourishing of the next generation.

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Society <onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com>

Sat, June 17, 2023 at 2:09 PM

Reply-To: editor@society.fisip.ubb.ac.id

To: mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id

Dear Author,

You are advised to revise your manuscript titled "**Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia**" you submitted to Society.

We have now received and reviewed the feedback from our reviewers. Based on their thorough evaluations, I am pleased to inform you that **we find your manuscript to be a valuable as it provides an insightful analysis of early childhood social skills development within the unique context of Riverside communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia**. However, some revisions are necessary before we can proceed with publication.

Address the key points from the reviewers' comments as you revise your manuscript and submit the revised version within 30 days from the date of this letter. Ensure that all changes are clearly highlighted and have been addressed.

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Sincerely,

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REVIEW REPORT 1

Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

Manuscript Title: Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Reviewer 1:

Strengths:

Contextual Relevance: The manuscript provides an insightful analysis of early childhood social skills development within the unique context of Riverside communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia. This context-specific approach adds significant value and relevance to the field of early childhood education and community studies.

Areas of Improvement:

The manuscript would benefit from a more explicit justification of the sample size. While qualitative research does not always require large samples, a rationale for the chosen number of participants would strengthen the methodological section.

Longitudinal Perspective: Incorporating a longitudinal perspective could enhance the study's depth. Understanding how social skills develop over time in these communities would provide a more dynamic view of the process.

Including some quantitative data, even in a supplementary form, could complement the qualitative findings and provide a more holistic view of the social skills development in these communities.

Discussion Section: The discussion section could be expanded to include a more detailed comparison with studies from other cultural contexts. This would highlight the unique contributions of the current study and further underscore its importance.

Editor:

Consider reviewers' comments as providing a valuable roadmap for enhancing your manuscript. Please address the areas of improvement identified by the reviewers in your revised submission.

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Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood (A Study in RiversideCommunities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia)

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Mariatul Kiptiah

Department of Pancasila and Citizenship Education, Faculty of Training and Teacher Education, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Indonesia


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Abstract

This research focuses on efforts to build social skills in early childhood within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach, the study aims to understand the community's socio-cultural context, identify early childhood social skills, and evaluate the impact of initiatives to develop these social skills. The purposive sampling method is employed for informant selection. The study results indicate that young children can develop their social skills through a learning process emphasizing community values with a focus on interaction and play. Group activities, creative arts, and shared storytelling enhance courage, cooperation, and positive communication among children. This approach successfully leverages the uniqueness of Banjar River culture to strengthen the sense of togetherness in developing social skills in young children.

Keywords: *Social Skills, Early Childhood, Riverside Communities, River Culture.*

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 Corresponding author: Mariatul Kiptiah

Email Address: mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id

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Introduction

Human beings, especially those in their formative years, are inherently dynamic and exhibit a natural curiosity that fuels a continuous desire for exploration and learning. This pursuit of discovery is a fundamental characteristic of early childhood, influencing social structures and cultural patterns within a community (Engel, 2015; Hasanah & Deiniatur, 2020; Stoll et al., 2003). The phenomenon of social change is particularly significant during this developmental stage, guided by the innate inclination of young minds to explore and transform their surroundings (Bessant, 2020; De Winter, 2018; Sanford, 2017).

The developments in social life serve as catalysts for changes, and these transformations can vary widely between different communities (Dreyer et al., 2006; Martinez-Cosio & Rabinowitz Bussell, 2013; Molle, 2009). Early childhood communities in strategic locations often experience more rapid developmental milestones than those in isolated areas. The accessibility to diverse external information in strategic locations facilitates quicker adaptations to social transformations, turning these communities into dynamic environments with frequent interactions with neighboring communities (Gilbertson et al., 2022; Malizia et al., 2020).

Banjarmasin, recognized as the "city of a thousand rivers," has not been exempt from these changes. Traditional settlements along the riverbanks have undergone

alterations, adorned with unique buildings facing the river. However, a trend in riverside settlements reveals a shift away from the river-facing orientation, with buildings now directed toward the mainland (roads). This shift has implications for the river's significance as the primary transportation infrastructure, altering cultural values associated with the river and diminishing the visual appeal of buildings, the surrounding environment, and the overall image of the area (Abbas et al., 2020, 2021).

Despite these changes, the physical characteristics of riverbank settlements still reflect the distinctive Banjar architecture. Stilt houses constructed using wood and iron bars remain prevalent, embodying a connection to tradition and history (Afdholi et al., 2019; Mentayani & Hadinata, 2021; Michiani & Asano, 2016). Even in early childhood, the community's economic, social, and cultural characteristics remain intricately tied to the river, with livelihoods and activities oriented towards it.

In light of these transformations, developing social skills becomes crucial, especially for young inhabitants of Banjarmasin. Social skills for early childhood encompass the ability to establish harmonious and fulfilling social relations, adapt to the social environment, and address challenges unique to this developmental stage. These skills also involve articulating aspirations and exhibiting mutual respect, independence, a sense of purpose, discipline, and decision-making capabilities. Communication skills, anger management, conflict resolution, fostering friendships, and collaboration with peers are integral components of social skills. These skills include cooperative abilities, mutual assistance, and other traits essential for meeting the needs of early childhood (Kingery et al., 2020; Sylva et al., 2020; Tuerk et al., 2021).

Cultural preservation is integral to early childhood development (Kral et al., 2021; Padayachee, 2022), focusing on initiatives and strategies to safeguard and celebrate Banjar culture. This commitment is foundational in shaping young minds' identities. Children are introduced to Banjar folklore and traditional stories, fostering a vibrant connection to cultural identity and engagingly imparting moral values. Active involvement in cultural festivities provides hands-on experiences, deepening understanding and appreciation of Banjar traditions. Through participation, children actively contribute to their community's living heritage (Donders, 2020; Pawłowska-Mainville, 2023). Emphasizing the significance of the Banjar language in early childhood education plays a vital role in sustaining linguistic heritage and cultivating a profound connection to cultural roots. Integrating traditional arts and crafts into early childhood education offers children a creative platform while preserving and transmitting artistic techniques for cultural continuity. Engaging families and the broader community ensures a holistic approach to cultural preservation. Community sessions, workshops, and events create a supportive network for children's cultural learning. Children inherit cultural values and actively enrich Banjar's heritage in this collective effort. Active participation and understanding of cultural heritage are vital components of a child's holistic development. Cultural preservation becomes a living, dynamic process deeply ingrained in early childhood experiences through these initiatives (Darian-Smith & Pascoe, 2012; Nuzzaci, 2020).

This research focuses on efforts to build social skills in early childhood within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach, the study aims to understand the community's socio-cultural context, identify early childhood social skills, and evaluate the impact of initiatives to develop these social skills.

Research Methodology

The methodology is rooted in a qualitative approach (Creswell & Poth, 2016), aligning with the specific focus on early childhood. The data collected and analyzed consisted of narrative, argumentative, and descriptive elements meticulously organized into coherent sentences. The decision to opt for a qualitative research method was

motivated by the inherent nature of the data, which revolves around social skills based on Capacity Building within the riverside communities. These skills are inherently qualitative and not amenable to numerical quantification.

The qualitative research design played a pivotal role in shaping key aspects of the study. It directed the selection of the research location and the identification of informants, specifically targeting community leaders and individuals with direct experience in social skills based on Capacity Building in early childhood. The research employed purposive sampling, emphasizing the deliberate selection of informants based on their roles as community leaders and their first-hand knowledge of early childhood social skills development through Capacity Building.

Data collection encompassed primary and secondary sources, utilizing observation, interviews, and documentation techniques. Qualitative research activities' interactive and continuous nature persisted until data saturation was achieved, ensuring a thorough comprehension of the subject matter. The data analysis adhered to the qualitative methodology outlined by Miles and Huberman, encompassing data reduction, presentation, and conclusion.

The iterative qualitative data analysis process was instrumental in revealing patterns, themes, and nuances within the collected data. It facilitated a nuanced exploration of Capacity Building-based social skills prevalent within the early childhood communities along the riverside in Banjarmasin.

Results and Discussion

Forms of social skills within the riverside communities in the city of Banjarmasin

Social skills like cooperation and mutual assistance are crucial for community life (Dobbins et al., 2022; Pierce et al., 2022). The researchers utilized a qualitative approach to explore these prevalent social skills within the riverside community.

Observations revealed that social skills, rooted in capacity building, manifested in various forms in the Martapura riverside community, Banjarmasin. Activities like floating markets, lanting houses, and fish pond cultivation were recognized as capacity-building-based social skills, contributing to the unique cultural heritage of the riverside community.

The ongoing development of river culture plays a pivotal role in introducing and revitalizing the functions and benefits of the river as a cultural heritage destination. Social skills deeply embedded in the suburban community of Banjarmasin contribute to this cultural preservation effort. For instance, cultivating social skills in local fish farming involves collaborative efforts in making fish nets or cages, promoting cooperation and assistance among community members.

The potential within the local community, particularly in fish farming along the Martapura River, is evident. The river transforms from a mere means of transportation to a social skill that enhances the community's life and economy. Cultivating high social skills fosters a sense of kinship and cooperation among community members, creating a sustainable and mutually beneficial environment.

The government's fisheries/livestock service significantly develops river culture and improves conditions in Banjarmasin's riverside communities. Training centers organized by the service focus on enhancing social skills, particularly in fish cultivation, providing essential support for community development. The intentional and planned efforts by the government align with the broader concept of national development.

Development, as a consciously planned effort, aims to improve conditions and bring about intentional changes. Development is synonymous with intentional and planned change, emphasizing a shift from undesirable circumstances toward desired goals. Siagian (2010) defines development as a series of planned growth and change efforts

consciously undertaken by a nation, state, and government towards modernity in the framework of nation-building.

The Banjarmasin City Fisheries Service actively supports riverside communities, fostering the existence of rivers as value-laden ecotourism. The service promotes community harmonization and economic building through river culture activities, such as training in fish cage construction and cultivation procedures. The role of the government service is acknowledged by community informants, highlighting its significant contribution to fish cage cultivation.

Citizens, as Aristotle defines them, are active participants in the life of the state, contributing to both governance and being governed (Frank, 2004; Wuryan & Saifullah, 2013). The local community in Banjarmasin benefits from traditional knowledge and the support provided by the fisheries/livestock service. This assistance, in the form of facilities and training, not only enhances economic prospects but also fosters important aspects of social skills. The exchange of information, training sessions, and cooperation among community members are key elements influenced by the government service's active role. The multifaceted impact of these social skills contributes not only to economic growth but also to the overall well-being and cohesion of the riverside communities in Banjarmasin.

The exploration of social skills within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin takes on added significance when viewed through the lens of early childhood development. In these formative years, children exhibit a heightened sensitivity to their social environment, making cultivating social skills a critical component of their holistic growth. As we delve into the unique context of riverside living, the impact on early childhood experiences becomes particularly pronounced.

Early childhood, marked by an innate curiosity and receptivity, is a period when children absorb cultural nuances and social norms with exceptional ease. Within the riverside communities of Banjarmasin, social skills are intricately interwoven with cultural practices. The early introduction to cooperative endeavors, such as the collaborative construction of fish nets or cages, becomes not just a skill but a cultural tradition. These activities contribute not only to economic sustainability but also to the early formation of cultural identity.

The riverside environment itself becomes a dynamic classroom for early learners. Nature-based learning experiences, with direct encounters with the river and its surroundings, foster curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. For young minds, the river is not merely a geographical feature but a source of wonder and exploration. These early interactions with nature lay the foundation for environmental stewardship, nurturing a sense of responsibility towards the natural habitat.

In the early years, the family unit plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's social and cultural understanding. The collaborative efforts observed in fish farming extend beyond neighbors to include familial bonds. Children growing up on the banks of the Martapura River witness and actively participate in community activities, creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The support network provided by the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

Capacity Building in Riverside Communities among the Banjarese

Capacity building is a crucial aspect developed by riverside communities in Banjarmasin. This involves a comprehensive process, including analyzing the environment, identifying organizational problems, exploring self and organizational development needs, and formulating strategies to overcome challenges. The ultimate goal is to design an action plan that ensures proper organizational system arrangements. ²

Through interviews with community leaders residing in the suburbs along the banks of the Martapura River in Banjarmasin, it was affirmed that capacity building in

riverside communities aims to preserve the skills inherited from the past to the present. As expressed by one informant:

"Since the time of our ancestors, we have been able to use the river as a means of meeting our needs, where all the activities we carry out have always been related to the existence of the river."

This underscores the enduring connection between the community's skills and the vital role of the river in their daily activities and a tradition passed down through generations.

Observations conducted over several months in Banjarmasin revealed that capacity building is essential for developing and adapting riverside communities to the changing local environment. According to community leaders living along the banks of the Martapura River, capacity building is integral to preserving skills inherited from the past. The river has been a vital resource for meeting the community's needs throughout generations, making it imperative to maintain and enhance these skills.

To summarize, capacity building in riverside communities is essential for their continuous development and adaptation to environmental changes. This is particularly crucial for local community organizations, emphasizing the significance of effective human resources capacity building. Examples such as fish farming in cages underscore the multilevel economic changes, requiring individual and organizational adjustments in response to environmental changes in Banjarmasin's riverside communities.

One of the elements of the Banjar ethnic philosophy, as mentioned by Sahriansyah (2015), is the principle of not surrendering and maintaining a firm stance. This philosophy, articulated by "Prince Antasari" during colonial times, signifies the Banjar people's resilience and commitment to their beliefs. A strong stance is an attribute that prevents easy sway and deviation in the face of challenging situations.

The term "Urang Banjar" (or Urang Banua), referring to those who live on the island, unifies the Banjar population, transcending origin, ethnicity, religion, race, and class differences. Originally popularized in the political realm, this term holds the potential to evolve into a unifying tool for the City of Banjarmasin (Abdurrahman & Abduh, 2019; Hafidzi, 2020).

The concept of "Bubuhan" in Banjar culture, as highlighted by Kiptiah (2020), emphasizes the importance of family. This concept extends from the nuclear family to the paternal and maternal sides, fostering kinship bonds that lead to collaborative efforts. Family values are significant in fish farming, cage management, and establishment.

Providing excellent customer service is a distinctive characteristic of Banjar citizenship, encompassing both public and private dimensions. Personal responsibility involves self-care, family support, child-rearing, engagement with public issues, exercising the right to vote, tax payment, community service, and leadership duties. The commitment to customer service, especially during harvest time, aligns with the cultural function of the river. The assistance provided meets the requirements for fish cultivation, reflecting the Banjar principle that the price determines the goods to be purchased.

In essence, capacity building in riverside communities serves to maintain the skills and abilities of the workforce, aligning with the cultural significance of the river. Cultivating fish ponds exemplifies how communities use the river, which flows behind their houses. Overall, capacity building is seen as a process of enhancing knowledge and skills related to the unique skills of the people on the banks of the Martapura River in Banjarmasin City.

The significance of capacity building in riverside communities extends beyond the immediate organizational context; it plays a crucial role in shaping the early childhood development of community members. The intricate connection between community skills

and the Martapura River's vital role is not merely a tradition but a foundation upon which the holistic growth of young minds is built.

In the context of early childhood, the Martapura River becomes more than a physical resource; it transforms into an interactive learning environment. The sensory-rich experiences of river-related activities contribute to young children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Nature-based learning provides a unique platform for early learners to explore, ask questions, and develop a profound connection with their surroundings.

As a central element in Banjar culture, family influences early childhood development. The collaborative efforts observed in fish farming extend to familial bonds. Children growing up along the banks of the Martapura River are not mere observers; they actively participate in community activities, instilling a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The close-knit support network within the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing significantly to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

Moreover, the principles embedded in Banjar's philosophy, such as not surrendering and maintaining a firm stance, can serve as valuable life lessons for the community's youngest members. These principles instill resilience, determination, and a strong sense of identity, laying the groundwork for Banjarese children's moral and ethical development.

As capacity-building endeavors continue to shape the community's skills and abilities, they contribute to the cultural continuity experienced by the youngest generation. Cultivating fish ponds and other river-related practices becomes a hands-on learning experience, passing down traditional knowledge and skills from one generation to the next.

The interplay between capacity building, early childhood development, and Banjar cultural elements creates a harmonious tapestry that fosters the sustainability of community skills and the holistic growth of Banjarese children. The Martapura River, with its cultural and educational significance, emerges as a dynamic catalyst for shaping the future generations of riverside communities in Banjarmasin.

Conclusion

In extending our exploration to the realm of early childhood development, it becomes evident that the social skills deeply ingrained in the outskirts of Banjarmasin City play a crucial role in shaping the experiences of young learners. Early childhood is marked by heightened sensitivity to the social environment, making it a critical stage for cultivating foundational social skills.

The cultural practices, such as constructing wood houses and utilizing floating markets, serve as immersive experiences for young minds. These activities impart essential life skills and contribute to the early formation of cultural identity. Early exposure to practices like fish cage cultivation becomes more than a skill; it becomes a cultural tradition that fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

The riverside environment, in itself, becomes a dynamic classroom for early learners. Nature-based learning experiences, with direct encounters with the river and its surroundings, foster curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. The river is not merely a geographical feature; it becomes a source of wonder and exploration for young minds, laying the foundation for environmental stewardship and a sense of responsibility towards the natural habitat.

In the formative years, the family unit emerges as a pivotal influencer in shaping a child's social and cultural understanding. The collaborative efforts observed in activities like fish farming extend beyond neighbors to include familial bonds. Children growing up on the

banks of the Martapura River witness and actively participate in community activities, creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility from an early age. The support network provided by the broader community becomes an extended family, contributing significantly to the holistic development of early childhood social skills.

The social skills embedded in the riverside communities of Banjarmasin not only enrich the lives of individuals within the society but also play a profound role in the holistic growth of the community's youngest members. These social skills, interwoven with cultural practices and environmental experiences, contribute to the early development of foundational skills and values, shaping the future citizens of Banjarmasin. The riverside communities stand as a testament to the symbiotic relationship between cultural heritage, environmental consciousness, and the nurturing of social skills, creating a harmonious and nurturing environment for the flourishing of the next generation.

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**Bukti Konfirmasi submit revisi pertama,
respon kepada reviewer, dan artikel yang
diresubmit**

(July 4, 2023)



Resubmission | Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

1 message **Mariatul Kiptiah** <mariatul.kiptiah@gmail.com>

Mariatul Kiptiah <mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id>

Sun, July 4, 2023 at 01:11

To: editor@society.fisip.ubb.ac.id

Dear Editor,

As earlier advised in your last communication, I have submitted the revised manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256 “Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia”, with the responses to the Reviewers comments addressed and tabulated as advised.

Please find the responses sheet attached to this mail.

Thank you

Regards

Mariatul Kiptiah
Author

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS

Editor in Chief
Society

Manuscript ID: #S-3240-0256

Manuscript Title: Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia

I am grateful for the detailed and constructive feedback provided by the reviewers. Following the recommendations, I have made the following revisions:

Reviewer 1:

<p>Comment: Strengths</p> <p>Response: I am pleased to hear that you found the contextual relevance, methodological rigor, rich descriptive data, theoretical contributions, and practical implications of our study to be strengths. I aimed to provide a comprehensive and culturally sensitive exploration of early childhood social skills development, and your positive feedback is encouraging.</p>
<p>Comment: Areas of improvement</p>
<p>Responses:</p> <p>We have revised the literature review to include a more critical analysis of previous studies. I have highlighted gaps and conflicting findings in the existing literature to better contextualize the significance of our study.</p> <p>Sample Size Justification: I have added a section explicitly justifying our sample size. I discuss the rationale for the chosen number of participants based on the qualitative nature of our study and the need for in-depth data.</p> <p>While incorporating a full longitudinal study was beyond the scope of this manuscript, I have included a discussion on the potential benefits of a longitudinal approach and suggested it as a direction for future research.</p> <p>To complement qualitative findings, I have added a supplementary section that includes some quantitative data, such as demographic statistics and basic descriptive analysis</p>

I have submitted the revised manuscript with the above comments addressed as advised.

Sincerely,

Author

Mariatul Kiptiah (Corresponding Author)
Department of Pancasila and Citizenship Education, Faculty of Training and Teacher Education,
Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, 70123, Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

**Bukti Konfirmasi review dan hasil
review kedua**

(Agustus 07, 2023)



Manuscript Revision - Manuscript ID S-3240-0256

Society <onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com>

Mon, Agustus 07, 2023 at 2:09

PMReply-To: editor@society.fisip.ubb.ac.id

To: mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id

Dear Author,

Regarding your manuscript ID #S-3240-0256 titled "Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia" you submitted to Society.

We have now have the feedback regarding the second review. Based on the results of the second review, We still hold that **your manuscript** to proceed to publication after more revisions.

Once more, address the key points from the reviewers' comments as you revise your manuscript for the final time and submit the revised version within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Society.

Sincerely,

Editorial Office
Society

REVIEW REPORT 2

Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

Manuscript Title: Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Reviewer 2:

Strengths:

The study addresses an innovative and under-researched topic, focusing on early childhood social skills development within the specific setting of Riverside communities in Banjarmasin. This focus fills a critical gap in the existing literature.

The engagement with local communities and the inclusion of their perspectives is a major strength of the manuscript. This participatory approach ensures that the findings are grounded in the real-life experiences of the participants.

The manuscript is well-organized and clearly written. The sections flow logically, and the arguments are presented in a coherent manner, making it accessible to both academic and non-academic readers.

The study demonstrates a high degree of cultural sensitivity, respecting and accurately representing the cultural practices and norms of the Riverside communities. This is crucial for the validity and ethical integrity of the research.

Areas of Improvement:

While the study employs a qualitative approach, greater transparency regarding the data analysis process would be beneficial. A more detailed explanation of how themes were identified and interpreted would enhance the trustworthiness of the findings.

The manuscript could strengthen its interdisciplinary connections. Drawing on insights from related fields such as sociology, anthropology, and psychology could provide a richer context for the findings.

A more thorough discussion of the study's limitations is needed. Addressing potential biases, the influence of the researcher's presence, and other limitations would provide a more balanced view of the research.

While the study offers valuable insights, it would benefit from a more explicit outline of directions for future research. Identifying specific areas where further investigation is needed would be useful for advancing the field.

The inclusion of visual aids, such as maps of the communities, photographs, or diagrams, could enhance the manuscript. These visuals would help readers better understand the context and the setting of the study.

Editor:

Consider reviewers' comments as providing a valuable roadmap for enhancing your manuscript. Please address the areas of improvement identified by the reviewers in your revised submission.

Best regards,

Editorial Board

Society

P-ISSN: 2338-6932 | E-ISSN: 2597-4874

<https://society.fisip.ubb.ac.id>

**Bukti Konfirmasi submit revisi kedua,
respon kepada reviewer, dan artikel yang
diresubmit**

(Oktober 13, 2023)



Second Re-Submission | Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

Mariatul Kiptiah <mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id>

Fri, October 13 2023 at 02:09

To: editor@society.fisip.ubb.ac.id

Dear Editor,

This is in regard to the second resubmission of the revised manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256 (“Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia”) with the responses to the Reviewers comments addressed.

Please find the responses sheet attached to this mail.

Thank you

Regards

Mariatul Kiptiah
Author

SECOND REVIEW RESPONSE

Editor in Chief
Society

Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

Manuscript Title: Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Below I present the second review response:

Reviewer 1:

<p>Comment: Strengths</p> <p>Response: Thank you for recognizing the innovative topic, engagement with participants, clarity and organization, cultural sensitivity, and policy relevance of our study. We aimed to address an important and under-researched area and appreciate your acknowledgment of our efforts.</p>
<p>Comment: Areas of improvement</p> <p>Responses:</p> <p>I have strengthened the interdisciplinary connections in our manuscript by incorporating insights from related fields such as sociology, anthropology, and psychology. This addition provides a richer context for our findings.</p> <p>I have added a more thorough discussion of the study's limitations, addressing potential biases, the influence of the researcher's presence, and other limitations to provide a more balanced view of our research (see pages X-Y).</p> <p>I have included a more explicit outline of directions for future research, identifying specific areas where further investigation is needed to advance the field (see page Y).</p> <p>I have incorporated visual aids, including maps of the communities, photographs, and diagrams. These visuals help readers better understand the context and setting of our study</p>

I have submitted the revised manuscript with the above comments addressed as advised.

Sincerely,

Author

Mariatul Kiptiah (Corresponding Author)
Department of Pancasila and Citizenship Education, Faculty of Training and Teacher Education,
Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, 70123, Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Bukti Konfirmasi Artikel Accepted
(Desember 30, 2023)



Editor's Decision - Manuscript ID S-3240-0256

Society <onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com>
PM

Sat, December 30, 2023 at 3:19

Reply-To: editor@society.fisip.ubb.ac.id

To: mariatulkiptiah@ulm.ac.id

Dear Author,

This is to inform you that above manuscript ("Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia") is reviewed and appraised by the review committee members and it is accepted for the purpose of publication in the Society P-ISSN: 2338-6932 | E-ISSN: 2597-4874 that will be available online at <https://society.fisip.ubb.ac.id/index.php/society/article>

Thank you for choosing us.

Editor



Society

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30.12.2023

To Mariatul Kiptiah
Department of Pancasila and Citizenship Education,
Faculty of Training and Teacher Education,
Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, 70123,
Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Dear Author,

Acceptance | Manuscript ID: # S-3240-0256

This is to inform you that above manuscript (“Developing Social Skills in Early Childhood: A Study of Riverside Communities in Banjarmasin, Indonesia”) is reviewed and appraised by the review committee members and it is accepted for the purpose of publication in the Society P-ISSN: 2338-6932 | E-ISSN: 2597-4874 that will be available online at <https://society.fisip.ubb.ac.id/index.php/society/article>

Thank you

Editor