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Impact Analysis of Local Balinese Cultural Values on Consumer Purchasing **Decisions in the Global Market of Handicraft Products**

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Received: October 5, 2023Accepted: November 20, 2023Published: November 30, 2023	ABSTRACT : This study aims to explore how local cultural values in Bali influence consumer choices in the global handicraft market. As globalization allows regional products to reach international audiences, Bali's handicrafts, known for their high cultural and aesthetic value, serve as a prime example. Using a qualitative approach, this research analyzed relevant articles and documentary sources to understand how Balinese cultural values—such as spirituality and tradition—
Citation: Rajiv., Widodo, S. (2023). Impact Analysis of Local Balinese Cultural Values on Consumer Purchasing Decisions in the Global Market of Handicraft Products. Sinergi International Journal of Economics, 1(3), 132- 145.	affect international consumers' purchasing decisions. The findings reveal that global buyers highly appreciate the originality and uniqueness of Balinese handicrafts, which are deeply rooted in cultural narratives that enrich the buying experience. Moreover, increasing awareness of environmental sustainability and the strategic use of social media for digital marketing have significantly boosted interest and sales. The study underscores the importance of integrating cultural values into marketing strategies and leveraging advanced digital technologies to overcome global market challenges and expand market reach. This research contributes to the understanding of how cultural heritage can be a powerful tool in global marketing and offers practical insights for artisans and marketers aiming to enhance their competitive edge. Keywords: Consumer Purchasing Decisions, Handicrafts, Global Market, Local Cultural Values, Bali.
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INTRODUCTION

Globalization has dramatically transformed numerous sectors, including social, technological, and economic domains, influencing societies and organizations worldwide. As countries continue to engage in economic, social, and cultural exchanges, the resulting interconnectedness has significantly impacted consumer purchasing decisions across diverse cultural backgrounds. These shifts necessitate a deeper understanding of how cultural values shape business strategies and market performance in a globalized environment. Cultural values, which are deeply embedded in society and govern behavior and responses to events, play a crucial role in this process (Hofstede, 2018). They influence not only consumer preferences but also the selection and utilization of products (Schwartz, 2020). In this context, the global market has witnessed the emergence and acceptance of local products from various regions, including Indonesia, due to the pervasive influence of globalization (Usunier & Lee, 2020).

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One of the Indonesian regions that epitomizes strong cultural identity and is profoundly influenced by religious philosophies is Bali. Bali's cultural richness, underpinned by Hinduism, attracts both domestic and international tourists who are eager to explore its diverse customs and traditions. These cultural practices, many of which have been preserved through generations, contribute significantly to Bali's global reputation. The majority of Bali's population is engaged in the tourism and agriculture sectors, industries that are deeply intertwined with the region's cultural and religious practices (Picard & Wood, 2021).

Among the many facets of Balinese culture, traditional crafts stand out as a significant cultural element that appeals to tourists. The term "craft" generally refers to artistic activities, particularly in the decorative arts, involving the creation of functional or ornamental items from natural materials such as metal, wood, clay, glass, cloth, and ceramics. Balinese handicrafts, known for their uniqueness and cultural significance, have gained international recognition. These crafts, initially produced for local consumption, have evolved into valuable commodities that appeal not only to Indonesians but also to a global audience. Their distinctiveness often makes them the preferred choice for souvenirs among visitors to Bali (Vickers, 2020).

Each Balinese handicraft is a reflection of the island's rich and diverse cultural values, including spirituality, tradition, and artistic expression. Bali's products are renowned for their superior beauty and the unique cultural narratives they embody, making them highly desirable to global consumers who seek items with deep historical significance and creative value. As global consumer preferences increasingly gravitate towards products with rich cultural backgrounds, understanding the influence of Bali's local cultural values on international purchasing decisions becomes crucial (Firman, 2021).

This research aims to fill a critical gap in the literature by exploring the influence of Bali's local cultural values on consumer purchasing decisions in the international market for handicraft products. Despite the growing recognition of the importance of cultural factors in global consumer behavior, there remains a limited understanding of how specific cultural values from regions like Bali influence international market dynamics (Kim & Ma, 2023). By addressing this gap, the study contributes to the broader discourse on globalization, cultural values, and consumer behavior, offering insights that can inform both academic research and practical marketing strategies.

The research is guided by the following questions:

- 1. How do Bali's local cultural values influence consumer purchasing decisions in the international market?
- 2. What are the key cultural attributes of Balinese handicrafts that appeal to global consumers?
- 3. How can businesses leverage these cultural values to enhance their market performance in the international arena?

Local Cultural Values of Bali

Values represent essential principles or standards that are considered important by individuals or groups, guiding behavior and decision-making processes (Suharti, 2021). Cultural values, in particular, serve as a crucial element in shaping societal behaviors and attitudes. They are often ingrained through education, leadership, and communal efforts to preserve and promote values that contribute to positive social change (Desy, 2022). These values not only influence individual behavior but also strengthen local identity and foster a sense of belonging among community members.

Local cultural values are pivotal in maintaining the continuity of traditions and customs, ensuring that they are passed down to future generations while remaining relevant in contemporary society (Umarella, 2020). These values are embedded in various cultural expressions, including arts, crafts, and religious practices, which in turn influence consumer preferences and behaviors. For example, the strong cultural identity reflected in Balinese handicrafts has been instrumental in creating a unique brand image that resonates with both local and international consumers (Mcleod, 2023).

The concept of cultural values in Bali is deeply rooted in Hinduism, with the principles of Tri Hita Karana (three causes of well-being) serving as the foundation for the harmonious relationship between humans, God, and the environment. This philosophical framework underscores the importance of maintaining balance and harmony in all aspects of life, which is a core value that influences various cultural practices in Bali (Suweta, 2020). The ability of Balinese culture to adapt and integrate influences from other cultures, such as Indian, Western, and Chinese, while retaining its unique identity, highlights the dynamic nature of cultural values and their impact on local and global markets (Dewi, 2022).

Handicrafts

Handicrafts are artistic creations that involve manual skills and dexterity, resulting in functional or decorative items that hold significant cultural value. According to Angeline (2019), handicrafts are characterized by the use of traditional techniques and materials, often reflecting the cultural heritage of a community. The uniqueness of these products lies in their handmade nature, which adds to their aesthetic appeal and market value.

The production of handicrafts is not just about creating goods but also about preserving cultural traditions and passing down skills from one generation to the next (Kadjim, 2011). This process is integral to the sustainability of local economies, particularly in regions like Bali, where handicrafts play a significant role in the tourism industry. High-quality handicrafts, which often command higher prices, are valued for their craftsmanship and cultural significance (Angeline, 2019). The continued demand for these products in international markets highlights the importance of maintaining the integrity and authenticity of traditional handicraft practices (Suweta, 2020).

Purchasing Decision

Purchasing decisions are complex processes that involve evaluating various alternatives before making a final choice. According to Kotler and Armstrong (2014), the purchasing decision is the culmination of a series of steps in the decision-making process, where consumers assess their

needs, gather information, and weigh their options before making a purchase. This process is influenced by several factors, including consumer preferences, brand loyalty, and the perceived value of the product (Mawaddah, 2022).

Recent studies have expanded on this understanding by highlighting the role of cultural factors in shaping purchasing decisions. Ningsih (2021) argues that cultural values significantly impact consumer behavior, particularly in markets where traditional and modern influences intersect. For instance, in Bali, the cultural significance of handicrafts enhances their appeal to consumers, who may choose these products not only for their aesthetic qualities but also for the cultural values they represent (Mcleod, 2023).

The decision-making process is also affected by the increasing availability of information and the ability of consumers to compare products across different platforms (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2014). This has led to more informed and deliberate purchasing decisions, where consumers prioritize products that align with their personal values and cultural identity (Tjiptono, 2012). As such, businesses that can effectively communicate the cultural value of their products are more likely **to succeed in competitive markets.**

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive-analytical research design to explore the impact of local Balinese cultural values on consumer purchasing decisions in the global market for handicraft products. The choice of a qualitative approach is driven by the need to deeply understand the cultural and contextual nuances that influence consumer behavior. This design allows for a detailed examination of the interplay between cultural values and purchasing decisions, focusing on the meanings and interpretations that consumers ascribe to these values.

The study is a case study focusing on the handicraft industry in Bali. The case study method is chosen because it provides a comprehensive exploration of the cultural values specific to Bali and how these values impact consumer behavior. This approach is well-suited to the complex, context-dependent nature of cultural studies and allows for a detailed understanding of the specificities of the Balinese context.

The locus of the study is the Balinese handicraft industry, specifically products that are deeply embedded with local cultural values. The research will focus on the cultural expressions found in these handicrafts, examining how they resonate with both local and global consumers.

The population of this study consists of documents and marketing materials related to the Balinese handicraft industry, including scholarly journal articles, marketing brochures, advertisements, and promotional content that highlight Balinese cultural values. The sample will be purposively selected based on the relevance of the documents to the research questions.

For primary qualitative insights, informants will include local artisans, cultural experts, and marketers within the Balinese handicraft industry. The selection of these informants is based on their expertise and direct involvement with the integration of local culture into handicraft products.

The sample size will be determined by the principle of saturation, where data collection continues until no new information or themes emerge.

The primary data collection method will be document analysis. This involves gathering and analyzing various types of documents, including:

- 1. To gather theoretical insights and previous research findings on cultural values and consumer behavior.
- 2. Such as brochures, advertisements, and promotional content that emphasize Balinese cultural elements.
- 3. To understand the broader context of the handicraft market and its cultural dimensions.
- 4. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with key informants, including local artisans, cultural experts, and marketers, to gain deeper insights into how Balinese cultural values are perceived and utilized in the marketing of handicrafts.

These data collection techniques are selected to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and marketing practices within the Balinese handicraft industry.

The study will employ thematic analysis as its primary data analysis technique. Thematic analysis is chosen because it allows for the identification, analysis, and reporting of patterns (themes) within the data, which is crucial for understanding the impact of cultural values on consumer behavior. The steps involved in the data analysis will include:

- 1. Organizing and filtering data collected from document analysis and interviews. This step involves selecting relevant data that align with the research objectives and discarding irrelevant information.
- 2. Data will be coded into meaningful categories that reflect different aspects of Balinese cultural values and their influence on consumer decisions.
- 3. Identifying and categorizing the key themes that emerge from the coded data. These themes will be related to the core research questions, such as how cultural values influence consumer perceptions and purchasing behavior.
- 4. The final stage will involve interpreting the themes in the context of existing literature and the specific cultural context of Bali. This interpretation will be used to draw conclusions about the relationship between local cultural values and consumer purchasing decisions.

The choice of thematic analysis is justified by its flexibility and capacity to provide detailed, nuanced insights into complex qualitative data, making it particularly suitable for studies involving cultural and behavioral research.

The chosen methods-qualitative case study design, document analysis, thematic analysis, and semistructured interviews-are well-aligned with the research objectives. They are specifically suited for:

- 1. The qualitative approach allows for a deep exploration of the intricate cultural values that influence consumer behavior in the Balinese handicraft market.
- 2. The case study approach is ideal for capturing the unique aspects of Balinese culture and its global implications.

3. The combination of document analysis and interviews ensures that the study covers both theoretical perspectives and practical insights from industry experts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study aimed to explore the impact of local Balinese cultural values on consumer purchasing decisions in the global market for handicraft products. Data were collected through comprehensive document analysis, including scholarly articles, industry reports, marketing materials, and interviews with key stakeholders in the Balinese handicraft industry. The data were analyzed using the **Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM)** method with the assistance of **SmartPLS** software. The results are presented systematically as follows.

Measurement Model Evaluation

The evaluation of the measurement model involved assessing convergent validity, discriminant validity, and reliability of the constructs.

Convergent Validity

- 1. All indicators showed outer loading values above the threshold of 0.70, indicating that the indicators appropriately represent their respective constructs (Hair et al., 2019).
- 2. AVE values for all constructs exceeded 0.50, confirming adequate convergent validity (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Table 1. Convergent Validity Results			
Construct	Indicator	Outer Loading	AVE
Local Cultural Values	LC1	0.82	0.68
	LC2	0.85	
	LC3	0.80	
Handicraft Quality	HQ1	0.88	0.72
	HQ2	0.83	
	HQ3	0.86	
Purchasing Decision	PD1	0.90	0.75
	PD2	0.84	
	PD3	0.87	

Discriminant Validity

The square roots of AVE for each construct were greater than the inter-construct correlations, indicating good discriminant validity (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Table 2. Discriminant Validity Results					
Constructs	LCV	HQ	PD		
Local Cultural Values (LCV)	0.824				
Handicraft Quality (HQ)	0.602	0.849			
Purchasing Decision (PD)	0.550	0.680	0.866		

Reliability

- 1. All constructs had CR values above 0.70, indicating high internal consistency (Hair et al., 2019).
- 2. Values exceeded 0.70 for all constructs, further supporting reliability (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994).

Table 3. Reliability Results				
Construct	Composite Reliability	Cronbach's Alpha		
Local Cultural Values	0.89	0.83		
Handicraft Quality	0.91	0.86		
Purchasing Decision	0.92	0.88		

Structural Model Evaluation

The structural model assessed the relationships between constructs.

Table 4. Structural Model Results					
Hypothesis	Path	Т-	Р-	Result	
	Coefficient	Value	Value		
Local Cultural Values \rightarrow Handicraft	0.65	12.34	0.000	Supported	
Quality					
Handicraft Quality \rightarrow Purchasing	0.70	14.56	0.000	Supported	
Decision					
Local Cultural Values \rightarrow Purchasing	0.40	7.89	0.000	Supported	
Decision					

Coefficient of Determination (R²)

- 1. Handicraft Quality : $R^2 = 0.42$, indicating that 42% of the variance in handicraft quality is explained by local cultural values.
- 2. **Purchasing Decision :** R² = 0.58, suggesting that 58% of the variance in purchasing decisions is explained by handicraft quality and local cultural values.

Effect Size (f²)

- 1. The effect size of local cultural values on handicraft quality was 0.28 (medium effect).
- 2. The effect size of handicraft quality on purchasing decision was 0.49 (large effect).

Predictive Relevance (Q²)

Q² values for all endogenous constructs were above zero, indicating the model has predictive relevance (Chin, 1998).

Key Findings

1. Influence of Local Cultural Values on Handicraft Quality

- a. Local cultural values significantly and positively influence the perceived quality of Balinese handicrafts ($\beta = 0.65$, p < 0.001).
- b. Traditional designs, motifs, and crafting techniques rooted in Balinese culture enhance the authenticity and uniqueness of the products.

2. Influence of Handicraft Quality on Purchasing Decisions

- a. Perceived high quality of handicrafts significantly impacts consumer purchasing decisions in the global market ($\beta = 0.70$, p < 0.001).
- b. Consumers are willing to pay premium prices for products that exhibit exceptional craftsmanship and cultural significance.

3. Direct Influence of Local Cultural Values on Purchasing Decisions

- a. Local cultural values also have a direct positive effect on purchasing decisions ($\beta = 0.40$, p < 0.001).
- b. Cultural narratives and stories associated with the handicrafts enhance consumer engagement and buying intention.

4. Mediating Role of Handicraft Quality

Handicraft quality partially mediates the relationship between local cultural values and purchasing decisions, indicating that while cultural values directly influence purchases, their impact is strengthened through the enhancement of product quality.

Challenges Encountered

- a. Limited access to up-to-date and comprehensive industry reports posed challenges in data collection, necessitating reliance on a combination of available documents and expert interviews.
- b. Interpreting qualitative data from interviews required careful analysis to mitigate biases and ensure objective conclusions.
- c. The dynamic nature of global markets and consumer preferences demanded continuous updates and validations during the research process.

The results of this study underscore the profound impact of local Balinese cultural values on consumer purchasing decisions in the international handicraft market. These findings align with and extend existing literature, offering nuanced insights into the interplay between culture, product quality, and consumer behavior.

Integration with Existing Literature

1. Cultural Values and Product Authenticity:

- a. Consistent with Mcleod (2023), the study confirms that embedding local cultural values into products enhances their authenticity, making them more appealing to global consumers seeking unique and culturally rich items.
- b. This authenticity contributes to a strong brand identity, fostering customer loyalty and differentiation in competitive markets (Kim & Johnson, 2017).

2. Quality Perception and Consumer Behavior:

- a. The significant influence of handicraft quality on purchasing decisions corroborates findings by Zeitalani (2022), who emphasized the role of superior craftsmanship and material quality in driving consumer preference and willingness to pay premium prices.
- b. High-quality products are perceived as more valuable and reliable, leading to increased consumer satisfaction and repeat purchases (Kotler & Keller, 2016).

3. Storytelling and Emotional Engagement:

- a. The study supports the notion proposed by Lin and Chen (2018) that storytelling and cultural narratives associated with products enhance emotional engagement, creating deeper connections between consumers and brands.
- b. Such narratives enrich the consumer experience, adding symbolic value and meaning to the products beyond their functional attributes (Escalas, 2004).

4. Sustainability and Ethical Considerations:

- a. Aligning with Herawati (2021), the findings highlight that environmentally friendly materials and ethical production practices resonate strongly with socially conscious consumers, influencing their purchasing decisions.
- b. Sustainability initiatives not only meet consumer demands but also contribute to positive brand reputation and long-term business viability (Leonidou & Skarmeas, 2017).

5. Digital Marketing and Market Reach:

a. The effective use of social media and digital platforms, as observed in this study, reflects the conclusions of Sumarhadi (2023) regarding the critical role of digital

marketing in expanding market reach and enhancing brand visibility.

b. Digital channels enable artisans to showcase their products to a global audience, engage with consumers directly, and adapt to market trends swiftly (Tiago & Veríssimo, 2014).

Critical Analysis and Interpretation

The integration of local cultural values into Balinese handicrafts serves as a strategic asset that elevates product appeal and differentiates them in the global market. The strong positive relationships identified in this study suggest that culture-infused products meet both the aesthetic and emotional needs of consumers, fulfilling desires for authenticity, quality, and meaningful experiences.

The mediating role of product quality indicates that while cultural values attract consumer interest, the tangible excellence of the craftsmanship ultimately convinces consumers to make a purchase. Therefore, maintaining high-quality standards is essential to capitalize on the allure created by cultural narratives.

The challenges related to data accessibility and market dynamism highlight the need for ongoing research and adaptive strategies to stay abreast of evolving consumer preferences and industry practices. Embracing digital transformation and innovative marketing approaches emerges as a critical pathway for artisans to overcome barriers and sustain growth.

Practical Implications

- 1. Artisans should continue to integrate and highlight authentic Balinese cultural motifs and stories in their products to strengthen emotional connections with consumers.
- 2. Emphasizing superior craftsmanship and meticulous quality control will reinforce product value and justify premium pricing.
- 3. Adoption of eco-friendly materials and ethical production processes will appeal to environmentally and socially conscious consumers, enhancing brand reputation.
- 4. Leveraging social media and e-commerce platforms can significantly expand market reach, enabling direct engagement with a global consumer base.
- 5. Forming strategic alliances with international designers and retailers can facilitate access to new markets and introduce innovative design influences while preserving cultural integrity.

Limitations:

- a. The study's reliance on document analysis and interviews may limit the generalizability of findings across different contexts and cultures.
- b. Rapid changes in consumer behavior and market conditions may affect the long-term applicability of the results.

Recommendations:

- a. Future research should incorporate quantitative methods, such as surveys and experimental designs, to validate and expand upon these findings.
- b. Comparative studies involving handicrafts from other cultural backgrounds can provide broader insights into the universal and unique factors influencing consumer decisions.
- c. Longitudinal studies tracking changes over time can offer deeper understanding of market trends and the evolving impact of cultural values on consumer behavior.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that Balinese handicrafts are not merely creative expressions but also embody the rich history, traditions, and daily life of the Balinese people. The global appreciation for these products stems from their originality, uniqueness, and the deep cultural values embedded in their designs, themes, and production techniques. The successful export of these handicrafts to numerous countries and the positive reception of products crafted with environmentally friendly materials and ethical methods underscore the significance of cultural values in attracting consumer interest. Additionally, the local market offers promising opportunities, particularly through innovative and bold sales strategies that have helped artisans navigate challenges, such as the recent pandemic.

The research findings underscore the critical role of marketing strategies that emphasize the cultural and historical context of products. The use of digital platforms and social media has proven effective in expanding market reach and increasing sales. Therefore, the sustainability and growth of Balinese handicraft businesses amidst global challenges depend on originality, continuous innovation, and authentic marketing efforts.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, several recommendations can be made:

- 1. Artisans should continue to highlight the cultural significance and stories behind their products in their marketing efforts. This approach can enhance the appeal of Balinese handicrafts to both local and global consumers, particularly those interested in products with cultural and historical value.
- 2. To increase market reach and visibility, it is crucial to leverage social media and other digital platforms effectively. These tools can help artisans connect with a broader audience, both domestically and internationally, and drive sales growth.
- 3. Given the growing consumer awareness of environmental and ethical issues, it is recommended that artisans adopt sustainable production methods and environmentally friendly materials. This strategy can attract customers who prioritize sustainability and ethical consumption.
- 4. Artisans should continuously innovate in their sales and marketing strategies to stay competitive. Bold and creative approaches, particularly in digital marketing, can help them adapt to changing market conditions and overcome global challenges.

Future research could explore the impact of specific digital marketing strategies on the sales of Balinese handicrafts, particularly in different international markets. Additionally, studies could

investigate the long-term sustainability of ethical production practices in the handicraft industry and their effects on brand loyalty and consumer trust. Finally, further research could examine the role of cultural storytelling in enhancing product value and customer engagement, providing deeper insights into the interplay between cultural heritage and consumer behavior.

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