



DIY Tapestry Kit As An Alternative Art Activity In The Pandemic Era



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ABSTRACT

The spread of the corona virus forced some people to school or work from home that might end in boredom. Art activities could be done to fill their leisure time and at the same time to entertain them selves. One of the artistic activities needed to be developed was the art of tapestry. The Practice Based Research method was a method employed in designing a DIY Tapestri Kit. The main goal was to inspire and increase the public's awareness about the existence of tapestry art. DIY Tapestry Kit was a set of tapestry art handicraft tools in the form of looms with a variety of yarns that could be used to produce a variety of functional artworks. The existence of innovations in the form of DIY Tapestry Kit supported the on-going and subsequent implementation of tapestry art.

Kata Kunci:

Alat Tenun,
DIY Kit,
Seni Serat,
Tapestri,
Tekstil

ABSTRAK

Penyebaran virus corona mengakibatkan sebagian orang bersekolah atau bekerja dari rumah, namun tak jarang hal tersebut menimbulkan kejenuhan. Kegiatan berkesenian dapat dilakukan untuk mengisi waktu luang dan sebagai media alternatif hiburan. Salah satu kegiatan berkesenian yang perlu dikembangkan yaitu seni tapestry. Metode *Practice Based Research* menjadi metode dalam perancangan DIY Tapestri Kit. Tujuan utama menjadi kegiatan berkesenian yang inspiratif dan meningkatkan kesadaran masyarakat terhadap eksistensi seni tapestry. DIY Tapestri Kit ini merupakan seperangkat alat kerajinan tangan seni tapestri berupa alat tenun dengan berbagai macam benang dan dapat menjadi berbagai macam karya seni fungsional. Adanya inovasi dalam bentuk DIY Tapestri Kit mendukung eksistensi seni tapestri saat ini dan selanjutnya.

INTRODUCTION

Due to the corona virus spread, the government applied a Large-scale Social Restriction. This policy urged people to stay at home. Work from Home and School from Home resulted in boredom. Doing arts could be a choice to spend time, to gain knowledge, to develop skills, and to be entertained. One of the art activities that was quite easy to be done was the contemporary tapestry art. In the 70s, weavers explored some techniques and materials that led to a new weaving art called the contemporary tapestry. The word tapestry, borrowed from the France word '*tapiesserie*' means floor covering or Latin word '*tapestrum*', means a type of embroidery that employs many techniques. The vertical woven yarn is called the warp while the one horizontally woven is called the weft (Sugiarto et.al., 2014: 60).. In Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, tapestry is defined as Western handmade textile art resulted in thin cloth with various motifs used to decorate walls, be set as curtains, and to coat furniture. In designing it, a wide range of options on texture, material, and color can be creatively used. Janeiro says that textile is not always used functionally. People can apply it as a decoration so that contemporary textile art may create an artistic atmosphere (Janeiro, 1997: 23). The artistic value of tapestry comes from the applied lines, colors, and supporting materials added in the decoration area that are arranged based on the composition, proportion, balance, rhythm, and unity principles.

In the pandemic era, people who run a small and middle scale business should offer innovations to survive. Wardoyo states that those who are creative, innovative, and keen in catching opportunities will be able to create novelty in answering challenges met in this difficult Covid-19 era.

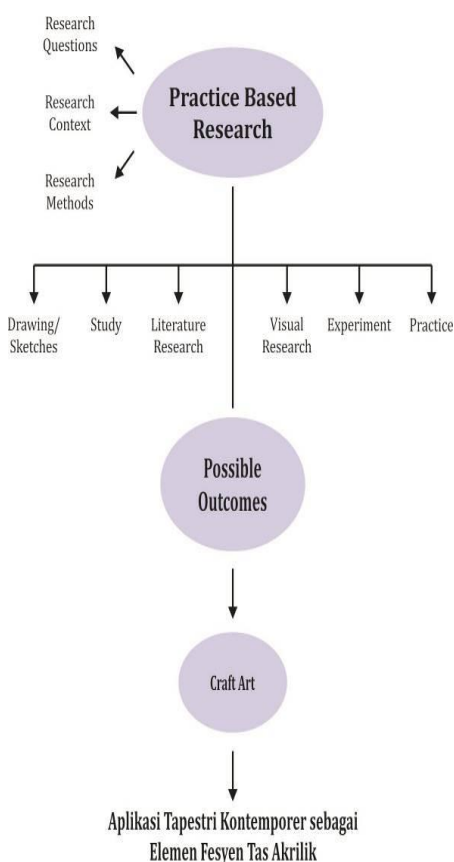
The pandemic forces humans to adapt to a new hard situation. Recently, new ways in conducting daily activities appear on the set, including the online sale that people use to market their products. Despite treating this situation as a boundary, the pandemic should be viewed as a novel opportunity to create new products and marketing strategies in order to adapt the new digital era (Wardoyo, 2021). This argument asserts that raising awareness to open the mind and develop the creative and innovative power will lead to a new perspective in finding solution for the existing problems. The DIY Weaving Kit created exists in the creative product and service marketplace. This kit aims at inspiring and giving people alternatives about possible art activities that can be carried out to productively spend time at home. DIY stands for Do It Yourself. It is a habit to create things on your own without getting help from the experts. Kit is a set of tools needed to carry out a particular activity. DIY Tapestry Kit is a craft tool needed to make tapestry art items. It is a set of modern weaving tools that can be operated by many people in a wide range of ages. The activity itself is certainly can be comfortably carried out at home. The items produced in this activity can fulfill domestic need and also social need such as to be given as a present for the beloved ones or simply to have a creative activity together through online workshops.

There has been significant enthusiasm toward this activity. Starting from February 2020, the sale of the weaving tool has been increasing. 700 weaving kits have been sold by means of presenting tapestry activities using various loom and media. So far, the square tapestry kit is the best seller.. Sometimes we suddenly want to do something without knowing where the intention comes from. It does not matter. What matters is that it is us who should smart in creating. It is very often that the coming condition will be a surprise for us (Rachdantia, 2020). Andreas said that the interests of Moselo user showed that DIY Kit products are large potentials. "We are happy that we can help our users to develop their hobbies or provide them with a new skill in the Large-scale Social Restriction.

This kind of product can be the smart choice to do activity in trying to adapt to the new situation.” (Andreas, 2020).

This art is considered interesting because it is simple yet able to present a playful or even contemporary aesthetic value. People’s enthusiasm toward tapestry needs to be responded to ensure tapestry existence. To do it, there are at least two things can be done. The first is to facilitate the tapestry enthusiasts to do this activity and to introduce it to wider audiences. Creating an innovative DIY Tapestry Kit is a way to achieve both objectives. I noticed that there was a need to create a DIY Tapestry Kit that prompted an authentic value by presenting a handmade piece impression not a mass product; a piece that was made creatively and innovatively and was used to express feelings so that it brought happiness for those who saw or used it.

METHODE



The aesthetic value of an artwork is determined by the media used and the harmony principle applied in arranging the elements such as lines, space, and color composition so that the product exhibits unity, balance, rhythm, and proportion. The ergonomics approach called EASNE (stands for *Efektif* or Effective, *Aman* or Safe, *Sehat* or Healthy, *Nyaman* or Comfortable, and *Efisien* or Efficient) was implemented in the process of designing and selecting the media so that the users feel comfortable with the applied technique and the resulted tapestry kit. Those factors were the main considerations in creating process to get best kit in terms of constructions, forms, and aesthetic values. In creating them, we implemented the Practice Based Research. The process was initiated by defining the research question, i.e. ‘How can a DIY Tapestry Kit be designed?’. Next was to identify the research context by defining the appropriate forms of the kit. The third stage was defining the research methods

Scheme 1 Scheme 1. Practice Based Research
(source: Jurnal Perintis Pendidikan UiTM)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Drawing/Sketches

At this stage, with a deep consideration about the ergonomic factors, some sketches were drawn to be used as references in selecting the forms, materials, sizes, and techniques to be used and applied. Other than those functional aspects, the aesthetic values also contributed in the designing and making of the kit. The designs made were hoped would be both functional and beautiful because they were designed based on a concept, idea, insight, and deep understanding about tapestry. See picture 1

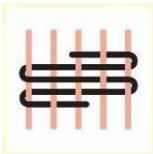
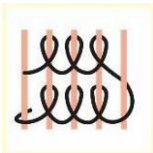

Study

It was possible that the learning process occurred during the creation period would trigger innovations mainly in the designing of weaving tools and selection of tapestry media. The need of many experiments to find balance was very likely to be the source of those innovations. Time has told people that there are many creativities and new things come from vague findings, feelings, or ideas. What needed is not uniformity, standardization, or agreement on perspective but rather flexibility in way of thinking and courage and a will to explore new things. The absence of novelty, creativity, actuality, fun or enlightening or even horrible surprise, will put arts in a boring state (Dwi Marianto, 2017).

Literature Research

The used terminologies such as DIY-Do It Yourself, weaving, weaving tools, tapestry and tapestry technique were explained by means of the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia or other sources that could help to define them.

Visual Research

Picture	Technique	Description
	<i>Tabby</i>	A technique that resulted in a pattern with striped motifs.
	<i>Soumak</i>	A technique done by twisting the wefts on the warps.
	<i>Fringe</i>	<i>Fringe or Tassel</i> is a technique to produce tassel ornaments.

References were searched to find the weaving tool models of the tapestry kit. There were two techniques chosen, namely the technique that resulted in horizontal patterns that inspired the square weaving tools and the one used circling methods that triggered the circle tools. As supporting tools, needles were needed to weave and combs were to be used to tidy the weave. Those kits were simple yet modern.

Table 1. Tapestry Basic Technique

Experiment

At the practice level, the weaving tools making process could be the source of new knowledge, for instance on the material selection and size. This experiment was directed to the making of weaving tools for tapestry that employed laser cutting technique and also the making of DIY tapestry kit made of various materials and fibers such as the synthetic fibers and the natural ones. Many experimentations were needed both in the creating process of weaving tools that would be used as the tapestry area as well as in selecting the appropriate materials.

Practice



The practical stages covered selecting the materials, designing and formulating the sizes of the tools, cutting the materials, selecting the yarn colors, and arranging the weaving tools and the yarns in a DIY tapestry kit package. The created weaving tools were 20 cm and 15 cm long in diameter and were made of some materials: acrylic, MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard), and 3 mm and 5 mm plywoods. The main materials for the tapestry were cotton yarn, wool yarn, acrylic yarn, and loopy yarn in various color combinations.

a. Process of Weaving Tools Making

The making was began by designing the patterns on the CorelDraw. At this stage, a research was undertaken to study and later on to make the design pattern by considering the tapestry technique to be used. Based on the DIY kit nature, the tapestry work area was made in a small size, i.e. diameter 20 cm and 15 cm with 0.5 cm spaced loom gears. The designed DIY kit was meant for the beginners so that the chosen shape were also the basic ones, i.e. square and circle. A set of weaving tools consisted of a loom, a needle, and a comb. The needle and the comb sizes followed the loom. After getting the correct design pattern, the 5 mm plywood as the main materials were cut using the lasser cutting machine. Next, the produced tools were washed and brought to the finishing step, the varnishing stage. The last step was the quality control stage where the tools were rechecked and declared that they were fulfilling the market standard.

b. Process in Selecting the Yarn Package

The yarn package always consisted of small white cotton yarns functioning as the warps. After the warps were set, the wefts could be set too. The wefts included big cotton, acrylic, and loopy yarns. The yarn colors were picked based on the creativity and the motifs to be made. Each of them was rolled up using yarn winder. The total long of the prepared yarn was 100 meter. See Picture 2,3,4!

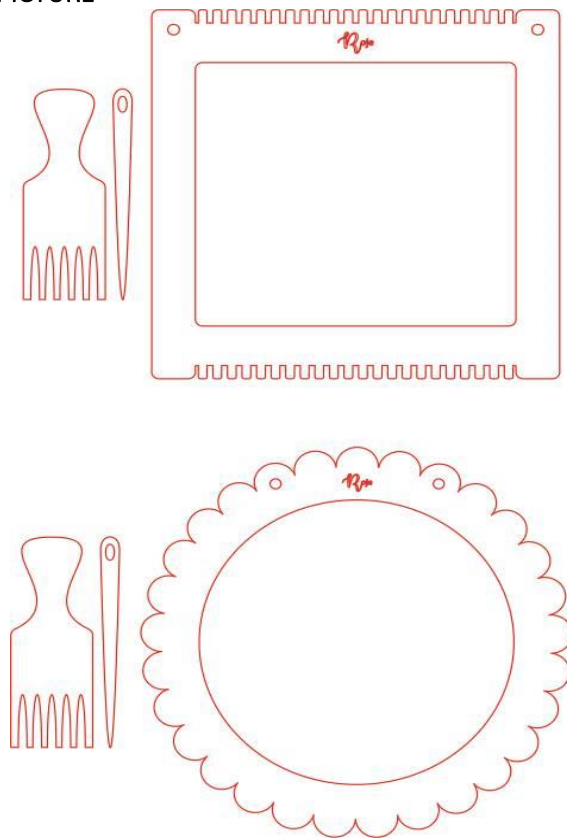
Possible Outcome

The designing of the DIY Tapestry Kit was focused on exploring a set of innovative tapestry tools completed with a set of yarns. Although the tool designs were simple, they were presented in a modern packaging to attract people's attention. In one package of the kit, there were a loom, a needle, a comb, yarns, and a description of the basic tapestry technique.

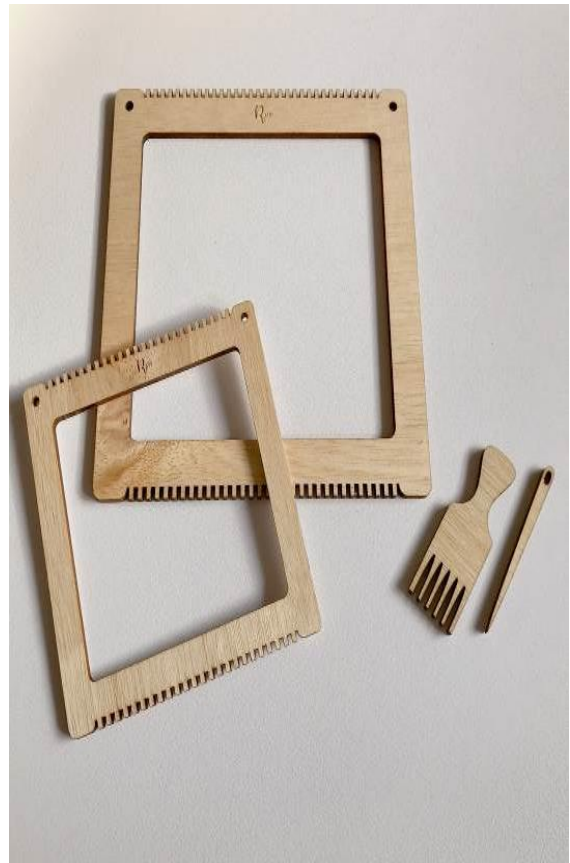
CONCLUSION

Inspired by tapestry weaving tools, some experiments were conducted to design innovative works that accommodated cultural values and were packed in a modern taste. In reaching that goal, Practice Based Research was employed following these steps: defining research question, research context, and research methods. The method was used to get the best design. DIY Tapestry Kit was considered beneficial in textile development. It also could facilitate the implementation of new knowledge and skills. It is hoped that textile and tapestry will be more developed in the future.

PICTURE



Picture 1. Weaving Tools Designs on CorelDraw, 2021
(source: Cynthia Zhafira)



Picture 2. Square Weaving Tool, 2021
(source: Cynthia Zhafira)





Picture 3. Circle Weaving Tool, 2021
(source: Cynthia Zhafira)



Picture 4. DIY Tapestry Kit, 2021
(source: Cynthia Zhafira)

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