



Revitalizing the Walagara Tradition: A Solution for Household Harmony to Reduce Divorce Rates

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The high divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency reflects a crisis in family resilience, driven by poor communication, economic instability, and shifting values due to modernization. This article explores the local tradition of Walagara, a Tenggerese cultural wisdom rich in values such as loyalty, mutual cooperation, deliberation, and spirituality, as an alternative solution to reduce the rate of divorce. This study aims to explore how the Walagara tradition, as part of the cultural heritage of the Tengger tribe, can strengthen family values and mutual respect within households. Using a qualitative approach and case study method, this research examines the relevance of Walagara in fostering marital harmony and the challenges of its implementation in the modern era. Findings reveal that the revitalization of Walagara values can be integrated into premarital education, family dialogue practices, and digital-based educational campaigns. This strategy emphasizes the involvement of traditional leaders, religious figures, communities, and youth to reinvigorate the tradition as a form of social capital. The study concludes that Walagara should not only be preserved as cultural heritage but also applied as a practical tool to strengthen family institutions in contemporary social contexts.

INTRODUCTION

The rising divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency in 2024 indicates weak communication and values of harmony within households. Although families essentially function as emotionally and economically stable social units, unresolved conflicts often lead to divorce. In fact, local traditions like Walagara, which reflect values for building family harmony, are increasingly being marginalized by modernity. This awareness creates a gap between traditional values and actual practices, which then becomes an issue for study. Therefore, to maintain the relevance of these traditions, efforts are needed to re-examine

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these cultural values and help formulate concrete steps to reduce the divorce rate through a local, culturally informed approach (Darmawan, 2024).

Previous research has explored the link between local traditions and social stability. For example, Hermawan described the role of tradition in shaping social norms that protect families and relationships. However, this research focused on rural communities and therefore did not consider aspects of modernization. Fitriani reported that varying degrees of modernization result in changes in values, including traditional marriage practices. This study aims to fill this gap by specifically providing an example of the revitalization of the Walagara tradition as a measure to reduce the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency. It also aims to document the tradition and evaluate its implementation under modern influences in the current generation (Dewi & Lubis, 2024).

This study presents an innovative approach to revitalizing the Walagara tradition by integrating its values into premarital education and family strengthening programs. Unlike previous studies that focused on cultural preservation, this study utilizes tradition as a practical solution to address social issues, particularly divorce. The strength of this research lies in its collaborative approach, involving traditional leaders, local government, and the community to design adaptive strategies that align with the dynamics of modern society. Thus, this research is not only descriptive but also applicable, offering concrete, implementable solutions to effectively reduce divorce rates.

The importance of this research is to identify the Walagara traditional values that are still relevant in building household harmony, understand the reasons for the increasingly rare application of these values amidst ongoing modernization, and design appropriate strategies to preserve the Walagara tradition that can be implemented to reduce the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency. By prioritizing a local cultural approach, this research seeks to provide tangible benefits in solving social problems in the region.

Javanese traditional values, such as mutual respect, open and honest communication, and fostering shared commitment, are crucial for building family unity. However, developments and changes in modern lifestyles have led to a decline in these values. Therefore, revitalizing ancestral cultural heritage is not only beneficial for preserving national identity but also a smart solution for strengthening the foundations of family unity in Probolinggo Regency. Preliminary evidence indicates that communities that still practice these traditions tend to have higher levels of harmony in their households. By adopting a collaborative approach involving indigenous communities, local governments, and young couples, the effectiveness of implementing these traditions can be tested to reduce divorce rates and create more stable family structures in the future (Ulum, 2024).

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach to understand the Walagara tradition in creating household harmony in Probolinggo Regency (Afifah et al., 2024; Engkizar et al., 2025; Jaafar et al., 2025; Mutathahirin et al., 2022; Rahman et al., 2025). The research location was chosen due to the high divorce rate and the persistence of the Walagara tradition as a local solution. Data were obtained from married couples, community leaders, religious leaders, as well as related documents and literature. Data collection was conducted through desk review, observation, in-depth interviews, and Focus Group Discussions (Engkizar, Jaafar, Alias, et al., 2025; Faddhia et al., 2025; Ikhlas et al., 2025; Khairunisa et al., 2025; Wulandari

et al., 2024). Data analysis involved data reduction, organization, and verification through triangulation. The analytical methods used included content analysis, discourse analysis, and interpretation to explore the symbolic meaning and relevance of the Walagara tradition in maintaining household harmony (Engkizar, Muslim, Mulyadi, et al., 2025; Istiqamah et al., 2024; Mustafa et al., 2025).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The relevant traditional values of Walagara in building household harmony in Probolinggo Regency

The Walagara tradition is a purification ritual of the Tenggerese people of Mount Bromo, performed before the Kasada ceremony to spiritually cleanse the village and maintain a balanced relationship between humans and nature, ancestors, and Sang Hyang Widhi (Fariski & Ratnawati, 2024; Hadiningrum, 2024). Led by a traditional shaman, the procession involves prayers in Old Javanese, the spreading of holy water, and the offering of offerings that reflect the community's togetherness and solidarity. More than just a religious ceremony, Walagara contains strong social and cultural values, such as mutual cooperation, fair roles in the household, and marital fidelity, which have been passed down through generations as the local wisdom of the Probolinggo community. This tradition teaches conflict resolution through family deliberation and upholds the sacred bond of marriage amidst the tide of modernization. Small conflicts between husband and wife should not be allowed to escalate but should be resolved promptly and wisely with understanding. This value is often instilled through folklore and ancestral wisdom passed down from generation to generation. In practice, married couples are taught to engage in calm dialogue and listen to each other when resolving problems. This tradition demonstrates that wisdom and good communication can mitigate conflict and maintain family harmony.

The Walagara tradition places religiosity as the primary foundation of family life, where a relationship with God (*hablum minallah*) serves as the foundation for fostering relationships among family members (*hablum minannas*). This value is embodied through various spiritual rituals, such as communal prayers, thanksgiving, and family religious studies, aimed at strengthening gratitude, togetherness, and harmony within the household. These practices reflect the crucial role of religious activities in building emotional and spiritual bonds within the family.

Beyond its religious aspects, the Walagara tradition also emphasizes the value of openness in family communication. Each member is given space to express their opinions without fear, creating an atmosphere of harmony and mutual respect. Extended family gatherings serve as a forum for discussion and collective decision-making through deliberation (Elcicek, 2024). Thus, this tradition not only strengthens relationships between individuals within the family but also instills the values of mutual cooperation, loyalty, and fair distribution of roles in domestic life, thus serving as a guideline for maintaining family harmony and well-being.

In addition to fostering harmonious marital relationships, the Walagara tradition also emphasizes the importance of respecting parents and ancestors. Children are taught to be filial, listen to their parents' advice, and maintain close relationships with their extended family, thus creating a home environment filled with respect and affection (Zhang, 2024). When differences of opinion or conflict arise in the household, this tradition teaches that resolution should be achieved through deliberation, not emotion. Husband

and wife should speak calmly, and if the problem escalates, they can seek advice from respected individuals, such as traditional elders. The main principle in resolving this conflict is to find a solution together, rather than finding fault (Laszloffy & Platt, 2024).

Furthermore, the Walagara tradition instills the values of patience and sincerity in married life. Husbands and wives are taught that marriage is not only about happiness, but also about a willingness to support each other in the face of difficulties. By implementing these values, families in Probolinggo Regency can build harmonious, loving households while upholding the cultural heritage passed down from their ancestors (Miller & Furr, 2024).

In Walagara's teachings, loyalty and trust are the foundations of a harmonious household, where the husband is responsible for protecting and guiding the family, while the wife faithfully upholds the honor of the household (Zein Firdaus & Jalaluddin, 2024). These values are not merely initial marriage promises, but long-term commitments that must be upheld together. Amid modern challenges such as promiscuity and social media, Walagara's teachings emphasize the importance of keeping the heart and mind focused on the family, setting boundaries in interactions, and adhering to moral and ethical principles to maintain household harmony.

Besides loyalty, trust is also a crucial element in building a healthy household. Trust isn't just about not suspecting your partner, but also involves open and honest communication. In the Walagara tradition, husbands and wives are encouraged to always discuss household issues amicably without fear or prestige. With good communication, misunderstandings can be avoided, and relationships will grow stronger, based on mutual understanding and respect.

Walagara teachings emphasize that every couple must uphold the sacred vows of marriage. Marriage is not only a bond between two individuals, but also a sacred bond. Therefore, married couples must always remember the noble values taught by their ancestors, namely maintaining a household with full responsibility and sincerity. By implementing the values of loyalty and trust taught in the Walagara tradition, families will remain harmonious, happy, and free from conflict that can damage relationships (Westover, 2024).

Respecting parents and ancestors is one of the core values that must be upheld in family life. This value is not merely a tradition, but also a guideline for building a harmonious and loving family (Sung, 2024). Respecting parents means acknowledging their service and sacrifice in raising and educating their children. Therefore, as a form of reciprocation, a child should be dutiful, listen to their advice, and maintain good relations with the extended family.

In daily life, respect for parents can be demonstrated in various ways, from being polite and speaking respectfully to caring for them in old age. In the Walagara tradition, children are taught from an early age to always listen to and respect their parents' advice, as their counsel stems from life experience and is filled with wisdom. Furthermore, parents play a crucial role in providing guidance to ensure their children's household lives remain harmonious and harmonious.

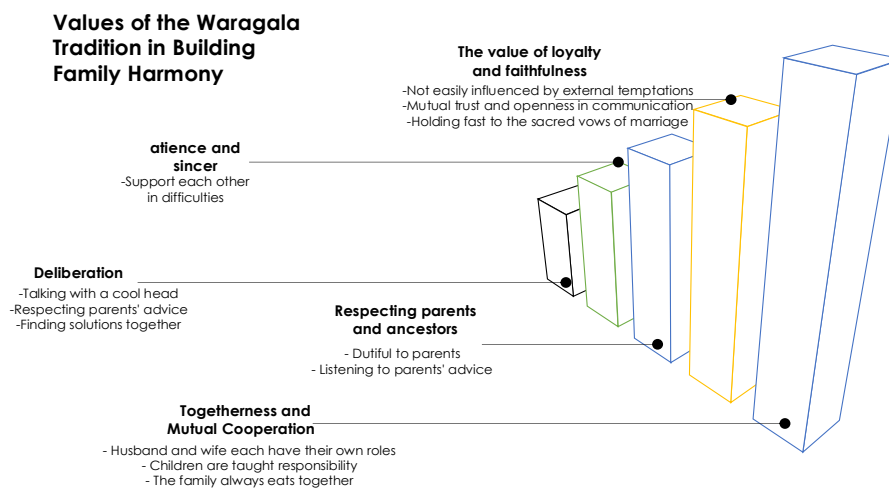
The Walagara tradition emphasizes the importance of respecting parents and ancestors, both living and deceased, by preserving cultural heritage, practicing customs such as visiting graves and praying together, and strengthening family ties. Embracing these values creates a peaceful, grateful, and respectful home environment, fostering responsible, well-mannered children with strong family bonds, ultimately contributing to harmony and togetherness within the family.

In married life, differences of opinion are natural, but harmony is largely determined by how they are resolved. The Walagara tradition emphasizes deliberation as the primary solution, prioritizing wisdom, patience, and mutual respect. Healthy communication, conducted with a cool head and controlled emotions, is key to understanding a partner's perspective without judging one another. In more complex conflicts, the role of elders or respected figures becomes crucial as wise advisors, valued in Walagara culture. The principle of deliberation, which prioritizes joint solutions, rather than blame, helps couples build strong relationships based on mutual respect and understanding (Chambers & Warren, 2025).

Married life is full of dynamics, with happiness interspersed with trials and challenges that test a couple's steadfastness. In the Walagara tradition, patience and sincerity are core values that guide husband and wife to maintain mutual love and respect in the face of differences of opinion, economic hardship, and the challenges of raising children. Patience encompasses the ability to control emotions, understand one's partner, and persevere, enabling conflicts to be resolved wisely without disrupting the harmony of the household (Lumunder et al., 2024).

Besides patience, sincerity is also key to building a strong marriage. Accepting your partner with all their strengths and weaknesses and living together selflessly is a form of sincerity taught in the Walagara tradition. Marriage is not just about seeking happiness, but also about supporting each other through thick and thin. By understanding each other, refraining from blaming your partner, and always seeking the best solution, husband and wife can face various challenges without losing harmony in their marriage.

Fig 1. Values of the waragala traditional in building family harmony



Factors that have caused the increasingly marginalization of Walagara traditional values in the midst of the current of modernization

The Walagara tradition is a cultural heritage passed down through generations, steeped in local wisdom, such as togetherness, mutual cooperation, respect for ancestors, and balance with nature. This tradition encompasses customs, art, religious rituals, and social practices of the Sundanese people (Sumitro et al., 2024). Despite facing challenges from modernization and globalization, Walagara continues to function as a means of shaping cultural identity, maintaining social harmony, and strengthening

community solidarity and morale. More than just a cultural heritage, Walagara has now become an essential part of the community's collective identity.

The Walagara tradition is a local wisdom found in Probolinggo Regency that emphasizes family and community harmony through mutual cooperation, fair roles within the household, and deliberation in conflict resolution. This tradition has been passed down through generations and has become an integral part of community life.

Modernization, as a process of social change characterized by technological advances, urbanization, and a shift from traditional values to more modern ones, has had a significant impact on local culture. Technological advancements and openness to information have made it easier for people to access various global cultures, which are often more appealing and practical than local traditions. As a result, the younger generation tends to be more interested in modern lifestyles than in preserving their ancestral heritage. Furthermore, changes in social structures, such as increasing individualism and shifting economic patterns, have contributed to traditions like Walagara being increasingly marginalized in everyday life (Arch'ad, 2024).

"Many values within the Walagara tradition are beginning to be marginalized. Modern, individualistic lifestyles diminish the spirit of mutual cooperation within families and communities. Furthermore, changing work patterns that require high mobility make it difficult for many married couples to share roles equally, as this tradition teaches."

Walagara traditional values are increasingly being marginalized due to the influx of foreign cultures and modern lifestyles that are replacing local traditions. Globalization is accelerating this shift through social media, entertainment, and urban trends, making modern culture more desirable. As a result, traditional arts and rituals are being abandoned, especially by the younger generation, so that traditions that were once an important part of social life are now increasingly rare.

"First, globalization and digital technology have introduced new lifestyles, often at odds with local values. Second, urbanization has led to a shift from rural to urban life, where patterns of community interaction have become more individualistic. Third, changes in economic patterns, with many families now relying on formal sector jobs, which take up time and reduce family interaction. Fourth, the lack of regeneration and education about these traditions for the younger generation."

A shift in mindset that focuses more on technology and economics has led to a decline in interest in the Walagara tradition. Modern society prioritizes efficiency and productivity, while the younger generation is more focused on careers in technology and business than preserving ancestral culture. As a result, this tradition is increasingly losing ground amidst the increasingly competitive world. Modernization encourages individualism, weakening community involvement in collective traditions like Walagara (Yuliana, 2024). Values of togetherness and mutual cooperation are being replaced by lifestyles that emphasize independence and personal success. The shift in social interactions to the digital world is accelerating this shift, causing the Walagara tradition to slowly become marginalized.

The shift from an agrarian to an urban and industrial society has increasingly marginalized the Walagara tradition. In agrarian society, tradition is closely tied to the agricultural cycle and social solidarity. However, urbanization and industrialization have driven people to move to cities, prioritizing economic efficiency and abandoning traditional values less relevant to modern life. Younger generations in the digital age are more interested in technology and popular culture than Walagara traditions. Widespread access to global culture through social media makes them identify more with modern trends, while local traditions are perceived as outdated or less relevant. As a

result, participation in cultural events has declined, and interest in preserving traditional values has waned (van Wyk, 2022).

The diminishing role of families and communities in cultural transmission is a major factor in the fading of the Walagara tradition. In the past, parents and traditional elders played a key role in educating children about traditional values, but the busyness of the modern era has neglected cultural education within the family. Children are increasingly exposed to modern culture, while urbanization weakens traditional communities. Without preservation efforts, the Walagara tradition risks further erosion by modernization. The government's lack of attention to preserving the Walagara tradition has accelerated the marginalization of these cultural values. Policies focus more on economic development and infrastructure, while support in the form of regulations, funding, and preservation programs remains minimal. Without adequate legal protection and incentives, communities struggle to maintain these traditions amidst the tide of modernization.

The lack of cultural education and socialization in schools weakens the Walagara tradition. The curriculum focuses more on academics and job skills, while cultural aspects are merely supplementary lessons. As a result, the younger generation lacks understanding of the importance of preserving local culture and is more familiar with global culture. If the education system fails to accommodate local content, cultural identity can be further eroded (Yakovlev, 2024). The lack of active regeneration in the Walagara tradition is accelerating its extinction. Cultural transmission between generations is crucial, but the lack of interest from younger generations and the lack of initiative from indigenous communities have left this tradition without successors. Many cultural groups still use old methods without innovations that appeal to young people. However, the use of digital media or the holding of cultural festivals could help maintain the tradition's existence. Therefore, creative and adaptive regeneration is necessary to keep Walagara alive and relevant in the modern era (Chen, 2024).

Some Walagara traditions have shifted in meaning due to being more focused on tourist attractions than preserving their original values. Cultures that once held spiritual, social, or philosophical significance are now often reduced to mere entertainment for tourists. As a result, the younger generation sees these traditions as part of the tourism industry, rather than cultural heritage that needs to be preserved. If this trend continues, the original meaning of Walagara traditions risks fading and being lost over time (Novita et al., 2024).

“Real efforts are needed from various parties. Education based on local wisdom must be strengthened, both within families and schools. Furthermore, communities and local governments can organize activities that revitalize Walagara traditional values, such as cultural festivals or community discussions. Social media can also be leveraged to introduce this tradition to the younger generation in a more engaging way.”

Commercialization has also played a role in changing the meaning of the Walagara tradition, as many view it as a marketable economic asset. While cultural tourism can provide financial benefits, without proper regulation, overexploitation can diminish the tradition's authentic value. Rituals and symbolism, which once served to strengthen social and spiritual bonds, risk becoming mere commodities for tourists. If not properly maintained, important elements of the Walagara tradition could be displaced, thereby losing the profound meaning passed down by ancestors. The dominance of modern media, which emphasizes global culture over local culture, is causing the Walagara tradition to increasingly be marginalized. Television, social media,

and digital platforms are filled with foreign popular culture content, such as music, films, and lifestyle trends, which appeal more to the younger generation. As a result, they tend to become more familiar with and adopt foreign cultures, while local traditions are seen as less relevant to modern life. This perception has led to a decline in interest in ancestral cultural heritage, leading to the gradual oblivion of the Walagara tradition (Merung et al., 2024).

The lack of documentation and media exposure of the Walagara tradition is accelerating the decline of this culture. The lack of coverage on television, radio, and digital platforms makes this tradition increasingly foreign to the community. Furthermore, without efforts to document local rituals, arts, and wisdom, access to information about Walagara is limited, especially for the younger generation who rely on the internet. Without initiatives for archiving and publishing in digital formats, such as articles or documentary videos, this tradition risks being eroded by the dominance of foreign cultures. Therefore, documenting and promoting local culture are crucial steps in preserving the Walagara tradition. The Walagara tradition is increasingly marginalized due to various interrelated factors, including the influx of foreign cultures and modernization, which has replaced traditional values in community life. A shift in mindset toward technological and economic progress has diminished interest in local culture. Furthermore, increasing individualism in modern society has led to a decline in engagement in collective traditions like Walagara (Paonam, 2024).

The government's lack of attention to cultural preservation, the lack of cultural education in schools, and the absence of active regeneration have all accelerated the loss of these traditional values. Commercialization has also altered the original meaning of Walagara, reducing it to a mere tourist attraction without preserving its spiritual and philosophical essence (Fong et al., 2024). The dominance of modern media, which prioritizes global culture over local culture, and the lack of documentation and exposure of this tradition are further accelerating its disappearance from public life. Without concrete steps to preserve it, Walagara risks becoming nothing more than a historical memory with no future successors (Lasaiba, 2024). Preserving the Walagara tradition requires collaboration between various parties through various strategic efforts. Cultural education must be strengthened, both in schools and within families, so that the younger generation understands and appreciates their ancestral heritage (Ohorella et al., 2024). Digitization is also an effective solution, where documentation in the form of videos, articles, and social media can help introduce and maintain this tradition in the modern era. The government, academics, and cultural communities need to collaborate to provide regulations, funding, and promote local culture (Frunlo & Mattone, 2024). Furthermore, youth engagement can be increased through innovative approaches, such as interactive festivals, modern performing arts, or digital-based educational programs. With these steps, it is hoped that the Walagara tradition will be preserved and passed down without losing the noble values that define its identity.

An effective strategy for revitalizing the Walagara tradition to be implemented to reduce the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency

The divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency has been on an upward trend in recent years. From January to March 2022, the Kraksaan Religious Court recorded 372 divorce cases, consisting of 178 lawsuits and 85 divorces by divorce. Meanwhile, in January 2025, the number of divorces reached 225 cases, with 174 lawsuits and 51 divorces by divorce. Although there was a slight decrease compared to the previous year, the divorce rate in this region remains

relatively high (Hadi et al., 2024). The rising divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency is influenced by various factors, particularly economic issues, including job instability, debt, and difficulty meeting basic living expenses. Furthermore, a lack of effective communication between couples often leads to misunderstandings and worsens relationships. Modernization also plays a role in changing marital values, particularly among the younger generation, who may lack a clear understanding of the commitment involved in marriage. Another contributing factor is the high rate of early marriage, which often occurs without emotional and financial readiness. In 2022, the Kraksaan Religious Court recorded 611 marriage dispensation applications, indicating a high number of underage marriages that are vulnerable to divorce.

Addressing this issue requires collaborative efforts between the government, religious institutions, and the community. Educational programs that teach the values of a healthy and harmonious marriage are essential. Furthermore, premarital and postmarital counseling programs need to be strengthened to provide support to couples facing marital difficulties (Rust et al., 2024). Finally, improving family economic well-being is also a crucial step in reducing financial stress, which often triggers divorce. With these efforts, it is hoped that the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency will decrease and families will be more harmonious.

Table 1. Data in Probolinggo Regency

Year	Divorce Lawsuit	Divorce	Total Cases	Case Granted
2019	-	-	2.414	-
2020	-	-	2.2326	-
2021	-	-	2.211	-
2022	1.743	896	2.639	2514
2023	1.536	728	2.264	2.000
2024	1.828	807	2.635	2.334

The high number of divorce cases filed by divorce in 2024, reaching 1,828 cases compared to 807 cases of divorce by divorce, indicates a new dynamic in marital relations, particularly in the context of women's autonomy. This figure reflects increased courage and legal awareness among wives to fight for their rights when they find themselves in household situations deemed unhealthy or unfair. It also indicates a shift in women's roles within the family, no longer solely enduring problematic marital relationships (Kumar et al., 2024). In terms of causes of divorce, economic factors rank first. This confirms that financial stability is the primary foundation for maintaining a marriage (Fischer & Khorunzhina, 2025). When basic needs are not met, emotional relationships are vulnerable to disruption. Economic tensions have the potential to create ongoing conflict, worsen communication, and ultimately erode trust and commitment between partners.

The second prominent cause is infidelity. This phenomenon can be interpreted as a symptom of unmet emotional and sexual needs in marriage, exacerbated by weak or unhealthy communication patterns (Ngwasheng & Mbedzi, 2024). Relatively few cases of domestic violence (KDRT) are reported, but this deserves closer examination, as it may reflect a latent number cases that go unreported due to fear, social stigma, or lack of access to legal and social support. These data collectively indicate significant challenges to family resilience in the modern era, where socioeconomic pressures and

changing traditional values are beginning to shift patterns of household relationships. If this is not balanced with family education, strengthening the micro-economy, and preserving local values such as mutual cooperation and deliberation in conflict resolution, the divorce rate is expected to continue to rise. Traditions like Walagara, which prioritize harmony and dialogue, can be a cultural approach to curb the increasingly alarming divorce rate (Bawati et al., 2025).

Data from 2019 to 2021 show a relatively high number of divorce cases, although there may be a typo in the 2020 data that needs to be clarified (Andalusia & Yasniwati, 2024). A significant spike was recorded in 2022, with a total of 2,639 cases, likely due to the delayed effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as social restrictions previously hampered case filings. After a decline in 2023, the figure rose again in 2024, reaching 2,635 cases. This fluctuation indicates that divorce is no longer an incidental phenomenon but has become a recurring and structural social problem (Carvalho De Freitas & Paula Matos de Queiroz, 2024).

Since 2022, data has been broken down by divorce type, and it appears that contested divorces, namely divorce suits filed by wives, consistently dominate over divorces filed by husbands. In 2022, 1,743 contested divorce cases were recorded, increasing to 1,828 cases in 2024. This fact indicates a significant shift in the position and role of women within the family. They are now more willing to use legal channels to exit marital relationships deemed unhealthy or unfulfilling. On the one hand, this is a positive indicator of women's increasing legal awareness. However, on the other hand, it also reflects the increasing number of internal family problems that fail to be resolved through deliberation.

The high rate of divorce cases granted from 2022 to 2024 further reinforces the impression that divorce is a rational and realistic option for many couples. Of the 2,639 cases filed in 2022, 2,514 were granted (approximately 95%). A similar trend was seen in 2023 and 2024, with over 88% of cases granted by the courts. This figure indicates that the majority of divorce applications are based on legally valid and compelling grounds. On the other hand, this could also be interpreted as a sign of ineffective mediation in court, or that the disputing parties have reached a point where reconciliation is no longer possible (Irahatmi Kaharu et al., 2024). The dominance of divorce proceedings and the high divorce rate have significant social and cultural impacts. Culturally, this indicates that traditional values such as deliberation, patience, and amicable conflict resolution are fading, particularly in East Javanese communities rich in tradition, such as Walagara (Rott-Pietrzyk, 2023). Socially, divorce has a significant impact on child development, household economic stability, and broader social cohesion. Policy-wise, this phenomenon should serve as a wake-up call for local governments, social institutions, and religious institutions to develop more adaptive and contextual family resilience programs (Singh et al., 2025).

Thus, these seemingly simple divorce data actually reflect a complex and multidimensional situation. They are a social warning that the family, as the basic unit of society, is under serious structural pressure (Suprianto et al., 2024). Synergy is needed between premarital education, family support, household economic strengthening, and the preservation of local values that uphold harmony and dialogue. Divorce data is not just numbers; it reflects a value crisis, cultural shifts, and gender dynamics that we must understand deeply and holistically (Saputra et al., 2024). The Walagara tradition instills the values of loyalty, commitment, and cooperation in marriage, where husband

and wife complement each other without rigid roles. Marriage is seen as a shared responsibility of the extended family and community (Ananda & Amir, 2024). Mutual cooperation and the active role of parents and community leaders in providing guidance are crucial, including through marriage counseling that strengthens the couple's understanding of their rights and obligations for a harmonious household.

One of the main causes of divorce is the failure to resolve conflicts. However, the Walagara Tradition offers a resolution mechanism that prioritizes family deliberation and the involvement of religious and traditional leaders. This tradition encourages couples not to rush into divorce but to seek the best solution based on religious and cultural values. Social norms in the Walagara community also uphold the integrity of the household, so divorce. The Walagara tradition remains relevant in the modern era if flexibly adapted, for example through premarital education that teaches the values of loyalty, communication, and conflict resolution. These values can also be disseminated through digital media such as videos and online seminars to reach the younger generation. Furthermore, the role of the community can be strengthened by establishing family discussion groups to support young couples. The Walagara tradition plays a crucial role in maintaining household harmony and reducing divorce rates in Probolinggo Regency through values of loyalty, mutual cooperation, and family deliberation. To remain relevant, this tradition needs to be reimagined through premarital education, technology, and community involvement. With the right revitalization, Walagara can be an effective solution for strengthening the family institution.

The Walagara tradition is a local wisdom found in Probolinggo Regency that holds important values for maintaining the integrity of the household. However, with changing times and modernization, this tradition has begun to erode and is no longer the primary guideline for building a happy married life (Aini, 2024). Therefore, a revitalization strategy is needed to ensure that Walagara values remain applicable in modern life, particularly in reducing the divorce rate. Several strategies include integration into premarital education, strengthening community life, and utilizing technology to preserve this tradition. One of the key steps in revitalizing Walagara is integrating this tradition into premarital counseling. Premarital education is a crucial opportunity for prospective couples to understand their rights and obligations in marriage (Lubis et al., 2024). This guidance teaches Walagara values such as loyalty, mutual cooperation, and deliberation-based conflict resolution to prospective brides and grooms, providing them with the necessary tools to establish a family.

Furthermore, the involvement of religious and cultural figures in household education is a crucial aspect of this revitalization strategy. Religious figures can provide religious perspectives on the importance of maintaining marriage and how to navigate the challenges of married life, while traditional and cultural figures can provide an understanding of Walagara values, which have proven effective in maintaining marital harmony in the past. Thus, the combination of religious teachings and local wisdom can provide a strong guide for couples navigating their married lives. Revitalizing the Walagara tradition needs to be incorporated into daily life, one way of doing this is by reviving family deliberations as a forum for resolving marital conflict. This tradition encourages couples to discuss their marital issues before deciding on a divorce. Furthermore, the active role of communities, such as family discussion groups, is crucial in providing support and solutions for young couples facing marital challenges. In the digital era, the dissemination of

Walagara values can be achieved through social media campaigns and the creation of educational content such as videos, podcasts, and articles (Mujahidin et al., 2024). This strategy is effective in reaching the younger generation, conveying the importance of maintaining marriage, and providing tips for resolving marital conflict based on Walagara local wisdom.

In conclusion, revitalizing the Walagara tradition is a crucial step in reducing the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency. By integrating Walagara values into premarital education, prospective couples can understand the importance of loyalty, mutual cooperation, and deliberation-based conflict resolution (Bukido et al., 2024). Furthermore, by reactivating family deliberations and encouraging active community participation, couples facing marital problems will receive support from their surrounding communities. Furthermore, leveraging technology through digital campaigns and creating educational content can also be an effective means of disseminating Walagara values to the younger generation. With the right revitalization strategy, the Walagara tradition can remain relevant and contribute to strengthening the institution of marriage and reducing the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency.

The Walagara tradition, a form of local wisdom in Probolinggo Regency, plays a crucial role in maintaining family unity. However, modernization has increasingly eroded this tradition, necessitating a revitalization strategy to reduce the divorce rate. This strategy includes integration into premarital education, strengthening community life, and leveraging technology (Mazid et al., 2024). Revitalization of premarital education is being carried out by teaching Walagara values, such as loyalty and deliberation, and involving religious and cultural leaders in household education. In community life, family deliberation is being revived as a conflict resolution mechanism, and communities are being encouraged to play an active role in building family resilience. Furthermore, leveraging technology is a crucial strategy for disseminating Walagara values to the younger generation through digital campaigns and educational content based on local wisdom. This approach maintains the relevance of Walagara traditions and strengthens the institution of marriage, thereby helping to reduce the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency.

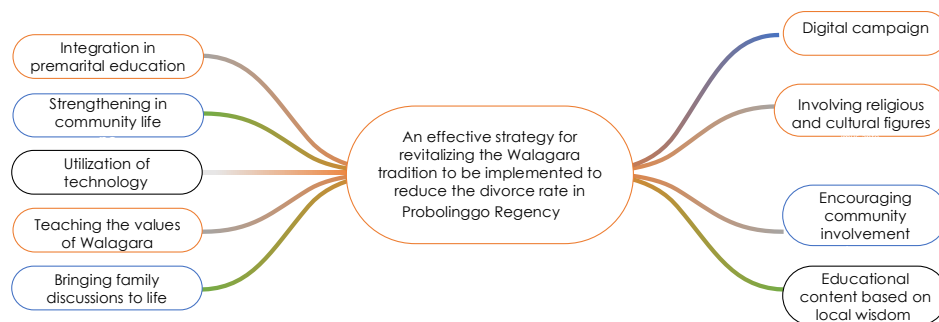
Revitalizing the Walagara tradition to reduce the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency faces various obstacles and challenges. Despite its strong values for maintaining marital harmony, social and cultural changes have made implementing this tradition increasingly difficult. Several key factors hindering Walagara revitalization include a lack of interest among the younger generation in local traditions, the influence of outside cultures that are shifting traditional values, and limited support from the government and community. One of the biggest challenges in preserving the Walagara tradition is the lack of interest in local culture among the younger generation. In today's fast-paced world, many young people view traditions as outdated and irrelevant (Purnamaningtyas et al., 2024). They are more attracted to a more practical and individualistic modern lifestyle than to traditional principles that emphasize togetherness and deliberation within the household. Furthermore, the lack of socialization and education about the importance of Walagara values further distances the younger generation from this tradition.

Globalization and technological advancements have also brought with them various foreign cultures, slowly replacing traditional values in society. The readily accessible flow of information through social media and the internet has exposed people to a modern, individualistic lifestyle, which often contradicts the principles of mutual cooperation and deliberation taught in

Walagara. Consumerist and hedonistic cultures have also influenced society's perspective on marriage, where the relationship between husband and wife is often based more on personal interests than on values of togetherness and family responsibility. Furthermore, the revitalization of the Walagara tradition is hampered by a lack of support from the government and the community. Local governments have not fully integrated Walagara values into family development policies, such as pre-marital counseling or household development programs. The lack of outreach and education programs regarding this tradition means that the community lacks a sufficient understanding of its benefits in maintaining marital harmony. Furthermore, the increasingly pragmatic mindset of society also poses a challenge. Many couples prefer to resolve marital conflicts quickly, including divorce, rather than following the family deliberation process taught in Walagara. Individualistic attitudes and the diminished role of traditional leaders and parents in providing marriage advice also undermine the implementation of this tradition.

Revitalizing the Walagara tradition faces various challenges, ranging from low interest among the younger generation, the influence of outside cultures that are shifting traditional values, and a lack of support from the government and community. Therefore, appropriate strategies are needed to overcome these obstacles, such as packaging Walagara values in a format that is more appealing to the younger generation, strengthening cultural education in families and schools, and increasing the role of the government and community in supporting the preservation of this tradition. With the right steps, Walagara can remain relevant and contribute to maintaining household integrity and reducing the divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency.

Fig 2. An effective strategy for revitalizing the walagara tradition



CONCLUSION

The Walagara tradition of the Tengger people in Probolinggo embodies noble values such as mutual cooperation, loyalty, patience, open communication, and respect for parents and ancestors, which have proven effective in building household harmony. This tradition is not only a spiritual ritual but also serves as a guideline for family life, resolving conflicts through deliberation and maintaining balanced relationships between husband, wife, children, and the extended family. By integrating religious, social, and cultural aspects, Walagara is a relevant and important form of local wisdom that should

be preserved as social capital to strengthen family resilience amidst the tide of modernization. The Walagara tradition is a cultural heritage of the Probolinggo people that emphasizes the values of togetherness, mutual cooperation, and harmony with nature as well as spirituality. However, it is now increasingly marginalized due to the influence of modernization, globalization, urbanization, weak cultural education, commercialization, and the dominance of global media. These factors have led to a decline in community participation and a shift in the meaning of tradition from spiritual and social values to mere attractions. To maintain the sustainability of this tradition, strategic efforts are needed such as strengthening education based on local wisdom, digitalization and cultural documentation, policy support from the government, and the involvement of the younger generation through creative approaches so that Walagara remains alive and relevant in modern life. The divorce rate in Probolinggo Regency continues to rise, dominated by lawsuits, reflecting the shifting role of women and structural issues within families, such as economic difficulties, communication, and early marriage. The local Walagara tradition, which emphasizes the values of loyalty, mutual cooperation, and family deliberation, is thought to help reduce the divorce rate, but is being eroded by modernization and individualistic culture. Therefore, revitalizing this tradition through premarital education, the involvement of religious and traditional leaders, and digital campaigns is needed to maintain its relevance and effectiveness in strengthening family resilience in today's era.

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