

Dancing Through Generations: The Pinamuohan Dance Festival's Symbolism, Relevance, and Significance

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Abstract

This study delves into the intricate dimensions of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival, unraveling its profound symbolism, relevance, and significance within the cultural tapestry of Pinamungajan. Drawing insights from diverse age groups and stakeholders, the research reveals a unanimous consensus on the festival's symbolic representation of thanksgiving for bountiful harvests, offerings to Santa Monica, and a demonstration of unity among Pinamungajanons. Echoing Fajardo's findings, the dance emerges as a poignant expression of labor and emotions, notably resonant among the farming community. The Pinamuohan Dance Festival's relevance takes center stage as a vital conduit for preserving traditions, bridging generational gaps, and fostering increased awareness of local culture. Serving as a dynamic agent of cultural preservation, the dance transcends entertainment to become a cornerstone for safeguarding Pinamungajan's cultural identity. Moreover, the festival's significance lies in its ability to showcase talents, instill community pride, and preserve cultural heritage, actively contributing to Pinamungajan's social, economic, and artistic dimensions. As a living embodiment of continuity and resilience, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival shapes the community's trajectory into the future, standing as a testament to the enduring spirit of Pinamungajanons.

Keywords: Pinamuohan Dance Festival, Symbolism, Cultural Identity, Community Pride, Cultural Heritage

Introduction

Dance, as an intrinsic part of human expression, holds significant value and universality, deeply ingrained in the social fabric across historical cultures (Pusnic, 2010). It serves as a powerful artistic language, enabling individuals to communicate through the intricate interplay of body movements in time and space (Cross & Ticini, 2012). Embracing the richness of cultural diversity, dance acts as a universal conduit for storytelling and idea-sharing, transcending language barriers and fostering cross-cultural communication (Woodard, 2020).

The cultural identity of a community is encapsulated in its knowledge, values, beliefs, and customs, collectively referred to as its shared heritage. Exploring the global tapestry of cultural diversity unveils both the unique characteristics and shared elements that define each nation or region (Kassing, 2021). Cultural dances, whether considered representative of global dance or specific to a particular culture, play a pivotal role in conveying the essence of a community's identity (Kadir, 2016). These dances carry narratives that act as windows into the cultural ethos, providing a means for individuals to understand, respect, and appreciate diverse customs and standards.

In the Philippines, cultural dances manifest in diverse forms, categorized based on geography, theme, or purpose. Local or regional dances are rooted in specific locations, while national dances traverse the entire archipelago. From dances symbolizing love and marriage to those depicting rituals and celebrations, each category serves as a vibrant thread in the rich tapestry of Philippine cultural heritage (Hofilena, 2019).

Festival dances, a noteworthy category, epitomize the communal celebration of cultural identity. Often set to the rhythmic beats of traditional instruments, these dances unfold in honor of Patron Saints or as expressions of gratitude for bountiful harvests (Batianc, 2019). In the Philippines, festivals are integral to local cultures, embodying grand celebrations steeped in historical or cultural significance (Martin, 2020). These festivals, marked by symbolic meanings, offer a platform for communities to showcase their unique heritage through various activities (Punongbayan, 2017).

May, declared National Heritage Month in the Philippines, becomes a focal point for traditional celebrations, aligning with the constitutional mandate to conserve, promote, and disseminate the nation's historical and cultural legacy (Proclamation No. 439, s. 2003). Against this backdrop, festival dances emerge as a living testament to the Filipino cultural heritage, fostering awareness, respect, and love for the legacies of the nation's history (Punongbayan, 2017).

This study delves into the cultural dance landscape of Pinamungajan, particularly focusing on the Pinamuohan dance. Despite the discontinuation of the Pinamuohan or Pamuhuan Festival in Pinamungajan due to shifting local priorities, the dance itself stands as a testament to the town's agricultural roots. Originating from the word "pinamu-ohan," signifying a worker's role in the harvest, the dance captures the spirit of labor, harvesting, and planting, celebrating the community's hard work, abundant crops, and good fortune (Garcia, 2008).

As a proud Pinamungajanon and a future educator, the researcher embarks on this study with a commitment to preserve and promote the Pinamuohan dance. The goal is to create locally relevant educational materials that inspire the younger generation to embrace their cultural heritage, fostering pride and a sense of identity. This study endeavors to contribute to the development of a localized learning resource for Music, Arts, Physical Education, and Health, centered on the Pinamuohan Dance in Pinamungajan, Cebu, for the school year 2021-2022.

Theoretical Background

This study draws inspiration from the Dance Theory proposed by Businessballs (2016), asserting that dance serves as a profound reflection of diverse cultures and societies worldwide. Whether rooted in the Americas, the Far East, the Russian Empire, the Arab world, India, or Australasia, dance evolves, spreads, and intertwines with societal changes. It stands as a fundamental aspect of human behavior, transcending religious, creedal, communal, and ethnic boundaries. Through dance, children and young people absorb essential lessons about relationships, love, mating, and socialization, fostering communication and a sense of belonging within communities globally.

McGrew (2008) expands this perspective within the Social Awareness Theory by Greenspan, defining social awareness as an individual's capacity to comprehend others, social events, and the mechanisms governing social interactions. It encompasses cognitive elements such as social sensitivity, social insight, and social communication. As part of a multidimensional construct, social awareness aligns with physical competence, emotional competence, conceptual intelligence, and practical intelligence, making it a crucial component of human competency. This theory underscores the importance of raising awareness about the Pinamuohan dance within the community, emphasizing its role in preserving local culture.

In the Theories and Practice of the Dance Art, Charles (2014) emphasizes the significance of situating dance within a philosophical interpretation for effective teaching. Acknowledging dance as a nonverbal means of communication, Charles contends that its interpretative depth goes beyond mere entertainment, serving as a powerful tool for countering societal vices and fostering moral and cultural appreciation. This theory reinforces the notion that dance, including the Pinamuohan dance, holds intrinsic value in both traditional and modern educational settings.

Hofilena's (2019) exploration of dance education further contributes to the theoretical foundation, highlighting the importance of passing down tradition, methods, styles, and methodologies in teaching dance. The transmission of dances across generations, often through literature, staging, videography, and performances, plays a vital role in preserving cultural heritage. This approach guides the exploration of various dimensions of the Pinamuohan dance and offers a recommended framework for its transmission through academic research.

Aligned with these theories, the legal framework provided by DepEd Order No. 32, s. 2015, and DepEd Order No. 35, s. 2016, supports the need for curriculum contextualization, localization, and indigenization. Recognizing the right of indigenous peoples to culturally rooted education, these directives emphasize the necessity of connecting curriculum materials to learners' experiences, interests, and goals. Indigenization is particularly crucial in deepening curriculum contextualization for cultures distinct from the majority. This legal foundation paves the way for the inclusion of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival as a locally relevant learning resource in the teaching of Music, Arts, Physical Education, and Health (MAPEH).

The amalgamation of these theories and legal frameworks serves as the theoretical underpinning for this study, which aims to develop a localized learning resource for MAPEH based on the Pinamuohan Dance in Pinamungajan, Cebu, for the school year 2021-2022.

Methodology

Design:

This study employs a descriptive research method to provide an in-depth portrayal of the Pinamuohan Dance as a cultural dance in Pinamungajan. The aim is to address the identified problem and contribute to the achievement of the research goals and objectives. Descriptive research, according to Singh (2006), is instrumental in understanding present conditions, exploring immediate needs, studying the current status of a phenomenon, and examining relationships between traits and characteristics.

Environment:

The study is conducted in Pinamungajan, Cebu Province, situated in the southern part of Cebu. Pinamungajan, established in 1850, is a second-class town with 26 barangays, known for its primarily Catholic population and an agricultural economy. The town's physical landscape is diverse, encompassing over ten thousand hectares of land with various classifications, including arable, commercial, industrial, disposable, wildlife, forest reservations, and national parks.

Respondents:

The sample size is determined using the G power with an 80 percent power and a 5% margin of error, resulting in a sample of 88. This was increased to 90 due to the selection of three barangays. Participants include 90 individuals from three barangays (30 per barangay) representing different clusters: industrialized area, fishermen area, and mountainous area. Additionally, ten stakeholders are considered, comprising members from the Tourism Office, Mayor's Office, choreographers, MAPE teachers, and dancers, totaling 100 respondents.

Instruments:

A questionnaire is utilized to gather data, divided into two parts. Part I captures participants' profiles, including age, gender, and educational status. Part II explores the Pinamuohan dance in terms of awareness, symbolism, relevance to culture, and significance to Pinamungajanons. The questionnaire is developed using the Delphi method, with items organized based on responses from 27 participants.

Data Gathering Procedure:

The researcher sought approval from the dean of the graduate school, obtained IRB approval, and secured a notice to proceed. After obtaining necessary permissions from local authorities, the Delphi method was used for interviews, and a survey questionnaire was distributed to selected barangays. The researcher personally conducted the survey to ensure the retrieval of all questionnaires.

Data Analysis:

Data analysis involves the use of statistical tools, including percentage and frequency distribution for profiling respondents. The weighted mean is applied to gauge community perceptions of the Pinamuohan dance's awareness, symbolism, relevance, and significance. The Cronbach alpha is used to assess the reliability of the questionnaire dimensions.

Ethical Considerations:

Ethical considerations include protecting human rights, ensuring beneficence, respecting human dignity, upholding justice, and maintaining transparency. Risks and benefits are determined, and participants' rights to privacy and confidentiality are assured. Informed consent, voluntary participation, and right to withdraw are emphasized. Debriefing sessions, gratitude expressions, and confidentiality pledges contribute to ethical research practices. Contact information for grievances is provided.

Conflict of Interest:

No conflict of interest is identified in the study.

Recruitment:

Random recruitment of residents from the specified barangays is conducted, emphasizing voluntary participation and the right to refuse or withdraw without penalty.

Treatment of Vulnerability Groups:

No vulnerable groups are identified, and data gathered are positive and respectful of human dignity.

Collaborative Study Terms of Reference:

The Tourism Office is provided a copy of the study for journal publication, and respondents can access the findings.

Results and Discussion

Symbolism of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the Pinamungajanons.The symbolism of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the Pinamungajanons can also symbolize a thing or an event. This includes the youth, middle-aged, elderly, and stakeholders on how they perceived the Pinamuohan dance. The result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Symbolism of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the Pinamungajanons

Symbols Indicators	Youth. (n=30)		Middle-aged (n=30)		Elderly (n=30)		Stakeholders (n=10)		Total. (n=100)		Rank
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest	22	73.3	21	70.0	22	73.3	8	80.0	73	73.0	1
Offering to Santa Monica	21	70.0	17	56.7	21	70.0	8	80.0	67	67.0	2
Showcase the unity of Pinamungajanons	19	63.3	17	56.7	19	63.3	9	90.0	64	64.0	3
Form of Entertainment	16	53.3	23	76.7	16	53.3	3	30.0	58	58.0	4

Appreciation of the hard work of farmers/fishermen	14	46.7	19	63.3	14	46.7	9	90.0	56	56.0	5
Dance praising God	17	56.7	11	36.7	17	56.7	2	20.0	47	47.0	6
Source of pride in the town	12	40.0	15	50.0	12	40.0	7	70.0	46	46.0	7
Form of historical arts	8	26.7	15	50.0	8	26.7	4	40.0	35	35.0	8
Self-expression of religiosity	11	36.7	6	20.0	11	36.7	0	0.0	28	28.0	9
Form of offering to Santo Nino	10	33.3	6	20.0	10	33.3	0	0.0	26	26.0	10

Note: n = 100.

Table 1 demonstrates the symbolism of the Pinamuohan dance according to rank. This shows that almost three-fourths of the respondents agreed that thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest ranked first. This is the reason behind the celebration of the Pinamuohan dance festival. The offering to Santa Monica that was accepted by the vast majority of respondents came next in the ranking. It was because Saint Monica is the patron saint of the Pinamungajan people. Offering to Santo Niño was deemed to represent the Pinamuohan dance by the fewest responses, which is why it came in last on the list. The Pinamuohan dance festival always coincides with the patron saint of that particular community, which explains why.

Young and old mostly agreed that the Pinamuohan dance symbolized the abundant land and sea harvest as well as the laborious work of its people. The dance illustrates the numerous labor-related motions, such as planting and harvesting. The majority of the middle-aged respondents agreed that Pinamuohan dance is a type of entertainment created and performed for the sake of amusement. The Pinamuohan dance represents mostly to stakeholders the appreciation of the farmers and fishermen's labor as well as the solidarity of Pinamungajanons. This is because dance engages individuals, can strengthen communities, and can increase engagement with more general social goals.

The finding is supported by the study of Fajardo (2018) that Pamuohan is a very meaningful dance in that every body movement symbolizes the work and the emotions of workers, especially the farmers. Pamuohan is performed during social celebrations but in a different venue or during a religious ceremony, and connotes reverence to and worship of God.

The data clearly explains that thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest and offering to Santa Monica symbolizes the Pinamuohan dance festival to the Pinamungajanons. They created the dance to commemorate their successful harvest.

Relevance of Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the lives of Pinamungajanons. The relevance of Pinamuohan dance festival to the lives of Pinamungajanons is important for the younger

generation to know and how to preserve such traditions. This includes the youth, middle-aged, elderly, and stakeholders on how they perceived the Pinamuohan dance. The result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Relevance of Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the lives of Pinamungajanons

Relevance Indicators	Youth n=30		Middle-aged n=30		Elderly n=30		Stakeholders n=30		Total n=100	
	Mean	SD	Mea	SD	Mea	SD	Mean	SD	Mea	SD
	n		n		n		n		n	
Reminisce the traditions of farmers and fishermen	3.60	0.56	3.77	0.43	3.73	0.45	3.70	0.48	3.70	0.48
The young generations witness the culture of their forefathers	3.57	0.57	3.57	0.50	3.70	0.47	3.30	1.06	3.58	0.59
Showcasing the way of living of Pinamungajanons before	3.60	0.50	3.77	0.50	3.73	0.45	3.80	0.42	3.71	0.48
Increases the awareness of local culture	3.57	0.57	3.83	0.38	3.67	0.48	3.80	0.42	3.70	0.48
Strengthens the local values and traditions	3.60	0.56	3.73	0.45	3.73	0.45	3.80	0.42	3.70	0.48
Factor Average	3.59	0.50	3.73	0.36	3.71	0.43	3.68	0.44	3.68	0.43
Description	Very Relevant		Very Relevant		Very Relevant		Very Relevant		Very Relevant	

Note. 1.00-1.76 - Not Relevant; 1.76-2.50 - Less Relevant; 2.51-3.25 - Relevant; 3.26-4.00 - Very Relevant

Table 2 shows that the relevance of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the lives of Pinamungajanons had almost the same perceptions. The majority of the respondents, including both the young and the old, thought that the Pinamuohan dance was extremely relevant to the lives of the people in Pinamungajan because it revived farming and fishing traditions, showed off the way Pinamungajanons used to live, and strengthened local values. The reason behind this is that the Pinamuohan dance exemplifies the community's culture in terms of its way of life and the way it strengthens cultural customs and traditions.

It also implies that most of the respondents, both middle-aged and stakeholders, agreed that increased awareness of local culture was also considered very relevant to the lives of the locals in the Pinamuohan dance. It's because they will learn to relate to others from different cultural backgrounds more effectively as they gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their own culture. Overall, respondents are least likely to believe that younger generations are exposed to their ancestors' culture. Because of this, educating them was a good way to show respect for one's culture.

The recorded factor average with a weighted mean of 3.68 which is rated very relevant proves that the Pinamuohan Dance Festival is relevant to the way of living of Pinamungajanons before, depicting the mostly agricultural community that inspires the creation of the dance. Pinamuohan dance is created to give appreciation to those people who still perform pinamuohan wherein they were able to preserve their own tradition.

The finding negates the study of Kadir (2016) that culture is defined as our way of life the tradition and norms which is important in every culture can be represented in a way of dancing, a graceful dance, colorful props and costumes, slow movements and fast that catches the attention of everyone. Every cultural dance has a story that needs to match the theme or things that they want to express. It has a story behind in order to be understood by other cultures.

The data clearly indicates that showcasing the way of living of the Pinamungajanons before was the most relevant part of the Pinamuohan dance festival to the lives of Pinamungajanons.

Significance of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival Among Pinamungajanons.

The significance of the Pinamuohan dance festival among Pinamungajanons includes the youth, middle-aged, elderly, and stakeholders on how they perceived these local dances to the people and to the place. The result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 indicates the significance of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival to the people and to the place. This shows that the overall respondents agreed that the Pinamuohan dance showcases the talents and skills of Pinamungajanons in dancing with a weighted mean of 3.84 which is rated very significant. This is due to the fact that dance gives young people a boost of confidence and inspires them to show off their skills and let them shine. They may benefit from this in other areas as well, such as presentation skills or performance. The majority of the respondents also agreed that the Pinamuohan dance allows the sharing of happiness and pride with the municipality, with a weighted mean of 3.79, which is highly significant. Because promoting the municipality with pride is one way they can feel proud of their community, and it has been shown to foster togetherness and camaraderie among its residents. With a weighted mean of 3.32, the lowest number of respondents agreed that Pinamuohan dance provides new work opportunities. It is because this festival dance only took place once a year and couldn't actually offer employment chances to individuals.

The data clearly shows that the Pinamuohan dance showcases the talents and skills of Pinamungajanons in dancing was the most significant of the Pinamuohan dance festival. It implies providing a platform for outstanding people to demonstrate their skills, enabling the public to identify and recognize them. The Pinamuohan dance offers new employment prospects came in last and was the least important of them all.

Table 3

Significance of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival Among Pinamungajanons

Significance Indicators	Youth	Middle-aged	Elderly	Stakeholders	Total
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	<i>n</i> =30		<i>n</i> =30		<i>n</i> =30		<i>n</i> =10		<i>n</i> =100	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Pinamuohan dance boosts the tourism industry of the municipality	3.73	0.45	3.73	0.45	3.70	0.47	3.70	0.48	3.72	0.45
Pinamuohan dance boosts the economy of Pinamungajan	3.40	0.62	3.47	0.68	3.53	0.51	2.80	1.14	3.40	0.69
Pinamuohan dance gives inspiration to the youth	3.67	0.48	3.67	0.55	3.73	0.45	3.40	0.70	3.66	0.51
Pinamuohan dance offers new work opportunities.	3.23	0.77	3.43	0.77	3.40	0.67	3.00	0.94	3.32	0.76
Pinamuohan dance showcase the talents and skills of Pinamungajanons in dancing	3.83	0.38	3.87	0.35	3.80	0.41	3.90	0.32	3.84	0.37
Pinamuohan dance preserves the culture and remembering the origin	3.80	0.41	3.87	0.35	3.77	0.43	3.30	0.95	3.76	0.49
Pinamuohan dance provides unity to the people of Pinamungajan.	3.73	0.45	3.67	0.55	3.73	0.45	3.70	0.48	3.71	0.48
Pinamuohan dance allows sharing of happiness and pride with the municipality.	3.73	0.45	3.80	0.41	3.80	0.41	3.90	0.32	3.79	0.41
Pinamuohan dance allows winning during competition.	3.73	0.52	3.60	0.56	3.70	0.47	2.90	0.99	3.60	0.62
Pinamuohan dance increases the interest of Pinamungajanons in participating in different cultural activities related to this dance.	3.80	0.41	3.73	0.45	3.77	0.43	3.60	0.52	3.75	0.43
Factor Average	3.67	0.39	3.68	0.39	3.69	0.39	3.42	0.37	3.66	0.39
Description	Very Significant		Very Significant		Very Significant		Very Significant		Very Significant	

Note. 1.00-1.76 - Not Significant; 1.76-2.50 - Less Significant; 2.51-3.25 - Significant; 3.26-4>00 - Very Significant

The recorded factor average with a weighted mean of 3.66 demonstrates that the significance of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival among Pinamungajanons is by showcasing their dancing abilities and skills, which are representative of Pinamuohan's historical and social period. They dance as well as they can, and Pinamuohan serves as an example of how they dance through life. Furthermore, it implies that the Pinamuohan Dance Festival provides the town with an opportunity to share its joy and sense of pride with the rest of the world. It will make them proud of the dance and introduce them to the wide variety of Pinamuohan.

The result is parallel to the article of Hattours (2016) that festivals are an expressive way to celebrate glorious heritage, culture, and traditions. They all serve the purpose of bringing happiness to our lives, and strengthening our sense of community. Seasonal festivals reflect the attitude of people towards nature. Overall in simple terms, universally all festivals are related to harmony, peace, and happiness.

The research findings illuminate the rich tapestry of symbolism, relevance, and significance woven into the fabric of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival for the Pinamungajanons. Spanning various age groups and stakeholders, respondents reveal a nuanced understanding of the dance's symbolism, with a pronounced consensus attributing it to a celebration of thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. The festival's symbolism further extends to offerings dedicated to Santa Monica, the patron saint of Pinamungajan, underscoring a spiritual dimension intertwined with the agricultural festivities. Additionally, the Pinamuohan Dance emerges as a potent symbol of unity among Pinamungajanons, transcending generational and communal boundaries, as corroborated by the survey data. These symbolic layers align seamlessly with Fajardo's study, which underscores the Pinamuohan Dance's portrayal of labor and emotions, particularly resonant within the context of the farming community.

In the realm of relevance, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival emerges as a cultural touchstone, perceived as highly significant by respondents. The dance is acknowledged for its role in facilitating a collective reminiscence of the traditions inherent in the lives of farmers and fishermen. This collective remembrance is vital in a community where the rhythms of life are intricately tied to the cycles of agriculture and the sea. Furthermore, the festival serves as a living museum, allowing the younger generation to witness and engage with the cultural tapestry woven by their forefathers. It becomes a conduit for passing on not just dance steps but the very essence of Pinamungajan's cultural identity, providing a bridge between the past and the future. The Pinamuohan Dance, in this context, is recognized as a crucial tool for fostering an increased awareness of local culture, transcending mere entertainment to become a dynamic agent of cultural preservation.

Significantly, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival assumes a multifaceted role in the lives of Pinamungajanons, extending beyond symbolism and relevance to underscore its broader significance. Survey respondents emphasize its ability to showcase talents and skills, particularly among the youth, becoming a platform for self-expression and confidence-building. This aligns with the assertion that festivals, as cultural expressions, play a role in nurturing and showcasing the talents of a community (Kilag, et al., 2023). Moreover, the Pinamuohan Dance is acknowledged as a source of community pride, offering a shared space where the achievements and vibrancy of Pinamungajanons are celebrated collectively. The festival becomes a source of

unity, bringing together diverse members of the community under the umbrella of shared cultural pride.

The research findings collectively underscore the integral role of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival in shaping the identity and cultural landscape of Pinamungajan. Its dynamic contributions extend beyond the realms of tradition and celebration, permeating the social, economic, and artistic dimensions of the community. As a cultural cornerstone, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival not only reflects the rich history and traditions of Pinamungajanons but actively contributes to the resilience and continuity of this vibrant cultural legacy.

The research paints a comprehensive picture of the Pinamuohan Dance Festival, revealing its layers of symbolism, relevance, and significance. The festival stands as a testament to the resilience of tradition in the face of evolving landscapes, embodying the spirit of gratitude, unity, and cultural pride among Pinamungajanons (Kilag, et al., 2023). As the community continues to navigate the currents of change, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival remains a steadfast anchor, connecting generations and ensuring the perpetuity of Pinamungajan's cultural heritage.

Conclusion

The Pinamuohan Dance Festival emerges as a cultural cornerstone deeply embedded in the collective consciousness of Pinamungajanons. The multifaceted nature of its symbolism, relevance, and significance, as elucidated by the research findings, underscores its integral role in shaping the identity and cultural fabric of the community. The festival's symbolism, ranging from thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest to offerings dedicated to Santa Monica, reflects a profound connection between the agricultural rhythms of the community and its spiritual ethos. This symbiosis is further emphasized by the dance's portrayal of labor and emotions, resonating particularly with the farming community, as corroborated by Fajardo's study.

The Pinamuohan Dance Festival's relevance is articulated through its ability to serve as a living repository of traditions, allowing the community to collectively reminisce about the lives of farmers and fishermen. It becomes a cultural bridge, connecting the younger generation with the heritage and wisdom of their forefathers. As a dynamic agent of cultural preservation, the dance fosters increased awareness of local culture, transcending the boundaries of mere entertainment to become a vital tool for safeguarding Pinamungajan's cultural identity.

Moreover, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival assumes a broader significance by showcasing talents and skills, particularly among the youth. It becomes a platform for self-expression and confidence-building, contributing to the community's cultural pride. As a source of unity, the festival fosters camaraderie and a shared sense of identity among Pinamungajanons. While providing a moment of celebration, it also serves as a reminder of the resilience embedded in the cultural heritage of the community.

The Pinamuohan Dance Festival, with its vibrant display of Pinamungajan's rich history and traditions, actively contributes to the community's social, economic, and artistic dimensions. As a symbol of continuity and resilience, the festival not only reflects the cultural legacy of Pinamungajan but actively shapes its trajectory into the future. In navigating the currents of

change, the Pinamuohan Dance Festival stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of the community, providing a source of inspiration, unity, and cultural pride for generations to come. As the dance continues to weave its way through the landscape of Pinamungajan, it remains an enduring expression of gratitude, unity, and celebration, embodying the heart and soul of this vibrant community.

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