

Journal of Intelligent Management

journal homepage: www.intelligentjournal.org/

The Global Impact of Local Art Forms for Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

This research consisted of 3 objectives. They were to 1) examine how local and indigenous art forms contribute to the advancement of selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly those related to cultural sustainability, social inclusion, education, and economic empowerment at local, national, and global levels, 2) analyze the mechanisms through which local art forms gain global visibility and influence, including cultural exchange, digital platforms, tourism, and international collaborations, and to assess their role in promoting sustainable development narratives worldwide, and 3) evaluate the socio-economic and cultural impacts of integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives, with a focus on community resilience, preservation of cultural heritage, and long-term sustainability outcomes. This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore how local art forms contribute to SDG outcomes and how these contributions resonate globally. The mixed-methods design enabled triangulation of empirical data (quantitative) with rich contextual insights (qualitative), ensuring comprehensive understanding of both measurable impacts and lived experiences of community participants. The final findings were founded based on the three research objectives that 1) the local art forms significantly contributes to achieving multiple SDGs through education, economic empowerment, and cultural preservation, 2) the global impact is achieved through digital dissemination, cultural exchange, strategic partnerships, and cultural diplomacy , and 3) the integrating art into sustainable development initiatives produces substantial socio-economic, cultural, and social benefits while requiring careful management to address sustainability challenges. These findings collectively demonstrate that local art forms are powerful, context-sensitive instruments for advancing global sustainable development, offering culturally grounded pathways toward inclusive and resilient futures.

Keywords: global impact, local art forms, sustainable development goals

1. Introduction

Local art forms represent cultural expressions deeply rooted in the historical, social, and environmental contexts of specific communities. These artistic practices—ranging from traditional crafts, performance arts, murals, to community-based artistic initiatives—serve not only as cultural markers but also as dynamic mediums for communication, education,

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Received: Dec 31, 2025; Reviewed: Jan 8, 2026; Accepted: Jan 30, 2026

and social transformation. In an increasingly globalized world, the role of local art forms in shaping global narratives about sustainable development has gained scholarly and policy attention. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a universal framework for global development, emphasizing 17 goals that encompass poverty eradication, reduced inequalities, environmental protection, education, peace, and partnerships. While the SDGs offer a global blueprint, local cultural initiatives—especially artistic practices—provide unique pathways for translating these goals into lived experiences and localized action. The intersection between local art and sustainable development reflects a broader conceptual shift in global development paradigms: from purely quantitative metrics of progress toward inclusive, culturally grounded, and community-driven change. Local art forms carry intrinsic values that resonate with cultural identity, community resilience, and social cohesion—dimensions central to both sustainable development theory and practice. In light of this, exploring the global impact of local art forms within the SDG framework invites a multidisciplinary inquiry into how cultural expression can transform societies and contribute to global sustainability agendas (UNESCO. 2013, Local Action, 2025).

The role of art in development extends beyond aesthetic value to encompass sociocultural, economic, and educational dimensions. Art fosters communication that transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, making complex concepts more accessible and relatable. Visual and participatory art forms often engage communities in dialogue about shared challenges and collective aspirations. For instance, urban murals and public art installations have been used strategically to raise awareness about social issues, stimulate community pride, and activate local participation in civic life. Recent research demonstrates how street art in global cities serves not only as a form of creative expression but also as a vehicle for advancing conversations around urban sustainability, inequality, and environmental stewardship—issues that align with multiple SDGs such as Quality Education (SDG 4), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10). Moreover, arts-based research and creative processes have been shown to promote social-ecological transformation through participatory methods that unite local knowledge with broader sustainability objectives. Such approaches position art as an agent of social change rather than as a passive cultural artifact. This aligns with broader scholarly discussions about the role of culture and heritage in sustainable development: cultural practices provide communities with the social capital required for resilience, identity preservation, and intergenerational learning, all of which underpin long-term sustainable development outcomes (Diana Ibrahim, Khairunnisa Mohd Ghani, Mohd Yuszaidy, and others, 2023).

A growing body of case studies underscores how local art forms serve as effective tools for communicating and internalizing SDG concepts at community levels. In Portugal, a mural project in the Zambujal neighborhood of Amadora demonstrates how collective art initiatives can highlight No Poverty (SDG 1) and Zero Hunger (SDG 2) through imagery rooted in daily life experiences. Local residents participated in the creation and interpretation of these murals, turning the art into a platform for community engagement and shared pride. This project gained international attention, linking local stories to global goals and enhancing the sense of belonging among residents. Similarly, community-based art programs—designed to integrate SDG themes into artistic practice—have been recognized as mechanisms for empowerment and social change. Research on community art initiatives points to increased social cohesion, enhanced awareness of social issues, and improved capacity for collective action. These programs often involve collaborative development of artworks, workshops, and exhibitions, which not only celebrate local creativity but also embed the principles of the SDGs into the cultural life of communities. Such integration fosters a shared vocabulary about sustainability and encourages citizens to become stakeholders in developmental processes. Art is also used by organizations to contextualize and promote broader SDG objectives. For example, the Humanistic Buddhism movement across Southeast Asia has curated art exhibitions focused on Quality Education (SDG 4) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), representing compassion, peace, and environmental stewardship through visual narratives. These displays engage diverse audiences and invite reflection on the universal values that underpin the SDGs, thus reinforcing the connection between local cultural expression and global goals. Local art forms often gain broader impact through international exposure, partnerships, and cultural exchanges that connect communities across borders. Events like the Dhaka Art Summit in South Asia serve as platforms for artists, scholars, and the public to engage with cultural creativity in ways that intersect with social and environmental themes relevant to sustainable development. By hosting exhibitions, workshops, and dialogues on topics like climate change and identity, such summits help disseminate local artistic voices on a global stage and foster cross-cultural collaboration. Cultural diplomacy initiatives also illustrate how traditionally localized art forms can contribute to global understanding. Digital archiving projects like the Zay Initiative's fashion history archive preserve and share intangible cultural heritage, fostering global dialogues about identity, heritage, and sustainability. These endeavors underscore how the preservation and promotion of local art contribute to intercultural empathy and cross-border partnerships—central elements of Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) (Hansen, S., 2022).

In sum, local art forms play a multifaceted role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals by making global objectives tangible and culturally resonant within communities. Through public art, community engagement, cultural exchange, and artistic advocacy, local art practices help translate abstract global agendas into lived experiences that foster social cohesion, environmental awareness, and inclusive development. These culturally grounded practices not only celebrate diversity but also contribute to shared strategies for sustainable futures. As global development frameworks increasingly recognize the value of cultural capital, local art continues to emerge as a crucial dimension of sustainable transformation—bridging local realities with global aspirations.

2. Literature Survey

The intersection of local art forms and sustainable development has increasingly attracted academic attention as scholars recognize culture and art as pivotal components of human development frameworks. Although the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) do not explicitly mention art, culture is widely understood to be embedded within multiple goals, including Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). Cultural expression and heritage preservation strengthen identity, promote inclusion, and can generate sustainable economic opportunities, particularly through creative industries and cultural tourism. For instance, UNESCO highlights that placing culture at the center of development policies enhances inclusive and equitable development, catalyzing local economic opportunities and social cohesion while supporting the broader SDG agenda. Local art forms such as mural projects, performance art, community-based installations, and traditional crafts represent rich repositories of community narratives and values. Artistic practices communicate complex social issues in relatable ways, amplifying voices and experiences that might otherwise remain marginalized in mainstream development discourse. The ability of art to evoke emotional engagement and convey abstract sustainability concepts underscores its value as a vehicle for public awareness and cultural transformation. Research demonstrates that art can contribute to sustainable development in multiple ways. Hansen's systematic exploration of street art highlights how visual art practices make sustainability issues tangible, promote dialogue, and shape public perceptions of environmental and social challenges, thereby aligning with the SDG agenda. Street art initiatives have been identified as powerful tools for raising awareness, synthesizing complex information, and stimulating community reflection on sustainability themes (Duxbury, N., Kangas, A., & De Beukelaer, C., 2017)

Similarly, community-based art programs designed to integrate elements of the SDGs illustrate how localized artistic interventions contribute directly to social empowerment and community development. Empirical studies have documented how participatory art initiatives facilitate collective engagement, fostering local ownership of development processes and enhancing residents' understanding of global development priorities. These programs often involve co-creation, workshops, and exhibitions that embed SDG concepts directly into community life, supporting the internalization of values such as equality, justice, and environmental stewardship. Public art and cultural installations also serve as hubs for socio-economic activity, attracting visitors, revitalizing public spaces, and stimulating creative economies. Projects such as the large mural initiative in the Zambujal neighborhood of Amadora, Portugal, illustrate how local art can garner national and international recognition while strengthening community pride and solidarity. These case studies demonstrate that localized art forms can elevate marginalized voices and foster identity affirmation while connecting local experiences to global agendas. Urban sustainability research highlights the role of arts spaces—permanent and temporary—as catalysts for community engagement, economic revitalization, and resilience. A recent systematic review synthesizing 79 peer-reviewed articles found that arts places contribute to economic, social, and environmental sustainability in urban settings by attracting tourism, encouraging civic participation, and promoting environmental awareness through artistic expression. These spaces, whether galleries, public installations, or pop-up exhibitions, function as inclusive venues that foster cross-community dialogue and strengthen cultural identity. The literature also points to challenges associated with art-led urban regeneration, such as gentrification and displacement when cultural projects drive up property values without safeguarding community interests. Despite these challenges, integrating art into urban planning is increasingly viewed as a strategic approach to achieving sustainable cities that are culturally vibrant, socially inclusive, and economically dynamic. The review underscores the importance of balanced policies that support arts initiatives while protecting community integrity and promoting equitable development. Arts-based research has emerged as an important methodological and theoretical orientation within sustainability studies. This approach integrates artistic practice into research processes to explore social, ecological, and cultural phenomena in ways that traditional methods may not capture (Ibrahim, D., Mohd Ghani, K., Mohd Yuszaidy, M. Y., et al. (2025).

A classification framework for arts-based methods identifies research about art, art as research, and art in research—each representing different ways of engaging artistic practice within inquiry. This typology underscores how artistic forms such as visual art, performing art, and new media can function both as subject matter and as methodological tools to study human experiences and community dynamics. Further, studies on arts-based interventions in sustainability research emphasize collaboration across disciplines, where artists, scientists, and community members co-design projects that address complex socio-ecological issues. These transdisciplinary engagements leverage creative expression to facilitate holistic understanding, community participation, and shared decision-making processes, advancing sustainability outcomes through culturally grounded and context-specific knowledge production. Despite the growing recognition of art's contributions to sustainable development, several gaps remain. First, quantitative measures of art's long-term impacts on SDG outcomes are underdeveloped, with most studies relying on qualitative case evidence. Researchers call for more mixed-methods approaches to robustly evaluate economic, social, and environmental effects of art projects. Second, while global and transnational arts events (e.g., art biennales and cultural festivals) highlight cross-cultural exchange and international visibility, there is limited research on how global dissemination influences local practices and identities. This presents opportunities for future

research that interrogates the balance between cultural preservation and global exposure. Additionally, methodological innovations that integrate participatory and arts-based research with traditional social science methods are needed to capture the complexity of art-mediated sustainability outcomes holistically (Maria, H., Diego, G., Elisa, O, and Federica, R. (2021).

3. Methodology

This study consisted of three research objectives. They were 1) examine how local and indigenous art forms contribute to the advancement of selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly those related to cultural sustainability, social inclusion, education, and economic empowerment at local, national, and global levels, 2) analyze the mechanisms through which local art forms gain global visibility and influence, including cultural exchange, digital platforms, tourism, and international collaborations, and to assess their role in promoting sustainable development narratives worldwide, and 3) evaluate the socio-economic and cultural impacts of integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives, with a focus on community resilience, preservation of cultural heritage, and long-term sustainability outcomes. This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore how local art forms contribute to SDG outcomes and how these contributions resonate globally.

3.1 the figure of conceptual framework diagram

The methodology had the conceptual framework diagram to label this figure as follows:

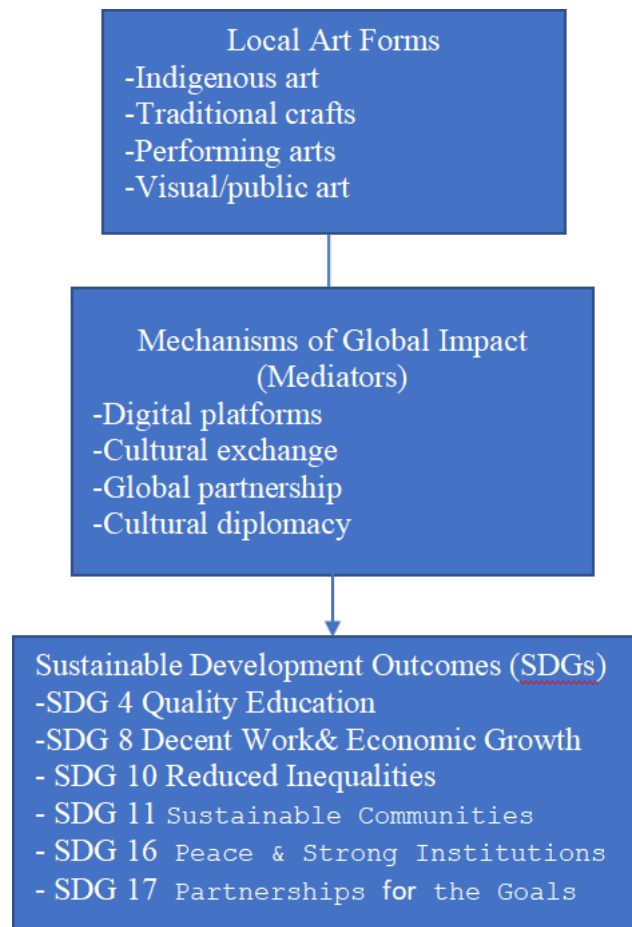


Figure 1: the figure of conceptual framework diagram showed the local art forms, mechanisms of global impact, and sustainable development outcomes.

This study conceptualized local art forms as catalysts for sustainable development by influencing social, economic, and cultural outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The framework assumed that the Global Impact of Local Art Forms for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had conceptual explanation as follows: This conceptual framework illustrated how local art forms function as key drivers that contributed to sustainable development outcomes, mediated through specific mechanisms of global engagement, and resulting in measurable impacts aligned with the SDGs. The framework was grounded in cultural sustainability theory, capability approach, and participatory development models, which emphasized culture, agency, and community engagement as central to sustainable development. This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore how local art forms contributed to SDG outcomes and how these contributions resonated globally. The mixed-methods design enabled triangulation of empirical data (quantitative) with rich contextual insights (qualitative), ensuring comprehensive understanding of both measurable impacts and lived experiences of community participants (Qingchun Wang & Sara Coema, 2024).

3.2 the steps of qualitative - quantitative components, and sampling and data collection as follows:

Qualitative Component:

The qualitative component included case studies, semi-structured interviews, and arts-based participatory observations. Case studies focused on selected local art initiatives that explicitly or implicitly contributed to SDG advancement (e.g., community murals, festivals, cultural workshops). Semi-structured interviews with artists, local leaders, policymakers, and participants captured nuanced perspectives on art's role in promoting social cohesion, economic empowerment, and sustainability awareness. Arts-based participatory observation involved documenting artistic processes and community interactions to understand engagement dynamics. Qualitative methods were crucial to interpreting cultural meaning and community resonance beyond numerical indicators (Bunmi Isaiah Omodan., 2025).

Quantitative Component:

Quantitative methods included survey questionnaires distributed to wider community members involved in or exposed to art projects. Structured surveys measured perceptions of SDG awareness, community cohesion, and economic benefits attributed to art initiatives. Descriptive statistics and correlation analyses were used to identify patterns and relationships between art engagement and SDG-related outcomes. This mixed-methods approach aligned with best practices in sustainability research by integrating objective measures with subjective experiences to present a holistic picture of art's contributions toward global development goals.

Sampling and Data Collection

Case Selection:

Case studies were purposively sampled from diverse geographical and cultural settings to ensure representativeness. Selection criteria included documented connection to SDG themes (e.g., community empowerment, environmental awareness), visibility in local or national media, and feasibility of data access (e.g., permissions to interview stakeholders). Cases included mural projects, performing arts festivals, heritage art initiatives, and cultural tourism events with sustainability components.

Interview Protocol:

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders: local artists, cultural organizers, community leaders, and participants. A semi-structured guide ensured consistency while allowing exploratory dialogue. Interviews were audio-recorded (with consent) and later transcribed for thematic analysis.

Surveys:

Survey instruments included Likert-scale questions and open-ended items measuring perceptions of art's influence on community well-being, sustainability awareness, and economic opportunity. Surveys were distributed online and in person to residents and project participants.

Arts-Based Participatory Observation:

Researchers engaged in selected art events and workshops to observe artistic practices and community interactions. Field notes, photographs, and reflective journals were served as data sources to contextualize findings.

Data Analysis

Qualitative Analysis:

Transcribed interview data and field notes were subjected to thematic analysis, identifying key themes that reflect how art contributes to SDG awareness, empowerment, and socio-economic outcomes. Coding was iterative, and patterns will be validated through member checking with participants to ensure accuracy. Arts-based observations complemented thematic insights, providing visual and experiential evidence of engagement and community dynamics.

Quantitative Analysis:

Survey data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (means, frequencies) and correlation analysis to examine relationships between variables such as art exposure and perceived sustainability awareness. Statistical analysis software (e.g., SPSS or R) was used for data processing.

4. Results and Discussion

This section presented the findings of the study based on the three research objectives:

- (1) the contribution of local art forms to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- (2) the mechanisms through which local art forms achieve global impact, and
- (3) the socio-economic and cultural impacts of integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives.

Findings related to the research objective 1) To examine how local and indigenous art forms contribute to the advancement of selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

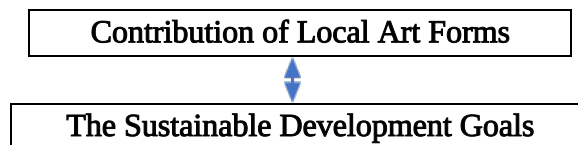


Figure 2 illustrated the multidimensional contributions of local and indigenous art forms to selected SDGs across local, national, and global levels, highlighting their interconnected cultural, social, educational, and economic impacts.

The findings indicated that local art forms make substantive contributions to multiple SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Moreover, the findings supported that local and indigenous art forms play a significant role in advancing selected Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to cultural sustainability, social inclusion, education, and economic empowerment. At the local level, traditional arts function as repositories of indigenous knowledge and cultural identity, reinforcing SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through the preservation of cultural heritage. Community-based artistic practices also promote social cohesion and intergenerational knowledge transfer, supporting inclusive social development aligned with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

At the national level, local art forms contribute to education and skills development by being integrated into formal and non-formal learning contexts. Artistic activities enhance cultural literacy, creativity, and critical thinking, thereby supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education). Economically, artisanal production and cultural enterprises create employment opportunities and alternative income streams, particularly for marginalized groups, advancing SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). At the global level, local art forms increasingly serve as cultural ambassadors, communicating sustainability values and ethical narratives to international audiences. Through exhibitions, festivals, and cross-cultural exchanges, these art forms help frame global sustainability discourses from localized perspectives. Most importantly, the community-based art initiatives were found to function as informal educational platforms, enhancing public awareness of sustainability, social justice, environmental protection, and cultural diversity. Visual arts such as murals, exhibitions, and performance art translated abstract SDG concepts into culturally meaningful narratives, enabling broader public understanding and engagement. Participants reported increased awareness of social and environmental issues after engaging with local art projects, particularly those addressing poverty, inclusion, and environmental responsibility. Furthermore, traditional crafts and performing arts contributed directly to economic sustainability (SDG 8) by generating livelihoods for local artists and artisans. In many cases, these art forms supported micro-economies through cultural tourism, fair-trade craft markets, and creative industries. The preservation and promotion of indigenous art practices were also found to strengthen cultural heritage protection, reinforcing SDG 11 by fostering a sense of identity and continuity within communities.

Overall, the findings confirmed that local art forms are not peripheral but rather integral tools for advancing sustainable development at the grassroots level, with measurable educational, social, and economic outcomes aligned with the SDG framework.

Findings related to research the objective 2) To analyze the mechanisms through which local art forms gain global visibility and influence in promoting sustainable development narratives.

The study identified several key mechanisms that enabled local art forms to achieve global impact as follows:

1. Digital Platforms and Media Dissemination

Social media, digital exhibitions, and online archives significantly amplified the reach of local art initiatives. Artists and community groups used digital tools to share artworks, stories, and sustainability messages with international audiences, enabling local narratives to participate in global SDG discourse.

2. Cultural Exchange and International Events

Art festivals, biennales, academic conferences, and cultural exchange programs played a crucial role in connecting local art practices to global networks. Participation in international exhibitions increased recognition of local art forms and positioned them as contributors to global conversations on sustainability, climate action, and social justice.

3. Partnerships with NGOs, Universities, and International Organizations

Collaborations with development agencies, educational institutions, and international cultural organizations enhanced the legitimacy and visibility of local art initiatives. These partnerships often facilitated funding, documentation, and global dissemination while aligning local artistic projects with international development agendas such as the SDGs (SDG 17).

4. Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power

Local art forms were found to function as instruments of cultural diplomacy, fostering cross-cultural understanding and empathy. Artistic narratives grounded in local experience resonated globally, humanizing sustainability challenges and encouraging shared responsibility across borders. These findings demonstrated that global influence does not diminish the local character of art; rather, global platforms often amplify local authenticity, enabling art to serve as a bridge between local realities and global sustainability goals.

The study revealed several key mechanisms through which local art forms gain global visibility and influence. Cultural exchange programs and international collaborations are central pathways, enabling artists and communities to engage with global networks while retaining cultural authenticity. These exchanges facilitate mutual learning and the dissemination of sustainability-oriented narratives embedded in local artistic traditions. Next, the digital platforms emerged as a particularly powerful mechanism for global reach. Social media, online exhibitions, and digital marketplaces allow local artists to bypass geographical constraints, directly engaging global audiences and consumers. This digital presence not only enhances visibility but also reframes local art as a dynamic contributor to global sustainable development conversations. Most importantly, the tourism also played a critical role by connecting cultural heritage with sustainable economic models. Responsible cultural tourism initiatives promote local art forms while encouraging ethical consumption and cultural respect. Additionally, partnerships with international organizations and development agencies amplify the role of local art in policy dialogues related to sustainability and cultural development.

Findings related to the research objective 3) To evaluate the socio-economic and cultural impacts of integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives.

The findings revealed that integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives yields positive and multidimensional impacts at both community and societal levels for very important three topics as follows:

Socio-Economic Impacts

Local art initiatives contributed to job creation, income generation, and skill development, particularly among marginalized groups such as women, youth, and indigenous communities. Art-based programs enhanced entrepreneurial capacities by supporting creative enterprises, community cooperatives, and cultural tourism ventures. Respondents noted improved economic resilience and diversified income sources in communities actively engaged in artistic production.

Cultural Impacts

Culturally, art-based development initiatives strengthened community identity, pride, and intergenerational knowledge transmission. Artistic practices served as vehicles for preserving indigenous knowledge, rituals, and values, reinforcing cultural continuity in the face of globalization. Participants reported a renewed sense of ownership over cultural heritage and increased motivation to safeguard traditional art forms.

Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

The findings also highlighted art's role in fostering social cohesion and collective agency. Participatory art projects created inclusive spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and conflict resolution. Communities involved in co-creation processes demonstrated stronger social bonds, mutual trust, and a shared commitment to sustainable futures. However, the study also identified challenges, including limited long-term funding, difficulties in measuring impact quantitatively, and risks of cultural commodification. These challenges underscore the need for supportive policy frameworks and ethical practices to ensure sustainability and cultural integrity. In summary, the findings confirm that local art forms significantly contribute to achieving multiple SDGs through education, economic empowerment, and cultural preservation. Global impact is achieved through digital dissemination, cultural exchange, strategic partnerships, and cultural diplomacy. Integrating art into sustainable development initiatives produces substantial socio-economic, cultural, and social benefits while requiring careful management to address sustainability challenges. These findings collectively demonstrated that local art forms are powerful, context-sensitive instruments for advancing global sustainable development, offering culturally grounded pathways toward inclusive and resilient futures.

5. Conclusion

This study set out to examine the global impact of local art forms in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing art and culture as critical yet often under-acknowledged dimensions of sustainable development. By systematically analyzing the contributions of local and indigenous art forms, the mechanisms through which they achieve global influence, and their socio-economic and cultural impacts, this research provides a comprehensive understanding of how culturally grounded artistic practices contribute to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development outcomes. Overall, the study confirms that local art forms are not peripheral to development agendas; rather, they function as powerful agents of transformation that bridge local realities with global sustainability frameworks. The conclusions drawn from this research reinforce the growing scholarly consensus that sustainable development cannot be achieved through economic and technological solutions alone, but must also engage deeply with cultural values, creative expression, and community knowledge systems.

Summary of Key Findings

The first research objective examined how local art forms contribute to the advancement of selected SDGs. The findings demonstrate that local and indigenous artistic practices significantly support multiple SDGs, particularly those related to education, economic growth, social inclusion, sustainable communities, and peace. Art functions as an informal yet highly effective educational medium, translating complex sustainability concepts into culturally meaningful narratives that resonate with diverse audiences. Through participatory and visual forms of expression, art enhances awareness, critical reflection, and civic engagement, thereby supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). In addition, the study reveals that local art forms contribute directly to economic sustainability by generating livelihoods, supporting creative industries, and strengthening cultural tourism. These economic contributions are especially important for marginalized and indigenous communities, as they provide income opportunities that are rooted in local knowledge and cultural heritage. By reinforcing cultural identity and preserving intangible heritage, local art forms also contribute to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), emphasizing the importance of cultural continuity in long-term development.

The second research objective focused on the mechanisms through which local art forms gain global visibility and influence. The findings indicate that digital platforms, international cultural exchanges, partnerships with global institutions, and cultural diplomacy play a central role in amplifying local artistic voices. Digital technologies enable local art to transcend geographic boundaries, allowing community-based narratives to participate in global conversations on sustainability, climate change, and social justice. Importantly, the study demonstrates that global exposure does not necessarily erode cultural authenticity; rather, when mediated ethically, it can strengthen the visibility and legitimacy of local traditions.

The third research objective evaluated the socio-economic and cultural impacts of integrating local art forms into sustainable development initiatives. The findings confirm that art-based development initiatives generate multidimensional benefits, including improved livelihoods, strengthened community cohesion, enhanced cultural pride, and increased resilience. Participatory art projects foster trust, dialogue, and collective agency, enabling communities to engage actively in shaping their development pathways. These outcomes highlight art's capacity to support holistic development that addresses social, cultural, and economic dimensions simultaneously.

In conclusion, this study affirms that local art forms possess transformative potential that extends far beyond cultural expression. By fostering education, economic empowerment, social cohesion, and global dialogue, local art forms contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the global community continues to seek inclusive and sustainable solutions to complex challenges, recognizing and investing in local artistic practices offers a culturally grounded and human-centered pathway toward sustainable futures.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings and discussion of this study, several recommendations are proposed to enhance the effective integration of local art forms into sustainable development strategies at local, national, and global levels. These recommendations are directed toward policymakers, development practitioners, cultural institutions, educators, and researchers, with the aim of strengthening the role of art and culture in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In light of the findings, this study strongly recommends that local art forms be recognized as essential, not supplementary, components of sustainable development strategies. By valuing cultural expression, supporting creative communities, and fostering ethical global engagement, policymakers and practitioners can harness the transformative power of art to advance inclusive, resilient, and culturally grounded pathways toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations for Future Research

1. Conduct Longitudinal and Quantitative Impact Studies

Future research should employ longitudinal designs and quantitative indicators to measure the long-term impact of art-based initiatives on specific SDG outcomes, such as income generation, education levels, and community resilience.

2. Expand Comparative and Cross-Regional Studies

Comparative research across regions and cultural contexts would provide deeper insights into how different local art forms contribute to sustainable development under varying socio-economic and political conditions.

3. Advance Interdisciplinary and Arts-Based Research Methods

Scholars are encouraged to further develop interdisciplinary and arts-based research methodologies that combine social science, cultural studies, and sustainability research. Such approaches can capture the complexity of art-driven development more holistically.

Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

The first author (Thawascha Dechsubha) as a project administrator gave the brief ideas to the joint authors, wrote the original draft, and investigated the research process starting from the abstract to the references. The second author (Vichian Namkarn) reviewed, edited, and did data curation of introduction, research methodology, literature survey and references.

The third author (Wanit Phalad) validated the information such as the methodology research, results, and discussion.

The fourth author (Mukda Watakulsin) proved the research resources, reviewed and edited results and discussion.

The fifth author (PraKRU Suwansaranukun Phichayaphol Nguanthaisong) reviewed, edited, and rechecked the whole process.

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