

## Natural Fibers and Natural Dyes in Indonesian Textile

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### ABSTRACT

*Indonesia is known to possess abundant natural resources as well as a diverse textile tradition. Some example of traditional textile materials are those made from indigenous natural fibers, such as silk, cotton, ramie, pineapple fibers, and banana frond fibers, which also includes the use of natural dye in the process. The specific background of their natural local resources and unique cultural tradition of its regions, influences the creative process of local textile artisans and their visual form of textile works. After the invention of synthetic dyes, the usage of natural dyes has gradually decreased. However, the optimism in using traditional dyes recently emerges in the textile world in Indonesia. This tendency grows along with the issues on awareness of natural product and the soaring popularity of global back-to-nature's lifestyle. The new phenomenon has significant impact on Indonesian textile trading for the last 5 years.*

*This study attempts to identify the relations between the usage of natural dyes in the past and its relevance to contemporary contexts. This study focuses on several topics, firstly the past role of natural dyes and the invention of synthetic dyes which outgrow natural dyes. Then, this study aims to explain why natural dyes are recently being reused in textile, which leads to identifying the contemporary position or role of natural dyes, besides the existence of synthetic dyes which technically possess various advantages. This study also aspires to identify the advantages and shortcomings of natural dyes based on the consumers' acceptance and certain contexts. The method used in this study is the qualitative descriptive method through interdisciplinary approaches.*

**Keywords:** *textile, natural dyes, natural fibers, traditional textile*