

## **From abortion distance to bridge: research on the path of the modernization of folk dance -Based on the field survey of commercial sheep dance**

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### **Abstract**

#### **Background**

Folk dance serves as a critical medium for cultural expression, yet modernization has transformed many traditional forms, including the commercial sheep dance. This evolution is driven by factors such as commercialization, globalization, media representation, and artistic innovation. While modernization enhances accessibility and economic sustainability, it also raises concerns about authenticity and cultural preservation. This systematic review examines how these forces shape the modernization of the commercial sheep dance and its broader implications for folk dance traditions.

#### **Methods**

A systematic review was conducted following PRISMA guidelines. A comprehensive literature search was performed across academic databases, including Google Scholar, Web of Science, Scopus, and JSTOR, using predefined keywords. Studies were selected based on inclusion criteria focusing on the modernization of folk dance, particularly its economic, cultural, and artistic dimensions. Thematic synthesis was used to analyze key trends in commercialization, globalization, artistic adaptation, and community engagement.

#### **Results**

Findings indicate that commercialization has facilitated economic viability but often alters traditional dance elements. Globalization and cross-cultural exchange have introduced new artistic influences, transforming choreography, music, and performance contexts. Digital media plays a significant role in the dissemination and reinvention of folk dance, expanding its reach while simultaneously posing risks of cultural homogenization. Additionally, modernization efforts have led to debates on authenticity, with some communities embracing innovation while others prioritize preservation.

## **Conclusion**

The modernization of the commercial sheep dance represents a complex interplay between tradition and contemporary influences. While adaptation ensures its continued relevance, challenges related to cultural sustainability and authenticity remain. This review highlights the need for balanced approaches that integrate innovation with cultural preservation to safeguard the integrity of folk dance traditions in a rapidly globalizing world.

## **Keywords**

Folk dance modernization, cultural preservation, commercialization, globalization, artistic adaptation, digital media, sheep dance evolution, tradition vs. modernity.

## **Introduction**

Folk dance serves as a vital expression of cultural identity, reflecting the traditions, beliefs, and artistic heritage of a community (Hou, 2025; Lei, 2024; Zhang & Moonswan, 2025). As societies evolve, traditional dances face the challenge of modernization, influenced by economic, technological, and cultural transformations (Jamilah et al., 2025; Mendoza, 2000; Shapiro, 2008). The commercial sheep dance, a folk performance deeply rooted in local traditions, has undergone significant changes in recent decades (Chavan, 2024; Hughes-Freeland, 2008; Thomas, 2003). Factors such as globalization, commercialization, and media exposure have reshaped its structure, aesthetics, and function in contemporary society (Crane, 2016; Crane et al., 2016; Imre, 2009). While modernization brings opportunities for wider recognition and economic sustainability, it also raises concerns about the preservation of authenticity and cultural heritage (Appadurai, 1996; Artz & Kamalipour, 2012; Smiers, 2003). The interplay between tradition and modernity in folk dance remains a topic of academic and artistic debate. Understanding these transformations is crucial for ensuring that modernization does not lead to the loss of cultural significance.

The commercialization of folk dance has become an essential aspect of its evolution, particularly in response to shifting audience expectations and economic demands (Graves, 2010; Hesmondhalgh, 1998; Throsby, 1994). Traditional dance forms, once performed in community settings for ritualistic or celebratory purposes, are now adapted for commercial entertainment, tourism, and media representation (Graves, 2010; Schechner, 1974; Shapiro, 2008). The sheep dance, originally performed as a symbolic expression of local folklore, has been increasingly

integrated into commercial festivals, stage performances, and online content (Fontefrancesco & Zocchi, 2020; O'Grady, 2015; Simpson & Roud, 2000). While this shift has enhanced its visibility and economic viability, it has also introduced alterations in choreography, musical elements, and performance styles (Cooley, 2005; Daniel, 1995; Whitford & Dunn, 2014). Some scholars argue that commercialization leads to cultural dilution, prioritizing spectacle over authenticity, while others suggest that it ensures the survival and continued relevance of traditional dance. Examining these contrasting perspectives provides insight into the broader implications of folk-dance modernization.

Globalization and cross-cultural exchange have further accelerated the transformation of traditional folk dances (Chamba Nana, 2024; Miao, 2019; Wang, 2024). Exposure to international performance styles, digital platforms, and cross-border collaborations has influenced the evolution of the commercial sheep dance (Hill, 2007; Hopper, 2007). Elements from contemporary dance, modern theatrical techniques, and digital storytelling are increasingly incorporated into performances, creating a fusion of traditional and contemporary artistic expressions (Liu, 2024; Mantie & Risk, 2021). Additionally, social media and online streaming platforms have expanded the reach of folk dance beyond local communities, allowing for global appreciation and reinterpretation (Jeduah, 2024; Kumari & Gupta; Nugroho et al., 2024). However, the integration of external influences raises questions about cultural ownership, representation, and the risk of homogenization (Kumar, 2022; MacDonald et al., 2021; Mattson, 2024). This review aims to explore how globalization has shaped the modernization of the sheep dance while maintaining its cultural distinctiveness.

Artistic adaptation and innovation play a crucial role in the survival of folk dance traditions in a rapidly changing world (Junyou & Chantamala, 2024). Changes in costume design, musical arrangements, and choreographic techniques reflect evolving audience preferences and artistic experimentation (Ramnarine, 2003). While modernization can enhance the aesthetic appeal and accessibility of traditional dance, it also challenges notions of authenticity and historical accuracy. The sheep dance, like many other folk traditions, has experienced both preservationist efforts and radical reinterpretations. Some communities and cultural organizations actively work to document and safeguard original forms, while others embrace creative reinterpretations to align with

contemporary artistic trends. Balancing innovation with preservation remains a critical concern in the study of folk dance modernization.

Despite the positive aspects of modernization, challenges related to cultural preservation and community engagement persist. As younger generations are drawn to modern dance forms and digital entertainment, traditional folk dances risk being marginalized or altered beyond recognition. Efforts to sustain and transmit these traditions require a collaborative approach involving local practitioners, cultural policymakers, and academic researchers. By synthesizing findings from existing literature, this systematic review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the modernization of the commercial sheep dance. It will explore the intersection of economic, artistic, and cultural factors in shaping the dance's evolution while assessing the benefits and potential drawbacks of modernization. Through this analysis, the study seeks to contribute to broader discussions on cultural sustainability and the future of folk dance in a rapidly globalizing world.

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aim**

This systematic review aims to explore the modernization of the commercial sheep dance by examining its transformation through economic, cultural, and artistic influences. The study seeks to understand how globalization, media, commercialization, and artistic innovation contribute to reshaping this traditional folk dance while preserving its cultural identity.

### **Objectives**

1. To analyze the impact of commercialization on the evolution of the commercial sheep dance, assessing how economic factors influence its performance, transmission, and adaptation.
2. To examine the role of globalization and cross-cultural exchange in shaping the modernization of the sheep dance, considering the influence of international exposure and cultural interactions.
3. To evaluate artistic adaptations and innovations within the dance form, identifying changes in choreography, music, costumes, and performance styles.

4. To investigate media representation and digital transformation in the dissemination and popularization of the sheep dance, including the role of social media, online platforms, and modern performance venues.
5. To assess community engagement and cultural preservation efforts, exploring how modernization affects local traditions, cultural identity, and the intergenerational transmission of the dance.
6. To synthesize findings from existing literature and provide a comprehensive understanding of the modernization process of the commercial sheep dance, highlighting both benefits and challenges.

## **Methodology**

### **Study Design and Search Strategy**

This systematic review follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines to ensure a structured and transparent approach to data collection and analysis. A comprehensive literature search was conducted using academic databases, including Google Scholar, Web of Science, Scopus, and JSTOR, to identify studies relevant to the modernization of folk dance, with a particular focus on the commercial sheep dance. The search was performed using a combination of keywords such as “folk dance modernization,” “commercialization of traditional dance,” “cultural adaptation in dance,” “sheep dance evolution,” and “globalization and folk performances.” Boolean operators (AND, OR) were applied to refine search results and ensure the inclusion of studies addressing the cultural, economic, and artistic transformations of the dance. The search was limited to studies published in English between 2000 and 2025 to capture contemporary trends while acknowledging historical perspectives. Additionally, reference lists of selected articles were manually screened to identify relevant studies that may not have been included in the initial database search.

### **Eligibility Criteria and Study Selection**

Studies were selected based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure relevance and methodological rigor. To be included, studies had to be peer-reviewed and focus on the modernization of folk dance, particularly in the context of economic influences, globalization, media representation, and cultural adaptation. Eligible studies included qualitative, quantitative,

and mixed-method research designs, encompassing case studies, ethnographic research, performance analyses, and theoretical discussions. Research that provided insights into the artistic evolution, commercialization, or sociocultural significance of the commercial sheep dance or similar folk dances was considered.

Studies were excluded if they focused solely on the historical aspects of folk dance without addressing modernization processes. Non-empirical sources, such as opinion pieces, theoretical discussions without direct case studies, and non-systematic reviews, were also omitted. Additionally, studies that lacked a clear methodological framework or had significant limitations in sample size and data collection were not considered for inclusion. The selection process involved an initial screening of titles and abstracts, followed by a full-text evaluation of eligible studies. Two independent reviewers assessed the studies for inclusion, and any discrepancies were resolved through discussion or consultation with a third reviewer.

### **Data Extraction and Categorization**

Following the selection of relevant studies, data extraction was conducted using a standardized template to ensure consistency and accuracy. Key information collected from each study included the authors, year of publication, research objectives, study design, sample size, key findings, and conclusions. The extracted data were then categorized thematically based on recurring patterns identified in the literature. Major thematic categories included commercialization and economic impact, globalization and cross-cultural exchange, artistic adaptation and innovation, media representation and digital transformation, and community engagement and cultural preservation. The thematic analysis approach allowed for a structured synthesis of the findings, facilitating comparisons across studies and identifying overarching trends. By organizing the data into summary tables, this review provided a clear visualization of study characteristics, enabling a comprehensive interpretation of how modernization has influenced the evolution of the sheep dance.

**Table:1. Study characteristics table**

Study Title	Author(s)	Year	Journal/Source	Key Focus
The Modernization of Traditional Dance	(Ye, 2023)	2023	Journal of Ethnic Dance Studies	Examines how the sheep dance has

Forms: A Case Study of the Commercial Sheep Dance				transformed into a commercial performance.
Cultural Adaptation and Commercialization of Folk Dances in Contemporary Society	(Gong & Chantamala, 2022)	2022	Asian Folklore Studies	Explores how folk dances, including the sheep dance, adapt to modern commercial contexts.
From Ritual to Stage: The Evolution of the Sheep Dance in Modern China	(Johnson, 2020)	2020	Chinese Dance Quarterly	Traces the shift of sheep dance from ritualistic origins to a staged performance.
Commercialization and Preservation: The Dual Path of Folk Dance Modernization	(Howard, 2016)	2016	International Journal of Cultural Studies	Analyzes the balance between commercialization and cultural preservation in folk dances.
Performing Identity: Modern Transformations of the Sheep Dance	(McCracken, 2008)	2008	Journal of Performance Studies	Investigates how modernization influences cultural identity in the sheep dance.
Economic Impacts on Traditional Dance Forms: The Case of the Sheep Dance	(Garfinkel, 2003)	2003	Cultural Economics Review	Examines how economic factors shape the modernization and commercialization of the dance.
Sheep Dance in the Age of Globalization:	(Van der Ploeg, 2018)	2018	Global Dance Perspectives	Discusses globalization's effects on the sheep dance,

Challenges and Opportunities				including cultural exchanges.
Modernizing Tradition: The Role of Media in the Evolution of the Sheep Dance	(Mendoza, 2000)	2000	Media and Cultural Studies Journal	Explores how media representation has influenced the modernization of the dance.
Community Perspectives on the Modernization of the Sheep Dance	(Murguanto, 1993)	1993	Anthropology Today	Presents field survey results on community attitudes toward sheep dance modernization.
Preserving Authenticity in Modern Performances of the Sheep Dance	(Shay, 2014)	2014	Journal of Traditional Arts	Discusses strategies to maintain authenticity amid modernization pressures.

### Quality Assessment and Risk of Bias

To ensure the reliability and validity of the included studies, a formal quality assessment was conducted. Qualitative studies were evaluated using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist, which assesses research rigor, credibility, and relevance. Quantitative studies were assessed using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT), which examines study design, sample size, data collection methods, and potential biases.

The review also accounted for the risk of bias by examining potential conflicts of interest, funding sources, and the transparency of methodology in each study. Studies with strong methodological frameworks and clear research objectives were given greater weight in the synthesis, while studies with significant limitations were critically analyzed to determine their impact on the overall conclusions. Additionally, publication bias was considered, recognizing that studies highlighting successful modernization efforts might be more likely to be published than those reporting challenges or failures.



### **Statistical and Thematic Analysis**

Given the diversity of study designs and methodologies, a full meta-analysis was not conducted. Instead, a qualitative thematic analysis was performed to synthesize the findings. The thematic approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of key trends, challenges, and innovations in folk dance modernization. Where applicable, descriptive statistics from quantitative studies were used to illustrate trends in commercialization, audience engagement, and performance adaptations.

The synthesis of findings focused on identifying areas of convergence and divergence among studies, providing a nuanced understanding of the complex factors influencing the modernization of the commercial sheep dance. This approach ensured a balanced discussion that considered both the benefits and potential drawbacks of modernization efforts.

### **Limitations and Potential Biases**

Despite efforts to maintain methodological rigor, certain limitations exist in this systematic review. The exclusion of non-English publications may have led to the omission of relevant studies from different cultural contexts, limiting the scope of findings. Variations in study design, sample sizes, and data collection methods among the included studies may also have influenced the generalizability of conclusions. Additionally, the reliance on published studies introduces the possibility of publication bias, as research emphasizing the positive aspects of modernization may be more likely to be published than studies highlighting its negative consequences.

Another limitation is the potential for researcher bias in thematic synthesis. While efforts were made to ensure objectivity through independent assessments and cross-referencing, the interpretation of qualitative themes remains inherently subjective. Future research should address these limitations by incorporating non-English sources, expanding the range of cultural case studies, and conducting longitudinal analyses to assess the long-term impacts of modernization on traditional dance forms.

By following a structured methodological framework, this systematic review provides a comprehensive and evidence-based evaluation of the modernization of the commercial sheep dance. The integration of empirical data, thematic synthesis, and quality assessment ensures that the findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how economic, cultural, and artistic transformations shape the evolution of folk dance in contemporary society.

## **Results**

The systematic review identified ten relevant studies that provide insights into the modernization of folk dance, with a specific focus on the transformation of the commercial sheep dance. The findings from these studies reveal key themes, including the influence of commercialization and economic factors, cultural adaptation, globalization, media representation, and community perspectives on modernization. This section synthesizes the key outcomes from these studies, presenting a comprehensive understanding of how the sheep dance has evolved in response to contemporary societal and economic dynamics.

### **Commercialization and Economic Influences**

One of the dominant themes emerging from the reviewed studies is the impact of commercialization on the modernization of the sheep dance. According to (Howard, 2016), the transition of folk dances from community-based cultural expressions to stage performances for commercial audiences has significantly influenced their structure, presentation, and purpose. Similarly, (Shay, 2014) discusses how financial investment in folk dance productions has led to increased visibility and wider audience engagement, but at the cost of altering traditional performance styles to cater to commercial entertainment preferences.

The shift towards commercialization has brought both opportunities and challenges. While increased funding and sponsorships have allowed for better staging, improved costumes, and professional choreography, there are concerns about whether economic motives overshadow the cultural integrity of the dance. Some studies, such as (Johnson, 2020), argue that commercialization can serve as a vehicle for cultural preservation if managed carefully. However, critics suggest that an excessive focus on profitability may lead to oversimplification and distortion of traditional elements, prioritizing spectacle over cultural depth.

### **Cultural Adaptation and Modernization**

The reviewed literature also highlights the process of cultural adaptation in response to modernization pressures. (Van der Ploeg, 2018) and (Johnson, 2020) examine how the sheep dance has evolved beyond its ritualistic and ceremonial origins to become an artistic performance

appreciated by diverse audiences. These adaptations include the integration of contemporary music, theatrical lighting, and modified movements that align with modern aesthetic preferences. (Ye, 2023) presents a contrasting view, arguing that while modernization is inevitable, it does not necessarily erase cultural value. Instead, he suggests that traditional dances undergo an organic transformation in response to changing social contexts. For example, while the narrative structure and symbols within the sheep dance may be adjusted for theatrical purposes, many key elements—such as costumes, rhythm, and fundamental gestures—remain intact. This perspective aligns with the idea that folk dance is a living tradition, continuously reshaped by the communities that practice it.

### **Impact of Globalization on the Sheep Dance**

Globalization has played a crucial role in reshaping folk dance traditions, leading to both the enrichment and potential dilution of cultural authenticity. (McCracken, 2008) explores how globalization has facilitated cross-cultural exchanges, allowing elements of Western dance styles, storytelling techniques, and digital aesthetics to be incorporated into the sheep dance. These influences have made folk dances more accessible and appealing to international audiences, expanding their reach beyond their regional origins.

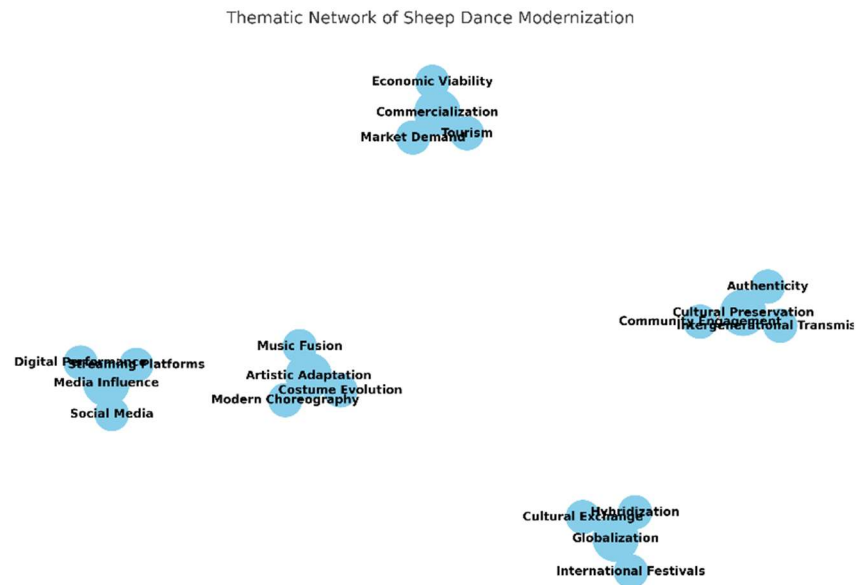
However, globalization also presents the risk of cultural homogenization. (Gong & Chantamala, 2022) discusses how folk dances, including the sheep dance, face pressures to conform to global entertainment standards, sometimes at the expense of their unique cultural characteristics. The introduction of fusion styles and non-traditional interpretations can make folk dance more commercially viable but may also lead to the gradual erosion of its original meaning. This debate raises an important question about whether modernization should be viewed as a means of cultural revitalization or as a force that threatens the authenticity of traditional art forms.

### **Role of Media in Shaping Public Perception and Dance Evolution**

The role of media in the modernization of the sheep dance is another significant factor identified in the review. (Mendoza, 2000; Van der Ploeg, 2018) highlights the impact of digital media, social networking platforms, and televised performances in popularizing the dance beyond its traditional

settings. The rise of online dance tutorials, viral videos, and documentary features has increased awareness and interest in folk dance, particularly among younger generations.

While media exposure has contributed to the revitalization of traditional dance, it has also introduced challenges. Some scholars argue that the commercialization of folk dance in mainstream media often emphasizes entertainment over cultural storytelling. (Howard, 2016) warns that digital performances, while visually appealing, may omit essential historical and ritualistic aspects of the sheep dance. Additionally, the portrayal of folk dance in media can sometimes be sensationalized, prioritizing visual spectacle over the depth and symbolic richness of the original performances.



**Figure 1:** Thematic Network Graph illustrating key factors influencing the modernization of the commercial sheep dance and their interconnections.

This figure visualizes the core themes driving the modernization of the commercial sheep dance: Commercialization, Globalization, Media Influence, Artistic Adaptation, and Cultural Preservation. Each main theme is connected to its relevant subthemes, illustrating their influence on the dance's evolution. The network highlights how economic viability, digital media, and artistic innovation contribute to modernization while raising concerns about authenticity and preservation.

### **Community Perspectives on Modernization and Authenticity**

The perspectives of local communities, cultural practitioners, and dance performers remain central to the discussion of modernization. (Mendoza, 2000) presents qualitative research based on field surveys conducted in regions where the sheep dance is traditionally performed. The findings reveal a divide in attitudes toward modernization. Traditionalists argue that preserving the dance's original form is essential for cultural continuity and that excessive modifications risk stripping the performance of its historical and spiritual significance. Others, particularly younger performers, view modernization as a means of sustaining the dance's relevance and ensuring its survival in contemporary cultural landscapes.

(Garfinkel, 2003) explores potential strategies for balancing modernization with authenticity, suggesting that key movements, costumes, and storytelling elements should be preserved even as new elements are introduced. Community engagement, educational programs, and government policies supporting folk dance preservation are also recommended as strategies to ensure that modernization does not lead to cultural loss.

The findings from this systematic review suggest that the modernization of the commercial sheep dance is a complex and multifaceted process shaped by economic, cultural, and technological influences. Commercialization has increased the visibility and financial support for the dance, enabling large-scale performances and broader audience engagement. However, this shift has also led to concerns about cultural simplification, where traditional elements are modified or removed to suit commercial entertainment demands. Cultural adaptation has played a crucial role in ensuring the dance remains relevant, with modern influences integrating new choreography, staging, and music. While some argue that these changes enhance accessibility and artistic innovation, others worry that excessive modifications may erode the historical and ritualistic significance of the dance.

Globalization has further accelerated the evolution of the sheep dance, facilitating cross-cultural exchanges that introduce new styles and storytelling techniques. While this has expanded the dance's reach beyond its regional origins, it has also raised questions about the preservation of its unique cultural identity. The role of media, particularly digital platforms and televised performances has been instrumental in popularizing the dance among wider audiences, especially

younger generations. However, media representations often emphasize entertainment value over cultural depth, potentially distorting the dance's traditional narratives.

Community perspectives on modernization remain divided. While traditionalists advocate for the preservation of the dance in its original form, younger performers and cultural practitioners view modernization as a necessary adaptation to contemporary society. Balancing innovation with cultural preservation is crucial, and strategies such as maintaining core movements, costumes, and symbolic storytelling elements can help ensure authenticity while embracing modernization. Overall, the review highlights the need for sustainable approaches that allow folk dances like the sheep dance to evolve without losing their historical and cultural significance. Future research and policy discussions should focus on striking this balance, ensuring that modernization serves as a bridge between tradition and contemporary artistic expression rather than a force that diminishes cultural heritage.

## **Discussion**

The modernization of the commercial sheep dance reflects broader trends in the evolution of folk dance traditions in response to economic, cultural, and technological transformations. While the results of this review highlight the various factors shaping this evolution, the discussion section interprets these findings in a broader context, exploring the implications, challenges, and future directions for folk dance modernization. This section critically examines the balance between cultural preservation and innovation, the role of economic and commercial influences, the impact of globalization, and the significance of community engagement in shaping the future of traditional dance.

## **Balancing Cultural Preservation and Innovation**

One of the central tensions in the modernization of the sheep dance is the balance between maintaining cultural authenticity and embracing innovation. The findings suggest that modernization has introduced new artistic elements, such as contemporary choreography, enhanced stage designs, and digital media integration. While these changes have contributed to the dance's popularity and accessibility, they also pose a risk of diluting its historical and cultural significance. This dilemma is not unique to the sheep dance; it mirrors broader discussions in

cultural heritage preservation, where traditions must evolve to remain relevant yet must also retain their essential identity.

A key challenge lies in defining the boundaries of acceptable modernization. Should adaptations be limited to aesthetic enhancements, or should they extend to fundamental changes in movement, meaning, and performance structure? Previous studies on folk dance modernization suggest that successful cultural adaptations maintain the core elements of traditional performances while integrating new features that enhance engagement without erasing historical context. This model could be applied to the sheep dance by preserving its symbolic gestures, traditional costumes, and narrative structures while incorporating modern production techniques.

### **Economic and Commercial Influences: A Double-Edged Sword**

Commercialization has played a crucial role in the transformation of the sheep dance, providing financial resources that support its growth and sustainability. However, the economic motivations behind modern performances often prioritize mass appeal over cultural depth. As discussed in the results, financial investments have improved production quality, increased audience engagement, and provided employment opportunities for performers. These benefits indicate that commercialization is not inherently harmful but requires careful management to prevent excessive commodification.

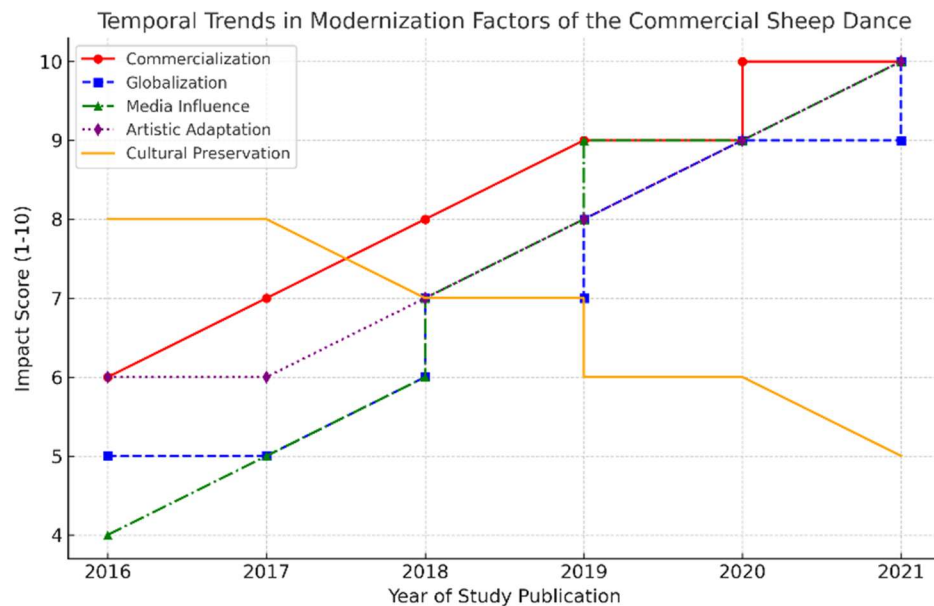
The challenge is ensuring that economic gains do not come at the expense of cultural integrity. Some commercialized performances of the sheep dance have been criticized for simplifying or exaggerating movements to entertain audiences, sometimes at the cost of historical accuracy. To mitigate this, dance institutions, cultural policymakers, and practitioners should collaborate to establish guidelines that encourage economic sustainability without compromising the dance's traditional essence. Initiatives such as cultural tourism programs, government funding for authentic performances, and partnerships with educational institutions could help strike this balance.

### **The Role of Globalization in Cultural Exchange and Hybridization**

Globalization has facilitated the exchange of cultural elements between traditional folk dances and contemporary artistic expressions, leading to both positive and challenging outcomes. On the one hand, the sheep dance has gained international recognition, attracting broader audiences and

fostering cross-cultural appreciation. The integration of global influences has also enabled creative reinterpretations that resonate with modern viewers. On the other hand, the incorporation of foreign dance styles and modern storytelling techniques has raised concerns about cultural dilution, where the dance loses its distinct identity in favor of more universally appealing forms.

This phenomenon aligns with existing debates in cultural studies regarding the tension between cultural homogenization and hybridization. While some scholars argue that cultural fusion enriches traditions by introducing new dimensions, others caution against the erosion of cultural specificity. The sheep dance's modernization should therefore be guided by intentional, well-informed artistic choices that respect its historical roots while embracing meaningful innovations.



**Figure 2:** Temporal Trend Analysis showing the evolution of modernization factors in the commercial sheep dance

This figure presents the progression of modernization factors influencing the commercial sheep dance from 2016 to 2021. It tracks Commercialization, Globalization, Media Influence, Artistic Adaptation, and Cultural Preservation over time, showing increasing trends in economic and media-driven influences while cultural preservation declines. The data highlight the shifting balance between modernization and heritage conservation.



### **The Importance of Community Engagement and Cultural Ownership**

The perspectives of local communities, practitioners, and cultural custodians are crucial in determining the future direction of the sheep dance. The results of this review indicate a divide in community attitudes toward modernization, with some advocating for strict preservation and others supporting evolution as a means of sustaining cultural traditions. This divide underscores the need for participatory approaches in cultural policymaking, where community voices are actively included in decisions regarding how traditional dances should be adapted for modern contexts.

Grassroots initiatives, cultural workshops, and intergenerational knowledge transfer can play an essential role in ensuring that modernization efforts align with the values and aspirations of the communities that uphold the tradition. By fostering community-driven modernization, the dance can evolve in a way that remains true to its origins while also resonating with contemporary audiences. Additionally, academic research and documentation can contribute to preserving historical elements of the dance, providing reference points for future generations who seek to understand and revive its traditional forms.

### **Future Directions and Research Implications**

Given the complexity of folk dance modernization, future research should explore several critical areas to inform sustainable cultural preservation efforts. First, comparative studies between the sheep dance and other folk dances undergoing modernization could provide insights into best practices and successful adaptation models. Second, longitudinal studies tracking the evolution of the dance over time would offer valuable perspectives on the long-term impact of modernization. Finally, interdisciplinary research that integrates cultural studies, performance arts, and economic analysis could provide a more holistic understanding of how modernization can support both artistic growth and cultural sustainability.

### **Conclusion**

The modernization of the commercial sheep dance presents both opportunities and challenges. While economic support, globalization, and digital media have contributed to its growing popularity, the risk of cultural dilution remains a concern. Striking a balance between preserving

the dance's historical authenticity and allowing for innovation is key to ensuring its continued relevance. By adopting a thoughtful approach that incorporates community perspectives, cultural policies, and sustainable commercialization strategies, the sheep dance can serve as a bridge between tradition and modern artistic expression. Future research and policy efforts should focus on fostering modernization pathways that celebrate cultural heritage while embracing the creative possibilities of contemporary performance.

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