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*Article*

# Analysis of Characteristics and Mechanical Properties of Yarn from Sisal Fiber as Raw Material for Making Kre' Alang Sumbawa Woven Fabric

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**Abstract:** Kre' alang is a typical woven fabric of the Sumbawa community. Dependence on commercial yarn is the cause of the low value of kre' alang compared to other regional sogket that have used natural materials. In addition, the rare and expensive types of commercial yarn are a challenge to the sustainability of kre' alang. Sisal has the potential to be a raw material for yarn for making kre alang. In recent years, sisal has become an agricultural commodity in Sumbawa. The sisal fiber used in this study came from Labangka. The samples tested included alkalized sisal (S1), dyed alkalized sisal (S1P), weft yarn and hani yarn as a comparison (commercial yarn). Tests carried out included FTIR tests, color tests, physical properties tests, and strength and smoothness tests. The results of characterization using FTIR showed that the alkanization of sisal fibers had reduced lignin and reduced organic acid levels. They opened the fiber structure so that it could absorb dyes well. Meanwhile, the color test results show that S1 has a bright and shiny color. S1P has a stronger, heavier and more stretchy character. In general, sisal fiber yarn is heavier than synthetic yarn. Furthermore, S1P is used as yarn for making kre' alang. S1P is used as a substitute for weft yarn, considering that it has been alkylated and is more aesthetic or colorful. Evaluation of the quality of kre alang was carried out using a questionnaire regarding consumer perception. Data processing used the IPA-KANO method. The evaluation results showed that the density of the woven fabric should be increased while other attributes were maintained.

**Keywords:** Kre' alang; sisal fiber; Sumbawa weaving; thread mechanics

## 1. Introduction

Kre' alang weaving, as one of Sumbawa's high cultural heritages, is the pride of the Indonesian nation and reflects the nation's identity. Therefore, weaving in terms of production techniques, design, and products must be maintained and preserved [1]. Currently, several villages in Sumbawa Regency still preserve the weaving tradition, but some have not preserved it. The sub-districts are now considered centers of woven fabric crafts in Sumbawa Regency, namely Moyo Hilir and North Moyo Districts [2]. One of the factors driving the increasing trend of Kre' Alang production in villages is the appeal from the Sumbawa Regency Government to preserve the existence of Kre' Alang woven fabric. Real support from the Sumbawa Regency Government is that State Civil Apparatus is required to use woven fabric or Kre' alang with a combination of batik every Thursday [3]. The high demand for Kre' alang as a material in making modern clothing by the community and the increasing number of cultural activities have had an impact on the emergence of fake Kre' alang industries in areas outside Sumbawa Regency. Fake Kre' alang does not meet the quality standards and aesthetics of Sumbawa's Kre' Alang. Concerns from weavers and cultural figures emerged when the quality of the kre' aAang was considered not as good as the original Kre' alang and abandoned the basic concept that should be inherent in this songket cloth [2].

Based on these problems, the Sumbawa regional government is making efforts to revive the spirit of weaving artisans through several programs specifically for artisans. Sumbawa Regency has several centers of small and medium industries in clothing. One of them is located in Semeri Hamlet, Poto Village, Moyo Hilir District. Semeri Hamlet, Poto Village, has been designated as a NeseK Weaving Center by the Indonesian Ministry of Industry since 2016 [4]. In addition, one of the simple efforts that needs to be done by the community in an effort to preserve cultural heritage, for example Kre' Alang woven cloth by using the woven cloth products in several activities in daily life. The results of observations show that Kre' Alang weaving is not very popular; consumers are more interested in using woven cloth from natural fiber yarn from other areas. Kre' Alang sales use a make-to-order system, meaning that weavers only weave kre alang if consumers request or order it. Kre' Alang business actors say that the yarn used to make kre' alang weaving is selected yarn, which is the best quality, and the price is more expensive on the market. So that is the reason for the high selling price of Kre' Alang. Another factor that influences product competition and marketing performance is the innovation factor of Kre' Alang woven products [5], [6].

Based on the description, it is necessary to utilize local plants that are easy to cultivate. They can be used as an innovation in raw materials to replace Kre' alang weaving yarn. So far, the raw material for Kre' Alang weaving yarn comes from cotton fiber [2]. Apart from cotton fiber, several natural fibers are alternative yarns for making woven fabrics, including snake plant fiber [7], kenaf plant fiber [8], pineapple leaf fiber [9], silk fiber [10], banana fiber [11] and other fibers. Sisal fiber is one of the plants that has the potential to be a raw material for yarn. Sisal grows abundantly in the Sumbawa area as a plant that grows in tropical and barren soil. Sisal has the potential to be an alternative raw material for Kre' alang weaving yarn. So far, sisal fiber from Sumbawa district has not been processed optimally. Sisal fiber has the characteristics of being strong, elastic, able to absorb color, resistant to salt water, and biodegradable [12]. The weaving process can improve the quality and stability of natural fibers. However, natural fibers need to be tested first. Based on this background, researchers are interested in utilizing sisal fiber as Kre' Alang woven fabric yarn. The quality of the fiber was tested in the laboratory to determine the characteristics and mechanical properties of the yarn, then compared with commercial yarns that weavers have used. After that, an evaluation of the quality of Kre' Alang woven products from sisal fiber yarn was carried out based on consumer satisfaction perceptions using the integration of the Importance Performance Analysis (IPA) method and the KANO model.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Alkalization and coloring of sisal

The sample used grade A sisal fiber obtained from Labangka District, Sumbawa. Other materials used were 5% NaOH, distilled water, distilled water and wantex. The equipment used was a beaker, 1L measuring flask, pan, stove, filter, gloves, and universal pH indicator. The alkalization procedure was carried out by preparing 50 g of NaOH and adding enough distilled water until dissolved and then diluted to the limit line. Sisal was soaked in 5% NaOH solution for 2 hours. The sisal was drained and then washed until the pH was neutral. After that, the sisal was dried and labeled S1 (alkalized sisal). The S1 coloring procedure was carried out using Wantex. A total of 1 tsp of salt was dissolved in 2L of hot water. Then, 3 g of Wantex was added. The S1 sample was weighed as much as 25 g and then mixed evenly with the Wantex solution. The mixture of sisal and wantex was boiled using low heat for 30 minutes. S1 was labeled S1P.

### 2.2. Integration of IPA Methods and KANO Model

Evaluation of consumer satisfaction level of Kre' Alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn can use the IPA method, KANO method, and IPA-KANO integration. The steps of the IPA method are to determine the average value of the level of importance and performance of each attribute of Kre' alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn, determine the limiting value of Importance Performance, and

map all average values of attributes into a Cartesian diagram formed from Importance Performance values so that the low or high category of each attribute can be determined [13]. The steps of the KANO method are to arrange each attribute of Kre’ alang weaving from sisal fiber into two forms (functional and dysfunctional), based on the respondent’s answers, match the KANO category (Must be (M), One dimensional (O), Attractive (A), Indifferent (I) and Questionable (Q)), referring to Blauth’s formula, the KANO category of each attribute of Kre’ alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn can be determined by considering the number of M, O and A with the number of R and Q [14]. Meanwhile, IPA-KANO integration provides decisions on product attributes that must be improved and maintained effectively and firmly to avoid wrong choices. The principle of implementing IPA-KANO integration is by combining the results of the IPA quadrant with the results of the KANO category on each product attribute so that a grouping of categories is obtained, namely Survival, Fatal, Chronic Disease, Fitness, Major Weapon, Defenseselles Strategy Point, Defenseselles Zone, Supportive Weapon, Precious treasure, Dusty Diamond, Rought Srone and Beginning Jewellery [15]. Six indicators need to be considered to assess the quality of woven fabrics: Performance, Features, Reliability, Conformance to specifications, Durability and Aesthetics [16]. These indicators can be derived into question attributes (Table 1) to be assessed by consumers of Kre’ alang weaving as respondents in the study. Respondents in this study were visitors to the Kre’ Alang weaving exhibition from sisal fiber yarn that the research team had organized, and the number of respondents who were willing to assess the quality of Kre’ Alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn (Figure 2) was 110 people.

3. Results

3.1. Analysis of color, physical properties, strength, and fineness of sisal

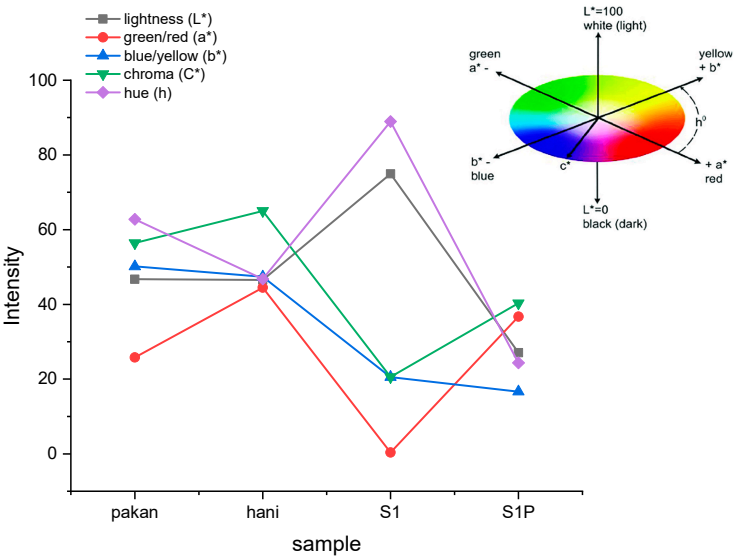


Figure 1. Differences in intensity and hue of sisal fiber color.

Table 1. Sisal Fiber Color Test Results.

Sample	lightness (L*)	green/red (a*)	blue/yellow (b*)	chroma (C*)	hue (h)
Pakan	46.753	25.796	50.153	56.416	62.781
Hani	46.556	44.516	47.388	65.020	46.790
S1	74.952	0.358	20.544	20.560	88.960
S1P	27.082	36.728	16.656	40.332	24.376

**Table 2.** Results Of Physical Properties Tests Of Sisal Fiber, Weft Yarn, And Hani Yarn.

No.	Test Type	Test Method*	Test Results*		Test Method**	Test Results**				
			S1	S1P		Hani	Weft			
1	Fineness of fiber average, Tex (Denier)	SNI 08-1111-1989	12,51	16,14	SNI ISO 2060: 2010	38,94	19,30			
	(112,55)		(145,30)	(15,20)		(30,74)				
	CV, %		13,48	16,61		4,83	7,01			
2	Kekuatan serat per bundle	SNI ISO 105-C06:2010	31,85	23,21	SNI 7650:2010	32,96	13,24			
	Fiber strength per bundle									
	Tenacity									
	Average, gf/Tex									
	CV,%									
	Stretch									
	Average, %									
	CV,%									
3	Colorfastness to:	SNI ISO 105-C06:2010	3,20	3,90	SNI ISO 105-C06:2010	963	7,53			
	a. Washing 400C									
	- Discoloration							4-5	4-5	3-4
	- Tarnishing on acetate							4	4	3-4
	- Stains on cotton							2	2	3-4
	- Staining on polyamide							3-4	3	3-4
	- Stains on polyester							3-4	4	4
	- Tarnishing of acrylic							3-4	3-4	4
	- Staining on wool							3-4	4	3-4
	b. Sweat									
	1. Acidic properties									
	- Discoloration							4	4	4-5
	- Tarnishing on acetate							4	4-5	4
	- Stains on cotton							3-4	2-3	4-5
	- Penodaan pada poliamida							4	3-4	4
	- Staining on polyamide							4	4-5	4-5
	- Tarnishing of acrylic							4	4-5	4-5
	- Staining on wool							4	4	4
	2. Properties of Bases									
	- Discoloration							4-5	4-5	4-5
	- Tarnishing on acetate							4	4-5	4
	- Stains on cotton							3-4	3-4	4
	- Staining on polyamide							4	4	4



- Stains on polyester	4	4-5	4
- Tarnishing of acrylic	4	4-5	4-5
- Staining on wool	4	4-5	4-5
c. Rubbing:			
- Dry	4	4	3
- Wet	2-3	3	2-3

**Table 3.** Test Results Of Strength And Fineness Of Sisal Fiber, Weft Yarn, And Hani Yarn

Parameter	S1	S1P	Hani	Weft
Weight (g)	0.056±0.008	0.073±0.012	0.008±0.000	0.015±0.001
Tex	12.506±1.686	16.144±2.681	15.201±0.740	30.741±2.073
Denier	112.552±15.175	145.300±24.133	38.943±1.880	19.301±1.353
Strength (KP)	4.980±1.167	5.280±1.261	17.820±1.881	42.200±4.203
Stretch (%)	3.200±0.447	3.900±0.962	7.128±0.753	16.880±1.681
Heavy	2.334±0.460	3.446±0.736	501.040±48.253	407.120±30.650
Tenacity (g/tex)	31.851	23.214	32.961	13.244

Fiber weight (mg); yarn weight (g)

3.2. Kre’ Alang Weaving



**Figure 2.** Kre’ Alang woven products are a combination of weft yarn from sisal fiber yarn.

3.3. Integration of Science Methods and KANO Model

**Table 4.** Level of Conformity of Each Quality Attribute of Kre’ Alang Weaving from Sisal Fiber Yarn.

Indikator	Attribute	Code	Performance	Importance	level of confidence
Performance	The quality of Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	1	1,22	4,90	24,90%
	Defects of Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	2	1,80	4,45	40,45%

	Strength of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	3	1,48	4,65	31,83%
Features	Innovation in Kre' Alang woven design from sisal fiber yarn.	4	1,62	4,56	35,53%
Reliability	The density of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	5	1,33	4,55	29,23%
	The smoothness of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	6	1,77	4,39	40,32%
Conformance to specifications	Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn can be marketed at a price that is according to quality.	7	1,53	4,65	32,90%
Durability	Colorfastness of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	8	1,73	4,39	39,41%
Aesthetic	The choice of Kre' Alang woven motifs from sisal fiber yarn is diverse.	9	1,56	4,55	34,29%
	Combination of Kre' Alang woven fabric colors from sisal fiber yarn.	10	1,38	4,59	30,07%

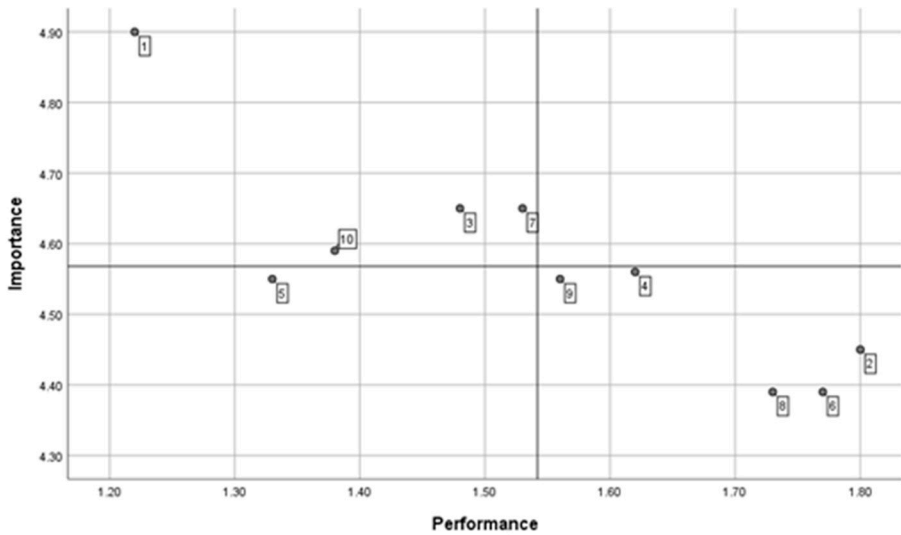


Figure 3. Cartesian diagram

Table 5. KANO Category Mapping

Indikator	Attribute	Code	O	A	M	I	R	Q
Performance	The quality of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	1	33	51	7	11	1	7
	Defects of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	2	28	19	27	26	6	5
	Strength of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	3	30	44	10	16	5	5

Features	Innovation in Kre’ Alang woven design from sisal fiber yarn.	4	23	35	17	26	4	5
Reliability	The density of Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	5	22	58	1	18	3	8
	The smoothness of Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	6	16	40	13	27	10	4
Conformance to specifications	Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn can be marketed at a price that is according to quality.	7	39	38	10	14	8	1
Durability	Colorfastness of Kre’ Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn.	8	28	36	8	22	9	7
Aesthetic	The choice of Kre’ Alang woven motifs from sisal fiber yarn is diverse.	9	25	42	2	28	7	6
	Combination of Kre’ Alang woven fabric colors from sisal fiber yarn.	10	46	40	8	8	3	5

Table 6. Integrasi IPA-Kano.

Code	IPA Category	KANO Category	IPA-KANO	Strategic Priorities
1	II	A	Precious Treasure	Keep it up 5
2	IV	O	Supportive Weapon	Keep it up 4
3	II	A	Precious Treasure	Keep it up 5
4	IV	A	Beginning Jewelry	Keep it up 6
5	III	A	Rought Srone	Upgrade 6
6	IV	A	Beginning Jewelry	Keep it up 6
7	II	O	Major Weapon	Keep it up 3
8	IV	A	Beginning Jewelry	Keep it up 5
9	IV	A	Beginning Jewelry	Keep it up 5
10	II	O	Major Weapon	Keep it up 3

4. Discussion

4.1. Analysis of color, physical properties, strength, and fineness of sisal

The results of the color test of the S1 yarn sample and the S1P yarn sample are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. The S1 yarn sample has the brightest color brightness, with an intensity of 74,952. The S1 yarn sample is yellowish white, while the S1P yarn sample is red, the weft yarn sample is dark yellow, and the hani sample is red. The S1 yarn sample is bright compared to the SIP and colored synthetic yarn. This indicates that the addition of dye makes the sisal fiber darker. Similar analysis results have also been carried out in previous studies, concluding that the addition of increasingly concentrated dyes causes the darker color of the fabric. There is a process of dye absorption into the fiber. The difference in color needs to be studied to determine the performance of the applied dye [17]. The amount of lignin content influences the intensity of brightness. High lignin content causes dark colors such as dark brown, light brown, and brownish yellow [18]. The brightness analysis of untreated sisal has an L value of 66.42, yellow. The higher L value indicates that the material is increasingly bright white [19]. The L parameter shows dark to bright colors [20].

Although the S1 yarn sample has the highest L, it has the lowest a\* of 0.358. The positive a\* intensity indicates the sample is red [20], [17]. S1 has the lowest red color intensity. The alkalization process has changed the color of sisal from white to yellowish white and can increase tensile strength [21]. In addition, the alkali process can break hydrogen bonds in fibers and increase the cellulose amorphous structure [22]. The analysis results of sisal fabric without nanosilver coating have been reported to have an a\* of 1.89, with a gray/almost white color [23]. Sisal without treatment has an a\* of -0.60 [7]. The negative value indicates that sisal tends to be green. The application of Wantex has



reduced the  $b^*$  intensity, as shown in Table 1. Sequentially, the S1 and S1P yarn samples have  $b^*$  of 20.544 and 16.656. A positive  $b^*$  value is an indication that both samples are yellow. The correlation between yellow and bright colors indicates that the material tends to be shiny. Untreated sisal has a  $b^*$  of 23.80 [19]. The S1 yarn sample has a brighter color and is shinier than the S1P yarn sample. Chrome contains information about the bleaching process or the relationship between brightness and the number of colors in the material. Brighter and shinier materials reduce the number of colors [24]. Based on the data in Table 1, the S1 and S1P yarn samples each have a  $C^*$  of 20,560 and 40,332—the S1 yarn sample.

Table 3 shows that the dyeing process causes the S1P yarn sample to be heavier, stronger, and more elastic than the S1 yarn sample; yarn from Table 3 shows that the dyeing process causes the S1P yarn sample to be heavier, stronger, and more elastic than the S1 yarn sample, yarn from sisal fiber is heavier than synthetic yarn (weft yarn and hani yarn). Sisal fiber is known to contain around 10.66% water [19]. The fiber matrix comprises polymers with a greater weight than monomers. Polydisperse polymers are composed of molecules of various sizes. At the same time, homopolymers are composed of the same molecules. Natural fibers are composed of pectin, protein, cellulose, and lignin. The composition of natural fibers is influenced by climate, maturity, extraction methods, and botanical conditions [25]. The suitability of the fiber diameter size is seen from the Tex. The smaller the Tex, the lighter and smoother. Denier indicates the level of yarn thickness as a raw material for making fabric. An amount of 0.67 tex is equivalent to 6 deniers [19]. Meanwhile, the tenacity value shows the unbreakable nature [26]. The S1 yarn sample is smoother, thinner, and less breakable than the S1P yarn sample. Based on Table 3, sisal fiber has a greater weight, denier, and tenacity than synthetic fiber.

#### 4.2. Integration of Science Methods and KANO Model

The IPA method analysis was used to group the level of respondent suitability into a Cartesian diagram. Measurement of the level of respondent suitability was carried out on the quality of Kre' Alang weaving (Figure 2) from a combination of sisal fiber yarn as weft yarn and hani yarn. One of the motifs produced is a combination of Gili Liuk motifs and whale shark motifs [27]. The quality attributes of Kre' Alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn are shown in Table 4. The average value of the importance level and performance level of Kre' alang weaving quality from sisal fiber yarn obtained in Table 4 are then described in a Cartesian diagram as in Figure 3. Based on the functional and dysfunctional questionnaire data that were obtained, a KANO category classification analysis was carried out on the functional and dysfunctional data. Then, data was obtained on the results of mapping the number of consumers based on the KANO category for each attribute, which is presented in Table 5.

The results of the IPA-KANO integration can provide information to develop strategies for weavers related to the attributes of Kre' Alang woven products from sisal fiber yarn that need to be improved or maintained to improve the quality of weaving according to consumer satisfaction. Table 6 presents the results of the analysis using the integration of the IPA method and the Kano method regarding the assessment by respondents/consumers of the quality of Kre' Alang woven products from a combination of sisal fiber yarn.

Based on the evaluation using IPA-KANO integration on Kre' Alang woven products from sisal fiber, the density of the woven fabric must be increased to increase consumer satisfaction. Meanwhile, the weavers must still maintain the quality, strength, innovation, smoothness, color fastness, price, selection of motifs, and color combinations that have been applied in making Kre' Alang woven products from sisal fiber yarn.

Based on Table 6, there are four attributes of Kre' Alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn in the second quadrant, meaning that the quality, strength, selling price, and color combination of woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn are considered by consumers to be by expectations so that the level of satisfaction is relatively higher. Therefore, the attributes in this second quadrant need to be maintained because they are superior in the eyes of consumers. Consumers consider Kre' alang

weaving density from sisal fiber less critical because it is in the third quadrant. Therefore, weavers can reconsider this attribute because the influence on the benefits felt by consumers is very lacking. Meanwhile, consumers consider the characteristics of defects, innovation, smoothness, fastness, and selection of various motifs in Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn excessive because they are in the fourth quadrant. Therefore, weavers can reduce the level of treatment on these attributes so that weavers can save costs.

The evaluation results of Kre' Alang weaving using the Kano method obtained two categories for its attributes, namely Attractive (A), meaning that the level of consumer satisfaction with Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn will increase very high with increasing quality of woven fabric, increasing strength of woven fabric, increasing innovation, increasing density of weaving, increasing smoothness of weaving, increasing durability of woven color and growing variety of motifs. However, a decrease in the performance of these attributes will not cause a reduction in the level of consumer satisfaction. One dimension (O), meaning that the level of consumer satisfaction with Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn has a level of consumer satisfaction that is directly proportional to the level of weaving defects, the level of suitability of the selling price with the quality of the weaving, and the level of attractive woven color combinations.

The results of the evaluation of Kre' Alang weaving using the integration of the IPA-KANO method show there are five categories produced to increase consumer satisfaction with the quality of the weaving. The first category is Precious Treasure. This category is attractive to Kre' alang Kre' alang weaving consumers, which is a valuable component for weavers and must be maintained. These components are the quality and strength of Kre' alang alang weaving from sisal fiber. The second category is Supportive Weapon, meaning that the category of Kre' Alang woven fabric from sisal fiber yarn is not defective and can be used as a supporting weapon in terms of competing with woven products from other regions. The third category is Beginning Jewelry, meaning that attributes such as innovation in design, fineness of weaving, color fastness of weaving, and various motif variations in Kre' Alang weaving from sisal fiber are considered the beginning of becoming a gem. The fourth category is rough stone, meaning that the density attribute of Kre' alang weaving from sisal fiber yarn has a relatively low attraction and needs to be polished so that this category can be increased and have an effect on increasing consumer satisfaction. The fifth category is Major Weapon, meaning that the attributes found in Kre' Alang sisal fiber weaving, such as price according to quality and attractive color combinations, can be the primary weapon for weavers to be able to eliminate the existence of competing weaving from other regions.

## 5. Conclusions

Alkalized sisal fiber has a bright and shiny color. The dyeing process causes the color of the sisal fiber to darken, which is the result of observations on the mechanical properties of the sisal fiber. Undyed sisal has smoother, thinner, and less easily broken properties compared to after being dyed. Overall, the mechanical properties of sisal yarn are still less strong than those of synthetic yarn used by weavers. Efforts are needed to increase fiber strength. Sisal fiber is greener and is available as a local natural potential of Sumbawa.

Based on the evaluation using the integration of the IPA-KANO method on Kre' Alang woven products from sisal fiber, the density of the woven fabric must be increased to increase consumer satisfaction. Meanwhile, the weavers must maintain the quality, strength, innovation, smoothness, color fastness, price, selection of motifs, and color combinations that have been applied in making Kre' alang woven products from sisal fiber yarn.

**Author Contributions:** Koko Hermanto, Sahri Yanti, and Fauzi Widyawati conceived the idea, developed the theory and methodology, carried out the experimental work, collected the data, and analyzed the data. Shinta Esabella collected the data. Koko Hermanto and Sahri Yanti wrote the original manuscript.

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**Data Availability Statement:** The data in this study is divided into two categories based on the data source: data obtained from laboratory test results and data obtained from distributing questionnaires to respondents (accessible: <http://surl.li/dafakb>).

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