

# The Role of Communities in Strengthening Environmental Care Characters: Case Study in the Indonesian Green Youth Coalition

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**Abstract-** The technological advances make it easy for community activities and solve existing problems. However, the reality of advances in information technology has made citizens become individualists and have not been able to resolve existing environmental problems. People become accustomed to activities and things instantly and easily so they cannot be wise towards the environment. Thus a character strengthening is needed for the community to become ecological citizenship. Character strengthening is not enough given in the school or family environment, but also in the community through the community. This research aims to describe the effort of strengthening people's environmental awareness done by an environment-based community in Surabaya. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition is an environment-based community that provides character strengthening to the community. The focus of this research is how characters are formed in The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition, the impact of the program on the community and the obstacles faced. Strengthening the character of environmental care is carried out through several programs established by The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition. These programs have a positive impact by showing a change in behavior in everyday situations where people begin to sort out garbage and are able to process it into new items. In its implementation, The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has the main constraints which are related to time. Nevertheless, this can be resolved through communication between members.

*Keywords: role, community, environmental care characters*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The technological advances make it easy for community activities and solve existing problems. However, the reality of advances in information technology has made citizens become individualists and have not been able to resolve existing environmental problems. People become accustomed to activities and things instantly and easily so they cannot be wise towards the environment. Technological progress is a demand in the global era due to globalization. Globalization has an impact on all aspects of life because all of them are interrelated. Where these aspects include social, economic, political, cultural, and education. Our society, economy and environment is global, which when a financial crisis is occurred, it will affect various countries in the world. Likewise with the environment, if there is global warming, it

will affect the entire country. Thus, it makes citizens as global citizens [1].

Technological development is not in harmony with public awareness of the environment. For example, people prefers to dispose garbage improperly because it does not want to bother. This condition indicates that public awareness of the environment is still lacking, so there needs to be strengthening of the character of the environmental awareness. In the Presidential Regulation Number 87 year 2017, it is explained that Character Education Strengthening (CES) is implemented by applying Pancasila values in character education, especially covering religious values, honest, tolerant, disciplined, hard working, creative independent, democratic, curiosity, enthusiasm nationality, love for the homeland, respect for achievement, communicative, peace of mind, love to read, care for the environment, social care, and responsibility [2].

The focus of the characters in this study is the character of environmental care. The value of the character of caring for the environment means the attitude of trying to prevent and develop efforts to repair damage to nature. The value of caring really needs to be developed in all conditions especially when natural disasters occur in Indonesia. The concern that every citizen has in addition to being able to anticipate the conflict of interests, can also be more wise to nature especially in the current era of globalization [3].

The application of character values needs to be done by strengthening character education wherein in Presidential Regulation Number 87 Year 2017 article 1 paragraph 1 explains that Strengthening Character Education is an educational movement under the responsibility of the education unit to strengthen the character of students through harmonizing the process of heart, taste, thought, and sports with the involvement and cooperation of education units, families and communities as part of the National Mental Revolution Movement. Thus, it can be seen that strengthening character education is not only enough to be given through school, but it is also requires a synergy between the school, the family and the community. Character is related to characteristic, where someone character is formed through three aspects, those are moral knowledge,

moral attitude, and moral behavior so that the results of character attitudes forming can be seen from those three aspects. The success keys of character education is not only determined by the involvement of people in the school, but also involvement of outsiders, such as family and community in the society [4], [5].

In society, character education can be done through a social movement as a forum to support the role of schools and families in strengthening character education so that social change occurs better. Where social movements are collective actions that are loosely organized to produce a change in society [6]. Thus, social movements are formed as a forum to raise public awareness and strengthen the environmental character of everyone because reinforcement from within the school and family is not enough. The movement to improve a more effective community environment must be supported in terms of education that develops a responsible, creative and knowledgeable community. Volunteer or community activist activities related to environmental care are expected to strengthen the character of caring for the environment. This is the involvement of citizens to contribute through the community in managing and preserving the environment [7].

In general, this research aims to describe the importance of strengthening the character of environmental awareness which is held by environment-based communities in Surabaya. The focus of this research is how strengthening the character of environmental awareness carried out by The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition as a manifestation of civic virtue and the impact of the program on the community. Where strengthening character education is not only the responsibility of the school and the family but also the community, so The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has a big contribution to give it in the environmental field as a community within the society.

## II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Syahri's in his article "forms of citizen participation in environmental preservation carried out with community activities and the world of education; citizen participation based on the concept of green morals in sustainable development through socialization and collaboration with institutions related to conservation schools" [8]. Prasetyo and Budimansyah, in their article "Bandung Berkebun's community with programs such as urban farming, school urban farming, street urban farming, and campus urban farming have succeeded in promoting urban agriculture as an environmentally friendly lifestyle in Bandung. The implication for Civic Education is as a form of education in the non-formal domain to prepare citizens to be responsive to the socio-cultural conditions in society" [9].

Subianto's in his article "communities outside educational institutions, such as families, the general public, and the state, also have a moral responsibility to integrate the formation of character in the context of their lives" [10]. Dewantara and Wisnu, in their article "the use of social media in forming social movements is very effective in attracting public attention. Many social movements that start from the social media movement that can control people's behavior" [11]. Wulandari's in her thesis "growing awareness and

responsibility can be formed through the development of knowledge, skills and ethics. Educational programs and social services are the main activities that are taught to children regularly. The existence of active participation of individuals can build personality and positive potential" [12].

## III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method because it focuses on the focus of research in certain cases to study the background problem of situation and events position that take place and the natural social environment interaction [13]. The focus of this research is to examine the role of the community, namely The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition in character that cares about the environment as a manifestation of civic virtue in Surabaya. Data collection techniques used in this research are through observation, interviews, document studies, and literature studies.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study explain the role of the community in strengthening the character of caring for the environment. The focus of this research is how characters are formed in The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition, the impact of the program on the community and the obstacles faced. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition is an environment-based community that present because of anxiety and careness for the current natural and environmental conditions. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition is an environment-based community that has an active role and contributed to the environment in the city of Surabaya since 2011. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition present as a forum for the community, especially young people who want to be part of the climate change solution problem so they can move to take an action collectively and sustainably for the creation of a sustainable environment. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has a vision and mission in realizing its pro-environment programs.

The vision of The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition is to unite Indonesia's young generation to be aware and responsive for the realization of a sustainable Indonesian environment. The mission of The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition includes [14]:

1. Educate young people to be sensitive and care about environmental issues in Indonesia;
2. Becoming a forum and facilitator for Indonesia's youth generation who have environmental awareness;
3. Creating a real and sustainable national green movement.

The characters formed include the character of caring, responsibility, and independence. However, broadly speaking the dominant character is the environmentally caring character. In this case the character of environmental care is interpreted as an attitude and action that always strives to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the damage to nature that has occurred. The character of environmental care can be formed and developed, one of which is environmental education, both from school, family, and society. As a statement Nomura

and Hendarti that environmental education can be delivered through three types of ways. First, formal education organized by schools, colleges, and government institutions that have authority. Second, non-formal education, namely education organized not through formal schooling or institutionalization. In general, non-formal education is usually carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that care about the environment. Third, informal education, namely daily education and continuous experience of life outside organized and formal non-formal education [15].

Community as the domain of non-formal education is education in society. Where the community contributes in empowering sustainable communities and as a supporter of pro-environment programs from the government. A more effective movement to improve the environment of the community must be supported in terms of education that develops a responsible, creative and knowledgeable society. In this process, community leaders need to position themselves as facilitators who drive change towards a better direction. Character building strategies are intervention, example, habituation, facilitation, reinforcement, and involvement of other parties. Cooperation between all parties needs to be encouraged in order to realize the objectives of character education [16], [17].

The presence of the community supports pro-environment government programs such as environmental preservation. The government's environmental preservation program (topdown) can only run optimally if it is supported by a bottom-up approach in the form of social movements. This means that environmental conservation efforts undertaken by the government will not run optimally if there is no direct involvement from the community to overcome existing environmental problems [18].

The character of environmental care within The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition can be seen from the activities of campaigning for environmental awareness movements to the people of Surabaya. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition carried out a movement to restore environmental conditions to be clean and healthy, on the one hand inviting the public to participate in caring about environmental conditions in the city of Surabaya. This interestingly packaged persuasive approach by providing ecological knowledge can make people realize that environmental problems can be addressed together through community programs. The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition carried out a movement programs are able to strengthen the character of environmental care for both community members, volunteers and the community. The community programs are able attract people to participate in environmental preservation. Therefore, the active participation of individuals can build personality and positive potential [19].

The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition have a positive impact on society. Where in addition to changing the habit of using plastic, also tried to invite people around like his friends to switch to using a tumbler to drink and reduce the use of plastic straws and beverage packaging. This aims to reduce

the use of plastic and as a first step in yourself to overcome unresolved environmental problems. Where counseling is able to bring about changes in terms of one's knowledge and skills in utilizing waste. Counseling related to waste and healthy environment makes people become environmental literacy. Therefore, counseling provides benefits for people who are targeted by the program both in strengthening food security, the economy, and waste management [20], [21].

The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition program enables children and the public to gain insight into current environmental conditions and how to overcome them. In addition, it also influences changes in individual behavior so that they become more caring and aware of the environment. In addition, children become motivated to actively participate in every environmental activity. The environmental activities of The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition are also able to familiarize children with good deeds and use mobile phones as they should.

The positive impact shows that the strengthening of character in an environment-based community has proceeded gradually and continuously. In terms of citizenship education, character strengthening is an important part where citizenship education has dimensions that cannot be separated from aspects of the formation of character and public morality of citizens. Character education is some of the main factors needed in the development of citizens of an ideal nation of a nation. Civic education provides and develops the values of democracy, human rights and the environment. The purpose of citizenship education is to realize citizens who are aware of defending the state based on political understanding and sensitivity to develop moral identity and the nation by protecting and caring for the environment. Planting attitudes about the environment must be planted early, both through formal, informal and non-formal channels [22], [23].

The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition as an environment-based community has problems in the implementation of activity programs. Where an obstacle or obstacle can come from two sources, namely internal and external. Based on the description of the research findings, it was found that The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition constraints originated internally, namely The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition members themselves. It is influenced by The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition members not from the same department and campus so that each member has their own busy life. These constraints are more on time, where to put time together with members becomes a little difficult.

These obstacles have an impact on the implementation of the activity program where programs that have been scheduled sometimes have to be changed again. Nonetheless, these obstacles so far can be overcome without having to eliminate activities. Solutions that can overcome these internal obstacles are through communication between members. Communication becomes important within the internal community and organization because it is able to overcome problems between members. Thus, the constraints related to the time in The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition can be overcome.

## V. CONCLUSION

The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition is a youth community that is structured, independent and not affiliated with certain organizations or parties. KOPHI is a communication and facilitator forum for Indonesian youth. Where as a forum for communication between Indonesian youth who are concerned about climate change issues, through website and meetings. Furthermore, as a facilitator in developing their capacity through workshops, training and seminars in collaboration with various NGOs, schools, and green communities [24]. Thus coffee has programs to realize its vision and mission.

The program implementation of The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has been organized and realized in the form of activities. Organized programs include internal and external The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition which are realized in the form of activities. Through its programs, The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition can strengthen the character of environmental care both in members, volunteers and the community. The character formed as a whole is the character of environmental care. Strengthening the character of environmental care for young people and children is able to form good citizenship. The program from The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has a positive impact on community environmental concerns in the city of Surabaya. Programs from The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition has an educational and social impact on the community. Where the program from the community has knowledge and understanding in waste management and current environmental conditions. Residents become more concerned about the environment and children can be creative by participating in environmental activities. The obstacles faced come from internal and external communities. The obstacles faced by The Indonesian Green Youth Coalition relate to the time each member has. The character possessed within each member and activist is able to overcome the obstacles of implementing a community program. The caring character that is owned facilitates good communication between members so that time related problems can be resolved without having to cancel the activity program.

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