

# Sekolah Dayung Jambi:

## Alternative School-Based Environmental Education Learning

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**Abstract**—Economic factors are often being the reason for lack of education in community, including for people in Jambi city. The low economy status influences their awareness on education, such as less children go to school, lack of environmental awareness and drug trafficking. The establishment of Sekolah Dayung Jambi, alternative of an outdoor school, is expected to reduce school failure. Here, this research aims at describing the Sekolah Dayung Jambi and the impact its establishment for their community. The data for this qualitative study was collected through interview and observations. The results showed that the establishment of Sekolah Dayung Jambi is triggered by the willingness to provide alternative school for improving the society's awareness on education and their environment. This mission is reached by conducting the early childhood program, reading communities, waste management training, and training on processing lake resources. The presence of Sekolah Dayung Jambi has provided many benefits for the community, such as increasing the number of children who go to school, increasing public awareness of environment, and reducing drug trafficking. All in all, Sekolah Dayung Jambi provides an alternative school for reducing the educational gap cause by low-income status in Jambi communities.

**Keywords:** *economic factors, Sekolah Dayung, environment*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Education plays an important role in national development. without proper education, it will be difficult for any countries to reach their goal [1,2]. Education is important to build mental dan character of people through internalizing positive values in the education process. This becomes important to overcome the problem of moral degradation and many problems in communities, such as economy problem [3]. Perspectives on education and economics actually show a causal relationship which means education plays an important role in advancing the economy [4,5], not only for person but also for nation.

Everyone has the right to education. Education aims to fully develop human personality and to strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. However, low-economic status makes some people to ignore it. For certain region in Indonesia, economic factors are often being a reason for lack of education and high dropout rates in their communities [6]. Poverty is known to have an impact on low

education because of the high cost of education [4]. The impact on children not going to school is the increase in juvenile delinquency rates [7].

This phenomenon is also observed in Jambi city. Economy level of the community that classified as middle to lower make their awareness on education becomes low. This economic status affects the negative condition, such as many children do not go to school, lack of environmental awareness, and drug trafficking. The reason why children do not go to school because they should help their parents to overcome the family's economic problems. They do not aware that education may overcome the economics problems. People in Jambi are also found less caring on their environmental surrounding. In Jambi there is one village, Legok Village, is known as Black zone due to its high rates of drugs distribution, theft, and the large number of thugs.

Sekolah Dayung Jambi is established due to the awareness of the former team to overcome the problem by providing affordable education for all citizens. Due to One former of rowing athlete from Legok village understood this condition and established Sekolah Dayung. Through education in Sekolah Dayung, is expected that environmental problems, such as waste and drug trafficking, can be overcome. This paper describes about Sekolah Dayung Jambi and the impact of this school establishment to their communities.

### II. METHODS

This research was carried out using a qualitative explanatory approach. Data was collected by observation and in-depth interview with key informants. Data was analyzed by qualitative descriptive techniques. Research was held in May until August 2019 in Legok village, Danau Sipin District, Jambi City. Respondents are selected for the purposes of obtaining relevant information.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Profile of Sekolah Dayung Jambi and Characteristic of Population Sample

Sekolah Dayung Jambi was established in 2015, at Jalan Danau Sipin RT 24, Legok Village, Danau Sipin District,

Jambi City by Leni Haini. The economy of the people who are in the middle to lower level finally forces children to take part in the process of making money, including by being a garbage collector and even distributing drugs. Education becomes unimportant so there is no change in behavior and mindset from the community. This condition makes the village being a black zone because of the widespread of drugs trafficking, theft, and others. Environmental problems such as waste problems are also a problem for the community. The founder of Sekolah Dayung found this situation and then set up Sekolah Dayung. The school is named as Sekolah Dayung because the founder and the owner as well was a rowing athlete.

Sekolah Dayung Jambi is established to educate community on the importance of education, especially parents in promoting their children to enter the school. The financial problems which become the main barrier for parents was also diminished since the school was not charged the fee for education. Other unique things for Sekolah Dayung Jambi is the school provide also the program for adults to practice their skills in utilizing available resources to improve their economic level. The willingness to improve the environment is also highlight in the vision of the Sekolah Dayung “to build a community that is skilled, religious, social, honest and supportive”.

Sekolah Dayung Jambi organizes many activities to reach the vision. The school try to educate people by learning based environment. People in this school learn to understand and appreciate the environment and their connection to and impact on it [8]. A activities at this school become an exercise for students to build their personal character, and this is an important part of education [9]. Learning in this school not only presents theory but presents solutions to various existing environmental problems [10].

#### *B. Impact of the Presence of Sekolah Dayung*

From 2015 until 2019, Sekolah Dayung organizes many activities including:

1) *Early childhood education programs.* Main program in Sekolah Dayung is Early Childhood Education Programs, in Indonesia known as PAUD (Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini). This school have two teachers who came from a village that was empowered by the founder. There are 63 students in total who are divided into two groups. The group A enters the school for first 3 days and group B enters at the next 3 days at the same week. This activity is expected to provide a change of mindset to the community and increase their awareness of education.

2) *Reading Communities.* To advance the community, other activities held in schools besides PAUD. One of them are reading communities. This activity was held on Saturday at 3 pm and open to the public. It can be followed by all groups ranging from children to adults. The number of participants in the activity varies, ever reaching 100 people. In this activity also provided some material related to general knowledge and religion, taught by volunteers from various organizations. This activity aims to show the community that

education is not only important for children but also for adults, because education is a right for all people.

3) *Waste management training.* Waste problem is a global issue that face by many countries in the world, including Indonesia. This is due to the increase of population. In 2016 the amount of waste in Indonesia reached 6,200,000 tons per year with a population of 261,115,456 people [11]. This amount predicts to be increase every years and evenly distributed throughout Indonesia, including Jambi.

Located around the Sipin Lake, the waste problem is a big problem for the people in the Legok village. The condition of the community who did not understand the importance of environmental cleanliness and lack of education made the Sipin Lake play a role as a giant garbage bin. In Jambi, the government has regulated waste management through regional regulation Number 8 in year 2013. However, the community's habit of littering and lack of community knowledge with waste management, this problem still continues until today. Head of the Jambi City Environmental Agency (DLH) is reported that the garbage reached 660 tons per day in Jambi City [12]. Based on this problem, waste management becomes important. This school helps the community manage waste by making waste into handicrafts that have sale value. That handy craft sold when there are exhibitions and also sold online. These activities are expected can overcome the problem of waste.

4) *Training on processing lake resources.* Sipin Lake has rich resources especially fish. The community use this resource to help their economy for long time. But more creative efforts are needed so for increase the sale value. Sekolah Dayung was paid attention to this matter and provided training on lake resources management for the community. Resources of the lake such as fish made into “peyek” and crackers.

5) *Rowing training.* The founder of Sekolah Dayung is a former of international rowing athlete. She won 1 gold and 1 silver at the Asian Championships in Singapore in 1996. In 1997, she won Gold in the world Championship, Dragon Boat in Melbourne Australia. Won two Golds at the Asian Championships in Singapore, 3 golds, 1 silver at the World Championships in Hong Kong, and at the 1999 Jakarta Sea Games won 3 golds and 2 silvers. As a former of rowing athlete, the school founder felt obliged to train children in his village who were interested in rowing. She trains students on Monday and Thursday every week. It is not easy to do that activities. The boat that used for rowing practice was once burned by an irresponsible person. But it did not stop her to train the members. In 2015, the members of this school won two gold, one silver and one bronze for the women's team in Jambi Province.

Sekolah Dayung also invite children and training members to clean Sipin Lake from trash every Friday and Saturday, aims to increase environmental awareness in young generation, especially the members of rowing training.

### C. Financial Management Based on Environment

Sekolah Dayung that Located in Legok village are known as place of garbage collectors. Sekolah Dayung use this condition as an effort to manage its finances. Waste Bank is the solution, because school fees are not paid with money but rubbish. This rubbish is then managed by school. School management is based on the principles “from community, for community”. School payments can also be made by giving crops such as rice. Some even pay with fish, because the location of the village is on the edge of the Sipin Lake. The government help to provide tables and chairs, various communities also helped this school such as providing books. But for operational efforts are managed independently by the school.

Financial management is important for school to run activities day by day [13]. Having significant resources or complex accounting system doesn’t always result in good, its depend on management behavior and practices [14]. This problem is faced by schools in general especially formal and private school, which then causes tension between schools, parents, and government. Its build a mindset that the quality of education is only affected by costs. It’s a must for school to find other ways of rising finance to lessen the strain of parent and government as far as funding concerned. It help school to open up the budget and increasing the quality [15]. Financial management from waste bank are more effective.

The presence of Sekolah Dayung Jambi has provided many benefits for the community, such as increasing the quantity of children that going to school, increasing public awareness of environment, and reducing drug trafficking.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Sekolah Dayung Jambi manage many activities such as Early Childhood Programs, management of waste, reading community, training of lake resources management, and training of rowing. By Utilizing environment, with waste bank, Sekolah Dayung can exist for four year and organize many activities efficiently. As an alternative school, it was a great step about financial management. Quality of Education is not depending on money and social class. By using environment, education problem in community can be solved, such as to increase the number of children that attend to school, decrease drugs trafficking, and increase environmental awareness.

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