

# Strengthening Environmental Care Attitudes Through Social Wisdom-Based Social Studies Learning

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## ABSTRACT

Environmental damage is a problem. One of them is caused by humans who exploit the environment for various activities without regard to environmental quality and sustainability. Strengthening environmental attitudes is an aspect that must be developed to the community and future generations so that environmental sustainability can be maintained. Education is a tool that can be used to instill an attitude of caring for the environment to members of the community, namely students as future generations. This article aims to explain how local wisdom relating to environmental aspects in the community can be used as part of developing students' environmental care attitudes that are integrated through social studies learning. A literature study is conducted to collect data and information that is suitable for conducting narrative discussions. The results of the discussion showed that through the integration of local wisdom as the content of social studies learning material provided opportunities for students to know about the characteristics of their environment and provide solutions to environmental problems. This can be done by linking aspects of local wisdom as learning resources on social studies material that is appropriate to the human context, place, and environment.

**Keywords:** *Environmental care attitude, social sciences, local wisdom.*

## 1. PRELIMINARY

Environmental conditions in Indonesia today are marked by various problems. One of them is environmental damage. Damage to the environment is a condition characterized by damage, reduction, and even loss of natural resources in the form of land, water, air flora and fauna, and their ecosystems. As in Indonesia, it is noted that environmental issues include up to 65 million tons of rubbish in 2016, floods, river pollution, air pollution, ecosystem damage from the results of LIPI Oceanography research, around 35.15% of coral reefs in Indonesia are in bad condition, damage Since 2010-2015, Indonesia has lost up to 684,000 hectares of forest, and land pollution [1-2].

Environmental issues are not something that should be left alone. It needs planning to action to prevent and overcome them. In general, human behaviour that over-exploits nature without regard to environmental carrying capacity is one of the causes of natural damage. Apart from that can also be caused by natural factors. However, humans as creatures that have a reciprocal relationship with the environment certainly must pay attention to how to use the environment as part of their lives, so that there will still be a harmonious relationship between humans and the environment [1-3].

Prevention and solutions to environmental damage in Indonesia certainly differ from one area to another. Indonesia with diverse geographical characteristics causes the emergence of various cultures as a result of the relationship between people's lives and their environment. Different environmental characteristics cause people to look for and find ways about how they maintain and

preserve the environment in which they live so they can survive. When that matter trusted and becoming a tradition for a community is called local wisdom. Local wisdom is a way of life of the community which is functioned to answer problems to meet their needs [4]. In short, it can be said that local wisdom in the community can be used as an aspect to prevent or solve the problem of environmental damage. Local wisdom must continue to be fostered in people's lives to create a caring attitude to maintain the existence of the environment.

Education is a path that can be developed as a means to provide education for the community to maintain the existence of the environment for the prevention and repair of environmental damage conditions. To support the principles of sustainability and environmental ethics through education a system is needed that can regulate education itself. One of them is by designing curriculum development through a process of learning based on local wisdom to instill a caring attitude towards the environment [5]. The environmental crisis is a social problem. Learning by utilizing local wisdom plays an important role in overcoming current environmental problems [6]. Therefore, it can be said that the implementation of wisdom local environment based can be utilized as an alternative to raising awareness participant students as future generations on the environment [7-8].

Social studies education is a subject that can be used to develop learning based on local wisdom to shape an attitude of caring for the environment for future generations. Through the content of material on social studies, subjects

can be instilled various local wisdom in the community related to environmental sustainability, so students know and understand the function of local wisdom in their area to maintain and improve the condition of the surrounding environment. With the inclusion of environmental problems in students, books are one form of the content of environmental care characters [9-7]. Social studies learning can bring students to understand the environment by their respective contexts, so students can understand that knowing the characteristics of the environment and local wisdom in their area plays a role in maintaining the existence of the environment. Therefore, given the importance of protecting the existence of the environment from damage, this article will describe the strengthening of an attitude of caring for the environment through learning based on local wisdom, especially on Social Studies education subjects.

## **2. METHOD**

This study uses an approach to qualitative. This research was conducted by collecting and studying various literature and literature studies. Data collection techniques use secondary data, which is obtained from various sources such as books, scientific journals, research body reports that are accurate and relevant to the concept of environmental care attitudes, local wisdom, learning, and social studies education. Data or information that has been obtained then made based on the results of the study of literature that is appropriate and can be justified. Analysis of the data in the article consists of two stages, namely the process of data reduction and data presentation. Data reduction is done to make it easier for writers to choose data from the literature validly while presenting data in narrative form.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***3.1 Concept of Attitude Care Environment***

Every human being has a reciprocal relationship with the environment. Efforts to protect the environment are an obligation that must be done, considering the environment is the source of life [10]. Through reason and thoughts possessed by humans, humans should be able to carry out activities in utilizing and managing the environment to meet their needs.

Attitude is the result of socialization and interaction of individuals with the environment as a form of thoughts, feelings, and judgments about the object, which is based on knowledge, understanding to produce an action. While caring for the environment is an action to prevent environmental damage, and development efforts to repair the damage that has occurred [11]. The attitude of caring for the environment is an attitude that should be owned by every individual because as a social creature must have an attitude to interact with nature properly [12]. The attitude of caring for the environment will encourage the habit of managing the environment, avoiding the nature of damaging the environment, fostering sensitivity to the environment, instilling a soul of care and responsibility for the environment [13]. It can be concluded that the attitude of caring for the environment as a reaction of caring for

someone to their environment. For example, do not damage the natural environment and preserve the environment.

The attitude of caring for the environment is also characterized by the action to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in every behaviour related to the environment. One indicator of someone having an attitude of caring for the environment is the awareness of the environment by showing how a person is responding to the surrounding environment [14]. While in the concept of conservation, the attitude of caring for the environment is applied through three-component namely a caring attitude towards the environment, a caring attitude towards environmental preservation, and a caring attitude towards the sustainable use of the environment. First, the attitude of caring for the environment aims to maintain and enhance environmental sustainability to support the welfare and quality of human life. Second, a caring attitude towards environmental preservation aims to ensure diversity from the environment so that it does not become extinct so that it is beneficial to human life. Third, a caring attitude towards sustainable use of the environment aims to use the environment in ways that are friendly to the environment [3].

### ***3.2 The Linkage of Local Wisdom and Environmental Sustainability***

Local wisdom is an idea, concept, and cultural idea of a community that is local and wise so that it is used as a way of life for the community. Local wisdom between one community and another will be different. Community knowledge of the surrounding environment is gained through their experiences of coexistence as a culture. As a result, the understanding of the local community on their environment will be different from the understanding of the community are on outside the environment, so that each community would have different local wisdom to the environment [5-15]. Therefore local wisdom is one of the characteristics in an area that has local values that grow and develop from generation to the next generation. Exemplary and wisdom are a meaning that is contained in local wisdom in the community.

In the concept of the environment, local wisdom has a relationship about how to treat the natural environment well, as a result of the ability of local communities to adapt to their environment. Local wisdom processes dynamically and is reciprocally sustainable between humans and the natural environment. Its dynamic nature for the existence of the environment is believed to be able to adapt to various environmental changes so that the environment can be maintained [16-17].

The system in local wisdom can also be used as an effort to make decisions on various environmental problems. Local wisdom can provide answers to settlement environmental problems, which will affect people's mindsets and attitudes towards the environment. This matter is simple steps that state the relationship between human attitudes and mindsets with their awareness to play an active role in the preservation and maintain the existence of the environment [18-19].

Various local knowledge in the form of a way of life that is formed from the interaction of humans with nature is a factor of local wisdom as public knowledge of the circumstances and how to treat the environment. As a guideline in society, local wisdom should be preserved so that it can be maintained and connected from generation to generation. The relationship between local wisdom and the environment can be seen with knowledge public about natural phenomena, as well as the characteristics of the physical environment. These various knowledge are guidelines for interacting with the environment [5].

### ***3.3 Local Wisdom in the Context of Learning in Schools***

Local wisdom has benefits for people's lives. One of them is related to the existence of the environment. At present challenges related to environmental issues require efforts to provide understanding to the community regarding environmental management. On that basis, the existence of local wisdom in society must continue to be known even understood by future generations [19-20].

The education channel can be used as a means to maintain local wisdom so that it continues to grow and develop in the community. When the study of local wisdom related to the existence of the environment becomes part of education especially in learning it will contribute to the formation of the character of students who can reflect the values of local wisdom in their daily interactions with the environment. "... research on race, culture, and schooling has revealed many significant factors affecting school achievement and articulated many details of how culture and learning intersect in daily school life" [21]. The concept revealed that schools play an important role in developing the character of students by local wisdom and culture of a nation [22-23]. Local wisdom has become part of the content of the curriculum in 2013. As the goal of the 2013 curriculum which is identical to character education is to instill students to not only know (cognitive) but also able to feel (affective) and do (psychomotor). Therefore, when local wisdom related to environmental sustainability becomes part of the 2013 curriculum, it will support the inculcation of moral attitudes and behaviors to students about the environment. Implanting this moral attitude and behavior in the curriculum can be pursued with management learning through two main moral values, namely respect, and responsibility.

The integration of local wisdom in learning in schools requires innovation in planning, implementation to evaluation, or assessment of learning [24]. Integrating local wisdom values must also pay attention to relevant subjects, so that appropriate technique are needed in packaging learning. Learning design that is built must pay attention to the suitability of the content, the value of local wisdom and the media to convey to students in learning [19].

Learning that utilizes local wisdom as part of the material contained in a subject will also influence the environmental literacy of students. The implication is that the teacher's ability to be able to strengthen the concepts learned by students is demanded [15]. A good implementation of local

wisdom in the learning curriculum can be a controller and a means to prevent environmental damage because it can foster literacy in environmental education to students in the long run.

Learning curriculum design by utilizing local wisdom can be used as a means to solve various environmental problems that are local that can have a global impact. Environmental education based on local wisdom will certainly be able to solve local problems that will have a global impact [25-2]. Internalization of local wisdom in learning to support strengthening environmental care attitude is closely related to the ability of teachers in designing learning plans which are then analyzed to be implemented in learning.

### ***3.4 Social Wisdom-based Social Learning***

Social studies subjects are one of the subjects taught at the elementary school level in an integrated manner and at the junior high school level. In general, social studies learning has a role in educating students to have social intelligence. Therefore, local wisdom can be a part of the material contained in social studies learning. Learning resources in social studies are not only in the form of books, but also the behavior of the surrounding community and local wisdom and the surrounding cultures [18]. Social studies learning through the application of local wisdom values is an effort to instill a sense of concern for others while expanding knowledge about the nation's culture [26-17].

Local wisdom about the environment is not only part of the culture of the community, but can also be utilized in making relations between humans and nature, for the benefit of preserving an environment [27]. The linkage with social studies learning is that it can contribute to the knowledge and abilities of future generations in maintaining environmental sustainability, through the utilization of learning materials.

Social studies learning based on local wisdom can contribute to building students' knowledge, attitudes, and social skills, not only by focusing on the delivery of material. However, it provides an opportunity to develop the values of local wisdom in the community, so that students not only know a learning concept but can implement it in daily life by the context of the environment in which they live [28-20].

Various issues and problems to environmental damage are the factors that cause the importance of environmentally oriented local wisdom to be developed into social studies learning. Through the integration of local wisdom as social studies learning material, students can find out about the characteristics of their environment and provide solutions to environmental problems. As social studies learning aims to develop the potential of students to be sensitive to the environment and other aspects of society [29].

A contextual approach or learning by using a cooperative learning model is a part of learning that can be used in developing social studies based on local wisdom. Thus the learning model based on the values of local wisdom with a cooperative learning approach has socio-cultural validity and relevance to the learning problem in the social studies learning system. The paradigmatic ideas of learning and the

role of teachers can be transformed towards curriculum developers by providing social studies education [30-17]. Cultural-based learning in teaching social studies learning can be done by utilizing various cultural forms that are rich in social and cultural values that can be developed and implemented in social studies education. If social studies based on local wisdom can be realized in social studies learning, social studies education plays an important role in fostering good citizenship, mental attitudes, and morals of students [31].

There are two benefits when local wisdom is used as a study on social studies learning. First, developing local wisdom in social studies learning can improve learning to be more meaningful, and contextualized with real life, strengthen education as a cultural process, to develop student competencies holistically. Second, it can maintain local wisdom in the environment of students as a cultural heritage that must be protected [31].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The attitude of caring for the environment is characterized by the existence of environmental awareness to address the surrounding environment. Through learning in schools the attitude of caring for the environment can be developed by not only having knowledge (cognitive) but also being able to feel (affective) and do (psychomotor) to various things that support environmental sustainability. Social studies learning based on local wisdom can contribute to building students' knowledge, attitudes, and social skills, not only by focusing on the delivery of material. However, it provides an opportunity to develop local wisdom values related to the environment, so students do not just know a learning concept but can implement it in daily life by the context of the environment in which they live. Local environment-based wisdom in the community can encourage the achievement of the objectives of education. Social studies understand and solve social and cultural problems to strengthen participation in social life through capacity building by developing intellectual and emotional impact on the environment.

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