

Strengthening the Character of Environmental Care Based on Local Wisdom in Coastal Communities

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Abstract. Environmental care character is an attitude and action to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment, and develop efforts to repair natural damage that has occurred. Local wisdom is part of cultural values that live in the minds of most people, so it is believed and always guides behavior. The purpose of this research is to analyze the form of strengthening the character of environmental care based on local wisdom in coastal communities. This research uses a qualitative approach, with descriptive research methods. The results of this study concluded that strengthening the character of environmental care based on local wisdom in coastal communities is an innovation in developing community attitudes, skills, and knowledge about the environment.

Keywords: Environmental Care, Local Wisdom, Strengthening.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues have become the main focus of various levels of society today (Noga, 2008), one of which is the natural phenomena that occur on the coast. Coastal areas currently show very worrying conditions as a result of the development of hinterland areas and excessive exploitation of the oceans (Purnomo, 2008). The lack of public awareness and understanding of the environment, the low level of public education, and the pressure of life's needs cause people to destroy the environment in coastal areas (Primyastanto, Dewi, & Susilo, 2010).

Environmental issues are the responsibility of all communities (Turrini et al, 2008). There is therefore a need to educate and inform the public about environmental issues. Sibel, et al stated that one of the commitments in protecting the environment from pollution and damage is through environmental care character education which is the key to preparing people with knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes toward environmental care so that they can actively participate in solving environmental problems (Desfandi, 2015).

The global community is currently trying to respond to various environmental problems such as environmental degradation which has an impact on climate change and the biodiversity crisis (Fajardo et al, 2021). The most important awareness of concern for the environment is with environmental character education so that an environmentally literate society is formed (Yuniawan, et al. 2018). Environmental care character education has become a community

need and a social need because it not only increases people's knowledge but also changes people's attitudes toward the environment (Arslan, 2012). Human and environmental interactions are also inseparable from local wisdom values. The study of human relationships with the environment is not only studied in natural science but also becomes an important domain in social science (Nurdin, 2013). From the evolution of human interaction with the environment, coastal communities acquire unique local knowledge from daily life experiences and pass these skills from generation to generation.

Local wisdom is a conceptual idea that lives in society, grows, and develops continuously in people's consciousness from its nature related to sacred and profane life (Asriati, 2013). Local wisdom can also develop community character (Rachmadyanti, 2017) such as the character of cooperation, tolerance, a caring attitude towards the environment, and a wise and wise attitude in viewing local wisdom owned by the region. Then Fajarini stated that exploring and preserving various elements of local wisdom, local traditions, and institutions, including norms and customs that are useful are effective in character building (Sakman, et al. 2020).

There have been many research studies on strengthening character values. However, there are not many studies that specifically discuss the strengthening of environmental awareness and character values based on local wisdom in coastal communities. The study conducted by Kiptiah and Matnuh (2018) only focuses on identifying student characters to improve the quality of education in coastal areas. Therefore, researchers are very interested in studying more deeply about what kind of strengthening of environmental care character based on local wisdom in coastal communities.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach, with a qualitative descriptive research type. Qualitative descriptive research is a method for exploring and understanding meaning by several individuals and groups of people ascribed to social problems. This research is aimed at developing an environment that can be used to increase public understanding of the existence of local wisdom in developing the character of environmental care in coastal communities at Batakan Beach, Tanah Laut Regency.

The data collection techniques used in this study are (1) Observation. Observations were conducted and aimed at capturing phenomena that occurred in the coastal communities of Tanah Laut Regency. (2) Interview. Interview is a data collection procedure that seeks to obtain information or data from information sources directly. The informants consisted of the

community, community leaders, and local government. (3) Documentation. Documentation is an attempt to obtain information, data, or documents from sources of information.

The data analysis technique used is to analyze using descriptive analytics, which is to describe and then critically analyze the object of research. Then the researcher conducted a content analysis technique which aims to describe objectively, systematically, and qualitatively the contents of the communication message that is expressed.

FINDINGS AND DUSCUSSION

Coastal communities are groups of people who live together inhabiting coastal areas by forming and having a distinctive culture (Kiptiah et al, 2018). Coastal communities are highly dependent on the utilization of coastal resources. People are not only fishermen, but also fish cultivators, fish processors, and even fish traders. In addition to fish cultivation, coastal communities are also good at utilizing sea shells or uninhabited crab shells for useful work. The emergence of encouragement and awareness to raise and implement local wisdom is inseparable from the strong desire of various communities (Bayu et al, 2020).

The awareness of the community to treat nature as a container of welfare and the view that what is stored in nature and the environment can be utilized as much as possible for the common welfare, in line with the 1945 Constitution in article 33 which reads "The land, water and natural resources contained therein are controlled by the state and used for the greatest prosperity of the people". The article in the 1945 Constitution shows that the wealth owned by this nation is managed for the benefit of the people and the management of the environment and nature owned by the nation by the views of indigenous peoples or based on local wisdom. Therefore, it is necessary to study to see and build environmental awareness through local wisdom awareness (Ahmad, 2017).

Local wisdom is an endurance and growth power that is then manifested through a view of life and various life strategies carried out by local communities to answer various problems in meeting needs, and maintaining culture. Local wisdom is the answer to surviving and growing culture and as a system of preserving the environment (Kusmadinata, 2015). Andi and Syarifuddin (2007) also suggested the meaning of local wisdom that forms the values, attitudes, perceptions, behaviors, and responses of a local community and interacts in a system of life with nature and the environment in a wise manner.

The implementation of local wisdom values is considered to have a positive impact on efforts to strengthen environmental awareness in coastal communities. The application of local wisdom in strengthening the character of environmental care in coastal communities can be

seen from the principle of life of coastal communities. The coastal community of Batakan Beach has the principle of "pantang badiam diri", the community believes that this principle is a motivation for them to look at the way of life and the surrounding nature. Salome (2011) states that human awareness in treating nature requires environmental care character which is one form of effort in maintaining and preserving the environment. This can be seen from the dynamic relationship between coastal communities and the environment. The dynamic relationship between society and the environment can be seen from how humans live together, side by side with all the components around them.



Figure 1: The atmosphere of Batakan Beach



Figure 2: Placement of Trash Bins at Every Corner of the Beach

In addition to the principle of "pantang badiam diri", from an anthropological perspective, the coastal communities of Batakan Beach cannot be separated from religious ceremonies or rituals, namely Haul Pulau Datu in the month of Maulid. This activity is one form of local wisdom of the coastal community of Batakan Beach. The religious character of coastal communities makes people aware of environmental cleanliness and wise in utilizing the surrounding natural resources. According to Kusnadi (2009), coastal and marine areas must be utilized sustainably and responsibly, so a very careful management plan is needed. Developing coastal community institutions based on local wisdom can increase community participation in decision-making and supervision of marine resource management (Erman et al, 2023).

Participatory activities of coastal communities in preserving the environment are strongly influenced by the ability, knowledge, and responsibility of the community (Fahlevi, et al, 2023). Knowledge, skills, and attitudes are needed by coastal communities in maintaining and preserving the environment. Strengthening the character of environmental care involves people having the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to recognize the value and meaning of protecting and preserving the environment and for suitability in acting based on knowledge choices and best consequences (Berkowitz and Brewer, 2005).

Christy (1982) suggests that six things must be met as a condition in developing local wisdom for the management of an area, namely: (1) Natural resource conditions must have clear characteristics; (2) The boundaries of the territory must be clear and predetermined; (3) Capture technology must determine the type of tool and type of catch that will be regulated in local wisdom; (4) Culture, local culture must be adjusted to the empowerment model of local wisdom so that there will be no clash; (5) The distribution of wealth must protect the existing institutional model; (6) Government authority and related institutions.

CONCLUSION

Strengthening the character of environmental care based on local wisdom has a great influence on coastal communities. The community is expected to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward environmental care based on local wisdom. In addition, the community is expected to preserve the traditional understanding of humans and how to establish a good relationship between humans and other humans so that the ecological community can run in balance without one aspect being left behind and crushed.

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