

# PRESERVATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS BY INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN THE WASTE BANK PROGRAM

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***Abstract-** Waste disposal with conventional systems tends not to sort waste. Judging from the socio-economic aspect, the community does not benefit economically from waste, because in handling waste there is no sorting. Their garbage is mixed and then thrown away. Disposal of mixed waste destroys and reduces the value of materials that may still be reusable. A waste bank is a collective inorganic waste management system that encourages the community to participate actively in it. This system will accommodate, sort and distribute economic value waste to the market so that the community can benefit economically from saving waste. Efforts to establish a clean environment through a waste bank is something that is not easy if it is not supported by the majority of the community. This paper is a narrative about how public awareness and response to the existence of waste banks is one of the efforts to protect and preserve the environment and prevent disasters caused by environmental destruction.*

*Keywords:* waste, environmental sustainability, waste bank, waste disposal, sorting.

## INTRODUCTION

Garbage is a problem in society that is very difficult to overcome. Garbage is a scourge in people's lives. There is still a lot of garbage scattered, not only in ditches, roads, even rivers to the sea are polluted due to the problems caused by garbage. Thus, waste has become a very important problem that must also receive more intensive attention and handling from various parties, both in society and the government (Blowers, 1993).

Most of the waste problems occur in urban areas, where urban areas are the center of industrial activities, urbanization as well as daily activities that occur in cities (Djaelani, 2021). The problem of environmental pollution is based on the lack of understanding and awareness of the community as well as the lack of socialization from the government and related parties on the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness in an effort to manage environmental problems and also community empowerment (Parrot et al., 2009).

Waste management carried out by the community is still in the traditional form where waste is collected and then disposed of or destroyed (Ojedokun, 2011). Garbage generated from household activities is collected without sorting and then disposed of. Some are burned or buried. Bad behavior also occurs when garbage is dumped into rivers, ditches, ditches or irrigation canals (Moore, 2012). A lot of garbage is left behind and then left alone without any awareness to process it at all so that it can cause environmental damage, or decrease the level of cleanliness in the community so that the environment is polluted, unsightly, slum, dirty, and often causes disease (O'Connell, 2011). And if anyone cares about the importance of keeping the environment clean, they still use methods that can be considered very traditional, such as being burned, buried, or even thrown into the river. This of course can reduce the amount of the volume of waste but not necessarily reduce the amount of damage caused by using these methods, because in this way the side effects that can be caused are in the form of soil, air, and water pollution.

Efforts that are felt to be able to reduce the volume of waste and reduce damage arising from the traditional methods above, namely through waste management efforts by facilitating public facilities with trash bins, carrying out approach activities to the community in the form of socialization that can teach the community to maintain environmental cleanliness by sorting. good and correct waste so that the community can raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, and also through the waste bank program.

This is based on the Regulation of the State Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Indonesia Number 13 of 2012 Article 1 which explains that: Reuse, Reuse, and Recycle activities or limit waste, reuse waste and recycle waste, hereinafter referred to as 3R activities are all activities that are able to reduce waste. everything that can cause waste, activities to reuse waste that is fit for use for the same function or other functions, and activities to process waste to be used as new products. A waste bank is a place for sorting and collecting waste that can be recycled and or reused which has economic value. Article 2 explains that: This Ministerial Regulation aims to provide guidance to implementers of 3R activities through waste banks. 3R activities through the waste bank as referred to in paragraph (1) are carried out for household waste and household waste similar to household waste.

Of course, this waste bank program cannot be separated from community empowerment. Where empowerment is an effort to improve people's lives by providing understanding and control of social, economic and political forces. The concept of empowerment is also inseparable from non-formal education, in the national education system, non-formal education in Article 26 paragraph 3 explains that this non-formal education includes, among others: Life skills education, youth education and others - others aimed at developing students' abilities.

One of the villages in Sidoarjo Regency that has a waste bank is Lebo Village, Sidoarjo District, Sidoarjo Regency named Bestari (clean and sustainable), this waste bank was established in 2018. Where the community in Lebo Village has a diversity of ethnicities, religions and also different types of livelihoods. The number of people and also the activities in generating waste is what often causes a lot of piles of garbage around roads and around residential areas. This has the potential to damage the beauty and cleanliness of the environment.

Community empowerment at the Bestari waste bank in Lebo Village covers all aspects. The interest from the community is quite high, including the collection of paper waste and the like, then the collection of used cooking oil from frying pans, and plastic waste. This waste bank empowerment is managed in a structured manner by the management of the Bestari waste bank, who is always on standby at a predetermined location every day. PKK cadres in Lebo Village conducted socialization on waste management and training in sorting waste, the socialization was carried out in several stages or meetings, the first meeting was aimed at socializing, the second and subsequent meetings aimed at forming administrators as well as training in waste sorting. Bestari Waste Bank activities in Lebo Village include empowering the community through PKK women to sort household waste, implementing 3Rs and making crafts from recycled waste, then collecting used books, and used cooking oil. The results of this waste bank will be used as business capital or crafts to empower the waste bank again.

However, the problems faced in Community Empowerment related to human development, namely, the people in Lebo Village who are members of the Bestari waste bank are still low, in this case the knowledge in waste management is still lacking, this is evidenced by facts on the ground showing that not all people understand well how to sort waste properly then the attitude of the community in waste management is still low, this unfavorable attitude of the community is estimated to be influenced by the level of public knowledge, this is evidenced by the fact that most of the people burn waste and some throw garbage in landfills as an effort to manage waste. and the activities of community members who carry out waste management, namely by sorting out waste such as used cans or bottles for resale, the number is still very small, then another problem is that the community's skills in waste management are still relatively small. It is simple, there is no entrepreneurial attitude and community bargaining power. This is evidenced by sorting household waste, starting from sorting plastic waste, bottles and paper, used cooking oil which is then collected in the Bestari waste bank.

Based on the description of the background, the authors are interested in conducting research with the title Efforts to Increase Public Awareness Through the Waste Bank Program.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The research approach used in this study is a qualitative approach and the research method used is a qualitative descriptive approach and will produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people as well as from observed behavior. The author chooses to use this approach with the hope that the author will be able to produce descriptive data to reveal the causes and processes that occur.

The location or place of the research was carried out at the bestari waste bank in Lebo Village, Sidoarjo District, Sidoarjo Regency. Where this waste bank can gradually change people's behavior in maintaining environmental cleanliness, this is what makes the writer's curiosity aroused, and also feels curious to know more about the activities of this Bestari waste bank.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Program Planning in Managing Waste Bank

Garbage can be divided into two kinds of parts, namely waste that is easily destroyed or waste that is easily decomposed by nature which is commonly referred to as organic waste, for example such as vegetable waste and others, and also waste that is not easily destroyed or cannot be decomposed. By nature, commonly referred to as inorganic waste, for example, such as waste from plastic, glass, cans and so on. This certainly gets a special spotlight where with the large number of population growth in an area, the waste generated automatically also increases.

In Lebo Village, where this problem arises, there are still many who often throw garbage carelessly and inappropriately. Although some people in the village already have awareness of environmental cleanliness, the community still does not have awareness of maintaining environmental cleanliness thoroughly and evenly. The thing that can be caused is the existence of environmental pollution caused by garbage, and the location of the pollution, among others, is in the sewers that are clogged with garbage. When the rainy season arrives, it causes flooding, and often causes Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF). This is because dirty puddles of garbage are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The

amount of garbage that is dumped and piled carelessly on the sides of the road causes environmental pollution, where the environment becomes less pleasing to the eye.

In addition, the people in Lebo Village tend to like things that are fast and effective, such as burning waste directly. The habit of burning garbage is recognized by the community as more effective and efficient, but this will have an impact on the environment affected by air pollution and also the accumulation of garbage in the environment when there is neglect of waste will have an impact on public health.

The head of RT and RW seeks to increase public awareness of maintaining a clean environment such as community service activities. In addition, it has a program to reduce the volume of waste in Lebo Village by planning the establishment of a waste bank program. This is also an effort to increase the awareness of the Lebo village community in maintaining environmental cleanliness which is still quite low.

### **Waste Bank Management Process to Raise Public Awareness not to Litter**

In realizing the waste bank program, socialization of the waste bank was carried out to the public. The administrators conducted a comparative study in order to gain knowledge and understanding about waste banks to waste banks that had already been established. This comparative study aims to obtain education about what a waste bank is, how to sort waste properly and correctly, how to turn waste into useful goods and have economic value to the community. In addition, it is carried out in other ways, such as by using a direct approach or face to face with village communities in the field, or by going directly to the houses of the community to conduct counseling about the waste bank itself.

This socialization is carried out either directly in the field or by gathering the community at the time of community gatherings or meetings. But of course, in conveying the socialization there are also many responses from the community regarding the waste bank itself. Because this is not directly proportional to the mindset and behavior reflected by the community in maintaining environmental cleanliness, so that in the process of realizing a village free from waste it is felt very difficult where at the initial stage of the establishment of this waste bank there have been various responses from the community, there are those who accept it. some even reject it. However, over time and efforts, the management remained patient and believed that one day the village community would be able to accept the waste bank program and be aware of keeping the environment clean.

### **Obstacles in Community Empowerment through the Waste Bank program**

Constraints faced in community empowerment through the Waste Bank program, especially from the lack of public understanding regarding waste sorting. The community has a low understanding of waste sorting about waste so they do not care about how the waste will be processed and is no longer a problem for the local community. Garbage that is produced every day but there is no management will be a sight in Lebo Village. People are still used to throwing household waste directly in rivers, in empty places, and burning them, without being sorted and processed first. This is indeed an unsolved problem, due to a lack of public understanding. Thus, the main obstacle lies in the lack of public understanding regarding waste sorting.

The aspects of capital and marketing of handicraft products are considered to be the main obstacles in the implementation of this waste bank program. The lack of assistance regarding sources of business capital and also the absence of assistance for the marketing of these handicrafts will cause the performance of the bank's program to increase and develop its potential to be limited and hampered.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The main problem that arises regarding the village environment is that there are still many people who are still not aware and know the importance of keeping the environment clean, especially from garbage. This is exacerbated by those who often throw garbage carelessly, both in ditches, roadsides and others, making the village environment polluted, dirty and filled with scattered garbage. However, after the establishment of the Waste Bank program, the community and customers felt helped because the waste bank was slightly cleaner, and helped reduce the amount of waste in the community so that the situation was quite different from the previous situation. The community feels that the garbage bank can help in increasing public awareness to keep the environment clean in Lebo village, even being ashamed and afraid to throw garbage carelessly. The waste bank is considered to be able to provide understanding as well as provide knowledge to separate waste, especially plastic type waste, and prefer to deposit it rather than just throw it away. Garbage banks are also considered to be an appropriate solution to maintain environmental cleanliness in the village because according to the community there is no program that can help the community to overcome behavior and mindsets regarding waste problems such as this waste bank program. Expectations from the community and customers for the Waste Banks themselves are that in the future waste banks can improve the performance of managers by increasing the number of waste bank managers, continuing to innovate in order to develop programs that have been run previously. In addition, the community and customers of the waste bank hope that with the existence of this Garbage Bank, the village

environment in the future will be clean and free from garbage that is disposed of carelessly so that it will no longer be affected by floods as before.

This waste bank program also has a positive impact on the community, especially in terms of generating public interest in maintaining environmental cleanliness. In addition, increasing public awareness to keep the environment free from waste problems and providing understanding and knowledge on how to manage waste in a good and correct way. The community is equipped with a training program for handicrafts from waste so that in the future the community will have expertise in processing waste into goods of economic value. This will also provide additional income.

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