Ecological citizenship education movement through the Pining Tiger Forum community in forming environmental awareness

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Abstract: Ecological citizenship is a concept that developed in response to environmental challenges that encourages people and groups to actively contribute to preserving and protecting the environment in response to the challenges facing the environment on a global scale. The Harimau Pining Forum Community is an environmental community that focuses on creating awareness and action towards environmental conservation in the Leuser area, Aceh. The aim of this research is to find out how the ecological citizenship movement through the Pining Tiger Forum community creates environmental awareness in the people of the Leuser area, Aceh. This research used a descriptive qualitative method, the data sources in the research were 10 people consisting of the Chair of the Pining Tiger Forum, Secretary of the Pining Tiger Forum, Head of Pining Village, Secretary of Pining Village, Bhabinkamtibmas of Pining Village, and 5 Pining Village Community members. Data collection techniques use interviews, observation and documentation. The results of this research show that the Pining Tiger Forum community has formed environmental awareness in the people of the Leuser area, Aceh through Didong art performances, deliberations/mupakat, socialization and the installation of banners in strategic areas in the Leuser area of Aceh with poetry/themes on environmental values.

Keywords: Ecological Citizenship; Environmental Awareness; Pining Tiger Forum

Introduction

Environmental education is very important to increase awareness and facilitate the development of environmental citizens (Finger et al., 2021). The concept of ecological citizenship has been discussed thoroughly in the literature (Beck, 2010; Cao, 2015; Melo-Escrihuela, 2008). Then it was redefined in the European Network for ecological citizenship measures (Finger et al., 2021). Ecological citizenship is defined as citizens who have coherent and adequate knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and competencies necessary to be able to act and participate in society as agents of change in personal and public life at the local, national and global levels, through action. Individual and collective towards solving contemporary environmental problems, preventing the creation of new environmental problems, achieving sustainability, and developing a healthy relationship with nature. Ecological citizenship practices environmental rights and obligations and is able to identify the causes of environmental damage and problems. Furthermore, environmental residents have the will and competence for active involvement and participation to act individually and collectively (Hadjichambis & Reis, 2020). To fulfill these requirements of ecological citizenship, education is essential, as discussed by Smederevac-Lalic et al (Smederevac-Lalic et al., 2020).
Forest ecosystems play a fundamental role in mitigating global environmental change. The development of environmentally sound behavior, and inter- and intragenerational equality can help fight these global changes (Kowasch et al., 2022). So far little attention has been paid to the respective roles of perceived environmental responsibility and social norms in the established relationship between place attachment and residents’ pro-environmental behavior (Soopramanien et al., 2023). Results from multiple regression analysis indicate that individuals who are motivated by enduring identity/involvement are more likely to have higher levels of conscientious engagement, while individuals who are motivated by obligation have lower conscientious engagement (Schild, 2018). Ecological citizenship has been suggested in the field of political theory as an approach to realizing personal responsibility for the environment (Jagers & Matti, 2010). Environmentally based policies and regulations have recently become a major focus of inquiry into the role of citizens as catalysts of efforts aimed at achieving sustainable development. As a consequence of globalization, adopting a sustainable and ecologically based lifestyle through daily practices and actions has become a key element of this new agenda in all countries, including developing countries (Asilsoy & Oktay, 2018).

One form of problem that is new but spreading rapidly is a lack of ecological awareness or environmental awareness. Climate change and other global environmental changes such as biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, and deforestation are affecting humans psychologically on an ever-wider scale. So far, our concerns about the environment are increasingly due to a lack of strong environmental awareness, these concerns have been widely discussed in the media through newspaper articles, documentaries and interviews. However, the amount of academic literature on this topic is still relatively small: environmental awareness is often overlooked in the discourse on environmental change and other current ecological issues. Although the scientific literature on this topic in various disciplines is small but growing, there is still a lack of research on the definition of “environmental awareness” (Bourban, 2023).

According to a number of researchers in various previous studies from a perspective related to the ecological citizenship movement through the Pining Tiger forum community in forming relevant environmental awareness (Anggasta & Widiastuti, 2022; Arafah et al., 2023; Nugroho, 2022; Syamsu et al., 2022). Research (Arafah et al., 2023) shows that in the Tanjung Peropa Wildlife Reserve, it is believed that youth groups need to be revitalized to increase awareness of the value of nature and the obligation to protect it. Developing and supporting youth groups who care about the environment is the aim of strengthening youth group organizations. Activities were carried out in Laonti Village and Puundirangga Village, both of which are close to the Tanjung Peropa Wildlife Reserve in Laonti District, South Konawe Regency. All youth in the two villages took part in this activity using a participatory methodology. Activity findings show that increasing environmental care groups involves five interconnected processes: field problem orientation, socialization of the function of environmental care groups in educational institutions, formation and addition of environmental care groups, socialization of organizational improvements to environmental care groups, and conservation training through environmental care activities. In Puundirangga Village and Laonti Village, where each has four environmentally conscious youth groups with 4-5 members each, the program to strengthen groups of environmentally concerned organizations is running effectively and having a positive impact.

The next research was conducted by (Nugroho, 2022) which shows that environmental education is a process to create a human population in the world who is aware of the environment as a whole and all the problems it causes, as well as people who have the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to solve them. various problems. Solve current environmental problems and prevent the emergence of new problems. Environmental awareness is a state of awakening of the soul to something, in this case the environment, which
can be observed in the behavior and actions of the person concerned. This research uses what is called a descriptive qualitative approach. carried out in Class IV E Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Negeri 1 Jombang. Data collection is carried out through recording and observation activities. In this research, there are three stages in the data processing process, namely data reduction, data verification, and data verification or drawing conclusions. Indicators achieved include developing an attitude of responsibility, adaptation of a sense of responsibility, adaptation of pride, adaptation of respect, adaptation of a sense of mutual cooperation, and adaptation of environmental protection.

Then research from (Syamsu et al., 2022) shows that urban areas have serious environmental problems. Floods bring rubbish to residential centers, pollution from piled up rubbish, pollution from daily traffic, population density affects the quality of absorbed groundwater, and so on. Since then, various initiatives and activities have been attempted to address this problem, but without success. By increasing awareness among young people and reducing the number of generations, this can be reduced. They have the potential to make social progress through an educated young generation with a love for the environment and returning urban environments to their original state. A literacy campaign from 50 youth and environmental groups served to raise awareness among young people. They will receive information about environmental values and the impact of damage, especially in their residential area. So that they can legally participate in development, they receive institutional strengthening and empowerment training. The results of this environmental education show the need to increase awareness and knowledge so that the next generation takes the initiative and is committed to preserving the environment. In the reading materials, they are given criteria for comfortable environments and uncomfortable environments, followed by suggestions for how to manage the latter. Other churches should follow this first step. From this activity it can be concluded that the younger generation needs continuous attention to participate in development by strengthening the function of grassroots institutions such as youth organizations.

Another research was conducted by (Anggasta & Widiastuti, 2022) who explained that one of the natural resources that is very important for the survival of living creatures is the environment. Because there is a good environment, the living creatures that live there are also good. In order for all living creatures on land, in the sea and in the air to survive, there must be ethics that support environmental sustainability. The existence of a community that has a high level of environmental awareness will be able to improve the environment even further. To understand Bali's unique waste problem and how the environmental community works to solve it, it is interesting to study environmental conservation practices carried out by environmentalists. This study found the beneficial effects of the existence of environmentalist communities on the coastal environment, surrounding communities, and the emerging plastic waste problem, which then had an impact on the idea of implementing green cities. This was done using qualitative research methods and a case study approach in relation to the waste phenomenon on the coast of Bali in particular.

Based on several of these studies, there has been no research that examines the study of the ecological citizen movement through the Pining Tiger forum community in forming environmental awareness. Then, the model used by the Forum Harimau Pining community in forming environmental awareness has apparently not been found by researchers so far in literature studies that have been carried out by other people, so that is the effort made in this research, so that it becomes difference and novelty. ) with previous research. Therefore, it is important for this research to be adopted by the community considering that the contribution of the model carried out by the Forum Harimau Pining community has not yet been thoroughly researched, so that the model becomes a guide (role model) for other communities in forming environmental awareness. Based on the background of the problem above, we can formulate a question, how does the ecological citizenship movement through the Pining Tiger
Forum community create environmental awareness in the people of the Pining Leuser area, Aceh?

**Research methods**

**Types of research**

This thesis research is based on the problems and discussions that have been discussed. The researcher used a qualitative approach to collect research results and data. Qualitative research refers to studies that seek to understand the phenomena that research participants encounter, such as their behavior, perceptions, motives, and actions. holistically, using word and language descriptions, in various natural contexts, and using various naturalistic techniques (Moleong, 2005). Hypothetical logic is more often used in qualitative research methods. Deductive reasoning is used to create hypotheses based on factual data in this approach. As a result, empirical indicators and measurements constitute the largest part of qualitative research (Margono, 2014).

**Time and Place of Research**

This research was carried out in Pining Village, Gayo Lues Regency, Aceh Province, Indonesia. The reason this location was chosen is because the residents of Pining Village are very skilled in managing, protecting and maintaining the environment based on local wisdom. According to (Mcgregor, 2004) a region can be categorized as applying the concept of ecological citizenship by paying attention to indicators such as the growth of civic skills and participatory expertise in managing the environment, lifestyle changes that are in line with environmental conservation, activities that involve citizens in determining environmental policy and controlling community because of the environmental regulations that already exist in local communities.

**Research Target/Subject**

Interviews, observations, documentation, and other similar sources are used as data sources in descriptive qualitative research.

Primary data sources were collected through direct interviews and direct observation in the field. Primary data sources are sources that allow researchers to collect information directly from the source, without using intermediaries, by researching the source directly through respondents. The main sources of information in this research were 10 (ten) informants consisting of the chairman of the Pining Tiger Forum, Secretary of the Pining Tiger Forum, Head of Pining Village, Secretary of Pining Village, Bhabinkamtibmas of Pining Village and 5 people in Pining Village, Gayo Lues Regency.

Secondary data was collected through documentation and literature review using print and online sources as well as field notes. Secondary data sources, also known as indirect data sources, can support research data and offer additional information.

**Procedure**

In contrast to experiments where the key is the researcher, qualitative methods use cross-check (combined), inductive and qualitative data collection to study the natural conditions of the subject. This method is based on post positivist philosophy. Qualitative research data and findings place more emphasis on meaning than generalization (Sugiyono, 2016).

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**Data, Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques**

This research uses observation, interviews and documentation methods. The tools needed include stationery, audio recorder, camera, observation guide, and interview guide (Arikunto, 2013). The researcher himself (human instrument) is the instrument used in qualitative research, along with the recorder and camera as supporting tools. At various points during qualitative research, researchers act as planners, implementers, data collectors,
analysts, data interpreters, and research reporters (Moleong, 2012).

By using data collection methods, researchers can verify the accuracy of the data collected. The following information was collected for this research:

Observation is the process of observing research subjects directly. Observation is more than just the act of observing and documenting activities; it also facilitates our ability to quickly obtain information about the environment around us. Observation is the first stage of data collection. (Hasanah, 2017) states the purpose of research observations is to develop a clear understanding of the problem being studied and to offer descriptive details about the subject. On the basis of local environmental conservation knowledge, all actions and events that promote ecological citizenship will be recorded.

An interview is a conversation conducted by an interviewer to collect data from various sources (Hasanah, 2017). This research will use in-depth interviews, namely conversations in which the interviewer and informant try to find answers to questions. Additionally, the researcher’s questions were not limited by answers, allowing for a variety of responses. This interview was conducted to obtain the opinion and suggestions of the source to resolve a problem being discussed.

Documentation is a data collection method used at research locations to record and review information from various notes or documents that are considered important and related to the problem being studied.

Data analysis technique

Researchers use data analysis techniques to interpret and draw conclusions from the results of their research which are presented as data or limited data (Basrowi & Suwandi, 2008). Three elements form qualitative data analysis techniques according to (Milles & Hubberman, 1992):

Researchers collected various primary and secondary data in detail and thoroughly from various activities/events that lead to environmental conservation and have relevance to the concept of environmental citizenship in the Pining Village area, Pining District, Gayo Lues Regency.

To be able to organize data in the form of tables, graphs, pictograms, diagrams, and other similar formats, researchers present various data from various activities and events that contribute to the preservation and management of the environment in accordance with the importance of the concept of environmental citizenship. Research data will be presented in such a way that it is easy to understand and arranged in a relationship pattern.

The researcher tries to draw conclusions and understand the information that has been provided so far. A conclusion was reached regarding Strengthening Ecological Citizenship Based on Local Wisdom in Environmental Conservation in the Leuser Pining Community, Gayo Lues Regency by determining the relevance of the data to include an investigation into the relationship between ecological citizenship and local wisdom in protecting the environment, the process of strengthening ecological citizenship, and obstacles in the process of strengthening ecological citizenship.

Research findings and Discussion

The ecological citizenship movement through the Pining Tiger Forum community in forming environmental awareness among the people of the Leuser forest buffer area, Aceh is certainly very much in line with Berkowitz's opinion in research (Simbolon, 2021) that developing ecological citizenship requires providing abilities, values and knowledge to people to recognize their own values and goals in relation to the environment and to act in accordance with those values and goals based on their best understanding. Among the models/stages carried out by the Forum Harimau Pining community in forming environmental awareness are through the stages of sesuk art performances, deliberation/mupakat, socialization and the installation of banners with poetry or themes of environmental values.

The first model/stage is to frequently hold Gayo Art performance events, namely the art of didong seuk, bines which provide poetry about
the environment, this will provide broadcast messages to the community in protecting and preserving the environment. This event is usually held to commemorate the anniversary of the Pining Tiger Guard Forum and the Pining River. This is in line with the results of research (Hasmidar et al., 2020) which explains that the art of rolled poetry is one of the Malay cultural arts of Ketapang Regency which is still practiced today because it contains ideas about moral education, such as moral education for humans, with other people, with other people with himself, with nature, and with other people with God. Because the values in rolled poetry are an adaptation of societal norms and traditions, rolled poetry has an important meaning in social life. In this way, poetry reading becomes a vehicle for conveying moral messages at every meeting and event in society.

**Figure 1.** A Framework for fostering ecological citizenship in the community through *Didong Gayo*

Information:
- *Pegawe Didong* (Didong Sesuk dancers)
- *Penyurak Rawan* (Supporting male dancer Didong Sesuk)
- *Penyurak Benen* (Supporting female dancer Didong Seuk)
- *Penyurak lewen rawan* (Supporting male dancer Didong Sesuk from the opposing party)
- *Penyurak Dindong lewen Benen* (Supporting female dancer Didong Seuk)
- Public
- *Bangsalan/Teratak* (Stage)

The second model/stage is through deliberation or consensus, the parties involved reach an agreement on the steps to be taken to preserve the environment. This process involves open discussion, listening to each other, and reaching compromises to reach consensus. The deliberation/agreement process does not only take place once, but must be part of ongoing governance. Community participation is continuously encouraged and integrated in decision making, monitoring and maintaining environmental sustainability in the Leuser Pining Area. This is in line with the opinion of (Yuliani, 2020). By using the deliberation as a forum, the community can gather to solve problems and make decisions. Deliberation can also serve as a call to share our knowledge and originality. Deliberation is also a component of community service because it aims to involve the community in analyzing a problem, finding solutions and making decisions together.
The third integration process is socialization, socialization is carried out by involving the wider community, including local communities, farmer groups, youth, community organizations and other stakeholders. Socialization can be carried out programmatical at a certain time or integrated into existing community activities, such as village meetings, cultural festivals or social events. After socialization is carried out, it is important to carry out an evaluation to assess its effectiveness. This may involve gathering feedback from outreach participants to evaluate their understanding, change behavior, and increase awareness of environmental conservation. This feedback can be used to improve and adjust outreach methods and materials in the future. This is in line with the results of research (Izharsyah et al., 2020) which states that in order to carry out disaster mitigation, the community will be given training on how to maintain the balance of land and the environment, such as socialization and training with the hope of going green, then the community will be taught how to prepare a budget through village. RAPdes for disasters, establishment of communication forums, and recruitment of village volunteers for village disasters. One part of village preparation for disasters is the socialization and training process. because it is very important for people to understand their environment.
From the schematic image above, it can be explained that the stages of socialization and banner installation in environmental conservation in the Leuser area, namely:

1. **Goal Setting**: State a banner message, which may include raising public awareness about issues such as the need to protect wild animals and the environment, stop illegal logging, and more.

2. **Information Collection**: Collect data on the Leuser area, flora, fauna, environmental threats and the impact of environmental damage. A banner message will be created using the information provided.

3. **Message Development**: Create a banner that conveys an interesting, clear and inspiring message. These messages need to emphasize the value of the environment, the consequences of its damage, and the collective obligation to protect it.

4. **Banner Design**: Design an attractive visual layout of the banner, using images and colors that reflect the natural beauty of the Leuser area and the seriousness of environmental issues that the public needs to be aware of.

5. **Selecting a Strategic Location**: Determining the most strategic location for placing banners around Leuser. This location was chosen because it is frequently visited by ward members and allows for clear message visibility.

The fourth strengthening process is campaigning and installing banners with poetry/themes on environmental values. Themes and messages as well as strategic locations for placing banners are pending elements in environmental campaigning. This aims to ensure that in this process the community can increase their awareness and participation in preserving nature and the environment.

The initiatives undertaken by the Hariamu Pining Forum align with scholarly research findings. In research (Arafah et al., 2023), the findings show that increasing youth groups who care about the environment involves five interconnected activities, including orientation to field problems, socialization of the function of environmental care groups in educational institutions, formation and expansion of environmental care groups, socialization to improve the organization of environmental care groups, and conservation training through environmental care activities. The program to strengthen groups of environmentally conscious organizations has been effective and has had a positive impact on the creation of environmentally conscious youth groups in Puundirangga and Laonti villages, each of which has four environmentally conscious youth groups consisting of 4-5 people.

The same thing in research from (Erna, 2019) shows the need for local communities and the government to make integrated, sustainable and sustainable efforts to manage and preserve the natural environment through local culture. The values contained in local culture can be instilled to achieve this goal. Internalizing ecological principles contained in local knowledge can help increase human awareness about how to manage the environment and foster good ecological attitudes. The results of this research discuss the idea of the importance of internalizing traditional knowledge which is supported by facts and observations about conservation efforts. By recognizing the rights and authority of local indigenous communities, it is concluded from empirical studies and observation results that the internalization of local wisdom values can make a positive contribution to preserving the natural environment.

Based on the discussion above, the researcher can conclude that the process of strengthening ecological citizenship based on local wisdom in preserving the environment in the communities of the Leuser Pining area, Gayo Lues Regency includes through didong art performances, deliberations/mupakat, socialization and installation of banners with poetry/themes on environmental values.

**Conclusion**

The pining tiger forum community is creating environmental awareness in the people of the Leuser area, Aceh through didong art performances, deliberations/mupakat, socialization and placing banners in strategic...
areas in the Leuser area of Aceh with poetry/themes on environmental values.

It is hoped that the Pining Village government will further develop the Environmental Care Community. developing an environmentally caring community in the Leuser Pining area. This community can be a forum for people to share knowledge and experience in environmental conservation. Apart from that, this community can also collaborate with related parties in environmental conservation programs.

Disclosure statement
No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

References


