



#### Research article

# Management of an Environmental Education Program in Konawe Regency

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#### Abstract.

Classes are taught on the environment at Marga Karya Elementary School. Konawe Regency's goal was to introduce students to the environment at a young age so that they can develop responsible environmental behavior. This study used a qualitative approach and found that schools have provided a conducive climate through the management of environmental education programs that are used to develop character and environmental care behavior in students. Environmental care behavior has been developed through a series of activities that were curriculum-planned, systematic and involved all school components, including environmental education program preparation, implementation and participation of the school community. The school's approach can be used to encourage students to have a positive view of environmental management, and thereby want to create a clean, beautiful, healthy and comfortable environment, as well as contribute to future sustainable development.

**Keywords:** environmental education, environmental management, environmental care behavior

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## 1. Introduction

Environmental damage activities that occur in various parts of the world indicate that generally the damage is caused by human activities or due to natural factors, causing a decrease in environmental quality [1]. Degradation of environmental quality causes disturbances in the balance of the ecosystem which in turn will disrupt human activities. The public's indifference to the environment is a contributing factor to environmental destruction, so that various problems of environmental damage that occur tend to be ignored [2].

The occurrence of environmental damage that can threaten human life requires actions to improve environmental quality so that various kinds of actions and programs are offered by the government to minimize environmental damage activities. One of

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the programs offered is the Adiwiyata program. This program was created by the government for educational institutions as a response to the environmental damage that occurred [1]. The Adiwiyata program is a program that aims to create an environment that is committed to providing education so that students have the nature and character of caring for the environment through several programs offered. This program is designed by the government to build a cultural commitment to environmental care in students with two principles, firstly, the participation of students or the school community through school management activities to take environmental care actions starting from planning, implementing, and evaluating the implementation of the program. Second, there is a continuous and comprehensive Adiwiyata program implementation so that it has an effect on the environmental care behavior of students who are awakened through the implementation of the program. The output of this program is to produce individuals who are concerned about saving the environment [3]

Environmental education is a solution to provide knowledge to students by opening students' thinking horizons about issues of saving the environment which in turn can increase students' knowledge and will indirectly shape students' attitudes and behavior to care about the environment. To maximize the implementation of environmental education in educational institutions, it is necessary to involve educational institutions, program implementation strategies and character values to be built. these three factors play an important role for the successful formation of environmental care behavior [4]. The Adiwiyata program is an environmental education program to build environmental care behavior through teaching and learning activities carried out inside and outside the classroom in the form of assignments, group activities that are carried out on an ongoing basis with the aim of building active student involvement in issues of saving the environment [5]. Through this activity, a superior character or environmental care behavior will be built as a result of the environmental education process carried out from the Adiwiyata program. Environmental care behavior that appears in the adiwiyata program is an effort to build students' ecological intelligence so that they have attitudes and actions to be able to prevent various environmental destruction activities and become individuals who can repair a damaged environment, as the research issue raised in this article is the implementation of adiwiyata in Marga Karya Elementary School, Konawe Regency builds students' awareness to be involved in saving the environment consciously through programs implemented by the school.

Educational institutions are considered the most ideal place to shape environmental care behavior, because the more a person's knowledge of environmental issues increases, the better his contribution to saving the environment and awareness to

protect and protect the environment will be [6]. In addition, through environmental education students will know more about the concept of environmental balance and can give opinions to the community so that they have wisdom in interacting with the environment in a sustainable manner through learning activities obtained from school. Environmental education carried out in schools is an effort made to create student awareness to be able to understand environmental issues more fully through learning models so as to create a love for the environment [7]. Thus the school has a very important contribution to shape and build the capacity of students to contribute and have an awareness of saving the environment. Schools are a place to provide students with an understanding of knowledge about saving the environment through environmental care programs which will eventually produce individuals who have better knowledge of environmental management than before.

Research related to environmental education has been carried out in several areas in Indonesia. In addition, other research on environmental education has also been carried out in several countries such as Maleysia [8], Thailand [9], Turkey [10], South Africa [11], England [12] and several other European countries that seek to build environmental care behavior so that students have environmental awareness. Previous research related to environmental education has focused on how to increase students' environmental awareness through a problem-based approach, the role of teachers to maximize environmental education, the influence of families in building environmental care characters and folk stories in protecting the earth that involve students' activities in activities that are environmentally friendly implemented. In Indonesia, research on the implementation of environmental education through the adiwiyata program has been carried out especially in high schools with a focus on the creativity of environmental education that is carried out, designing superior schools through the implementation of environmental education, and increasing environmental awareness through the introduction of literacy which will eventually give birth to behavior [5]. Behavior that has concern for environmental management. However, research studies in elementary schools are still not widely carried out. Therefore, this research is expected to complete information about the implementation of environmental education through the Adiwiyata program in shaping environmental care behavior in students.

#### 2. Research Methods

This research was conducted at the Marga Karya Elementary School, Konawe Regency. This school was chosen because this school is one of the schools that received an



award as a school that has implemented environmental education through the Adiwiyata program. In addition, this school is one of the reference schools for implementing environmental education in Konawe Regency and already has a curriculum that is a reference in environmental education as the model of environmental education applied in Indonesia. Data collected through observation, interviews and documentation

The observation technique is used to see how environmental education is practiced in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, observations were made in school classrooms during lessons to observe patterns of class activities and student interactions. In-depth interviews with students and teachers were conducted to find out how environmental education is implemented by teachers and translated into the school curriculum. The interview questions also investigate how many environmental education programs are implemented by the school, the ability of teachers to choose the right topic about environmental issues, and their ability to shape the character of environmental care in children. In addition, interviews were also conducted with students to observe their attitudes and behavior. Furthermore, teaching materials and various environmental education documents were studied to determine the implementation of environmental education carried out by schools. After that, data validation was carried out using triangulation while data analysis used the Miles and Huberman approach, which included data reduction, data presentation, conclusion drawing and verification.

#### 3. Result

SDN Marga Karya, is one of the schools in Konawe Regency that has implemented environmental education through the Adiwiyata program launched by the government. The implementation of environmental education activities has a role in shaping students' motivation and awareness through a series of activities carried out by SDN Marga Karya so that they can shape students' environmental care behavior towards the surrounding environment. The form of implementation of environmental education activities at SDN Marga Karya Kab Konawe to build environmental care behavior is carried out through a series of activities as follows.

#### 3.1. Implement environmental education programs.

To create a school that cares about the environment, the management of environmental education is something that must be done so that environmental education activities can be carried out in a sustainable manner. The implementation of environmental education



at SDN Marga Karya Kab Konawe started by forming a school environment management team (adiwiyata), designing environmental care programs that refer to the school's vision and mission, namely as a school that is oriented towards environmental education by implementing a clean and healthy lifestyle at school. students, collaborate with the environmental activist community, and build attitudes and a culture of environmental care inside and outside the school.

Several programs carried out by schools as part of environmental education provided to students are making student picket schedules to create student hygiene whose implementation is directly supervised by the teacher, making garbage dumps together, planting flowers around the school yard, doing greenery on the environment. schools, making a clean day program which is held every Friday, recycling waste, making crafts from waste materials, making fish ponds to introduce students to animal care, developing teaching materials, developing extracurricular activities with the theme of caring for the environment or caring for the environmental education activities in collaboration with the Konawe district environmental office.

Environmental education programs implemented at the Marga Karya School are a program designed by the school by providing various types of environmental management activities that can be followed so that students are directed to be directly involved with the aim that students can understand and implement every program that is implemented. has been compiled. Apart from involving students in environmental management activities, schools also apply sanctions for students who do not participate in or implement environmental education programs implemented by the school. Sanctions given by schools to students who do not obey or carry out environmental management activities are also oriented to educating students to have concern for the environment. The form of sanctions given is like cleaning classrooms or cleaning up trash in the school environment.

Several programs that have been prepared by schools in building environmental care behavior in the school environment are efforts made by schools to contribute to environmental education programs that have been launched by the government with the aim of increasing student awareness of environmental issues. The environmental education program that has been prepared by SDN 2 Marga Karya is also part of the school's vision, which is to create a safe, healthy, leafy, beautiful, and comfortable school environment. Besides that, this school also has a vision to preserve environmental functions and prevent pollution and environmental damage. To realize the vision of a school that cares about the environment, SDN 2 Marga Karya builds a community with



students, teachers and parents to jointly design environmental education programs so that they can be implemented properly.

The preparation of the environmental education program carried out by SDN 2 Marga Karya was carried out by forming an Adiwiyata team. This team is responsible for environmental management activities carried out at the 2 Marga Karya State Elementary School. In addition, the Adiwiyata team and schools collaborate with the surrounding community and local government to jointly carry out community service cleaning the environment around the school by involving all students which is carried out every Friday with the aim of building a culture of caring for the environment as the vision of the SDN school. 2 Marga Karya is to create a clean, healthy, beautiful and beautiful environment.

# 3.2. Developing an environmental education curriculum the environmental education

Program developed by SDN Marga Karya must be supported by a curriculum on environmental education that can increase students' knowledge. The environmental education curriculum implemented by SDN Marga Karya is a curriculum that has been determined based on the decisions of the minister of environment and minister of education. The curriculum development carried out by the SDN Marga Karya school is to integrate environmental education materials in all subjects in the school so that students have knowledge about the environment and good behavior in protecting and managing the environment.

The development of the environmental education curriculum carried out by the Marga Karya State Elementary School is an effort made by the school to instill students' awareness of the environment. Through environmental education that is carried out, an ecological awareness will be built among students so that students become aware of environmental issues and can campaign for environmental management to their closest family or friends so that they become aware of and understand the issues of saving the environment.

Various learning activities carried out by SDN Marga Karya are efforts made by the school by exploring student experiences related to environmental management that contribute to building or creating student attitudes and habits to preserve the environment. SDN 2 Marga Karya strives to create student awareness of the environment so that students gain knowledge of experience or situation sensitivity as a form of character which will later become a set of values for these students to interact with



their environment. The character of caring for the environment that is built through environmental education carried out by SDN 2 Marga Karya will produce students who have the character of caring for the environment and have a positive view of saving the environment and produce students who can understand environmental management so that they can provide solutions for efforts to save the environment.

# 3.3. Involvement of the school community in environmental care activities.

Building a culture of environmental care requires the participation of all components in the school where the program is run. The implementation of environmental education at Marga Karya public schools is carried out in a participatory manner by involving all school residents in the school, such as students, teachers and employees. The implementation of environmental education programs is carried out in a participatory manner, such as planting trees, caring for plants, making waste banks, planting flowers, making gazebos, and maintaining environmental cleanliness.

The participation of school components in environmental education activities is an important aspect that must be carried out for the success of the environmental education program carried out at Marga Karya public schools. This is because through the involvement of the school community the interest of the participants or their motivation will be awakened so that the school community has the same commitment to saving the environment. The implementation of participatory activities carried out by schools in building an environmentally friendly culture is carried out in an organized manner by involving the principal who directs so that environmental care activities carried out by schools can be carried out properly.

The participatory movement built at the Marga Karya public elementary school in campaigning for environmental education has created green open spaces in the school environment that are overgrown by various kinds of trees and flowers that are neatly arranged, beautiful, clean and cool. The contribution of all school members to the success of environmental care activities is one of the important points in the success of environmental education activities carried out at Marga Karya Elementary School. In addition, the role of the principal as the manager of the implementation of environmental education in the school plays an important role by providing motivation and direction so that the environmental education programs implemented have succeeded in making this school a model school for the elementary school level in environmental management in Konawe Regency.



### 4. Discussion

Environmental education is an effort made by schools to protect and manage schools in a better direction to support sustainable development. The environmental education model implemented in Indonesia such as the Adiwiyata program is one of the government programs implemented in all schools which aims to increase students' awareness of environmental management [13]. The formation of environmental care characters through learning activities carried out in schools is expected to minimize damage to the environment. In addition, students can appreciate nature more respect nature and can interact positively and without damaging the environment [14]. The environmental education program that is packaged through the Adiwiyata program is also a program built on the basis of togetherness, openness and justice in environmental conservation so that this program is one of the programs implemented by several schools in producing individuals who have an orientation to saving the environment [15]

The implementation of environmental education activities such as those carried out by the Marga Karya elementary school is carried out through several programs that provide benefits for students to get to know the concept of environmental management and can increase students' awareness to be active in environmental management activities. The implementation of environmental education carried out in Marga Karya elementary schools begins with the delivery of environmental messages through the school's vision and curriculum to arouse students' enthusiasm for learning so that they know better environmental management activities. In addition, environmental management practices are grown among students through planting trees, making waste banks, making ponds and other activities that can provide direct experience on how to get involved in environmental management activities so that they have an influence on students' mindsets so that they can affect awareness. students who will later shape student behavior to interact with the environment positively [16].

Environmental education conducted by schools is expected to create students who are responsible for environmental management. Various environmental education programs developed by the school have a positive impact on student behavior [17]. Environmental education programs that are carried out in a planned manner will affect students' cognitive, affective and psychomotor in understanding the environment so that it will lead to responsible behavior in managing the environment. In addition, the environmental education program implemented by the school is a laboratory for students to understand the concept of environmental management and have a better view of being involved in saving the environment [18].



Environmental education carried out in several countries such as in China, Bangladesh, India, Finland and Russia shows that there is a commonality in which each country tries to improve the character and awareness of students to be involved in saving the environment. Students are introduced to environmental management activities such as interacting with nature, making pictures and videos and short stories with environmental themes or visiting conservation areas which aim to introduce students to knowledge about the environment.

### 5. Conclusion

Environmental education carried out in schools aims to build students' awareness in interacting positively with nature. The success of environmental education in schools must be implemented through programs that are well planned, systematic and involve all components of the school. Elementary schools contribute to introducing students to the environment early on so that they can raise their enthusiasm for liking the environment so that empathy will arise to be responsible for saving the environment which will later contribute to sustainable development in the future. Environmental education is carried out by providing understanding to students so that students can interact well with nature and the environment which will ultimately affect the environment around them, especially friends, family and society to contribute to saving the environment.

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