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# Strategy of Islamic Education in Developing Character Building of Environmental Students in Indonesia

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**Abstract:** There are many types of research about environmental education that had been conducted, but more information about the strategy of Islamic education in shaping the character of environmental awareness is still limited. This study aims to analyze the environmental education strategy that was developed by Senior High school 4 Kendari in shaping the character of environmental care. This study uses a qualitative approach. The subjects are selected by purposive sampling technique, consisted of the key and the secondary informant. The data were collected through observation, interviews and documentation. The analysis of the validity of the data is through triangulation techniques and resources. The results of this study indicate that the strategy of environmental education that conducted by the Senior High School 4 Kendari in shaping the character of environmental awareness is a socialization of environmental education, the environment-based school programs, and cultural awareness development. The implementation of education strategies in schools provides a direct influence on the relationship between students with the environment that led to the values or attitudes to care about the environment that supports the development of environmental awareness character.

**Keywords:** Strategies, Islamic Education, Character Building.

## 1. Introduction

People and the environment both are very related to each other and cannot be separated, as both need and influence each other. Humans is a living being interacting with their regular place. Humans affect the environment and the situation will directly affect the human life. The environmental changes often occur due to the natural factors, but human interventions often cause the damage to the environment. Education is one of the proper spaces to provide students with understanding that human has a significant role in the environmental balance. According to Naess (1973), nowadays ecological crisis can only be resolved by the change in the perspective and human behaviour towards the fundamental and radical nature. One of the ways as an effort to change behaviour is through education. Furthermore, education is the primary media in building the child's personality as well as the human intelligence to be better.

The school is one of the institutions that have an important role in realizing the ideal nation which is to make a characterized and competent human. The embodiment of humanizing the human beings to become characterized is to inculcate the values of environmental awareness to students. The teacher is one of the right facilitators to establish the character of students to inculcate the values of the environmental care, referred to the teacher of Islamic education. The values of the environmental care are a doctrine that derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah that can be strategies for environmental protection. The educational values of Islam can be transferred by the teacher to the students through



daily lessons and other activities that can support the character to care about the environment. The research about environmental education to students has much been conducted as in India, USA, Czech Republic, Morocco, Thailand and Iran. However, the information about the strategy of Islamic education in shaping the character to care about the environment is still limited. Therefore, this study is one of the approaches to learn about the environmental education strategy conducted by schools and teachers of Islamic education in Senior High School 4 Kendari in shaping the character of students in environmental awareness.

## 2. Research Methods

This research was conducted in Senior High School 4 Kendari with the consideration that this school is a school with friendly environment as evidenced by the title of *Adiwiyata* School since 2013. In addition, Senior High School 4 Kendari is a model school of 2013 curriculum with a focus on shaping the behaviour of students in order to have good moral values and skills. This study used a qualitative approach. The types of data in this study are classified into primary data and secondary data. The methods of data collection in this study using observation, interview and documentation. The data collection used purposive sampling system consisting of the principal, teacher of Religious Education, Chairman of *Adiwiyata*, Teacher of Arts, and some students of Senior High School 4 Kendari. The technical analysis of the data is conducted in three ways: data reduction, data presentation and conclusion. The testing of the validity of the research data had done by the researcher by conducting the extension of observation, increased persistence and triangulation, either triangulation of time or engineering.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Senior High School 4 Kendari is one of the institutions implementing the educational values of Islam in shaping the character of environmental care. The strategies that had been carried out by this school in order to create friendly environmental school include:

### 3.1. *The socialization of Environmental Education*

Socialization is an early stage as well as the strategies conducted by the school to instil the values of environmental awareness to the students of Senior High School 4 Kendari. Senior High School 4 Kendari seeks to instil the values of environmental awareness to students assisted by all the elements that exist in the school. One indicator that shows that Senior High School 4 Kendari concerned about the environment is reflected through the vision of the school, which are superior intellectually and personality, able to compete, has global insight and the environment based on faith and piety. Socialization of environmental education at Senior High School 4 Kendari is conducted gradually. The process begins with the school's policy about the need for environmental education to build the character among students about environmental education at school. The implementation of socialization of environmental education is not directly conducted to the student, but it begins from the teachers who frequently interact with students through teaching and learning. The socialization that done by teachers is an effort made by the school to build the perception of the concept of environmental education that will be developed in Senior High School 4 Kendari. Building this perception is important to develop the concept of environmental education that will be developed and to establish the strategy of attitudes and behaviour of students so that environmental education programs can lead students to engage in any activities.

The next stage is conducting socialization fully to all the elements that exist in Senior High School 4 Kendari such as staff, students, and security in order to have the same mission to develop the environmental character at school. Islamic education teachers as a part of the school have a dominant role in shaping the character and behaviour of students because the majority of students in this school are Muslim. Thus, the introduction of environmental awareness values sourced from al-Qur'an and *Sunnah* that can touch the faith dimension of the students and produce the behaviour concern towards the environment.

The socialization of environmental education that conducted by the teachers of Islamic education is done by getting students to engage in any environmental education programs launched by the school, engaging students in discussions about Islam and the environment through learning activities, inviting students to solve the environmental problems through Islam approach and motivating their students to care about environment. The model approach to environmental education conducted by the teacher of Islamic education aims to make the students understand from the beginning about the environment, so that the students can understand their surroundings. Introducing environmental education to students since childhood is very important in building students' environmental awareness in the future. The introduction of environmental education is the most fundamental method for protecting the environment, aimed to raise students' awareness and make the students more sensitive to environmental change.

The teachers do not only socialize the environmental understanding during specific socialization, but also during morning ceremony in every Monday, so that the students can be aware of environment, can understand the value and commitment in environmental conservation. Senior High School 4 Kendari always strives to create a friendly environmental school by habituating the entire school community to carry out environmental caring activities to maintain the cleanliness of the school environment, so that anyone who visits the school can feel convenient. Therefore, the role of principals, teachers and staff in socializing effective role in creating environmental caring behaviours, so that students can act as motivators in the community to protect the environment.

### *3.2. Environment-Based School Program*

One of the manifestations of the school to develop students' environmental awareness is to familiarize students to dispose the garbage in the places that have been provided by the school and maintain the cleanliness of the school environment together. In addition, the school policy in developing environmental education lessons at Senior High School 4 Kendari has been done with the principal's decision to develop an integrated curriculum of environmental education on all subjects. As in the religious lesson education because the material is much related to form the students' characters. The integration of environmental education into other materials such as religious education materials will increase students' knowledge of the environment because according to Sukarjita et al. (2014) the integration of environmental education with other materials is the most effective method of raising awareness and knowledge of students in protecting the environment in the future.

One of the programs developed by Senior High School 4 Kendari in order to conduct an environment-based school is to carry out the participatory environmental education activities. The form of activities is to make some aesthetic things. The creation is made from recycling the scraps, waste and anything that can be found in school's environment. Processing of scraps is part of a school program to create student awareness of the school environment. The garbage is collected and then sorted out, and its result is processed into something more useful and valuable. Environmental education model by utilizing scraps is one of the tools for students to develop their potential through the learning of the craft. Students are required to make a beautiful work by utilizing scraps, and its results are sold by the school to establish cooperation with outsiders. In addition, the scraps that have been collected, weighed, and priced are estimated. The money from this activity will then give to school to support environmental program at school. This is one of the functions of the existing garbage bank in the school. Garbage banks are one of the models to create environmental awareness and involve students to overcome the garbage problems in schools, and students get benefit from the garbage management that they do.

In supporting the environmental education programs in schools, the Islamic education teachers are directly involved in directing and motivating students to be more active in many activities. For example in the Friday-Service (cleaning Friday) activity. For example in the Friday-Service (cleaning Friday) activity, the students are asked to clean up the school environment. The implementation of the Friday-Service (cleaning Friday) activity is conducted once every month, conducted on a Friday

morning for one hour lesson. Some activities that the students will do during Friday Service are watering flowers, planting flowers, etc. This Friday-Service (cleaning Friday) activity aims to train students' sensitivity to engage directly in the environment. Another program which is directly related to the environmental education is the participation of the school in commemorating the environment days. This activity is organized independently by the school and in the form of cooperation with other parties such as government agencies and parents through the school committee. For example, in garbage day, earth day, water day, and so on this aims to raise awareness of students to love the environment. This activity conducted in both the form of parades and any other activities such as consecrated work o clean the environment, etc. Another program conducted by Senior High School 4 Kendari in creating students' caring character to the environment is one day without electricity. This activity is carried out in the certain time that aims to provide an example to the students that the attitude of thriftiness and not wasteful is the attitude that must be raised in the education process so that students have the thriftiness behaviour in using existing resources such as using electric power.

The involvement of Islamic education teachers in environment-based education programs is conducted by giving the students an understanding of the importance of environmental education, motivation, and direct involvement in other environmental caring programs which held by the school. The value of environmental cares is designed in such way by the teachers of Islamic education through the learning process so that the values of cleanliness, neatness and beauty are the parts that must be fulfilled so that the learning activities can be done comfortably and the students can receive the lessons well. As found in Belgium, students feel comfortable in following the learning activities with the neat and beautiful environment in school so that it brings an impact on student learning outcomes.

### *3.3. Building the Culture of Environmental Care*

Environmental education program aims to build a culture of environmental care in Senior High School 4 Kendari which later can become a habit of students in interacting with the environment. Building an environmental care is not conducted accidentally or partially but it needs to be done continuously so that it can become a habit for students. The culture of environmental care administered by the school to the students is the class picket where students are given the responsibility to clean school environment. This activity is conducted after the teaching and learning process ended before the students going back home. The picket activities conducted in groups with the aim to clean up the classroom to make it looks neat and beautiful.

To create a culture of cleanliness in class and school environments, the school is in cooperation with existing student organizations at the classroom level through the provision of sanctions against students who violate the rules. The sanctions given to the students are applied if the students throw the garbage anywhere. The form of sanction given depends on the agreement that has been made in each classroom, such as paying contributions with nominal Rp. 20.000 - 50. 000. Another form of sanction is to buy food or drink according to the type of garbage that threw, but the amount is added according to the number of people who are in the class. The applied sanction is one of the good steps in building a culture of environmental care to overcome the garbage problem at school. Giving a sanction is also a form of education that gives a positive influence on students who violate the classroom and school rules of cleanliness. In addition, this activity is one of the efforts of to develop the students to become more disciplined and care about the environment so that students are accustomed to living clean and healthy which is the part of the culture built-in Senior High School 4 Kendari. The people there have environmental character and love to the cleanliness values, because one of the problems in environmental management is a lack of awareness about environmental management[19]. Therefore, building student awareness through the provision of sanctions against the student who violate the rules is part of the solution to build a caring character.

Environmental education learning that conducted at Senior High School 4 Kendari provides knowledge and experience for students in managing the environment by embeds the environmental caring values that start from the school environment. The role of Islamic education teachers through

learning activities has created a character of attitude and behaviour to appreciate the cleanliness of the school environment. Wirussaweh said that behaviour formed through environmental education activities that will encourage students to develop themselves and be responsible for the cleanliness of the environment.

The success of Senior High School 4 Kendari in creating students' caring character in school is achieved because of the cooperation of all elements of the school such as principals, teachers, staff and students that encourage the construct of knowledge and the awareness of the school community so that it grows to become a character in the effort of environmental conservation. Huda & Kartanegara stated that the environment has a significant role in the process of building human character. Stated that the process of the establishment and development of human character is influenced by how close the human being together with the environment. Thus it can be said that environmental education conducted by Senior High School 4 Kendari is part of the efforts conducted by schools to develop the character of environmental care as part of the process of human development.

The cleanliness values that always declared by Senior High School 4 Kendari is a reflection of the religiosity of the school community in maintaining the cleanliness of schools as one of the values that taught in Islam that cleanliness is part of the faith. Environmental education that has been conducted by Senior High School 4 Kendari is one of the programs that can form the next generation to care for the environment that aims to create a good school for students so that the school can become a right place for learning and become the place to increase the awareness of school communities as conducted in the USA, the Czech Republic, Morocco, and Thailand.

#### 4. Conclusion

The formation of caring environmental character through educational activities is one of the strategies that must be conducted by schools to teach environmental education to students. The integration between ecological education and Islamic education is one of the strategies that can increase environmental awareness among students because religious principles teach about the values of religiosity that can bring positive change on students. Environmental education learning through religious approaches can shape the foundation of environmental ethics and have a direct influence on the relationship between students and the environment that can build the values or behaviour of environmental values or attitudes that play a role in creating situations and conditions that support the development of environmental caring characteristics. Furthermore, environmental education strategy that conducted by SMA Negeri 4 Kendari city can be considered as social learning strategy that can be a solution to form the character of students' environmental education.

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