

# Implementation of Environmental Cleansing Program in Building the Character of Environment Care in the Area of Public Elementary School 36, Sorong, Indonesia

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to describe the implementation of an environmental cleanliness program as an effort to develop environmental awareness character among students at State Elementary School 36, Sorong City, and to examine the program's effectiveness in fostering such character. The research employed a qualitative descriptive method, which was chosen to provide a detailed description of the implementation of the environmental cleanliness program at the school. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation.*

*The results indicate that the environmental cleanliness program has been implemented through various activities, including the maintenance of classrooms and school buildings, adequate lighting and air ventilation in classrooms, the provision of proper sanitation facilities, management of the school canteen, efforts to eradicate mosquito larvae, and the establishment of smoke-free zones. In addition, the school actively promotes cleanliness and sanitation. The program is supported by adequate facilities and infrastructure, enabling the creation of a clean, healthy, and conducive school environment for fostering students' environmental awareness character. Thus, the environmental cleanliness program at State Elementary School 36, Sorong, has proven effective in shaping students' environmental care character through a structured and sustainable approach.*



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## INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), waste is unused, unwanted, and discarded waste resulting from human activities. Putrawan (2022) explains that based on its source, waste is divided into six, namely natural waste, human waste, consumer waste, nuclear waste, industrial waste and mining waste. Meanwhile, according to its nature, waste is divided into two, namely organic waste and inorganic waste, based on its form, waste is divided into three, namely liquid waste, can waste, and gas waste. In general, waste is the most highlighted environmental problem, especially plastic waste pollution both on land and at sea which receives special attention from the government through the national action plan (Hendroyono, 2020).

The cause of the difficulty of waste management is also due to the behavior of littering which occurs in all groups and does not recognize education levels or social status. The existence of waste is inseparable from all human activities in everyday life. Lack of awareness is the main factor in this case, because humans assume that items that cannot be used are simply thrown away. This condition causes a dirty and slum environment due to piles of rubbish which become a breeding ground for disease, flies flying around, causing an unpleasant

smell, inviting rats and mosquitoes to nest, causing flooding during the rainy season, and causing environmental pollution.

Implementing a clean environment program in everyday life requires high awareness from anyone. Human awareness of the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness is still low, the habit of littering is not only carried out by children but teenagers and adults also litter. This reflects the low environmental care character of the community. Character is a person's natural trait in responding to situations and circumstances morally which is applied through noble behavior towards someone. An attitude of caring for the environment in everyday life can be interpreted as a person's reaction to the environment by not damaging and maintaining environmental cleanliness (Mulyasa, 2022). The effectiveness of school-based environmental programs is strongly influenced by teacher readiness and institutional support, as inadequate training and limited organizational capacity can hinder the successful implementation of educational initiatives, even when facilities are available (Rahman, 2024)

Elementary school is the first level of formal education where environmental health education can begin. There, children are taught about how to live a clean and healthy life so that they can get used to it in their daily lives. Thus, it is hoped that children will become aware of environmental health from an early age. Environmental education plays an important role in providing understanding and shaping the environmental care character of students in schools (Rokhmah, 2019).

Environmentally conscious characters are oriented towards environmental preservation in everyday life by showing concern for preventing environmental damage and acting continuously in an effort to repair the damage that has occurred to nature and the environment (Nurwahdah & Ikhsani, 2023). This is also in line with the basic competencies listed in the curriculum which strive for children to be able to practice how to maintain and maintain personal and environmental cleanliness.

By overseeing from these facts, Elementary School 36 Sorong City is one of the Elementary Schools in Sorong City that strives and participates in implementing these programs. This can also create a generation that cares and is aware of environmental cleanliness. However, these programs do not guarantee that all of them can be fully implemented. Based on the results of observations and information that not all school residents have implemented this in schools as a form of awareness of cleanliness and concern for the environment. For this reason, researchers are trying to conduct research on the formation of character for environmental concern at Elementary School 36 Sorong City. The background of this research is a study on the formation of character for environmental awareness of students at elementary schools in Sorong City which has not been carried out in depth by previous researchers.

Based on observations and considerations during the teaching and learning process at Elementary School 36 Sorong, researchers are interested in conducting research related to the implementation of the Environmental Cleanliness Program in an effort to Form Environmentally Caring Characters at Elementary School 36 Sorong City, due to the following things: First, during learning activities, researchers found that there were still many students who littered, causing the school environment to be less clean, researchers need to study the implementation of the environmental cleanliness program

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This study fills the gap from previous studies that only focused on clean living behavior for school children (Cahyati 2019; Arranury Z 2022; Yulianingsih et al. 2022; Sumiyati 2015; Rokhmah & Munir 2015), so that the results of this study can enrich the treasury of theories on environmental care for children at elementary school level. The renewal or novelty in this study lies in the relationship between the formation of environmentally caring characters and the awareness of environmental cleanliness of students for elementary school level in Sorong City, especially at Elementary School 26 Sorong City.

To strengthen this qualitative research, the researcher conducted a literature review by searching for and finding previously existing theories. Review of various studies related to Strengthening Environmentally Caring Character Education in Elementary Schools, there are several studies that discuss strengthening environmental caring character education in elementary schools.

According to Aniek Kurniawanti in her research entitled "Development of Science Comic Book Learning Media to Improve Critical Thinking Skills and Environmentally Caring Character" the results of her research describe that Science comic book learning media has been proven valid, practical, and effective in improving students' critical thinking skills and environmental caring character. Local content, story visualization, and questions that support critical thinking and environmental awareness are the main characteristics of this media. This research uses the research and development method with the 4-D model (Define, Design, Develop, Disseminate), although this research only reaches the development stage. Aniek emphasized the importance of innovation in learning media to improve students' cognitive and character aspects in education, especially through comic-based media with relevant and interesting themes (Murdianingsih et al., 2022).

According to Arnis (2022) in his research entitled "Instilling Character Values through Science Learning", the results of the study illustrate that this study focuses on the integration of character education in science learning at the junior high school level, especially in class VII of SMPN 5 Tanjung Jabung Timur. Character instillation is carried out through a holistic approach involving various learning methods and models with the target of achieving character values such as religious, honest, tolerant, caring for the environment, and love for the homeland. The methods used are habituation, role models, discipline, rewards & consequences. The learning models used are inquiry strategies, scientific approaches, interdisciplinary, and problem-based learning. This study concludes that character-based science learning not only delivers academic material but is also an effective means of shaping students' character according to national education standards.

## **METHOD**

The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. This type of research was chosen to describe the implementation of the environmental cleanliness program in an effort to form an environmentally conscious character at State Elementary School 36 Sorong.

This research was conducted at State Elementary School 36 Sorong City involving the principal, teachers, and students and parents of students concerned. Based on the snowball sampling technique used, the number of student objects was 24 students taken from representatives of each 2 students per class (4 A-D, 5 A-D, and 6 A-D), and objects from educators from each homeroom teacher for each class amounted to 12 educators, and 2 guardians from representatives of classes 4, 5 and class 6.

Based on the opinions expressed, this research is included in the descriptive research type. This type of research was chosen to describe the implementation of the environmental cleanliness program in an effort to form an environmentally conscious character at State Elementary School 36 Sorong.

In collecting data, researchers used several instruments, namely interviews, literature studies, and observations. The data obtained in the interview is the implementation of students' environmental care. The data is used to obtain information related to environmental awareness at State Elementary School 36 Sorong. Meanwhile, the literature study in this study was used to obtain documents related to school policies and students' environmental health awareness. The documents used in this study are the school curriculum, syllabus, lesson plan, and student health data. Then, field observations have the aim of collecting data. Researchers have a role to provide conclusions on the data collected in the field.

Data analysis was carried out using Miles and Huberman analysis. as quoted by Sugiyono (2019: 438) is an interactive analysis that takes place continuously until the data obtained is saturated. Miles and Huberman data analysis has steps, namely, collection, reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the data analysis show several findings to answer the research problems as follows:

1. Implementation of the Environmental Cleanliness Program as an Effort in the Formation of Environmentally Care Character at State Elementary School 36, Sorong City

Based on the research results, routine activities carried out at State Elementary School 36 Sorong City related to efforts to implement environmental character education are through the "Clean Friday" activity. This Clean Friday activity includes morning exercise, community service, and guidance from the instructor to clean the school environment which is carried out by the entire school community. Other routine activities carried out include cleaning duty every morning and after school which is carried out by all students and teachers. The duty activity is carried out consistently every day, while the Clean Friday activity is carried out consistently every Friday at State Elementary School 36 Sorong.

There are also spontaneous activities carried out by the principal and teachers based on the research results, namely by giving reprimands, warnings, and understanding to students who take bad actions towards the environment or school facilities. The purpose of this activity is so that students who make mistakes do not repeat their mistakes and care more about the environment.

The implementation of environmental character education is supported by the exemplary behavior of the principal and teachers. The principal and teachers as educators always provide examples and become role models for students. Based on the research results, the exemplary behavior given by the principal and teachers to students is demonstrated in everyday life by exemplifying wearing neat and clean uniforms in accordance with applicable regulations and not smoking in the school environment.

The implementation of environmental character education cannot be separated from the conditioning carried out by schools to support each program. Based on the results of the study, the conditioning carried

out by schools is to meet the needs of children related to environmental needs. In this case, schools provide facilities that can support the implementation of environmental character education.

Based on the results of the study, the integration of environmental education into subjects is carried out by instilling environmental values in each learning with the help of teachers. Teachers carry out environmental-based learning, involving the activeness of students and the environment around the school. The learning carried out by teachers does not only contain the material listed in the book, but is also infused with environmental character values.

## 2. The success of forming environmentally conscious characters through environmental cleanliness programs for students at State Elementary School 36, Sorong City.

Based on the research results, the condition of the school rooms and buildings is in good condition and condition. Maintenance of school rooms and buildings is carried out every day and involves students. The principal and teachers, in addition to being responsible for taking care of the school rooms and buildings, also play a role in supervising. Optimal maintenance of rooms and buildings carried out by school residents can keep the school environment conducive to use in learning activities. A conducive school environment is expected to be able to help achieve the expected educational goals.

There are also research results related to ventilation and lighting in all rooms are good. Each classroom has windows on the right and left sides and is equipped with a fan to help air circulation in the classroom. The lighting in each room is good and there is additional lighting from lamps. Good lighting and ventilation will support learning activities in the classroom, so that the results of learning will be more optimal if also supported by teachers and the methods used in learning.

Regarding the sanitation facilities provided by the school, it is a form of support for the formation of a clean and conducive learning environment for students. All school residents play a role in maintaining and caring for all forms of school facilities including sanitation facilities. A clean and conducive environment will help students to be able to better absorb the learning materials presented by the teacher.

Based on the research results, the school has a permanent canteen. The sellers in the canteen have agreed with the school to sell clean, healthy, and safe food for students to consume. Food sellers in the canteen are guardians of students who attend school so that the safety and cleanliness of the food is more guaranteed. A clean school canteen can support the creation of a clean and healthy environment for students. The principal and teachers play a role in supervising the condition of the canteen. Students who buy food in the canteen can supervise and report to the teachers and principal if there is food that is unhealthy to consume.

The regulation on the prohibition of smoking is stated in the school regulations. The school holds socialization about the dangers of smoking in learning activities and school ceremonies. Appeals and prohibitions on smoking are also posted in the classroom and in the hallways. The condition of the school environment that is free of cigarette smoke has a positive impact on students, so that the air in the school environment is clean and healthy for students. Smoke-free conditions can also be an example for students to care more about the environment and their health. The principal and teachers play a role in creating a smoke-free school condition by being role models. Students play a role by obeying the rules that have been implemented. This condition is also supported by posters displayed on the classroom walls.

Schools invite and appeal to students not only through posters but also through ceremonies and socialization activities. Hygiene promotion carried out by schools helps maintain and preserve the school environment so that students feel more comfortable studying at school. Hygiene promotion is supported by posters of prohibitions and invitations to maintain cleanliness.

## CONCLUSION

This study aims to see how the implementation process related to the environmental cleanliness program as an effort in the formation of environmentally conscious characters and also describes the success of the formation of environmentally conscious characters through various programs available to students at Elementary School 36 Sorong City.

Based on the results of the research and discussion, this study can be concluded that the Implementation of the Environmental Cleanliness Program in the Formation of Environmentally Concerned Characters at Elementary School 36 Sorong City through the Development of a school cleanliness program, including maintenance of space and buildings, lighting and air ventilation in classrooms, school sanitation facilities,

management of school canteens/stalls, free from mosquito larvae, free from cigarette smoke, promotion of hygiene and sanitation carried out by schools. The development of school health carried out by schools is supported by complete facilities and infrastructure to support the implementation of environmentally conscious character education in order to create a conducive school environment for students.

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