

## The Optimization of Youth Participation in Environmental Preservation through Pancasila and Environmental Learning

### Optimalisasi Peran Pemuda dalam Pelestarian Lingkungan Hidup melalui Pembelajaran Pancasila dan Lingkungan

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##### Abstract:

*Youth play a strategic role in environmental conservation as part of sustainable development. This article discusses the optimization of youth participation in environmental preservation through Pancasila and environmental learning. This community service program was conducted in Talang Kawo, Dusun Bangko, involving students and the local community in educational activities and concrete actions such as reforestation and waste management. The results showed an increase in youth awareness and participation in maintaining cleanliness and environmental sustainability. By integrating Pancasila values, youth are encouraged to take responsibility and actively contribute to environmental conservation efforts. This approach has proven effective in enhancing environmental awareness and shaping youth character as agents of change in ecosystem sustainability.*

##### Abstrak:

Pemuda memiliki peran strategis dalam menjaga kelestarian lingkungan hidup sebagai bagian dari pembangunan berkelanjutan. Artikel ini membahas optimalisasi peran pemuda dalam pelestarian lingkungan melalui pendekatan pembelajaran Pancasila dan lingkungan. Pengabdian ini dilakukan di Lingkungan Talang Kawo, Kelurahan Dusun Bangko, dengan melibatkan mahasiswa dan masyarakat dalam kegiatan edukasi dan aksi nyata, seperti penghijauan dan pengelolaan sampah. Hasil kegiatan menunjukkan peningkatan kesadaran dan partisipasi pemuda dalam menjaga kebersihan serta kelestarian lingkungan. Dengan mengintegrasikan nilai-nilai Pancasila, pemuda didorong untuk bertanggung jawab dan berkontribusi aktif dalam upaya pelestarian alam. Pendekatan ini terbukti efektif dalam meningkatkan kesadaran lingkungan dan membentuk karakter pemuda sebagai agen perubahan dalam keberlanjutan ekosistem.



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Youth play a strategic role in sustainable development, including in environmental preservation. Amidst the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the role of the younger generation becomes increasingly important. As agents of social change, youth possess the energy, creativity, and ability to drive change in various aspects of life, including protecting and preserving the environment (Rohman, 2024). One effective way to nurture environmentally-conscious youth is through education, particularly learning that integrates the values of Pancasila and the importance of environmental preservation (Chandra, 2021).

Pancasila, as the foundation of the Indonesian state, teaches noble values that are relevant to environmental preservation, such as mutual cooperation, concern for others, and respect for nature as an integral part of life (Rohmah, 2023). In this context, Pancasila can serve as a moral foundation for youth to take concrete actions to protect the environment. By using Pancasila as a guide, youth are expected to understand the importance of safeguarding the environment for the common good and passing on a healthy environment to future generations (Rahayu, 2024). Education that integrates Pancasila values with environmental knowledge will provide youth with a deeper understanding of how they can actively contribute to environmental conservation (Sarumaha, 2024). This learning approach includes not only theory but also practical experiences that can increase their awareness and responsibility towards environmental issues. With a Pancasila-based approach, youth can be more easily engaged in various environmental conservation activities, such as reforestation, waste management, and energy conservation.

Through education that connects Pancasila and environmental preservation, it is hoped that a synergy between youth, society, and the government can be created to protect and preserve nature. This education can also serve as a tool to address increasingly complex environmental problems, such as deforestation, pollution, and the clean water crisis. Youth trained with this understanding will not only become responsible heirs of the nation's natural heritage but can also become key drivers in solving various environmental challenges faced by the country. Integrating Pancasila-based learning with environmental issues can be done through various activities, both in schools, universities, and in youth communities. These activities can include seminars, discussions, environmental campaigns, and real-world projects that involve youth in environmental preservation efforts. This community service program aims to empower youth to become more aware of the importance of the environment and understand how they can play an active role in its preservation.

More broadly, this service program also aims to foster a more holistic mindset in understanding the relationship between humans and nature. In the context of Indonesia's rich cultural and natural diversity, youth are expected to understand that environmental conservation is not only the responsibility of the government or specific institutions but is a shared responsibility of all societal elements, especially youth as agents of change (Febrianty, 2023). In this way, environmental

preservation efforts will be more effective if driven by collective awareness born from education based on Pancasila values.

One of the biggest challenges in maintaining environmental sustainability is the lack of environmental awareness among youth. Many young people are still unaware of the impact of their behavior on the environment (Jannah, 2018). Therefore, an educational approach that combines Pancasila and environmental awareness is urgently needed. Through this learning process, youth will gain a better understanding of how their lifestyle can affect the state of the environment and how they can contribute to its preservation. Education based on Pancasila values will also shape the character of youth, making them more concerned with the sustainability of nature and the life around them. As a result, they will be more responsive to emerging environmental issues, such as climate change, air and water pollution, and ecosystem destruction. In addition, youth who are familiar with Pancasila values will be more easily encouraged to join social movements that demand pro-environmental policies from the government.

One concrete example that can be implemented in this community service program is the formation of a youth group focused on environmental preservation. This group can carry out activities such as campaigns on the use of eco-friendly materials, waste management, and reforestation in areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In addition, they can also conduct research or studies on the impact of various human activities on the environment, which will then be disseminated to the wider community as a form of education and outreach.

The youth involved in the community service program conducted in the Talang Kawo area, Dusun Bangko Village, are expected to become role models for the surrounding community by providing tangible examples in caring for and preserving nature. Through small but consistent actions, such as using renewable energy, reducing plastic waste, and wisely utilizing natural resources, the youth can make a significant contribution to environmental preservation (Chandra, 2024). Thus, the integration of Pancasila values with environmental awareness can serve as an important first step in the broader effort to preserve nature. Furthermore, it is important to involve youth in the environmental policy-making process at both the local and national levels (Pradika, 2018). As part of the future generation, youth have the right to participate in shaping sustainable development directions. Through active involvement in policy-making, they can ensure that environmental interests are accommodated in every decision made. On the other hand, the government also needs to provide space for youth to express their ideas and aspirations regarding environmental conservation.

The educational approach that integrates Pancasila with environmental preservation also offers an opportunity for society to better appreciate and understand cultural diversity as well as the close relationship between humans and nature (Solikah, 2024). Youth who understand that environmental preservation is part of the effort to maintain their cultural heritage will be more motivated to protect nature as part of the identity and character of the nation. Additionally, both the government and society need to provide greater support for youth initiatives in environmental conservation. This support could take the form of funding, skills training, and access to environmentally friendly technologies. Youth should also be encouraged to collaborate with organizations focused on the environment, such as NGOs, universities, and government agencies, to create more innovative solutions for environmental conservation (Fitri KS, 2024).

It is also essential to ensure that every action taken to involve youth in environmental conservation is not just symbolic but also leads to tangible improvements in environmental conditions. Therefore, every program or activity implemented should be measurable and have clear success indicators. This will ensure that the environmental preservation efforts truly benefit both society and nature.

This community service program aims to develop collective awareness about the importance of environmental life and strengthen the youth's commitment to environmental conservation. With the integration of Pancasila in environmental education, it is hoped that youth will have a better mindset about how to balance development and environmental conservation. Concrete steps taken by youth will accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals, where nature, humans, and development move forward together for the collective well-being.

It is expected that through this community service program, youth will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to play an active role in environmental preservation. Education based on Pancasila values will strengthen the youth's awareness and commitment to environmental life. Moving forward, they can become agents of change who not only care about the state of the environment but also have the ability to inspire the community to take real action for the preservation of the Earth.

The success of this program will depend on the willingness and active involvement of all parties involved, including youth, students, the community, the government, and the private sector. A solid collaboration between these parties will result in more effective and sustainable solutions for maintaining environmental conservation. In this way, environmentally friendly and sustainable development can be realized, benefiting both current and future generations.

## **METHOD**

The method used in this community service program adopts a participatory approach that involves students as agents of change in raising awareness and understanding among the community, especially youth, about the importance of environmental preservation. This activity was carried out in the Talang Kawo area, Dusun Bangko Village, in November 2024. The activity is part of the required skill course (MKWK) project at the University of Merangin, which involves not only students but also lecturers and the local community, with a primary focus on youth as the main target group.

In its implementation, this community service program focuses on empowering youth through an approach based on Pancasila learning and the importance of environmental preservation. The program began with surveys and data collection to assess the knowledge and attitudes of youth in Talang Kawo regarding environmental issues, as well as the challenges they face in maintaining the sustainability of the environment around them. The students involved in the program were trained to directly interact with the youth, identify existing environmental problems, and provide solutions that were appropriate to the local conditions.

Following this, a series of educational activities were carried out that integrated Pancasila values with environmental awareness. These activities included outreach, discussions, and training sessions on the importance of maintaining the balance of nature and reducing the negative impact of human activities on the environment. The students delivered materials covering the basic concepts of environmental

preservation, such as waste management, reforestation, and the use of renewable energy. In addition, youth participation was encouraged through collaborative activities such as community service or reforestation efforts, providing tangible applications of the knowledge that had been shared.

The learning method applied in this program is integrative (Budiarti), where environmental preservation material is linked with Pancasila values that emphasize mutual cooperation, togetherness, and social responsibility. Students did not only act as instructors but also as facilitators, assisting the youth in formulating solutions that can be implemented in their daily lives. This approach fosters knowledge exchange between students and youth and facilitates the development of youth capacity in environmental stewardship.

Regarding evaluation, the community service project was conducted using observation and interviews to assess changes in knowledge and attitudes of the youth towards environmental issues before and after the activities. In addition, the evaluation measured the level of youth participation in each activity, as well as the impact of the reforestation and waste management efforts that were carried out. The results of these evaluations will be used to assess the effectiveness of the community service program and serve as a foundation for developing similar activities in the future.

Overall, the method applied in this community service project prioritizes collaboration between students, lecturers, and youth to create sustainable change. Besides providing direct benefits to youth in the form of increased environmental awareness, the program also aims to equip students with practical experience in applying the knowledge they have acquired in a real-world context.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The community service program carried out in the Talang Kawo area, Dusun Bangko Village, in November 2024 has shown significant results in increasing youth awareness and understanding of the importance of environmental preservation. The main target of this activity was local youth, who are expected to become agents of change in maintaining the sustainability of nature and applying the values of Pancasila in their daily lives. The results of the activities showed that youth participation in the programs conducted, such as outreach and reforestation actions, was very positive, and they showed a high commitment to being involved in environmental preservation activities in the future.

At the beginning of the program, a preliminary survey was conducted to measure the level of knowledge and attitudes of youth regarding environmental issues. The survey included questions about the importance of environmental cleanliness, waste management, and the significance of reforestation. The results of the initial survey showed that only around 50% of youth had a sufficient understanding of environmental issues. Many youth were unaware of effective ways to maintain environmental sustainability and lacked awareness of the negative impacts of habits like littering or uncontrolled deforestation. Based on this data, the community service activities were focused on providing deeper understanding to the youth, especially regarding the importance of maintaining cleanliness and applying sustainability principles.

During the program, various activities were conducted to enhance youth understanding and involvement in environmental preservation. One of the main activities was outreach on the importance of waste management, reforestation, and

the sustainable use of natural resources. This outreach was delivered through lectures, group discussions, and practical simulations that directly involved the youth. In addition, students, acting as facilitators, guided the youth in planning and implementing reforestation programs in the Talang Kawo area. The goal of the reforestation activity was to provide a direct example of the importance of greenery to maintain the balance of nature and reduce air pollution. Local youth were involved in planting trees and caring for the plants, allowing them not only to learn the theory but also to practice the knowledge they gained.

After the implementation of the activities, a post-activity survey was conducted to measure changes in the youth's understanding of environmental issues. This survey focused on the youth's understanding of environmental cleanliness, waste management, and awareness of the importance of reforestation. The results from the distributed questionnaires showed that around 82% of youth in Talang Kawo now understand the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and have a higher awareness of environmental preservation. This increase in awareness was reflected in changes in youth behavior in daily life, such as beginning to avoid littering and participating in reforestation and environmental maintenance activities. This shows that the community service program had a positive impact on the understanding and environmental awareness of the youth.

In addition to outreach and reforestation efforts, one of the activities that received special attention was the formation of a youth group responsible for managing the local environment. This group was tasked with planning and carrying out regular cleaning and reforestation activities, including organizing a "Clean Environment" program to be held once a month. The program aimed to ensure that the youth remained active in maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings and upheld a culture of care for nature. With a scheduled monthly program, it is expected that cleanliness and environmental sustainability will be maintained in the long term. This group was also trained to educate other community members to participate in the clean environment program.

The success of these activities is closely related to the active participation of the students involved in the community service program. They played not only the roles of teachers and facilitators but also of motivators who inspired the local youth to care more about the environment. The collaboration between students and local youth created a positive dynamic that led to a shift in behavior towards more responsible environmental practices. This was evidenced by the increased interest of youth to continue participating in environmental preservation programs, such as participating in reforestation activities and taking part in maintaining cleanliness.

From the results of the activities, it was evident that youth participation greatly influenced the success of the environmental preservation programs. Youth directly involved in reforestation and waste management activities not only gained new knowledge but also experienced the direct impact of their preservation efforts. This gave them a stronger sense of responsibility for the environment. Therefore, this community service program demonstrates that by involving youth in environmental education processes based on local values, their awareness of the importance of protecting nature can be significantly enhanced.

The evaluation of the impact of the community service activities was also carried out by comparing data before and after the program. The results of this evaluation showed significant changes in the environmental awareness of the youth. Before the activities, only a few young people understood the importance of waste management and reforestation, but after the program, almost all of the youth showed better understanding and demonstrated more responsible behavior toward the environment. This indicates that the Pancasila-based learning approach, which teaches the importance of mutual cooperation and care for nature, is effective in raising environmental awareness. Not only in the form of outreach and reforestation, but this community service program also succeeded in instilling Pancasila values in the youth's daily lives. Values such as mutual cooperation, social responsibility, and care for others, embedded in Pancasila, became the foundation for the youth to actively engage in environmental preservation. By utilizing this approach, youth were not only taught technical methods for environmental protection but also gained a deeper understanding of the relationship between humans and nature, which must be maintained and preserved for the common good.

The active involvement of the youth in maintaining environmental cleanliness through the regular "Clean Environment" program held once a month shows that this program has a long-term impact. Local youth are now not only engaged in cleanliness activities but also feel a sense of ownership over their environment. They feel responsible for the cleanliness and sustainability of the nature around their homes. This program is also expected to serve as an example for other areas to involve youth in larger and more systematic environmental programs.

The results of this program demonstrate that community service involving youth as agents of change can lead to significant impacts on environmental preservation. Through an approach based on active participation, youth are not only provided with knowledge but also hands-on experience that strengthens their understanding of the importance of maintaining the environment. This proves that youth have great potential to become pioneers of change for a better environment.

The community service program carried out in the Talang Kawo area demonstrates that involving youth in environmental preservation not only increases their understanding of environmental issues but also shapes attitudes and behaviors that are more responsible toward nature. By emphasizing a participatory learning method, youth are given the opportunity to learn directly about ways to maintain cleanliness and environmental sustainability through concrete actions like reforestation and waste management. This program also creates a profound sense of responsibility toward their environment, which will continue in the long term. Additionally, the involvement of youth in regular environmental management through the "Clean Environment" program held once a month has shown that positive changes in their mindset and behavior can be achieved with the right approach. With this scheduled program in place, youth feel empowered to maintain and preserve their environment sustainably. This also proves that youth can play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature and ensuring environmental sustainability for future generations.

One key finding from this community service program is that the youth involved in environmental activities not only gained knowledge but also practical skills that they can apply in their daily lives. This demonstrates that hands-on involvement-based teaching is more effective in shaping attitudes and environmental awareness. This activity also provides evidence that a Pancasila-based approach, such as

mutual cooperation and social responsibility, can serve as a strong foundation in building environmental awareness and commitment. Moving forward, this community service program can be used as a model for similar programs in other areas. Given the importance of sustainability and environmental awareness, similar programs involving youth in environmental preservation efforts could be key to addressing local environmental issues. With the right approach, youth can become agents of change who not only maintain cleanliness but also actively contribute to creating a healthier, more sustainable, and environmentally friendly future.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, the community service activity focused on optimizing the role of youth in environmental conservation through the integration of Pancasila and environmental education in the Talang Kawo neighborhood has shown significant results. Through a program that actively involves youth, they not only gain a deeper understanding of the importance of environmental conservation but also acquire practical skills that can be applied in daily life. The learning process, which engages youth in direct activities such as reforestation and waste management, has had a positive impact on raising awareness and environmentally friendly behavior. In addition, the ongoing activities like the "Clean Environment" program held every month demonstrate that youth are committed to maintaining the cleanliness and sustainability of their environment in the long term.

With more than 82% of youth stating that they understand the importance of a clean and healthy environment through the post-activity survey, it can be concluded that the participatory approach and the implementation of Pancasila values have effectively provided a deeper understanding of their social responsibility towards the environment. This indicates that youth are not only recipients of the program but also become agents of change who can influence the wider community to be more concerned about the environment. Moving forward, this model of community service can be expanded and applied in other regions to raise environmental awareness, ultimately contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals in Indonesia.

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## **CONFLICT INTEREST**

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest in the implementation and writing of this article.



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