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Community-based Solid Waste Bank Model for Sustainable Education

Nur Indrianti*

Industrial Engineering Department, Faculty of Industrial Technology, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta, Jl. SWK 104 (Lingkar Utara) Condongcatur, Yogyakarta 55283, Indonesia

Abstract

This paper deals with community-based solid waste bank development at the Quran education park (*Taman Pendidikan Al-Quran*, TPA) named Miftahul Jannah located in the Sonosari settlements, Tegaltirto village, Berbah subdistrict, Sleman regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia. TPA is one of the non-formal religious educations in Indonesia that aims at improving the ability of students or learners to read, write, understand, and practice the content of the Quran. Miftahul Jannah solid waste bank (MJ-SWB) was developed to solve financial problem faced by the TPA due to students' poverty. The approaches used to develop MJ-SWB include training and counseling to local community, establishing waste bank system, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The bank system engages all community members to voluntarily and wholeheartedly participate in every stage of the system resulting in sustainable interactions. High participation from the community supported by harmonious relationship among community members enables the waste bank to run effectively. Factors influencing the success of MJ-SWB have been analyzed from the view point of leadership, socio-economic, gender issues, and professionalism. The result of the study shows that MJ-SWB can achieve economic, social, and environmental objectives. This proves that MJ-SWB is able to financially support the learning process of TPA M ifhathul Jannah in a sustainable manner.

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* Corresponding author. Tel.: +6-281-328-478-192. *E-mail address:* n.indrianti@upnyk.ac.id

1. Introduction

National education in Indonesia is based on the official philosophical foundation of the Indonesian state, known as *Pancasila (panca* means five, *sila* means principles), and the 1945 Constitution of the State Republic of Indonesia Year 1945. According to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20, Year 2003, about National Education System, the national education serves to develop the ability and character as well as dignified civilization of the nation in the context of the intellectual life. It also aims at developing the student's potential in order to become a person who believes in and fears God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, as well as to become a democratic and responsible citizen. To achieve these objectives, the Indonesian educational path consists of formal, non-formal, and informal education which aims to prepare students to be members of the community who understand and practice the values of their religions and/or to be a theologian. The religious education may be organized in formal, non-formal, and informal education.

One of the non-formal religious education systems in Indonesia is offered by the Quran education park (*Taman Pendidikan Al-Quran*, TPA). TPA aims at improving the ability of students or learners to read, write, understand, and practice the content of the Quran. The legal basis of the establishment of TPA lies in the Indonesian Government Regulation Number 55, Year 2007, about Religion, Education and Religious Education. The learning process in TPA is held in a beautiful, clean, neat, comfortable, and fun atmosphere as a reflection of the symbolic and philosophical value of the word "park". Funding sources of TPA include students' contribution, community fund/donors, government fund, as well as other kosher (*halal*) and non-binding funds.

This study deals with a TPA named "Miftahul Jannah" located in the Sonosari settlements, Tegaltirto village, Berbah subdistrict, Sleman regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia. Currently, student interest in TPA Miftahul Jannah is quite high. The committee members also have high commitment to manage the TPA voluntarily. However, they are lacking in the number of donors and less regular financial contribution from students due to their state of poverty. This condition causes difficulty for the TPA in improving the quality of the learning process.

To solve the above problem, the TPA committee is considering the use of household waste generated by residents whose garbage has not been properly managed, as a potential source of income for the TPA. Limited landfills and lack of community understanding of environmentally sound waste management caused the waste to be disposed improperly. In this regard, in place of useless junk, the household waste can be utilized to generate income. The basic idea is that if every household produces waste and it can be collected and sold together to the waste b uyer, then the money earned from selling the waste can be used to finance the operations of the TPA. This idea is in line with the approach proposed by Sujauddin *et al.* (2008), Singhirunnusorn and Sahachaisaeree (2008), and Singhirunnusorn *et al.* (2012), that is shifting the perspective of the garbage from "waste as resource" to "waste as an income generator".

The idea to utilize household waste as an income generator for TPA Miftahul Jannah was originally proposed in April 2012 by Sonosari mothers' affiliation named Family Welfare Development (*Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga*, PKK). PKK is an organization that empowers women to participate in the development of Indonesia. As a follow up to the idea, one month later TPA students started to collect their own household waste for the TPA. The collected waste was sold to waste buyer without structured and systematic management. In addition, not all parents were concerned about the action. About one year later, under the supervision of Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta, through the Community Services Grant, the household waste collection system at the TPA was further developed into a solid waste bank system using community-based approach (Nursubiyantoro & Indrianti, 2013).

The purpose of this paper is to explore how the community-based solid waste bank system developed at TPA Miftahul Jannah, is able to financially support the learning process of the TPA in a sustainable manner. The uniqueness of the system will also be discussed with reference to other solid waste recycling projects. In general, previous literatures have discussed the collecting system such as recycling rate, attitudes towards waste recycling, correlations between household characteristics, relevant socioeconomic factors as well as solid waste quantities and composition. This paper focuses more on community-based approach used throughout the development process of the solid waste bank. Furthermore, the solid waste bank system will also be discussed from the view point of services and sustainability concepts. In the final section, the evaluative result of the system will be presented.

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