

# The Role of Waste Banks to Improve Community Environment Awareness

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**The Role of Waste Banks to Improve Community Environment Awareness**

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**Abstrak**

Permasalahan lingkungan menjadi polemik bagi masyarakat. Ragam masalah lingkungan menjadikan masyarakat berpikir bagaimana mengatasi permasalahannya sehingga dapat menjaga kelangsungan alam. Satu diantara permasalahan lingkungan adalah peningkatan intensitas sampah dan pengelolaan sampah berbasis lingkungan. Adapun langkah konkret pengelolaan sampah dengan menggerakkan aktivitas 3R (*reduce, reuse, dan recycle*) melalui bank sampah. Artikel ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan aktivitas pengurus dan nasabah yang menerapkan aktivitas 3R yang mampu meningkatkan kesadaran lingkungan masyarakat. Pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif digunakan dalam penelitian. Tiga tahapan pengumpulan data dan analisis menghasilkan data jenuh mengenai aktivitas 3R di bank sampah gemilang. Hasil penelitian mendeskripsikan bahwa masyarakat mampu melakukan pemilahan dan pengolahan sampah dan mengubah pandangan masyarakat terhadap sampah yang dahulunya menjijikkan menjadi menjanjikan. Bagi masyarakat keberadaan bank sampah gemilang memberikan edukasi terhadap perilaku sadar lingkungan secara konsisten. Hal ini dikarenakan masyarakat sudah bisa memilih sampah rumah tangga sebelum dibuang ke Tempat Pembuangan Sementara (TPS) sampah.

**Kata kunci:** sampah, bank sampah, dan kesadaran lingkungan.

**Abstract**

Environmental problems become polemic for the community. A variety of environmental problems make people think about how to overcome the problems that it can maintain the continuity of nature. One of the environmental problems is increasing the intensity of waste and environmental-based waste management. The concrete steps for waste management by moving the 3R activities (*reduce, reuse, and recycle*) through the garbage bank. This article aims to describe the activities of management and customers who implement 3R activities that can increase public environmental awareness. A qualitative approach with descriptive methods is used in research. The three stages of data collection and analysis produce saturated data on 3R activities in a brilliant garbage bank. The results of the study describe that the community is capable of sorting and processing waste and changing people's views of waste which was previously disgusting to be promising. For the community, the existence of a brilliant garbage bank provides education on environmentally conscious behavior consistently. This is because the community has been able to choose household waste before discarded to waste disposal sites (TPS).

**Keywords:** garbage, garbage bank, and environmental awareness.

**PRELIMINARY**

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The increasing population is directly proportional to the increase in the amount of waste generation. This means an increase in consumption which causes an increase in waste production. As environmental issues raised that the human population has increased along with consumption patterns that are fast causing environmental degradation (Palmer, 2002). Waste is defined as a

substance or used goods that are not used anymore. Technological advances also influence the increase in the amount of waste generation, especially in the product packaging system. An increasingly modern product packaging system affects the diversity of products produced as well as the waste produced so that it can affect the quality of the environment (Sapriya, 2017).

Increased waste production is not followed by good waste management. Changes in people's lifestyles that always want to be fast, instant, and practical become a problem in waste management (Suandana et al., 2011). The anthropocentric attitude and outlook on life make people indifferent to their environment (Neolaka, 2008). Waste becomes a crucial problem in its handling, so far, the management of waste using a collection and disposal system has not been able to overcome the problem of garbage in urban areas.

The problem of garbage in the city is only transferred to the Final Disposal Site (TPA) (Suandana et al., 2011). Garbage in the landfill will only cause environmental problems around the landfill (Mulasari, 2014). Waste handling issues according to Government Regulation No. 81 of 2012 can be overcome by carrying out waste management activities with the principle of 3R or Reduce, which means reducing, Reuse, which is reuse, and Recycle, which is recycling. One of the solutions to waste management with the 3R principle can be done at a waste bank. Waste banks can provide waste management services so that 3R activities are realized in the community.

Garbage banks can give influence to increase environmental awareness to the public. Environmental awareness is meant that the community can handle waste with a variety of alternative waste management that can be done to deal with waste problems that can interfere with environmental quality. Constraints regarding the lack of public awareness to sort waste can be overcome by the existence of a garbage bank. The waste bank becomes a place for waste management in which there is community participation in its management. The garbage bank can provide a real experience to the community to carry out environmental-based waste management using the 3R principle. The ecological crisis is overcome by growing the value of environmental awareness. (Mutiani, 2015).

Research on Food Waste Management Analysis in Bandung City proves that food waste generation is 0, 23 - 2 liters/person/day with a composition of 73% organic waste. The technical problem that occurs is the lack of awareness of the government to provide special food-management facilities and the community is less aware of waste segregation (Brigita & Rahardyan, 2013). Research conducted by Brigita and Benno shows that one of the environmentally-conscious

attitudes is by sorting waste. It is clear that with the existence of a waste bank, an environmentally conscious attitude can be demonstrated through the behavior of customers who are willing to sort waste.

Waste Bank Research as One of the Waste Management Solutions in Makassar City. Based on this research it can be seen that one of the factors that make people save in a garbage bank is the factor of the level of community knowledge (Selomo et al., 2016). This research explains that with the knowledge of the community, they are moved to become customers who can manage waste in their environment. Therefore the role of the garbage bank can provide knowledge about waste management in the community.

Many things in this life can be used as a source of social studies learning, such as Traditional Values, Culture, Local Wisdom of the Community, to social interactions, one of which is the environment, so that overall learning resources must function as an intermediary to deliver materials to facilitate the achievement learning objectives (Syaharuddin & Mutiani, 2020). Waste management through the active role of the waste bank is encouraging the community to conduct waste management with the 3R principle is expected to be able to increase public environmental awareness. This is based on anxiety about environmental damage due to increased consumption which increases the number of waste products so that it has an impact on environmental pollution needs environmental awareness that is applied in everyday life (Mutiani, 2017). Thus, the attitude or behavior of humans looking at their environment can be influenced by the awareness of the importance of the environment for the survival of the individual (Syaharuddin et al., 2020). The existence of a waste bank in the community can give meaning to the importance of environmental awareness through changing the understanding and behavior of the community in managing waste, from disposing of waste to utilizing waste.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative approach because it can assist researchers in understanding the behavior of research subjects holistically. Research with a qualitative approach as an approach or search to explore and understand a central phenomenon ( Moleong & Surjaman, 2010). The study was conducted from July 4 to November 27, 2019. The research site of Gemilang Garbage Bank is located at Komplek Berlina Jaya 3, Jalan Anggrek Blok J Number 4 RT.17 / RW.02, Kelurahan Guntung Manggis, Banjarbaru (Abbas, 2002).

The subjects of the research were the community, namely the management and customers of the Gemilang Garbage Bank, and from the Banjarbaru City Government, which was the Cleanliness Manager of the Banjarbaru City Environmental Office, the Head of the Guntung Manggis Village LPM, and the Guntung Manggis Urban Village Head 2012-2017 period.

**Table 1. List of Interviewees**

No	Name	Age	Occupation / Position	Information / Information
1	Faridah	67 years old	Managing Director of Gemilang Garbage Bank	Gemilang Garbage Bank Profile
2	Sartono	70 years old	Division 1 Gemilang Garbage Bank	Profile of Gemilang Garbage Bank, documents on the sale and purchase of garbage in Gemilang Garbage Bank
3	Nurdinah	40 years old	Gemilang Garbage Bank Director	Number of Gemilang Garbage Bank Customers, activities in Gemilang Garbage Bank
4	Winami	47 years old	Division 3 Gemilang Garbage Bank	Activities in Gemilang Trash Bank
5	Sunarti	57 years old	Gemilang Garbage Bank Customers	Reasons to save at Gemilang Garbage Bank
6	Purwaningsih	53 years old	Gemilang Garbage Bank Customers	Reasons to save at Gemilang Garbage Bank
7	Siti Masyitah	75 years old	Gemilang Garbage Bank Customers	Reasons to save at Gemilang Garbage Bank, and Reasons for greening.
8	Rolly Yahmi	38 years old	Cleanliness Management Division of the City of Banjarbaru Environmental Office	The existence of a garbage bank in Banjarbaru
9	Kiswono	68 years old	Head of the Guntung Manggis Village Community Empowerment Institute	The existence of a garbage bank in Guntung Manggis Urban Village.
10	Indra Putra	36 years old	Head of Guntung Manggis Village for the period of 2012-2017	The existence of a garbage bank in Guntung Manggis Urban Village.
11	Sunarto	57 years old	Social studies teacher at SMPN 8 Banjarbaru	Social studies learning resources
12	Bambang Subiyakto	63 years old	Lecturer of Social Sciences ULM Banjarmasin	Social Studies Learning Resources

(Source: Data processed, 2019)

The selection of research subjects was carried out to obtain an accurate data source regarding the existence of Gemilang Garbage Bank. The selection of research subjects also considers that the research subjects determined to have data suitability because the research subjects have a very strategic role because on the research subject, that is the data about the variables observed research obtained. Interviews and observations were carried out on research subjects and supported with documentation. Data analysis was carried out by following the Miles and Huberman, that pattern in qualitative analysis carried out interactively and continuing continuously until it was completed so that the data was already saturated through data reduction, data presentation to concluding.

## **RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION**

Waste is part of substances or leftover consumption of living things that are not used anymore or the consequences of human activities. Waste according to Neolaka is something that is no longer needed by the owner. Garbage is then classified based on its type, there is rubbish which is easy to rot, and some that are not easy to rot, there is also hazardous waste or hazardous toxic material (B3). Garbage that is easy to rot (garbage), namely in the form of organic substances such as; leftover meat, leftover vegetables, leaves, garden waste, and others. Refuse that is not easy to refuse (refuse), namely inorganic substances such as paper, plastic, metal, rubber, glass, and others. There is also hazardous waste or B3 that occurs from organic and inorganic chemicals and heavy metals which are generally from the waste industry (Neolaka, 2008).

Every individual needs to meet their needs must produce waste as a consequence of the consumption activities it does. Just imagine that every individual must produce waste, it can be ascertained by the increasing number of the human population, the intensity of waste also increases. Waste is not only produced by individuals but more than that it is also produced from industrial companies, markets, hospitals, and so on. Increased waste is an actual problem that needs to be seeking a solution for handling it. Environmental cleanliness is very important for human life because it is a place of human life and a source of life for them (Ma'nawiyah et al., 2019).

Waste if not handled properly will harm the environment such as a decrease in environmental aesthetics because the environment becomes dirty. Waste can pollute the air produced from gases produced such as gasmethaneor CO results from combustion. Soil pollution resulting from hazardous and toxic materials mixed with garbage. Water pollution from hazardous

and toxic substances that seep into ground or surface water surrounding. Garbage can disrupt public health with increasingly poor environmental sanitation (Mulasari, 2014).

The dense population in urban areas increases the amount of garbage transport to the Final Disposal Site (TPA). Garbage in the landfill is not the end of the waste problem. The environment around the landfill also experienced environmental degradation due to environmental pollution around Landfill by garbage, such as causing unpleasant odors and disturbing views (Mulasari, 2014). Problems due to the decreasing aesthetics of the environment around the landfill also have the potential to cause social conflicts with the surrounding community. Opposition by the surrounding community is generally concerned with causing harm to health, safety, reduced comfort, and limited land, especially for the placement of landfills.

Conventional waste management with the collection of waste collection and disposal methods is still implemented by the community. Handling with this pattern was unable to control the waste problem. The community still uses this pattern because there is still a lack of community awareness to sort waste from its source. Based on Law Number 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management and supported by Government Regulation Number 81 of 2012 concerning Management of Family Waste and Waste of a Kind of Family Waste explains to change the pattern of waste management from garbage collection to waste management which is based on the pattern of waste reduction and handling mandating the community to carry out activities to limit waste generation, recycle, and reuse or known as 3R (reduce, reuse, and recycle) in an effective, efficient and programmed ways.

Based on the mandate of Law Number 18 of 2008 and Government Regulation Number 81 of 2012, to carry out 3R activities effectively, efficiently, and programmatically needed a container that is ready to help the community carry out waste handling with the 3R principle. The right solution needed by the community is to utilize a garbage bank. A garbage bank is a place to store waste that has been sorted by type of waste. The workings of a waste bank, in general, are almost the same as other banks, there are customers, record keeping, and management. If in a commercial bank the customer deposited is money, but in the waste bank deposited is waste that has economic value (Suryani, 2014).

The waste bank is present as an initiative of the local community in active participation in handling waste which is often an environmental problem. The 3R strategy is used to change people's views of waste which is considered disgusting into promising potential. The waste bank

is a social engineering activity that teaches the public about the process of waste segregation and raises public awareness of the importance of wise waste management which in the end can reduce the transportation of waste to landfills (Selomo et al., 2016).

The garbage bank can stand, of course, with an important component that involves the important role of management and customers. that there are two components in a waste bank, namely the management or officers of the waste bank and customers (Suryani, 2014). Customers, namely individuals, communities, or groups who are interested in saving their waste in a waste bank. Two components, namely management, and customers have an important role in synergizing with each other in managing waste so that environmental damage caused by waste can be overcome, while also being able to increase customer income by utilizing waste into economic goods. the role is a dynamic aspect of the position, that is someone who carries out their rights and obligations. Waste banks with activities that are seen through the role of management and customers can increase public environmental awareness (Soekanto, 2014).

Consciousness according to Atkinson namely awareness as a conscious state, is not a passive state but an active process of awareness is the level of individual alertness at this time to external and internal stimuli, that is to say about environmental events and the atmosphere of the body, memory, and mind. Consciousness is the awareness of actions (to the actual state), the state of remembering oneself, recalling (from fainting), sober, waking (from sleeping) remembering, knowing, and understanding (Afandi et al., 2012).

Environmental awareness in the Neolaka critical analysis found that understanding is knowledge, knowledge means knowing. The knowledge in question is about the real thing, concrete, it means deep knowledge (inspires the soul), knowing seriously, and not wrong. Environmentally conscious people will not be careless in knowing because many people know the importance of the environment but their behavior is damaging to the environment. Awareness then is part of the attitude or behavior because people who are aware of the environment will show the right behavior which then increases to the nature of his life (Neolaka, 2008).

Understanding awareness needs to be actualized through attitudes and behaviors that involve directly oneself towards social phenomena that occur in the community. This behavior provides inculcation of character to be able to make decisions, both maintain <sup>1</sup> what is good and manifest and spread goodness in everyday life with all my heart (Putra, 2019). Environmental awareness is defined as a condition where humans have knowledge and sensitivity to the



environment. This explains that environmental awareness equals value. Awareness is interpreted as something important as value is interpreted as something valuable. Maran explained that value refers to what or something humans and society consider to be the most valuable (Maran, 2000).

Awareness is interpreted as something important because when humans have awareness it will have a standard of living to distinguish between good and bad. In line with awareness as well as values when humans have values, then they have standards that he believes to determine something that is considered good and bad. Awareness is a condition where someone in a state of understanding as well as the value obtained from the process of understanding. Then environmental awareness has the same meaning as value.

An understanding of environmental awareness based on Neolaka's critical analysis can be found indicators of environmental awareness that is the presence of knowledge, concrete attitudes, and the presence of consistent behavior (Neolaka, 2008). The garbage bank in increasing public awareness through the role of the management by providing knowledge in the form of teaching about waste sorting and processing, then the customer can receive the knowledge provided by the management. A concrete attitude is demonstrated by the role of the management in providing environmental awareness by inviting the community to continuously manage waste and provide waste management services at the garbage bank.

The consistent behavior shown by management and customers is through the role of management who consistently opens services in the waste bank such as weighing and recording while the role of the customer is routine sorting of waste which is then deposited into the waste bank. The garbage bank has an important role through the role of management and customers in raising public environmental awareness as reflected in the activities of the management and customers in the waste bank. The existence of environmental awareness from management and customers who work together in understanding the environment is shown by the pattern of environment-based waste management. Individual and community activities that integrate with their environment make a pattern of behavior in life (Abbas, 2013).

## CONCLUSION

The increase in population is directly proportional to the increase in population consumption to increase the quantity of waste that is increasingly diverse. An increase in waste that is not followed by ecocentric management harms the environment in terms of environmental

aesthetics become dirty, there is environmental pollution due to rubbish namely air, water, and soil pollution, and can disrupt public health.

The waste bank is a container that can provide a real experience for Public managing waste. Waste management in an environment-based waste bank by carrying out 3R activities (reduce, reuse, and recycle). The garbage bank can change the public's view of waste, from merely throwing it to making use of waste so it becomes an economic item.

The role of the garbage bank to improve awareness community environment that is through the role of management and customers that can be seen from the activity in the garbage bank that reflects environmental awareness. Environmental awareness arising from management and customer activities based on Neolaka's critical analysis of knowledge, concrete attitudes, and synergistic consistent behavior is demonstrated by the roles of management and customers in the garbage bank.

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