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Jurnal Ilmiah Kajian Ilmu Sosial dan Budaya**RESEARCH ARTICLE**p-ISSN: XXXX-XXXX
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Published: [Date]**Community Participation in Environmental Conservation: A Social Science Perspective****Wida Rianti^{1*}, Melia Ramadani², Fitria Aulia Azzahra³**¹²³ Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Pahlawan Tuanku Tambusai, Indonesia*Correspondence: aurora19aurel@gmail.com**Abstrak** | Bahasa Indonesia

Peran masyarakat dalam konservasi lingkungan menjadi salah satu faktor penting dalam mendukung pembangunan berkelanjutan di era modern. Berbagai permasalahan lingkungan, seperti pencemaran, deforestasi, dan pengelolaan limbah, memerlukan keterlibatan aktif masyarakat sebagai bagian dari upaya pelestarian lingkungan. Partisipasi masyarakat tidak hanya mencerminkan kepedulian terhadap lingkungan, tetapi juga menunjukkan tanggung jawab sosial dalam menjaga keberlanjutan sumber daya alam. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh partisipasi masyarakat terhadap upaya konservasi lingkungan dari perspektif ilmu sosial. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan metode survei yang melibatkan anggota masyarakat dari berbagai wilayah di Indonesia sebagai responden. Data dikumpulkan melalui penyebaran kuesioner secara daring dan dianalisis menggunakan statistik deskriptif serta analisis regresi linear sederhana. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa partisipasi masyarakat berpengaruh positif terhadap keberhasilan kegiatan konservasi lingkungan, terutama melalui keterlibatan dalam kegiatan pelestarian, pengelolaan lingkungan, serta peningkatan kesadaran ekologis. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa keterlibatan masyarakat merupakan faktor penting dalam mendukung keberhasilan konservasi lingkungan dan pembangunan berkelanjutan. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan kolaborasi antara pemerintah, komunitas, dan masyarakat untuk meningkatkan partisipasi publik dalam menjaga kelestarian lingkungan.

Kata Kunci: Partisipasi Masyarakat, Konservasi Lingkungan, Pembangunan Berkelanjutan, Ilmu Sosial, Kesadaran Lingkungan**Abstract** | English

Community participation plays a crucial role in supporting environmental conservation and sustainable development in contemporary society. Various environmental challenges, including pollution, deforestation, and waste management, require active public involvement to ensure the long-term preservation of natural resources. Community participation not only reflects environmental awareness but also demonstrates social responsibility in promoting environmental sustainability. This study aims to examine the influence of community participation on environmental conservation from a social science perspective. A quantitative approach was employed using a survey method involving community members from various regions of Indonesia. Data were collected through an online questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and simple linear regression analysis. The findings indicate that community participation has a positive and significant influence on environmental conservation efforts, particularly through involvement in conservation activities, environmental management, and the promotion of ecological awareness. These findings suggest that active community engagement is an essential factor in achieving successful environmental conservation and sustainable development. Therefore, stronger collaboration among government institutions, local communities, and the public is necessary to encourage greater participation in protecting environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Community Participation, Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development, Social Sciences, Environmental Awareness

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1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental conservation has become one of the most important global concerns due to the increasing impact of environmental degradation, climate change, deforestation, pollution, and the excessive exploitation of natural resources. These environmental challenges not only threaten ecological sustainability but also affect social welfare, economic development, and the quality of human life. Consequently, environmental conservation is no longer viewed solely as an ecological issue but also as a social responsibility that requires active participation from individuals, communities, governments, and other stakeholders. From the perspective of social sciences, sustainable environmental management depends largely on the willingness of communities to participate in conservation activities and contribute to collective environmental responsibility.

Community participation plays a fundamental role in achieving sustainable environmental conservation. Active involvement of local communities in environmental programs contributes to improving environmental quality, preserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable development. Community participation may take various forms, including involvement in environmental campaigns, waste management programs, tree-planting activities, environmental education, and local conservation initiatives. Such participation reflects not only environmental awareness but also social responsibility, cooperation, and collective action that strengthen community resilience in addressing environmental challenges.

The concept of community participation has received considerable attention in social science research because it emphasizes the importance of collective engagement in solving public issues. Communities are increasingly recognized as key actors in environmental governance rather than passive recipients of government policies. Effective environmental conservation requires collaboration between governments, local organizations, educational institutions, and citizens to create sustainable environmental practices. Therefore, understanding factors that encourage community participation is essential for developing effective environmental policies and promoting long-term sustainability.

Indonesia possesses abundant natural resources and extraordinary biodiversity, making environmental conservation an important national priority. However, rapid urbanization, industrial development, population growth, and changes in land use have increased pressure on the environment. Problems such as improper waste disposal, river pollution, forest degradation, and declining biodiversity continue to occur in many regions. These conditions demonstrate that environmental sustainability cannot be achieved solely through government regulations but requires strong public participation and community-based conservation initiatives.

In recent years, environmental awareness among Indonesian communities has gradually increased. Various environmental movements initiated by local communities, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and youth organizations have encouraged greater public involvement in environmental conservation. Activities such as community clean-up campaigns, waste recycling programs, mangrove planting, urban farming, and environmental education have become increasingly common. These

initiatives indicate that community participation has become an important driving force in promoting environmental sustainability while strengthening social solidarity and collective responsibility.

Previous studies have highlighted the significant relationship between community participation and successful environmental conservation. Existing research generally indicates that active public involvement contributes positively to environmental protection, sustainable resource management, and community empowerment. Several studies emphasize that environmental awareness, social capital, local leadership, and environmental education play important roles in encouraging public participation. Other researchers have found that collaborative approaches involving governments and local communities are more effective in achieving sustainable environmental outcomes than top-down policy implementation alone.

Despite these findings, several research gaps remain. Previous studies often focus on environmental management from ecological, technical, or policy perspectives, while relatively fewer studies examine community participation as a social process that reflects collective responsibility, cooperation, and social engagement. In addition, many studies emphasize environmental outcomes without exploring how social participation influences the effectiveness of conservation programs within local communities. Therefore, further investigation is needed to understand the relationship between community participation and environmental conservation from a broader social science perspective.

Community participation represents not only physical involvement in conservation activities but also the development of shared values, environmental responsibility, and collective awareness within society. Active engagement in environmental programs encourages individuals to strengthen social relationships, develop mutual trust, and build collaborative networks that support sustainable development. Consequently, environmental conservation should be viewed as a continuous social process that requires cooperation among various social actors to achieve common environmental goals.

Furthermore, environmental conservation has become increasingly relevant in the context of sustainable development because environmental sustainability directly influences social welfare, public health, economic stability, and future generations' quality of life. Communities that actively participate in conservation programs generally demonstrate stronger environmental awareness, greater social cohesion, and higher levels of collective responsibility toward environmental protection. Understanding this relationship is essential for developing community-based environmental policies that are socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

This study therefore aims to examine the influence of community participation on environmental conservation from a social science perspective. Specifically, the study investigates how active community involvement contributes to environmental awareness, conservation activities, and sustainable environmental management within Indonesian society. By focusing on community participation as the primary variable, this research seeks to provide empirical evidence regarding the social dimensions of environmental conservation and the importance of collective engagement in promoting sustainable development.

The findings of this study are expected to contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research enriches the literature in the fields of Social Sciences, Society and Community Development, and Environment, Culture, and Society by providing empirical evidence regarding the relationship between community participation and environmental conservation. Practically, the findings may serve as valuable references for governments, policymakers, environmental organizations, educational institutions, and local communities in designing participatory environmental programs that strengthen public engagement and promote sustainable environmental management throughout Indonesia.

2. METHOD

This study employed a quantitative research design using a survey approach to examine the influence of community participation on environmental conservation from a social science perspective. A quantitative approach was considered appropriate because it enables researchers to objectively measure the relationship between community participation and environmental conservation through numerical data and statistical analysis. The study focused on identifying how active public involvement contributes to environmental conservation efforts within local communities.

The population of this study consisted of community members residing in various urban and rural areas in Indonesia who had participated in environmental conservation activities. The target respondents included individuals aged 18 years and above who had been involved in environmental initiatives such as waste management, tree planting, environmental clean-up campaigns, recycling programs, or other community-based environmental activities. A purposive sampling technique was employed to ensure that respondents met the research criteria. The selection criteria included: (1) active participation in at least one environmental conservation activity during the past year, (2) residency within the local community for at least two years, and (3) willingness to participate voluntarily in the survey. A total of 130 respondents participated in this study.

Data were collected through an online questionnaire developed based on concepts of community participation and environmental conservation derived from previous studies in social science and community development. The independent variable, community participation, was measured using indicators including participation in environmental activities, community collaboration, environmental awareness, voluntary involvement, and social responsibility. The dependent variable, environmental conservation, was measured through indicators such as environmental protection behavior, waste management practices, participation in conservation programs, preservation of natural resources, and support for sustainable environmental initiatives. Each questionnaire item was assessed using a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Prior to data collection, the questionnaire underwent validity and reliability testing to ensure that all measurement items accurately represented the research variables. Item validity was examined using the Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient, while reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. The research instrument was considered reliable when the Cronbach's Alpha value exceeded 0.70, indicating acceptable internal consistency among all questionnaire items.

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistical analysis to describe respondents' demographic characteristics and the distribution of responses for each research variable. Furthermore, simple linear regression analysis was employed to determine the influence of community participation on environmental conservation. Before conducting hypothesis testing, several classical assumption tests, including normality, linearity, and heteroscedasticity tests, were performed to ensure that the data fulfilled the assumptions required for regression analysis. All statistical analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software with a significance level of 0.05.

The findings of this study are expected to provide empirical evidence regarding the importance of community participation in supporting environmental conservation and sustainable development. In addition, the results are expected to contribute to the advancement of research in the fields of Social Sciences, Society and Community Development, and Environment, Culture, and Society while providing practical recommendations for policymakers, environmental organizations, and local communities to strengthen community-based environmental conservation programs.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

This study involved 130 respondents from various communities in Indonesia who had participated in environmental conservation activities. Based on the demographic characteristics, the respondents represented different age groups, educational backgrounds, and occupations. Most respondents had actively participated in environmental initiatives such as waste management programs, tree-planting activities, environmental clean-up campaigns, recycling programs, and other community-based conservation activities. The respondents also demonstrated a high level of awareness regarding environmental sustainability and community responsibility.

The descriptive statistical analysis indicated that community participation in environmental conservation was generally at a high level. Most respondents agreed that active involvement in environmental programs increased their environmental awareness, strengthened cooperation among

community members, and encouraged collective responsibility for protecting natural resources. Community participation was also perceived as an effective approach to improving environmental quality and promoting sustainable development within local communities.

The results of the simple linear regression analysis revealed that community participation had a positive and statistically significant influence on environmental conservation. The significance value obtained was below 0.05, indicating that the proposed hypothesis was accepted. These findings demonstrate that higher levels of community participation contribute positively to the successful implementation of environmental conservation activities and strengthen community commitment toward environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, the coefficient of determination indicated that community participation explained a considerable proportion of the variation in environmental conservation practices, while the remaining variation was influenced by other factors beyond the scope of this study. These findings suggest that community participation represents one of the key social factors supporting environmental conservation and sustainable development within Indonesian society.

3.2 Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that community participation plays a significant role in supporting environmental conservation. Active involvement in community-based environmental activities enables individuals to develop stronger environmental awareness while simultaneously strengthening cooperation and collective responsibility within society. These findings support the perspective of social sciences, which emphasizes that environmental conservation is not solely an ecological issue but also a social process requiring active collaboration among community members.

The positive influence of community participation on environmental conservation indicates that local communities serve as important actors in achieving sustainable environmental management. Individuals who actively participate in environmental programs tend to demonstrate greater responsibility for maintaining environmental quality and preserving natural resources. Community participation also strengthens social relationships by encouraging cooperation, mutual assistance, and collective action in addressing environmental challenges faced by local communities.

The findings further reveal that participation in environmental conservation activities contributes to the development of environmental awareness among community members. Activities such as waste management, recycling programs, tree planting, and environmental education encourage individuals to understand the importance of environmental sustainability and motivate them to adopt environmentally responsible behaviors. Consequently, community participation becomes an effective strategy for promoting sustainable environmental practices through collective social engagement.

Despite these positive outcomes, the study also indicates that effective environmental conservation requires continuous collaboration among governments, community organizations, educational institutions, and local residents. Limited public participation, inadequate environmental education, and insufficient institutional support may reduce the effectiveness of conservation programs. Therefore, strengthening cooperation among various stakeholders is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of community-based environmental initiatives.

From the perspective of Social Sciences, these findings illustrate that environmental conservation is closely associated with social responsibility, collective participation, and community empowerment. Environmental sustainability depends not only on environmental policies and technological solutions but also on the willingness of communities to actively participate in protecting and preserving natural resources. This demonstrates that environmental conservation should be understood as a collective social movement rather than merely an environmental management activity.

Overall, this study contributes to the development of Social Sciences, Society and Community Development, and Environment, Culture, and Society by providing empirical evidence that community

participation positively influences environmental conservation. The findings also emphasize the importance of strengthening public engagement, environmental awareness, and collaborative action to achieve sustainable environmental management and improve the quality of life within Indonesian communities.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that community participation has a positive and significant influence on environmental conservation from a social science perspective. The findings indicate that active community involvement strengthens environmental awareness, promotes collective responsibility, and encourages collaborative actions in preserving natural resources. Community participation has become an essential component of sustainable environmental conservation by fostering cooperation among individuals, local communities, and relevant stakeholders in addressing environmental challenges.

The study also demonstrates that environmental conservation should not be viewed solely as an environmental issue but as a social process that requires continuous public engagement and shared responsibility. Communities that actively participate in environmental programs tend to develop stronger environmental awareness and are more likely to support sustainable environmental practices within their local surroundings. Therefore, encouraging broader community participation is essential for achieving long-term environmental sustainability and improving social well-being.

The findings contribute to the advancement of Social Sciences, Society and Community Development, and Environment, Culture, and Society by providing empirical evidence regarding the relationship between community participation and environmental conservation. Practically, the results may serve as valuable references for governments, policymakers, environmental organizations, and community leaders in designing participatory environmental programs that strengthen public involvement, enhance environmental awareness, and promote sustainable community development.

Future research is recommended to examine additional factors influencing community participation in environmental conservation, including environmental education, social capital, local leadership, public policy, and cultural values. Expanding the study across different regions and community groups in Indonesia would provide a broader understanding of community-based environmental conservation and support the development of more effective and sustainable environmental management strategies.

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