

The Role of Students in Environmental Conservation

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ABSTRACT

Damage to nature makes the balance of the environment experience inequality, many phenomena of environmental damage occur such as environmental pollution, ecosystem damage and drought. The phenomenon still cannot be resolved, and its impact affects human life. The need to create a sustainable environment in all occupations, especially in the campus world. In the campus world, students lack awareness and environmentally friendly behavior. Therefore, this study aims to describe the level of awareness and behavior of students on campus. This research used a descriptive quantitative method, using questionnaire filling techniques, with a total sample of thirty-five active students on a campus. The results showed that the level of student awareness is included in the High category, but the level of environmentally friendly behavior of students is included in the medium category. The magnitude of the influence of Christian ethics education on nature conservation efforts was 74.3%, while 26.7% was influenced by other factors. This shows that students are already at the conscious stage where environmentally friendly behavior is important, but the implementation is moderate, so that the awareness depicted in students is only limited to theory and is not put into practice.

Keywords: students; environmental preservation; ethics

1. INTRODUCTION

Article 1 of Law 32 of 2009 which is meant by living environment is the unity of space with all objects, forces, circumstances, and living beings, including humans and their behavior, which affects nature itself, the survival of life fairies, and the well-being of humans and other living beings.¹ The environment is a place where humans live, and is one of the factors that can affect human life. Environment can change all the activities of

¹ E. R. Intarti and N. I. Boiliu, "Program Tutorial Mata Kuliah Etika Kristen Sebagai Pembentukan Konsep Diri Mahasiswa," *Jurnal Basicedu* 6, no. 1 (2022): 1376–1388.

life, ranging from lifestyle, way of behaving, mindset and even to a person's personality.² A healthy environment will have a positive impact on campus residents, including students. The creation of a healthy environment will provide a sense of security and comfort in carrying out various kinds of lecture activities both in the classroom and outside the classroom.³ This is certainly inseparable from the role of various parties involved in the campus, including students.

The campus is a place for students to demand and conduct various activities so that it is common for students to make the campus a second home. Therefore, the role of students is needed to maintain and create a healthy, clean, and beautiful environment. With a clean and healthy environment, students and lecturers can be avoided from disease. A clean and tidy campus is the dream of all campus residents. With a clean and healthy campus environment, students and lecturers can do activities with a pleasant atmosphere, lecturers can also teach comfortably. The cleanliness of the campus environment is a shared responsibility, not just the responsibility of the janitor. Therefore, it takes the awareness of each of the campus residents. There are many ways to maintain a clean and healthy campus environment, such as throwing garbage in its place, not smoking in any place, re-flushing after using campus toilets, and others. These little things are easy to do, but many are still reluctant to do them. The awareness of campus residents still needs to be improved, so that the campus environment can also be maintained.⁴

² I. Purnamasari, A. Alfiandra, and K. Kurnisar, "Perbandingan Sikap Peduli Lingkungan Antara Mahasiswa Yang Mempelajari Matakuliah PKLH Dengan Mahasiswa Yang Tidak Mempelajari Matakuliah PKLH FKIP Universitas Sriwijaya," *Jurnal Bhineka Tunggal Ika* 6, no. 1 (2019): 117–133.

³ M. Syafii, "ANALISIS POLA PIKIR DAN PERILAKU LINGKUNGAN MAHASISWA PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN FISIKA FKIP UNRI TERHADAP LINGKUNGAN HIDUP DI KAMPUS FKIP UNRI," *Jurnal Pendidikan* 9, no. 1 (2018): 51–70.

⁴ R. Wulandari, "Metode Kunjungan Lapangan Untuk Menanamkan Kepedulian Terhadap Lingkungan Hidup," *PEDAGOGIA: Jurnal Pendidikan* 5, no. 1 (2019): 67–80.

Students are the younger generation who play the most role in changing an environment.⁵ Students are considered agents of change, where they become a person who brings change and is modeled by society. They must influence others to do good things that could have an impact for other States, can start with living clean from garbage. What is meant here, does not mean that we should not use and produce waste.

The role of students here is to be aware of the environment and maintain the cleanliness of the campus environment. As a student, you must be able to be a good example for younger siblings, as well as the community, to support the achievement of the goal of maintaining environmental cleanliness from waste, so as not to cause diseases or things that are not desired in the future.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This methodology uses an if quantate approach with instruments variable X and variable Y. Questionnaire contains 11 questions related to the importance of Christian ethics in the awareness of environmental care behavior campus using the scale Likert and for sampling carried outan with random techniques sampling was carried out at the Tarutung State Institute for Christian Studies with a sample of 35 people from all campus departments.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, researchers have collected statements from 35 respondents, namely students who have filled out a google form link regarding understanding Christian ethics

⁵ E. R. Prasmala, D. A. W. Ningrum, and D. C. Setiawan, "Pengembangan Model Pembelajaran Problem-Map Untuk Mengembangkan Sikap Pelestarian Lingkungan Hidup Mahasiswa IKIP Budi Utomo Malang," *Paradigma: Jurnal Filsafat, Sains, Teknologi, dan Sosial Budaya* 22, no. 2 (2019): 87–94.

and understanding of the campus environment Tarutung State Institute for Christian Studies.

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.862	.743	.725	7.617

This study used a quantitative approach based on a questionnaire containing eleven statement items. The respondents to this study were students of all study programs located on the Tarutung State Institute for Christian Studies. The results in the field proved that Christian ethics education influenced efforts to conserve nature by 74.3%. While 26.7% was influenced by other factors.

According to Mujiyono Tarbiyah, a quality life environment has a concept that is very closely related to the concept of quality of life. An environment that can support a good quality of life, is said to have good quality in the environment. The concept of quality of life is the degree to which basic human needs are met. The better the basic needs that can be met by the environment, the higher the quality of the environment.⁶

Meanwhile, in Adrie Franss Assa's research, it is stated that campus preservation to create a good and environmentally friendly campus must begin with understanding environmental problems. Environmental ethics can be created by building the perception that natural resources and the environment have limitations in providing life, as well as realizing that humans are responsible for environmental conservation. Within the scope of the campus environment, the responsibility for preservation lies with the community

⁶ Ibid.

on campus, namely the academic community, more specifically, namely lecturers, students, staff members, and others.⁷

Caring Behavior Towards Campus

Concern for the environment can be interpreted as an attitude of paying attention, heeding everything around humans so that the interaction that occurs between humans and the environment can be maintained properly. An attitude of caring for the environment is an attitude and action that always seeks to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the damage to nature that has already occurred. Caring for the environment is an attitude and action that always seeks to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the damage to nature that has already occurred.⁸ From this definition, it can be seen the importance of fostering concern for the environment. Caring for the environment is shown by real actions that start from simple actions and from oneself. Some concrete actions that can be taken are not littering, planting trees around campus, cleaning the campus environment, conducting recycling processes for waste that can be used, and other useful actions. This is necessary so that students can understand and carry out these good values. Environmental behavior can be conducted by students by respecting and loving nature which is shown by always maintaining the sustainability of the surrounding environment, not littering, carrying out activities related to environmental concerns. Environmental care behavior can be formed through environmental care character education.

⁷ A. F. Assa, "Peran Mahasiswa Dalam Kegiatan Manajemen Lingkungan Di Area Kampus," *ijd-demos* 4, no. 3 (2022).

⁸ M. Waruwu, Y. A. Arifianto, and A. Suseno, "Peran Pendidikan Etika Kristen Dalam Media Sosial Di Era Disrupsi," *Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Kristen (JUPAK)* 1, no. 1 (2020): 43–56.

Environment

The living environment is all objects, forces, and conditions that exist in a place or space, where humans or living things are located and can affect their lives. The living environment is everything that exists around humans or living beings that has a reciprocal and complex relationship and influences each other between one component and another. Based on Law Number 32 of 2009, the environment is the unity of space with all objects, forces, circumstances, and living beings, including humans and their behavior, which affects nature itself, the continuity of life, and the well-being of humans and other living beings. The living environment is all objects, forces, and conditions that exist in a place or space, where humans or living things are located and can affect their lives. Based on some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that the environment is the unity of space with all objects, forces, conditions, and living beings including humans and their behavior to create a reciprocal relationship and influence each other. For the environment to be maintained, environmental protection and management are needed. According to Law Number 32 of 2009 environmental protection and management is a systematic and integrated effort conducted to preserve environmental functions and prevent pollution and/or damage to the environment which includes planning, utilization, control, maintenance, supervision, and law enforcement.

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Students must instill morals or ethics in themselves because having good ethics towards the environment will foster participation in the maintenance of the environment

wherever they are, especially on campus. For the environment to be maintained, environmental protection and management are needed. According to Law Number 32 of 2009, environmental protection and management is a systematic and integrated effort carried out to preserve environmental functions and prevent pollution and/or damage to the environment which includes planning, utilization, control, maintenance, supervision and law enforcement.

The development of environmental conservation attitudes must begin early. This coaching can be done through formal education (Elementary School to Higher Education) or non-formal, for example through family, activities in the community and communication media (print, electronic). So that a caring attitude towards the environment will long persist in students. Campus preservation to create a good and environmentally friendly campus must begin with understanding environmental issues. Environmental ethics can be created by building the perception that natural resources and the environment have limitations in providing life, as well as realizing that humans are responsible for environmental conservation. Within the scope of the campus environment, the responsibility for preservation lies with the community on campus, namely the academic community, more specifically, namely lecturers, students, staff members, and others.

A conducive environment according to a healthy Indonesia in 2010 is an environment that is free from pollution, the availability of clean water, adequate environmental sanitation, healthy settlements, health-minded regional planning and its realization As stated in Government Regulation Republik Indonesia Number 66 of 2016, article 1 that environmental health is an effort to prevent diseases and/or health disorders from environmental risk factors for realizing healthy environmental quality, both from physical, chemical, biological, and social aspects. All of this cannot be conducted without

the awareness of every academic community. The good state of health of the university environment is needed as a support for comfort in implementing educational goals as stated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003, article 3, that the purpose of national education is to develop the potential of students to become human beings who have faith and piety in God Almighty, have a noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and being a democratic and responsible citizen. To achieve this goal, an active contribution from the academic community is needed in maintaining the cleanliness of the campus environment, because lecturers, as well as employees always hold educational interactions with students in the lecture process. Through lecture activities, lecturers should be able to shape student attitudes and behaviors to be able to implement clean living in the campus environment. Although in daily life there are still students who do not want to bother just to throw garbage in its place, the habit of not flushing water after defecation is also still lacking, this situation can be seen in the bathroom or toilet where the smell of aroma is not pleasant.⁹ Various efforts have been made through campus policies, such as providing trash cans, procuring cleaning services, providing campus sanitation facilities, appeals to maintain cleanliness, and so on, but the fact is that the campus environment still looks dirty, and is not well maintained, such as lecture halls, bathrooms/toilets, practicum rooms, workshops, workshops, library rooms, campus foyers, and open spaces where students socialize while waiting for college time. Another phenomenon that can still be found is the lack of awareness of the academic community regarding environmental health, it can be seen that there are still many who smoke in the campus environment, it appears in the corners of the campus around the lecture hall or campus yard the view of cigarette ash or cigarette

⁹ E. Ariwidodo, "Relevansi Pengetahuan Masyarakat Tentang Lingkungan Dan Etika Lingkungan Dengan Partisipasinya Dalam Pelestarian Lingkungan," *NUANSA: Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu Sosial dan Keagamaan Islam* 11, no. 1 (2021): 1–20.

butts and garbage that is not thrown in its place, even though garbage cans have been provided and clean the surrounding environment from scattered garbage. Campus cleanliness is not only limited to sidewalks or campus streets, but also includes all locations that are traversed and needed in the context of lecture activities. A clean and comfortable campus atmosphere will greatly affect student learning activities.

Application of Environmental Preservation in Christian Ethics

Christian ethics is the teaching, rules and commandments of God written in the Bible so that every believer reads, ponders and manifests in the form of action or behavior.¹⁰ Therefore, Christian ethics is a useful teaching or rules for Christians to be able to consider what is good and what is wrong, a concrete example given by the Bible is Romans 7:7 "If so, what shall we say? Is the law a sin? Absolutely not! On the contrary, it is precisely by the law that I have known sin."¹¹

Christian ethics is a guide or idea that helps the Christians to practice the values of the Christian faith. Christian ethics must make God the center and example of attitude and action. Christian ethics is a way of living in harmony with Christians who practice love without focusing on the material and by exemplifying Christ.¹² Christian ethics are deeds desired by God, which are based on values that correspond to the nature of God, so that Christians do charitable deeds and in response to God-bestowed salvation. Christian ethics is a way of acting in accordance with the teachings of the Bible and has the purpose of having a different behavior or way of acting in accordance with the teachings of the Bible, such as acting honestly in everything.

¹⁰ M. L. Silalahi et al., "Konsep Pendidikan Moral Dan Etika Dalam Perspektif Kristen," *SOSMANIORA: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Humaniora* 1, no. 3 (2022): 292–297.

¹¹ Sandy Ariawan, *Etika Guru Pendidikan Agama Kristen* (Jawa Tengah: CV. Pena Persada, 2020).

¹² Sandy Ariawan, "Countering Zeitgeist of Self-Centered through Role Playing Methods among Junior High School Students," *IJECA (International Journal of Education and Curriculum Application)* (2019).

In this case, including ethics or ethics students must be in accordance with biblical values, one example is also ethics or behavior that must be familiarized and should be applied in Galatians 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, patience, mercy, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law against those things. Christian ethics is applied in students' daily lives, so that behaviors or actions do not deviate from the path of deviant and inconsistent with God's Word. Christianity is based on the will of God, commanded by God Himself which corresponds to the nature of God and all commands are in the Bible.¹³

The Bible as a basis for educating and guiding people to the truth, to behave in accordance with the norms of Christian teaching norms. Christian ethics is the teaching of the behavior and the hood of the Christian people by making God the center of teaching and Christ as an example to practice the values of faith, and making the Bible the basis or instruction for the Christian people to be able to consider what is good and what is wrong.

God must be central to ecological ethics. This means that human attitudes and actions towards the environment are based on love and respect for God. The spiritual qualities of the individual influence his or her relationship with God, his fellow human beings, and his fellow living beings in his environment.

Two types of ethics: first, individual ethics talks about the goodness of an individual's behavior so that it reflects the quality of his personal life. Second, Social ethics talks about a person's behavior in relation to others so that it reflects the quality of the relationship. These two types of ethics are determined by a person's spiritual qualities. For if a man loves God, he will love himself and his neighbor.

¹³ A. Y. Tomusu, "Fondasi Etika Ekologi Dari Perspektif Teologi Kristen," *SESAWI: Jurnal Teologi dan Pendidikan Kristen* 2, no. 2 (2021): 57-74.

4. CONCLUSION

There are many things that students may not realize about the key role they have, when in fact it greatly affects the formation of the quality of a university. One key role that students can carry out is the services that must be provided by students to other stakeholders, because students are one of the elements involved in the implementation of higher education. So, students are not only as parties served, but also as parties who must serve, students as well as lecturers must maintain quality. Therefore, students should also be involved in the implementation of the college quality assurance system which is conducted at the university, faculty, department, and study program levels. The higher education quality assurance system requires a shared commitment from all academic communities from the top leadership to the bottom implementers (e.g., janitors, parking attendants, etc.). must be able to apply Christian ethics in the form of God's command found in Genesis 1:28 "Fill the earth and conquer it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over all the beasts that creep on the earth." Students demonstrate and apply Christian ethics to the caring behavior of good Tarutung State Institute for Christian Studies students and apply them in their daily lives.

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