

# Urban Youth Movement: Works of Young People in Reproducing Knowledge of River- Kampong with Community

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**Abstract:** The condition of most rivers in Indonesia has been contaminated, including in Surakarta, Indonesia, due to uncontrolled rubbish and liquid waste disposal. Kampungnesia is one of young communities caring about the damaged condition of river and attempts to encourage the change through social urban youth movement. This article aimed to explain how the social movement is motivated by Kampungnesia to realize the environment-oriented river management. The theory used was resource mobilization one. The research method employed was action research oriented to the real changing process. Kampungnesia social movement was conducted to reproduce the citizens' knowledge in the villages bordering directly on river with transect technique and conducting focus group discussion to document their knowledge about river, kampong (village) and city. Kampungnesia expanded the public support through publication in the form of documentary movies, profile book of kampong and river, and module with tagline *memetri kali* (maintain river). Publication through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and twitter is also conducted to make the knowledge on river and village the collective knowledge, to invite the stakeholders, including executive, legislative, and citizens surrounding river to develop collective agenda about an environment-river management. Capacity reinforcement, education, and workshop of stakeholders were conducted as the form of action to improve the community behavior about river.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Currently youth populations in Indonesia reach 1.2 billion with age interval of 15-25 years having strategic position as the agent of social change (United Nation Population Report, 2015). In last few years, social movement conducted by youth can inspire and contribute positively the social environment of society. Several studies have found young people's willingness to participate in an environmental organization. Numerous studies have shown that young people from highly educated groups, feel a relatively strong affinity to the environmental movement and regard environmental problems as important (Kriesi, 1989; Eckersley, 1989; Dunlap and Mertig, 1994; Rose, 1997). The theme of environment becomes popular when there are a number of damaged environment cases.

River in urban areas is damaged seriously and becomes the main issue throughout world (Campana et al., 2014). River degradation affects the circulation of energy and earth material, as river is the host of 40% of world population (Jansky et al., 2004; Ching and Mukherjee, 2015; Miao et al., 2016). One factor

causing river degradation is human pressure and behavior to the river surrounding including population growth and urbanization (Xianzhao and Shanzhong 2011; Salazar et al., 2012; Zhao et al., 2016). The Report of Republic of Indonesia's Living Environment and Forestry Ministry shows that in 2015, nearly 68% of river water quality in 33 provinces of Indonesia in heavily contaminated status. The main sources of river pollution are domestic and industrial wastes (National Geographic Indonesia, 2016).

Surakarta, Indonesia is crossed by 4 rivers, but their conditions are also contaminated. Surakarta Living Environment Board notes that river water contamination is found in almost all rivers in this city. The condition of river water is found exceeding the threshold of quality, being contaminated with e-coli bacteria, thereby is not feasible to consume. The participation of all stakeholders, including youths, is required to reduce the river contamination level.

Kampungnesia as one of youth communities caring about environment in Surakarta is motivated to participate in maintaining river. Participation conducted and planned systematically is embodied

into the youth social movement to maintain river since 2014. Social movement with this *memetri kali* (*maintain river*) theme is a transformative learning innovation for sociology students aiming to campaign for the river damage issue as an environmental issue in urban areas (Zunariyah dan Ramdhon, 2016). This social movement exerts supporting sources such as fund, pressure and organization attempt effectively. This idea was developed into Resource Mobilization (RM) theory by Edwardo Canel for sustainable environment. This RM theory focuses on a unity of process consisting of resource management decision, organizational dynamics and political change that can condition the realization of structural potency. Issue, actor and constraint are needed in order to focus on how the actors develop strategy and interact with their environment to pursue their interest (Giugni et al., 1999; McCarthy et al., 1977).

This article attempts to describe the dynamics of social youth movement conducted by Kampungnesia in encouraging the environment-friendly river management. This social movement has uniqueness as it uses campus as its base and works using academic and transformative approaches. As an academic and transformative approach, environmental action aims engages youth in planning and taking action on environmental issues they find relevant. In addition to improving natural and built environments, these experiences can help youth grow as citizens because they involve authentic participation in community issues (Hart, 2003; Jensen and Schnack, 1997; McClaren and Hammond, 2005; Stapp et al., 1996). Thus, this research will contribute to the social movement innovation and the attempt of developing social movement theory more broadly.

## 2 METHODS

This research was conducted on Kampungnesia that has made social movement of maintaining river in Surakarta Indonesia, since 2014. The social movement studied focused on 3 *kampongs* (villages): Kadipiro, Dadapsari and Karangasem in Surakarta, Indonesia. Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach was selected as the consequence of transformative movement. PAR is the research putting the community as subject participating actively in social movement process existing. PAR process consists of investigation, action and reflection (Kemmis and McTaggart, 2005).

Investigation process was conducted in participative manner through mapping process along with the members of community (observation and in-depth interview) or the process of producing

knowledge on problem, potency and need of people living in the river bank. This process was then discussed together in Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to determine social movement action and strategy agenda based on the result of mapping. Next, action was taken by conducting movement along with the members of community through knowledge reproduction scheme in education, campaign and workshop forms. This action involved not only those living in river bank but also others stakeholders, and expanded its support to some local areas. Reflection and evaluation processes were conducted during action and action processes thereby could result in correction and improvement in the movement strategy taken. Thus, this series of research can be sustainable measures and the actors participated fully in the process in order to make investigation and to implement the action independently (Greenwood dan Levin, 2007).

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

History records that youth contributes considerably to transformative social movement and becomes a positive power to the changing attempt. A variety of youth movement forms has been conducted throughout world, from political, economic, race, religion movement, and other civil rights (Chock, 2012).

Environment movement has long actually been the concentration of some groups in many countries, including Indonesia. Environment movement in Indonesia began to enter into an agenda and a part of social action in Indonesia in 1970s, and then experienced reinforcement momentum in 1980s (Suharko, 2006). Until today, environment movement in Indonesia develops significantly over times. A variety of environment movements appears in a variety of areas in Indonesia. One type of community flourishing and being the youths' favorite in some Indonesian cities is the one raising environmental issue or commonly called *Organisasi Pemuda Lingkungan* (Environment Youth Organization) (Suharko, 2014).

One form of Environment Youth Organization in Surakarta, Indonesia is Kampungnesia. This youth community is a group of students caring about environment issues particularly river, thereby is encouraged to invite and to encourage all stakeholders to maintain the contaminated river together. Generally, this Kampungnesia movement is divided into two stages: knowledge production and knowledge reproduction.

Knowledge production stage is characterized with the participative mapping process along with the

villagers and all stakeholders in 3 river bank villages in Surakarta having specific issue: *firstly*, Kadipiro with *Kampung Iklim* (climate village), secondly Dadapsari with *Kampung Siaga Bencana Berbasis Masyarakat* (Community-Based Disaster Alerted village, thereafter called *Kampung SIBAT*), and thirdly, Karangasem with *Kampung Sungai* (river village) issues.

Mapping was conducted using transect walk technique to get a comprehensive description about physical condition of village and river existing in individual villages (Mikkelsen, 1995). Actual description of village and river condition can be obtained and discussed, so that the result can be noted and recorded thereby becoming village document. Book of village and river profile, photo album of village dynamics and documentary movie about village and river are the output of knowledge production by community members. A variety of knowledge production forms becomes empirical evidence to support the social movement process.

The mapping process will be published through social media such as twitter, Facebook or Instagram so that any information will be a broad knowledge and a part of the attempt of obtaining public support. Using social and other electronic media are considered as more appropriate to the typical character of youths (Ambrosi and Massoli, 2012). New social movements both promote and exemplify alternative lifestyles. In line with these ideas the environmental movement may be seen as an important arena for identity development (Melucci, 1996).

Knowledge production by community members about village and river is important when the knowledge source about village and river is dominated by government. The authoritative structure of knowledge will affect individuals' social practices in the way of thinking, speaking and acting as a knowledge regime. A form of knowledge, according to Foucault, is not an evolutionary development over times, but a shift from one form of knowledge to another authoritative form of knowledge in certain period of time as a discourse regime (Foucault, 1980).

The next stage is knowledge reproduction. In this stage, the people of Dadapsari, Kadipiro and Karangasem villages conduct an action of educating children, adolescents and adults. The agenda of environmental education is conducted through the scheme of village exploration and painting competition for children to grow their sense of belonging and love to village and river in their area. This stage becomes important to the attempt of growing environment caring attitude earlier, so that in

the future they can contribute to maintaining village and river surrounding.

Thematic workshop becomes the next agenda by conducting knowledge exchange between villages. *Kampung iklim* exchanges knowledge with *Kampung SIBAT*, *Kampung SIBAT* exchanges knowledge with *Kampung Sungai* and vice versa. This knowledge exchange process aims to lead respective villages to expand its idea of managing village and river to other villages, so that the knowledge they have can be possessed by other villages. As such, the villagers can learn from each other and distribute knowledge about the village and river management attempt broadly.

In this knowledge reproduction stage, the agent of change lies on the villagers, while Kampungnesia only facilitates every process and documents and disseminates it through both printed and electronic social media. This process is likely the part of an attempt of positioning the members of community independently and powerfully. It is in line with the spirit of social movement putting the local actor to be the leader of change (Chock, 2012).

The people's knowledge on village and river is then encouraged to be material of discussion regarding government policy design. Therefore, the people discuss with executive and legislative stakeholders through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to map the river problem together and the solution to it. Ego-sectoral and less synchronous policy between work units of local officers make the existing policy tend to run ineffectively. The support of policy to the environment-friendly river management is very desirable to approve the role, responsibility and duty of each stakeholder clearly. These processes cannot be done easily, so that collaborative attempt and partnership between sectors and between local governments should be supported continuously. Collaboration will certainly make the stakeholders view the problem as the opportunity of making improvement and reformation based on collective vision (Koontz and Thomas, 2003).

Expanding the support to various parties for an environment-oriented river is supported as well by sharing experience with other areas. Through social media disseminated previously, the experience of organizing citizen becomes an important subject for other areas. Therefore, Kampungnesia receives a number of invitations from many communities and society groups. A collection of students in Satya Wacana Christian University of Salatiga and Yogyakarta State University have invited Kampungnesia to provide workshop on designing the process of producing and reproduction knowledge along with citizens.

A series of measures the Kampungnesia have taken become a systematic and planned strategy to evaluate any failure and success of social movement

attempt done. The attempt of producing the citizen's knowledge on village, river and city can be a means of building citizen argumentation for the sustainable development. Equipped with participative organized knowledge, the citizens can take into account the risk of action option for the river in their area. Thus, the citizens' attitude and view changing process concerning the river can be improved in order to realize the environment-oriented river management.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

Kampungnesia youth community conducts social movement systematically to change the non-environment-oriented into the environment-oriented river management. The attempt of encouraging the change is taken by putting the people to be the actors equipped with knowledge deriving from the people. The knowledge production by citizens (people) can give a representation about potency, need, problem and expectation of people in the river bank. Knowledge reproduction becomes a real action of social movement to encourage the change in managing village and river better. A variety of people's knowledge and the social movement process are documented and published in many forms. Thus, the attempt of obtaining public's or other parties' support can be expanded at both local and cross-area scales. Therefore, social movement will obtain broad benefit and impact particularly in sustainable development agenda

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