

Civic Engagement through the Community in Environmental Management Efforts Around Watu Gambir Park, Karanganyar

Muhammad Yusup^{1*}, Dewi Gunawati², Triana Rejekiningsih³

^{1,2,3}Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

*) corresponding author : Muhhamadyusupp@gmail.com

Abstract

This research paper explores How to shape community involvement in environmental protection and management. The main obstacle in forming community involvement among the community in environmental protection and management. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, this research aims to provide various ways to form civic engagement or community involvement to protect and manage the environment, one of which is Karanganyar. Data collection used document analysis and interview techniques. This research contributes to ways of establishing civic engagement in the community around Karanganyar in environmental protection and management. The research results state that the method for forming civic engagement in society has been implemented and the main obstacles in forming civic engagement in society around environmental protection and management are human resources, flexible budgets and regional education.

Keywords: Civic Engagement; Community; Environment..

Introduction

Citizens' rights to a good and healthy living environment are regulated in Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management Article 65 paragraphs 1 and 2 which reads: Everyone has the right to a good living environment and it is part of human rights. Everyone has the right to environmental education, access to information, access to participation and access to justice in fulfilling the right to a good and healthy environment.

Citizens also have an obligation to protect and manage the environment as stated in Law (Gusmadi, 2018).

"Every person is obliged to maintain the preservation of the function of the environment and control pollution and/or damage to the environment". City parks are one part of the city's green open space, their existence has great significance for the natural ecosystem and has a big influence on the existence and survival of the city itself. It is hoped that the existence of city parks will be able to fulfill the rights and obligations of

citizens in order to obtain a good and healthy living environment.

Green Open Space (RTH) is a realm or place for citizens to obtain their rights and channel their obligations in order to obtain a good and healthy living environment. The availability of green open space is important to create a balanced urban environment and help realize sustainable development.

Hajar, I., & Kharina, E. N. (2022) The development of city parks, city forests, green belts and green areas as green open spaces has ecological, social/cultural, economic and aesthetic functions. Lack of attention to the provision of green open space can result in its function not being achieved optimally.

Based on Law no. 26 of 2007 concerning Spatial Planning states that the proportion of green open space in city areas is at least 30 percent of the city area. It is hoped that the allocation of this proportion can overcome negative impacts related to environmental damage, such as air pollution due to carbon dioxide gas from motor vehicles and industry, and poor drainage which can trigger flooding.

Creating harmony between the natural and built environment for sustainable development is one of the hopes that the City of Karanganyar wants to realize. Karanganyar is a region that is developing. This situation could cause Karanganyar to have a tendency to change the use of open land, including green open space, into built-up land.

The environment is closely related to the survival of living things in the world. Humans are living creatures who depend on the environment for all their life needs. The environment is a space in which there is an interplay between living things and natural resources. City parks are part of the city's green open space and are part of the natural ecosystem which has a big influence on the existence and survival of a city.

City parks are widely used by people to carry out various activities ranging from recreation, sports, and enjoying fresh air in the middle of an urban area.

City parks, which are part of RTH, have a main function (intrinsic), namely an ecological function, and additional functions (extrinsic), namely a social/cultural, economic and aesthetic function. But in reality, what it means is citizen involvement to make a difference in people's lives and developing a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. This is related to advancing the quality of life in a community, both through political and non-political processes.

Humans have a reciprocal relationship with their environment. Their activities affect their environment. Instead, humans are influenced by their environment. Such a reciprocal relationship exists between humans as individuals or community groups and their natural environment. As citizens, we are obliged to participate in environmental management because citizens use and enjoy the results of the environment itself. Citizens cannot continue to hand over all matters to the government without participation from the community itself. With a very large number of people and limited government management of the environment, people are needed who are aware of the importance of participating in environmental management, because they will realize that the environment is really needed by humans.

Method

The research was conducted at Taman Watu Gambir Park which is located in Karanganyar, Central Java Province. The protection and management of urban parks is closely related to citizen involvement to make a difference in improving the quality of the environment. The very worrying condition of the Taman Watu Gambir park, starting from unkempt plants, graffiti on the park walls, park lights that don't turn on when it's dark and being used as a dirty place, is the reason why researchers raised the theme of Civic Engagement or community involvement in protecting and managing the environment.

The method used in this research is descriptive, which is one of the qualitative research methods. The descriptive method is a method that examines the status of a human group, an object, a condition, a system of thought, or a class of events in the present. The aim of using descriptive research methods is to create a systematic, factual and accurate description or picture of the facts and characteristics of a particular population or area.

Result and Discussion

Civic Engagement

Civic engagement means community involvement. What is meant here is community participation in the life of society, nation and state.

Gusmadi (2018), also defines that, "civic engagement as individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern". That is, individuals and collectives designed to identify and address issues of public concern.

Another opinion was expressed by Gusmadi (2018), who stated that civic engagement is:

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and nonpolitical processes.

This opinion can be interpreted as: citizen involvement to make a difference in people's lives and developing a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. That matter Furthermore, Gusmadi, (2018) said that, "the definition of civic engagement depends on the perspective and interests of the creator of the definition".

Therefore, Ramaley divides these things specifically, including:

- 1) Civic engagement as community service, namely civic engagement is defined as an individual's duty and obligation to embrace civic responsibility to actively participate in voluntary service activities that strengthen the local community.
- 2) Civic engagement as collective action, namely civic engagement is defined as an activity where people come together in their role as citizens. Here an individual, through collective action, influences the larger civil society.
- 3) Civic engagement as political involvement, namely civic engagement is defined as individual efforts with collective action to solve problems through political processes and paths which involve active participation and leadership in public life.
- 4) Civic engagement as social change, namely civic engagement is defined as participation in community life in order to help shape the future with social change.

Overview of Environmental Protection and Management

Environmental Concept

The living environment is an environment consisting of living creatures and other components in it, including humans, animals and plants. The environment greatly influences human life. According to Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management, there is a general provision in Article 1 number 1, that what is meant by the environment is:

The unity of space with all objects, forces, conditions and living creatures, including humans and their behavior, which influences nature itself, the continuity of life, and the welfare of humans and other living creatures.

The terms environment and environment or human environment as a translation of the English language environment and human

environment, are often used interchangeably in the same sense. Even though the meaning of environment and human living environment can be given different boundaries based on the perceptions and scientific disciplines of each author, in

Overview of Society

Society is a group of people who get along with each other, or in scientific terms, interact with each other. A human entity can have infrastructure so that its citizens can interact with each other. Karliani, Eli 2014. believes that a society must have a special bond. The bond that makes a human unity into a society is a distinctive pattern of behavior regarding all factors of life within the boundaries of that unity. This pattern must be stable and continuous, in other words, this distinctive pattern has become a distinctive custom.

This statement describes the damaged condition of the Park as a result of the surrounding community being unaware of environmental protection and management and the lack of a sense of community ownership of the Park.

Obstacles to the community's lack of awareness in achieving the goal of a clean and healthy environment continue to spread to the extent that the mask statue which is a characteristic of the park has also become a place for vandalism from outside and surrounding communities and also damaged existing facilities. This is in line with the explanation from informant 2 Bekt as a park cleaning officer explaining the obstacles in the form of:

Jacob states that the broader scope of civic engagement is that civic engagement is not just physical activity but includes the psychological realm, namely a sense of responsibility that can motivate people to participate in building civil society for the common good.

Environmental Protection and Management

Environment Concept The living environment is an environment consisting of living creatures and other components in it,

including humans, animals and plants. The environment greatly influences human life.

According to Law Number 32 of 2009 Bestari, P. (2020). concerning Environmental Protection and Management, there is a general provision in Article 1 number 1, that what is meant by the environment is:

The unity of space with all objects, forces, conditions and living creatures, including humans and their behavior, which influences nature itself, the continuity of life, and the welfare of humans and other living creatures.

The terms environment and environment or human environment as a translation of the English language environment and human environment, are often used interchangeably in the same sense. Hajar, I., & Harina, EN (2022). Even though the meaning of environment and the human environment can be given different boundaries based on the perceptions and scientific disciplines of each writer

Every citizen has the same obligation to preserve the environment, namely protecting and caring for it so that it is not damaged and harms humans. Bestari, P (2020), concerning Environmental Protection and Management, which states "Every person is obliged to maintain the preservation of environmental functions and control environmental pollution and/or damage". Every citizen must be aware of the importance of protecting the environment, especially areas around rivers. Damage to rivers due to pollution will have negative consequences for the environment which will have a detrimental impact on society. The lack of awareness within each individual citizen is a major factor in environmental damage.

Watu Gambir Park is one of the city parks in Karangpandan District, Karanganyar Regency. Watu Gambir Park is a green open space built by the local government as a means for the community to carry out various activities, such as recreation, sports, and as a learning medium for the community about the types, types and characteristics of plants. Watu Gambir Park, which has been managed by the Environmental Service, is more beautiful than before with the aim of beautifying the city structure, but the community does not participate in making the government's goals a success. Not a few people who visit or just

pass through the park don't care about cleanliness, though.

Berkowitz, Ford, & Brewer in Johnson & M. J. (2005), argues that "citizen involvement is to make a difference in people's lives and develop a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. This is related to advancing the quality of life in a community, both through political and non-political processes." If citizen involvement can proceed according to this, an environmentally caring attitude will be realized in society.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Kelly, Jennifer Rebecca (2012) opinion is a study that links the formation of civic engagement in the community with the protection and management of the environment around Watu gambir Park, this refers to community involvement in order to carry out citizens' obligations in maintaining preservation of environmental functions and the realization of the rights of citizens who are entitled to a good and healthy living environment.

In this section several studies are presented that are relevant to this research. Karliani, E. (2011) was entitled "Performance of the Cleaning and Parks Department in the Managementa. Understanding Civic Engagement of Green Open Space in Karanganyar City". The relevance of this research is that it examines the management of city parks. The difference between this research is that this research discusses the performance of the Department of Cleanliness and Parks in managing city parks, while the researcher's research explains more about the formation of civic engagement (citizen involvement) in the community around Watu Gambir Park.

Lickona, Thomas (1991) is entitled "Central Park Mall City Park Landscape Management". The relevance of this research is that it examines the management of city parks. The difference in this research is that this research focuses more on the spatial layout of city parks to make them look more beautiful, whereas my research apart from management also focuses on the formation of civic engagement in the community around Taman Watu Gambir. Based on this description, the author is interested in

conducting research with the title "Formation of Civic Engagement in Society"

Civic Engagement in the Community

Civic engagement means the involvement of citizens, both individually and collectively, actively participating in social life based on skills, expertise, knowledge, combined with values, motivation and commitment to make changes in order to improve the quality of life in society for the better. The condition of this nation regarding community involvement in environmental protection and management is still lacking, but it is not possible to create a way to form civic engagement or involvement of citizens from various parties and city government programs, especially by the Environmental Service and movements from several schools that are run by the government. related to community involvement to protect and manage the environment. The living environment referred to here is a city park, a city park is part of Green Open Space (RTH). Green open space is a realm or place for citizens to obtain their rights and channel their obligations in order to obtain a good and healthy environment.

Obstacle in Forming Civic Engagement in the Community

Watu Gambir is in environmental protection and management The main obstacle in forming civic engagement in the community around Watu Gambir in environmental protection and management comes from various problems, one of which is the community's unawareness of the importance of a clean and healthy environment. The community's lack of awareness of the importance of protecting and managing the environment has an impact on community activities that damage and add to other problems in Watu Gambir. The Environmental Service has made efforts to protect and manage Watu Gambir by equipping various facilities such as garden lights, hoses and children's play facilities, but in reality there are quite a few missing lights, cables that have only been stripped of brass and this is done outside of hours. park operations.

How to form civic engagement in the community around Watu Gambir

Civic engagement means community involvement. What is meant here is community participation in the life of society, nation and state. The community's lack of awareness of the importance of protecting and managing the environment greatly influences the state of the environment which will later cause other problems related to the state of the Park.

The community's lack of awareness of the importance of protecting and managing the environment has an impact on community activities that damage and add to other problems in the Park. The Environmental Service has made efforts to protect and manage the park by equipping various facilities such as park lights, hoses and children's play facilities, but in reality quite a few lights have been found missing, cables have only been stripped of their brass and this has been done outside operational hours. park. As stated by as a member of the Environmental Service, Parks Division as informant 1, "many lights have disappeared and only the brass cables have been taken, these people stole outside of the park's

Asshiddiqie, J. (2009), the explanation above conveys that the community's lack of awareness of the importance of environmental protection and management greatly influences the environmental condition which will later cause other problems related to the condition

Obstacles to the community's lack of awareness in achieving the goal of a clean and healthy living environment continue to spread to the point that the mask statue that is the hallmark of Watu gambir Park has also become a place for vandalism from outside and surrounding communities and also damaged existing facilities. This is in line with the explanation from the informant

The community's lack of awareness of the importance of protecting and managing the environment has an impact on community activities that damage and add to other problems at Watu gambir Park. The Environmental Service has made efforts to protect and manage Watu gambir Park by equipping various kinds of facilities such as garden lights, hoses and children's play facilities, but in reality quite a few lights are found missing, the wires only have the brass

removed and this is done outside of hours. park operations.

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that, one way to form civic engagement in society in environmental protection and management can be started from self-awareness regarding the importance of a clean and healthy environment and binding regulations to get good results, these regulations can also has an impact on students' mindset which is directed towards having a sense of belonging and loving their environment so that it is not damaged.

From the various statements above, it can be concluded that the formation of civic engagement in the community around Watu gambir Park is very important for the creation of a clean and healthy living environment. The Environmental Service as a responsible institution has tried its best to protect and manage the environment, as well as several schools which hold park clean-up activities and also regulations from schools to bring their own food containers to reduce plastic waste, all of these things are done for the park. Watu gambir so that the benefits can be felt by the wider community.

Conclusion

Based on the data collected in the field and the analysis carried out by the researcher, and from the description as presented by the author above, the results of this research can be drawn to a conclusion to answer the formulation of the problem. The researchers' conclusions are as follows:

1. The method of forming civic engagement carried out by the Environmental Service is by inviting sub-district cooperation to socialize the importance of environmental protection and management. Apart from that, the Environmental Service also facilitates every school that wants to hold environmental care activities in Watu Gambir. The Environmental Service is also trying to provide many organic and non-organic waste bins to encourage people to keep the environment clean.
2. The main obstacle in forming civic engagement is the awareness of each individual in society. The government, through the Environmental Service, has made every effort to achieve the goals of environmental protection and management, but if the public

does not have awareness of this, these goals will not be achieved.

References

- Asshiddiqie, J. Konstitusi Hijau Nuansa Hijau UUD Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2009.
- Berkowitz, A. R., Ford, M. E. & Brewer, C. A. 'A Framework for Integrating Ecological Literacy, Civics Literacy and Environmental Citizenship in Environmental Education', in E.A. Johnson & M. J. Mappin (Eds.), *Environmental Education and Advocacy: Perspectives of Ecology and Education*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Bestari, P. (2020, March). The Essence of Public Policies in Learning for Civic Education. In *2nd Annual Civic Education Conference (ACEC 2019)* (pp. 243-246). Atlantis Press.
- Gusmadi, S. (2018). Keterlibatan Warga Negara (Civic Engagement) dalam Penguatan Karakter Peduli Lingkungan. Dalam *Jurnal Dakwah dan Pembangunan Sosial Manusia* (Vol. 9, Edisi 1).
- Gusmadi, Setiawan (2018). Keterlibatan warga (civic engagement) dalam penguatan karakter peduli lingkungan. *Jurnal Pendidikan Ilmu Sosial*.
- Hajar, I., & Harina, EN (2022). Peran Pemuda Karo Dalam Membangun Komunitas Belajar Memenuhi Kebutuhan Belajar Anak Usia 7-12 Tahun di Desa Samura. *Jurnal Cendekiawan Ilmiah PLS*, 7(1).
- Karliani, Eli 2014. "Membangun Civic Engagement Melalui Model Service Learning untuk Memperkuat Karakter Warga Negara." *Jurnal Pendidikan Pancasila dan Kewarganegaraan*.
- Kelly, Jennifer Rebecca & Abel, Troy D. (2012). *Fostering Ecological Citizenship: The Case of Environmental Service-Learning in Costa Rica*. *International Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. Vol. 6, No. 2.
- Lickona, Thomas. (1991). *Educating for Character: How Our School Can Teach Respect and Responsibility*. New York, Toronto, London, Sydney, Aucland: Bantam books. Naim, N. *Pembangunan Karakter Optimalisasi Peran Pendidikan dalam Pembangunan*