

Ecological Citizenship Based on Green Constitution through Environmental Education

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Abstract

Problems associated with green constitution-based ecological citizenship include challenges in law enforcement, conflicts between economic and environmental interests, social inequality, and difficulties in encouraging adequate public participation. The purpose of this research is to see how the green constitution can help raise environmental awareness in Indonesia through education. The research found, using a qualitative approach and literature analysis techniques, that environmental education should be part of the national curriculum. The results show that education based on environmental principles can make people more involved in environmental protection.

Keywords: Education, Ecological citizenship, Green constitution.

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PENDAHULUAN

Ecological citizenship is a concept that expands the scope of citizens' responsibilities towards the environment, not only limited to legal obligations, but also includes proactive actions that support the sustainability of ecosystems (Phillips et al., 2024; Spannring, 2019; Syahri & Salahudin, 2024). This concept encourages everyone to take a greater role in protecting and preserving the environment as part of their obligations as citizens (Pudjiastuti, 2020). In an effort to strengthen ecological citizenship, a green constitution, also known as a green constitution, was created as a legal instrument that aims to encourage changes in people's behavior towards the environment (da Silva, 2020; Nugraha et al., 2023; Rianta et al., 2023).

Despite the fact that the green constitution provides a strong legal basis to support sustainability, there are several issues that stand in the way of its implementation (Qurbani & Rafiqi, 2022). The level of public awareness and understanding of the importance of ecological citizenship and the functioning of the green constitution is one of the biggest challenges. Environmental education, both formal and non-formal, is often inadequate, causing people to not fully understand the rights and responsibilities stipulated in the green constitution related to the environment. This level of awareness is also exacerbated by the tendency to ignore environmental issues, which reduces public participation in conservation efforts

(Yusa & Hermanto, 2018). Furthermore, although environmental principles have been enshrined in the constitution, their implementation is often hampered by cumbersome bureaucracy, political interests that are not always aligned with sustainability, and a lack of resources necessary to support them. In addition, ecological injustice is a serious problem as benefits from environmental policies and access to natural resources are often unequal. Poor communities and indigenous peoples, for example, are often most affected by environmental degradation, but they have the least influence on environmental decision-making processes.

One additional challenge to implementing a green constitution is the imbalance between economic interests and environmental protection. Long-term impacts on ecosystems are often overlooked when economic policies focus on growth, such as large development projects. This creates conflicts between pressing economic needs and environmental conservation efforts, especially in regions that depend on environmentally unfriendly industries, such as intensive agribusiness and mining (Legionosuko et al., 2019). This challenge is even more complex in a global context, where environmental issues such as climate change and air pollution are transboundary, while ecological citizenship and green constitutions are generally implemented at the national level. Effective cross-border coordination is important, but often difficult to achieve, especially when national or global environmental policies are not fully compatible with local contexts that have different ecosystems, cultures and economic conditions. In addition, weak law enforcement is a major barrier to the implementation of green constitutions. Although green constitutions set high environmental standards, gaps between law and practice on the ground are still common. Factors such as corruption, lack of resources, and weak supervision mean that violations of environmental regulations are not always strictly followed up, which in turn creates public distrust in the effectiveness of the law.

To deal with these challenges, a more holistic and integrated approach is needed, which includes improving environmental education based on the principles of the green constitution. Education plays a crucial role in building people's awareness and understanding of their rights and responsibilities towards the environment. Through comprehensive and sustainable education, the green constitution can become a strong foundation in shaping ecological awareness among citizens, encouraging their active participation in environmental conservation efforts, and strengthening the application of ecological citizenship. This research will explore the important role of the green constitution in raising environmental awareness through education, identify existing challenges, and offer solutions that can be applied to overcome these obstacles, with the ultimate goal of creating a society that is more concerned and responsible for environmental sustainability.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a focus on the literature analysis method, which aims to understand and evaluate the concept of green constitution and its implications for environmental education in Indonesia. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to explore complex and dynamic issues through an in-depth understanding of the context and nuances associated with the research subject (Raco, 2010).

The research data was collected from various credible and relevant secondary sources. Data sources include scholarly journals that contain the latest research on the green constitution and environmental education, academic books that review theories and best practices in the field of environmental law and education, and policy documents published by the Indonesian government and international organizations. In addition, reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of environment and education were also analyzed to gain a broader perspective (Pudjiastuti, 2019). The sources selected for analysis had to meet certain criteria, such as being published within the last five years to ensure data novelty, as well as relevance to the research topic. Selected journals must go through a peer-review process, while books and policy documents must be published by nationally or internationally recognized institutions. This selection process is important to ensure that the analysis is based on valid, accurate and reliable information.

Once the data was collected, the next step was analysis, which was conducted through a process of critically reading and interpreting each source. A thematic analysis approach was used to identify the main themes that emerged from the analyzed literature. These themes include the role of education in raising environmental awareness, strategies for integrating environmental education in the curriculum, and challenges and opportunities in implementing a green constitution in Indonesia. Each theme was analyzed by linking it to relevant theories as well as existing practices in the field.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the research results, data triangulation was conducted by comparing findings from different sources and perspectives. In addition, each thematic analysis was verified through discussions with experts in environmental law and education, as well as through additional literature review to ensure that the interpretations made were based on comprehensive and thorough data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Importance of Environmental Education in Building Ecological Citizenship

The results show that the idea of ecological citizenship has been used in a number of environmental education policies and programs, but with different levels of success. Some countries have also implemented green constitutions as legal frameworks that emphasize environmental protection. However, things like education, law enforcement and cooperation between stakeholders greatly affect how effective they are. Therefore, it is crucial to create a curriculum that is inclusive and relevant to local and global environmental issues. This curriculum should not only provide students with basic knowledge about the environment but also give them the understanding and ability to proactively participate in environmental conservation. In addition, educators should be trained to deliver information in an engaging manner. In addition, community-engaged non-formal education programs should be expanded to reach groups underserved by the formal education system.

Environmental education is essential to raise people's awareness and understanding of the importance of sustaining the environment and developing environmental citizens. Without adequate knowledge, the idea of a green

constitution will only be an idea without practical benefits. This research found that building pro-environmental awareness and attitudes is strongly influenced by environmental education. A number of schools have implemented curricula that incorporate environmental citizen values in them. Studies show that students better understand the importance of environmental conservation. However, implementation is still far from ideal, especially in regions with limited educational resources. Education should be able to provide people from an early age with knowledge, abilities and principles that encourage them to actively participate in environmental conservation. This is achieved not only through formal instruction in educational institutions, but also through public campaigns, community training, and mass media, which can reach all levels of (Sulistyo, 2018).

Addressing the discrepancy between field practice and legal policy is why environmental education is so important. All citizens should be aware of environmental rights and feel morally and civically responsible for protecting and improving ecosystems (Cambers et al., 2008). Consequently, environmental education should be a top priority. This should include the creation of relevant curricula, teacher training, and the availability of adequate resources to support effective learning. A holistic and inclusive approach can encourage people to actively participate in change, support a green constitution, and realize sustainable development based on broad ecological awareness and participation.

Environmental education strategies should be designed in a comprehensive and sustainable manner to realize green constitution-based environmental citizenship. This includes the incorporation of educational programs that emphasize the importance of ecological citizenship and environmental sustainability (Priyanto et al., 2013). To gain a broader and contextualized understanding, environmental education should be integrated with other subjects such as science, geography, history, and social studies.

In addition, it is imperative to improve educators' skills through regular training and the provision of innovative teaching materials. Educators should be trained in the latest environmental materials and effective teaching techniques so that the concept of environmental citizenship can be delivered in a way that is engaging and relevant to students (Utomo, 2009). Non-formal education is also very important through public awareness campaigns and training and workshops involving various community groups. This will strengthen the role of individuals and communities in protecting the environment in accordance with the green constitution (Nasional, 2010).

Green school programs and cooperation with stakeholders such as the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are important steps in this implementation. In order to assess how effective environmental education programs are and ensure continuous improvement, continuous evaluation and monitoring are required (Pudjiastuti & Fatmawati, 2022). This comprehensive method will enable environmental education to realize a more aware, responsible, and active society in maintaining and preserving the environment, in line with the principles of the green constitution.

Challenges in Environmental Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is an important part of ensuring that the principles of the green constitution are implemented. However, issues such as corruption, lack of

resources, and vagueness hinder the enforcement of environmental laws. In addition, the results of this study show that many problems still exist in the implementation of laws relating to the green constitution. Law enforcement is often plagued by resource shortages, corruption, and lack of transparency, despite clear regulations. Sanctions applied against environmental offenses have not achieved the expected level of deterrence.

To ensure that the principles of the green constitution are not only an ideal standard, but also applied in real life, it is crucial to have strict laws. Strong law enforcement ensures that the principles of the green constitution that emphasize sustainability and environmental protection are not just written on paper, but also applied in everyday life. Without effective law enforcement, environmental regulations will be difficult to implement, and violations will continue without consequence (Sopian & Pudjiastuti, 2021).

Green constitutions may be ignored or only partially complied with if law enforcement is inconsistent. This can lead to forest destruction, water pollution and excessive carbon emissions without significant impact. Lack of enforcement not only weakens the authority of the law itself, but also undermines concerted efforts to achieve the desired goals. Strengthening law enforcement agencies is essential for effective law enforcement. To properly handle environmental cases, these agencies must be supported with adequate resources, such as funds, technology, and trained manpower. These agencies will not operate well without sufficient assistance. In addition, corruption in environmental law enforcement must be thoroughly eliminated. Transparency and honesty in the enforcement process are essential as corruption and weak oversight are often the main obstacles.

To deter violations, effective and proportionate sanctions must also be put in place. A person convicted of a serious violation may face significant fines, closure of the offending facility, or imprisonment. Environmental restoration by the violator or contributions to conservation programs are some examples of alternatives to conventional sanctions. These methods not only punish the violation, but also remedy its negative effects.

In addition, transparency and accountability of law enforcement are critical components. Consistent and open reporting on environmental cases handled and actions taken should ensure that the public can oversee law enforcement. Enforcers must be accountable for their actions, and there must be mechanisms in place to ensure they are held accountable and sanctioned where necessary in the event of negligence or misconduct.

Technology is also crucial for good law enforcement. To monitor and detect environmental violations in real-time, technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS), drones, and satellites can be used (Pudjiastuti et al., 2021). These technologies can help law enforcement and ensure that the green constitution is actually implemented to maintain environmental sustainability.

Collaboration as the Key to Successful Implementation

To implement an environmental citizenry and green constitution, the government, private sector and civil society must work well together. In addition, this study found that differences in interests often hinder cooperation. This is especially true when economic interests conflict with the principle of environmental sustainability. To solve complex environmental problems, the government, private sector and civil

society must work together. None of the parties can address these issues independently. Therefore, to create sustainable solutions, all parties must work well together. The government is responsible for providing regulations and incentives that encourage businesses and communities to implement environmentally friendly practices. In turn, the private sector helps by running businesses with sustainability in mind and developing green technologies. At the local level, civil society participates in environmental conservation efforts and monitors and protects the implementation of environmental policies (Zuhriyah & Pudjiastuti, 2021).

Many benefits come from collaboration, such as increased productivity and innovation. Solutions can be more effective and inventive when different parties work together. For example, collaboration between the public sector and the private sector can accelerate the adoption of green technologies. In addition, effective cooperation increases legitimacy and public support for environmental policies implemented.

Effective implementation of this collaboration requires the active participation of various sectors, including governments, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Governments can support by providing regulations and incentives, while NGOs and the private sector contribute through educational programs, funding, and other resources. The private sector also plays an important role in supporting environmental education, both through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs and partnerships with educational institutions to provide resources and technology needed in the learning process (Education for Sustainable Development in Action, 2012). With strong and continuous cooperation between these various parties, we can realize more effective and sustainable environmental conservation efforts.

Evaluation of Effectiveness and Continuous Adjustment

Evaluation of effectiveness is an important part of any implementation strategy, including in environmental education that supports ecological citizenship based on a green constitution. To ensure that the methods used are successful in achieving sustainability goals, an adaptive and continuous evaluation process is essential. Policy makers and program implementers can evaluate strategies. With this evaluation, we can gain a better understanding of the elements of environmental education that are successful in changing people's behavior and those that still need to be improved. For example, an assessment may show that one teaching approach is more effective in raising environmental awareness than another approach.

Evaluation also enables long-term improvement. Policymakers can change approaches to improve program performance if a particular approach is not producing the expected results. This ensures that strategies remain relevant and can be adapted to changes occurring on the ground. One of the main focuses of evaluation is to measure the impact of environmental education on changes in people's behavior, such as reduced plastic use, participation in recycling activities, or implementation of environmentally friendly practices at home and in the community. A good evaluation uses clear and measurable indicators to measure the extent to which environmental education has changed people's behavior.

Evaluation also allows policymakers to link theory with practice, ensuring that the theoretical knowledge about the importance of environmental conservation taught in schools is applied by students in their daily lives. In addition, the

evaluation process makes policymakers and implementers of environmental education programs accountable for what happens, increasing public trust in the program as people are more likely to support and participate after knowing that the evaluation results will be used to improve the quality of the program.

The methodology used should be thorough and include various techniques such as observations, surveys, interviews, and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data to ensure an effective evaluation. An evaluation process that involves all stakeholders-teachers, students, parents, and the community-is essential to gain a broader and more diverse picture of program acceptance in the field.

However, measuring the long-term impact and variability of socio-economic conditions is one of the unique problems facing evaluations. Changes in environmental behavior are often not immediately apparent, so evaluations must be designed to track these changes consistently. Evaluation results can be affected by socio-economic and cultural differences within a particular community. Therefore, these contextual factors should be considered to make the results more relevant and accurate.

Overall, effectiveness evaluation is an important process that should be conducted regularly to ensure that the approach to implementing ecological citizenship based on the green constitution through environmental education achieves its goals. Regular and thorough assessment allows for consistent adjustment and improvement of the education program. Ultimately, this will have a positive impact on people's behavior and environmental sustainability. In addition, proper evaluation increases accountability, transparency and participation of all parties in the collective effort to safeguard the environment.

CONCLUSIONS

A holistic approach involving education, strong law enforcement, and collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society is effective for realizing a green constitution-based environmental citizenry. Education is essential to raise environmental awareness, law enforcement ensures compliance, and inter-stakeholder cooperation is necessary to achieve sustainable goals. For other researchers interested in this topic, it is recommended to create an inclusive evaluation model, conduct comparative research, investigate the role of technology, use a multidisciplinary approach, and involve local communities in environmental conservation.

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