



Internalization of green social work values in the Climate Village Program in Ujungalang Village Cilacap Regency

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received:

21 May 2022;

Revised:

10 August 2022;

Accepted:

20 August 2022

Available Online:

13 August 2022

Keywords

Climate village;

Green social work;

Value

ABSTRACT

The impact of climate change has been a concern for the world, including Indonesia. The government launched a national-scale Climate Village Program in response to such conditions. Researchers explored this program through a study on the internalization of the values of Green Social Work in the Climate Village Program in Ujungalang Village, Cilacap Regency, Central Java Province. The method applied in the exploration was a qualitative method employing a case study approach. The case study was carried out considering that the case in Ujungalang Village was unique. The results showed that the Climate Village Program in Ujungalang Village had internalized the Green Social Work value system, including equality, social inclusion, equitable distribution of resources, and rights-based. The value system developed dynamically to realize sustainable community welfare. In addition, the Climate Village Program also applies the concept of community empowerment (community-based development). These activities are carried out by the community and their institutions, which aim to mobilize and manage human and natural resources within and outside the village and to direct and strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts to the impacts of climate change.



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How to cite:

Ramdani, J. (2022). Internalization of green social work values in the Climate Village Program in Ujungalang Village Cilacap Regency. *Harmoni Sosial: Jurnal Pendidikan IPS*, 9(1), 27-33. <https://doi.org/10.21831/hsjpi.v9i1.49823>

INTRODUCTION

Climate change, a pressing global concern, is significantly impacting various aspects of life worldwide. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report projects a sea level rise of 15-90 cm within 100 years from 2000, with a high certainty of a 48 cm increase (Asadnabizadeh, 2023). This rise is attributed to factors like ice melting, thermal expansion, and land sinkage, emphasizing the critical need for climate monitoring and action to mitigate the adverse effects of rising sea levels (Affandi et al., 2022). The consequences of climate change extend beyond environmental issues, affecting health, economies, and societies globally (Donaldson, 2010). Urgent measures are essential to address the escalating challenges posed by climate change and safeguard the planet for current and future generations.

In addition, in 2021, the IPCC issued a code red on the impacts of climate change that were expected to be happening faster than predicted. Susandi et al. (2008) have also projected the rise of sea levels in Indonesia's coastal areas. Based on their projections, several regions in Indonesia were threatened with losing some land due to the rise in sea level. The projections for 2010, 2050, and

2100 showed that the landmasses to be lost, respectively, were 7,408 km², 30,120 km², and 90,260 km².

The rise in sea level threatens the physical loss of land and the non-physical environment, namely the coastal ecosystem, including the lives of the surrounding coastal communities. Demographic data shows that more than 110 million people, or 60% of Indonesia's population, live within a radius of 50 km from the coastline, one of which is the Cilacap Regency, which belongs to the southern coast of Java. Based on research conducted by [Supriatin and Martono \(2016\)](#), the sea level rise in Cilacap Regency continued to experience significant changes. In their projections, one of the ten district areas in Cilacap Regency that would lose land the fastest was Kampung Laut District, which was predicted to be inundated by water in 2026.

Similarly, [Amri and Arifin \(2016\)](#) state that the impact of climate change can also be recognized from the shift in seasons and rainfall intensity and its effect on coastal ecosystems and human lives. Furthermore, [Adger and Barnett \(2009\)](#) add that climate change will affect the availability of water, impacting the potential source of welfare for local communities. Climate change can affect people's lives in general ([Tasse, 2013](#)), exacerbate socioeconomic and cultural disparities, and potentially lead to social, physical, and human instability ([Dominelli, 2018](#)). This situation encourages adaptation and mitigation efforts carried out by various parties, one of which is the Green Social Workers, considering the high vulnerability level of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change ([Sulastri et al., 2019](#)). The Climate Village Program is one form of adaptation action, both socially and ecologically, to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities. The involvement of social workers produces good results so that the program's sustainability in the community can be achieved.

Meanwhile, the research conducted by [Ramdani \(2020\)](#) illustrated that Green Social Work (GSW) in professional activities through empowerment could mobilize the community's capacity to increase their environmental awareness. It proved that the existence of Green Social Workers was critical in improving community resilience through various efforts to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Climate Village Program. These studies encouraged researchers to explore Green Social Work (GSW) in Indonesia. This study emphasized the implementation of Green Social Work in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in the community.

Thus, the present research was intended to contribute to the science and technology of Green Social Work (GSW) in general. Research on Green Social Work (GSW) in Indonesia was still minimal, even reasonably rare. On the other hand, the development of the social work profession was increasingly needed by the community, along with the enactment of Law Number 14 of 2019 on Social Workers. Therefore, research on Green Social Work (GSW) was necessary to provide a new framework of knowledge, values, and skills for the future of social workers in Indonesia.

METHOD

This research was conducted to explore and describe the internalization of the Green Social Work values in the Climate Village Program in Indonesia. The case study was conducted in Ujungalang Village, Kampung Laut District, Cilacap Regency, Central Java Province. The present research focused on the value system contained in the grand theory of Green Social Work by [Dominelli \(2018\)](#).

Overall, this study employed a qualitative research method. The qualitative research method is naturalistic since the implementation is carried out based on natural conditions ([Creswell, 2013](#)). On this basis, the qualitative research design in this study was carried out explicitly using the application of supportive approaches in data collection, data analysis, conclusion drawing, and preparation of research reports ([Creswell & Clark, 2017](#)). The implementation of the qualitative approach used in this research was in the form of a case study.

The case study method was selected in this research because the case being investigated was considered unique and related to Green Social Work in the Climate Village Program, which is currently being developed and implemented by the government. In addition, this study emphasized the exploration and description of a particular case.

Furthermore, the case study research method aims to gather naturalistic facts. The main strength of this method is the ability to provide more detailed and in-depth information compared to other research methods. The case study is considered in-depth because of the exploration that has been known as its trademark. The uniqueness explored and illustrated in the internalization of Green Social Work values in the Climate Village Program (CVP) was described to answer research questions based on actual conditions in the field. This method was also expected to examine and develop pre-existing theories/concepts regarding Green Social Work. Therefore, it can be emphasized that selecting the case study research method in this study was a very appropriate decision.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Climate Village Program (CVP) made community empowerment its main base because a program would not run sustainably without the empowerment process. The activities carried out by the Green Social Workers in the Climate Village Program in Ujungalang Village were closely related to the preservation of the physical environment. The study of cause-and-effect between the physical and non-physical environment has become a concern for social workers. Although the term Green Social Work has not yet been massively developed in social workers and communities involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, [Kemp et al. \(2015\)](#) recommend that social workers deal with environmental changes more decisively, comprehensively, and innovatively. [Erickson \(2011\)](#) warns that if social workers ignore the existence of environmental degradation (climate change) in realizing social justice, their role will not be handled optimally in the end. The involvement of social workers in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts cannot be separated from the Green Social Work (GSW) approach.

[Dominelli \(2018\)](#) states that Green Social Work (GSW) is a holistic approach to environmental crises, encouraging social workers to internalize the principles, values, and concerns for environmental degradation and related disasters within the practical framework of society. In addition, [Dominelli \(2018\)](#) emphasizes that a social worker who internalizes the Green Social Work approach in his/her professional practice is called a Green Social Worker. Therefore, not all social workers can be categorized as Green Social Workers, considering that Green Social Work has a uniqueness in its internalization. Social workers can combine environmental sustainability and social function for a more prosperous community life through this approach. [Dominelli and Ku \(2017\)](#) argue that paying attention to physical environmental sustainability is an inseparable part of the professional practice process carried out by social workers.

[Cumby \(2016\)](#) also emphasized the relationship between social workers and efforts to deal with the impacts of climate change and that professional practitioners such as social workers played an essential role in tackling environmental issues such as climate change. Social workers, in this case, acted as researchers, educators, clinicians, and community members. These results were also reinforced by [Shokane \(2019\)](#), who portrayed the role of social workers in dealing with the impacts of climate change in Tzaneen City, South Africa. The study results indicated that social workers should make social interventions in communities affected by climate change by conducting assessments and providing disaster intervention strategies.

This research was considered very strategic in Indonesia since the professional practice of implementing Green Social Work (GSW) had not been carried out massively. There had been no in-depth exploratory study on the implementation of GSW in dealing with various cases of communities affected by environmental degradation, in this case, climate change in Indonesia. This study showed that GSW had developed, along with the existence of the first Green Social Work education curriculum in Indonesia, from the Polytechnic of Social Welfare (Politeknik Kesejahteraan Sosial; abbreviated as Poltekesos) Bandung.

Green Social Work (GSW) currently has four ways of development, namely research, policy, education, and field experience. The latter, field experience, became the critical basis to be explored through the present study. This study's findings revealed that Green Social Work was a sustainable practice that was in line with the values contained in the Climate Village Program. Green Social Work considers that balancing the shared ecosystem across disciplines is an obligation to realize

sustainability in the future. Green Social Work provides a new paradigm for environmental issues that Green Social Workers must address to achieve this goal. It also encourages social workers, in general, to become Green Social Workers by engaging themselves in sustainable, transformative social change to create a prosperous and sustainable environment. In practice, Green Social Work is closely related to the underlying values.

Value is derived from the Latin word *Valere*, which means "to be strong" or "to be honourable" (Reamer, 2018). The word value has different meanings according to the context. For example, value is also defined as beliefs, choices, or assumptions about what is suitable for people. Values are not about the state of the world or what is currently known but how the world should or should be. Banks (2001) reveals that, in everyday life, values can mean religion, politics, ideological principles, beliefs, or attitudes. However, when it comes to Green Social Work, the value in question is a set of fundamental ethical/moral principles to which social workers must be committed. For example, in Green Social Work, there are values of respecting uniqueness and difference, privacy, confidentiality, and protection (Huda, 2009).

While value discusses good and evil deeds, ethics tends to be more related to right or wrong. Therefore, ethics is seen as explicit and concrete. Linguistically, ethics has the same meaning as morality. According to Keraf and Imam (1998), morality is derived from the *Latin* word *mos* (plural: *mores*), which means 'custom' or 'habit'. Meanwhile, ethics is derived from the word *ethos* (plural: *ta etha*), which means the same things, 'custom' or 'habit'. The difference lies in the context of its use, where ethics can be understood more broadly than morality. Ethics can be understood as moral philosophy, a science that discusses and examines values and norms. Magnis-Suseno, F (1987:14) states that ethics is a science rather than teaching. As a science, ethics has a broader field of study than morality. Ethics contains concrete values and norms guiding humans in their lives. These guidelines can be in firm and concrete orders or prohibitions. Therefore, in a profession such as Green Social Work, rules and norms are referred to as a code of ethics (Huda, 2009).

The Green Social Work value system has been examined and formulated in the historical process of Green Social Workers in the practice of assistance, which has also been accommodated to changing social conditions. As a result, the philosophy of social work has given great significance to the Green Social Worker. Thus, the fundamentals of philosophy become a significant force for social work as a profession of assistance and represent a problematic conflict of values for practitioners.

The results of this study found that the Green Social Work value system in the Climate Village Program has similarities with Dominelli's theory, namely equality, social inclusion, equitable distribution of resources, and a rights-based approach to meet community needs for a sustainable and decent life. The value of equality is closely related to social justice, which is an inseparable part. In Green Social Work, environmental justice is internalized within a specific framework. It is applied to solve complex problems involving environmental degradation, vulnerability of marginalized communities, and disaster response. The realization of environmental justice reflects the right to live in a sustainable and healthy environment, which allows everyone to utilize natural resources to meet the needs of the present without threatening the lives of future generations while preserving the earth and everything in it.

Furthermore, in Dominelli's theory, social inclusion is an effort to place people as capital to achieve a better and more prosperous quality of life. In social inclusion, there is a process that can motivate people to build a system of environmental and social relations with individuals or communities that aim to contribute to social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The value of equitable distribution of resources relates to giving equal rights to all levels of society (rich and poor) to access resources. This is intended to prevent conflicts in the community due to the accumulation of resources that are only controlled by a few people. This value can also help maintain the sustainability of resource flows so that everyone can get their share.

The rights-based approach means that all forms of rights discrimination should be prohibited, prevented, and eliminated. It also suggests that priority should be given to the most marginalized or vulnerable people who face significant barriers to gaining their rights. In Green Social Work, this approach is closely related to the fulfilment of people's rights in realizing

environmental sustainability to maintain their survival and ensure the environment remains sustainable.

In addition, the Climate Village Program is a national-scale program developed by the Ministry of Environment (KLH) to encourage active participation of the community and all related parties in carrying out local actions to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of the Climate Village Program is based on the Regulation of the Minister of Environment Number 19/2012 on the Climate Village Program. Through this program, the government rewarded communities in specific locations that have carried out sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts; one of them was the Climate Village Program implemented in Ujungalang Village, Kampung Laut District, Cilacap Regency.

The Climate Village Program was developed and implemented in areas that were at least at the hamlet level and a maximum level of a village or something equivalent. Furthermore, this program could strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships in dealing with climate change and facilitate disseminating and exchanging information about good practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Climate Village Program was employed as an instrument to encourage climate change adaptation and mitigation actions at the site level focused on strengthening local activities. The level of community participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities varied considerably according to the potential and conditions in each location.

The Climate Village Program aimed to improve understanding of climate change and its causes and impacts, encourage the implementation of concrete actions to strengthen community resilience in facing climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Village Program applied the concept of community empowerment (community-based development), in which the activities carried out by the community and their institutions in mobilizing and managing human resources and natural resources inside and outside the village were directed to strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts to the impacts of climate change. The principles of community empowerment in implementing this program were community-based, local resource-based, and sustainable. Community capacity could be achieved through empowerment efforts so that community members could participate in the ongoing process or in supporting institutions in the production process, equity without distinguishing status and expertise, security, sustainability, and cooperation, which all ran simultaneously.

CONCLUSION

The Green Social Work value system was unconsciously internalized in the Climate Village Program (CVP) in Ujungalang Village, Kampung Laut District, Cilacap Regency, Central Java Province. The values contained in the program included equality, social inclusion, equitable distribution of resources, and rights based. These values could encourage sustainable community welfare and increase community resilience in dealing with disasters resulting from the impacts of climate change for now and then. The implementation of the Climate Village Program was expected not only to be an event but to run continuously.

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