

Instilling Environmental and Disaster Awareness Through Jeneberang River School

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Abstract

Most of the river basins in Indonesia are categorized as crisis, one of them is Jeneberang. This condition is caused by human behavior and activities that do not pay attention to environmental aspects such as the conversion of forest land into fields and there are still people who still throw their garbage into the river even though the river has a very important function for human life and livelihood. This research will focus on discussing how the Jeneberang River School instills an attitude of environmental care and disaster awareness for the community. The method used is qualitative with a descriptive design. The data was collected through interviews with the founder and principal of Sungai Jeneberang School and document/literature study. The result of this research is Jeneberang River School as a non-formal education forum that provides strengthening of knowledge and understanding related to the function of rivers and efforts to preserve them through various activities such as Focus Group Discussion (FGD), river tracing, river cleaning, tree planting, and Waste Bank socialization. Community participation in these activities is one of the keys to the effectiveness of the Jeneberang River School in instilling an attitude of environmental care and disaster awareness to the community. Based on the results of the research, it was also found that there are still some obstacles for the Jeneberang River School, namely in terms of human resources, human resources, and human resources.

Keywords: *Environmental, Disaster Awareness, Jeneberang River School*

INTRODUCTION

Rivers are the source of life and livelihood. As one of the water resources, the river has many functions ranging from raw water sources, irrigation / agriculture, to hydropower, therefore, it is very important to maintain the cleanliness and sustainability of the river. This is also stated in PP 37 of 2012 concerning Watershed Management and Regulation of the Minister of Forestry in 2013 concerning Procedures for Preparing and Stipulating Watershed Management Plans, watershed management is defined as human efforts in controlling the reciprocal relationship between natural resources and humans in the watershed and all their activities, with the aim of fostering sustainability and ecosystem harmony and increasing the benefits of natural resources for humans in a sustainable manner.

In this regard, many watersheds in Indonesia are categorized as critical, one of which is the Jeneberang watershed. this is due to changes in the function of forest land into agricultural land / fields. As the following map of land use in the Jeneberang watershed shows that the dominance of land use for agriculture is much greater than the use of forest land.



Figure 1. Jeneberang Watershed Land Use Map
(Source: BBWS Pompengan – Jeneberang, 2017)

Based on the data and information above, humans have contributed to deforestation and land degradation in watersheds. If left unchecked, these conditions will increase ecological disasters such as floods, landslides and droughts. This was proven in 2019 when floods triggered by high rainfall and the opening of the bili-bili dam floodgates and exacerbated by the critical condition of the Jeneberang watershed caused the river to overflow and resulted in 11 of the 18 sub-districts in Gowa Regency being flooded (Sappewali, 2020). Based on Indonesian Disaster Data in 2019, the flood caused damage to 9 bridges and as many as 56 people died, 1 person was missing, 46 were injured, and 2,121 people were displaced (BNPB, 2020). Meanwhile, based on the South Sulawesi Province Disaster Risk Assessment (KRB) document for 2022-2026 for Gowa Regency, the results of the flood hazard and vulnerability analysis were obtained in the high category, and the results of the capacity analysis in the low category so that the risk of flood disaster in Gowa Regency was in the high category risk class. Likewise, the results of the analysis of the level of risk of drought in Gowa Regency are included in the high category risk class (BNPB, 2021).

Realizing that humans are the main actors who are able to control and reduce the risk of disasters that may occur as well as being the party who suffers the most when a disaster occurs is one of the reasons for the importance of strengthening capacity through increased knowledge and awareness, especially for communities located in disaster-prone areas. As a form of disaster risk reduction efforts, various programs such as river schools have been established in various regions in Indonesia.

One of them is the Jeneberang River School in Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi Province. The river school itself is not a school in the form of classes and physical buildings, this school is a place for anyone who wants to learn and move to protect the river. Although without a physical building, the river school has teachers, namely those who have been protecting the river in their respective areas according to its function (Saraswati, 2023). The specialty of the Jeneberang River School is that it is the only river school in South Sulawesi that has a secretariat equipped with a hall that can support river school activities and activities in providing strengthened understanding and knowledge for the community. Therefore, this research will focus on the implementation of Jeneberang River School activities in providing education to instill an attitude of environmental care and disaster awareness for the community, especially those who live in riverbank areas.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is qualitative. According to Erickson (1968) qualitative research seeks to find and describe narratively the activities carried out and the impact of the actions taken on their lives (Anggito and Setiawan, 2018). Creswell (2014) states that data collection can be done in several ways, namely qualitative observation, interviews, and documentation. In this study, data collection was obtained through interviews and document/literature studies. The informant selection technique used purposive sampling. The informants in this study were Kaharuddin Muji, S.E (Founder of Jeneberang River School), Putri Ratu Rasyid, S.Pd., M.Pd (Principal of Jeneberang River School).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Brief Introduction of Jeneberang River School

The South Sulawesi River and Environmental Management School Education Vehicle, hereinafter known as the Jeneberang River School, is a forum for environmentalists and water / river resources to share information, as well as a forum for education for the general public regarding the importance of rivers for life so that people can participate in protecting and preserving rivers. Jeneberang River School is the result of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations, namely the Wahana Kesehatan dan Lingkungan Lestari (WaKIL) Foundation and the South Sulawesi River and Canal Care Community Communication Forum chaired by Mr. Kaharuddin Muji, S.E, or better known as *daeng* Muji.

The Jeneberang River School was established on November 19, 2016. Furthermore, in 2018, PUPR (Balai Besar Wilayah Sungai Pompengan - Jeneberang) provided support for the construction of a secretariat equipped with a 10 x 20 m hall located at Jl. Tirta Jeneberang No. 45q Tompobalang Village, Somba Opu District, Gowa Regency and made the Jeneberang River School the only River School in South Sulawesi that has a physical building in the form of a secretariat with a hall that is often used as a place for the Jeneberang River School to carry out various activities.

General Condition of Gowa Regency

Geographically, Gowa Regency is an autonomous region located in the southern part of South Sulawesi Province. Gowa Regency consists of 18 sub-districts and 167 villages/sub-districts and 726 hamlets/neighborhoods with an area of 1,883.33 km² (188,333 Ha). Of the 18 sub-districts, nine are highland areas (Parangloe, Manuju, Tinggimoncong, Tombolo Pao, Parigi, Bungaya, Bontolempangan, Tompobulu, and Biringbulu) and nine are lowland areas (Somba Opu, Pattalassang, Bontomarannu, Pallangga, Barombong, Bajeng, West Bajeng, Bontonompo and South Bontonompo). The administrative boundaries of the Gowa Regency area

- a. The north is bordered by Makassar City and Maros Regency.
- b. East is bordered by Sinjai, Bulukumba, and Bantaeng Regencies.
- c. The South is bordered by Takalar and Jeneponto Regencies
- d. The West is bordered by Makassar City and Takalar (BPS, 2023).

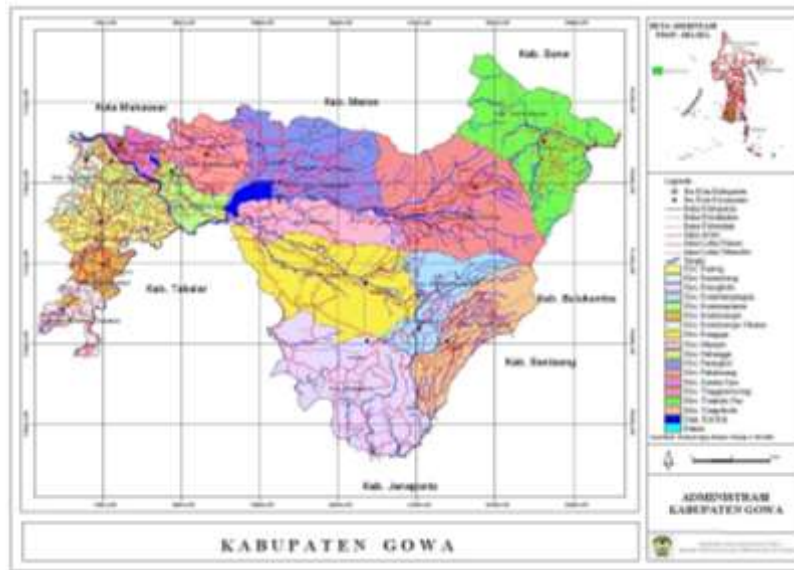


Figure 2. Administrative Map of Gowa Regency

(Source: <https://humas.gowakab.go.id/gowata/peta-kabupaten-gowa-2/>)

Based on BPS data, Gowa Regency is traversed by 15 rivers with the largest watershed area being the Jeneberang River covering 881 km² with a length of 90 km.

Table 1. Length of River and its Watershed Area in Gowa Regency

No	River Name	River Length (Km)	Watershed Area (Km ²)
1,	Jeneberang	90	881,00
2.	Sapaya	21	9,00
3.	Pa'bundukang	60	38,00
4.	Bikampang	12	6,40
5.	Lembaya	30	6,10
6.	Koccikang	21	4,25
7.	Tanru Rusa	12	15,60
8.	Sicini	7	8,40
9.	Batang Kaliki	12	18,50
10.	Takapala	12	6,10
11.	Je'nelata	30	226,00
12.	Passosokia	19	17,50
13.	Pallappakang	23	28,00
14.	Malino	45	36,00
15.	Cadika	48	36,00

(Source: BPS, Kabupaten Gowa dalam Angka 2023)

Instilling environmental and disaster awareness through Jeneberang River School

The Jeneberang River School acts as a facilitator between the government and the community to deliver programs and information that must be provided. And as a forum for the community to gain strengthened knowledge and understanding so that the community better understands the function of the river for their lives and livelihoods so that the community can participate in various efforts to maintain river cleanliness and sustainability. There are several activities carried out by the Jeneberang River School which aim to provide strengthened understanding and awareness to the community as follows:

1) Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) activities are carried out with environmentalists and communities concerned with rivers and water resources to share knowledge and experience with fellow community members as well as with academics and the general public. The materials discussed in the FGD activities include environmental issues, river and water resources management to disaster. FGD activities involving the general public are aimed at strengthening understanding and awareness of the importance of maintaining the cleanliness and sustainability of rivers so that they can still provide great benefits for human life and livelihoods as river functions.

2) River Walk and River Cleanup

The river walk is a routine activity that is carried out almost every year. Through the river walk, participants are invited to see the condition of the river. The river walk is usually accompanied by a river cleanup where participants clean up the garbage in the river and around the riverbanks. In addition, socialization is also carried out to the people who live along the river to not throw their domestic waste into the river so as not to pollute the river water. River tracing activities are more often carried out on the Jeneberang river, especially in the Jeneberang river school area and Tallo river (Upstream) with a range that varies from 1.5 Km to 6 Km. Participants consist of various backgrounds such as PU PR (BBWS Pompengan - Jeneberang), Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) Gowa Regency, Environment Department (DLH) Gowa Regency , TNI / Polri, academics, scout members, river care communities to the general public.

3) Tree/Vetiver Planting

Tree/vetiver planting is also an activity that is usually coupled with river tracing activities, although not always. Tree/vetiver planting activities are carried out jointly involving many parties consisting of all elements of society with the help of seeds from local governments from related Ministries/Institutions.

4) Waste Bank Socialization

The waste bank at the Jeneberang River School has only been running for approximately one year with the intensity of activities that have not been stable enough. Waste bank socialization is given to the community so that they can manage their waste starting from the household. Through the socialization of the waste bank, the community is taught to sort waste based on its type, besides that the community is given an understanding of the economic value of waste so that the community can be interested and moved to implement waste management starting from the household scope. During the research, researchers saw that the Waste Bank program at the Jeneberang River School was not running optimally due to the lack of resources to manage the Waste Bank.

In order to realize environmental sustainability, the target of implementing Jeneberang River School activities includes all groups and all professional backgrounds and the general public. In an interview with the founder of the Jeneberang River School, he mentioned that the involvement of mothers and children is one of the targets of activities to create resilience because according to him, often in a family, mothers and children become the backbone. In the implementation of these various activities, Jeneberang River School also always involves other related institutions/agencies.

In line with this, based on an interview with Putri Ratu as the Head of the Jeneberang River School, she said that in the future for 2024 the Jeneberang River School plans to collaborate with schools, especially at the (junior high) level by inviting and inviting teachers and students

to study at the river school with a "learning outside the classroom" program then from the Jeneberang River School will provide material about water resource management, the environment or disaster on the sidelines of the teaching and learning activities. This aims to instill environmental awareness in children from an early age. However, there are still some obstacles in optimizing the role of Jeneberang River School, including human resources, lack of information dissemination about Jeneberang River School, the need for program development from Jeneberang River School.

CONCLUSION

Jeneberang River School is a non-formal educational forum that can provide strengthening of knowledge and understanding related to the function of rivers and efforts to conserve them through various activities such as Focus Group Discussions (FGD), river tracing, river cleaning, tree planting, and Waste Bank socialization. The existence of Jeneberang River School has a very important meaning, especially for Gowa Regency which is traversed by many rivers. Community participation is one of the keys to the effectiveness of Jeneberang River School in instilling environmental awareness and disaster awareness to the community. Based on the results of the research, it was also found that there are still some obstacles for Jeneberang River School, namely in terms of human resources, information dissemination/socialization related to Jeneberang River School, and the need for program development.

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