

## *Kali Loji* Festival to Preserve River in Pekalongan City

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### Abstract

The *Kali Loji* Festival is a means that was initiated to restore the local wisdom of the society of Pekalongan City in maintaining the preservation of the river. The festival is expected to increase public awareness around *Kali Loji* to maintain the cleanliness of the river. The formulation of the problem in this research is how the festival of *Kali Loji* in preserving the river in Pekalongan City. The purpose of this study was to find out and analyze the *Kali Loji* festival to preserve the river in the society around the Pekalongan *Kali Loji*. The research method is carried out qualitatively with the theory of structural functionalism and Habitus theory. Data analysis through qualitative analysis of interactive models. Data collection techniques in this study were interviews, observation, and documentation. The results of the study show that the community's concern for the sustainability of the river is very low before the *Kali Loji* festival. The *Kali Loji* festival which teaches the people around *Kali Loji* not to throw garbage in the river and maintain the sustainability of the river for human survival, the concern of the community around *Kali Loji* starts to grow again. The activity of the *Kali Loji* festival makes communities more environmentally literate, so the people more aware of the river lodges and preserve the river. For people around *Kali Loji* to change habits to preserve the river better.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country consisting of various tribes and cultures; each of each tribe has different habits. Environmental management committed to preserving the environment is also different but with the same aim, namely that the environment in which people live can be maintained so that people living sustainability can be prosperous.

The environment is the unity of space with all objects, power, and living things, including humans and their behavior, which affects the continuity of life and the welfare of humans and other living things. Humans play an important role in environmental management. Good environmental management will ultimately be aimed at the sustainability of human life on this earth. Humans are very dependent on the availability of adequate natural resources in the environment because the environment provides the needs of human life. Environmental problems began to become the topic of the world when humans began to feel that the earth had begun to change and was no longer friendly and had many effects that were felt due to various human activities that made the earth damaged.

The river is one of the environment, including river water into surface water that is widely used by the public. In rural communities, river water is still used for washing, bathing, drinking water sources and also irrigating rice fields. According to Hendrawan (2005), humans use rivers for various purposes such as water reservoirs, transportation facilities, irrigating rice fields, livestock needs, industrial needs, housing, water catchments, flood control, water supply, irrigation, fish raising and also as a place of recreation. River water In daily activities, it is used by the community for almost all household activities. The issue of quality of the environment and its sustainability is a relatively new thing for the consideration of the development of Indonesia (Sudrajat, 2002). What kind of method is to be used to manage natural resources without damaging the environment. For this reason, it is necessary to know the local natural resources and the environment managed through community behavior following the norms that grow and

develop in it (Triastianti, Nasirudin, Sukirno, and Warsiyah, 2017).

Some riparian areas, the sewage system is not yet available to the wastewater directly discharged into water systems, sewage and septic tank on site. Seepage and run-off surfaces of septic tank wastes are a form of non-point source and diffuse source contamination, Yasin, Priyanto, and Setiajid (2017). The role of the community is also very important for environmental pollution because of the lack of public awareness of the consequences of the negative impact of river water pollution (Dawud, Namara, Chayati, and Muhammad, 2016).

Planning and management of river basin development have been applied in many countries in various ways. However, the results are often disappointing (Barrow, 1998). The poor quality of river water will have an impact on the decreasing number of river biota and will further reduce the quality of river water in the downstream which then empties into the sea (Yogafanny, 2015).

Aulia (2010) argues that the preservation of water resources must be adapted to the conditions of local communities and existing local wisdom. The environment is very influential in human life. The environment can change its function due to various factors, one of which is because of the global era. All inhabitants of the earth can feel the impact of environmental problems with the existence of natural phenomena that show their irregularities. Environmental problems turned out to be closely related to local wisdom. It can be seen that the existence of local wisdom first plays a role in preserving the environment before environmental care movements emerge (Wibowo, Wasino, and Setyowati, 2012).

The local wisdom of the product of the past culture that is coherent is continuously used as a guide to life, even though it is of local value, but the value contained in it is considered to be universal. Local wisdom is formed as a cultural superiority of the local community as well as geographical conditions in a broad sense (Sartini, 2004). Local wisdom such as traditional arts, religious ceremonies, or customs that attract the attention of foreign and domestic tourists

(Hardati, Rijanta, and Ritohardoyo, 2015). The persistence of local wisdom to date is due to the process of socialization, internalization, and enculturation (Setyowati, Juhadi, and Kiptida'iyah, 2017).

Local wisdom has a relationship with environmental ethics principles. Nature has the right to be respected, not only because human life depends on nature. But the main thing is because of the ontological reality that humans are an integral part of nature (Setyowati, Qomariah, Wibowo, and Miftah, 2012). Local wisdom is a term often used by scientists to represent a system of values and norms that are compiled, adhered to, understood and applied based on their understanding and experience in interacting and interrelating with their environment, Tjahjono (2000).

The discussion about local wisdom is about the Kali Loji festival in Pekalongan City. The description begins with the understanding of local wisdom, which is focused on the preservation of the river, which is formulated by the KPKL to attract the community in preserving the river through local wisdom in joy — followed by a description of the government's response to the festival activities and then added with a description of the factors driving the emergence of the festival of *Loji* as an effort to attract public interest in maintaining the preservation of the river environment. Theoretically, the choice of *Kali Loji* location has its reasons, as quoted in Sunarjan (2014), the selection of a research area is very important to be able to help simplify and focus issues, especially when we enter the area with open minds and no ideas solve other people's problems or find out before entering the area.

The purpose of writing is to know and analyze the *Kali Loji* festival to preserve the river in communities around Pekalongan *Kali Loji*.

## METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods based on the theory of structural functionalism and habitus. The focus of this study examines the *Kali Loji* festival; this study analyzes the *Kali Loji* festival in preserving rivers in

Pekalongan City. Respondents of this study: informant, chairman KPKL, community, participants of the festival, government, supporting documents relating to this study.

Data collection techniques used in this study were interviews, observation, and documentation. Interviews were conducted by researchers to the head of the KPKL, Head of Kelgo, Community, Festival Participants, students participating in a river cleanup, the government. The technique of analyzing data in this study is a qualitative analysis of interactive models.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Kali Loji festival is a form of local wisdom in Pekalongan City community to maintain, preserve, and conserve the river. Keeping the river must be the duty of every community because the river is the source of life. The river is a natural resource that flows, so it is necessary to preserve it from upstream to downstream because bad treatment of the upstream river will affect the downstream.

Local wisdom is expected to attract the public's interest in environmental sustainability; community care for the environment can increase with the existence of festival activities. With the festival, it is hoped that the community will care about the sustainability of the times in Pekalongan city. The values of ecological wisdom in the local culture of the Kuningan Cigugur community have become one of the best alternative social science learning resources to create meaningful social studies. The use of local culture as a learning resource for social studies facilitates students to understand directly the content of material that is correlated with the conditions of daily living around the place of residence of students. Thus the values of ecological wisdom become one of the sources of value in developing social studies learning, which aims to increase the awareness of students in environmental preservation in Holiday (2015).

The *Kali Loji* festival, which was initiated by the KPKL, was aimed at attracting the interest of the community around Loji River to its

environment. Loji River as a time that stretches in Pekalongan City as an icon in the past, there are times when the lodge makes Pekalongan an area visited by sailors from abroad.

As the people of Pekalongan City, we must guard the legacy from history. Where today Pekalongan City is famous as a batik center, and many of the sellers outside Pekalongan City are looking for batik in Pekalongan. We should maintain the reflection of our city so that people who come to Pekalongan City can enjoy the beauty of the city. Environmental cleanliness is the responsibility of every community in the environment. Beautiful environment.

The festival of *Loji* is expected to foster community awareness of the environment. The environment of the Pekalongan City river, which has decreased in quality requires the concern of the community and the government to maintain survival. Very does not directly affect humans. So that with the holding of many activities in the *Kali Loji* festival, people can realize that rivers are also part of human life and can have a positive impact if they are properly managed, whereas if the community does not care about the river, the river will have a negative impact on the community.

*Kali Loji* festival has river cleaning activities, planting riverbanks and rowing competitions that aim to make the community return to the noble values that have been lowered by the ancestors in guarding the river. The river is not only a place of water that is not noticed, but the river is very important for human life.

The activity held aims to provide information and education for the people of Pekalongan City, especially the people who live and move around the river so that there is awareness in maintaining the river because the river has a significant impact on the survival of the community.

The awareness of the community around *Kali Loji* will make Pekalongan City's environment beautiful. By watching the *Kali Loji* Festival activities, where many activities can be carried out in the river, the cleanliness of the river greatly supports the success of the activity.

Many people were given livelihoods around the *Kali Loji*, so they felt they had to look

after Loji River, especially after the community festival around the Loji River felt they had to look after the Loji River for their survival. The following is a statement from a trader on the Banjarsari Relocate market:

"The merchant already has an agreement between other traders by not throwing the rest of the garbage into the river, has been given a livelihood here why still throw the rest of the garbage into the river, later it will harm us as traders who can afford to trade on the banks of the river, we traders the fruit in the river is agreed that the garbage that we produce from the traders is collected, and every night someone takes the garbage, the garbage that is paid every day from the dues of merchants around here, but sometimes it is difficult for buyers to throw trash or fruit seed skin will be thrown into the river, even though we have provided plastic for used containers or leftover food for the buyers who eat here."

(interview March 6, 2019)

Carrying this local wisdom is attractive to the community, especially the younger generation so that they are more interested in paying attention to the environment. The following is a statement from Putri as one of the participants in the river clean-up during the *santri* day:

"On the day of the *santri*, we commemorated it by cleaning the Loji River as a form of our concern for the environment. *Santri* must be concerned with environmental hygiene because Islam teaches being a part of faith. Seeing KPKL's role in inviting the people of Pekalongan City to preserve the river is very inspiring for me and for all students in general, we as a young generation must be willing to go directly in preserving the environment because we will be an example for the next generation"

(interview January 11, 2019)

From the statement above, we can know that participating in cleaning the river is their concern for the environment. From KPKL which sparked clean river activities inspired young people to take part in clean river activities and preserve the environment because later the younger generation would be an example for the next generation.

The ongoing *Kali Loji* Festival, which was initiated by the KPKL, requires support from various parties, including the community, the younger generation, and the government.

So that expect the government and KPKL can go hand in hand to build public awareness. People who have self-awareness in maintaining their environment, where previous bad habits can be lost. People who are used to throwing trash in rivers and open areas are starting to be conditioned to learn how to dispose of garbage in its place.

The continuity of life around the river environment made concern from the KPKL which was originally formed from a Facebook group consisting of various groups who shared similarities to the condition of the river in Pekalongan City, not only highlighting the condition of one river, the KPKL focused on many environmental issues that occurred in the

downstream and upstream areas in Pekalongan City even to Pekalongan District.

The *Kali Loji* Festival, which involves the community and the Government in cleaning the river and planting trees, inspires the community to be more aware of preserving the river. Instill norms in society that are increasingly eroded due to the era of globalization.

This festival is expected to foster a sense of cooperation and mutual care and sensitivity to the river environment, not only in the *Kali Loji*, but also throughout the rivers and the environment of Pekalongan City. The community around *Kali Loji* is aware of the sustainability of the river by working together to maintain the sustainability of the river, by no longer disposing of garbage and waste into the river and cultivating river borders.



**Figure 1.** Clean Action of the Loji River

**Table 1.** *Kali Loji* Festival Activities

<i>Kali loji</i> festival activities	Local wisdom
Clean the river	Mutual cooperation
Tree planting	Care
Recycling	Reuse

Based on the table 1, we can see that the *Kali Loji* Festival has local wisdom that makes people around *Kali Loji* again motivated to protect their environment, clean rivers can lift the local wisdom of mutual cooperation that we know that these habits have become extinct even though the elders already taught how good it is to work together.



**Figure 2.** Recycling Activities and Utilization of Water Hyacinth

Tree planting teaches the community to be more concerned, by planting trees it is hoped that it can prevent river bank erosion besides that in terms of beauty will make the river more beautiful. Recycling makes unused items

originating from waste can be an economic value and help the community in the activities of reusing both waste from rivers or unused items that make the environment slum.

### **Government View of the *Kali Loji* Festival Local Cultural Wisdom**

Local wisdom is a habit carried out by the community where mutual cooperation is a moral value that begins to disappear in the community so that moral values are needed to begin to disappear so that people do not forget about togetherness in protecting the environment.

At present the community around *Kali Loji* starts to lose their sense of mutual cooperation in protecting the environment, we know first that the community will carry out voluntary activities and work together in protecting the environment and other things. Beginning with the waning of local wisdom, the people around *Kali Loji* make the community look individualistic.

The Village office and the City Government were in fact not directly involved in the activities of the festival of loji times, they were only as participants and those who allowed the implementation of the activities.

Maintaining ancestral traditions in maintaining river sustainability is expected to be able to increase public awareness of the cleanliness of the river and safeguard the river.

From the results of interviews with the Village Office, it can be seen that the Village Office is only a festival participant who received invitations from the committee of the *Kali Loji* festival and carried out activities in accordance with the event, namely planting on land that had been plotted and became part of each. Each Village Office which was then assessed by the committee.

Based on the results of interviews with the Department of Environment, it can be seen that the government of Pekalongan City highly appreciates the existence of a community that cares about environmental sustainability, especially the preservation of the river environment. River problems are indeed very complex starting from waste and garbage. It is known that waste is the result of industrial

processing where there are many batik industries in Pekalongan City, not only because the river flows from upstream to downstream, the treatment of upstream communities also influences the sustainability of the river. It is known that in the upper reaches of Pekalongan Regency, there are many jeans industries that dispose of waste into the river, causing the river to become black. The treatment of waste by industrial players must be appropriate, namely through WWTP provided by the government or every business actor must be responsible for the waste they incur. If all business actors do not care about the sustainability of the river, it will have an impact on the worse quality of the river.

Luckily after the first loji festival which invited the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Siti Nurbaya, he ordered to build an IPAL in Pekalongan City to facilitate industry players with funds from the center.

### **Factors Affecting the Implementation of the *Kali Loji* Festival**

The condition of the river in Pekalongan City is quite alarming, including rivers contaminated with rubbish, colored and pungent and severe siltation which is one of the causes of Pekalongan City being hit by ROB floods. The location of Pekalongan City in the coastal area makes one of the problems often faced is ROB floods.

So that the problems of this river there was an idea of the members KPKL that originated from a Facebook group to raise public awareness by organizing the Festival of Kali lodge. The implementation of the *Kali Loji* festival can bring together the City, Regency, Provincial and Central Governments in saving the river.

Poor river conditions with very high pollution. Both garbage, industrial waste and water hyacinth in rivers and chronic omission. Resulting in the deterioration of the quality of Loji River. Textile waste, batik, and the jeans industry are the biggest contributors to the decline in the quality of Loji River. The ease of AMDAL in Pekalongan City environment makes many garment industry entrepreneurs open factories in Pekalongan City.



It is this concern about environmental issues that has led to the establishment of the KPKL and this community held the *Kali Loji* festival to encourage the public to be more concerned about the sustainability of the river in the event of joy.

The central government, the Province and the City were brought together to see the conditions of the lodge so that they got a meeting point to reduce the slump of the Loji River so that the quality of river sustainability in Pekalongan City increased and could return *Kali Loji* to become a good river.

The community around the Loji River is again concerned about the surrounding environment, especially the preservation of the river that runs in the middle of Pekalongan City so that it can return to its original function.

**Table 2.** Factors That Affect The Condition of Loji River

Factor	Obstacles
Community Around the Loji River	Careless Don't understand the consequences of pollution
Government	Fund Little power

## CONCLUSION

The activity of the loji festival makes the community more environmentally literate, so that people care more about river loji and maintain the sustainability of the river by not throwing garbage into the river, doing clean river actions and planting trees on the banks of the river so that the river can function properly.

The government supports the *Kali Loji* festival and has entered into the annual agenda of the Pekalongan City government, except that the government still does not support the seriousness of the festival because this activity has only been running four times.

Community concerns will worsen the condition of the river in Pekalongan, and decrease public awareness about the environment. Being a factor supporting the implementation of the *Kali Loji* Festival.

After 3 times the *Kali Loji* festival, the community around *Kali Loji* began to reduce activities that could worsen the quality of the river by no longer littering the river. In addition, with the daily garbage collection from the DLH, the Loji river is cleaner.

For people around *Kali Loji* to change habits to preserve the river, care more about the environment and always maintain the existing local wisdom as an element of cultural values so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

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