

The Role of the Younger Generation in Maintaining a Clean and Sustainable Environment as an Implementation of the 5th Principle of Pancasila

**Raga Prasetyo¹, Michael Yeremia Suciyo², Muhammad Tetuko
Kemal Pasha³, Muhamad Rafi Alfiansyah⁴, Rafli Nurhidayat⁵**

ragaprasetyo7@gmail.com¹, leemys10@gmail.com², tetokoukml@gmail.com³,
alfiansyah90c@gmail.com⁴, rafli.nurhidayat62@gmail.com⁵

Telkom University Purwokerto

Abstract: *This study aims to analyze the active role of the younger generation in maintaining environmental cleanliness and sustainability as a manifestation of the fifth principle of Pancasila, as well as to identify concrete forms of their contribution to environmental preservation. The research method used is a quantitative descriptive method with data collection techniques through the distribution of questionnaires to respondents from the younger generation. The questionnaire was used to measure the level of awareness, participation, and forms of contribution of the younger generation to environmental preservation. The results showed that the majority of respondents had a high awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and had actively participated in various activities such as waste management, tree planting, and cleanliness campaigns through social media. These findings indicate that the implementation of the 5th principle of Pancasila is reflected in the efforts of the younger generation to realize social justice by maintaining the balance and sustainability of the environment.*

Keywords : *younger generation, environmental preservation, questionnaire, 5th principle of Pancasila, social justice.*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran aktif generasi muda dalam menjaga kebersihan dan kelestarian lingkungan sebagai wujud pengamalan sila ke-5 Pancasila, serta mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk konkret kontribusi mereka dalam pelestarian lingkungan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kuantitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui penyebaran kuesioner kepada responden dari kalangan generasi muda. Kuesioner digunakan untuk mengukur tingkat kesadaran, partisipasi, dan bentuk kontribusi generasi muda terhadap pelestarian lingkungan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas responden memiliki kesadaran tinggi terhadap pentingnya menjaga lingkungan dan telah berpartisipasi aktif dalam berbagai kegiatan seperti pengelolaan sampah, penanaman pohon, serta kampanye kebersihan melalui media sosial. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa implementasi sila ke-5 Pancasila tercermin melalui upaya generasi muda dalam mewujudkan keadilan sosial dengan menjaga keseimbangan dan keberlanjutan lingkungan hidup.

Kata kunci: generasi muda, pelestarian lingkungan, kuesioner, sila ke-5 Pancasila, keadilan sosial.

Introduction

Environmental issues in Indonesia demonstrate a significant gap between expectations and reality. The younger generation is expected to be the primary agents of change in maintaining environmental cleanliness and sustainability, as an implementation of the value of social justice as embodied in the fifth principle of Pancasila (Hadi, 2020). However, the reality on the ground demonstrates various significant challenges, such as increasing plastic pollution, unaddressed deforestation, and the real and concerning impacts of climate change (Suharto, 2019). A 2025 survey revealed that waste management, air pollution, and forest protection are the most pressing environmental issues facing Indonesian youth. (Sari & Nugroho, 2022)

Despite their enormous potential as drivers of change through creativity and technology, participation and support for the younger generation remains suboptimal, thus under-performing their role in realizing a clean and sustainable environment. (Kurniawan, 2021)

According to Irawan Asaad, Director of Resource Mobilization at the Ministry of Environment: "Climate change is not just about rising temperatures or increasingly unpredictable weather. It is a major issue that can trigger conflict, famine, and even displace millions of people. The future of the earth depends on our choices today." Policy support, participation, and mentoring are essential for the younger generation to play an optimal role as the vanguard of saving the earth. (Milandi et al., 2024; Wibowo & Pratiwi, 2021)

Amid global challenges such as the climate crisis and environmental degradation, the role of the younger generation is becoming increasingly crucial. They possess not only energy and creativity, but also access to technology and social media, which they can leverage to broadly voice environmental issues. In the Indonesian context, the younger generation has great potential to become pioneers of environmental conservation movements based on the values of Pancasila, particularly the fifth principle, which emphasizes social justice. Through an inclusive and collaborative approach, they can encourage behavioral change in society and strengthen a culture of environmental awareness from an early age.

Furthermore, the development of character education and environmentally-based curricula in various educational institutions has strengthened the ecological awareness of the younger generation. Programs such as Adiwiyata schools, green campus communities, and the zero-waste movement provide concrete platforms for them to learn and contribute directly to preserving nature. With support from the government, educational institutions, and the community, young people can play a strategic role as agents of social transformation, integrating values of social justice with concrete actions in environmental conservation.

Research methods

This study employed a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, aiming to understand the meaning, perspectives, and experiences of young people in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment as a form of implementation of the fifth principle of Pancasila, namely "Social Justice for All Indonesian People." A qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to explore social phenomena in depth through interpretation of the meanings given by respondents (Creswell, 2014). The research subjects were young people aged 17–25, consisting of university students and the general public. Respondents were selected using a purposive sampling technique, which is based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives (Sugiyono, 2019). Data collection was conducted online by distributing a Google Form questionnaire to respondents in various regions of Indonesia.

The main instruments in this study were open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires designed to elicit data on respondents' understanding of a clean and sustainable environment, the relationship between environmental protection behavior and the value of social justice in the fifth principle of Pancasila, and the role and participation of young people in cleaning and reforestation activities. According to Moleong (2018), questionnaires in qualitative research can serve as a means to understand the subjective views and meaning of participants' social experiences. The questionnaire also included questions about concrete actions in daily life, factors influencing environmental awareness, and the younger generation's hopes for a sustainable future. The responses were summarized using Microsoft Excel as the primary source of the analysis.

Data analysis was conducted using descriptive qualitative analysis through the stages of data reduction, categorization, interpretation, and drawing conclusions to identify patterns in respondents' views and behaviors (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014). Data validity was maintained through source triangulation, which involves comparing responses between respondents and reviewing interpretations to ensure they remain relevant to the research context (Sugiyono, 2019). The results of the data collection revealed diverse views and levels of environmental awareness among the younger generation, which then served as the basis for discussions regarding the application of social justice values in maintaining environmental cleanliness and sustainability.

Results and Discussion

Based on data collected through questionnaires distributed to respondents, a general overview was obtained regarding the level of understanding and concern of the younger generation regarding the importance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. The majority of respondents understood that a clean and sustainable environment is a condition in which the environment is well-maintained, free from waste and pollution, and maintained in balance so that it can

provide sustainable benefits for all living things (Firmansyah & Lestari, 2020). This understanding indicates that the younger generation already possesses a basic awareness of the importance of environmental cleanliness and sustainability (Wahyuni, 2020).

Regarding the relationship between environmental protection and the fifth principle of Pancasila, "Social Justice for All Indonesians," most respondents considered environmental protection to be a concrete manifestation of the value of social justice (Astuti & Rahman, 2019). This understanding is based on the view that a clean and healthy environment is the right of every citizen without exception (Putri, 2022). Thus, efforts to maintain environmental cleanliness and sustainability have not only ecological dimensions, but also social and moral ones, as a form of shared responsibility to achieve fair and equitable prosperity for all Indonesians (Hadi, 2020).

The questionnaire results also showed that respondents consider the role of the younger generation crucial in preserving the environment. Young people are seen as agents of change with great potential to educate the public and mobilize various environmental activities such as community service, reforestation, and plastic waste reduction campaigns (Kurniawan, 2021; Milandi et al., 2024). However, most respondents also acknowledged that the younger generation's level of environmental awareness is not yet optimal. The factors most influencing this low level of awareness include a lack of environmental education and knowledge, as well as minimal support from family and peers (Wibowo & Pratiwi, 2021).

In their daily lives, most respondents have taken simple actions such as disposing of waste properly, conserving water and electricity, and reducing the use of single-use plastics. These small actions reflect real efforts by the younger generation to maintain a clean environment, although they have not yet been implemented consistently and extensively (Firmansyah & Lestari, 2020).

Furthermore, respondents stated that implementing social justice values in environmental protection can be done by holding joint activities, providing environmental education to the community, and maintaining a balance between human needs and natural sustainability (Putri, 2022; Suharto, 2019). This demonstrates that the younger generation understands the importance of ecological justice as part of social justice, where every individual has equal rights and obligations in preserving natural resources for future generations (Hadi, 2020; Wahyuni, 2020).

Overall, the results of this study confirm that the younger generation has a strategic role in creating a clean and sustainable environment as a manifestation of the implementation of the fifth principle of Pancasila (Astuti & Rahman, 2019). By strengthening environmental education and increasing the active participation of the younger generation, Pancasila values can be implemented in a concrete way through caring and responsible actions towards environmental sustainability (Kurniawan, 2021; Milandi et al., 2024).

Conclusion

The younger generation has a strategic role in maintaining environmental cleanliness and sustainability as a concrete manifestation of the practice of the 5th principle of Pancasila, namely "Social Justice for All Indonesian People." Their awareness and active participation in environmental conservation activities, such as waste management, tree planting, and digital environmental awareness campaigns, reflect social and moral responsibilities based on the values of ecological justice. Research findings show that the younger generation's concern for the environment is not only driven by external factors, but also by the moral awareness and values of Pancasila that are ingrained in them. With the support of government policies, environmental character education, and broad participation spaces, the younger generation can play an optimal role as agents of change in realizing social justice and sustainable living together. Overall, the implementation of the 5th principle of Pancasila can be reflected through the collective efforts of the younger generation in maintaining the balance between humans and nature, as a concrete step towards a just, prosperous, and sustainable society.

References

- Astuti, R., & Rahman, A. (2019). Nilai-nilai Pancasila dalam penguatan karakter gotong royong di masyarakat. *Jurnal Pendidikan Pancasila dan Kewarganegaraan*, 4(2), 115–123.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Firmansyah, M., & Lestari, N. (2020). Implementasi pendidikan lingkungan dalam meningkatkan kepedulian generasi muda. *Jurnal Green Education*, 1(1), 1–12.
- Hadi, S. (2020). Pancasila sebagai landasan etika lingkungan hidup di Indonesia. *Jurnal Filsafat dan Ideologi Nasional*, 3(1), 42–53.
- Kurniawan, D. (2021). Peran generasi muda dalam menumbuhkan kesadaran lingkungan berkelanjutan. *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora*, 8(2), 90–99.
- Milandi, S., Akbar, D., & Maeva, L. A. C. (2024). Peran pemuda sebagai generasi peduli lingkungan dalam meningkatkan kesadaran konservasi melalui pendidikan lingkungan hidup. SEMAR. Retrieved from <https://jurnal.kalimasadagroup.com/index.php/SEMAR/article/download/900/763/7889>
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Moleong, L. J. (2018). *Metodologi penelitian kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Putri, A. N. (2022). Implementasi nilai-nilai Pancasila dalam pendidikan lingkungan hidup di sekolah. *Jurnal Civic Education*, 6(1), 25–34.
- Sari, D. P., & Nugroho, R. (2022). Kesadaran lingkungan pada generasi muda di Indonesia: Analisis faktor sosial dan pendidikan. *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora*, 10(1), 15–26.

- Sugiyono. (2019). Metode penelitian kualitatif, kuantitatif, dan R&D. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Suharto, E. (2019). Pancasila dalam perspektif etika lingkungan: Relevansi dan tantangan. *Jurnal Filsafat Indonesia*, 2(1), 45–58.
- Wahyuni, L. (2020). Pancasila sebagai dasar pembentukan karakter peduli lingkungan. *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan*, 5(2), 210–219.
- Wibowo, A., & Pratiwi, L. (2021). Peran generasi muda dalam menjaga kelestarian lingkungan melalui gerakan ekologis. *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 3(2), 120–130.