

COMPLETION REPORT

Local Wisdom and Women's Role in Preserving Natural Environment in Indonesia and Japan

Dr. Aquarini Priyatna (+1)
Head of Department
Department of Literary and cultural Studies
Faculty of Arts
Padjadjaran University

The research project examined different women's environmental movement in Japan, focusing on the city of Kitakyushu, and in Indonesia, focusing on the city of Bandung and Cirebon. Using gender perspective and focusing on the values embedded in the movements under research, this research locates women and women's movements as active agents of change.

The research finds that both in Kitakyushu as well in Bandung and Cirebon, women's environmental movement is often triggered by and carried out within the domestic/feminine domains such as childrearing and housework, affecting the environmental movement to have specific characteristics. Firstly, it can be argued that the impetus of environmental movement often begins at the individual homes with mothers being the primary carer and educator. The pioneering women environmental activists navigate not only the domestic space assigned to them in their everyday life, but also their ideological and political concerns in environmental preservation using diverse information technology and advancement to disseminate the campaigns of environmental awareness.

Secondly, the research argues that the movement which focuses on women, both in Japan and Indonesia, tends to work inclusively as it relies on various of forms "politics of everyday life", including the politics of the authorities (local neighbourhood, regency, even the city), particularly the support provided or not provided in their personal/familial relationship. One that we found quite significant is the availability, in some cases the absence, of support from the husbands and the help with childrearing. This is quite evident from the history of the Tobata Women in their struggle for clean environment, and the women being active in women and children's centre at the University of Kitakyushu, as well as in the various women's environmental movement in Bandung and Cirebon.

Thirdly, the research finds that women's local environmental movements are potentially transformative not only in the context of the physicality of the environment, but more importantly in the transformation of the way of thinking. It also transforms the social cultural practice of everyday life of the community without losing the local values held in the communities concerned. This is evident in the transformation of Kitakyushu and the various dense areas in Bandung where the women's movements are quite active.

Finally, the research argues that the awareness and sensitivity for environmental issues are interrelated with the awareness for various issues faced by marginalized groups, for example the awareness for the issues of class, gender, and urban areas. Local values, in addition to the varied habits and practices related to the preservation of the nature and environment, can be utilized for the delivery of meaningful environmental changes and transformation where women play their role as the key agents.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

1. Newspaper article: *Perempuan Penyangga Bumi* (Earth-Supporting Women)
PIKIRAN RAKYAT, 23 August 2016
2. Ecofeminism and Women's Environmental Movement in Bandung
Journal: *Patanjala*, Juli 2017

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

1. *Kearifan Lokal dan Peran Perempuan dalam Memelihara Lingkungan Hidup di Jepang dan Indonesia*
Publisher: Obelia, February 2017
ISBN: 978-602-60302-2-1
Writers: Aquarini Priyatna & Mega Subekti
2. *Women and Environmental Movement: Some Japanese and Indonesian Experience*
Publisher: Obelia, March 2017
ISBN: 978-602-60302-3-8
Writers: Aquarini Priyatna & Mega Subekti