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Empowering Santri in Addressing Environmental Preservation Issues through Essay Writing Based on Pesantren's Local Wisdom in Temanggung

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Abstract: The global environmental crisis, including extreme climate change, pollution, and poor waste management, demands active participation from all stakeholders in environmental conservation efforts. Temanggung Regency, home to numerous Islamic boarding schools (pesantren), holds significant potential for environmental preservation. However, it still faces challenges such as low awareness among santri (Islamic boarding school students), limited supporting facilities, and a lack of coordination between pesantren and relevant stakeholders. Through a local wisdom-based approach, essay writing on environmental themes can serve as an effective strategy to empower santri by enhancing their awareness, writing skills, and active involvement in sustainable environmental conservation initiatives. This community service aims to analyze the strengths of students (santri) in addressing environmental preservation issues, the development strategies for essay writing based on the pesantren's local wisdom to tackle these issues, and the outcomes of empowering students through essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom in Temanggung. The service was conducted using the Asset-Based Communities Development (ABCD) method. The results indicate: 1. The strengths of santri in addressing environmental preservation issues through essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom in Temanggung include their strategic role as human resource assets acting as agents of environmental preservation and their writing skills that can be applied to essays on environmental preservation themes grounded in the local wisdom of pesantren. 2. The main strategies designed to develop essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom for empowering santri to address environmental issues in Temanggung include implementing essay-writing training programs integrating pesantren's local values, publishing santri's essays on environmental themes, and experiential programs such as tree-planting activities within pesantren environments. 3. The outcomes of empowering santri in tackling environmental preservation issues through essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom in Temanggung comprise: improved understanding of environmental preservation based on pesantren's local wisdom, increased awareness and active participation of santri as agents of empowerment in addressing environmental issues through essay writing, and santri's ability to articulate their ideas on environmental preservation through essay writing and publication.

Keywords: santri; environmental preservation; essay; local wisdom; pesantren

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, the world is facing a complex environmental crisis, characterized by extreme climate change, deforestation, water pollution, and issues related to waste and industrial by-products. Addressing these environmental challenges requires synergy among all stakeholders. In Temanggung Regency, one of the regencies in Central Java with a significant number of pesantren (Islamic boarding schools), there is considerable potential for environmental preservation. This potential is evidenced by several pesantren in Temanggung receiving the Clean and Healthy Pesantren (Pesantren Bersih dan Sehat – PBS) award from the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 2020. Two pesantren ranked among the top 15: Pondok Pesantren Nida Al-Qur'an, which secured the 7th position, and Pondok Pesantren Al-Falah Tejosari Parakan, which ranked 14th. These pesantren were recognized by the Central Java Provincial Government for successfully implementing COVID-19 health protocols (Jogo Santri) (Yoni, 2020).

However, this success has not been uniformly implemented across all pesantren in Temanggung. Several challenges persist, particularly concerning santri (students) and their efforts in environmental preservation. These challenges include: 1. Lack of awareness and knowledge about environmental issues – Many santri still have limited awareness and understanding of the importance of environmental conservation due to inadequate environmental education within pesantren, negative influences from social media, and limited engagement in environmental activities. 2. Insufficient facilities and infrastructure – The lack of proper waste management systems, inadequate green spaces, and limited access to environmental preservation resources hinder pesantren's ability to maintain sustainability. 3. Limited institutional support – The commitment of pesantren administrators towards environmental conservation remains inconsistent, affecting the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives.

From an external perspective, the lack of coordination and collaboration among santri, pesantren, and other stakeholders further complicates environmental conservation efforts. This lack of synergy often leads to ineffective and unstructured initiatives. Additionally, certain social norms and cultural practices in Temanggung reflect a low level of environmental awareness, further exacerbating the problem.

Santri play a crucial role in upholding religious and cultural values that emphasize cleanliness and environmental stewardship, as commanded by Allah SWT. The Qur'anic verse Ar-Rum: 30 highlights that Allah has created the universe with perfect balance, and it is the responsibility of humankind to maintain this equilibrium to ensure environmental sustainability.

As a center for knowledge and character development, pesantren have the potential to instill environmental consciousness among santri. This requires strengthening local wisdom through values, traditions, and practices related to natural resource management and environmental conservation. One effective strategy to empower santri in addressing environmental challenges is through essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom. This approach enhances santri's understanding of local environmental values, develops their writing and critical thinking skills, raises awareness of ecological issues, and inspires them to take concrete action in environmental conservation. ⁶

Society plays a crucial role in environmental conservation. Research findings indicate that public participation is the strongest predictor of pro-environmental behavior (Zhang et al., 2020). The community contributes significantly to waste reduction, energy conservation, environmental cleanliness, and participation in nature conservation programs. Therefore, environmental education and awareness within society are essential in fostering both individual and collective behavioral changes.

Pesantren also plays a vital role in environmental conservation. This is manifested through the leadership of pesantren figures who exemplify the importance of human responsibility in preserving nature. Additionally, santri serve as valuable human resources in maintaining environmental sustainability (Muhardi et al., 2020). The pesantren's role in environmental conservation is

grounded in Islamic values, emphasizing the obligation to safeguard nature. In this regard, pesantren instill these values in their students and educate the surrounding community about the importance of preserving both the pesantren environment and its surroundings.

Several measures can be implemented by pesantren to support environmental conservation, including afforestation and nature preservation initiatives rooted in Sufistic values, which encompass the concepts of *zuhud* (asceticism) and *syukur* (gratitude), familial bonds and mutual cooperation, love and blessings, as well as contemplation (*tafakkur*) (Irawan, 2022). These values constitute the rich local wisdom of pesantren in fostering environmental sustainability.

The internalization of local wisdom values contributes positively to environmental conservation by affirming the rights and responsibilities of indigenous communities (Niman, 2019). Local wisdom represents a fusion of knowledge and traditions passed down through generations, preserving cultural heritage. Values such as respect for nature, sustainability, mutual cooperation, and traditional knowledge have proven effective in promoting environmental conservation efforts.

Written works can raise awareness about environmental conservation efforts. A study analyzing four literary works revealed that literature serves as a representation of environmental conservation efforts (Manugeran et al., 2023). Literary works can be an effective medium to heighten public awareness of the importance of preserving nature. Regarding environmental issues, written works such as books, articles, and scientific journals serve as powerful educational tools that enhance knowledge, foster empathy, and increase public concern for environmental challenges. Furthermore, these works can inspire and motivate individuals to take concrete action in environmental preservation through the power of written expression.

Essays, as a form of written work, rely on strong arguments to enhance their appeal (Hidayah, 2019). The primary objective of essay writing is to present ideas, thoughts, or opinions on a specific topic. Essays explore particular themes or issues in depth and from a personal perspective. They can take various forms, including argumentative, narrative, descriptive, and reflective essays.

The development of essay writing based on local wisdom significantly influences character education (ERNA, 2023). Writing essays on local wisdom helps cultivate students' character by instilling values such as responsibility, honesty, creativity, and effective communication. Additionally, essay writing serves as a learning tool to foster patriotism and environmental stewardship, appreciate national values, promote unity and cohesion, and encourage tolerance and mutual respect among individuals.

Three previous studies serve as relevant references for this community service initiative. First, the study titled *Local Wisdom of the Tengger Tribe, East Java, Indonesia in Environmental Conservation* by Febriana Kinanthi Putri et al. (2022) (PUTRI et al., 2022). This research highlights the local wisdom of the Tengger Tribe and its close connection to environmental conservation efforts rooted in their beliefs. The Tengger Tribe upholds three core values of local wisdom: obedience, mutual cooperation, and honesty. Additionally, their belief in the doctrine of *karmapala* plays a crucial role in fostering a strong commitment to environmental preservation.

Second, the study titled *Pendidikan Islam pada Pesantren Pertanian untuk Membangun Ekosofi (Ekologi Filosofi) Bagi Penyelamatan Lingkungan* by Darlina Kartika Rini (2022) examines the prioritization of *ecosophy* (ecological philosophy) programs through Islamic education in pesantren. The findings indicate that the highest-priority initiative is the implementation of agricultural cultivation practices for students, followed by the integration of local wisdom values and the development of environmental philosophy and character (Rini et al., 2022). This study underscores that local wisdom serves as a viable alternative for promoting environmental sustainability.

Third, the study titled *Pelatihan Literasi Menulis Esai bagi Angkatan Muda Muhammadiyah Kota Pare-Pare* by Yadi Arodhiskara et al. (2020) presents the outcomes of an essay writing literacy training program. The community service initiative resulted in 15 publishable essays, which were subsequently compiled into an essay anthology (Arodhiskara et al., 2020). This study demonstrates that essay writing training can serve as a means of self-expression, opinion-sharing, and advocacy for addressing environmental issues.

This community service initiative aims to analyze and identify the strengths of santri in addressing environmental preservation issues, explore effective strategies for developing essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom, and evaluate the outcomes of santri empowerment through this approach in Temanggung. The findings of this initiative are expected to contribute to addressing Indonesia's environmental crisis and promoting a sustainable and ecologically responsible society.

METHOD

This community service initiative employs the *Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)* model. The asset-based community development approach emphasizes community growth driven by its own assets, which serve as catalysts in the community's self-development (Afandi, 2022). The following steps are implemented in this initiative:

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Interviews. The interviews aim to analyze the strengths of santri in contributing to environmental conservation efforts. These interviews are conducted with pesantren caretakers and students in Temanggung Regency. By conducting these interviews, the study identifies students' potential and tracks their competencies.

Community Asset Mapping. This stage involves mapping the potential of santri within the community. The asset-mapping analysis in this initiative focuses on identifying individual assets or human resources. Since santri possess various competencies, these competencies are systematically mapped to form the foundation for further development strategies.

Linking and Mobilizing Assets. Asset mobilization involves connecting existing assets to explore alternative approaches to environmental conservation. Through *focus group discussions* (FGDs), the community service team and stakeholders (pesantren caretakers and santri) determine appropriate training and development programs based on the assets possessed by the students.

Action Planning and Prioritization (Low-Hanging Fruits). This stage involves the implementation of an environmental conservation essay writing training program. The training is conducted by engaging expert speakers with academic backgrounds relevant to the field. These speakers are invited from the initiative's stakeholder partners. The santri's written essays are then compiled into an anthology centered on the theme of environmental conservation.

Monitoring and Evaluation. The community service team and stakeholders conduct participatory monitoring and evaluation of the activities. This process is carried out through *focus group discussions* (FGDs) to assess the effectiveness and impact of the implemented programs.

ANALYSIS

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Interviews

The interviews aimed to analyze the strengths of santri in promoting environmental conservation. One of the key interviewees was Nyai Lilik, the caretaker of Pondok Pesantren Roudlotul Huda Kedu, who provided insights into the potential of santri, the local wisdom of pesantren, and their role in environmental preservation. The interview was conducted on 28 October 2024, at the Pondok Pesantren Roudlotul Huda office.

The findings revealed that santri, as a human resource asset, possess several advantages. In Temanggung Regency, santri hold a strategic role in environmental conservation by incorporating religious teachings that emphasize maintaining ecological balance as a divine mandate. The Islamic values taught in pesantren—such as environmental responsibility, simplicity, and collective cooperation—encourage santri to actively engage in various environmental preservation activities. For instance, they participate in reforestation efforts, environmentally friendly waste management, and ecological awareness campaigns within their communities. By integrating religious principles into practical actions, santri not only serve as environmental advocates but also act as role models for the surrounding society in harmonizing spiritual values with tangible conservation efforts.

The local wisdom embedded in pesantren traditions plays a vital role in fostering environmental stewardship. Various activities involving santri have been implemented to uphold environmental cleanliness and sustainability. These include daily communal cleaning (roan harian), large-scale cleaning initiatives (roan akbar), and cemetery cleaning (roan makam), all of which instill the importance of maintaining a clean and organized environment. Additionally, pesantren educate santri on water conservation for daily needs, promoting efficient resource management. Environmental conservation efforts are also reflected in the cultivation of ornamental plants within school premises and pesantren compounds, which not only enhance the aesthetics of the surroundings but also strengthen santri's ecological awareness.

Beyond their role as environmental stewards, santri also excel in the field of writing, which serves as a crucial medium for contributing to environmental literacy. Pesantren actively facilitate the development of santri's writing skills through training programs, writing competitions, and mentorship sessions. These initiatives aim to empower santri to articulate their thoughts and ideas on environmental conservation through the lens of pesantren's local wisdom, thereby inspiring broader societal engagement in sustainability efforts.

Community Asset Mapping

The community asset mapping in this community service initiative was conducted using interview techniques. An interview was held with the Head of the PD Pontren Division at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Temanggung on 5 November 2024. This interview focused on mapping the potential of pesantren, santri's competencies, the forms of pesantren's local wisdom, and concrete actions undertaken by pesantren in Temanggung to support environmental conservation.

The primary objective of this interview was to identify the potential of santri and the local wisdom of pesantren in Temanggung Regency. Santri inherently possess various competencies, which serve as the foundation for developing the asset mapping framework for this community service initiative.

Linking and Mobilizing Assets

The linking and mobilizing assets process was conducted on November 5, 2024, featuring Ms. Anggita Ramadhani, S. Hut., and Ms. Adistia, S. Hut., from the DPRKPLH (Regional Environmental and Forestry Office) of Temanggung as resource persons. This activity aimed to connect existing assets to explore alternative solutions for environmental conservation. The interview primarily focused on environmental conservation materials and the implementation of the Eco Pesantren program.

The Eco Pesantren program is an initiative designed to integrate religious values with environmental awareness in daily pesantren life. This program includes various activities, such as waste management based on the 3R principles (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), pesantren greening initiatives, and engaging santri in environmental education programs. In Temanggung, the Eco Pesantren program incorporates local wisdom, such as the ro'an tradition in pesantren and instilling religious teachings that emphasize the importance of preserving nature as a divine creation. The program implementation includes establishing pesantren gardens, processing organic waste into compost, and organizing training sessions to enhance santri's understanding of environmental issues. The Eco Pesantren initiative not only aims to increase environmental awareness but also fosters santri's independence and responsibility in preserving their surroundings.

The DPRKPLH plays a crucial role in supporting the Eco Pesantren program in Temanggung. Their support includes providing training and workshops on pesantren-based environmental management, such as organic and inorganic waste segregation, greening programs, and waste recycling initiatives. Additionally, they can offer technical assistance to pesantren, such as waste management tools, tree seedlings, and educational materials on environmental awareness. The DPRKPLH also collaborates with pesantren to ensure the success of these programs, fostering synergy between local government and the pesantren community. Moreover, they promote Eco Pesantren campaigns through social media to raise public awareness in Temanggung.

Therefore, linking and mobilizing assets should focus on strengthening collaboration between the DPRKPLH, pesantren, and other organizations to ensure the sustainability of environmental

conservation initiatives. Furthermore, there is a need for specialized training programs focusing on waste management, reforestation, and the development of eco-friendly products. Additionally, we recommend the development of a dedicated module on environmental conservation based on local wisdom and religious values, which can be used as teaching material for santri in pesantren. It is hoped that the Eco Pesantren program will generate a significant positive impact on santri, pesantren, and the wider community.

Action Plan Development and Activity Prioritization (Low Hanging Fruits)

Essay Writing Training. This training program aims to empower santri in environmental conservation through a structured essay writing workshop, conducted over two days, on 21-22 November 2024. The total training duration is 16 lesson hours, divided into the following sessions: Pesantren Legislation and Environmental Awareness in Pesantren (2 lesson hours), Environmental Conservation Strategies (4 lesson hours), Local Wisdom Supporting Environmental Conservation (4 lesson hours), Essay Writing Techniques and Practical Training (6 lesson hours)

This training program involves 20 santri as participants, who will be guided through a series of interactive sessions aimed at enhancing their writing skills while fostering environmental awareness. The *santri*'s written essays are then compiled into an anthology centered on the theme of environmental conservation.



Figure 1. Essay Writing Training on Environmental Conservation
Based on Pesantren's Local Wisdom

The community service team, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Settlement Areas, and Environmental Affairs (DPRKPLH), conducted a tree seedling distribution program for pesantren as part of an environmental conservation effort. The initiative followed these steps: collecting tree seedlings from the Kledung Subdistrict Rest Area (the official storage facility managed by DPRKPLH), distributing the seedlings to ten pesantren locations in Temanggung, and planting them within pesantren environments for conservation purposes.

The collection of tree seedlings was carried out at the Kledung Subdistrict Rest Area, which serves as DPRKPLH Temanggung's designated storage facility for tree seedlings. This rest area functions as a central distribution hub managed by DPRKPLH to support reforestation and environmental preservation programs. The available seedlings included various species of productive and protective plants, specifically prepared for planting initiatives within pesantren areas and surrounding communities. Through this distribution effort, DPRKPLH played an active role in facilitating resources for institutions and individuals committed to environmental conservation.



Figure 2. Collection of Tree Seedlings at the DPRKPLH Seedling Storage Facility

The tree seedlings were distributed to 10 Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) in Temanggung Regency as part of an environmental conservation program that engages pesantren in reforestation activities. Each pesantren received various types of tree seedlings, including productive trees, protective trees, and other greenery plants, selected based on the specific needs and land conditions of each location. The distributed seedlings included tangerine (jeruk keprok), water apple (jambu air), ketapang kencana, and tabebuia trees.

This distribution aims to encourage pesantren to take an active role in ecosystem preservation, creating a greener environment while providing long-term benefits such as improved air quality and sustainable natural resources.

The seedlings were planted within the pesantren environment as part of a conservation effort to maintain ecosystem balance and enhance environmental quality. This initiative not only helps mitigate the impacts of global warming but also fosters a healthy and lush green space within the pesantren. Additionally, the program seeks to educate students (santri) about the importance of environmental stewardship as a trust that must be upheld. By planting trees, pesantren actively contribute to environmental sustainability, provide oxygen sources, and support the long-term resilience of the local ecosystem.



Figure 3. Planting Tree Seedlings in the Pesantren Area

Monitoring and evaluation were conducted on December 12, 2024, through the dissemination event of the essay writing outcomes. This dissemination and evaluation event was attended by: 1. PD Pontren, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Temanggung Regency, 2. DPRKPLH (Department of Public Housing, Settlement Areas, and Environmental Affairs), KSS3G (Three Mountains Literary Studies Community), 3. LPBI NU Temanggung, 4. Sindoro Sumbing Nature Enthusiasts Community

(Kompas), 5. Pesantren Administrators/FKPPP, 6. LPKBKP INISNU Temanggung, 7. 20 santri from 10 pesantren in Temanggung.



Figure 4. Dissemination, Monitoring, and Evaluation

This activity included the presentation of students' essay works and the evaluation of the community service program. The dissemination activities comprised: the reading of students' essays, the reading of poetry inspired by students' essays, the representation of students' essays through musical performances, and the exhibition of paintings with the theme "*Students Preserving the Environment*" (the paintings were created with the assistance of AI).

All participants involved were asked to complete a Google Form for evaluation purposes. A total of 26 respondents provided feedback, including training participants, speakers, expert judges, and relevant stakeholders. The key evaluation results are as follows: 100% of respondents stated that the primary goal of this community service program was to equip students with essay writing skills based on the local wisdom of pesantren. 96% of respondents indicated that essay writing encouraged students to develop their ability to express ideas and propose solutions. 92% of respondents affirmed that essay writing was chosen as a method for student empowerment. 80.8% of respondents recognized that the contribution of pesantren's local wisdom to environmental conservation lies in fostering an environmentally friendly lifestyle rooted in religious values. 100% of respondents stated that the main focus of essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom was generating creative ideas inspired by pesantren values to support environmental preservation. 73.1% of respondents identified that one of the benefits of greening activities in pesantren was enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the pesantren while reducing heat. 100% of respondents acknowledged that one of the primary challenges students faced in environmental preservation was the lack of environmental awareness in the pesantren community. 84.6% of respondents stated that after attending the environmental essay writing training, they were motivated to write articles for publication in pesantren media. 96.2% of respondents expressed that pesantren could sustain environmental preservation efforts by initiating environmental programs that actively involve students. 92.3% of respondents considered that one of the key success indicators of this community service program was that students' essays contained innovative solutions based on pesantren values.

The results of this activity have been published in the TIMES Indonesia e-newspaper under the title: *Wujudkan Pesantren Ramah Lingkungan, Dosen INISNU Gelar Diseminasi PKM Diktis Kemenag RI*.



Figure 5. Community Service Activity Publication
<https://timesindonesia.co.id/s/7eMBGsnbB>

Santri hold a strategic role as human resource assets in environmental conservation efforts. With a background in education rooted in religious values and the local wisdom of pesantren, santri are capable of integrating environmental knowledge with spiritual ethics. One notable contribution is through essay writing, which highlights the theme of environmental preservation based on the local wisdom of pesantren in Temanggung. This writing not only serves as an educational medium but also as a tool to disseminate environmental awareness to the broader community. The potential of santri to inspire behavioral change and support environmental sustainability constitutes a significant strength in the success of this program.

This aligns with the empowerment concept, which is closely related to the notion of power. The concept of power is often associated with an individual's ability to influence others to act according to their wishes, even if it is contrary to their interests or preferences. (Haryanto STAI Hubbulwathan Duri, 2017).

Santri possess a distinct advantage in writing, which serves as one of their primary potentials for conveying ideas and thoughts in a structured manner. This skill is acquired through Indonesian language education in schools, where they are taught fundamental writing techniques, such as paragraph construction, essay composition, and academic writing. Additionally, santri frequently practice writing in various contexts, including composing articles, short stories, and religious reflection notes, which further enhance their literacy skills. This learning process not only sharpens their technical abilities but also fosters critical, analytical, and creative thinking. With proper guidance, santri's writing skills can be effectively utilized to support local wisdom-based programs, including environmental conservation campaigns through written media.

Writing is a manifestation of imagination (Prendergast, 2022). Santri, as individuals, possess a unique ability to transform their imagination and dreams into written form. Through words, they can share their aspirations and fantasies with the world, creating inspiring and captivating works. Writing allows santri to express their deepest thoughts, bring colorful stories to life, and construct worlds that exist only in their imagination. These writings serve as a bridge connecting them with readers, enabling the interaction and growth of ideas. Ultimately, through writing, their dreams and visions become immortalized and accessible to a wider audience.

With their writing skills, santri have immense potential to contribute to environmental preservation through literary works. One significant contribution is translating their ideas on environmental conservation into essays based on pesantren's local wisdom. These essays serve not only as a medium for expressing ideas but also as a means to convey crucial messages about environmental awareness to the broader community. Through their writing, santri can highlight local values such as communal cooperation, the wise utilization of natural resources, and the philosophy of simple living taught in pesantren. Furthermore, composing essays rooted in pesantren's local wisdom helps preserve its cultural heritage as part of the solution to environmental issues. By integrating environmental knowledge, real-life experiences, and pesantren values, santri can produce writings that are both inspiring and educational. These works are expected to foster collective awareness and encourage greater public concern for environmental sustainability.

Environmental conservation based on Sufi teachings in pesantren is implemented through various ecological practices, including environmental education, plant seed production, and recycling waste into organic fertilizer. Significant steps can be taken by pesantren to support reforestation and environmental preservation, guided by Sufi values and doctrines such as the concepts of asceticism (zuhud) and gratitude, kinship and mutual assistance, love and blessings, as well as contemplation (tafakkur) (Irawan, 2022). Santri in pesantren receive an education that extends beyond religious teachings, encompassing the practical implementation of religious values in environmental conservation. They are taught that preserving the environment is an integral part of worship, fostering a sense of responsibility for ecological sustainability and encouraging active participation in maintaining ecosystem balance.

Learning materials integrated with local wisdom have been shown to positively impact students' critical thinking skills (Ramdani et al., 2021). Pesantren students (santri) serve as the primary agents in preserving and passing down the traditions of pesantren-based local wisdom. They actively implement noble values such as mutual cooperation (gotong-royong), cleanliness, and simplicity in their daily lives. As a result, santri play a crucial role in safeguarding and sustaining the pesantren's cultural heritage and values for future generations.

Santri hold a significant role in environmental conservation, and one of the most effective ways to express their ideas is through essay writing based on pesantren local wisdom. These essays allow santri to explore various methods of preserving nature, from simple daily practices to larger environmental programs, all rooted in pesantren values and traditions. Essay writing not only enables santri to convey messages about the importance of maintaining ecological balance but also encourages public participation in conservation efforts. Through essay writing, santri develop critical thinking and writing skills while making meaningful contributions to raising environmental awareness. Their written works have the potential to inspire others to take part in environmental preservation initiatives.

Beyond human capital, other assets support the implementation of the *Santri Empowerment Program for Addressing Environmental Preservation Issues Through Essay Writing Based on Pesantren Local Wisdom* in Temanggung. Natural assets include the pesantren's environmental wealth, such as green spaces, agricultural land, water sources, and biodiversity, which serve as inspiration for essay writing. Infrastructure assets include pesantren facilities such as classrooms, libraries, and pesantren gardens, which provide essential support for program implementation. Institutional social assets are reflected in strong collaborations between pesantren, local communities, government bodies, and environmental organizations such as DPRKPLH, strengthening program synergy. Financial assets, including grants, donations, and internal pesantren contributions, play a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of facilities and resources necessary for the program's success.

Three key strategies have been designed to develop essay writing based on pesantren local wisdom as part of empowering santri to address environmental preservation issues in Temanggung. The first strategy involves conducting an essay writing training program focused on environmental themes that integrate pesantren wisdom. This training aims to equip santri with creative essay-writing skills while fostering awareness of the importance of environmental conservation. The second strategy focuses on publishing santri essays on environmental topics, enabling their ideas to reach a wider audience and inspire further conservation efforts. The third strategy involves empowering santri through contextual experiences, such as tree-planting programs within

pesantren environments. This initiative teaches santri the significance of active participation in environmental preservation while reinforcing their direct engagement. These three strategies complement each other in fostering a generation of environmentally conscious santri who can make tangible contributions to sustainability.

The first implemented strategy is the environmental-themed essay writing training program, designed specifically for santri and rooted in pesantren local wisdom. This training aims to provide santri with a profound understanding of environmental conservation while honing their structured and creative essay-writing skills. Throughout the program, santri are taught how to integrate pesantren values—such as mutual cooperation, simplicity, and environmental stewardship—into their written works. Through this approach, santri are expected to produce essays that are not only educational but also inspirational, significantly contributing to raising environmental awareness both within pesantren communities and society at large. This program also serves as a strategic initiative to foster collective awareness through literacy grounded in local values.

Education and training programs (diklat) function as national policies to achieve sustainable development goals (Tri et al., 2022). Counseling, training, and mentoring programs, such as educational and training activities (Diklat), play a crucial role in empowering *santri* in schools. Through counseling, *santri* receive emotional and psychological guidance that helps them navigate personal and academic challenges. Training programs provide practical skills and relevant knowledge, enhancing their competencies in various fields, from academics to life skills. Mentorship, facilitated by teachers or mentors, aids *santri* in developing self-confidence and motivation while providing the necessary support to achieve their goals. As an integral component of this initiative, *Diklat* ensures that *santri* undergo a comprehensive and structured learning experience, enabling them to understand and apply the taught values in their daily lives. Consequently, this program effectively empowers *santri*, preparing them to face the future with confidence and adequate skills.

The second strategy involves publishing *santri*-authored essays on environmental themes rooted in pesantren-based local wisdom. This publication aims to amplify the positive impact of *santri*'s ideas on environmental conservation, extending beyond pesantren communities to reach a wider audience. The essays encapsulate values of local wisdom, such as respect for nature, mutual cooperation (*gotong-royong*), and prudent resource management, inspiring readers to engage in environmental awareness initiatives. These publications can be disseminated through various media, including local journals, online platforms, or pesantren bulletins, thereby increasing accessibility to *santri*'s work. This initiative not only fosters a generation of environmentally conscious *santri* but also positions pesantren as a driving force for change through literacy grounded in religious and cultural values.

Essay publications have significantly evolved, reflecting both historical and contemporary perspectives on their value in academia and literature. Once considered a minor literary genre, essays are now recognized for their intrinsic value in advancing knowledge and influencing practices and policies (Lindebaum, 2022). Essays produced by *santri* can contribute to expanding knowledge related to environmental conservation. These writings serve as exploratory readings that encapsulate ideas of pesantren-based local wisdom.

The third strategy is the empowerment of *santri* through contextual experiences in pesantren-based environmental conservation initiatives. One of the implementations of this strategy is a tree-planting program within the pesantren environment, actively involving all *santri*. This initiative aims to provide *santri* with direct experience in environmental conservation through practical application. Additionally, the program instills values of responsibility, solidarity, and environmental awareness as part of pesantren-based character education. Tree planting not only yields ecological benefits, such as improving air quality and creating green spaces but also serves as a symbolic commitment of pesantren to environmental preservation. Through these experiences, *santri* do not merely learn theoretical concepts but also gain firsthand understanding of the significance of protecting nature, fostering a generation that is more conscious and committed to environmental sustainability.

Empowerment through contextual environmental conservation experiences involves identifying local wisdom, planning, organizing, implementing, and disseminating outcomes while integrating spiritual values to transform these practices into sustainable actions that promote

community cohesion and environmental preservation (Pratama et al., 2024). This approach effectively translates theoretical conservation principles into tangible, sustainable actions. Through this process, individuals not only learn the theories of conservation but also actively participate in activities that support environmental sustainability. Such practical experiences build awareness and commitment to environmental stewardship, embedding sustainable practices into daily habits.

The implementation of these three strategies requires support from various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive success. Support from pesantren, including the provision of learning facilities, guidance from caregivers, and opportunities for *santri* to develop writing skills, is essential. Additionally, government institutions such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Regional Environmental Agency (DPRKPLH) play a crucial role in providing technical assistance, training, and resources such as tree seedlings or publication access for *santri*-authored works. Collaboration with local communities also serves as a key supporting factor, whether through active participation in environmental conservation activities or the acceptance of *santri*'s ideas conveyed through essays. This collective support fosters synergy that facilitates the effective and sustainable implementation of the strategies, ensuring that the goal of empowering *santri* in environmental conservation is achieved.

The outcomes of *Santri Empowerment in Addressing Environmental Conservation Issues Through Essay Writing Based on Pesantren Local Wisdom in Temanggung* include: (1) an increased understanding of environmental conservation among *santri* through pesantren-based local wisdom, (2) heightened awareness and participation of *santri* as empowerment agents in addressing environmental conservation issues through essay writing, and (3) the ability of *santri* to articulate their ideas on environmental conservation through essay writing and publish them. These three outcomes are expected to yield benefits for both *santri* and society.

The first outcome of this empowerment program is the enhanced understanding of *santri* regarding environmental conservation based on pesantren local wisdom. *Santri* develop a deeper awareness of the importance of protecting nature as part of their responsibility as stewards of the Earth (*khalifah fil ardh*). Through writing training and discussions that incorporate local wisdom values—such as mutual cooperation, prudent use of natural resources, and religious teachings supporting environmental conservation—*santri* can comprehend environmental conservation concepts in a more relevant and applicable manner. This understanding is not merely theoretical but also practical, as they are encouraged to identify environmental issues around the pesantren and propose appropriate solutions through writing. Consequently, this activity not only fosters awareness but also cultivates critical thinking skills and the ability to articulate structured ideas through essays.

The second outcome of *santri* empowerment in addressing environmental conservation issues through essay writing based on pesantren local wisdom in Temanggung is the increased awareness and participation of *santri* as empowerment agents. Through this program, *santri* not only gain knowledge about the importance of environmental conservation but are also trained to formulate concrete solutions in the form of essays that leverage pesantren-based local wisdom. These essays reflect a profound understanding of the necessity of preserving nature through approaches aligned with pesantren cultural and traditional values. Moreover, *santri* become more proactive in encouraging the surrounding community to engage in environmental conservation activities. This program demonstrates that *santri* can act as change agents with extensive environmental awareness and the ability to harness local potential for sustainable solutions.

The third outcome of *santri* empowerment in addressing environmental conservation issues through essay writing based on pesantren local wisdom in Temanggung is the ability of *santri* to express their ideas on environmental conservation. Through this program, *santri* are given the opportunity to explore their critical and creative thinking potential in formulating environmental solutions relevant to pesantren-based local wisdom. The essays they produce not only reflect their understanding of environmental issues but also integrate cultural and traditional pesantren values as part of the solution. Thus, *santri* can contribute to environmental preservation through approaches rooted in the local wisdom they learn and practice daily.

Santri can publish their essays on environmental conservation themes based on pesantren local wisdom. Through this empowerment program, *santri* are provided a platform to develop

innovative ideas on environmental conservation, which are then articulated in essay form. The theme of environmental conservation is approached through pesantren's distinctive local wisdom, ensuring that each essay not only highlights environmental concerns but also integrates cultural, traditional, and local values inherent in pesantren. The writing process not only hones santri's writing skills but also enhances their awareness of the importance of protecting nature. By publishing these works, santri can disseminate positive messages on environmental conservation to a broader audience, actively contributing to conservation efforts grounded in local wisdom.

CONCLUSION

There are two primary advantages of santri in addressing environmental preservation issues through essay writing based on the local wisdom of pesantren in Temanggung. The first advantage lies in the strategic role of santri as valuable human resources who can serve as environmental preservation agents. The second advantage is their writing competence, which enables them to produce essays on environmental conservation that integrate the local wisdom of pesantren.

Three main strategies have been designed to develop essay writing based on pesantren's local wisdom as a means of empowering santri in tackling environmental preservation issues in Temanggung. The first strategy involves organizing essay writing training on environmental themes that incorporate pesantren values. This training aims to equip santri with creative essay-writing skills while fostering awareness of environmental preservation. The second strategy focuses on publishing santri's essays on environmental issues, allowing their ideas to be widely disseminated and inspiring broader community involvement in conservation efforts. The third strategy emphasizes experiential empowerment by engaging santri in direct environmental actions, such as tree-planting programs within pesantren environments. This initiative not only educates santri on the importance of environmental sustainability but also strengthens their practical involvement. These three strategies complement each other in cultivating a generation of environmentally conscious santri who can contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts.

The outcomes of santri empowerment in addressing environmental preservation issues through essay writing based on the local wisdom of pesantren in Temanggung encompass three key aspects. First, there is an increased understanding among santri regarding the importance of environmental conservation through the lens of pesantren's local wisdom. Second, there is a heightened awareness and active participation of santri as empowerment agents, directly engaging in environmental preservation through essay writing. Third, santri are able to articulate their ideas on environmental sustainability in essay form and publish them. These empowerment outcomes are expected to yield positive impacts, benefiting both the santri and the wider community.

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