



EDUCATION
FOR
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DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA – AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Today, 35 ESD schools in the area of Heart of Borneo have been assisted through WWF's "Whole School Approach". The approach motivates the students to be active, creative, innovative and the learning process has been developed using various methods to be more enjoyable for students. The teachers incorporate local contexts (such as forest fires, proboscis monkeys and other local/endemic issues) into their subjects to bring the students reality into education. Meanwhile, the schoolyards have become greener thanks to medicinal plants, vegetables and fruit trees planted by students, teachers and parents.

Some ESD schools have been supported by WWF and Sida to develop learning centres called Pustaka Borneo. These learning centers are aimed to become sustainable development resource centres for the surrounding communities. These schools have obtained training on simple library management, writing, IT, and photography. Meanwhile, the schools are also equipped with books, PCs, LCD projectors, and bookshelves. There are currently ten Learning Centres/Pustaka Borneo in the HoB area.

Currently, the ESD programme in the Heart of Borneo, has been replicated in WWF sites in Sumatra and Papua. There are eight schools in Nangroe Aceh Darussalam and one school in Jayapura, Papua which have been assisted to become sustainable schools. This shows that sustainable societies are possible in this disaster-prone country.

BACKGROUND

Heart of Borneo area (HoB) is an area that still is in a good condition with rich and natural resources. These natural conditions must be maintained for the surrounding communities so that they can benefit from nature, such as clean water, materials for clothing and food. Currently natural conditions in Borneo is quite worrying regarding the number of forest area for palm oil plantations and coal mining. Heart of Borneo is located in the highlands where the resource of the great rivers gives life to the people. By increasing awareness and knowledge of sustainable living it will open the mindset of the society and young people, so that the nature of tropical rainforests in Borneo can be maintained to give influence to the earth. Indonesia has many challenges and one way to build a sustainable future is to implement education for sustainable development.

"The learning place is clean and free of garbage, and the school environment is arranged and beautiful. To maintain the cleanliness of the environment, there are teachers who always supervise the children in order to promote a clean and healthy lifestyle."

A comment of a teacher



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

“To equip people with knowledge of and skills in sustainable development, making them more competent and confident while at the same time increasing their opportunities for leading healthy and productive lifestyles in harmony with nature and with concern for social values, gender equity and cultural diversity.”

UNECE



Schools that already have an organic garden have been encouraged to sell their harvest to parents and the community around the school. Profits from the sale can later be used for various creative ESD activities.

Outdoor Education

Teachers can stimulate learning through fun learning activities inside and outside the classroom, such as agricultural activities in the school garden and writing poetry outside the classroom.

Impacts of ESD

There have been many good results in the ESD model schools.

The students have become more:

- active learners with the courage to express their opinions
- effective in spending the time (time in school, playing, studying in madrasas, as well as home study)
- tolerant towards their fellow students and friends
- explorative and innovative
- aware of health and hygiene
- cooperative and responsible

A whole school approach

Mekartani Elementary School has integrated ESD issues, such as the risk of forest fires, organic farming, preserving orangutans etc., into existing subjects in school. In service training for teachers on ESD has taken place, in order to promote a whole school approach where all teachers are on board.

Sustainable use of water plants

Villagers in Mekartani have long used wild plants growing in the marshes. These plants are used as raw material for the manufacture of crafts such as woven mats and baskets. Nowadays, people have replaced them with items made from plastic. But students and teachers have once again started to harvest water plants, making crafts and selling the products. The mothers in the village are now interested in the use of plants and want to learn more.

Policy work

A National ESD workshop was held in 2012 and the Central Government has been supportive of implementing ESD nationally. However, ESD has not yet spread to all the districts in Indonesia. The report “ESD Journey in Indonesia in the NGO perspective”, has also been spread throughout Indonesia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Important to disseminate lessons learned. Be sure to document the experience in words and pictures.
- Changes within education can have an effect on the whole village. The concept of ESD, where a comprehensive whole school approach is put across, can lead to a more sustainable village. Development of locally produced food, more sustainable energy consumption, and green entrepreneurship can be promoted and encouraged. Thus the schools become agents of change.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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