

## Implementation of Drama Media as an Educational Strategy for Sustainable Waste Management for Early Childhood in Weleri Village

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**Abstract.** *The use of drama is needed as a learning medium to increase awareness of waste management in early childhood in Weleri Village. Through observation and interviews, this study found that the waste problem in Weleri Village is quite serious. To overcome this problem, researchers used a drama approach to convey the concept of 5R (refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle) to students of Kanisius Elementary School. The results showed that drama succeeded in attracting students' interest and increasing their understanding of the importance of waste management. Students actively participated and gave positive responses to drama activities. In conclusion, drama can be an effective tool to educate early childhood about waste management and encourage more environmentally friendly behavior.*

**Keywords:** *Drama, Waste Management, Early Childhood.*

**Abstrak.** Penggunaan drama diperlukan sebagai media pembelajaran untuk meningkatkan kesadaran pengelolaan sampah pada anak usia dini di Desa Weleri. Melalui observasi dan wawancara, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa masalah sampah di Desa Weleri cukup serius. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan drama untuk menyampaikan konsep 5R (refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle) kepada siswa SD Kanisius. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa drama berhasil menarik minat siswa dan meningkatkan pemahaman mereka tentang pentingnya pengelolaan sampah. Siswa aktif berpartisipasi dan memberikan respons positif terhadap kegiatan drama. Kesimpulannya, drama dapat menjadi alat yang efektif untuk mengedukasi anak usia dini tentang pengelolaan sampah dan mendorong perilaku yang lebih ramah lingkungan.

**Kata kunci:** Drama, Pengelolaan Sampah, Anak Usia Dini.

### 1. BACKGROUND

Nowadays, environmental issues have become increasingly complex and dilemmatic issues (Sriyanto, 2007: 107). One of the environmental issues faced in Weleri Village is waste management, especially plastic waste. According to data from the World Bank, the amount of global waste is expected to continue to increase, with projections reaching 2.2 billion tons in 2025. Meanwhile, data from Indonesia.go.id referring to the Indonesian Plastic Industry Association (INAPLAS) shows that Indonesia produces around 64 million tons of plastic waste per year. In rural areas, plastic waste management becomes more difficult, with around two-thirds of the total plastic waste not being managed properly due to limited waste collection systems.

The problem of waste is often considered a simple issue, when in fact waste is a problem that can have a big impact. Although waste may seem small in size, its amount continues to increase along with human activities. In the long term, this accumulation of waste can cause various serious problems, including air, water, and soil pollution, which can ultimately contribute to global environmental problems (Purnami, 2020: 111).

In rural areas, especially in Weleri Village, the Weleri Village Government has attempted to address the waste problem through a waste collection program known as "waste bank." According to the Head of the Weleri Village Consultative Body (BPD), Teguh Handoyo, A.Md., the waste bank in the village is almost unable to accommodate the very large amount of waste. This shows that the community needs to play a more active role in managing waste, especially that which can be recycled and has utility value.

One way to manage waste is to utilize the potential of human resources (HR). Quality HR will be able to create a better environment. Therefore, efforts to improve the quality of HR are very important, one of which is through the idea of character education in the world of education. Character education that aims to protect the environment needs to be directed at children from an early age (Hernawan Sulistyanto, Iqna Maulidya Syafira, Amalia Quratul Isnaini, Fitroni Hadi Prasetyo, Wafafi Qolby, Esti Pramita, Retno Aruming Tyas, Indhityas Kurnianing F, Farid Muhammad, 2019: 44). However, teaching the concept of waste management to early childhood is not an easy task. For this reason, an effective approach is needed, one of which is through drama performances. Drama, as a form of literary study, has a significant contribution to the world of education, both at school, college, and in the wider community. Role playing in a drama is believed to be able to develop critical thinking skills and increase children's social sensitivity to their surroundings (Al-afandi, 2023: 24).

This article specifically discusses the problem of waste and its management efforts in Weleri Village. One of the approaches used is through drama media as an educational tool for early childhood. This program is implemented in stages through formal education facilities, especially at Kanisius Elementary School located in Weleri Village, with the aim of instilling awareness of the importance of waste management from an early age.

## **2. METHOD**

This type of research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The research subjects were determined through purposive sampling techniques, where sampling was carried out based on certain criteria, namely students of Kanisius Elementary School. The data used in this study were obtained through open interviews, observations, field notes, and validation from teachers.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Urgency of Garbage Problems in Weleri Village

Waste is still a current problem in Indonesia, especially in urban areas, including in Weleri Village, Kendal. This is due to the influence of social, cultural and economic conditions of the local community. Where this can also be seen from the increase in activities and changes in community consumption patterns which have an impact on the amount of waste in terms of volume, type and characteristics of waste (Ade Fia Rahmawati, Amin, Rasminto, 2021:1).



**Gambar 1.** Wawancara Terbuka Dengan Pemerintah Desa Weleri

In an interview with the Weleri Village Government, represented by the Head of the Weleri Village BPD, Teguh Handoyo, A.Md, he stated that the main problem in Weleri Village is waste. This is the basis for creating education about waste management. Increasing literacy about waste management in the context of education is a crucial aspect that needs to be instilled early on. Therefore, one of the preventive efforts in overcoming this problem is through education as early as possible about how to sort and process waste. This must be implemented so that later this waste problem will gradually decrease.

To instill awareness of the importance of waste management from an early age, schools have a crucial role. As an educational institution, schools can be an effective forum for disseminating knowledge about waste management. (Shofiyatun Nurlaili, Nana Supriatna, 2018:79). The social school environment greatly influences the child's learning process. Thus, schools can be a starting point for children to understand that every waste has the potential to be managed properly, both in terms of utilization and economic value.

#### Use of Drama Media as Learning Media

Monotonous learning can make students feel bored and have difficulty understanding the material. To overcome this, drama can be an interesting solution. By involving students in drama performances, learning becomes more lively and memorable. (Nugroho, 2023:62).

Drama has an important role in education. When watching or even participating in drama performances, students indirectly absorb the moral messages, values, and knowledge contained therein.

Children's drama, which is specifically designed for students, provides a fun and educational theater experience. This performance is tailored to the age, abilities, and interests of students, and is relevant to school conditions. With drama, students not only learn subject matter, but also develop various skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and creative thinking. In addition, drama can also increase self-confidence and foster interest in reading. (Sumaryadi, 2006:66).

### **Waste Management Education Program through Drama at SD Kanisius Weleri**

This study was conducted at SD Kanisius Weleri, Weleri Village, Kendal Regency, involving a sample of students from three grade levels, namely grades 1 to 3. The selection of this age group was based on the consideration that education about waste management would be more effective if applied at the early cognitive development stage. Thus, a waste management education program specifically designed for elementary school age groups is expected to shape sustainable environmental behavior and awareness. Education through art requires an innovative and enjoyable learning approach (Jaeni, 2019:1126). Education through performing arts, such as drama, is one effective method for conveying messages and information, especially to young children. At this age, children find it easier to understand messages conveyed through interesting media. Through an interesting storyline, strong characters, and easy-to-understand dialogue, drama is able to package educational information in an interesting and enjoyable way. Education through drama allows children to be emotionally involved, so that the messages conveyed are easier to remember and have a deeper impact on their development.



**Gambar 2.** Penampilan Drama di SD Kanisius Desa Weleri

*(Sumber: Dokumentasi Pribadi)*

The drama that was staged raised the theme of a hero's journey who tried to provide an understanding of waste management. In this drama, the hero is known as PAPAHERO (Garbage Hero). Through a narrative that is arranged dramatically, the audience is invited to witness the process that begins with a human who litters, until the garbage pollutes the surrounding environment and causes flooding. In addition to human characters, this drama also features animals that feel the impact of the pollution, and depicts garbage as a serious threat to their homes. In the performance of the drama, several waste management patterns were also presented. The waste management pattern used in the drama performance at SD Kanisius is the 5R method, namely:

- a. Refuse is the principle of rejecting or avoiding the use of goods that have the potential to cause waste.
- b. Reduce means reducing the use of products or materials.
- c. Reuse is reusing goods to have the same function.
- d. Repair means repairing damaged or non-functioning goods.
- e. Recycle is recycling goods that have been used into more valuable goods.

By presenting 5R education in the form of an interesting drama, early childhood in Weleri Village will more easily understand the problem of waste. Through drama performances, messages about refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle will be conveyed effectively. It is hoped that this activity can foster early awareness of the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and contribute to a better future without waste problems.

### **Student responses to the use of drama as a learning medium**

The students' responses when watching the drama were very enthusiastic and happy. Where when they first entered the performance arena, students were also asked to bring trash to get an entrance ticket and as a reward for bringing trash they were also given snacks. Moreover, when the drama process was displayed, they enthusiastically watched the drama until the drama was finished.

At the end of the session after the drama was displayed, questions were given to recall the results of the material that had been presented in the drama, they scrambled to answer questions after questions. Not only enthusiastic in answering, but the answers given were also correct. Therefore, it can be concluded from the results of observations and answers given by students that the provision of drama as a learning medium can be implemented

well and can be used as an alternative learning so that students do not get bored so that the delivery of material is more enjoyable and understood optimally.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of observations at SD Kanisius, Weleri Village, it shows that the use of drama as a learning medium is effective in improving students' understanding of waste management. Through drama, the concept of 5R is conveyed in an interesting way, so that students can understand the negative impacts of littering. However, stronger synergy is needed from all components of society to realize sustainable waste management in Weleri Village.

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