



## **Kuala Langsa People's Behavior Towards Environmental Conservation is Reviewed from the Aspect of Social Change**

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### **Abstract**

*Located in this area there are several tourist destinations, such as mangrove forests, green bridges, mangrove forest monitoring towers that are crowded with visitors on weekends, and a port that has existed since before the colonial period. As a dynasty tourism area, it certainly opens up economic opportunities for the local community. The purpose of this study is to determine the behavior of Kuala Langsa's local community activities toward environmental preservation in terms of social change. This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative method. The results of the study are seen from the aspect of social change that occurs in the local community of Kuala Langsa. Factors that influence social change are internal and external. Internally includes the desire and awareness, as well as human decisions to be able to change, so it is necessary to change the mindset of the community. External changes include changes in regulations from agencies or governments related to regulations to preserve the environment, and the habits of tourists who come from outside. So, a shared awareness is needed for better social change such as protecting the environment and not allowing the environment to be exploited.*

**Keywords:** *Behavior, Community, Coastal, Environment, and Preservation.*

### **Abstract**

Kuala Langsa is one of the coastal villages located in the western part of Langsa City, Aceh Province. In this area, there are several tourist destinations, such as mangrove forests, green bridges, mangrove forest monitoring towers that are crowded with visitors on weekends, and ports that have existed since before the colonial period. As a dynamic tourist area, it certainly opens up economic opportunities for the local community. The purpose of this study is to determine the behavior of local community activities in Kuala Langsa towards environmental conservation in terms of social change. This research was conducted using qualitative descriptive methods. The results of the study are seen from the aspects of social change that occurred in the local community of Kuala Langsa. Factors influencing this social change are of internal and external origin. Internally includes desires and awareness, as well as human decisions to be able to change, so it is necessary to change people's mindsets. External changes include changes in regulations from agencies or governments related to regulations to preserve the environment, and the habits of tourists who come from outside. Then a common awareness is needed for better social changes such as protecting the environment and not allowing the environment to be exploited.

**Keywords:** *Community, Preservation, Behavioral, and Coastal,*

## **A. Introduction**

Behavior is a daily activity or habit that humans do. According to Woodworth and Sclosberg (1971). Behavior or activity can be interpreted as an answer or response to the stimulus it receives, therefore this condition can be formulated in the form of  $R = F(S, O)$  where  $R$  = Response,  $F$  = Function,  $S$  = Stimulus,  $O$  = Organism, this formulation shows that response is a function that depends on the stimulus and organism. So, behavior is a manifestation of human life that serves to capture the stimulus of human respondents in psychic life. Therefore, humans play an important role in maintaining every behavior (Mustafa, 2012).

According to Selo Sumardjan, a community is a group of people who live together and can form or create a culture (Tejokusumo, 2014). Every human being behaves differently. This difference depends on how humans interact with each other and their environment. To influence human behavior towards the environment in a sustainable manner. The purpose of environmental management behavior is to meet human needs, without damaging and reducing its benefits, so that later it can meet the needs of generations who will be able to meet the needs of the generation that will be able to.

The research framework used in this study to reveal environmental management procedures is to use an integrated approach in optimizing the use of coastal and marine resources. Zamlawi (1997) stated that environmental management includes (1) structuring, (2) utilization, (3) recovery, (4) supervision, and (5) sustainable control for the preservation of environmental ecological balance. The ecological balance will ensure the success of sustainable development (Pinto, 2016).

Coastal areas are transitional areas between sea and land. This condition causes coastal areas to get pressure from phenomena and activities both from land and sea. Activities and phenomena from the land include floods, abrasion, activities carried out by the community (such as settlement development, forest logging, pond construction etc.), so that this phenomenon has an impact

on coastal ecosystems. And while marine phenomena that occur, such as tides, storm surges and so on (Hastuti, 2012).

Kuala Langsa is one of the coastal Gampong (villages) in the western part of Langsa City, Aceh Province. In Kuala Langsa there is also a port which is a means of sea transportation that connects Langsa City with foreign countries since before the colonial period. Currently, the local government has developed Kuala Langsa into one of the tourist destinations that is very crowded with people. Some tourist destinations in Kuala Langsa are mangrove forests, green bridges, mangrove forest monitoring towers and so on.

In this study, researchers focused on social changes that occur, especially in the preservation of the natural environment. In the concept of environmental sociology, ecology (ecocentrism) is centered on ecology, relying on the balance of nature, awareness of disasters and encouraging moral awareness. In this case, there needs to be solidarity together to change and improve behavior and activities that have the potential to damage nature. According to Wulansari & Sigit, (2017) this behavior must be accompanied by strict rules such as social order in the form of law enforcement and implementation of policies that support ecological behavior. Ideally, awareness and change should be carried out jointly by the community, because if only some individuals are aware of nature conservation, it will not encourage awareness to change perceptions and changes in behavior towards nature.

## **B. Method**

The research used qualitative research methods (Sugiyono, 2014). The subjects in this study were the people who lived along Kuala Langsa road, and the Village Head (Geuchik) of Kuala Langsa. The selection of subjects (informants) is as follows: People domiciled in Kuala Langsa, provided that 1 Family Card represents 1 informant, and sells along Kuala Langsa. Data collection is done by interviews, which are conducted in depth and unstructured. In addition to interviews, documentation was also conducted.

The location of this research was conducted in Langsa City. The data collection tools used are observation and interviews. Then the data obtained are analyzed qualitatively with the stages of data collection, data reduction, verification, and conclusions.

## **C. Result and Discussion**

### **1. Result**

The behavior of the Kuala Langsa community that became discussed in the findings of this study includes:

a) Provision of trash cans

RD (Geuchik Kuala Langsa) said that the Gampong government has appealed to people who sell snacks along the mangrove forest tourist area to maintain the cleanliness of the environment, this is accompanied by the provision of trash cans so that hawker traders can dispose of garbage in its place.

Information obtained from one of the traders, AT (57 years old) that he provides trash cans for buyers to eat where he sells. Furthermore, the garbage is collected to be burned. He realized that waste handling must be done from the beginning, before the tide floods. If this is not done immediately, the community around Kuala will also be affected by waste from the tidal flood.

RH (23 years old) who also works as a hawker seller on the edge of the tourist area said that quoting and collecting the waste, they do can preserve the environment, which will later be collected at landfill sites. But what becomes their obstacle is, if there are monkeys who snatch the buyer's food, because then the garbage eaten by the monkey will be scattered as a result of which garbage accumulates in the middle of the mangrove forest, this information was provided by AD (20 years).

b) Participate in planting mangroves

AT also explained that to preserve mangrove forests, they simultaneously helped the government plant mangrove tree seeds. He also added that with this mangrove tree, it can break the waves.

The positive impact of maintaining and preserving mangroves is to improve the economic level of the community around Kuala Langsa. HM (37 years old) explained that the existence of mangrove forests in Kuala Langsa had a positive impact on the community. Namely food processing in the form of syrup, jam, and dodol derived from mangrove trees. This product is sold as a typical food of Kuala Langsa.

However, there are still negative behaviors from the people of Kuala Langsa, namely:

a) Indiscriminate garbage disposal

RD as Geuchik Kuala Langsa said that there are still rogue sellers who do not heed the appeal to dispose of their sales waste in the garbage cans that have been provided.

b) Exploitation of mangrove wood

Mangrove logging is also still carried out by some people who still use firewood for cooking, or by charcoal entrepreneurs, even for building scaffolding.

c) Release of farm animals

The release of wild livestock in mangrove areas is also still carried out by some people who have livestock. of course, this is very disturbing the activities of visitors and the community itself. Because farm animals roam the roads to Kuala Langsa.

## 2. Discussion

*Ecocentrism* (preservation) behavior is an attitude in saving and caring for the environment that not only prioritizes respect for species but equal attention to all life. In society, this attitude appears as an act of preservation, greening and planting, and care for nature (Oruh & Nur, 2021).

Humans play an important role in changing the environment, because humans are actors of social change. Social change is a change that occurs in community institutions, including human behavior that will affect social stems. The causes of social change are the factors that cause social change, including individual conscious desires, personal action attitudes influenced by changing conditions, structural changes and obstacles, external influences, prominent individuals and groups, elements that merge into one, certain events, and the emergence of common goals (Soekanto, 2013).

The conservation of mangrove forests in Kuala Langsa is carried out with efforts made by the local community and the government of Gampong and Kota Langsa. Conservation is carried out by providing trash cans and planting mangrove tree seedlings together, individually, and in groups.

This activity has a positive impact on the community, namely the existence of cooperation between communities that can strengthen brotherhood and togetherness. Supervision is carried out jointly by the surrounding community to prevent damage due to strong waves.

Conservation is also done by establishing rules on mangrove tree felling procedures. In addition, efforts made in maintaining the preservation of mangrove monitoring for hawker sellers are by appealing to the community to be able to dispose of garbage in places that have been provided (landfill). In addition, the existence of mangrove areas also has a positive impact on the community's economy, because the community has additional income from home-based businesses processing syrup, in addition to mangrove dodol.

There are already rules for people who have livestock pets according to the Qanun of Langsa City Number 11 of 2014 concerning the Maintenance and Control of Farm Animals. So, in order to maintain the cleanliness of Raman,

public order, cleanliness, and beauty in the city area, every farmer is prohibited from developing, releasing, or allowing his livestock to roam freely on public roads, tourist attractions, and public places others will be penalized for a fishing fee for large livestock of Rp. 250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand rupiah) per head with a maintenance fee of Rp. 100,000 (one hundred thousand) per day. The amount of fishing costs for small livestock is Rp. 175,000. (One hundred seventy-five thousand rupiah) per head, with a maintenance fee of Rp. 50,000 (fifty thousand) per day, then within 10 (ten) days after the announcement as intended, not taken or redeemed by the breeder, then an auction is carried out (Qanun Kota Langsa Number 11 of 2014 concerning the Maintenance and Control of Livestock, 2014).

So, the positive effects that can be felt by the community from mangrove forest conservation can be grouped into ecological and economic impacts. The ecological impact is the protection of community settlements from sea waves and strong winds, because mangrove trees are dense and solid root systems so that mangrove forests can be able to dampen tidal waves. Mangrove forests are also used as habitats and breeding places for fish, shrimp, crabs that can be consumed by the community and traded.

Economic aspect, where mangrove wood has a fairly high economic value, people usually use mangrove wood as firewood and charcoal production, besides the use of mangroves also as a typical food of Langsa City which is processed into syrup, jam and mangrove dodol. In addition, the existence of mangrove tourism areas opens economic opportunities for the local people of Kuala Langsa by selling along the mangrove tourism area.

Apriliadi & Efendi (2019) explain efforts to preserve the coastal environment in two ways, namely mitigation and anticipation of environmental damage. (1) Environmental conservation efforts with mitigation are carried out by stopping community activities in using tiger trawls. (2) Environmental conservation efforts through anticipation are carried out by denying the conversion of mangrove forests, returning to nature, believing in myths, believing in stories, and sea picking ceremonies.

The efforts made to preserve the coastal environment refer to the values of local wisdom.

Humans have an important role in the environment. Humans have the most role to play in changing the environment itself and that needs support from the institutions and structures involved as well as society. Factors that influence social change are human desires and consciousness themselves and human decisions to be able to change, hence the need for a change in people's mindset.

Personal attitudes and actions that are affected by changing conditions such as institutions or structures that have issued new policies from the government regarding regulations to preserve the environment. External changes or changes from outside include the habits of tourists who come from outside affect the attitudes and ways of behaviors indigenous populations. The emergence of a common goal is a society that changes in mindset which eventually has a common goal for a better social change such as maintaining the environment and disposing of waste in its place or not allowing the environment to be exposed.

## **E. Conclusion**

From the results of the study, it can be concluded (1) the form of *ecocentrism* behavior of the Kuala Langsa community in preserving mangrove forests, namely by replanting mangrove trees starting from nurseries, planting, maintenance, and supervision either individually, in groups or with the government. In addition, it also sets rules according to local wisdom. Then the behavior of *anthropocentrism* (destruction) of mangrove forests because it contributes to the economy, namely by cutting down mangrove trees and environmental pollution. (2) Community decisions to conserve mangrove forests have positive and negative impacts on ecological, economic, and biological aspects.

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