

**APPLICATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT APPROACH
TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION LEARNING
TO INCREASE STUDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
GRADE 3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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ABSTRACT

Surrounding Natural Environment Education trains students to be close to their environment. Students learn to apply the theory obtained in class to the actual situation in a real environment. One of the lessons that can be taught by applying PLAS is learning about environmental pollution in grade 3 of elementary school. Learning about environmental pollution is carried out by observing soil and water pollution in the environment around the school. Students do it in groups and accompanied by the class teacher. Students observe polluted soil and water and discuss solutions related to the pollution. Students then present in front of all their class mates the results of the discussions that have been carried out. This learning will form students who are responsible, train cooperation and concern for the surrounding environment. Concern for the surrounding environment must be taught to students as early as possible to give awareness of survival in their environment. Students are given an understanding and examples of implementing environmental care in a simple way by observing their immediate environment, namely the school. Learning with the PLAS approach will train the sensitivity of students' concern for the surrounding environment.

Keywords: PLAS, Pollution, Concern

INTRODUCTION

Learning for students aims to develop all forms of abilities in students. Successful learning can be seen from the achievement of learning objectives. Good learning should involve students actively in learning activities. Teachers should use learning methods that are not monotonous to reduce boredom and can attract students' learning interest. Learning that involves students actively will provide a memorable learning experience for students.

Learning that applies concepts that involve student activity is learning outside the classroom. Learning by utilizing the surrounding environment as a learning resource to provide a real learning experience. According to Wihardjo and Rahmayanti (2021: 209) the natural environment is everything that is natural, consisting of abiotic and biotic elements that affect life. Several forms of the natural environment that can be observed around the school such as school yards, gardens, ditches, vacant land, and fish ponds. Students can apply the theory obtained in class with real objects in the environment. This learning can use the natural environment approach model.

The Surrounding Natural Environment Approach (PLAS) is a learning approach that seeks to increase student participation through the use of the environment as a learning resource (Suprpto, 2019: 81). Students are invited to observe the surrounding environment and apply the theory they have learned in class. Suprpto (2019: 81) states that all the experience gained is a form of argument to rearrange, add to and perfect or replace experience that has been gained from something that has previously been seen.

One of the lessons that can be applied with the natural environment approach is learning about environmental pollution. Environmental pollution is a decrease in the level of environmental quality due to contamination of living things, energy substances and or other components which result in changes to the environmental order (Wihardjo and Rahmayanti 2021: 120). Providing an understanding regarding environmental pollution to students is very important as an initial effort to tackle environmental problems. Environmental problems closest to students include soil and water pollution. Students are given an understanding of the causes of pollution and how solutions to deal with pollution. Students are expected to participate in efforts to protect the environment with the help of learning carried out at school.

Efforts to protect the environment must be taught to students from an early age. This is because it is related to the survival of living things in the environment itself. According to Ismail (2021: 60) caring for the environment is an attitude and action to prevent damage to the surrounding environment and aims to repair existing damage. Concern for the environment must be grown in students. The existence of a sense of care for the environment will certainly spark sympathy for various things that happen to the surrounding environment. Ismail (2021: 61) states that providing understanding regarding the environment can be done in many ways such as information, counseling, guidance, and education starting from kindergarten, elementary school, to tertiary institutions. So, the assessment carried out in this research is about how the Application of the Surrounding Natural Environment Approach in Environmental Pollution Learning to Increase Environmental Awareness for Grade 3 Elementary School Students on Environmental Pollution Materials.

METHOD

This study uses library research methods or library research with relevant theories as a source of research data. Library research is research by collecting data and information with various kinds of references such as books, previous research results, articles, and journals related to research topics (Sari, 2021: 62). Library research activities are carried out in a structured manner by collecting, processing, and concluding data using certain techniques to find solutions to problems (Sari, 2021: 63). This is to get opinions in writing by studying the literature related to the problem to be solved.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The application of PLAS in this study uses the theory put forward by Widi Eli & Laksmi Evasufi Widi Fajari (2020: 61) which states, "The steps for implementing PLAS are: (1) determining learning objectives, tools and instruments needed, as well as activity instructions; (2) heading to the designated observation site; (3) students are divided into several groups; (4) investigation and observation of objects, discussing assignments, and recording information; (5) report findings; and (6) conclusions and evaluation of learning ". Seeing these results indicates that the Surrounding Natural Environment Approach (PLAS) obtains higher learning outcomes compared to the conventional approach with media images. The Natural Environment Approach

(PLAS) is an approach that is quite effective in improving science learning outcomes. The Surrounding Natural Environment Approach is a learning approach that seeks to increase student involvement through the utilization of the environment as a learning resource. Learning natural sciences about adapting living things to their environment can develop students' curiosity, knowledge, understanding of concepts and awareness of the interplay between science and the environment, especially using the natural environment approach that students directly experience. In addition, students can grow courage and encourage willingness and ability to gather information to investigate the environment, solve problems and make decisions. The natural environment approach can influence student learning outcomes to hone knowledge skills, scientific attitudes and curiosity as well as maintain the surrounding natural environment. In addition, learning using an environmental approach can be used by students as a source of learning and providing direct experiences to students for teaching purposes in order to achieve learning objectives.

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