

DESCRIPTION OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND ACTIONS OF THE YOUTH OF KARANG TARUNA MARDISARI IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Environmental pollution due to household waste remains a common problem in society that has not received serious attention. This is caused by the lack of public awareness about a healthy environment. Awareness will emerge through knowledge and a good attitude as well as real action to process waste correctly. This awareness is the responsibility of everyone, including youth organizations. As a platform for the younger generation, youth organizations can actively participate in creating cleanliness in the community through waste processing. This study aims to describe youth knowledge, attitudes, and practices in managing waste in Mardisari, Kertosari, Temanggung. This study used a quantitative descriptive research design with 55 Mardisari youth as sample from a total population of 125 people by used simple random sampling technique. Data is collected by using questionnaires of knowledge, attitude, and practice about waste management. Data is analyzed by univariate analysis. This study shows that most of the youth are include in early adulthood (58.2%), female gender (58.2%), high school education (69.1%). Meanwhile, the description of youth knowledge was in the poor category (56.4%), their attitudes was negative (61.8%), their practices was in the poor category (58.2%). This result is expected to serve as a reference for the youth and the officials of Mardisari Village to play an active role in environmental protection by managing waste to create a healthy environment.

Keywords: *Behavior, Trash, Youth Organization*

INTRODUCTION

Waste has become one of the problems in the world that is difficult to control due to the consequences of human activities. Waste is damaging to the environment, especially inorganic waste that is hard to decompose (Ridayani *et al.*, 2022). The WHO explains that the majority of waste production comes from plastic packaging materials, generating 146 million tons of waste per year.

The Ministry of Environment reports that Indonesia ranks 5th in the world for the most waste. According to data collected by Sistem Informasi Pengelolaan Sampah Nasional (SIPSN) in 2022, 202 districts or cities across Indonesia showed a national waste accumulation totaling 21.1 million tons (Kemenko, 2022). In line with this data, Rauf in (Prajaningtyastiti and Pawenang, 2023) stated that Central Java is the province with the highest waste production in Indonesia to date. Waste production in 2021 reached 5.1 million tons, and until now it has reached 5.6 million tons of waste produced from 29 regencies and 6 cities.

Poorly managed waste can cause various problems including pollution, health issues, and natural disasters. Waste can produce a foul smell and contaminate the soil, leading to water, soil, and air pollution. In addition, waste accumulation also causes various diseases, one of them being diarrhea in toddlers (Kurniawati *et al.*, 2021), and can lead to natural disasters such as floods (Dharmayanti, Parmita and Tajalla, 2025).

The statement reinforces that waste is a major problem for society. Empowerment involving the active role of the community can be a solution to address waste issues in each area (Setyawan, Tini Utami and Khamidah, 2023) Community empowerment in the waste sector is very helpful in efforts for

environmental safety, human resources, and also the economy. Based on research conducted by previous researchers, recycling activities on waste by the informal sector contribute to efforts to reduce the need for land designated for building landfills, conserve raw material resources, save energy while still producing various consumer products, and gather labor in the waste recycling industry (Azhari Robby, . and Masitha Arsyari, 2020). In waste management, strong physical effort is needed, therefore the youth organization can be a primary choice to mobilize in waste handling. This also becomes a positive activity for the youth thus it can reduce juvenile delinquency (Wardhana and Suwanda, 2016). Youth is one of the active groups in society that can be empowered to keep the environment healthier. They need guidance and practice from expert to environmental care. Community nurse as one of profession that can coordinated with other sector especially Environmental Department to realize them about this role.

The Government of Temanggung Regency is addressing the waste issue by implementing several programs, one of which is the 3R: Reduce (Reduction), Reuse (Reutilization), Recycle (Recycling). This initiative has been applied at every household level by involving the youth as the main actors. Waste banks have also been known in Temanggung Regency since 2013 to enhance regional programs. However, this government program has not played a significant role in reducing waste in Temanggung because not every area implements this program.

According to the results of an interview with the head of the Mardisari hamlet, they have received special allocation funds (DAK) in the form of waste transportation vehicles, but they have not been utilized effectively by the youth of the village youth organization. This hamlet has the highest number of young people compared to other hamlets, yet 7 out of 10 youths interviewed said they do not understand how to properly process waste due to a lack of information and because it is not solely their responsibility. Additionally, geographically, this hamlet serves as the irrigation center for other hamlets, causing piles of waste in the irrigation channels to produce odors and overflow during the rainy season

METHODS

This research is a quantitative study using a descriptive design. The study was conducted in Mardisari Hamlet, Kertosari Village, Temanggung District in July 2024. The sampling method used was proportionate random sampling, involving 55 out of a total of 125 youths in 9 neighborhood units (RT).

This research utilized a questionnaire as a data collection tool to measure the level of knowledge, attitudes, and actions regarding waste management, adopted from Novitalia and Putri (2019).

The analysis used in this study is univariate analysis to know the characteristics of respondents and the variables of knowledge, attitudes, and actions in waste management. This research has obtained an ethical clearance statement from the Ethical Committee at the Faculty of Health, General Achmad Yani University Yogyakarta No Skep/433/Kep/VII/2024.

RESULTS

Table 1. Respondents’ characteristic distribution

Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age		
Remaja akhir (late teen)	23	41,8
Dewasa awal (early adult)	32	58,2
Total	55	100
Gender		
Male	23	41,8
Female	32	58,2
Total	55	100
Educational background		
SD	2	3,6

Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
SMP	8	14,5
SMA	38	69,1
PT	7	12,7
Total	55	100

Table 2. Knowledge Distribution on Waste Management

Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Knowledge		
Good	24	43,6
Poor	31	56,4
Total	55	100

Tabel 3. Distribution of Attitudes in Managing Waste

Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Attitude		
Positive	21	38,2
Negative	34	61,8
Total	55	100

Tabel 4. Waste Management Action Distribution

Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Behaviour		
Good	23	41,8
Poor	32	58,2
Total	55	100

DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the majority of the youth are in the early adult age range. Age is the time someone has lived from birth until now, expressed in years (Andriyanto *et al.*, 2023). Age has an influence on waste management because as a person matures, their concern for the environment tends to increase (Fadhullah *et al.*, 2022). Besides, older people (majority in early adult) have better knowledge of and apply more the 3R than the younger. They are more responsibility and aware toward the environment.

Meanwhile, the majority of the youth are female, with 32 individuals (58.2%). Gender is a visible difference between males and females physically (Nurhasanah and Zuriatin, 2023). The research conducted by Martiyani on waste indicates that gender does not have a relationship with waste management (Martiyani *et al.*, 2023). Other characteristics of youth are reviewed based on their education level. Education level is a long-term process that uses systematic and organized procedures to study knowledge conceptually and theoretically for general purpose (Abushammala and Ghulam, 2023). The results of this study show that the majority of educated youth have a high school education, with 38 individuals (69.1%). Education level is related to waste issues, where the higher the education level, the greater the awareness of environmental issues (Owojori, Mulaudzi and Edokpayi, 2022).

Table 2 explains the level of knowledge, where the majority of the youth in Mardisari Hamlet have inadequate knowledge in waste management, with 31 individuals (56.4%). This research result is consistent with previous studies, indicating that the majority of respondents have poor knowledge

(50.3%) (Safitri and Rangkuti, 2022). The respondents' knowledge regarding waste management can be seen in the questionnaire responses, which show that the majority of respondents think that combining all types of waste is the correct processing method; furthermore, respondents are unable to distinguish between the positive and negative impacts generated by waste

Knowledge is defined as the result of understanding that is formed after sensing a particular object (Notoatmodjo, 2012). The addition of knowledge cannot be done in a short time but must be continuous, so that the deeper the knowledge one possesses, it ultimately becomes a control for good behavior. Poor knowledge among respondents can be influenced by several factors, including internal and external factors. Internal factors come from within oneself, including poor understanding and comprehension, as well as unwillingness to seek cause and effect. Meanwhile, external factors relate to the lack of socialization from local village officials about proper waste management (Arifa *et al.*, 2019)(Labib *et al.*, 2021).

Referring to table 3, it can be concluded that the youth in Mardisari Village have a negative attitude towards waste management, with 34 individuals (61.8%). Attitude is a person's response that is still closed to a stimulus or object and the readiness or willingness to act, not the implementation of a particular motive (Allender, Rector and Warner, 2014). The result of this study shows that the majority of respondents have a negative attitude, with 34 individuals (61.8%) out of 55 respondents. This was obtained through a questionnaire answered by youth consisting of 10 questions. In the favorable attitude questionnaire, the lowest answer was found in question no. 10 regarding the steps and benefits of waste management, which discusses the issue of waste being everyone's responsibility, while the lowest unfavorable answer was in question no. 5 regarding whether trash bins should be waterproof or not. These results are consistent with previous research. This result is in line with previous research which found that the public's attitude towards waste management is dominated by negative attitudes at 74.5% (Prihandari and Wahyuni, 2023). Based on the results of this study, it is very important to cultivate awareness and the formation of attitudes among youth in youth organizations so that they are willing to manage waste in their living environment (Ardianti *et al.*, 2023) (Meilani, 2021).

The results of this study are in contrast to the research by Sitohang and Saragih on waste management behavior in Pondok Batu Village, where the majority of respondents had a positive attitude with 96 people (51.3%) (Romatua Sitohang *et al.*, 2022). This difference is due to the lack of age restrictions on the respondents. The positive attitudes in the previous study were predominantly among pre-elderly individuals aged 45-55 years, while this study only limited the respondents to early adulthood. Ericson argues that pre-elderly is a period of achievement; if at this age there is a strong desire to progress, they will succeed, and on the otherhand. Thus, it can be concluded that the respondents have a strong desire to be concerned about waste management.

The youth's attitude towards waste management is defined as a response to waste handling, which consists of the steps and benefits of waste management and the impact of waste. A person's attitude towards a subject is a form of readiness or willingness to act, in this case, it is the support of youth for waste management (Raghu and Rodrigues, 2020).

Table 4 shows that the majority of young people behave poorly in managing waste (58.2%). This result is consistent with Sitohang's research which found that 54.9% of household women exhibit negative behavior in waste management. Actions are human behaviors regarding all activities or actions of humans, whether they can be directly observed or not visually observed (Rahman, Sididi and Yusriani,

2020). The action to manage waste refers to the respondents' habits of practicing the 3Rs, which are reduce, reuse, and recycle. The analysis results from the questionnaire indicate that the majority of respondents answered that waste no longer holds any market value and functional value, where organic waste such as leaves can still be utilized as compost.

The actions of the youth in the social organization are evidently related to their knowledge, the availability of facilities, and the role of the authorities (Wu, Zhu and Zhai, 2022). Based on table 2, the majority of respondents have limited knowledge. Additionally, the interview results indicated that the absence of an effective waste bank has resulted in youth not participating in waste management. Insufficient information from the authorities also affects the actions taken by the youth. Each individual who does not have information regarding waste issues is more likely not to take action to address waste, whereas, if someone is aware of the dangers associated with waste issues, they are more likely to seek solutions to handle it (Taiyeb and Firdaus, 2021).

CONCLUSIONS

The majority of youth have poor knowledge about waste management; the majority of youth have a negative attitude towards waste management and the majority of youth act poorly in waste management. This result can be used as basic data to give health promotion both education about waste impact to environment and practice 3R (reuse, recycle, and reduce) by involving the expert from environmental department. By applying 3R, they can get benefit from economic sector.

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