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## Utilization Of Organic Waste Bank In Talang Perapat Village Community

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**Abstract.** This study aims to describe the implementation and impact of the Utilization of Organic Waste Banks in the Talang Perapat Village Community, West Seluma District. The method used is descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques through participatory observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation. The subjects of the study consisted of residents, village officials, and waste bank managers who were selected purposively. The results of the study showed that the utilization of waste banks succeeded in increasing residents' understanding of Organic waste, as well as fostering new habits such as saving waste and utilizing it as organic fertilizer. This behavioral change is supported by the active involvement of village officials who facilitate coordination and ensure the sustainability of the program. This activity is considered very useful because it combines theory and direct practice, making it easier for the community to understand and apply. The utilization of waste banks has proven effective in increasing environmental awareness and encouraging active community participation in maintaining cleanliness in a sustainable manner.

**Keywords:** *Waste Bank, Community Empowerment, Utilization*

### INTRODUCTION

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia's population reached 270.2 million in September 2020. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) recorded that total national waste production in the same year reached 67.8 million tons. This means that, on average, each person produces approximately 0.68 kilograms of waste per day. This figure has increased compared to previous years, in line with population growth. This indicates that population size significantly influences the volume of waste produced (Mustafirin et al., 2021).

Most people still perceive waste as worthless and can be disposed of anywhere. This is evident in the habit of some residents who throw waste into rivers, roadsides, or gutters, even though these areas are not intended for waste disposal. Article 1 of Law Number 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management defines waste as the residue of daily human activities and/or natural processes in solid or semi-solid form, whether organic or inorganic, biodegradable or not, and no longer of value, therefore discarded into the environment. If not properly managed, this waste will end up in a final disposal site (TPA). However, the availability of land for TPA is increasingly limited due to high population density (Mustafirin et al., 2021).

The waste problem remains a crucial issue in various regions, including Talang Perapat Village, West Seluma District. Lack of public awareness and discipline in disposing of and managing waste has resulted in slum-like environments, producing unpleasant odors, and increasing the risk of disease transmission. This situation not only impacts hygiene but also threatens the health and quality of life of the local community. Various steps can be taken to

support waste management as mandated by law, one of which is through community empowerment activities. This effort aims to raise awareness and equip communities with the skills to manage household waste independently, one way being through the use of waste banks. A waste bank is a waste management concept that separates dry and wet waste together and involves active community participation. In addition to serving as an environmental management solution, waste banks also have value as an economic development effort. This activity not only aims to reduce waste problems and maintain environmental cleanliness, but also serves as a means of empowering communities to be more active and proactive. Through a working system similar to banking, waste banks teach communities to save using recyclable waste, thus positively impacting family welfare (Asadiya et al., 2024).

Empowerment is a state or outcome desired by social change, characterized by empowered communities with power, livelihoods, and the ability to be independent in carrying out their daily tasks (Mustafirin et al., 2021). The empowerment process does not occur spontaneously; it is achieved through community participation and engagement, resulting in effective functioning. For empowerment to take place and succeed, participation and mastery of science and technology are not only necessary. We must also develop people to adapt their thoughts and actions to current developments, develop a sense of responsibility, and participate in maintaining the results or efforts that have been implemented (Margayaningsih, 2018).

Addressing this issue requires a strategy that is not merely informative and short-term, but also capable of encouraging long-term behavioral change through community empowerment. One approach that has been deemed effective is the implementation of waste bank workshops. This program not only aims to provide an understanding of the importance of waste management but also encourages active community participation in sorting, processing, and utilizing waste into items of economic value. Thus, waste management is not only an individual responsibility but also a collective movement towards a clean and sustainable environment.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative approach, aiming to provide an in-depth description of the process and impact of organic waste bank utilization on the community of Talang Perapat Village, West Seluma District. This research employed a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive methods depict, describe, and explain the actual events of the object of study based on the situation and conditions at the time of the research (Septiani & Wardana, 2022). This approach was chosen because it provides a comprehensive picture of changes in behavior, understanding, and community involvement in waste management. This research was conducted in June 2025 and located in Talang Perapat Village, which was selected based on the consideration that the village still faces challenges in waste management and has not yet optimally utilized the waste bank concept. The study subjects consisted of residents participating in organic waste utilization activities, village officials, and waste bank managers, selected through purposive sampling because they were deemed relevant and possessed important information. Data collection techniques were conducted through participant observation to directly observe the activity process, semi-structured interviews with key informants to explore their experiences and understanding, and documentation in the form of photographs, activity notes, and materials on organic waste utilization as supplementary data. Data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman interactive analysis model, which includes three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Through this method, it is hoped that the research can provide a clear picture of the effectiveness of waste bank utilization as an effort to empower communities in creating a clean and sustainable environment.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The implementation of the organic waste bank in Talang Perapat Village went smoothly and received high enthusiasm from the community. Based on observations and interviews, this activity attracted the attention of residents who had previously been less concerned about waste issues. Participants began to understand the importance of separating organic and inorganic waste and utilizing waste that still had a marketable value. One resident stated that this activity was very beneficial because they previously had not understood how a waste bank worked. After participating in the organic waste utilization program, residents felt a greater understanding that organic waste, such as the remains of living organisms, both plants and animals, is naturally decomposed by microorganisms. This waste is biodegradable, meaning it can rot and return to soil nutrients. Residents who participated in this activity demonstrated a change in attitude towards managing household waste. This was evident in the practice of saving waste at home and their active participation in saving waste in the waste bank established after the activity. When asked if they had started saving waste, one respondent replied that their family had now made it a habit to separate waste types and deposit it into the village waste bank. Several residents also stated that this activity opened new horizons and motivated them to use organic waste as an additional source of fertilizer. They admitted that they only truly understood the role of waste in restoring soil nutrients after experiencing hands-on experience in this activity. Other findings indicate that the involvement of village officials significantly impacted the program's sustainability. Support from village officials facilitated coordination and ensured that this activity was not merely temporary. This utilization also served as an effective educational tool because it combined knowledge and hands-on practice, making it easier for the community to understand and implement. When asked about the sustainability of their participation, the majority of residents expressed their readiness to continue contributing to the waste bank activities and hoped that similar programs would be held regularly to maintain community education.

During the interviews, one of the questions asked of participants was:

"Do you find this activity useful?" One resident replied, "Yes, very useful. Previously, I didn't know that waste, such as rotten vegetables, could be used as fertilizer. Now I'm more enthusiastic about saving waste at home."

Residents who participated in this activity demonstrated a change in attitude towards managing household waste. This was evident in the practice of saving waste at home and their active participation in saving waste at the waste bank established after the activity. When asked:

"Have you started sorting your waste at home?"

One participant replied, "Yes. Now we separate organic and inorganic waste at home. We also involve our children so they learn from an early age."

Several residents also expressed that this activity opened their minds and motivated them to use waste as an additional source of fertilizer. Another question asked was:

"What impressed me most about this activity?"

One respondent said, "The most impressive part was the hands-on experience. I learned how to utilize organic waste, and it turns out it can make plants grow more fertile."

Another finding indicates that the involvement of village officials significantly impacted the program's sustainability. Support from village officials facilitated coordination and ensured that the activity was not merely temporary. This activity also served as an effective educational tool because it combined knowledge and hands-on practice, making it easier for the community to understand and implement. Finally, when asked:

"Do you hope activities like this will continue?" the majority of residents agreed. One participant replied,

"We really hope activities like this are held regularly, so that we continue to learn and do not return to our old habits of littering."

Overall, the research results show that saving at a waste bank not only increases community awareness of the importance of waste management but also empowers them to become actively and independently involved in maintaining a clean environment. This program has proven effective in encouraging behavioral change towards wiser and more sustainable waste management.



Figure 1 Making a Waste Bank

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of an organic waste bank in Talang Perapat Village has had a positive impact on changing community behavior regarding waste management. Previously indifferent to waste issues, residents began to show concern and active involvement after gaining a better understanding of the importance of sorting waste and its economic benefits. This activity also encouraged the development of new habits such as sorting household waste, saving waste, and utilizing waste that still has a selling value. Furthermore, the workshop successfully served as a fun learning medium by combining theory and hands-on practice. The involvement of village officials was a key factor in the smooth and sustainable program. This support helped streamline coordination and provided strong legitimacy for the program's implementation. The enthusiasm of residents and their readiness to continue participating in similar activities demonstrated that the waste bank workshop not only increased environmental awareness but also served as a tangible form of community empowerment. This program demonstrated that an educational and participatory approach can encourage behavioral change toward wiser, more sustainable, and more economically beneficial waste management.

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