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Effectiveness Of Waste Banks In Increasing Income For Contractual Employees (Case Study: Green Hd Waste Bank In Bengkulu City)

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of Green HD Waste Bank in increasing the income of contractual employees in the RSHD area of Bengkulu City. Green HD Waste Bank was initially established to support environmental sustainability by encouraging waste separation and recycling within the community. Over time, it has also proven to offer economic benefits, particularly for contractual staff at RSHD Bengkulu City who participate as members or clients of the waste bank. Using a qualitative research approach, this study conducted in-depth interviews with the waste bank's manager, employees, and clients to understand the dual role of Green HD Waste Bank in environmental preservation and income enhancement. Findings indicate that Green HD Waste Bank not only effectively contributes to a cleaner and more sustainable environment but also provides supplemental income, thus enhancing the financial well-being of contractual employees involved in the program.

Introduction

Waste has remained a major problem for all cities in Indonesia, including Bengkulu City, which produces 400 tons of waste every day (RRI, 2023). The presence of waste in Bengkulu City requires wise management, considering the city's geographic location on the coast and its many river mouths (Diskominfo, 2024). The negative impacts of waste accumulation in rivers include water pollution and as a major cause of flooding during the rainy season, while waste accumulation in coastal areas can cause pollution and reduce the beauty of coastal tourism (Siregar, 2014). Waste management refers to Law Number 18 of 2008 and Government Regulation Number 81 of 2012, which mandate that waste management must be oriented towards waste reduction and handling, so that waste then has a benefit value and economic value (Suryani, 2014). Following up on this, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) issued Ministerial Regulation Number 14 of 2021 concerning waste management at waste banks

with the aim of cultivating public awareness in waste management by applying the concept of a circular economy (Sutana, 2023).

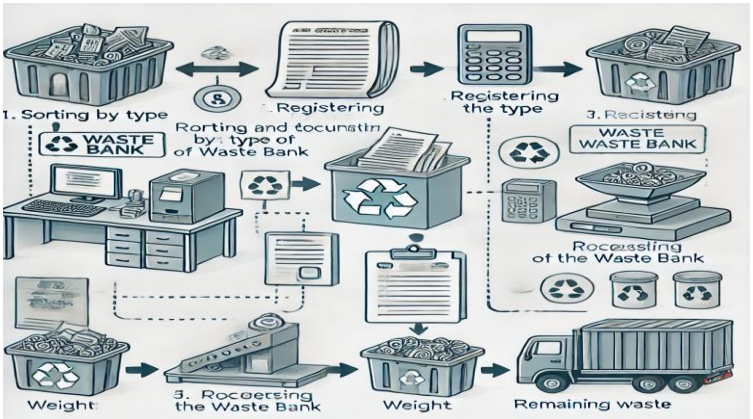
The Green HD waste bank located at Harapan dan Doa Hospital (RSHD) in Bengkulu City was first established in February 2020, and in 2023 it officially joined SIMBA KLHK. In addition to playing a role in managing waste, the existence of the Green HD waste bank certainly plays a role in increasing the income of its customers, who in this case are contract employees at RSHD Bengkulu City. The issue of contract employees remains an employment issue in Indonesia until now, especially regarding income and welfare, as it is known that the income earned by standard contract workers is still below that of civil servants and PPPK (Siregar, 2023). Currently, there are 233 contract employees at RSHD Bengkulu City with a monthly income of Rp 1.5 million. This income is still far below the minimum wage in Bengkulu City which reaches Rp 2.7 million and there needs to be an effort for contract employees to increase additional income outside of their basic salary.

This research is very important because it can determine the extent to which the waste bank is effective in increasing the income of contract employees. The basic assumption of this research is that waste banks have the potential to increase additional income for contract employees who become their customers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Waste Bank Generally, waste is defined as something that is no longer used, cannot be used again, is not liked, and must be discarded. Therefore, waste must be managed properly so as not to cause negative impacts (Suryani, 2014). Waste can also be classified into organic waste, dry waste, ash and charcoal waste from combustion residues, waste from animal carcasses, scattered waste or dirt along roads, and waste from industrial processes (Fadhilah et al., 2011). Meanwhile, based on its nature, urban waste can be divided into two types: organic waste and inorganic waste. Organic waste is waste that is easily biodegradable and therefore easily decomposes, such as vegetable waste, leaves, animal parts, food scraps, paper, wood, and others. While inorganic waste is waste that is difficult to degrade and therefore difficult to decompose, such as plastic, glass, metal, cans, and others (Anggraini, et al., 2012). Waste management is not easy, but rather very complex, as it involves technical, economic and socio-political aspects. Waste management is an effort to manage or control waste from the process of containment, collection, transfer, transportation, processing, to final disposal (Suryani, 2014). Basically, a waste bank is a concept of collecting and sorting dry waste and has management like a bank, but what is deposited is not money but waste. Residents who deposit (submit waste) are also called customers and have savings books and can borrow money which is later returned with waste worth the money borrowed. The deposited waste will be weighed and valued with a certain amount of money, then sold to factories that have cooperated with the waste bank (Anonymous, 2012).

Figure 1 Waste Bank Workflow



Waste banks represent a form of social engineering aimed at actively engaging the community in waste management, particularly in waste sorting (Ramadhan, 2016). The establishment of waste banks marks the initial momentum in cultivating public awareness to start sorting, recycling, and utilizing waste, thus providing both environmental and economic benefits (Suwerda, 2012). The presence of waste banks not only aids in maintaining environmental cleanliness but also generates additional income (Wulandari, et al., 2017). The Role of Waste Banks Waste banks offer several benefits, including social, economic, and environmental advantages. Economically, waste banks can increase community income through the sale of recycled waste. Socially, they encourage active community participation in waste management, raise awareness about the importance of a clean environment, and foster solidarity among residents (Raharjo et al., 2019). Environmentally, waste banks help reduce the volume of waste transported to landfills, thereby extending landfill lifespans and minimizing pollution.

Several regions in Indonesia have successfully developed well-functioning waste banks, such as those in Surabaya and Yogyakarta. For instance, the waste bank in Surabaya has successfully reduced household waste by up to 20% annually and received support from local governments (Putri & Widjaja, 2020). This demonstrates that with proper support and management, waste banks can serve as a long-term solution to urban waste problems. Despite their many benefits, waste bank management also faces various challenges, such as low public awareness, limited waste management facilities, and funding constraints. Moreover, operational sustainability often depends on support from governments and local communities. Without consistent support, the existence of waste banks can be at risk (Yulianto & Prasetyo, 2018).

METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research method to describe the role of waste banks as a waste management model to improve the economy of its customers. The data collection methods used include in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders (Table 1) and observation, which involves direct examination of the research object. The study is conducted at the Green HD Waste Bank located at RSHD Kota Bengkulu, Bengkulu City.

Table 1 Research Respondent Categories

No	Category	Quantity	Description
1	Manager	1	Manajer Bank Sampah Green HD Kota Bengkulu
2	Costumer	1	Employee of RSHD Kota Bengkulu
3	Staff	1	Staff of the Green HD Waste Bank, Bengkulu City
	Total	**3**	

RESULTS

Based on the transcription of interviews with each informant and analysis using the thematic analysis method, three main roles of the Green HD Waste Bank in Bengkulu City were identified: the economic role, the environmental role, and the social role. Economic Benefits The economic benefits provided by the Waste Bank through its waste savings program are greatly felt by its customers. The proceeds from waste exchange enable them to earn additional income, which can be used to cover basic needs such as electricity bills and daily essentials. One informant expressed that this program significantly helps supplement their income, which is then utilized to fulfill household needs: "It really helps, quite a bit to add to the income, can be

used to pay for electricity and other household needs." (Informant 2) However, the amount of income earned by each customer varies depending on the amount of waste they deposit. A customer mentioned that they could earn around IDR 100,000 to IDR 200,000 per week from waste collection activities: "Each customer is different, depending on their income." (Informant 3) "For me, it's around IDR 100,000 to IDR 200,000 per week, on average." (Informant 2) This additional income provides significant support for their daily expenses and highlights the positive impact of the Waste Bank program in improving the economic well-being of its customers. Environmental Benefits The Green HD Waste Bank in Bengkulu City plays an essential role in supporting environmental sustainability, particularly in waste management within the hospital environment. "We know that hospitals contribute waste every day, including hazardous and toxic waste (B3)." (Informant 1) Hospitals, as explained by one informant, inevitably generate daily waste, including B3 waste, which requires special handling. The continuous increase in waste underscores the importance of an effective waste management system to reduce its negative environmental impact.

The presence of the Green HD Waste Bank has motivated hospital staff to be more active and enthusiastic in collecting and sorting waste. Another informant stated that the waste bank has inspired them to be more diligent in waste collection activities, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility among the staff.

This initiative not only helps manage daily waste but also cultivates a culture of sustainability within the hospital environment: "With the Waste Bank, we are more enthusiastic about collecting waste." (Informant 2) Social Benefits The Waste Bank also plays a crucial role in the social aspect by creating a space for interaction among its customers. As explained by one informant, every Tuesday, customers gather to weigh the waste they have collected, providing an opportunity for them to meet and interact with each other: "Here, every Tuesday, we always meet with the customers, and they interact with one another." (Informant 3) Although their work schedules differ due to shifts, they can meet and communicate during activities at the waste bank.

These gatherings not only enhance awareness of the importance of waste management but also strengthen social relationships among customers, fostering a sense of community and supporting strong social networks: "We work in shifts, but when weighing waste here, we can meet each other." (Informant 2) Thus, the Waste Bank not only contributes to environmental management and economic improvement but also strengthens social interactions and solidarity among community members.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study on the Green HD Waste Bank in Bengkulu City reveal that this initiative has a broad and significant impact across three main aspects: economic, environmental, and social. First, economically, the waste savings program provides direct benefits to customers. By exchanging the waste they collect, customers earn money that can be used to meet daily needs, such as paying for electricity and purchasing basic necessities. This aligns with previous research indicating that waste banks can increase community income, particularly in urban areas, by offering economic incentives for waste management (Raharjo et al., 2019). Second, environmentally, the Waste Bank plays a crucial role in managing waste, particularly that generated by hospitals. This program raises awareness among hospital staff about their responsibility in waste management, including the handling of hazardous and toxic (B3) waste.

These findings support Sari & Hidayati (2020), who noted that community involvement in waste management can reduce environmental impact and foster awareness of sustainability's importance. Third, socially, the Waste Bank fosters interaction among customers. The routine activities of weighing waste not only serve as a waste management tool but also provide a space

for customers to interact and strengthen their social networks. This demonstrates that waste banks can play a role in building social solidarity within communities, consistent with Nugroho & Kurniawati (2021), who emphasized the importance of social aspects in environmental resource management.

Overall, the Green HD Waste Bank in Bengkulu City functions not only as a waste management mechanism but also contributes to local economic improvement, environmental sustainability, and strengthened social ties within the community. This suggests that the waste bank model could be more widely adopted to generate similar benefits in other regions.

CONCLUSION

The Green HD Waste Bank serves as an effective model that not only addresses waste management and environmental preservation but also makes a positive contribution to the income of its customers, particularly employees within the RSHD Kota Bengkulu environment. These benefits highlight the potential of waste banks to function as a sustainable solution to the environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by urban communities.

LIMITATION

This study has several limitations, which are expected to be addressed in future research. It is recommended that future studies expand the research scope beyond a single location. In this study, the research was limited to one location, namely the Green HD Waste Bank in Bengkulu, which operates within the scope of the RSHD Bengkulu City Hospital. As a result, the data and findings are confined to a small scale. Future research is planned to involve multiple waste banks across Bengkulu Province, covering a wider range of settings, from government institutions to broader community environments. This expansion is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of waste banks in enhancing economic income.

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