

Ecofeminism: Bringing Butterfly Conservation into Ecotourism

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Abstract. Ecofeminism, as perspective that supporting the ecology's issues, stressing on involvement of women. In Indonesia, women are the symbol of mother nature, related to the source of life. In ecology perspective, conservation become relevant. Butterfly existence able to become indicator for habitat diversity. Herawati Soekardi in a position to lead Yayasan Sahabat Alam, consistently works for about 20 years. Her work on butterfly conservation has been able to show skills that are needed by the leaders of environmental. Ecotourism become the supporting activities for the conservation's itself. Transfer of knowledge on importance of butterfly preservation is the crucial aspect to engage experiences on tourism.

Keywords: ecofeminism, ecotourism, butterfly conservation

1 Introduction

Environmental issues have become urgency matters for people to take part. In early 2000, arose concern on global warming. Urgency for searching the renewable energy have been pushed, as the solutions for the problem that cause by human activities. Some highlights, couple big fast food companies skip the plastic straw from their table. Those decisions were made because of the media exposed on sea animal were harmed by the plastic straw waste.

Clapp and Dauvergne [1] presented four main worldviews on global environmental change and its relationship to the global political economy: market liberals, institutionalists, bioenvironmentalists, and social greens. Four of them had different views on problem that causing environmental problem. Market liberal sees that it is caused by poverty and weak of economic growth, only by improving economic wealth can support a better environment. Institutionalist harness globalization and promote the global cooperation to solve environment problem. Bioenvironmentalist sees overpopulation and over consumption could be manage by the collective coercion to control the activities.

Social greens seeing the main cause of environmental problem are inequality and domination, exacerbated by economic globalization, seen as leading to unequal access to resources as well as unequal exposure to environmental harms. [1] Autonomy local community become key point to restore the natural environment. This prespective draw on

Marxist thought, where injustice environmental were driven by capitalism. They reject globalization, and stress the need to empower the marginalized voices.

Pointing out the social greens, by means to restress that feminism in global environmental politics also was acknowledged. Social greens sees on inequality on human activity and environment. Feminism sees inequality on masculine and feminine. Masculinity represent by the exploitation of nature resources; showing of human power on unprotected things (nature). When feminine, represent by nurturing; this trait gives advantages on ecofeminist, when others might argument contrary.

Ecofeminism, ecological feminism, which showing feminism with the ecological knowledge. Ecofeminisms was brought by Vandana Shiva, a physicians with ecological movement and Maria Mies, a social scientist with feminist's movement. They are trying to building solutions, that women have to be part of the improvement for the environment. This article would explain on how woman (ecofeminism) could bring butterfly conservation into ecotourism.

2 Methodology

In this research we were using qualitative methodology: guided interview and participant observation. More over, we were taking feminist case studies. As Reinharz stated [2, p. 167], feminist write case studies for the same reasons that nonfeminist scholars write them--to illustrate an idea, to explain the process of development over time, to show the limits of generalization, to explore uncharted issues by starting with a limited case, and to poase provocative questions. Three major purposes for feminist case studies are analyzing the change in phenomena over time, analyzing the significance of a phenomenon for future events, and analyzing the relation among parts of the phenomenon [2, p. 164]. It gave us opportunities to do research in individual (woman), in order to documenting women's live and achievements.

This individual case studies, is taking Herawati Soekardi, environmental activist in butterfly conservation, as the subject. The analysis, furthermore, elaborate from the interview that had been done with herself and the staff of the organization. We also conducted observation to acknowledge the activities and the women's decision making on an organization that have goals in ecology.

3 Results and Discussion

Speth and Haas [3] in their book, stated there are 10 major global environmental challenges; one of the is loss of biodiversity. Indonesia as the one of 17 megadiverse country [4], giving paradox conditions. In one part, it gives benefits, various source for food, oxygen, and many renewable materials. Even so, without any good knowledge, those nature could be endangered by human activities, overexploitation for one example.

Urgency of Indonesia preserving the biodiversity have to be more concerned. Development causing the habitat loss, which leading to species loss. After one another, it could make numbers species loss, biodiversity loss. When it starts to happen, it will effect our life, human life.

Conservation is one of the key to keep the biodiversity. The essence of conservation is continuity, sustainable. T. R. New [5] Lepidoptera rely on sustaining habitat to conserve, and its existence can be consider as habitat evaluation.

Soekardi starting her works in Taman Kupu-Kupu Gita Persada (TKGP), Lampung in 1999. Her approach was implementing habitat engineering for butterfly conservation. The initial existing were monocultur plants; *sonokeling*, coffee, and cacao tree. There were no food larva plant and nectar plants which are needed in butterfly's life. This park was part of Taman Hutan Raya Wan Abdurrahman, situated at the foot of Betung Mountain with area 4,8 ha. Besides for butterfly conservation, it is also for education, research facility for students and others [6]. Since, this area is not national park, enabled non-government actor to have cooperation with the government in term of management.

One of obstacle on involvement women in natural resources management, is the access of land [7], either of the ownership or the job distribution. In social greens perspective, the government ownership represented as the domination of power. Approach on having cooperation between public (government) and private were also showing the existence of non-state actors. Thus, it also stress on the empowered people. Total of 4,5 ha, representing almost 90% belongs to government, and the rest is private. Domination on area did not mean on domination on management of TKGP.

Early research in 1999 showed only 6 species from Papilionidae family and gradually increasing by year until there were 13 species found in 2001 [8]. Based on Yayasan Sahabat Alam's Report, 25 species were recorded in 2004 from family of Papilionidae, Pieridae and Nymphalidae [9], 102 species were listed in 2016 [10] and now there are 180 species from 6 families.

Involvement women in conservation science making a difference [11]. Her background as entomologist has grown through years of dedication. Background of Soekardi as lecturer also brought numbers of researchs, by students or scientists. Several researches done by Lampung University students for examples are *Troides helena*'s food preferences and eating behaviour by Wulandari (2009), *Troides helena* mating behaviour by Oktarini (2011), butterfly morphometry by Tanjung (2011), biological aspects of *Ochyrotica celebica* by Sumarji (2014) and Ecobiological aspects of *Troides helena* in Gita Persada Butterfly Park, Lampung by Larasati (2015).

As Deda and Rubian [7] were analysing on women's involvement in decision-making process, with few women at managerial level, it is not an easy task to address the continued inequality between men and women, as it is deep-rooted in most governance structures. Soekardi has role as the leader of the organization. She engaged weekly meetings with the employees to give instructions on each responsibilities. She showed her employees how to do operational activities, for examples: make composting boxes, and how to plant and replant.

There are 4 important qualities for conservation leaders [12], she showed there of it, (1) orientation towards „hands-on“ management, (2) ability to switch attention between wider context and details, and (3) willingness to encourage learning, improvement, and receptive to alternative solutions. Cooperations with other organizations showed her ability on doing wider context, mutual benefit between parties. Her expertise brought her to Bantimurung, Sulawesi Selatan for sharing her knowledge in doing butterfly conservation. Open communication between YSA's members brings her different approach in problem solving.

Conservation is one of the key to keep the biodiversity. The essence of conservation is continuity, sustainable. It needs long-term goals to achieve sustainable environment for butterfly, consistent works are needed. As an ecofeminism, Soekardi showed willingness, expertise, and consistency on ecological issues, the butterfly conservation. Swain and Swain

[13] stated ecofeminism as a social movement differs greatly in organization and practice from ecotourism as a strategy for economic development. Having TKGP as butterfly conservation activities supporting ecotourism, focusing the activity in the site. Ecotourism as the approach in tourism to support environmental sustainability.

There are many definitions on ecotourism. Bjork [14] discussed 13 sources of definition, from 1965 until 1996, based on characteristic of the area, activities of the tourists, object, and sustainability. He define ecotourism as

an activity where the authorities, the tourism industry, tourists and local people cooperate to travel to genuine areas in order to admire, study, and enjoy nature and culture in a way that does not exploit the resources, but contribute to sustainable development. [14, pp. 196-197]

It given framework that ecotourism involving multi stakeholders in the processes. Government, tourist, tour operator, aviation industry, private/public transportation, community, local people and the destinations itself. The complex approaches have to prove that tourism activities are supporting environmental sustainability.

Das and Chatterje explained there are three impact on ecotourism; economic, socio-cultural, and environmental [15]. Economicly, there are employment, income generation, and economic transaction. Since tourism itself has economic dimensions, we might say the most basic point in terms of economic context is that, by and large environmental quality appears to be normal [16]. The greater value of economy, better for the environment. Nonetheless, ecotourism has proven to be an effective concept in the sustainable utilization of natural resources and development of various communities [17].

As part of economy activities that in broader perspective, tourism could harm the environment. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity stated that main causes of biodiversity loss are expansion of agricultural land and intensification of land use, fragmentation and infrastructure, climate change, water flow alteration, exploitation of natural ecosystems –including fisheries, forestry, hunting and gathering– and tourism [18]. Amount of trash in beach of Phillipine in 2017, were announced to be closed. A phenomenal photo of sea horse holding cotton bud were taken in Nusa Penida in 2018, showing how the human waste were damaging the sea habitat.

The importance of ecotourism, rely on transfer of knowledge. When doing tourism, visitors would have experience through the sense; feel, hear, and see. TKGP have designed attractions that managed visitors can feel the caterpillars, larvae food plants, and also touching that cause by jungle tracking, such friction between skin and leaves, or stepping on ground without shoes. The voice of nature, came from cicada and others insects were easy to hear as background. The staff of TKGP would assist the visitors to share the knowledge on importance of butterflies existence, butterfly life cycle, and managing habitat to support butterfly.

Since the niche market of its tourism attraction, most of its visitors are school students from playground, kindergarten, elementary, junior high, and senior high. They acknowledged TKGP as nature laboratory. During their visit, they also would conduct learning activities that were arranged by the school.

Through Soekardi's expertise on butterfly conservation, it brought tourism attraction. Butterflies as the main attraction and support by the others eco-friendly activities. By having tourism, it generate the economic capabilities of the organization. Mutual benefit on conservation and tourism brought up funding from economic transaction to operate conservation activities.

4 Conclusion

Women and ecofeminism stressed by willingness, expertise, and consistency of works on ecological issues, keeping up the biodiversity through butterflies conservation. Butterflies become main attraction of tourism, showing possibility on having ecotourism. Sustainability might be concerned as ways to have better life in the future.

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