

ECOPRINT EXPLORATION IN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY VISUAL ART WITH NATURAL DYES FROM NATURE

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Abstract - Visual arts can be a powerful medium for conveying messages about environmental sustainability and the importance of protecting natural ecosystems. One approach that is gaining increasing attention is the use of ecoprinting, a technique that combines art prints with natural dyes from organic materials found in nature. This research focuses on exploring ecoprint as an environmentally friendly method of visual arts, with an emphasis on the use of natural dyes taken from plants, leaves and other natural materials. The ecoprint method involves printing organic materials directly onto the surface of a substrate, such as canvas or paper, using heat and pressure to transfer pigment from the natural materials onto the print media. These natural dyes are known for their sustainable and environmentally friendly properties, as well as having unique and natural aesthetic potential. This process also encourages creative exploration in creating unique patterns and textures in works of art. This study will involve an in-depth analysis of various types of plants and other natural materials that can be used as ecoprint dye sources. In addition, this research will discuss the ecological impact of using natural dyes compared to synthetic dyes that are commonly used in traditional visual arts. By explaining the technical process of ecoprinting and illustrating the practical steps involved, this research will provide a practical guide for artists and craftspeople interested in adopting this approach. The results of this research are expected to open up new insights about how visual art can become a vehicle for voicing environmental and sustainability issues. By combining the aesthetic beauty of nature and environmental awareness, ecoprint exploration in the visual arts can be a powerful means of raising awareness and positive action towards nature conservation.

Keywords: Ecoprint, Environmentally Friendly Visual Arts, Natural Dyes From Nature

1. INTRODUCTION

The problem found in Jambu Hamlet, Purwosari, Giricahyo, Gunung Kidul is the village's natural potential that has not been utilized properly, such as lots of leaves from trees of various types, lack of skills in managing village potential. The Community Partnership Program is carried out to provide solutions by utilizing the natural potential of the village and increasing the ability of residents to create a creative economy by utilizing the natural potential in their village. The contribution of this Community Partnership Program is to hold training on making ecoprints by utilizing natural materials in the Hamlet environment of Jambu, Purwosari, Giricahyo, Gunung Kidul so as to provide direct benefits to people's lives in the social and economic fields through the creative economy and improve the quality of resources within the village. The method used is in the form of an explanation that contains materials and practices for making ecoprint batik. The result of this community service is the participants' understanding of ecoprint batik making and natural materials and their functions.

In the midst of deepening global attention to environmental and sustainability issues, the visual arts have emerged as a powerful platform for depicting and advocating messages around protecting nature and ecosystems. One of the emerging trends in the visual arts is the exploration of ecoprint, a technique that combines elements of printmaking with natural dyes obtained from various organic sources in nature. This exploration creates a bridge between the artist's creativity and the urgent need to care for the environment. In this context, eco-friendly visual arts are taking on an increasingly important role as a tool for expressing concern about environmental damage and inspiring positive action. Natural dyes extracted from plants, leaves and other organic materials provide a sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes which often have a negative impact on the environment. The exploration of ecoprint art is not only about an attractive aesthetic end result, but also about a creative process that involves a deeper connection with nature.

In this context, the ecoprint art approach offers an innovative way to depict the beauty of nature while still contributing to the protection of nature itself. In this paper, we will elaborate on the concept of ecoprint in the visual arts, examine various aspects of natural dyes used, and explore the ecological implications of using natural dyes in art. Thus, this paper will not only explore the artistic dimension of ecoprint exploration, but will also raise important questions about how visual arts can become agents of change to protect the environment and inspire sustainable actions. In this modern era, awareness of the importance of environmental preservation is getting deeper. The ecological challenges facing our planet remind us of the urgency to take responsible action towards nature. In this context, visual art has emerged as a powerful medium for conveying messages about sustainability and the importance of protecting natural ecosystems. One approach that has attracted attention is the use of ecoprints in the

visual arts, where art and nature meet in harmony. The exploration of ecoprint, a printing technique using natural dyes from organic materials, provides an opportunity to create works of art that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also environmentally friendly.

Ecoprint involves a process that combines printing art with natural dyes obtained from plants, leaves and other natural materials. This process uses the pounding technique, namely the beating process to transfer natural pigments from organic materials to the surface of the printing media. produce unique patterns and textures in works of art. The beauty of nature and human creativity combine in artistic expression that promotes sustainable values. In this introduction, we'll walk you through your exploration of ecoprint as a visual arts method that combines innovation and environmental sensitivity. We will explain the basic concept of ecoprint, describe its potential for beauty and sustainability, and highlight the importance of understanding natural dye sources obtained from nature. Thus, this paper will summarize how ecoprint can inspire unique collaborations between artists, nature and environmental awareness.

Amidst increasing awareness of the importance of environmental preservation and sustainability, the visual arts have become more than just creative expressions. As a powerful means of conveying messages and invoking social change, the visual arts have crossed their own boundaries and embraced responsibility to nature. One trend that is increasingly sticking out in the art world is the exploration of ecoprint, an approach that combines elements of printmaking with the use of natural dyes taken from various natural sources. In this context, visual arts is not only about aesthetics, but also about embracing sustainability, establishing a harmonious relationship with the environment, and inviting artists and art connoisseurs to be more sensitive to the beauty of nature and its vulnerability.

Ecoprint, as a technique that tries to harmonize art creations with the environment, offers new insights on how natural materials can be translated into inspiring visual works. By taking resources from plants, leaves and other natural elements, ecoprint invites us to see nature as a creative palette that does not only present colors and shapes, but also deep sustainable values. The natural dyes used in ecoprints not only produce unique visual effects, but also encourage deeper reflection on how humans can collaborate with nature rather than just taking from nature. In this context, this research will dig deeper into the exploration of ecoprint in environmentally friendly visual art and its relevance in the context of sustainability. Through an analysis of the natural materials used, the technical processes of ecoprints, and their ecological impact, this research aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the potential of ecoprints as a means of artistic expression that can promote environmental awareness. Thus, this paper will provide a comprehensive view of how visual arts can become agents of positive change in

efforts to preserve nature and global sustainability.

2. METHOD

In this service the method of material presentation and question and answer is used. Meanwhile, to apply the ecoprint technique itself, demonstration and practice methods are used. The stages of implementing community service activities go through several stages as follows:

1. Identify the participants and the number who will take part in the ecoprint training
2. Determine the place and time of the ecoprint training activities
3. In the training, ecoprint materials and knowledge will be provided
4. After the presentation, the participants practiced making ecoprints and were accompanied directly by the committee (participants of KKN).

The venue for the training was held at the Jambu Padukuhan Center, Giricahyo Village, Kapanewon Purwosari, Gunung Kidul Regency. The opening ceremony started at 13.00 and immediately continued with the provision of training materials on ecoprint and participants were given written materials to make them easy to understand, then also given a set of equipment to make ecoprint on a tote bag. After that the dedication team demonstrated how to make ecoprints. Ecoprint technique made using pounding technique.

Participants began to conduct training on making ecoprints with the help of the dedication team. Participants take out the equipment and materials that have been given. The tools and materials provided to the participants included newsprint for the mat, a special ecoprint hammer, a tote bag made of calico fabric that had been dimordan, thick enough plastic for the mat, and a basin. The materials are leaves or flowers that have been brought by the participants, lerek and alum for the fixation process. Previously, the tote bags that were distributed to the participants had already gone through a mordant process in order to facilitate the process of absorbing the color from the leaves. The way to make it is:

1. Prepare cloth, plastic, leaves and hammer.
2. Cover the bottom of the fabric that will be ecoprinted with plastic so that the color from the leaves does not penetrate into the layer of fabric underneath (if using a tote bag).
3. Arrange the leaves according to creativity with the underside of the leaves attached to the surface of the cloth.
4. After the leaves are arranged, cover them with clear plastic on top.
5. Do the pounding process using a hammer until the leaves stick perfectly to the surface of the cloth.
6. After the pounding process is complete, leave the cloth at least 1 night before the color locking process.

When pounding, beating is done from the outside of the tote bag until the leaf sap comes out and forms a pattern similar to the shape of a leaf. The stronger the punch is, the better the color will be. However, it should be noted that the technique of beating leaves depends on the character of the leaves and also the fabric used as the ecoprint medium. Thus, to get the desired results, the pounding steps need to be done slowly first. After that, check the color that comes out from under the cloth. If the resulting color and pattern are even, there is no need to pound again. However, if the resulting pattern hasn't come out or only part of it has come out, do the pounding process with a slightly harder beating. This is done to avoid overflowing patterns from leaves that have a wet character or have dense color pigments.

After being beaten for about 15 minutes, the leaves can be removed and the pattern is ready. Then let stand for at least one day so that the color of the leaves blends with the cloth. In the training, the process of standing the results of pounding was deliberately skipped because it shortened the time and was replaced by standing for 15 minutes so that the color that stuck to it was dry enough. However, the participants were given an explanation that in practice the process of standing the pounding results is very necessary so that this process cannot be skipped when trying to make ecoprint crafts. While waiting for the ecoprint cloth, the remaining 15 minutes of time was used as a question and answer session between the participants and presenters. After the cloth is dry enough, the next step is the fixation process. The fixation process is the color locking process which is carried out by rinsing the cloth in a natural color locking solution. The fixation process is carried out by flattening and dipping the cloth for 15 minutes, then without wringing it out directly in the shade to dry. This fixation process was carried out by the training committee in front of the participants due to the limited number of tools. The process is complete, by producing an ecoprint on a tote bag that has a high selling value.

There are 2 types of natural color locking solutions that can be used, namely with the main ingredient tunjung or alum + vinegar. In this training, the two solutions were used in practice to find out the difference in color results after experiencing the color locking process. Dissolve the color lock made from half a tablespoon of tunjung with 1 liter of hot water. If using alum, dissolve 10 grams of alum along with 2 tablespoons of vinegar in water at normal temperature. Using tunjung as a color lock will bring out a darker color, but if you want a brighter color, you can use an alum + vinegar solution. Locking the color using tunjung solution produces a darker color, while locking the color with alum + vinegar solution produces a lighter color.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this research is an exploration of the use of the ecoprint technique as an environmentally friendly visual arts method and the production of natural dyes from organic materials derived from nature. The ecoprint technique produces works of art that have unique patterns and textures produced through a pounding process, in which natural pigments from organic materials are transferred to print media such as cloth, canvas or paper.

As we know, eco printing is a way of processing fabrics by utilizing various plants in the natural environment and using natural colors from these plants. Eco print itself comes from the English language, namely eco (ecosystem) which means nature and print which means printing, so the resulting fabric is a process of printing using materials around the environment. There are 3 types of eco print techniques, namely pounding technique, steaming technique, and leaf fermentation technique. However, in this dedication the technique being taught is the pounding technique. In the implementation of eco print training for PKK Dusun Jambu women, the results showed that the training participants had the ability to make adequate eco print works of art. Their work shows a fairly good level of expertise in arranging patterns and textures on fabrics and choosing the right plants and organic materials to produce the desired natural dyes.

In terms of marketing, the trainees had a positive response to this training and exploration as a potential business opportunity. They feel that the new skills acquired can be applied to earn additional income through manufacturing and selling eco print products. Therefore, it can be concluded that this training had a positive impact and empowered participants to utilize their new skills in eco-friendly art. This service aims to provide training on making eco prints on tote bags to PKK mothers in Jambu Hamlet, Giricahyo Village, Purwosari District, Gunung Kidul Regency so that they can be used as a promising business opportunity. With this training, it is hoped that the trainees will have new skills. As is known, the definition of training according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is teaching someone to be able to do something. In this case, participants are expected to be able to make certain types of skills. Crafts in the form of skills to make eco prints on tote bags. It is hoped that with this training the trainees will gain knowledge or skills that are useful for improving the family economy. Based on some of the opinions above regarding training, it can be concluded that the purpose of this activity is to improve people's skills so that they can do a job effectively and efficiently according to the demands of needs and also the development of science and technology.

In a broader context, the results of this study support the view that visual arts have great potential in becoming a platform for conveying environmental and sustainability messages. Through eco print exploration, visual art is not only a means of creative expression, but also a means of communicating the urgency of nature conservation. The use of natural dyes from plants and other organic materials reduces the negative impact on the environment that often occurs when using synthetic dyes. The results of the training also reflect the importance of skills development and training in supporting environmental preservation and sustainability. Trainees become more aware of the potential of utilizing natural resources in a sustainable way to create unique and high-value art products.

Evaluation is also discussed from the results of the training on making ecoprints which are good, only here it really requires continuous training to get satisfactory results. There are opinions that support the statement above, that is, in making art, skills, precision, finesse, dexterity and intelligence are needed. Based on practice in the field, the results of the ecoprint training participants' work were quite good and there were only minor errors. This shows that these mothers have done their job to the fullest. Skill or ability is the power possessed by a person in expressing creativity, thoughts, and ideas in order to do something better and meaningful so as to produce something of value from the work.

The response from the training was conveyed by the PKK Dusun Jambu women who said that they were very grateful to have been given ecoprint training. This is because these activities can increase knowledge about the utilization of natural resources that can be used as products that have a sale value. In addition, the participants also hoped that this activity could continue or not just this one time. The response or responses from the training participants became one of the motivations for other participants to develop the knowledge they had obtained into capital to start a business that could generate profits for their families. This will be the basis for mothers to create new businesses in making ecoprints and are motivated to develop their ecoprint business by making various ecoprint techniques in various finished forms that can generate money. This shows that the skills possessed will be a profitable business opportunity. It was also stated that skills are one of the best ways to increase future income by starting your own side business.

However, despite the positive results, there are challenges that need to be overcome. One of them is the need for ongoing training to improve the quality of ecoprint works and understand the characteristics of the natural materials used. In addition, marketing and business aspects also need to be considered so that training participants can successfully sell their work well. The continued importance of collaboration between artists, environmental scientists and sustainability practitioners also emerges from the results of this research. By collaborating, more innovations can be developed in the use of natural dyes, more in-depth research on ecological impacts, and sustainable marketing strategies as well as more comparability between ingredients and the quality of the ecoprint products produced.

Then, From the results and discussion that have been presented, it can be concluded that ecoprint exploration in the visual arts is a powerful approach in illustrating environmental and sustainability messages. The ecoprint technique allows artists to produce works of art that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also environmentally friendly. Through an understanding of natural resources, the selection of organic materials, and an understanding of their ecological impact, the

visual arts can be an effective tool in inspiring positive actions towards nature and environmental preservation. By continuing to develop research and collaboration between various disciplines, ecoprint exploration in visual arts can become an important factor in efforts to maintain global sustainability.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be drawn from the journal is that visual art is an art that has great potential to be a powerful means of conveying messages about environmental sustainability and the importance of protecting natural ecosystems. One approach that is currently developing is the use of the ecoprint technique, in which art prints are combined with natural dyes derived from organic materials found in nature. The exploration of ecoprint in the visual arts can be considered as a step towards environmentally friendly art.

This lesson underscores the importance of using natural dyes from plants, leaves, and other natural materials in ecoprints. These natural dyes are sustainable and environmentally friendly, and provide unique and natural aesthetic results. The ecoprint process involves printing organic materials directly onto a print medium by pounding, which transfers the natural pigments from the organic matter onto the surface of the print media, such as cloth, canvas, or paper. The result of this exploration is creating unique patterns and textures in works of art. One of the aims of this research is to discuss the ecological impact of using natural dyes in the visual arts. These natural dyes are considered a more sustainable alternative to the synthetic dyes commonly used in traditional art. The use of natural dyes in the visual arts can be a step in reducing the negative impact on the environment.

In this study, it is also explained about the method of implementing ecoprint training to the community, especially PKK mothers, with the aim of providing new skills in creating a creative economy through making ecoprint-based products. Participants in this training will gain an understanding of ecoprint batik making and the use of natural materials in the process. In addition, this journal also provides suggestions for further research, such as deeper integration between visual arts and sustainability through ecoprints, the influence of natural expressions in art on consumer behavior, development of sustainable art education, interdisciplinary collaboration in art and ecology, and exploration of market potential. eco-friendly art. Overall, this research highlights how visual art in the form of ecoprint can be a powerful tool in communicating environmental messages, combining natural aesthetics with an awareness of the importance of preserving nature, and creating works of art that are environmentally friendly and meaningful.

Visual arts have an important role in conveying messages about environmental sustainability and the need to protect natural ecosystems. One approach that is gaining attention is the use of ecoprint, a technique that combines art prints with natural dyes obtained from organic materials in nature. The purpose of this study is to explain the concept of ecoprint in visual arts, explore the potential of natural dyes from nature, and analyze the ecological impact of using natural dyes in art. Ecoprint involves a method of

directly printing organic materials onto the surface of a print media such as cloth, canvas or paper. The pounding technique is used to transfer natural pigments from organic materials to the print media, resulting in unique patterns and textures in works of art. The natural dyes used in ecoprint come from plants, leaves and other organic materials, and are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The implication of this research is that eco-friendly visual arts, through ecoprint techniques, are able to more effectively depict the beauty of nature and advocate for environmental issues. The creative process of creating patterns and textures in works of art also encourages deeper collaborations with nature. This research can have a positive impact, such as increasing awareness about the importance of environmental preservation, motivating positive actions towards the environment, and providing a sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes which generally have a negative impact on the environment. The advice given covers various aspects, from integrating visual arts and sustainability through ecoprints, developing sustainable arts education, to exploring the potential of the eco-friendly art market. There is potential for further development in ecoprint exploration as a tool to voice environmental issues and inspire positive actions in protecting nature.

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