

ECOPRINT CRAFT-MAKING TRAINING AS A DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY AT SD N 1 BERO

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Abstract - *Children's creativity is essential in today's education, following the current learning curriculum, namely the independent curriculum. In the independent curriculum, the teaching and learning process emphasizes student creativity. The training was held at SD N 1 Bero to shape student creativity because SD N 1 Bero has implemented an independent curriculum in the teaching and learning process. SD N 1 Bero is one of the schools in Bero Village, one of the Manyaran District villages. Most of its hamlets are located in mountainous areas with abundant natural potential in the form of plants. This natural potential will be introduced to students later and used as the primary material for making ecoprints on tote bags. Ecoprint training is given to SD N 1 Bero students to increase children's creativity. The program implementation method uses a training method with stages, namely the first preparation stage, which includes determining the schedule, making materials, preparing tools and materials, and consolidating the team. The second stage is socialization, which includes providing materials and a question-and-answer process. The third stage is the training stage, which consists of the students' practice making ecoprints. The fourth stage is the evaluation stage of the ongoing training process. The training results are expected to provide students with new insights into eco-printing while improving their skills in utilizing local potential in the form of plants in the school environment.*

Keywords: *Creativity, Ecoprint, Natural Potential*

1. INTRODUCTION

Creativity is an essential aspect of education in this era. Creativity is a trait of an individual that can be seen from their ability to create something new. (Sitepu, 2019). Creativity can encourage children to learn things so they are able to make new things. (Marfuah et al., 2023). Every child must have their creativity that can still be developed and honed. School is one of the places that can facilitate this. The development of creativity will be more accessible when it is formed early. Elementary school is the initial phase for children to develop their creativity. The current learning curriculum, namely the independent curriculum where learning emphasizes the way teachers and students think to be more innovative, creative, and happy in learning (Alimuddin, 2023). This curriculum emphasizes the development of student character through the Pancasila Student Profile.

The Pancasila Student Profile manifests Indonesian students as lifelong learners who have global capabilities and can behave according to the values contained in Pancasila, which has six main characteristics: faith in God and noble character, international diversity, mutual cooperation, independence, critical reasoning, and creativity. (Kahfi, 2022). This creative element can be obtained through educational institutions, one of which is at the elementary school level. Elementary school is the first step and a place related to the instillation of skills in children because children at this age can capture learning materials and directions given by teachers independently and are able to think critically compared to children who have not entered elementary school. (Satria et al., 2023). Therefore, ecoprint training was held at SD N 1 Bero to improve children's creativity. SD N 1 Bero is one of the elementary schools located in Bero Village and has implemented P5 in teaching and learning activities.

Bero Village is one of the villages in Manyaran Subdistrict, Wonogiri Regency, Central Java Province. Bero Village is located in a hilly area rich in natural products. Based on the results of interviews conducted with the head of Bero Village, the area in Bero Village is mainly composed of mountains with diverse plants. This is the reason for the author to choose the activity of making ecoprint by utilizing the natural potential in the form of plants in the environment around the school and as a form of supporting the strengthening of the Pancasila Student Profile, which is included in the independent curriculum for elementary schools.

Ecoprint is one of the trends in textile dyeing and pattern making. Ecoprint comes from the word *eco*, which means nature, and *print*, which means printing. Ecoprint is a printing technique that uses natural materials such as plants, leaves, roots, flowers, and environmentally friendly materials to form specific motifs and patterns (Kusumawati et al., 2024). This eco-friendly printing technique is a simple process that does not require machines and is certainly environmentally friendly (Satria et al., 2023). There are three basic ecoprint techniques, namely pounding, boiling, and steaming. In the pounding technique, the process of transferring colors from plants to fabric is by hitting plants on the fabric on a flat surface. The boiling technique has

many sequences, including the fabric first discouring and dimordanting. The fabric is stretched, the plant is attached to the fabric, then coated with plastic and rolled using a pipe until tight, then tied with a rope, and finally boiled for 1-2 hours. The steaming technique is the same as the boiling technique, but with a steaming position, the fabric is not directly submerged in water (Nurliana et al., 2021).

This training aims to develop children's creativity at SD N 1 Bero and support P5 activities at school. It is hoped that students will gain new insights into eco-printing and improve their skills in utilizing local potential in the form of plants in the environment around the school.

2. METHOD

Training is a teaching and learning process specifically designed to improve a person's skills, knowledge, and work abilities. (Manshur et al., 2023). In the delivery of practical training, it is essential to design targeted training programs that can increase the chances of success and have a positive impact on trainees. The purpose of training is to produce positive changes in the behavior or performance of individuals or groups. The stages of training activities that have been carried out:

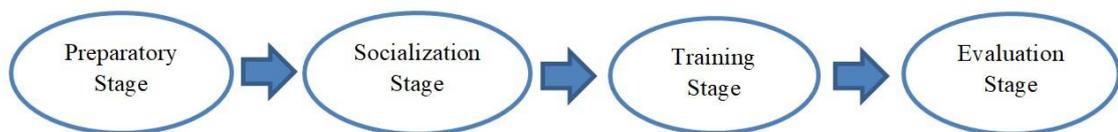


Figure 1. Training Activity Stages

The author chose the 4th-grade students of SDN 1 Bero as the training target because, at this grade level, students are starting to be able to reason and follow instructions in training activities. The following is the method of implementing ecoprint training activities for SD N 01 Bero's 4th-grade students.

1. Preparatory Stage

In this preparatory stage, several things must be done, there are:

- a. Determining the training schedule to be carried out by the ability of the SD N 1 Bero.
- b. Creating training materials that are easy for students to understand so that this training can be effectively conducted on eco-printing using natural materials from plants.
- c. Prepare the tools and materials needed to make ecoprint crafts.
- d. Conducting team consolidation as a stabilization in organizing the training.

2. Socialization Stage

In the socialization stage, several things were done, there are:

- a. Provide training materials for making ecoprint that have been prepared.
- b. Furthermore, participants were allowed to discuss and ask questions related to the preparation of the training implementation that will be carried out.

3. Training Stage

In the training stage, several things were done, there are:

- a. The KKN team brought tools and materials for the ecoprint training, such as tote bags, plastic, and alum.
 - b. Participants bring other materials and tools needed to make ecoprint, such as plants and hammers.
 - c. The team then gave directions to the participants and explained the steps in the ecoprint training. For this training method, the KKN Team used the pounding method. After that, the participants could start making ecoprint.
 - d. The eco-printing process was done in one day.
4. Evaluation Stage
- In the Evaluation stage, several things were done, there are:
- a. The first evaluation was during the ecoprint trial. Evaluation was also carried out by directly seeing the work of participants or students of SD N 1 Bero.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This ecoprint training activity was attended by 22 students at SD Negeri 1 Bero. This activity was carried out as a form of community service involving elementary school students with the aim of training creativity and a form of concern for the surrounding environment. This ecoprint training activity was carried out in two stages, namely, the consolidation stage and the training stage. The first stage is the consolidation stage; at this stage, training is carried out on team members to stabilize the mastery of ecoprint techniques. Mastering the ecoprint technique required a trial, which in this trial used a 13×16 cm pouch with the same material as the tote bag that would be used for training, namely canvas. The plants used were leaves and flowers around the author's KKN post, including papaya leaves, teak leaves, and butterfly pea flowers.

The technique used is the pounding technique, which is a technique of transferring colors from plants to fabric by beating. Leaves and flowers are arranged in a pouch that has previously been turned over and then given a plastic base, at the top of the pouch is also given plastic so that when hit the pouch is not dirty because it is exposed to dirt caused by the hitting tool used. We tried to use two pouches, the first pouch that will be used has been soaked using alum water while the second pouch we use directly. After the color transfer process is complete, the pouches are dried in direct sunlight. After drying, both pouches are soaked using alum water and salt for approximately 15 minutes. Then, the pouches were rinsed using clean water and dried in the shade. The result obtained is that the pouches that are directly used will be more out of color than the pouches that are soaked first using alum water.

The second stage was the training stage, conducted for SD N 1 Bero students. Twentythree fourth-grade students attended the training. The training was carried out by providing material first about the definition of ecoprint, the tools and materials needed, and how to make it. This material is provided to give students an overview and additional knowledge about ecoprint.

Then, proceed to the training stage; students bring the tools and materials that have been previously informed, namely leaves or flowers, and clean or punch. The author provided the tote bag and plastic. The tote bag used was a tote bag with canvas material

that easily absorbs water with a size of 30×35 cm. The training was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at SD N 1 Bero. There are several stages in the training of making ecoprint on tote bags, including:

1. Preparatory Stage

This preparatory stage includes determining the focus of the training, designing the implementation schedule, preparing materials, and maturing the mastery of making ecoprint by conducting trials.

2. Implementation Stage

In this implementation stage, the students were first given material about ecoprint including understanding, the tools and materials needed, and how to make them.



Figure 2. Providing ecoprint material to 4th-grade students of SD N 1 Bero

Figure 2 is a socialization activity conducted prior to the training. The KKN team gave a brief and concise explanation about ecoprinting so that elementary school students could easily understand it. We explained about ecoprint, which is a form of love for the environment because it can reduce environmental pollution by using natural tools and materials such as leaves and flowers from surrounding plants. The team also briefly explained ecoprint making so that the students know what they will do in the next ecoprint training. After that, the students prepared all the tools and materials with the help of the KKN team, followed by the distribution of tote bags to the students. The implementation of eco-printing was carried out outside the classroom to minimize noise and anticipate damage to the class ceramics.



Figure 3. Eco-printing process of 4th-grade students of SDN 1 Bero

Figure 3 is an ecoprint training activity directly guided by the KKN team to the students of SDN 1 Bero. Students created the shapes of leaves and flowers according to their imagination and creativity. After finishing pounding the leaves and flowers, the tote bags were dried in direct sunlight until they were scorched. After that, the color-locking process is done by soaking the fabric using salt and an alum tote bag soaked in alum water for 15 minutes. After that, the tote bag is dried in the sun until dry.



Figure 4. Taking a picture with students of SDN 1 Bero

Figure 4 is a group photo of the KKN team and students of SDN 1 Bero showing their ecoprinted tote bags. The resulting motifs are diverse, using natural colors from leaves and flowers. With this training, they can express their creativity and imagination in environmentally friendly work that can later be developed and utilized to reduce environmental pollution. Students can later use the results of the eco print tote bags as a substitute for plastic bags to reduce plastic waste.

This ecoprinting training can provide an alternative to producing environmentally friendly textiles and convey the message of the importance of consuming and producing environmentally friendly products. (Herlina et al., 2018). Through making ecoprint, can be an introduction to elementary school students about the use of natural materials in a way that is easy to do and tools and materials that are easy to obtain (Nuranisa et al., 2024). Making motifs on fabrics using ecoprint techniques aims to conserve or reduce the impact of environmental pollution both from the methods and chemicals used. (Simanungkalit & Syamwil, 2020). The benefits of making ecoprint pattern are that it can

foster a sense of love for nature, love of culture, and local wisdom in students. (Sari & Muthmainnah, 2023).

4. CONCLUSION

Children's creativity is essential for education today. The development of creativity will be more accessible when it is formed early. Elementary school is the initial phase for children to develop their creativity; therefore, ecoprint training was held at Bero State Elementary School 1 to improve children's creativity. Ecoprint is a printing technique using natural materials in the form of flowers, leaves, or even twigs that are transferred to a medium in the form of cloth with a method. This ecoprint training activity was attended by fourth-grade students of SD N 1 Bero with high enthusiasm. The students enthusiastically poured their creativity into making patterns using the ecoprint technique. Students can later use the results of this training as a substitute for plastic bags to reduce plastic waste. With this training, it is hoped that students will gain new insights into ecoprinting as well as improve students' skills in utilizing local potential in the form of plants around the school.

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