

## ECOPRINT CRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING WITH POUNDING TECHNIQUE TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' CREATIVITY

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**Abstract** - Creativity is a crucial skill in children's development, especially at the elementary school level. This study aims to enhance students' creativity through education and training in ecoprint crafts using the pounding technique at SDN Bibis. The activity involved introducing the basic concepts of ecoprinting, selecting natural materials, and using the pounding technique, which is simple yet effective for creating unique artworks. The research employed a participatory approach, where students not only learned the theory but also directly practiced the ecoprinting process. The results of this training showed an increase in students' creativity, as evidenced by the diversity and innovation in their produced works. Additionally, this activity raised students' environmental awareness by utilizing natural materials from their surroundings.

**Keywords:** Creativity, Ecoprint, Pounding Technique, Education, Craft

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country rich in biodiversity, many parts of plants can be used as dyes such as leaves, roots, fruit skins, tree bark (Kusnanto et al., 2022). Gunungkidul is one of the regencies in the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) with abundant natural resources. This can be proven around SDN Bibis, Krambilsawit Village, Saptosari District, Gunungkidul Regency which is rich in plants. However, the surrounding community is not yet aware of this potential which can be utilized into a product with high selling value. Therefore, creativity is needed to utilize the potential of natural resources in the SDN Bibis Saptosari environment.

Creativity is a result of a new mindset that can improve problem-solving abilities (Kartika et al., 2023). Creativity is a very important part of achieving a more optimal child development process. According to Rachmawati, creativity is an individual mental process that produces new concepts, processes, methods or products that are effective and imaginative that are beneficial to oneself and others (Yuandana, 2024). Creativity in children will be seen from their play when they use toys to create various forms of work, paintings, or spontaneous imagination (Kusumawati et al., 2024).

Elementary school is a good first step and place to develop children's skills and creativity. This is because children at that age have been able to understand information and instructions from teachers independently and can think more critically than children who have not entered elementary school, (Kusumawati et al., 2024). The presence of teacher creativity in children can provide a sense of pleasure and satisfaction. . Therefore, one way to encourage children's creativity is to provide them with education in elementary schools that provides them with the tools they need to learn creatively and skillfully so that they can create innovative works (Yusuf et al., 2024).

Based on observations at SDN Bibis Saptosari, the creativity of SDN Bibis students, especially grade 4, has not developed well. This can be seen from the lack of curiosity in children, children rarely ask questions, children are more silent and less actively involved in activities. In addition, the media used is also less varied so that children become less interested and get bored quickly. Therefore, there needs to be meaningful activities as a real effort to support these students, namely by conducting ecoprint craft training.

Ecoprint is a technique for depicting the colors and shapes of plants on fabric directly (Jariah et al., 2023) Ecoprint is a coloring technique that decorates fabric with distinctive designs made from natural materials. This technique utilizes natural materials such as flowers, leaves, stems, skin, fruit, and roots to add beauty to the fabric and produce exclusive motifs (Listiana et al., 2024). This is also in line with the opinion of Kharisma and Septiani in Muminah et al. who stated that ecoprint is a method of using various plants and their natural colors to decorate fabrics (Muminah et al., 2023). Based on the above understanding, it can be concluded that ecoprinting

is a technique for decorating fabric by utilizing natural materials such as leaves, flowers, stems, skin, fruit and roots.

## **2. METHOD**

This community service uses training techniques based on Nasution's theory. According to him, training is a learning process with certain methods and techniques to improve a person's skills and work abilities with the aim of increasing productivity. The target of the training is students in grade 3 of Bibis Elementary School because they can already reason to follow instructions at this level. This research was conducted at Bibis Elementary School because the school is close to the KKN post and has many natural resources available. We hope that this activity can improve students' skills, so that the school is better known by the community and more in demand.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Definition and Basic Concept of Ecoprint with Pounding Technique**

This community service activity involves ecoprint education and training for 24 fourth grade students of Bibis Elementary School. This training is part of the KKN Collaboration 133 work program which aims to improve students' skills in simple, environmentally friendly batik techniques that are easy for students to practice, namely the ecoprint technique.

Ecoprinting is a relatively simple natural fabric printing and coloring technique, but is able to produce unique and authentic motifs. The basic principle of making it is to create direct contact between leaves, flowers, stems, or other parts of plants that contain color pigments with certain fabric media (Faridatun, 2022). The natural pigments from the plants will transfer to the fabric, creating distinctive and different patterns on each print so that it has its own uniqueness, according to the characteristics of the material used.

The implementation of this activity has two main stages. The first stage is the socialization carried out for the initial introduction of ecoprint to students, because Bibis Elementary School students are not yet familiar with ecoprint. This socialization is carried out through presentations from the community service team, explaining the basic concept of ecoprinting and its benefits. The second stage is the practice of making ecoprint products. At this stage, students practice using materials and tools provided by the community service team, namely papaya leaves and totebag media. In this practical activity, students use one of the methods in ecoprinting, namely the pounding technique.

The pounding technique is a method in ecoprinting that involves beating leaves or flowers onto cloth using a hammer. This technique functions to print leaf motifs on cloth (Octariza & Mutmainah, 2021). The process involves beating a hammer on leaves that have been placed on cloth and covered with plastic to extract the color pigments from the leaves. The beating technique starts from the edge of the leaf, then

continues following the flow of the leaf stem, resulting in a motif that is transferred in detail to the cloth.

The pounding technique in ecoprinting not only emphasizes natural and aesthetic visual results, but also the creative process that involves exploration and interaction with nature directly. This technique is also considered an environmentally friendly technique because it does not require hazardous chemicals, making it an increasingly popular choice among art and environmental lovers. During the practice, students are given the freedom to be creative in producing patterns and motifs on totebags using leaves and flowers from the school environment. The results of this training are ecoprint products in the form of tote bags decorated with unique patterns made by students.

## **B. Implementation of Ecoprint Education and Practice at Bibis State Elementary School**

### **a) Planning Stage**

The ecoprint activity using the pounding technique began with the planning stage carried out by KKN 133 Collaboration of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta and UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan. The planning stage is the initial stage carried out to plan the activities to be carried out. This planning stage begins with the initial emergence of the idea of ecoprint using the pounding technique. Based on the results of the interview conducted by KKN 133 with the principal of Bibis State Elementary School, it was obtained that the principal said that it was a good idea to utilize natural materials in the environment around the school. Moreover, in Bibis State Elementary School, classes I - VI have implemented the independence curriculum and can be a project for students to become a forum for developing student creativity. With this ecoprint activity, KKN 133 utilizes natural materials in the form of leaves such as cassava leaves, papaya leaves, and other leaves found around the house and school.



**Gambar 1.** Solialisasi kepada siswa tentang teknik ecoprint

KKN 133 plans for the class taken in this ecoprint education and practicum, class IV at Bibis State Elementary School, in this case students are told to bring stones as tools for hitting. Other tools and materials such as totebag fabric, plastic for the

base, and leaves are provided by KKN 133. Directly, KKN 133 introduces students that local wisdom such as leaves in the surrounding area can be used to design beautiful totebags and add natural colors. The totebags will be used by students to carry stationery for studying the Koran at the Al-Quran Education Park.

This education program and practice of making Ecoprint using the pounding technique is very useful for students to increase their creativity and awareness that natural materials available in the surrounding environment can be made into a work. Ecoprint is one way to decorate fabrics by utilizing various plants by utilizing their natural colors. To combine art learning and a sense of love for the environment, learning and practice of making Ecoprint can be an example of multidisciplinary learning (Fadlilah, Suffa, & Rahma, 2024).

#### b) Implementation Stage

The implementation of ecoprint using the pounding technique begins with initial activities in the form of education for students regarding the introduction, objectives, tools and materials needed, ecoprint procedures, and the benefits of holding ecoprint activities. This education begins with a speech by the representative of the Principal and the Village Coordinator of KKN 133, after which ecoprint education is continued. This education is followed by students enthusiastically and pays attention to the material presented so that the sustainability of the student's practicum already has a little insight.

Ecoprint education aims to increase students' insight into the benefits of the advantages of the surrounding environment, namely several plants that can be made into a product with artistic value that produces economic value in the form of mori cloth that can be made into several products such as tablecloths, bags, wall hangings, and others. An introduction to environmentally friendly products to students because the color technique does not use chemical dyes or textiles.



**Gambar 2.** pelaksanaan kegiatan ecoprint dengan teknik ponding

This aims to introduce and foster a sense and attitude of love for the environment to students in the form of nature conservation (Dyatmika, Nata, & Riswanda, 2023).

Students are given some leaves, white cloth in the form of totebags, transparent plastic, and for each student's stone brought from home as a tool and material to

make Ecoprint. After providing education on making Ecoprint, students begin the practice with the first step of rolling out transparent plastic as a base for the totebag, the second step is to put the totebag on top of the transparent plastic as a base, the third step is to put some leaves according to the creativity of the students, the third step is to cover the leaves and flowers with transparent plastic, then the hammer is hit on the leaves and flowers that have been covered with plastic to extract the color pigment. Educational activities and practice of making Ecoprint are carried out using the pounding technique. The pounding technique is a technique by hitting leaves or flowers onto the cloth using a hammer or stone. The hitting technique starts from the edge of the leaf then follows the grooves of the stem and leaves. Students are given the freedom to design totebags with their own creativity and can take leaves or flowers taken around Bibis Elementary School. After that, the totebag is dried in a place that is safe from cleanliness so that the cloth is not dirty so that it can be used for bags or others. The natural colors of the leaves and flowers are very beautiful, producing very diverse motifs from the making of Ecoprint by grade 4 students of Bibis State Elementary School. From this activity, they can express their creativity in a work of art that in the future can be developed and utilized to reduce environmental pollution. This technique does not use machines or chemicals but is more environmentally friendly.

#### c) Evaluation Stage



**Gambar 3.** Foto bersama siswa setelah melakukan kegiatan ecoprint

Community service activities by KKN 133 in the form of ecoprint training have benefits for students of Bibis State Elementary School in Krambilsawit Village, Saptosari District, Gunung Kidul Regency, namely:

1. This ecoprint training can provide education about new knowledge to students of Bibis State Elementary School,
2. This ecoprint training can also be a place to develop their creative abilities,
3. This ecoprint training is able to provide an idea where the plants around can be utilized optimally into a product and have a selling value,
4. This ecoprint training is also able to encourage participants to care about the surrounding environment because this ecoprint product is an environmentally friendly product.

For future development, it is expected that students will be able to remain confident in their creativity without feeling inferior. In addition, students are also

expected to be able to apply their creativity in utilizing the potential of diverse plant wealth in the surrounding environment. That way, indirectly students also play a role in preserving the environment because they use natural materials (Aulia et al., 2024).

### **C. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors for Ecoprint Practices.**

Based on field research, in the implementation of socialization and practice of making ecoprints for elementary school students, there are several supporting and inhibiting factors in it. These factors are certainly part of the key to success in the practice. Some supporting factors that occurred during the training were a warm welcome from the school, both the principal, teachers, and students. In addition, the school was happy because there had never been ecoprint training in schools before, so this is the latest innovation implemented in schools that can increase student creativity, especially since the tools and materials used are very easy to find in the surrounding environment. Therefore, the school fully supports the implementation of this ecoprint training and practice.

What has been explained above is in accordance with research conducted by Samsul Hadi, et al. regarding supporting factors in implementing socialization and practice of making ecoprints, namely as follows (Hadi et al., 2023):

- a. Availability of abundant natural resources.
- b. The surrounding environment is still green and beautiful.
- c. Becoming a new innovation because students are not yet familiar with ecoprinting and its application

Meanwhile, research conducted by Ega Belahag Yusuf, et al. explained that the supporting factors in implementing the socialization and practice of making ecoprints are as follows (Yusuf et al., 2024) :

- a. A very good and warm welcome from the school.
- b. Enthusiasm from students and teachers that makes this activity run well.
- c. The activities are right on target so that they can increase student creativity by utilizing objects around them.

From the results of the research above and direct research in the field, it can be concluded that the supporting factors in implementing the socialization and practice of making ecoprints are new innovations in several schools that have never held such an event before. This is an arena to increase students' creativity in working and creating according to their wishes. In addition, they become more proud of the work they produce themselves and of course it will be beneficial for each of them. The socialization and practice of making ecoprints is one of the efforts to increase creativity and a means of expression for students through artwork (R. Angga Bagus Kusnanto et al., 2022).

In addition to supporting factors, there are also several inhibiting factors in it. Based on research in the field, there are several inhibiting factors in the socialization and practice of making ecoprints, namely the lack of knowledge and experience of students regarding ecoprints and the lack of absorption of plant colors on the fabrics

that have been provided. This will certainly affect the results of creativity carried out by students. Because this ecoprint practice is being implemented for the first time at Bibis State Elementary School, there needs to be assistance during the practice so that students do not experience difficulties when practicing making ecoprints.

What has been explained above is in accordance with research conducted by Muhammad Irham, et al. regarding inhibiting factors in implementing the socialization and practice of making ecoprints, namely the lack of knowledge and experience of students regarding ecoprints (Irham et al., 2023). This is because students have never practiced making ecoprints before. So before the practice is carried out, it is necessary to hold a socialization first so that students have an idea of ecoprints.

From the results of the above research and direct research in the field, it can be concluded that the inhibiting factors in the implementation of socialization and practice of making ecoprints are the lack of knowledge and experience of students regarding ecoprints and the selection of plants with high levels of color. This is done so that when the plant is hit it will produce maximum color and can stick to the fabric

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

This ecoprint training activity can be used as an effort to increase creativity and a means of expression for students through artwork at Bibis State Elementary School in utilizing natural resources in the surrounding environment such as leaves, flowers and bark, through this ecoprint training activity students are not only trained to be creative but also gain an understanding of the importance of protecting the environment and utilizing natural resources wisely.

This training is an effective solution in dealing with problems related to natural resource management, by utilizing materials that are often considered waste or less useful. Ecoprint is able to provide an alternative to the use of natural materials sustainably so that it can reduce dependence on synthetic materials that can damage the environment. This activity also provides insight to students about the importance of maintaining ecosystem balance, as well as opening up space for exploration and innovation in creating environmentally friendly products. This shows that with creativity, students can contribute to conservation.

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