

Environmental Management as the Philosophical Foundation of Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is classified as a take-off country according to Rostow. Rostow stated that at this stage, there is increasing industrialization and technological innovation, alongside obstacles to social and political structures. These obstacles contribute to environmental damage, which is a global problem largely caused by human activities. In the context of environmental management as the philosophical foundation of Indonesia, such social and political hurdles exacerbate the rising number of environmental problems. Some steps taken in designing the research methodology for this analysis include literature studies and concept and theory analysis. The data used in this study are secondary data obtained from laws and regulations as well as relevant literature. Data collection was carried out through literature studies. The philosophical foundation represents an attempt to understand and explain the nature of reality, knowledge, values, and human existence. Through philosophy, it can foster awareness in every individual. This individual consciousness, when realized through appropriate actions, can protect the environment and create a better future for the Earth and future generations.

Keywords: *country takeoff; environmental degradation; human*

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is classified as a take-off country according to Rostow (Todaro & Smith, 2020; Basri & Hill, 2021). Rostow stated that at this stage, there is increasing industrialization and technological innovation, alongside obstacles in social and political structures (Szirmai, 2018). Countries at this stage face several problems stemming from rapid industrialization, particularly those related to geosphere conditions (UNEP, 2019; World Bank, 2022). These include hydrosphere issues such as flooding, coastal abrasion, polluted rivers, and narrowing water catchment areas; atmospheric problems like air pollution; lithospheric challenges such as soil pollution and accumulated garbage; and biospheric concerns, including forest destruction, declining biodiversity, and damage to marine ecosystems (IPBES, 2019; KLHK, 2021; OECD, 2020). All these geosphere conditions have experienced degradation (FAO, 2022).

These problems refer to environmental damage, which is a global issue (Steffen et al., 2018; Rockström et al., 2017). Global environmental problems have persisted from the French Revolution in the 18th century to the present day (Bonneuil & Fressoz, 2017). Such damage ultimately affects living things, especially humans (IPCC, 2022). Most environmental degradation is caused by human activities that are not environmentally friendly, weak supervision of damaging actions, and insufficient environmental education (UNEP, 2021).

Meanwhile, social and political structural barriers contribute to the rising number of environmental problems (Meckling & Karplus, 2023; Sen & Ganguly, 2017). The social structure in question encompasses the interweaving of main social elements, rules, institutions, groups, and layers (Selo Soemarjan) (Misbakhul & Arditya, 2024; Soemardjan, 2017). Political structure relates to democracy, where political openness distinguishes it from authoritarian states. The democratization process creates space for political plurality, allowing diverse

groups with differing interests to compete in influencing public policy. In take-off countries, hindered social and political structures exacerbate environmental damage.

Obstacles to social and political structures greatly affect environmental degradation. Examples include global warming, pollution, habitat loss, and garbage accumulation. These are critical issues because they threaten ecosystem sustainability, particularly human life.

Environmental damage must be addressed immediately due to the earth's limited carrying capacity and its surface area of 510.1 million square kilometers. The global human population is 8.1 billion, yielding an average density of 15.88 people per square km. This density equates to a value of 3 out of 8, based on the Regulation of the Head of the Central Statistics Agency Number 37 of 2010 concerning Urban and Rural Classification in Indonesia. These constraints necessitate handling through *SIGAP*.

The objective of this study is to critically examine how *environmental management* functions as the philosophical foundation of Indonesia, particularly in relation to constitutional principles, national development ideology, and the ethical framework governing the relationship between humans, nature, and the state. By exploring the integration of environmental ethics with *Pancasila*, the 1945 Constitution, and sustainable development policies, this research aims to clarify the philosophical legitimacy of environmental protection as a state obligation and a moral responsibility of citizens.

The benefit of this study is to provide a strong theoretical and philosophical basis for strengthening environmental governance in Indonesia, offering guidance for policymakers in formulating environmentally just regulations, supporting academics in deepening environmental law and philosophy discourse, and increasing public awareness regarding the importance of ecological balance as an essential pillar of national survival, justice, and intergenerational welfare.

METHOD

The research method used to analyze community participation in environmental management from a socio-political perspective requires a holistic and comprehensive approach. Here are some steps that can be taken in designing a research methodology for such analysis: Literature Studies: The first step in this research methodology is to conduct a comprehensive literature review of community participation in environmental management and the socio-political structures that influence it. It involves searching and analyzing literature, research reports, scientific articles, and other related documents that include related theories, concepts, frameworks, and research findings.

After gathering the relevant literature, the next step is to analyze concepts and theories related to social and political structures in environmental management. This includes an understanding of the concepts of participation, environmental democracy, collective action, as well as relevant social and political theories. Qualitative Analysis: Data obtained from literature studies, concept and theory analysis, as well as the results of interviews and focus group discussions are then analyzed qualitatively. It involves interpreting data to identify social and political structures in community participation in environmental management.

The data used in this study are secondary data. Data is obtained from laws and regulations, data from literature. The data collection technique is carried out through literature studies, namely by studying materials from journals and official documents. Data analysis is

done in a qualitative descriptive manner, namely by defining, interpreting, and studying material on environmental issues, environmental management, and philosophical foundations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social and Political Structure

Social structure according to George C Homans (teacher's room), meaning is something related to the individual. Individuals can play a good role if individuals can adjust to the prevailing norms in society. Meanwhile, according to Soerjono Soekanto, social structure means that an individual has a relationship between the position and role of an individual or group in a certain society. In the explanation, it contains 2 meanings, namely: 1) individuals whose role is to adjust the prevailing norms in society. 2) The role of individuals who have a position in a group.

Individuals as individuals have duties and obligations to follow norms in society. The goal is for there to be conformity or order in society. Therefore, the diversity of individuals to follow the applicable norms will form a harmonious society.

According to Linton, a role is the behavior that is expected of status. George Herbert Mead, a philosopher and sociologist, developed a theory of symbolic interactionism that emphasized how individuals learn to play a role through social interaction. Role in social interaction, an individual can carry out activities in society. Activities that are in accordance with the role carried out will provide conformity. Conformity can create a harmonious society.

Political structure is the institutional structure (institutions and organizations) in the political life of a nation and a country. Indonesia has a political structure with authoritative values that are influenced by the distribution and use of power. Power means the capacity to use authority, rights, and physical force. Political structure includes the structure of human relations and the structure of relations between humans and governments. According to Muhtar Afandi (<https://www.academia.edu/38667499>), power is the capacity, capability, or ability to influence, convince, control, dominate, and rule others. Power is a capacity; the ability or ability to influence, persuade, control, dominate, and rule others.

Political structure functions as a regulator of people's life in the life of a country. Through the political structure, each institution plays a role in regulating the life of the state and creating an orderly life. Indonesia's political structure is known as Democracy. Democracy means government from the people, by the people, for the people. In a democracy, the people's decision system can become the rule of government.

Foundations of Indonesian Philosophy

Philosophical foundations are foundations based on philosophy that examines radically, comprehensively, and conceptually that produce conceptions of life and the world. The ideal foundation of Indonesia is Pancasila. Pancasila as a view of the philosophy of life of the Indonesian nation is the embodiment/crystallization of values and norms that are believed to be true, so as to cause determination to be realized through attitudes, behaviors, and deeds in the life of the community, nation, and state. Pancasila is a social ethic, meaning that Pancasila contains a set of values that must be internalized by the entire community to live as an Indonesian nation and state.

The state of Indonesia as an archipelagic country is known as the Archipelago Insight. Wawasan Nusantara shows a broad view of the Indonesian region consisting of various islands. The number of islands in Indonesia is 17,380 islands to become a unitary state of Indonesia. The grouping of various groups of islands into one in one view of Indonesian philosophy. A view of Indonesian philosophy that unites the Indonesian nation to agree on values, norms, unity of values, and goals to bring the nation and state of Indonesia into a Triumphant State.

Environmental Management

Environmental management is a systematic and integrated effort made to preserve environmental functions and prevent environmental pollution and/or damage which includes planning, utilization, control, maintenance, supervision, and law enforcement. According to Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management, what is meant by the Environment is the unity of space with all objects, powers, conditions, and living things, including humans and their behavior, which affect nature itself, the continuity of life, and the welfare of humans and other living beings".

In the environment there are many elements. One of the elements is humans. Humans are the main and first factor in the environment. This is because humans are able to behave to determine the picture of their environment. The diversity of human beings with their own personal interests can give rise to various environmental problems. Environmental problems caused by the diversity of human beings in the way they behave, think. Diversity of attitudes and thinking that are not in accordance with values and norms cause problems in the environment. Several examples of environmental problems have forged the geosphere.

Various geosphere problems include related to the hydrosphere such as flooding, declining water quality and quantity; The atmosphere is a decrease in air quality, namely air pollution, the lithosphere is a patchwork of Lapindo mud, the biosphere is for example forest damage, coral reef damage. Unity of attitude to save the survival of the environment requires a philosophical view that contains values and norms to maintain environmental sustainability. The philosophy of the foundation of the environment is Pancasila which can be realized through wise environmental management based on cultural, social, and norm values that unite the Indonesian nation.

Environmental Management as the Foundation of the Indonesian Nation's Philosophy

The right to live a healthy life in a healthy environment is a human right. Efforts to create a healthy living environment so that humans are happy are the philosophical foundation. Therefore, to crystallize this philosophical foundation requires an effort. The realization effort is sustainable and harmonious environmental management. Achieving environmental sustainability requires democratic efforts. A joint effort from the people, by the people and for the people. Joint collaborative efforts from governments, communities, and the private sector to solve the problem of environmental degradation by reducing negative impacts and adopting sustainable practices in the use of natural resources.

Environmental education has an important role in shaping public awareness and behavior to preserve the environment. Here are some important aspects of environmental education: 1) Raising awareness: Environmental education helps raise public awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and the impact of human activities on the

environment. 2) Developing skills: Environmental education helps develop community skills to manage the environment sustainably. 3) Promoting eco-friendly behaviors: Environmental education promotes eco-friendly behaviors and encourages people to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

Therefore, the basis of philosophy is an effort to understand and explain the nature of reality, knowledge, values, and human existence. Here are some basic concepts in philosophy: 1) Ontology: The study of the nature of reality and existence. 2) Epistemology: The study of knowledge and how we acquire knowledge. 3) Acology: The study of values and ethics. 4) Logic: The study of reasoning and argumentation.

Through this basis, Philosophy helps humans to: 1) Develop critical thinking: Philosophy helps us to develop critical and analytical thinking. 2) Understanding complexity: Philosophy helps us to understand the complexity of reality and complex issues. 3) Develop values and ethics: Philosophy helps us to develop good values and ethics.

Thus, the basis of philosophy is an attempt to understand and explain the essence of reality, knowledge, values, and human existence. Through philosophy, it can provide awareness to every individual. The consciousness of each individual can be realized with appropriate action, it can be used to protect the environment and create a better future for the Earth and future generations. Therefore, it is necessary to take real collaboration steps from all parties. Real collaboration can be gathered from all industry parties, communities, academics, to the general public.

It is very important that the community is able to become an effective and wise social control for companies that produce waste. Companies need to ensure that their operational activities do not damage the environment, one of which is by fulfilling environmental licensing procedures legally and professionally. The community must have a basis to carry out operational activities based on the foundation of environmental management. Therefore, the basis of environmental philosophy in Indonesia is needed.

The foundations of environmental philosophy can be understood through several key concepts: a) Ontology: Studying the nature of reality and the existence of the environment as a complex and dynamic living system. b) Epistemology: The study of how we acquire knowledge about the environment and how we understand the relationship between humans and the environment. c) Axiology: Studying values and ethics related to the environment, such as the importance of preserving the environment and promoting sustainable development.

Meanwhile, some of the basic principles of environmental philosophy in Indonesia include: a) Pancasila: As the basis of the state, Pancasila can be a philosophical foundation for understanding the relationship between humans and the environment. b) Ecocentrism Concept: Views the environment as a system that has intrinsic value and must be preserved. c) Anthropocentrism Concept: Views the environment as a resource that must be managed for the benefit of humans.

By understanding the basis of environmental philosophy in Indonesia, it will be better able to manage the environment and promote sustainable development, especially achieving goals. Objectives of Environmental Philosophy: a) Increase awareness and understanding of the importance of preserving the environment. b) Promote sustainable development and good environmental management. c) Develop strong environmental values and ethics.

CONCLUSION

The discussion concludes that environmental management serves as a crucial philosophical foundation for Indonesia's national sustainability, particularly amid take-off phase development challenges like industrialization-induced ecological, social, political, and moral degradation. Rooted in *Pancasila*, constitutional principles, human values, justice, and intergenerational responsibility, it demands holistic involvement from government, society, private sector, and academia via education, public participation, stringent regulations, and sustainable development to foster ethical, responsible behavior toward nature—ensuring human-environmental harmony, ecosystem preservation, national welfare, and future generations' viability. For future research, scholars could empirically investigate the effectiveness of *SIGAP*-integrated policies in mitigating geosphere-specific damages (e.g., hydrosphere and biosphere issues) across Indonesian provinces, using longitudinal data to quantify impacts on biodiversity and population density thresholds.

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