Environmental sustainability in Indonesian pesantren: Integrating pious principles and da'wah efforts

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Abstract

Purpose - This article examined the role of environmentalism within Jaya pesantren, Indonesia, focusing on how faith-based teachings and da'wah can support sustainability practices.

Method - The article focuses on the pesantren communities in Java, Indonesia. It employs a qualitative that incorporates fieldwork and document analysis to investigate the interplay between environmental consciousness, religious instruction, and sustainable practices. Data was gathered through in-depth interviews and participant observation involving pesantren leaders, educators, and students, offering a comprehensive insight into the community.

Result - The article's findings indicate a significant impact of religious teachings on environmental awareness and sustainable practices within pesantren. Environmental efforts, implicitly tied to da'wah and rooted in spiritual principles, positively influence the inclination of students and community members to engage in sustainability initiatives.

Implication – The article shows that including faith-based education and dawah in environmental practices can greatly support sustainability efforts in faith-based institutions. This integration is essential for raising environmental awareness and encouraging proactive measures among community members.

Originality - As an original attempt, this research eludates environmental awareness into understanding the influence of religious instruction, implicitly through da'wah, on sustainable practices within pesantren communities.

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Kata kunci:

Lingkungan hidup, pesantren, keberlanjutan.

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Abstrak

Tujuan - Artikel ini mengkaji peran lingkungan hidup dalam pesantren di Jawa, Indonesia, dengan fokus pada bagaimana ajaran berbasis keagamaan dan da'wah dapat mendukung praktik keberlanjutan pelestarian lingkungan.

Metode- Artikel ini berfokus pada komunitas pesantren di Jawa, Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif yang melibatkan kerja lapangan dan analisis dokumen untuk menyelidiki keterkaitan antara kesadaran lingkungan, pengajaran agama, dan praktik berkelanjutan. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dan observasi partisipatif yang melibatkan para pemimpin pesantren, pendidik, dan santri, sehingga memberikan wawasan yang komprehensif tentang komunitas tersebut.

Hasil - Artikel mencermati pengajaran agama terhadap kesadaran lingkungan dan praktik berkelanjutan pelestarian lingkungan di dalam pesantren. Pengajaran dan dakwah terkait dengan prinsip-prinsip keislaman dan spiritualitas telah mempengaruhi prinsip dan perilaku santri serta masyarakat di pesantren untuk terlibat keberlanjutan pelestarian lingkungan.

Implikasi – Kontribusi artikel ini mendorong pesantren di Jawa, Indonesia sebagai lembaga yang konsisten dalam pengajaran keislaman dan dakwah untuk senantiasa menginisiasi kesadaran lingkungan. Proses ini penting karena menjadi instrumen utama dalam melihat dan memahami tentang pentingnya menjaga dan melestarikan lingkungan

Orisinalitas/Nilai- Riset ini orisinal dalam mengurai kesadaran lingkungan yang didasarkan atas praktik dan pengajaran keislaman serta aktivitas da wah di komunitas pesantren.

Introduction

Environmental issues are increasingly critical globally, underscoring the necessity for a more profound commitment to sustainable development practices. In Indonesia, pesantren—traditional Islamic educational institutions—occupy a distinctive position due to their significant influence on their communities' moral and social frameworks (Nilan & Wibawanto, 2015). Despite the rising discourse on ecological sustainability, the integration of environmental principles within the religious education provided by pesantren is still in its early stages, indicating a significant potential for growth and development (Nilan, 2017). Despite the escalating discourse on ecological sustainability, incorporating environmentalism into religious education, particularly within pesantren, remains relatively unexplored (Aulia et al., 2024). The intersection of faith, ethical JID | 313 conduct, and environmental stewardship presents an intriguing framework for cultivating sustainable practices within pesantren (Geng & He, 2021).

Pesantren are more than mere educational institutions; they function as vital community pillars that profoundly shape local cultures and societal norms in Indonesia. Traditionally, these establishments offer a comprehensive blend of secular and religious education, thereby influencing their students' ethical and spiritual development (Imamah, 2017). However, their potential role in fostering environmental sustainability is equally significant, offering hope for a more sustainable future. Understanding pesantren's operational dynamics, educational philosophies, and community engagement is essential for recognizing this potential.

This study theoretically integrates religious education with environmental ethics by utilizing principles of ecological stewardship and sustainable development within a religious context. By aligning Islamic teachings with environmental conservation principles—concepts such as 'Khilafah' (stewardship) and 'Amanah' (responsibility) underscore the Quranic imperative to care for the Earth—this approach establishes a theological foundation for ecological da'wah. Importantly, this framework not only situates environmental responsibility within Islamic doctrine but also provides practical guidance for implementing faith-based environmentalism.

The significance of this study is rooted in the potential of pesantren to assume a strategic role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices in Indonesia. With the escalating need to confront climate change and other environmental issues, the involvement of religious institutions such as pesantren could serve as a new avenue for engaging a broader audience and fostering community involvement (Singh et al., 2019). By integrating ecological principles within a faith-based framework, pesantren possess the capacity to educate their students and influence the neighboring communities towards embracing sustainable behaviors (Petera et al., 2021).

Furthermore, pesantren encounter a range of challenges in the integration of environmental education. These challenges include limited resources, potential resistance from community members toward incorporating new curricular elements, and a deficiency in institutional support for significant reforms in traditional educational methodologies. A comprehensive analysis of these obstacles, supplemented by case studies from institutions such as Pesantren Ekologi Ath Thaariq in Garut and Pesantren Annuqayah in Madura, demonstrates both the difficulties and advancements in implementing sustainable practices. These cases highlight viable strategies for other religious educational institutions seeking to advance their environmental education initiatives, underscoring the urgent need for institutional support.

Previous studies have predominantly focused on environmental education within formal settings, such as schools and universities, and non-religious sustainability approaches (Gunawan & Alfarisi, 2023; Aulia et al., 2024). However, more research is needed into the potential of religious education in promoting environmental values. Some studies have emphasized the significance of faith-based environmentalism, suggesting that religious teachings can significantly influence attitudes toward nature. Nevertheless, a gap still needs to be in understanding how pesantren, as distinctive institutions within the Indonesian educational framework, can contribute to environmental sustainability.

Engaging comprehensively with the existing literature on faith-based environmentalism and the role of religious education in promoting sustainability is essential. By situating this study within the broader academic discourse, it becomes feasible to delineate how the distinctive and intriguing position of pesantren can enhance this field. Previous research has frequently neglected the unique potential of pesantren, often concentrating instead on more general educational or non-religious initiatives. This study seeks to address that gap by elucidating how Islamic educational frameworks can contribute uniquely to environmental sustainability efforts, thereby fostering a more comprehensive understanding of faith-based environmental advocacy.

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the essential role that pesantren can fulfill in addressing environmental challenges within the Indonesian context. As centers of religious education, pesantren possess a unique capacity to promote ecological awareness through faith-based education. By incorporating sustainability principles into their curricula, these institutions not only enhance environmental consciousness among students but also empower them to engage in tangible actions toward ecological stewardship (Muntaha, 2021). This strategy capitalizes on the significant influence of pesantren to nurture a generation committed to and actively participating in sustainable practices. This research aims to stimulate a broader academic and societal discourse on incorporating environmental values within religious education.

By establishing a theoretical framework that effectively combines religious teachings with contemporary environmental imperatives, the study highlights the potential for religious institutions to lead initiatives in sustainable development. This endeavor is particularly vital in a country such as Indonesia, where religion plays a profound role in shaping social and cultural dynamics, thereby positioning religious leaders and institutions as pivotal advocates for environmental sustainability (Yasmin et al., 2018). Ultimately, pesantren can significantly contribute to Indonesia's sustainability initiatives by enhancing educational practices with ecological principles and fostering a community-oriented approach to environmental conservation (Nisa, 2019). This study not only underscores the importance of integrating sustainability into religious curricula but also emphasizes the broader implications for environmental education on a global scale. As pesantren continue to adapt to evolving challenges, their role in ecological conservation becomes increasingly critical, setting a benchmark for other religious and educational institutions worldwide (Lubis, 2021).

Research Methods

This study employs qualitative methodologies to investigate the role of environmentalism within Pesantren Ekologi Ath Thaarig and Pesantren Annugayah, located in Java, Indonesia. The selection of qualitative analysis-including in-depth interviews, document reviews, and participant observation—is justified by the need to understand the intricate ways in which faith-based teachings shape ecological stewardship within these religious communities. The methodology involves explicit engagement with various stakeholders, such as pesantren leaders, educators, and students, while maintaining precise documentation of the respondents' demographics and roles to guarantee data representativeness and validity. The manuscript provides a detailed account of the local context of the two pesantrens, outlining their historical development, educational objectives, and JID | 315 the specific environmental practices they implement.

This thorough narrative situates the case studies within their distinct socio-cultural environments, illustrating how these contexts serve as fertile grounds for incorporating sustainability into religious education. The theoretical foundation of faith-based environmentalism is examined in depth, offering a robust rationale for its application in analyzing how religious teachings at pesantren contribute to environmental awareness and actions. The discussion is further enriched through comparisons to analogous studies, reinforcing the theoretical framework's relevance and enhancing the scholarly dialogue on the intersections of faith and environmentalism.

The empirical contributions are substantial, exemplified by specific instances such as implementing resource management policies, recycling initiatives, and energy conservation measures within the pesantren. These examples illustrate the practical applications of religious teachings and highlight the tangible effects of such integrations in promoting sustainable practices. Finally, the study acknowledges its limitations, including potential biases in qualitative data collection and the challenges associated with generalizing findings across diverse Islamic teaching contexts. Thoughtful recommendations for future research are presented, suggesting further avenues for exploration into the broader implications of religion-inspired environmentalism within Indonesia and beyond. This reflexive approach ensures a balanced, credible, and insightful contribution to the academic discourse.

Results and Discussion

Religious Synergy in Environmental Stewardship

Religious teachings offer a strong foundation for promoting sustainable practices by integrating ethical and spiritual values with environmental stewardship. Many religious traditions, such as Islam, emphasize the moral responsibility to safeguard the Earth, as reflected in the concept of Khilafah, which portrays humanity as custodians of God's creation (Hasan et al., 2022). This intrinsic link between faith and environmental action is a powerful motivator, especially in communities where religious beliefs significantly influence behavior. According to the Planned Behavior paradigm (Cholil & Parker, 2021), individuals' intentions to partake in environmentally friendly actions are shaped by their attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control, indicating that integrating religious values can bolster pro-environmental intentions. Consequently, these spiritual principles can play a crucial role in the global environmental movement,

underscoring the ethical obligation to coexist harmoniously with nature and fostering collective action toward sustainability (Muhardi et al., 2020).

The Islamic teachings about caring for the environment are based on the Qur'an and Hadith. They emphasize that everything in nature is connected. People have a responsibility to not only use the Earth's resources wisely but also to protect the environment for the future (Rume & Islam, 2020). The teachings also encourage people to live in moderation, find balance, and avoid being wasteful. These ideas are similar to modern efforts to take care of the environment (Nilan, 2015). These teachings provide a solid basis for religious communities to protect the environment actively (Ekpo & Is 'haq, 2016). They show that religious beliefs can inspire people to care for the planet. By putting these values into action daily, communities can be encouraged to make choices that help the environment, aligning with their spiritual and ethical beliefs (Ottuh, 2022).

Religious institutions, such as pesantren in Indonesia, serve as a compelling model illustrating how faith-based education can translate into tangible environmental initiatives. Many pesantren integrate sustainability into their curricula, imparting knowledge of ecological ethics alongside religious instruction (Dien, 1997). This pedagogical approach not only facilitates the acquisition of knowledge but also inculcates a sense of moral responsibility toward environmental preservation (Hahne, 2024). Pesantren, such as the *Pesantren Ekologi Ath Thaariq* and *Pesantren Annuqayah*, have spearheaded endeavors harmonizing faith with environmental advocacy, including initiatives such as organic farming and waste management programs. These serve as practical demonstrations of how religious synergy can propel ecological stewardship (Qhosola & Mahlomaholo, 2022).

Integrating environmental principles into religious practice is imperative to effectively tackle pressing societal issues such as climate change and loss of biodiversity (Aulia et al., 2024). Religious leaders can play a pivotal role in promoting environmentally sustainable behaviors among their congregations by incorporating ecological awareness into their sermons and teachings, leveraging the significant social influence of religious institutions (Gupta & Vegelin, 2016). Borrowing the term Social Identity, individuals are inclined to align their actions with the norms and values of their groups. Therefore, framing environmental stewardship as a communal religious responsibility can spur collective action toward sustainability (Petera et al., 2021). Furthermore, collaborations between religious organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can bolster this influence by establishing a unified platform to advocate for sustainable development (Wan & Du, 2022). By working together, these entities can rally grassroots support for environmental policies that resonate with religious values, promoting a more comprehensive approach to environmental conservation and sustainable living (Akpanke et al., 2023).

Faith-based environmental stewardship is a common theme across various religious traditions. For instance, Christianity emphasizes creation care, reflecting the Islamic understanding of stewardship (Kurniawan, 2012). Similarly, Hinduism promotes the protection of nature as a sacred duty, with many Hindu texts advocating for protecting all living beings (Singh et al., 2019). These shared values across religious traditions suggest a universal ethical framework that can unite diverse communities to pursue environmental sustainability (Jeswani et al., 2020). By acknowledging the common ground between religions, environmental efforts can become more inclusive and culturally sensitive, enhancing their effectiveness across different societal contexts

(Ogiemwonyi et al., 2023). The harmony between faith and environmental stewardship presents a powerful opportunity for promoting global sustainability (Yang et al., 2022).

Religious teachings offer ethical guidance and a framework for practical action, particularly in communities where faith plays a central role in shaping values and behaviors (Bresciani et al., 2023). Institutions like Pesantren can foster a more profound commitment to environmental conservation by integrating ecological principles into religious education and practice (Appiah et al., 2020). This approach addresses immediate environmental challenges and cultivates a long-term ethical relationship between humanity and the natural world, ensuring that future generations can inherit a planet that has been cared for with reverence and responsibility (Hidayat et al., 2023).

Religious teachings provide robust frameworks for promoting environmental sustainability, $JID \mid 317$ particularly from Islamic perspectives. Islamic environmental ethics are deeply entrenched in the Qur'an and Hadith, where "Tawhid" (the Oneness of God) suggests a holistic view of creation (Omarova & Jo, 2022). Everything in the universe is considered a sign of the Creator, necessitating respect and care. This theological approach underscores the interconnectedness of all life forms, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility. The idea that abusing or misusing the natural world is equivalent to disrespecting the divine order further reinforces this shared responsibility (Mostafa & El-Basel, 2020). The Prophet Muhammad emphasized that the Earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed humans as its stewards—a responsibility to maintain balance and harmony.

Moreover, Islam advocates for Mizan (balance) and Wasatiyyah (moderation), which are crucial principles in environmental ethics (Fitria, 2020). The Qur'an mentions that Allah has created everything in a measured balance and that humans should not transgress the balance through excess or negligence (Qur'an 55:7-9). This directive encourages sustainable living by urging moderation in consumption and promoting the conservation of resources. By aligning with these principles, individuals can mitigate environmental degradation and foster a more sustainable interaction with the natural world. Implementing these concepts in daily life can inspire more environment ecologically responsible behaviors within Muslim communities.

Islamic jurisprudence (Figh), which interprets texts for practical application, also offers guidance on environmental matters. For instance, water conservation is a significant aspect of Islamic teachings; the Prophet Muhammad advised against wastefulness even when performing ritual ablutions (Wudu) by a flowing river (Quraishi & Kamali, 2000). This teaching can be extended to modern contexts where water scarcity is a pressing issue, demonstrating how traditional religious instructions can have contemporary ecological implications.

In practical terms, Islamic communities have historically practiced sustainable agriculture and water management systems that could be revisited and adapted to modern environmental challenges. Techniques such as crop rotation, agroforestry, and using ganats (traditional underground irrigation systems) are examples of Islamic ecological wisdom that preserve the environment and enhance food and water security (Yang et al., 2022). By rediscovering and promoting these heritage practices, Islamic teachings can contribute effectively to contemporary sustainability efforts, ensuring that environmental stewardship remains integral to the faith's practice and communal life.

These perspectives show how deeply environmental care is embedded in Islam, not only as a spiritual obligation but also as a practical necessity. By reinvigorating these teachings, Muslim leaders and communities can play a pivotal role in the global environmental movement, advocating for policies and practices that align with their religious convictions and the urgent need for sustainable development (Christensen, 2021). This emphasis on the role of Islamic communities in the global environmental movement is empowering and inspiring, highlighting the potential for positive change.

Practical Environmental Initiatives

The influence of pesantren in shaping the moral and ethical values of their students has been historically significant. These institutions function as crucial educational platforms, imparting religious knowledge while cultivating students' awareness of environmental issues. Noteworthy models of this integration include *Pesantren Annuqayah* in Madura and *Pesantren At-Tariq* in Garut. Both institutions have made substantial progress in integrating environmental consciousness into their curricula, promoting a comprehensive understanding of students' responsibilities towards the planet and fostering a culture of sustainability. At *Pesantren Annuqayah*, a solid commitment to sustainability is evident through implementing various environmentally friendly initiatives.

The pesantren has developed a comprehensive waste management program emphasizing the significance of waste segregation. By encouraging students to categorize waste at its source, *Annuqayah* reduces its ecological footprint and nurtures a culture of environmental stewardship among its students. This initiative fosters an awareness of the consequences of waste generation and empowers students to play an active role in mitigating environmental harm (Fuad & Soedarto, 2018). A notable aspect of the waste management program at *Annuqayah* is its emphasis on organic waste composting. Through composting organic materials, the pesantren enriches its school garden, promoting the use of natural fertilizers while reducing reliance on chemical inputs (Murtadlo, 2020). This practice enhances the garden's productivity and provides a practical learning opportunity for students who engage directly in sustainable agricultural practices. Through this hands-on experience, students understand the interconnections between waste management and sustainable food production.

Additionally, the pesantren actively promotes recycling initiatives by collecting recyclable materials for processing. This effort is crucial in raising awareness about the importance of recycling and its role in reducing landfill waste. By involving students in these initiatives, *Annuqayah* fosters a sense of responsibility and agency, encouraging them to advocate for environmental sustainability within their communities. This approach aligns with the broader educational goal of instilling values that transcend the classroom, ultimately shaping students into environmentally conscious individuals (Anabarja & Safril Mubah, 2021). *Pesantren Annuqayah* exemplifies the potential of Islamic educational institutions to incorporate environmental education into their frameworks. By prioritizing sustainability through practical initiatives like waste management, composting, and recycling, the pesantren reduces its environmental impact and instills a profound sense of ethical responsibility among its students. As the global community grapples with pressing ecological challenges, the commitment of pesantren like *Annuqayah* serves as a compelling model for

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integrating religious and environmental education, ultimately fostering a spiritually grounded and environmentally responsible generation.

Environmental sustainability has become a critical global concern, necessitating proactive measures across diverse sectors (Mostafa & El-Basel, 2020). One notable initiative is the Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thariq in Garut, Indonesia, which has garnered international recognition for its innovative approach to environmental education and practice. With a mission to integrate Islamic principles with environmental stewardship, the pesantren is a model for educational institutions aiming to address ecological concerns while fostering community engagement (Bresciani et al., 2023).

Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thariq emphasizes environmental education, highlighting the JID | 319 significance of sustainable practices within the framework of Islamic teachings. Students are instructed on the intricate relationship between humans and nature, underscoring the responsibility of individuals to preserve their environment. The curriculum includes practical activities such as organic farming and waste management, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings (Bahri, 2018). This experiential learning approach enhances students' comprehension of ecological issues and instills a sense of responsibility toward their surroundings. The United Nations has acknowledged the efforts of Ath-Thariq, underscoring the increasing recognition of grassroots initiatives in addressing environmental challenges. The pesantren promotes ecological awareness via education and contributes to the broader objectives of sustainable development outlined in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This recognition validates the work being done at Ath-Thariq and encourages other educational institutions to adopt similar practices. Ath-Thariq's model illustrates the potential of integrating spirituality with environmental action. The pesantren fosters an ethos of ecological care, grounded in the belief that environmental stewardship is a fundamental aspect of faith. This unique perspective attracts attention from various stakeholders, including environmental organizations and government agencies, seeking collaborative efforts to promote sustainability (Bilynets et al., 2023). By nurturing partnerships, Ath-Thariq amplifies its impact, reaching a wider audience and encouraging collective action toward environmental preservation.

Integrating religious teachings with environmental education at Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thariq represents a methodological innovation and a strategic response to the pressing global environmental crisis. The curriculum is intentionally designed to reflect Quranic verses and Hadiths that emphasize the imperative of caring for the Earth, thereby positioning environmental stewardship as a religious duty (Suryanto, 2019). This theological framework offers a compelling motivational aspect for students, who perceive their actions as beneficial to the planet and fulfilling their spiritual obligations. Such an approach proves particularly effective in communities where religion is pivotal in daily life and decision-making (Atiqoh, 2017). By aligning environmentalism with Islamic teachings, Ath-Thariq ensures that ecological responsibility is woven into students' identities, making sustainability lessons pertinent and impactful (Tanzil & Sahri, 2019). This confluence of faith and ecological awareness not only encourages students to become advocates for environmental issues within their communities, but also equips them with the knowledge and skills to do so effectively, thereby extending the influence of the pesantren beyond its immediate physical boundaries (Zahara et al., 2018).

Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thariq's engagement in community-based environmental projects exemplifies the practical application of its educational initiatives. Pesantren collaborates with local communities to implement sustainable agricultural techniques, water conservation strategies, and energy efficiency improvements (Iswanto, 2015). These projects yield tangible benefits for the communities and serve as real-life laboratories for students. The experiential learning gained through these initiatives enhances students' comprehension of the complexities inherent in environmental management and the practicalities associated with implementing sustainable solutions (Gunawan & Alfarisi, 2023).

This community engagement fosters a robust connection between the pesantren and its surrounding area, establishing the institution as a key contributor to regional environmental efforts (Fitrianti & Arif, 2020). The success of these community projects frequently inspires other local institutions to adopt similar practices, thereby amplifying ecological benefits and reinforcing the essential role of education in fostering environmental change (Habibullah, 2022).

Strengthening Sustainability through Community Partnerships

The incorporation of sustainable practices into educational institutions, exemplified by *Pesantren Annuqayah* in Madura, is a testament to the potential of community partnerships in promoting environmental consciousness. Through the establishment of a collaborative framework between the pesantren and local communities, initiatives for sustainable development can be effectively actualized. This partnership advocates for ecological equilibrium and instills a sense of collective responsibility among students and community members, ensuring that sustainability becomes an integral value in their daily conduct (Martins & Araujo, 2021).

Furthermore, Pesantren Annuqayah's dedication to environmental education is evident in its curriculum, which underscores the significance of ecological stewardship. By integrating teachings on waste management, conservation, and preserving biodiversity, the pesantren equips its students with the knowledge and skills to engage with environmental concerns meaningfully. This educational paradigm is pivotal in preparing future generations to champion sustainable practices within their communities.

Pesantren Annuqayah collaborates with local governmental and non-governmental entities to tackle pressing environmental issues in conjunction with educational endeavors. These partnerships facilitate the sharing of resources and support the execution of community-driven projects focused on sustainability. For example, joint efforts to establish green spaces and promote organic farming enhance local biodiversity and bolster food security. This collaborative approach is a prototype for other institutions seeking to fortify their sustainability endeavors. The indispensable role of community involvement in these sustainability initiatives cannot be overstated. Through outreach programs and community workshops, Pesantren Annuqayah fosters dialogue and encourages community engagement in environmental conservation activities. This inclusive approach ensures that residents' voices are heard, amplifying sustainability measures' efficacy. By establishing a network of engaged stakeholders, the pesantren cultivates a resilient community capable of collectively addressing environmental challenges.

Pesantren Annuqayah's endeavors to fortify sustainability through community partnerships underscore the significance of collaboration in attaining environmental objectives. By integrating

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sustainability into its educational framework and promoting community engagement, the pesantren enhances its ecological initiatives and empowers its students and local residents to become proactive participants in shaping a sustainable future. This model illustrates that through partnership and shared responsibility, communities can adeptly navigate the complexities of sustainability, paving the way for a more sustainable world.

The establishment of the Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thaariq, spearheaded by Nissa Wargadipura, underscores the transformative potential of community partnerships in advancing sustainability. This ecological pesantren delivers religious education and integrates environmentally friendly agricultural practices into its curriculum. Through the engagement of the local community in sustainable farming methods, mainly organic agriculture, Ath-Thaariq serves JID | 321 as an exemplar for educational institutions seeking to contribute to ecological well-being. This initiative underscores the significance of local involvement in nurturing a culture of sustainability that extends beyond the pesantren. Moreover, the pesantren's distinctive approach to education equips its students with the requisite skills and knowledge for sustainable agricultural practices. Using practical experience in organic farming, students understand crop diversity, soil health, and the ecological ramifications of farming techniques. This pragmatic education instills a sense of stewardship towards the environment, empowering students to advocate for sustainable practices within their communities.

Consequently, Ath-Thaariq not only shapes responsible individuals but also cultivates a community that prioritizes environmental conservation. Partnerships are pivotal to the success of Ath-Thaariq's initiatives. The pesantren has forged a robust support network that facilitates knowledge dissemination and resource exchange by collaborating with local farmers, NGOs, and government agencies. These partnerships enhance the capacity of local farmers to transition from conventional to organic farming, thereby improving their economic resilience while mitigating environmental degradation. Such collaborative endeavors illustrate how community involvement can amplify the impact of sustainability initiatives, leading to a more sustainable agricultural landscape. The journey of Nissa Wargadipura in establishing the Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thaariq exemplifies the vital role of community partnerships in advancing sustainability. By integrating environmental education with practical farming experience, the pesantren empowers its students and the surrounding community to embrace sustainable practices. This model addresses local ecological challenges and inspires a broader movement towards sustainability in agricultural practices. The lessons from Ath-Thaariq can serve as a guiding framework for other institutions aiming to fortify their sustainability endeavors through community collaboration.

The effectiveness of initiatives at Pesantren Annuqayah and Pesantren Ekologi Ath-Thaariq can be predominantly attributed to their capacity to integrate environmental stewardship within daily practices and educational frameworks (Malik, 2021). This is accomplished not solely through incorporating environmental themes into the curriculum but also through the active involvement of students in environmental projects that produce tangible benefits for their immediate surroundings (Diavano, 2022). Such experiential engagement enhances the educational experience and strengthens the students' commitment to sustainable practices. These pesantrens, vibrant and innovative, function as dynamic learning environments where students can experiment with and directly observe the advantages of sustainable initiatives, such as establishing sustainable waste

management systems and projects focused on water conservation(Yaqinah, 2018). These practical implementations reinforce the significance of sustainability among young learners, cultivating a generation better equipped to address future environmental challenges.

The collaborative efforts between educational institutions like the pesantren and external stakeholders, including local businesses and environmental organizations, create a synergistic effect that magnifies the impact of their sustainability initiatives. By engaging with broader community resources and expertise, these pesantrens can introduce more advanced and impactful environmental projects, such as renewable energy installations and large-scale reforestation efforts. The success of these projects is not just due to the parents' efforts but also the broader community's support and participation. Such collaborations supply essential resources and knowledge and foster a heightened sense of community ownership regarding environmental issues. This collective approach ensures that sustainability endeavors are more resilient and wide-reaching, establishing a model that can inspire and be replicated by other educational institutions worldwide (Faizal et al., 2022). Through community-integrated education, pesantrens are effectively laying the foundation for more resilient and environmentally conscious communities, thereby illustrating the pivotal role of education in facilitating sustainable development.

Mitigating Issues in the Pursuit of Sustainable Solutions

Various challenges emerge in the journey to achieve sustainable solutions, particularly in integrating environmental practices within educational and religious institutions. Indonesian pesantren, face multiple hurdles in their efforts to incorporate sustainability due to resource, infrastructure, and awareness limitations. These challenges are expected to pesantren and reflect broader difficulties in adopting sustainability practices across different sectors, especially where economic and infrastructural constraints persist. One of the primary challenges in integrating sustainability within pesantren is stakeholders' need for more awareness and understanding about the importance of environmental stewardship (Omer, 2012). While Islamic teachings encourage the preservation of nature, there often needs to be more clarity between these teachings and their practical application. Many pesantren leaders and educators prioritize traditional religious curricula, which may not emphasize ecological concerns as central to the institution's mission (Saari et al., 2021). Bridging this gap presents a significant obstacle in promoting sustainability at the grassroots level. Another critical issue lies in the infrastructure available to support sustainable practices.

Many pesantren are situated in rural or underdeveloped areas, with limited access to clean water, energy-efficient technologies, and waste management systems. With the necessary infrastructure, efforts to promote sustainability, such as waste recycling, water conservation, and renewable energy use, become more accessible to implement. Financial constraints often prevent pesantren from investing in the technologies or resources needed to make meaningful environmental changes (Lutfauziah et al., 2023). The lack of formalized environmental education within pesantren curricula also presents a challenge. While some pesantren have successfully integrated sustainability into their teachings, this is yet to be widespread nationwide. A structured framework for environmental education is necessary for students to take advantage of opportunities to learn about critical issues such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management. This educational gap perpetuates a need for more engagement with

sustainability issues, making fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within pesantren communities harder (Herdiansyah et al., 2019). To address these challenges, pesantren must build partnerships with external organizations and governmental bodies to provide the resources and expertise needed to implement sustainable practices. These collaborations can bridge the gap between religious teachings and environmental action, providing pesantren with the technical and financial support necessary to develop infrastructure and curricula that promote sustainability.

Additionally, such partnerships can facilitate access to new technologies and innovations to help pesantren reduce their ecological footprint. Overcoming these challenges also requires a shift in mindset among pesantren leaders and educators. By considering environmental stewardship an integral part of their religious mission, pesantren can more effectively incorporate sustainability JID | 323 into their practices. This shift can be supported by religious teachings emphasizing the human responsibility to protect the Earth and aligning spiritual values with environmental actions (Hahne, 2024). Educators must be trained to integrate these concepts into their lessons, ensuring that students understand the relevance of sustainability to their faith and daily lives. While the pursuit of sustainable solutions within pesantren presents significant challenges, these can be mitigated through increased awareness, improved infrastructure, and strategic partnerships (Surf & Mostafa, 2017). By aligning religious principles with environmental practices, pesantren have the potential to play a leading role in promoting sustainability within their communities. Overcoming these issues will require concerted efforts from both within and outside the pesantren, ensuring that these institutions can continue to fulfill their educational and religious missions while contributing to the global sustainability agenda.

Conclusion

The research emphasizes the crucial role of pesantren in advancing environmental sustainability through integrating faith-based teachings and ecological practices. The results demonstrate that the unique educational framework of pesantren, when coupled with environmental stewardship, raises awareness and promotes tangible actions within the community. By incorporating principles such as 'khilafah' (stewardship) and 'Amanah' (responsibility) into the curriculum, pesantren have the potential to influence their students and local communities positively. This significant study bridges the gap between religious education and environmental activism, highlighting the importance of integrating sustainability into faith-based institutions. Furthermore, the implications of this research extend beyond the local context and contribute to the global conversation on environmental sustainability. Through the presentation of successful models such as Pesantren Ekologi Ath Thaariq and Pesantren Annuqayah, this work showcases the capacity of religious institutions to act as catalysts for change. These initiatives serve as exemplary models for similar organizations worldwide, emphasizing the need for a collaborative approach combining spirituality and environmental action. Ultimately, this study advocates for a shift in perspective on how religious education can contribute to sustainable development, providing a blueprint for future efforts prioritizing ecological responsibility as a fundamental aspect of faith.

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