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A Critical Analysis of Collaborative Approaches: The Role of Forum Komunitas Sungai Sleman (FKSS) in River Restoration Efforts in Sleman Regency

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Abstract

This article analyses the critical collaboration between the civil community and the government. Forum Komunitas Sungai Sleman (FKSS), in association with the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency, endeavors to resolve the environmental issue of river water pollution that occurs around Sleman regency. This collaboration between was analysed by looking at the critical engagement of FKSS and employing social movement theory. This theory is relevant because it explains how collective community actions can influence policy and governance processes. River water pollution is a persistent environmental issue in many developing regions, including Indonesia, where local community involvement in governance is still limited. This article employs a case study research method and follows qualitative research principles. Data for this study were collected through observation, interviews, and a review with relevant literature. The interviews were conducted with six participants. The research concludes that FKSS functions not as a governmental instrument for issue resolution but as a cooperative partner in governance. FKSS also granted specific authority to engage in the decision-making process, collaborate as a governmental partner, and critically evaluate governmental policies. The findings provide insight for policymakers seeking to strengthen community-based environmental governance.

Keywords: *Social movement; collaborative governance; critical collaboration; water pollution; actors*

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Introduction

Civil community frequently engages in addressing public challenges and policy-related issues. The involvement of civil community organisations is an important part of democratisation process in a country (Hadi, 2010). As civil community's involvement in addressing social issues continues to expand, a comprehensive understanding of its operational dynamics and motivating factors becomes essential for deeper analysis. Growing public awareness of environmental sustainability has led to the emergence of environmental activists, who advocate for the need for effective ecological protection measures. Environmental scientists and activists also need a platform to articulate their aspirations and effectively engage governmental attention. In this context, a river care community forum was established to facilitate collaboration between local communities and the government in addressing river pollution.

The involvement of civil society in addressing public issues has drawn the attention of academics and researchers, as evidenced by the growing body of literature on environmental movements, particularly those focusing on river pollution and degradation. This literature generally tends to emphasise ecological aspects, the causes of river flow contamination, and the economic conditions of communities living along riverbanks. In assessing the level of water pollution and quality in Yogyakarta, findings indicate that the degree of pollution is classified as

severe. This suggests that the government's river water management policies have yet to operate effectively. This issue is substantiated by the work of Brontowiyono et al. (2013), which focuses on the extent of domestic waste pollution, analyses the potential sources of pollution entering the Code River, and explores management strategies for the river. The technical strategies proposed in the article to mitigate domestic waste pollution, including the development and optimisation of communal wastewater treatment systems and improved waste management practices. Communal wastewater treatment plants serve as facilities for the collection and treatment of wastewater from multiple sources, designed to address sanitation challenges. This project aims to treat wastewater from bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry, making it significantly less hazardous prior to its discharge into the river (Safrani & Putri, 2019). At the social level, the strategies involve community empowerment, capacity building, and the optimisation of formal institutional structures. Nugroho (2017) emphasises that the success of environmental movements depends on mass mobilisation to transform values and attitudes. In line with this perspective, the youth communities in this study employ strategies such as delivering environmental education and participating in environmental initiatives.

Suharko and Kusumadewi (2019) reinforce the importance of environmental education as the initial stage of social movement strategies, which are

subsequently followed by the development of work programmes. For example, they discuss thematic village programme and agroforestry system conservation, which aims to enhance the local community's economy while simultaneously contributing to river restoration and promoting sustainable environment.

Meanwhile, this study examines the form of critical collaboration undertaken by the Forum Komunitas Sungai Sleman (FKSS) as part of a broader community social movement, and how this forum functions as a bridge between river-based communities and local government in addressing pollution and efforts to restore river water in the Sleman regency, Yogyakarta. FKSS is a river care community established in 2018 during a meeting held by the Environmental Agency with various river care communities. The forum was initiated by the Environmental Agency and serves as a coordination platform and a bridge between the communities and the local government. FKSS concentrates on community-based environmental initiatives, including river conservation, the protection of aquatic biota, and vegetation preservation. FKSS does not operate on its own but engaged in collaboration with the Environmental Control Division of the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency. Each of these actors has a role in the effort to control river pollution. FKSS developed a programme to empower communities living along the riverbanks with the aim that the community can care for, protect, and maintain the

river ecosystem. The local government has allocated a budget of IDR 3,000,000 to support the implementation of work programmes currently being developed or planned by the Environmental Agency and the FKSS (Interview with Purwoko Sasmoyo, Head of the Environmental Control Division, 21 May 2021).

The primary objective of FKSS is to educate its members and the wider community on environmental sustainability, with a particular emphasis on preserving river ecosystems and safeguarding water resources. This objective is in line with the environmental management objectives of Yogyakarta City Regulation No.1 Year 2012, which is to foster strong awareness of environmental management and promote collective responsibility among governmental, industrial, and community stakeholders, particularly at the regional level. Achieving FKSS's goal of restoring river sustainability necessitates a large-scale initiative and active engagement from the community and regional stakeholders.

Public discourse has increasingly highlighted river pollution, as communities recognise its significance alongside economic, social, and political challenges. Environmental damage that occurs in the neighbourhood raises awareness of the importance of keeping the environment clean and comfortable to live in. The high level of human activity also contributes to environmental degradation, as evidenced by the accumulation of waste along riverbanks, the rapid development of industries such as hotels and shopping

centres, and sand mining operations that are not followed by reclamation of the mined areas—all of which have a negative impact on the environment (Interview with AG. Irawan, Head of the FKSS, 3 June 2021).

The degradation of the river ecosystem is exacerbated by the community's habitual disposal of waste along riverbanks. This issue indicates that public awareness of the importance of environmental preservation is not accompanied by tangible actions to support conservation efforts. According to the 2022 State of the Environment Report of Indonesia published by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, public environmental awareness in the city of Yogyakarta has shown improvement, as evidenced by the percentage of households with access to adequate sanitation facilities. In 2019, the Special Region of Yogyakarta recorded a rate of 94.67%, which increased to 97.12% in 2021. This progress was accompanied by a reduction in daily waste generation, from 2,124.13 tonnes in 2020 to 868.27 tonnes in 2021 (The Ministry of Environmental and Forestry, 2022). However, these figures are not always evident on the ground, as piles of waste are still commonly found along the riverbanks, particularly within the City of Yogyakarta (Interview with AG Irawan, Head of the FKSS, 3 June 2021). To mitigate this persistent issue, FKSS installed signage along the river, conveying messages that encourage public participation in river conservation. However, the effort proved ineffective, as most people

disregarded it (Interview with AG. Irawan, Head of the FKSS, 3 June 2021). Given this situation, FKSS must develop a new strategy to effectively facilitate both the physical and biological restoration of the river ecosystem.

Furthermore, this article also discusses the critical collaboration between FKSS and the Environmental Agency. Despite occasional mistrust, collaboration between the two actors fosters positive reciprocity. Such endeavors are often unstable, fragile, and even controversial, as these interactions necessitate adaptation and cooperation among all involved parties (Riley, 2002). The interaction between the community and government agencies reflects a commitment to actively engage in resolving the issue.

This study employs a qualitative research approach, utilising the new social movement theory as its analytical framework. The data collection techniques used in this study include both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through observation and interviews, while secondary data were gathered from existing literature, such as journals, undergraduate theses, books, laws, regional regulations, official websites of the Environmental Agency, activity reports from the Environmental Agency and FKSS, as well as social media, and both print and electronic media. In addition to examining the phenomenon of river water pollution in Sleman regency, the analysis also explores the strategies employed by community movements in addressing pollution and promoting river restoration. Furthermore,

the discussion delves into the collaboration strategy implemented by FKSS to tackle river water pollution, followed by an assessment of how the community forum is organised and the types of movements it undertakes.

This article also examines the partnership between the community forum and the Environmental Agency through the lens of the new social movement. This approach is grounded in the idea that social movements originate from public issues emerging within societies that prioritise environmental, cultural, and social concerns. The new social movement theory is applied in this article as it examines specific issues, such as environmental activism, gender equality, and disability rights (Suharko, 2006). In particular, it focuses on the environmental movement led by the FKSS.

Sydney Tarrow (1998) defines a social movement as a collective challenge undertaken by a group of people who share common goals and solidarity in the context of ongoing interaction with elite groups, opponents, and rulers (Suharko, 2006). Meanwhile, Anthony Giddens explains that social movement is a collective effort to pursue a common interest or a movement to achieve common goals through collective actions (Putra, 2006). Based on the two definitions above, social movements can be understood as distinct social dynamics characterised by targeted and purposeful collective action.

Strategy is a vital component in social movements as it can determine the success or failure of a social movement.

In countries without a history of absolutism and where universal suffrage has been recognised from the outset, the social movement strategies tend to be more adaptable, inclusive, and moderate (Porta & Diani, 1999). Suharko also explains that the selection of a strategy is based on an assessment of the political context, opposing forces, key issues, and the strengths and resources available to social movement actors (Putra, 2006). He also identifies four variations of social movement strategies, namely low profile strategy, layering, advocacy strategy, and critical engagement.

Challenges in collaborative efforts to prevent river pollution in Yogyakarta

Before examining the role of FKSS as a manifestation of the new social movement, it is essential first to provide a brief overview of the condition of rivers in Sleman regency. This study examined the extent of river pollution, identifiedits primary sources, and analysed the dynamics of the environmental movement in Yogyakarta, with a particular focus on Sleman regency. It then examines the community's response to river pollution, exploring the measures undertaken to address environmental concerns, from the emergence of the community forum movement to how the community forum develops and evolves to achieve sustainable river flow.

Sleman regency is traversed by numerous major rivers, all of which originate at the foot of Mount Merapi and are fed by multiple tributaries. Notable examples include: the Gendol River, which originates

in Cangkringan subdistrict and flows into the Opak River in Berbah subdistrict; the Boyong River, which begins in Purwobinangun village, Pakem subdistrict, and extends to the boundary of Yogyakarta city; the Krasak River, which rises in Turi subdistrict and continues downstream through Tempel subdistrict; and the Kuning River, which eventually extends into Bantul regency.

Table 1. Rivers traversing Sleman regency

River	Traversed Areas
Code	Depok
Opak	Berbah, Prambanan, Ngemplak, Cangkringan
Progo	Moyudan, Minggir
Gajahwong	Depok
Banteng	Moyudan
Bedog	Godean, Gamping, Mlati, Sleman, Turi
Blendung	Seyegan
Krasak	Godean, Tempel, Turi
Kuning	Kalasan, Ngemplak, Pakem
Tepus	Kalasan, Cangkringan
Gendol	Ngemplak, Cangkringan
Bayem	Ngaglik
Boyong	Ngaglik, Pakem
Rainbow	Ngaglik
Pelem	Tempel
Sempor	Turi

Source: Regional Statistics of Sleman Regency 2019

The river is a vital part of the community's social life and deeply connected to it. Many people rely on the river for sanitation purposes, including bathing, washing, and defecation, as well as for irrigating rice fields. However, the rampant development certainly has a significant impact on the community, especially those living along the riverbanks. The sealing of land surfaces and changes in land use have significantly reduced the river's capacity to regulate water flow. The influence of spaces on user behaviour is quite clear because users perform certain activities in each space according to its function (Mulyandari, 2011). The community tends to dispose of household waste directly into the river without adequate filtration or treatment. As a result, the quality of river water in Sleman regency has declined drastically, falling below established water quality standards. According to the 2019 Environmental Quality Index Report of the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the decline was evidenced by monitoring conducted by the Environmental Office of the Special Region of Yogyakarta, which recorded a water quality index (WQI) for Yogyakarta's rivers of 38.65 that year. This deterioration poses significant risks to environmental sustainability and future generations. Water quality standards define the permissible limits of living organisms, substances, energy, and other components present in water, including pollutant elements.

The Environmental Agencies of Yogyakarta city and Sleman regency actively work to control river pollution

by regularly monitoring multiple designated river points. These assessments are conducted to evaluate the WQI within the Special Region of Yogyakarta. WQI is a key component of the governor's performance index and is incorporated into the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (2017–2022) for the Special Region of Yogyakarta. WQI can be determined from analysing water quality data obtained during sampling in Yogyakarta city. The samples were taken from 10 river points under the authority of the Environmental Agency, namely: Oyo, Kuning, Tambakbayan, Gajahwong, Belik, Code, Winongo, Bedog, Konteng, and Bulus rivers. River monitoring is conducted during two distinct periods: the wet season and the dry season. Monitoring points were selected based on administrative boundaries, geographical features, pollutant sources, watershed outlets, drinking water intake sites, and river headwaters that are rarely utilised for human activities.

Table 2. WQI scores of rivers in Special Region of Yogyakarta 2020

No.	River	WQI Score
1.	Winongo	32.5
2.	Code	38.75
3.	Gajahwong	42.5
4.	Kuning	37.5
5.	Konteng	20.00
6.	Bedog	28.00
7.	Belik	40.00
8.	Bulus	40.00
9.	Oyo	37.5
10.	Tambak Bayan	35.00
Average WQI scores		35.18

Source: Environmental Quality Index 2020 by the Environment and Forestry Agency of Special Region of Yogyakarta

Table 3. WQI scores of rivers by regency/city

No.	River	WQI Score
1.	Winongo	42.73
2.	Code	38.37
3.	Gajahwong	37.89
4.	Kuning	39.23
5.	Konteng	25.71
6.	Bedog	45.00
Average WQI scores		38.16

Source: Environmental Quality Index 2020 by the Environment and Forestry Agency of Special Region of Yogyakarta

Table 4. Combined WQI results of Special Region of Yogyakarta and regency/city

No.	River	WQI Score
1.	Winongo	43.09
2.	Code	39.30
3.	Gajahwong	37.89
4.	Kuning	40.77
5.	Konteng	25.71
6.	Bedog	45.00
7.	Belik	40.00
8.	Bulus	40.00
9.	Oyo	35.00
10.	Tambak Bayan	37.50
Average WQI scores		38.43

Source: Environmental Quality Index 2020 by the Environment and Forestry Agency of Special Region of Yogyakarta

In 2020, monitoring in the Special Region of Yogyakarta recorded a WQI of 38.43, falling short of the regional target of 38.60. This represented a decline from the previous year's score of 38.65. According to the region's 2020 Environmental Quality Index Report, this decrease was attributed to increased pollution from domestic waste and adverse weather conditions. Specifically, prolonged dry seasons can reduce river discharge, which leads to higher concentrations of pollutants in the water.

The physical condition of the river is just as important as its water quality. The physical condition of a river is considered good when no accumulations of rubbish or household waste are present along its banks. However, in the city of Yogyakarta, accumulated piles of rubbish are a prevalent issue. The river's meandering flow pattern causes continuous waste accumulation, leading to further environmental issues. Monitoring by identified key contributors to the deterioration of the river's physical condition, primarily waste from residential areas. These include electronic waste, such as televisions and refrigerators; household waste, such as sofas and mattresses; and liquid waste, including laundry detergent runoff, used bath water, and effluent from small industries associated with local livelihoods.

Yogyakarta is a city with a high level of tourists, leading to a rapid expansion of hotel construction and an increase in environmental challenges, particularly liquid waste pollution (Indah et al., 2016). Domestic waste is

another significant source of pollution commonly found along riverbanks. Domestic waste in the watershed is classified into two categories: potential domestic waste and actual domestic waste (Brontowiyono et al., 2013). Potential domestic waste refers to household waste released into sewer systems within the river watershed, whereas real domestic waste is directly discharged into the river through waterways connected to the main flow. Both types of waste originate from residential and industrial activities along the riverbanks.

The persistent practice of disposing of rubbish and waste into rivers remains a fundamental challenge for both the government and river conservation activists. The requirement for every industry to establish a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is one of the government's proposed solutions to address the disposal of household waste through sanitation channels. By treating wastewater to meet quality standards, WWTP helps ensure that water conditions remain safe and prevent pollution.

Domestic pollutants in rivers can be classified into several categories, including:

1. Organic pollutants that further divided into two types: biodegradable pollutants, which can be broken down by microorganisms, and non-biodegradable pollutants, which cannot be decomposed.
2. Inorganic pollutants include heavy metals and minerals such as sulphates, phosphates, and other chemical compounds.

3. Sediment pollutants consist of deposits of soil, mud, and other particulate matter that accumulate in riverbeds (Brontowiyono et al., 2013).

Environmental degradation, particularly river pollution, demands urgent attention from both the government and the community. Recognising the gravity of this issue, the government has enacted various laws and regulations at both regional and national levels to strengthen environmental protection efforts. The legislative foundation for environmental management and conservation was initially established through the Law on Environmental Management, Law No. 4 Year 1982. This framework was later expanded with Law No. 23 Year 1997, which underwent further enhancement through Law No. 32 Year 2009, commonly referred to as the Environmental Law (UU PLH). The driving force behind the formation of these laws was the widespread occurrence of illegal logging, which lacked effective regulatory solutions at the time. However, despite the legal provisions intended to safeguard environmental integrity, their implementation has often fallen short, indicating that legislative instruments, while essential, do not always function effectively as mechanisms for environmental governance (Kurniawan et al., 2023).

Law No. 32 Year 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management establishes a framework for planned and integrated efforts to safeguard environmental functions and prevent

pollution and degradation. Article 70, Paragraph 1 of the law stipulates that the community possesses equal rights and opportunities to participate actively in environmental protection and management. The law outlines three mechanisms for enforcing environmental regulations, each serving as a mechanism for pollution control. The first approach involves administrative law enforcement, whereby reports submitted to the government are addressed through formal procedures. The second mechanism employs civil law enforcement. The third and most stringent measure is criminal law enforcement, specifically targeting repeat offenders. Nevertheless, enforcement remains ineffective in instilling a deterrent effect among offenders, as violations persist despite legal interventions. This indicates that the existing regulatory frameworks have not succeeded in fostering environmental protection or generating a significant impact (Yuliana et al., 2022).

Dynamics of the environmental movement in Yogyakarta

Emerging in response to the failure of municipal environmental policies, the environmental movement in Yogyakarta reflects a rise in active civic engagement and growing public awareness regarding ongoing environmental degradation (Yuanjaya, 2015). It is evidenced by government-initiated programmes that have proven ineffective in the long run. One such initiative is

the green village programme, Program Kampung Hijau, introduced to the community in 2007, and expected to bring about meaningful changes.

The most significant achievements of environmental communities implementing the programme include infrastructure improvements, an increase in environmental activities, and the active participation of the local community. Despite its initial strong community support and participation, the movement gradually declined in the following years due to a combination of internal and external factors. Internal factors include self-ideology, shared values, commitment, and capabilities such as knowledge, funding, and time. Meanwhile, external factors encompass government support, socio-political conditions, development strategies, and other influencing elements (Yuanjaya, 2015).

The environmental movement arises from concerns over the escalating environmental crisis, alongside growing public awareness of the need to safeguard the environment (Nugroho, 2017). This awareness is shared widely among the people of Yogyakarta. Individuals take action either independently or through communities and organisations dedicated to environmental improvement. The environmental movement in Indonesia emerged as a grassroots initiative opposing the systematic destruction of the local environment (Suharko, 1998). In the initial stages of the environmental movement, concerns centred on biodiversity loss, soil degradation, water and

air pollution, and erosion. These issues have arisen as a consequence of industrial development in Java, including Yogyakarta. The rapid expansion of household industries, factories, and hotels along riverbanks has introduced new environmental challenges. These emerging environmental challenges have prompted the formation of a community dedicated to environmental awareness and sustainability. This is a voluntary movement, driven by the self-awareness of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including artists, academics, and local residents living along the riverbanks.

On 21 August 2015, some young community activists under the name Forum Jogja Peduli attempted to gather young communities in Yogyakarta in an event themed community gathering (Nugroho, 2015). This activity demonstrates that environmental movements have long existed, encompassing diverse communities and a range of issues. These communities include: Trashbag Community Yogyakarta, IAAS LC UGM, Earth Hour Jogja, Waterplant Community, Water Forum Kalijogo, Together We Save Energy Community, Spatial Planning Youth (Petarung), Gama Earth UGM, Energy Centre Student Community, Jogja Berkebun, Taman Kota Jogja, Kemangteer Jogja, Hilo Green Community Jogja, Shalink WALHI Yogyakarta, Forum Pelajar Peduli Lingkungan Jogja, Youth For Climate Change DIY, Sedekah Hijau, Sobat Bumi Jogja, Green Tech UPN, and Koalisi Pemuda Hijau (KOPHI) Jogja.

Environmental care

communities in Yogyakarta originate from diverse backgrounds and address a range of distinct challenges. This is exemplified by the establishment of Kemangteer Jogja, driven by concerns over the mangrove forest ecosystem in the southern coastal area; Sedekah Hijau, founded in response to issues related to exhaust emissions; and Taman Kota Jogja, created to address the absence of green open spaces (Nugroho, 2015).

Head of the FKSS described the development of river communities leading up to the formation of a community forum. The river care community saw significant expansion from 2005 onwards. This is demonstrated by the establishment of the South Boyong Community, a river awareness initiative. The community undertakes initiatives to promote river sustainability, including the Cinta Code movement and the Boyong Lestari movement. Active participation from the surrounding community is essential to ensuring the smooth progression of the movements.

The 2010 eruption of Mount Merapi brought widespread recognition to these river-based communities. The community gained widespread recognition for its collaborative efforts in cleaning rivers affected by the volcanic eruption. The community undertook efforts to remove volcanic debris transported by Mount Merapi's cold lava flow. Communities and individuals convene to discuss and devise solutions for disaster risk reduction, reconciliation, and rehabilitation. Through

this disaster, people became increasingly aware of the existence of environmentally conscious communities in Sleman regency.

In 2018, meetings were convened to unite community groups and regional stakeholders, which at the time operated under the Environmental Board. This institution has since been restructured as the Environmental Agency. The meeting led to the establishment of the FKSS, which serves as both a communication and coordination platform. The community forum acts as a bridge between civil society and the government, driven by the vision and mission of fostering clean, healthy, and sustainable rivers in Sleman regency. Its fundamental objective is to ensure that the Sleman rivers remain both physically and biologically clean, supporting thriving aquatic biota and vegetation while remaining free from pollution. In this context, clean refers to the presence of thriving aquatic biota and vegetation, free from pollution. Additionally, the forum seeks to facilitate the use of the river for domestic and daily activities while transforming it into a tourist attraction (Interview with AG. Irawan, Head of the FKSS, 3 June 2021).

Collaborative relationships among stakeholders in addressing river pollution

The first collaborative relationship is formed between the Environmental Agency and FKSS, as the Environmental Agency functions as the governmental body responsible for environmental affairs. It is

headed by the head of agency, who reports to and operates under the authority of the regent through the regional secretary. In this relationship, the Environmental Agency collaborates with FKSS through the Pollution Control and Environmental Restoration Section. The section is responsible for preparing materials related to organisation, implementation, guidance, pollution control, and environmental restoration. The functions of the Pollution Control and Environmental Restoration Section include:

1. To develop a work plan for the Environmental Pollution Control Section.
2. To formulate technical policies on pollution control and environmental restoration.
3. To prevent, mitigate, and remediate pollution affecting water, land, and air, particularly from hazardous and toxic materials.
4. To coordinate, implement, and conduct environmental quality monitoring.

Chart 1. Stakeholder collaboration on river pollution management

5. To plan, develop, and oversee environmental pollution control infrastructure.
6. To evaluate and prepare reports on the implementation of the Environmental Pollution Control Section.

In both planning and field implementation, FKSS coordinates with the Environmental Agency. Within this coordinative framework, the Environmental Agency is responsible for formulating technical policies for environmental management. The challenges encountered by FKSS during the implementation of its work programme were assessed and incorporated into policy development. Another function of the Environmental Agency is to provide guidance on environmental management to all FKSS members. The Environmental Agency facilitates coaching through socialisation programmes, inviting experts from various fields to enhance these initiatives. The invited resource persons not only provided guidance on river conservation, but also offered insights on optimising both natural and human resources to enhance economic development.

The Environmental Agency is responsible for developing work plans for river water pollution control and broader environmental management, with a particular focus on riverbanks. Meanwhile, FKSS is tasked with implementing environmental initiatives, managing ecosystems, overseeing riverbank areas, conducting capacity-building programmes, promoting community engagement in environmental efforts, and

carrying out evaluations and reporting. The cooperation between these two actors operates without a binding formal agreement. FKSS and the Environmental Agency undertake joint activities driven solely by individual awareness and commitment to environmental preservation, without the constraints of formal agreements.

FKSS faces significant financial constraints as it lacks a dedicated source of income for its operations. To address this, the organisation relies on two primary funding streams. It receives an annual budget of IDR 3,000,000 from the Environmental Agency, but this funding is often insufficient for its numerous work programmes. Therefore, FKSS supplements its budget by organising voluntary contributions. These combined funds are then allocated to support both daily operations and the creation of campaign materials, such as placards and educational boards.

Resource exchange between FKSS and the Environmental Agency took place when FKSS required a new policy to promote initiatives aimed at addressing river water pollution. The Environmental Agency needs assistance in the form of human resource competence in monitoring water quality in Sleman regency. To enhance this process, the Environmental Agency requires competent human resources; accordingly, the Environmental Agency authorises the necessary value resources for FKSS to clarify its responsibilities.

This collaboration allows FKSS and the Environmental Agency to effectively support

one another by pooling essential resources, thereby advancing their shared objectives in environmental management and water quality. In this collaboration, the Environmental Agency requires support from the community forum, particularly in the form of human resources, to implement various work programmes. These include water quality monitoring, direct environmental management in the field, supervision of riverbank areas, capacity-building initiatives, fostering community participation in environmental efforts, as well as conducting evaluations, and compiling reports. This demonstrates the interaction between the two actors through the exchange of resources, whether in the form of human resources or the delegation of authority, enabling them to pursue their respective interests.

While all communities under FKSS share the common goal of controlling river pollution, each faces unique challenges that require tailored solutions. The Kali Adem Community in Girikerto, for instance, provides a clear example. Their primary focus is to combat the dumping of chicken farm waste, which has turned a section of their river into a disposal site (Interview with Ivan, representative from the Kali Adem Community, 5 November 2021). Similarly, Yudha stated that the community faces a significant environmental threat from illegal sand mining. He explained that this problem is compounded by plans to repurpose the mining site for a Merapi jeep track, a move that would further exacerbate river degradation

(Interview with Yudha, representative from Kali Kuning Community, 5 November 2021. Meanwhile, the Kali Bedog Community faces a distinct challenge, as the stream has become a disposal site for household waste from the local housing complex (Interview with Iskandar, representative from the Kali Bedog Lestari Community, 3 November 2021).

Seeking solutions to ensure its continuity, FKSS formally raised its environmental concerns with the Environmental Agency. The government responded by engaging directly with affected communities and conducting firsthand site assessments. For example, this included visiting a chicken farm to provide waste management guidance and initiate further studies. FKSS also took a clear stance on the proposed Merapi jeep tour route. The organisation urged the Environmental Agency to support community-led initiatives instead of a local proposal that would turn the riverbed into a tour route. In response to these concerns, the Environmental Agency donated 500 conservation tree seedlings for planting along the riverbank, which was slated for the tour route, serving as a symbolic opposition to the proposed plan. In addressing residential waste issues in the Kali Bedog Community, the Environmental Agency introduced a WWTP to the local community, ensuring that waste undergoes a treatment process before being discharged into the river.

The initiatives undertaken by FKSS and the government reflect a collaborative effort

to promote sustainable environmental solutions. As a forum for numerous river-based communities in Sleman regency, FKSS has developed a comprehensive work programme that actively involves various river communities. One of FKSS's key initiatives is river water quality monitoring, which aims to assess and manage water quality across Sleman regency. This process involves observation, monitoring, and targeted research at specific locations. FKSS conducts sampling, which is subsequently tested by the Environmental Laboratory Centre Environmental and Forestry Office of Special Region of Yogyakarta in collaboration with UII Environmental Quality Laboratory and UGM Integrated Research and Testing Laboratory. This activity supports Government Regulation No. 82 Year 2001 concerning water quality management and water pollution control and was initiated following the enactment of DIY Governor Regulation No. 22 Year 2007 on the Classification of River Water in the Yogyakarta Special Region. River water quality monitoring is conducted three times a year—during the dry season, rainy season, and transitional season—with monitoring locations determined by the Environmental Agency based on key environmental considerations, including upstream-to-downstream representation, areas minimally impacted by human activities, proximity to pollution sources, locations near drinking water intakes, and accessibility (Yuniarti, 2019). Another major

programme is Prokasih, a river-cleaning initiative conducted weekly at various locations. This activity involves multiple stakeholders, including river awareness communities, village officials, and local police. FKSS also plays a crucial role in identifying pollution sources, employing two mechanisms: empirical identification, which relies on information gathered from community reports and complaints, and institutional structural identification, which involves sampling at potential pollution sites. Beyond scientific and policy-driven efforts, FKSS incorporates cultural approaches to river conservation through the Merti Kali programme. This initiative includes traditional events such as *kenduri* and *susur sungai* (river tubing), bringing together speakers and environmentally focused communities to foster local engagement. Tree planting constitutes another vital conservation activity, supported by the Environmental Agency through the provision of ready-to-plant tree seedlings. This programme contributes to ecosystem preservation in Sleman regency by planting conservation tree species capable of water retention, such as gayam and banyan trees, alongside fruit-bearing varieties like avocado, durian, and mangosteen. These trees serve both ecological and practical purposes, protecting water springs while providing long-term benefits to the community.

Another form of collaboration involves FKSS's role within the communities it serves. As a community forum, FKSS has a dual function: it not only acts as a

bridge between civil society and the government but also serves as a unifying platform for river-based communities in Sleman regency. One key aspect of this relationship is the development of a work programme focused on identifying pollutant sources through two main approaches: empirical identification and institutional structural identification. Empirical identification involves communities reporting environmental issues they encounter in the field to the community team, ensuring grassroots concerns are addressed. Meanwhile, institutional structural identification entails the collection of river pollution samples for research purposes (Interview with AG. Irawan, Head of the FKSS, 3 June 2021).

This collaborative framework functions effectively as each community within the forum addresses distinct environmental challenges. Insights from interviews with several communities highlight these variations. For instance, the Sungai Adem Girikerto Community prioritises youth empowerment initiatives, which necessitate financial support from the government. Similarly, the Kali Kuning Community faces issues related to the absence of reclamation in former sand mining areas. This has led to direct environmental consequences for both the river and the surrounding community, necessitating the formulation of relevant policies. Addressing such issues requires more than just government funding; FKSS also engages in policy advocacy to ensure

sustainable solutions. Through regular meetings held every four months between FKSS and Environmental Agency, these communities have the opportunity to present their concerns and seek governmental intervention. This structured engagement underscores the pivotal role of FKSS in enabling communities to achieve their environmental objectives through coordinated advocacy and policy dialogue.

In essence, FKSS actively engages in direct initiatives and implements concrete work programmes aimed at cleaning up and reducing river pollution. Meanwhile, the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency not only oversees FKSS's licensing and provides financial support but also formulates new policies to mitigate pollution levels further. This dynamic collaboration demonstrates that both entities—FKSS and the Environmental Agency—mutually benefit from one another, reinforcing the notion that FKSS operates as a governmental partner rather than a mere instrument of the state.

Representing a new social movement: the case of FKSS in Yogyakarta

New social movements are centred around non-material objectives, emphasising transformations in lifestyle and culture rather than advocating for specific policy reforms or economic changes, as exemplified by environmental, anti-war, and peace movements (Suharko, 2006). These movements are considered 'new' due to their

distinct focus compared to the old social movements. While new social movements address issues such as workers' and peasants' organisation, economic equity, and socio-political justice, they also serve as platforms for individuals and groups seeking to build larger collective movements.

Given the increasing levels of pollution and environmental degradation, FKSS has intensified its initiatives through its work programmes. The organisation frequently conducts campaigns and outreach activities, including counselling sessions focused on environmental preservation and the detrimental effects of waste disposal in river bodies. These outreach initiatives take place during quarterly meetings organised with the FKSS serving as platforms for dialogue, oversight, and capacity-building through targeted training programmes. These sessions incorporate discussions, supervision, and training to enhance community engagement and awareness. In addition to educational efforts, FKSS continues to implement practical activities along rivers to address environmental concerns. However, the limited outreach of the community forum has resulted in a lack of visibility for these counselling initiatives, diminishing their overall impact. To overcome this challenge, FKSS could enhance its communication strategies by fully utilising social media platforms.

Movement strategy is a crucial component of social movements, as it directly influences their success or failure. One fundamental

approach is the low profile strategy, characterised by its non-coercive, inclusive, and non-arbitrary nature. This strategy effectively represents FKSS as a social movement that operates without authoritarian tendencies. The voluntary nature of membership recruitment further reflects this approach, as individuals join the community based on their own awareness and commitment. Additionally, the shared socio-cultural background of members reinforces the cohesion of this movement strategy.

The second component is layering, which centres on empowerment and social transformation. This approach is reflected in FKSS's work programme, which primarily consists of youth organisations dedicated to fostering productivity among their members on a daily basis. The communities implement this strategy by actively engaging their members in positive initiatives, such as repurposing river spaces for fish farming or developing nature-based tourism.

Advocacy is a widely employed strategy for safeguarding natural resources, aimed at supporting policy reforms and legislative improvements. Through advocacy, communities can actively influence policies and decisions that may not align with their needs. This process is typically undertaken by groups of individuals committed to addressing social issues. The effectiveness of advocacy is reflected in the ability of these individuals or communities to confidently articulate

their aspirations. When they succeed in voicing their concerns and prompting action, advocacy can be regarded as successful. In the context of environmental protection, advocacy serves as a mechanism for community groups to defend and empower their local ecosystems, driving meaningful change towards a more sustainable environment (Mudhoffir, 2011).

FKSS employs various advocacy strategies to support community-driven environmental initiatives. One approach is direct advocacy, which involves distributing pamphlets and banners to local communities to promote river sustainability. However, this strategy has proven ineffective, as many community members remain indifferent to messages urging river conservation. This occurs mainly because certain members of the community continue to perceive waste disposal as a matter of simply getting rid of rubbish, without considering the long-term impact on the sustainability of the river ecosystem. To enhance engagement, FKSS has turned to social media advocacy, leveraging platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and online news portals to reach a broader audience. Additionally, FKSS seeks to capitalise on institutional opportunities by integrating environmental education into school curricula and promoting environmental cleanliness initiatives in formal institutions. However, implementing this institutional advocacy strategy presents significant challenges,

requiring sustained efforts and strategic coordination.

In general, this article finds that the most suitable and emphasised strategy adopted by the FKSS is what is referred to as critical engagement, also known as critical collaboration. Within this framework, FKSS positions itself as an integral part of the broader social movement strategy. The collaboration between FKSS and the Environmental Agency stems from a shared recognition that achieving common environmental goals is unattainable through isolated efforts.

In this partnership, FKSS functions not as a tool of the state but as a collaborative partner working alongside government agencies, specifically the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency. As FKSS is granted specific authority by the Environmental Agency to participate in decision-making processes, this form of engagement is characterised as critical collaboration. FKSS is expected to generate discussions, findings, performance evaluations, and new strategies, thereby fostering broader community participation. Meanwhile, the collaboration between FKSS and the local government represents an external collaboration, as it involves a community forum engaging with entities beyond its immediate network, notably the local government and the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency.

The FKSS may be classified as a new social movement, as its activities align with several defining characteristics

of such movements. Its organisational structure adopts a grassroots political model, initiating action through small, community-based groups and concentrating on issues emerging from civil society.

Conclusion: civil community social movements as a component of new social movements

The conclusion that can be drawn is that the movement undertaken by a community forum can be regarded as part of a new social movement, as it successfully meets several defining criteria of such movements. Community forums generally serve as platforms for accommodating public aspirations while also functioning as bridges that connect communities with shared backgrounds, objectives, and collective experiences.

The critical collaboration social movement strategy adopted by this community forum positions it as an interest group that engages in advocacy and campaigns, using river pollution as a focal issue to advocate for more assertive public policy reforms. As a component of a new social movement, the presence of community forums dedicated to environmental advocacy—particularly river conservation—is essential in challenging dominant state power and influencing policy decisions regarding river utilisation and management in Sleman regency. Ensuring that their values and interests receive greater consideration within governance structures requires persistent

engagement. For such movements to remain sustainable and impactful, they must be grounded in a strong political and ideological foundation, clearly defining their objectives and future aspirations. Equally vital is the establishment of an extensive social network, enabling broader mobilisation and more effective advocacy.

In this collaboration, it is evident that the community forum relies on the local government, specifically the Environmental Agency of Sleman regency. The FKSS's activities are largely limited to routine, repetitive programmes, lacking strategic variation over time. Furthermore, the forum is constrained in its capacity to develop long-term plans, as all proposed initiatives must first be approved by the Environmental Agency. This dependency limits the forum's autonomy and may hinder the sustainability and innovation of its community-based environmental efforts. This dependency arises not only from the government's authoritative role but also from the community forum's reliance on governmental funding and legal protection. Moreover, numerous collaborative programmes undertaken by the community forum have been initiated by the local government, further reinforcing its influence in shaping environmental initiatives. Consequently, it can be concluded that this collaboration is state-driven.

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