

Environmental Justice for the Bantar Gebang Scavenger Community

Aminah Zuhriyah¹, Sri Rahayu Pudjiastuti²

¹STKIP Kusumanegara, Indonesia

²STKIP Arrahmaniyah, Indonesia

Correspondent: aminah_zuhriyah@stkipkusumanegara.ac.id¹

Received : February 1, 2024

Accepted : April 19, 2024

Published : April 30, 2024

Citation: Zuhriyah, A., Pudjiastuti, S, R. (2024). Environmental Justice for the Bantar Gebang Scavenger Community. Ijomata International Journal of Social Science, 5(2), 476-498.

<https://doi.org/10.61194/ijss.v5i2.1104>

ABSTRACT: The Bantar Gebang landfill is a paradise for scavengers. However, this condition is inversely proportional to the reality of an unhealthy environment and increasing poverty. On this basis, this research aims to examine the extent of environmental justice for this community. This research uses qualitative techniques with a case study approach starting from 2022-2023 with informants from Bantar Gebang scavenger residents and the Bantar Gebang TPST. It was found that environmental justice was not yet running as it should, and this was further exacerbated by the lack of public education, and the lack of optimal attention from the local government. Thus, the urgency of environmental justice at the grassroots supports sustainable development, especially for the welfare of scavengers with the principle of equality. The government should be able to change its perspective in paying attention to the living conditions of these minorities with a social empathy approach that is included in environmental regulations by giving them the right to participate in making decisions.

Keywords: Environmental Justice (EJ), Scavenger, Bantar Gebang Disposal Site.



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INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on all sectors in all countries, from health, economy, society, culture, politics, technology, and others. One of them is the increase in the amount of waste due to the outbreak. The increasing use of plastic actually adds to the composition of more and more waste from year to year. Apart from general domestic waste, there were also findings of medical waste, be it in the form of masks, syringes, vaccine bottles, gloves, face shields, protective clothing, and other types of medical waste which also increased drastically. The sad thing is that this increase in waste cannot be handled optimally so that it always creates problems from various aspects, be it environmental, social, economic, health, and even cultural.

This finding is also in accordance with the results of a study by (Cordova et al., 2021) which stated that during the pandemic, there was an increase of 15-16% of the collected waste as many as 780 ± 138 items or 0.13 ± 0.02 tons in each day. For this reason, it is important to apply a waste

segregation pattern from the start when receiving waste in integrated waste management, especially medical waste which is classified as hazardous material from existing domestic sources. The local government should reconstruct the rules regarding waste minimization strictly for all the components involved. Even though we understand that until now DKI Jakarta has banned the use of plastic bags since July 2020, the implementation of this rule is still not optimal because small producers whose consumers are middle to lower, such as food stalls, small traders, or traditional markets still prioritize using bags this plastic.

The waste problem in Indonesia has become a critical threat to the sustainability of our nation's economy, society and environment. The nation's enormous waste production demands even more space dedicated to landfills, which compete with societal needs. When landfills become overburdened, excess waste is then burned in open and uncontrolled ways or spilled into waterways. This will increase the risk of disease, pollution and harmful emissions for residents. Furthermore, the landfill itself, called the Garbage Mountains, is a dangerous but very attractive area for scavengers, garbage collectors, and informal workers to increase their economic income ([Fatimah et al., 2020](#)).

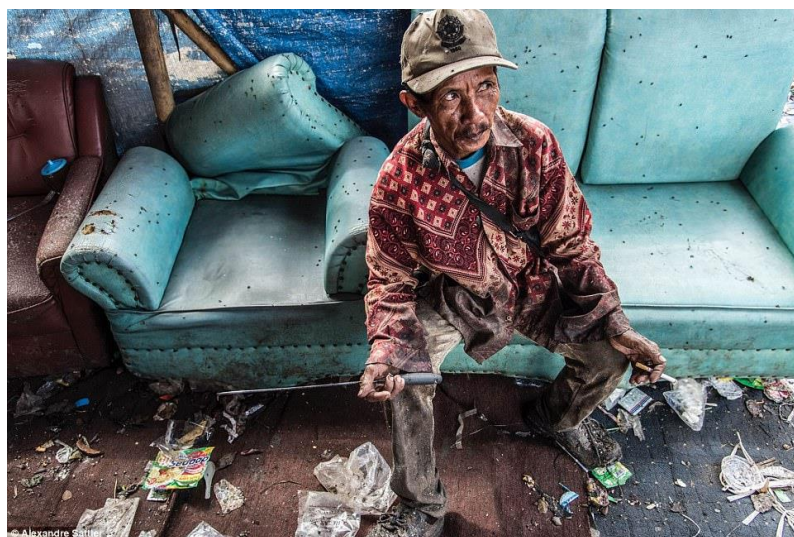


Figure 1 Scavenger resting ([Thornhill, 2017](#))

Regulations for waste management in Indonesia already exist and are adequate, but most of the implications in the field are often not implemented optimally due to various reasons, both in terms of the apparatus, the current conditions, and the object. As a result, the policies that are made are often only limited to rules on paper, not maximally taking firm action and giving the effect of severe punishment. The recent increase in population in Indonesia over time has resulted in the use of goods and activities carried out to invite various types of waste to be maximized. As a result, it is often found that the negative effects caused by waste are also increasingly piling up and are not resolved. One of the solutions regulated by the local government is to provide a garbage collection site. However, not all places can be given this garbage container because it will also disturb the surrounding residents. For this reason, the waste will be distributed to a special place that is suitable for large-scale storage. Merging all the waste in DKI Jakarta into one big place, namely in Bantar Gebang so that waste is not scattered in each other area. The location of this shelter is also being processed as a land source of energy for power generation. The mission and

positive hopes that will be brought by the Bantar Gebang landfills are clearly not easy, because there are still many social and environmental problems of inequality such as scavenger communities that are local residents around the area whose lives are not quality and unhealthy. This can be seen in the image below.



Figure 2 a child play in the Bantar Gebang areas ([Thornhill, 2017](#))

However, sadly there is injustice at the location where the final waste is considered normal and it becomes a common culture. Like the condition where the poor community or called scavengers in Bantar Gebang live unfit and unhealthy, they can still survive and think this is a common thing to happen to the point where the children of their family members also look happy just playing around the very waste area, dangerous and unhealthy.

This is in line with the findings of the opinion of ([Horney et al., 2018](#)) stating that the implementation of environmental justice is still low in Manchester Houston, USA, with evidence of the widespread community of poor households who are exposed to dust, resulting in them always being exposed to various diseases.



Figure 3 Girls Playing Dolls ([Thornhill, 2017](#))

These findings show that the role of the local government is considered not optimal in protecting poor communities around the area. They still live in dirty and unsanitary environmental conditions on a daily basis. This shows the finding that there is still no environmental justice for these poor

people. The real key to environmental justice is getting equal treatment and recognition. This condition is clearly far from the expectations of environmental justice in Bantar Gebang because these poor people do not get proper treatment, and they still have to live near garbage to carry out various activities at any time. Then the recognition of the existence of this community is also not paid much attention to by the local government.

To be able to overcome this, it is clear that real action is needed from EJ in supporting the survival of the minority residents in the Bantar Gebang area. The foundation of the implementation of environmental justice is the policy role that is carried out. Every government agency should be able to guarantee legal certainty and compliance in all actions that are carried out properly. Environmental justice must be planned in advance and then programmed into activities in a comprehensive manner ([Ryan, 2017](#)).

([Engen et al., 2021](#)) stated that environmental programs carried out hastily by the government will actually create social injustice and exclusion for marginalized and unrecognized parties. As a result, it is important to understand the implications of sustainable planning and development based on the principles of environmental justice because the concept of environmental justice is in line with the main goal of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, namely leaving no one behind.

Environmental justice teaches that a healthy nature is a determinant of people's jobs, well-being, and health. This work carried out in a healthy natural environment actually has a positive impact in addition to physical and mental health, it also maximizes cognitive potential in spiritual and cultural benefits and increases the sense of meaningfulness of work ([Hammell, 2021](#)).

([Thomas et al., 2022](#)) also added that environmental justice is often given various interpretations that are adapted to the context and environmental problems used. However, it is important to remember that EJ focuses on the principle that all living creatures on earth (humans, animals and plants) are entitled to equal protection under environmental laws and regulations.

([Schwarz et al., 2015](#)) stated that grassroots environmental justice is based on local characteristics with an analytical approach that focuses on single cases. For this reason, the use of the concept of environmental justice between one city area and another will have very different patterns of environmental management. Although environmental patterns can sometimes be generalized, investigations are still carried out into each process for the common good.

([Buijs et al., 2024](#)) stated that supporting EJ in urban areas requires long-term collaboration between local government, local communities and grassroots initiatives to create a contribution to equitable transformation and sustainable cities without sacrificing the environment and marginalized communities.

([Spriggs et al., 2024](#)) added that the urgency in sharing environmental burdens and the use of environmental facilities must be fair among all races and socio-economic classes so that the development of environmental justice will become more relevant so that public and government

understanding must always be expanded to provide active support. in promoting environmental justice.

Based on the views and findings of the problems above, this research was inspired by the desire to learn more about environmental justice in connection with the poverty crisis and environmental damage for the scavenger community in Bantar Gebang. The novelty of this research is a real illustration of the findings of social inequality that have never been studied with a combination of the EJ concept so that when closely examined it can become input material that will become a direction in planning for efficient waste disposal management. This research aims to achieve the above by answering the following research questions:

1. Why is environmental justice so crucial for the Bantar Gebang scavenger community?
2. What factors hinder the implementation of environmental justice for this community?
3. To what extent is the role and initiative of local governments in supporting environmental justice?

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative type with a case study approach due to the phenomenon of cases of social inequality and environmental damage that are rife in the Bantar Gebang area. This research will take place from 2022-2023. The key targets in this research are the Bantar Gebang scavenger community and the Bantar Gebang TPST. The analysis used in qualitative data is descriptive analysis. The data obtained through the reduction stage with a summary of the results of interviews and FGDs, is then presented to facilitate the drawing of field analysis in relation to related theories and regulations so that at the final stage the appropriate conclusions and recommendations are drawn.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Urgency of Environmental Justice

Environmental justice for the scavengers of Bantar Gebang is crucial due to various negative impacts such as damage to the environmental ecosystem around the area as well as the health conditions of the local population which have not been paid attention to, which has occurred to date and has not been prioritized as an important environmental problem. As a result, this condition has become commonplace and has become a cultural heritage that has become the image of the Bantar Gebang rubbish dump. Even though it is linked to the concept of environmental justice, it clearly emphasizes the protection of marginalized residents, especially scavengers, the lack of awareness of the environment and healthy living is often the reason that is often ignored by these residents. They still prioritize the economy above everything else even in bad environmental conditions. If it is related to EJ, it is clear that this is very contradictory because you can't see EJ at all.



Figure 4 Residential houses in the Bantar Gebang area (Researcher, 2024)



Figure 5 Female scavengers in Bantar Gebang (Researcher, 2024)

([Fitzgerald, 2022](#)) adds that the essence of environmental justice is the synergy of a sustainable transition process which is based on a fair distribution of benefits and burdens as well as all active participation in the decision-making process that has implications for the local environment.

([Grant et al., 2022](#)) also found that environmental justice is still not a central theme in widespread research so that environmental justice implementation strategies receive less attention and detail from the public and the government itself.

([Burbank et al., 2023](#)) stated that the goal of the environmental justice movement is to ensure that every individual has an opportunity in every decision-making process that impacts their community, which is the key to EJ, namely active community involvement.

The finding that the majority of the population, whose entire family members around the Bantar Gebang area work as scavengers, is a sad illustration that the level of welfare of the residents there is still very minimal. They are willing to stay in the area because it is to meet their daily economic needs without thinking about the negative consequences. The low education factor also makes them think twice about leaving their jobs as scavengers. Of the 10 scavengers interviewed, 8 of them only had elementary school education, so this is evidence of the failure of government programs to support education for all. The highest level of education is only high school, which is very rare.

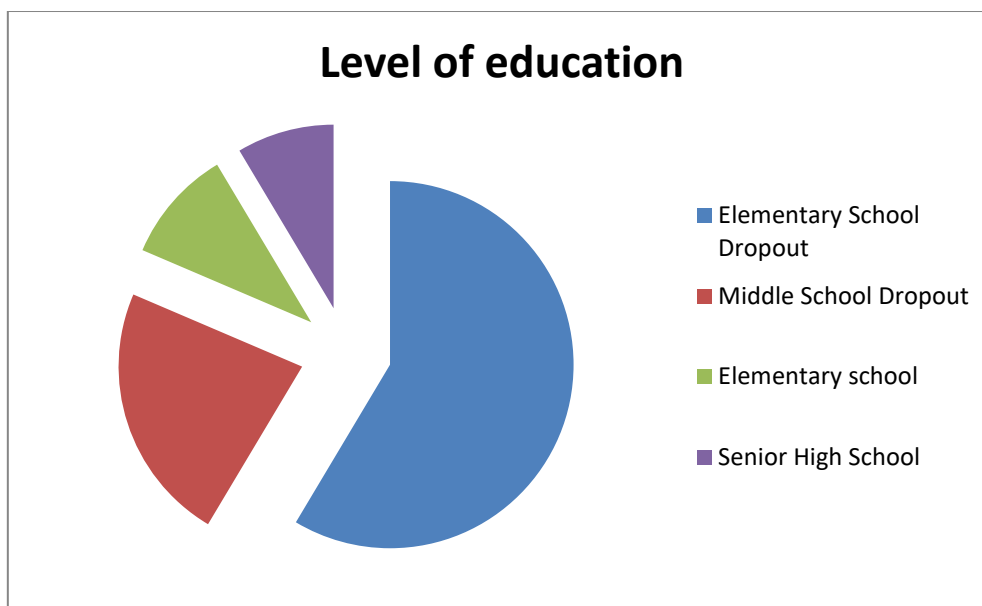


Figure 6 Bantar Gebang Scavenger Education Level (Researcher, 2024)

Then, their children have also been taught to participate in this profession, so that it becomes a profession that has been passed down from generation to generation for a long time. The finding that some people become migrants from the countryside to get a better economy is also evidence that they are easily influenced by the stories and suggestions of other people who live in the capital is more promising. In fact, if further investigated, it is not certain that they will live comfortably in the capital if they do not have a stable income and a high level of education. Migrants pay no attention to this because they are easily seduced by positive stories from the capital. Competition in the capital is very competitive so if they cannot survive they will become a minority who have no place and are marginalized.



Figure 7 Scavenger Children (Researcher, 2024)

The finding that the condition of the housing environment is slum has caused a decline in the quality of decent life for residents around Bantar Gebang, in line with the findings of ([Anyanwu & Beyer, 2024](#)) who found that housing and the environment have an important influence on health, well-being and a strong sense of togetherness, but it is very unfortunate that inequality often occurs. health, resulting in injustice for low-income groups and minority groups.

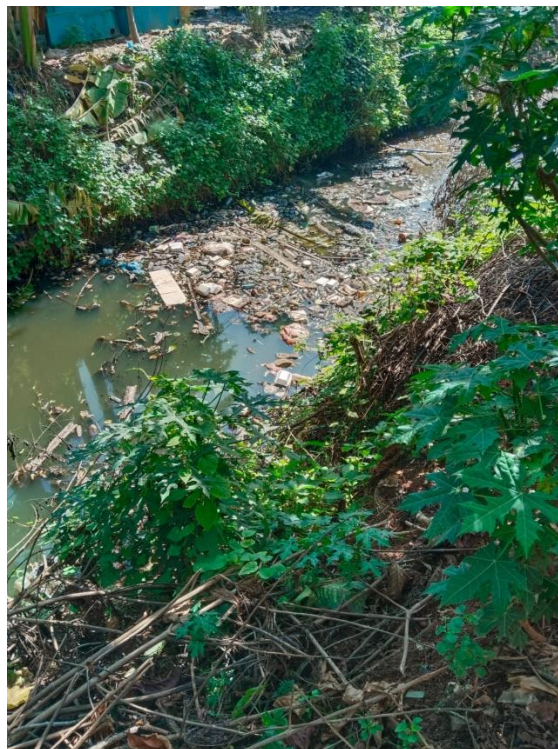


Figure 8 Latest conditions of polluted rivers in the Bantar Gebang area (Researcher, 2024)

([Wang et al., 2023](#)) stated that poor communities who are socio-economically vulnerable tend to have a greater burden of environmental pollution compared to rich communities, this often creates injustice in the environment for these communities. The government's important role in

highlighting and reconsidering the development of appropriate environmental facilities is very useful for improving environmental justice in the community.



Figure 9 Pet Chickens of Scavenger Residents who suffer from Physical Disabilities
(Researcher, 2024)

Another problem that occurs in the scavenger community in Bantar Gebang is that their presence is often not acknowledged so that they are not paid attention to it as a whole. This finding is in accordance with the expert opinion of (Wayessa, 2022) who found that environmental injustice is still often found in the distribution of agricultural land between small farmers and investors in Ethiopia. As a result, local communities often become victims due to lack of recognition in the land transaction process, such as loss of access to land, employment opportunities, deforestation and other problems.



Figure 9 Latest Waste-contaminated soil in Bantar Gebang (Researcher, 2024)

The EJ concept is very much in line with the findings of this problem because the findings of marginalized scavengers are a strong criticism for the government to solve this problem as soon as possible. And the spotlight on this problem has also been seen internationally which proves that real action is needed in it, not just regulated regulations. The whole world has seen this condition so that in the future this EJ Implication will become a bridge connecting the majority and minorities in a transparent and responsible manner. The state does not only focus on big projects but also on its members in the form of poor and marginalized communities.



Figure 10 A scavenger sorting waste (Anonymous., 2022)

Pay particular attention to the ways in which legal, political, and cultural mechanisms interact to reinforce systems of stratification or reveal opportunities for meaningful resistance. Our analysis also highlights the role of human agency in successfully challenging the old legal and cultural foundations of racial inequality. The environmental justice literature provides an interesting, but underutilized lens through which to explore the dynamics of racial formation, colonization, and decolonization. Environmental justice scholars have made an invaluable contribution to the wider discussion of racism by exposing the environmental implications of racial oppression.

The notion of environmental justice reflects the demands of the maker's judgment about what is required for equity to be achieved. Three concepts of justice are prevalent in contemporary environmental justice frameworks: distributive justice, procedural justice, and recognition justice ([Cantzler & Huynh, 2016](#)).

Environmental justice puts forward the concept that every individual has the right to environmental and health protection through the application of equal laws so the application of this value must be implemented by the local government so as not to cause prolonged conflicts ([Moore & Lanthorn, 2017](#)).

Applying EJ must be framed with social psychology so that it has the ability to support the concept of social welfare in the community. In other words, this increase is in line with the moral values that should be made into a culture in every society ([Edwards et al., 2016](#)).

([Slattery et al., 2023](#)) found that all academic research related to EJ can play an important role as a

transparent source of knowledge in addressing frontline community problems. However, it must be understood that the research carried out is a serious effort and action that is in accordance with the findings from community involvement with a careful two-way communication process. For this reason, EJ is an important factor in supporting sustainable development without sacrificing minority communities, especially when connected to the conditions of the communities around the Bantar Gebang area. Implementing EJ is a necessity in improving the quality of life for minority communities.

Obstacles in Implementing EJ

One of the first inhibiting factors is the lack of education, especially environmental education for residents, as a result of which they always underestimate the various existing conditions. Poverty is a factor that causes residents to choose to become scavengers because they have not completed school, so they do not have the competence that guarantees them to work in a promising field. Meanwhile, being a scavenger does not require education at all, only experience in picking up goods that can be bought and sold. In fact, if people have a good education, they will of course be able to have more decent jobs. This is sad because this condition often becomes a tradition passed down from generation to generation in families, so it is likely that their children will also follow in the footsteps of their previous parents.



Figure 11 Elderly Scavenger (Researcher, 2024)

In accordance with the opinion of [\(Novianti et al., 2021\)](#), residents' unhealthy behavior is also caused by a lack of basic knowledge about healthy and decent living.

[\(Turnhout, 2022\)](#) states that the development of science must be linked to policies that address the interests of society in large, especially marginalized communities. There are still ongoing patterns of inequality and marginalization, creating injustice which becomes an obstacle to the transformation of knowledge that not only serves the interests of certain groups or individuals but also the welfare of all humans.

The role of the institution should be to provide a campaign on the importance of competence if you want to live in the capital city, which can be done apart from word of mouth as well as the mushrooming mass media, both print and electronic. The state here must be able to guarantee that every citizen has the same rights, but they must also carry out their obligations such as complying with applicable regulations and continuing to improve their skills to support their lives so they are not left behind with the movements of the times. Supervision by the government is not only to take action against residents who fail to comply but as an evaluate the quality of population development.

The role of social and institutional factors is the foundation for EJ expansion in order to influence the spatial relations of conflict triggers and local communities in a distributed manner. Restrictive zoning, environmental regulations, and economic incentives can be common policy tools used by local governments in an effort to encourage or discourage certain types of land use that are detrimental to local communities ([Yuan, 2018](#)).

The second is local government support through the implementation of regulations that have not focused on improving the quality of life of local residents so that adequate environmental conditions for the scavenger community do not yet appear, as a result there is still economic inequality.

([Bontempi et al., 2023](#)) found that the result of the government only often prioritizing economic growth has led to environmental injustice and environmental conflict. Thus, the growth of a region should remain based on environmental justice that protects and defends the rights of local groups within it.

([Kato-Huerta & Geneletti, 2023](#)) found that local planning and comprehensive policy efforts are needed to strengthen evaluation of environmental injustice that occurs in cities. This construction is very dependent on the EJ indicator in allocating environmental losses and benefits.

([G. Hidalgo et al., 2022](#)) stated that emotional political ecology is needed to support the practice of fighting for climate and environmental justice. Thus, the role of politics here will be a tool for healing from structural oppression and physical and symbolic violence against humans and the natural environment.

Third, the widespread phenomenon of climate change is quite extreme, thus increasingly affecting environmental conditions, such as in Bantar Gebang, where environmental conditions are damaging with unhealthy conditions, both river water, air and the quality of existing soil.

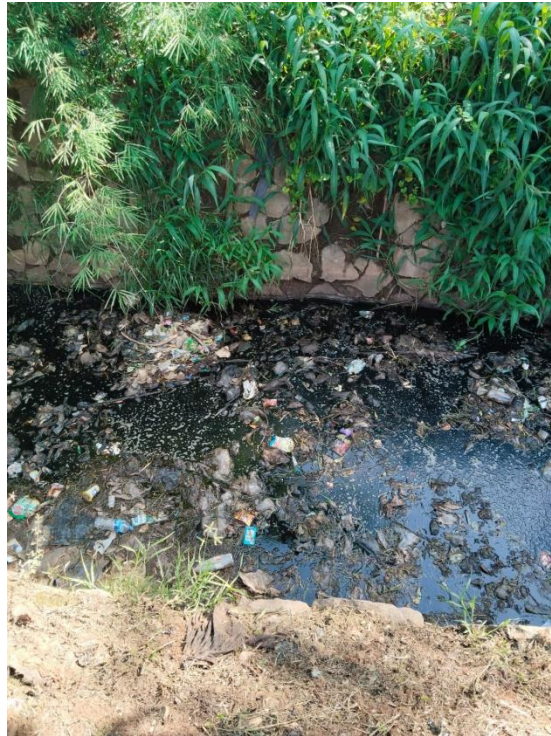


Figure 12 The color of the river around Bantar Gebang has become dark, poisonous black
(Researcher, 2024)

This is in accordance with the response from ([Anser et al., 2023](#)) who also stated that extreme weather and extreme poverty have two sides of the same coin and have far-reaching consequences for developing countries, giving rise to gaps in environmental justice which mainly contribute to persistent poverty.

The production and international movement of hazardous wastes including their economic disposal in the developing world remains a topical issue in the environmental justice debate. Globally, it is estimated that more than 90 percent of the waste that is produced and traded annually comes from industrialized countries. Most of this hazardous waste is sent to developing countries for recycling and disposal. This requires technical transfer and capacity building which results in the harmful effects of waste on human health and the environment. Unfortunately, waste disposal has not met the same fairness in developing countries whether on the environment or vice versa and did not receive attention until the dire health and other environmental issues started to surface en masse ([Ajibo, 2016](#)).



Figure 13 Mountain of unprocessed trash (Researcher, 2024)

Success in environmental improvement brings new challenges that EJ should be able to solve such as helping to overcome inequalities between the two sides in conflict areas ([Koiwanit & Filimonau, 2023](#)).

It must be understood that we as humans on this earth live entirely thanks to nature, for this reason we should be able to feel sadness and pain when we see the various impacts of environmental and climate change and injustice in everyday life. This way of humanizing humans must be instilled in them so that these scavengers will be aware of the true environmental justice that they do not yet have and that they have the right to live a decent and respected existence as is the goal of EJ itself.

Role and Initiatives of Local Government

So far, the role and initiatives of the local government are still not optimal in improving the quality of life for the scavenger residents. The environmental campaign to manage waste sustainably has not been optimally implemented by the scavenger community. As a result, most local government programs or outreach only focus on developing waste area management for communities outside the area compared to the conditions of personnel within it, especially for the surrounding local communities.

The findings that occurred in Indonesia are also in line with the opinion of ([D. Barreto & Rosenberg, 2022](#)) who also stated that public policy in the United States is still not on target because the implications of achieving environmental justice between poor and rich communities historically are still very burdened so that there are still many other communities. who doesn't care about implementing environmental justice.

([Vilá et al., 2023](#)) found that leaders who had experienced the impact of environmental damage were proven to have more sensitive experiences in collaborating with individuals who were also

affected by the environment. As a result, if it is related to the government's role in managing EJ, attention should be paid to the selection of leaders who are proven to have this experience. If this can be done, it will encourage progress towards environmental justice, especially in the Bantar Gebang case.

It is important to examine the quality of the distribution of burdens and environmental benefits that exist in disclosing inequalities in punishment whether they are in accordance with the concept of EJ. Findings about the relationship between community demographics and monetary penalties against companies for 121 federal environmental law criminal offenses tried between 2005 and 2010. Results indicated that monetary sanctions were not correlated with the demographics of residents living near the crime. This means that corporations continue to commit their environmental crimes in minority areas and poor citizens do not receive lower monetary penalties as a result. Thus, the problem of environmental justice still arises because of dissatisfaction with the results of federal crime. Environmental justice specifically focuses on the composition between human rights, social justice, and ecological justice. Federal policy should promote fair and meaningful treatment with the involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income environmental development, practice, and enforcement in accordance with laws, regulations, and policies ([Greife et al., 2015](#)).

The EJ movement redefines the environment as a place where we live, work, play, worship, and study as well as the physical and natural world for everyone to enjoy in a directed manner and guaranteed by the government for these rights ([Mohai et al., 2020](#)).

Environmental injustice tends to appear more quickly due to the lack of sensitivity and proactivity of the role of local institutions in urban areas in listening to the hearts of every community. The state should be able to form a safe zone to protect the interests of citizens, especially minority citizens so that interactions of decisions are useful for individuals, organizations, and the government is formed ([Campbell et al., 2014](#)).

([Chaudhry, 2024](#)) added that the importance of strengthening government policies in dealing with the direct impact of climate change both on health and the impact of summer heat waves as evidence of handling environmental justice, especially for the health of the urban poor who are very often affected.

([Cubells et al., 2024](#)) also found that environmental policy must be able to demand a comprehensive understanding in supporting the distribution of responsibilities in order to ensure the progress of environmental justice.

A policy reform system based on environmental justice must be applied evenly in every line, because in order to form an environmental court that socially guarantees human rights in a fair manner. This is in accordance with the findings of the Scottish government which was considered to have failed in fulfilling environmental commitments so that sustainable compliance did not take place as expected. As a result, policy improvements will determine the direction of environmental justice in order to create a new system([Christman, 2018](#)).

(Bell et al., 2024) found that the low level of community participation in supporting environmental regulations is one of the causes of failure to implement environmental justice. The loss of the public's level of trust in the government is a factor in the public's reluctance to support these regulations.

Three important keys in the development of EJ are (1) who receives justice (aspects of local society), (2) what objects are received (aspects of the object being studied), and (3) the principles that govern them (the distributive principles). For this reason, protection for EJ must be implemented according to these three keys so as not to widen environmental inequality (Khumthai et al., 2022).

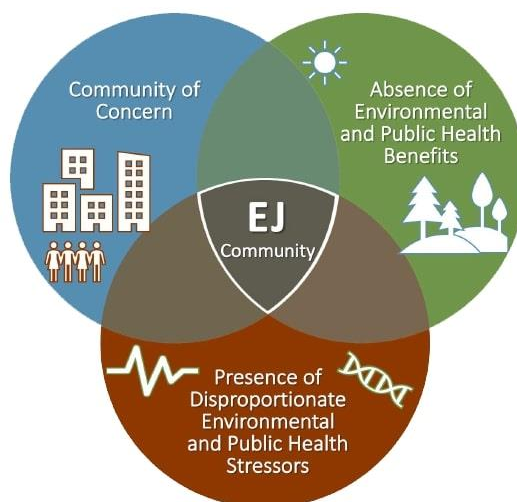


Figure 14 : Environmental Justice Communities (Department of Environmental Protection New Jersey, 2023)

Collaborative programs with the involvement of the government, private sector, universities, and the community carried out by each party will address systemic environmental injustice. It is important to build community capacity in developing EJ to be stronger in facing various challenges. For example, if it is related to the case of the landfill in Bantar Gebang, it should be highlighted by all parties involved, especially in the world of education, which will be a requirement in order to create innovative ideas to solve this waste.

This partnership will be increasingly understood as making research more rigorous, as well as increasing its relevance to the needs and interests of the community, and also expanding its reach into new areas of action for the benefit of the community itself because it must be understood that the main objective of this program is for the community so that it will eliminate the stereotype that the community and other institutions cannot blend together (London et al., 2018).

The role of institutions in the politicization of environmental issues is crucial in highlighting several aspects of social framing and the place of environmental issues in society so that they can deal with environmental problems in a democratic manner (Patsias, 2021). A more holistic view of environmental justice will reduce all anthropocentric views so that it will become an environmental movement that can increase dynamic understanding through the relations of race, class, gender, and discrimination without accelerating environmental degradation (Braverman, 2021).



Figure 15 Bantar Gebang Disposal (Hayatullah, 2022)

An equitable EJ transition is an important plan that is implicated in environmental policy. Ignoring the voices of the people who come from environmental pollution zones will increasingly have a negative impact on climate change. EJ's actions are an important step in determining the direction of the better environment. Simultaneously, policy planners with an EJ perspective will better understand needs and also build new economic potential for community resilience ([Córdova et al., 2022](#)).

Indigenous peoples are generally not included in the law-making process, even though their opinion is very important to understand local conditions while respecting their cultural heritage in managing nature responsibly without revenge ([Song et al., 2022](#)). For example, the opinions of the poor from Bantar Gebang have never been revealed and they have not been made by partners in public discussions or other discussions. They are often just spectators who don't even know what the news is about. They can only accept their fate and continue their activities as usual.

The urgency of social movement strategies has become a strategic innovation path among environmental justice organizers who improve against divisive movements even when negotiating with them so that they become good environmental governance. The dominant government framework will improve the environment of Injustice and provide recognition and remedy for the harm faced by marginalized communities ([Milligan et al., 2021](#)).

EJ stressed that the role of the state should be a neutral force in providing equal rights to legal protection and public health. Evidence of resistance by the community is a criticism of the results of the state's non-involvement in supporting the social movements that occur. Residents will continue to take action in rejecting government policies and directives until changes occur that are in accordance with their expectations ([Harrison, 2022](#)). The development of a neutral and transparent public institution to assess EJ will be an effective step in providing access to all citizens in a fair and responsible manner ([Kim et al., 2019](#)).

For this reason, waste management in Bantar Gebang must be carried out in a sustainable manner so that it can provide positive steps for all communities in it, especially the scavenger community who become informal workers there. Investment opportunities in the solid waste sector must be

considered positive for advancing development, especially if monitored and evaluated optimally ([Das et al., 2019](#)).

The living conditions of the scavengers at the Bantar Gebang site are appalling, and their working conditions are also dangerous due to medical waste and other sharp waste. Polluted groundwater is also a serious environmental problem in that location. The importance of improving environmental justice strategies can also be carried out based on residents' experiences so that the implementation of environmental justice can be in accordance with the proclaimed recognition.

It is this finding of social, economic, cultural, health and environmental inequalities that occur in Bantar Gebang that will become a limiting factor in the implementation of sustainable development for all citizens. The existence of minorities, namely scavengers in this area, must be recognized and respected because they also deserve legal protection from the perspective of health, safety and the environment. The government must be able to solve this problem by implementing EJ in solutions for the quality of life of scavengers. Changing the view that scavengers are not important is a must for the government, so the government must be aware and take responsibility in a fair way to solve this problem because the future where sustainable waste management can be carried out with healthy community conditions and quality of life.

CONCLUSION

Environmental justice is a basic component in supporting the balance of sustainable development, especially in the scavenger community, which is a marginalized party whose existence is often not recognized by the public and the government. This has created a change in thinking for the scavenger community so that they choose not to trust the government in helping them to live a decent life. They also continue to carry out waste collecting activities to this day, especially to increase their economic needs. As a result, it is very clear that the government here has not been optimal in supporting environmental justice for the scavenger community. For this reason, a paradigm shift based on social empathy is needed in increasing the development of the Bantar Gebang waste disposal area, not only for the development of an externally systemized waste disposal area, but also paying attention to the internal conditions of local residents, especially scavengers who participate and live there. Providing freedom and rights for these scavenger residents to participate in discussions in discussing the management of this area will also provide openness which will ultimately form a relationship of trust between each party. The ignorance of these scavenger residents in managing waste and understanding about the condition of a livable and healthy environment is evidence that the environmental outreach campaign that has been campaigned has not been successful in making local residents aware. Then, the environmental regulations implemented are still not in line with expectations which in the end still creates gaps in supporting protection for the scavenger community so that it is very contrary to the concept of environmental justice.

Recommendation

For Local Government

1. Schedule regular environmental campaigns on a long-term basis that are based on human relations and adapted to the conditions of the scavenger community, such as creative entrepreneurial practices using environmentally friendly materials available around, so that residents will be socially interested rather than just providing monotonous campaign activities.
2. Make changes and evaluate environmental regulations based on joint decisions that must be able to create win-win solutions for all parties, not just one or two parties so as not to leave conflicts between each party.
3. Provide periodic monitoring and data collection on residents living in the area so that they can pay attention to population growth so that slum settlements do not increase uncontrollably.

For Local Residents

1. Strive to play an active and open-minded role in supporting and providing ideas, suggestions or responses regarding waste management so that in the future we can work together by prioritizing the principle of equality.
2. Understand and implement the regulatory provisions set by the government so that it can accelerate the improvement of waste disposal areas to make them more livable.
3. Report immediately if aggressive actions occur in the form of threats or various negative inquiries from irresponsible parties.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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