

The Value of Local Wisdom in Lampung Community of Piil Pesenggiri “Sakai Sambayan” Towards the Climate Change Mitigation Policy

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ABSTRACT

Climate change poses a critical global challenge that demands effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. This study examines the role of piil pesenggiri, with a focus on the sakai sambayan value, within the Lampung community's cultural framework as it relates to climate change mitigation policies. Employing a qualitative, postcritical ethnographic approach, the research analyzes sakai sambayan as a form of cultural wisdom with implications for climate adaptation, using data from observations and interviews with community members in Margakaya Village, Pringsewu, Lampung. The findings reveal that sakai sambayan a locally grounded approach based on collective cooperation supports practical climate mitigation activities, especially in flood prevention, although these efforts are primarily driven by community initiative rather than formal policies. This research contributes to the field of anthropology by uncovering novel insights into how local wisdom informs public policy processes and implementation in climate change mitigation, underscoring the importance of integrating indigenous values in sustainable environmental governance.

Keywords: piil pesenggiri, sakai sambayan, climate change policy

INTRODUCTION

As a tropical, maritime nation with vast forested areas, Indonesia plays a crucial role in global environmental stewardship, particularly in combating the effects of climate change. Climate change, a multidisciplinary issue with diverse impacts, is increasingly relevant as each community experiences its effects uniquely, shaped by local environmental, social, and cultural contexts. While climate change occurs globally, its impacts vary locally, influenced by shifts in temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity, cloud cover, and evaporation (Aldrian et al., 2011). However, understanding the nuances of these changes is challenging, as much of

the data available lacks the comprehensive 30-year view recommended by the IPCC for measuring climate trends.

Adaptation and mitigation efforts must involve contributions from all sectors, including a focus on cultural and local wisdom. Culture serves as a bridge between human actions and the natural environment, reflecting values and practices that shape how communities respond to climate realities. A socio-cultural approach to climate change is essential to understanding the economic and environmental actions communities may take. This approach highlights the role of local knowledge and community-driven adaptations as crucial elements in Indonesia's national development agenda, aimed at building resilience against current and future climate impacts (Aldrian et al., 2011). By integrating cultural perspectives into climate policy, Indonesia can better address the realities of climate change while respecting the unique wisdom embedded in its diverse local communities.

The cultural values of the Lampung people are embodied in *Piil Pesenggiri*, a code of ethics and lifestyle passed down through generations, structured around four core principles: *Bejuluk Beadek*, *Nemui Nyimah*, *Nengah Nyappur*, and *Sakai Sambayan* (Ariyani et al., 2014). This study focuses on *Sakai Sambayan*, a principle emphasizing community solidarity and cooperation, as it pertains to climate change adaptation and mitigation. *Sakai Sambayan* embodies a high degree of social participation, an essential cultural asset for addressing environmental challenges, which fosters collective resilience against natural disasters. This cultural value not only sustains social cohesion but also provides a framework for cooperative responses to climate threats, such as floods.

The study site, Pekon Margakaya in Pringsewu Regency, Lampung, faces recurrent flooding due to factors like prolonged rainfall, low land levels, and inadequate drainage. A severe flood on October 27, 2022, saw rivers overflowing, submerging homes and farmlands and disrupting access to public infrastructure. Such incidents highlight the urgent need for effective local climate mitigation strategies. Yet, limited research explores the role of *Sakai Sambayan* in climate adaptation and resilience. While related studies have examined local community responses to climate change, such as disaster mitigation in traditional communities (Dewi & Isitiadi, 2016; Isdianto & Luthfi, 2019) and green community initiatives (Indirawati & Salmah, 2021), they do not specifically address the implementation of cultural values in climate policies.

This research thus aims to analyze the relevance of *Piil Pesenggiri* especially *Sakai Sambayan* within climate change mitigation efforts in Lampung, focusing on flood control in Pekon Margakaya. By aligning local cultural wisdom with formal climate policies, this study seeks to contribute to the broader understanding of how indigenous values can enhance sustainable climate resilience.

Anthropology and sociology traditionally focus on culture, yet understanding the influence of cultural values on public policy implementation is critical, particularly in addressing environmental challenges. This research explores how *sakai sambayan*, a central element of Lampung's cultural wisdom, can inform public policy in flood control and climate change mitigation. Culture, as an empirical entity rooted in history and sociocultural identity, shapes local responses to environmental policies, highlighting the interplay between state regulation and community values (Ghafur, 2012).

Despite the establishment of Law No. 24 of 2007 on disaster management, which aims to ensure comprehensive flood disaster protection, affected communities have often perceived a gap in effective, long-term solutions. This disconnect emphasizes the importance of integrating local wisdom into policy frameworks. Previous studies suggest that while the government provides national and international policy support, the practical outcomes are influenced significantly by local cultural practices (Sarmiasih & Pratama, 2019).

This study examines the implementation of climate change mitigation policies through the lens of *sakai sambayan*, assessing its potential to enhance the effectiveness of flood control efforts. By focusing on local wisdom as a guiding principle in policy formation, this research aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers, offering a foundation to incorporate indigenous values into public policy and ultimately fostering a more collaborative, culturally attuned approach to disaster mitigation.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach combining document analysis, participant observation, and semi-structured interviews. Primary data include cultural documentation by Farida Ariyani et al., specifically *The Conception of Piil Pesenggiri According to the Way Kanan Lampung Traditional Community in Waykanan Regency*, along with insights from interviews with traditional leaders and community members. Participant observations provide contextual insights, allowing for validation of findings across multiple data sources.

Data analysis involved descriptive power analysis, comparing theoretical frameworks with empirical observations to uncover underlying patterns. Ethnographic methods guide the exploration, emphasizing narrative structures of *sakai sambayan* within local cultural perspectives on climate change mitigation. By integrating both emic (insider) and ethical perspectives, this study illuminates the intersection between local wisdom and climate policy.

Data were thematically organized, reduced, and presented in discussions, charts, or tables, facilitating a structured understanding of key themes (Creswell, 2015). This approach allows for a holistic synthesis, drawing meaningful

conclusions regarding the role of *piil pesenggiri* in enhancing policy approaches to flood control and climate change adaptation.

RESULTS

The value of *piil pesenggiri* central to Lampung culture especially in its *sakai sambayan* aspect, demonstrates a deep-rooted commitment to environmental stewardship within the community. *Piil pesenggiri*, often aligned with religious principles, transcends individual behavior and embodies a regional cultural ethos that motivates individuals to uphold positive values, live with honor, and earn communal respect. This cultural principle mandates that Lampung society actively contributes to the collective good, which includes safeguarding environmental integrity as a matter of both personal and community honor.

The environmental focus within *piil pesenggiri* is most pronounced in the *sakai sambayan* value, which emphasizes solidarity and social cohesion in daily life. *Sakai sambayan* promotes community participation and a strong sense of responsibility for communal welfare, as seen in cooperative practices that prioritize environmental care. This cooperative spirit is reflected in the everyday mutual aid and shared responsibility prevalent among Lampung residents, highlighting how *sakai sambayan* fosters community-driven environmental efforts and supports sustainable practices through collective action.

A. The Role of Sakai Sambayan Values in Climate Change Policy

The values embedded in *sakai sambayan* have evolved alongside societal dynamics, serving as adaptable guides for addressing contemporary issues, including climate change mitigation and flood control. *Sakai sambayan* encompasses a range of sustainable values religious, social, and economic that can be aligned with flood management practices as outlined in Legislative Regulation No. 24 of 2007. This regulation addresses disaster management across all scales and underscores the importance of policy-driven flood control that reflects real-world conditions for improved efficacy.

Research data from Cahyani (2018) indicate that the vulnerability to flooding in Pringsewu Regency varies across different classes: high vulnerability dominates with 386.93 km² (63%), followed by medium vulnerability at 180.319 km² (29.36%), very high vulnerability at 30.297 km² (4.932%), moderately vulnerable at 13.907 km² (2.264%), and non-vulnerable at 2.728 km² (0.444%). The predominant factor influencing flood vulnerability in Pringsewu is slope gradient, underscoring the need to integrate local adaptation measures into national and global policy frameworks.

Harmonizing *sakai sambayan* norms with national policy values is crucial for effective policy implementation and societal acceptance. Recognizing the

causal link between human behavior and climate change, this approach emphasizes the integration of culturally rooted values in developing and executing sustainable climate policies.

Interviews conducted with residents of Pekon Margakaya, Pringsewu, Lampung, revealed a significant lack of direct government intervention and policy support following recent flood disasters. Participants expressed the perception that the government has not adequately addressed the impacts of flooding, particularly in terms of emergency assistance. Many community members reported being excluded from assessments of need, as the government has not categorized their damages and losses as warranting immediate intervention.

The October 22, 2022 flood, classified as a minor flood compared to previous events, nonetheless inflicted substantial losses on local residents. For instance, individuals who maintained fish ponds and cultivated banana plants reported losses exceeding 50%, valued at tens of millions of Indonesian *Rupiah*. These losses were communicated to traditional leaders, illustrating a gap in effective communication and support mechanisms between the government and local communities.

The flood's occurrence was attributed to river water overflow, which inundated residential areas and agricultural fields, resulting in significant soil erosion and land degradation. This situation raised concerns among residents, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall.

Moreover, there is a discernible disconnect between the principles of *sakai sambayan* and the government's flood disaster management policies, as mandated by Law No. 24 of 2007. While the law aims to establish a comprehensive framework for disaster management, the application of its provisions has not aligned with the cultural values that underpin community resilience strategies. The following table illustrates the relationship between the implementation of flood disaster management policies and the values inherent in *sakai sambayan*:

Table 1. Value of Sakai Sambayan in Climate Change Mitigation Policy

No.	Sakai Sambayan Values	Law no. 24 of 2007
1.	Devotion to the Almighty	Flood Control Planning
2.	God	Relationship between related
3.	Familiarity and harmony	institutions
4.	Kinship	Flood Management
5.	Consensus Deliberation	Inter-agency coordination
	Responsibility	Emergency response funding

Source: Processed by Researchers (2022)

The analysis of the data presented in the table, combined with insights from interviews, indicates that the integration of *sakai sambayan* values into

government-led flood mitigation policies in Pekon Margakaya, Pringsewu, Lampung, remains insufficiently realized. This conclusion is drawn from direct observations and interviews with relevant stakeholders.

During recent flood events, government officials, including representatives from law enforcement and the military (TNI), actively engaged in field assessments. However, subsequent actions following these evaluations were notably absent, particularly concerning the outcomes of evacuation efforts. This lack of follow-up undermines the potential for a cohesive response that incorporates local wisdom and community-driven strategies, suggesting a disconnect between observed values and practical implementation in flood prevention initiatives.

DISCUSSION

Indonesia occupies a critical position in the global climate change discourse, necessitating careful policy implementation that balances sustainability, biodiversity, pollution management, and circular economy principles. Achieving these goals requires advanced skills, comprehensive knowledge, and a profound understanding of local cultural values. Legislative Regulation Number 24 of 2007 highlights the importance of integrating local wisdom into disaster management policies, particularly through the values embedded in *piil pesenggiri* at the *sakai sambayan* stage.

1. Religious Values (Belief in God)

A fundamental aspect of *sakai sambayan* is the belief in the Almighty, which shapes the community's understanding of natural disasters, including floods. This perspective posits that such events may arise not solely from natural factors but also as manifestations of divine will. In this context, maintaining cleanliness is perceived as a reflection of one's faith, aligning with religious teachings that emphasize environmental stewardship. However, observations indicate a significant gap in community engagement regarding cleanliness, particularly in river basin areas, where littering is prevalent. This suggests a lack of effective action from both the government and local citizens in promoting environmental health, which is essential for mitigating flood risks.

2. Value of Friendship and Harmony

The values of friendship and harmony play a pivotal role in flood management, particularly through fostering collaboration between government authorities and the community. This relationship is crucial for addressing flood-related challenges, as the government is tasked with implementing policies that safeguard community welfare during disasters. Establishing a foundation of

closeness and harmony is essential for creating effective flood control strategies that are systematic and inclusive of all societal elements.

The Lampung traditional community emphasizes self-respect and mutual support, which are vital for maintaining social cohesion. This communal harmony significantly contributes to disaster resilience, enhancing collective action in response to floods. Thus, the strong bonds of familiarity and solidarity among the Lampung people are critical assets in confronting flood disasters, highlighting the necessity of incorporating these values into public policy frameworks.

3. Family Values

A core value within Lampung's traditional *Sakai Sambayan* is kinship, which embodies self-respect in social interactions and promotes tolerance among individuals within the community. The strong sense of familial bonds prevalent in Lampung's traditional society enables collective problem-solving approaches to challenges, particularly during natural disasters such as flooding.

The current flooding crisis, exacerbated by intense rainfall and insufficient ground absorption capacity, has highlighted the resilience of the family system within the Lampung community. In response to the flooding, community members engage in cooperative efforts, reflecting a shared commitment to address the immediate challenges posed by the disaster. This collective action underscores the significance of kinship, as the Lampung people are recognized for their strong familial ties and communal spirit. Such solidarity allows the community to face adversity with calmness and resilience, reinforcing their identity as a cohesive cultural group.

4. Agreement Value (Deliberation and Consensus)

In light of the recent flooding, the Lampung indigenous community has undertaken a series of collective agreements facilitated through deliberation. This process involves communal discussions aimed at reaching a consensus on actionable strategies to mitigate future flooding. Deliberation, characterized by inclusive dialogue and group decision-making, is fundamental to the cultural fabric of the Lampung community.

The decisions reached are informed by guidance from traditional leaders, ensuring that the community's actions align with culturally rooted values. A key outcome of this process has been an increased emphasis on environmental cleanliness to prevent recurrence of flooding. Importantly, these decisions reflect the community's commitment to collaborative governance; they cannot be attributed to the actions of a single individual. Rather, the prioritization of consensus-based deliberation exemplifies the self-esteem and collective identity of the Lampung people, further embedding communal values into the framework for disaster response.

5. Value of Responsibility

The Lampung traditional community demonstrates a profound sense of responsibility, particularly evident in their response to flood disasters. Community members actively engage in restoration efforts following such events, reflecting a deeply ingrained philosophical system that prioritizes collective well-being and environmental stewardship. While a general sense of responsibility is common among individuals, its application in the context of flood management varies significantly. Notably, the government also shares this responsibility, as it plays a critical role in facilitating recovery in flood-affected areas. However, the commitment to responsible action must extend beyond immediate disaster responses. Continuous engagement in flood mitigation practices is essential to prevent recurrence and foster long-term resilience.

The interplay between *sakai sambayan* values and flood disaster mitigation policies, as articulated in Law No. 24 of 2007, reveals both supportive and obstructive dynamics. Although *sakai sambayan* embodies important local wisdom, it is often confined to customary narratives and informal regulations that lack formal recognition in administrative frameworks. Consequently, while these cultural norms encompass significant prohibitions and ethical mandates, they do not translate into legally binding obligations for governmental entities, which limits their effectiveness in large-scale flood management.

Despite their normative nature, the values inherent in *sakai sambayan* serve as vital guidelines for policy implementation. These values—emphasizing solidarity, kinship, deliberation, and accountability—are integral to fostering a sense of community engagement and collaboration in environmental governance. Such principles promote justice and prosperity and underscore the necessity of integrating local wisdom into formal policy frameworks. Recognizing and reinforcing these values can enhance community participation and efficacy in flood mitigation strategies, ultimately leading to more resilient and sustainable management practices.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of flood disaster mitigation policies, alongside the value of *sakai sambayan*, has not been adequately addressed. The government has yet to provide substantial and effective policies to support communities affected by flooding, as evidenced by numerous residents expressing feelings of loss and inadequacy following these incidents. While the *sakai sambayan* values are primarily emphasized at the family level, their application in flood prevention efforts is evident through community-led initiatives. Social activities, such as community service and mutual cooperation, are regularly scheduled and executed, demonstrating a commitment to collective resilience. However, the

need for a more integrated approach that aligns governmental policies with local wisdom is critical for enhancing flood disaster preparedness and response.

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