

Global Citizenship for Climate Action: Interconnectedness, Inclusivity, and Sustainability

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Abstract

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Globalization has brought increasingly closer interconnectedness among nations, with the flow of goods, services, information, and people crossing borders. In contrast, Pancasila, as the foundational principle of Indonesia, emerged from moral, political, and social needs to address shared challenges, serving simultaneously as a guideline for national life. Climate change has become one of the most urgent global threats, with significant impacts on the environment, economy, health, and human survival. Sea level rise, as one of its consequences, demonstrates the seriousness of this threat to coastal areas and the socio-economic life of communities. In this context, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) plays a crucial role in fostering awareness and pro-environmental behavior, emphasizing collective responsibility and the interconnectedness between individual actions and their global impacts. However, gaps remain in bridging the narratives of young activists with cross-generational perspectives. This article examines how global citizenship can provide a foundation for inclusive and sustainable climate action mobilization.

1. Introduction

Globalization has changed the face of the world by marking an era of interconnectedness between countries. Increasingly intensive economic, social, cultural, and technological interactions have made national borders more blurred. The flow of goods, services, information, and people crosses borders easily, creating a global space that demands a new awareness of the interconnectedness between individuals and nations. In this context, citizenship is no longer limited to the state entity but is developing towards global citizenship. This concept emphasizes a collective awareness and moral responsibility for the world community, where cross-border issues, such as climate change, become major challenges that demand joint action.

For Indonesia, Pancasila is not merely a state foundation, but a moral, political, and social one born from the need to face common challenges (Taher, 2021). Pancasila values, such as humanity, social justice, and unity, are in line with the spirit of global citizenship that emphasizes solidarity, collective responsibility, and cross-national cooperation. Thus, Pancasila can be used as an ethical framework in facing global problems, including the climate crisis, whose impacts are now being felt all over the world.

Climate change is the most pressing issue of the 21st century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) notes that human activities, especially greenhouse gas emissions, have increased the global average temperature since the pre-industrial era. The resulting impacts are increasingly evident, from extreme weather, droughts, to rising sea levels. Rising sea levels have serious

consequences for health, economy, and the environment, especially for coastal communities. Damage to infrastructure, threats to the agricultural and fisheries sectors, and the potential for tidal floods show how climate change is not just an environmental issue, but also a multidimensional problem concerning the sustainability of human life (Griggs & Reguero, 2021).

In facing this challenge, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) emerges as an important instrument. GCED plays a role in shaping pro-environmental awareness, building an understanding of global interconnectedness, and motivating individuals to take real action in their daily lives (Karatas & Arpacı, 2022). Through GCED, individuals are encouraged to become responsible world citizens, with the awareness that every action, whether in energy consumption, lifestyle, or production patterns, has an impact on the global environment. This education is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which emphasize the importance of community participation in realizing planetary sustainability.

However, the effort to build this collective awareness faces a major challenge, especially in bridging narratives between generations. Young activists, such as Greta Thunberg, often use a confrontational narrative that highlights systemic injustice and the negligence of previous generations in protecting the earth. This is where a research gap emerges. Much of the literature highlights global citizenship normatively as a moral and political ethos, but not much has examined how the narratives of young activists can be bridged with cross-generational and cross-regional perspectives. Likewise, the integration of social identity theory, which emphasizes the importance of collective efficacy, with global citizenship education

is still rarely explored. Yet, the combination of the two has the potential to strengthen collective action by creating a shared identity as world citizens who care about the environment. In addition, there is a need for a better understanding of the synergy between cosmopolitanism, which emphasizes global solidarity, and communitarianism, which maintains the relevance of local values in mobilizing climate action (Levy, 2018).

Based on this context, this article aims to examine the role of global citizenship in facing climate change by emphasizing the challenges of narrative, education, and the mobilization of collective action. This article also seeks to provide a more inclusive conceptual framework, which integrates cross-generational, cross-cultural, and local-global level perspectives. Thus, global citizenship is not only understood as a normative concept, but also as a real practice in building world solidarity in the face of the climate crisis.

2. Literature Review

Global citizenship has emerged alongside the growing interconnectedness between nations due to globalization. UNESCO defines it not as formal membership but as a moral ethos emphasizing awareness of political, economic, social, and cultural interconnections across borders. Solidarity and collective responsibility as its core values, while Fukuda-Parr and Gibbons (2021) frame it as a combination of human rights and moral responsibility. Leite (2022), emphasize education for sustainable development as central to global citizenship, indicating that

the concept has both strong normative foundations and practical demands in addressing global challenges.

Climate change represents one of the most pressing issues requiring global citizenship. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Nukusheva (2021), warns that rising temperatures increase the risk of environmental, health, and economic disasters. According to Ulfah et al. (2023), without serious mitigation, temperatures could rise by 4°C by the end of this century, causing significant consequences for ecosystems and human life. In this context, global citizenship encourages both international cooperation and individual actions, such as reducing carbon footprints. UNESCO further emphasizes lifestyle changes, including waste reduction and renewable energy adoption, as essential aspects of pro-environmental global citizenship.

However, mobilizing collective action faces challenges. Narratives from young activists, such as Greta Thunberg, highlight systemic injustice, portraying youth and the environment as victims while political elites and previous generations are positioned as responsible (Moriarty, 2021). While effective in raising awareness, such framing can provoke resistance from those criticized, hindering cross-generational collaboration. Sharma and Soederberg (2020), also notes that developing-country communities often feel underrepresented in global discourse dominated by developed nations, underscoring the need for more inclusive and collaborative approaches to build global solidarity.

The social identity theory offers a framework for understanding how collective identity can strengthen pro-environmental action. The Social Identity

Model of Pro-Environmental Action (SIMPEA) suggests that individuals act more readily when they identify with a group sharing a common purpose, relevant to cultivating a global environmental identity. Cosmopolitanism theory promotes global solidarity, while communitarianism stresses local values (Shapcott, 2020). Integrating these perspectives can produce a balanced global citizenship model where international action complements, rather than ignores, local needs.

In summary, the literature portrays global citizenship as both a normative concept and a strategic practice in responding to climate change. Its success depends on bridging generational narratives, integrating global and local perspectives, and fostering inclusive collective action that is sustainable, equitable, and effective.

3. Methods

A qualitative approach was used in this research to understand in depth the impact of rising sea levels on health, economy, and the environment in coastal areas. This research focuses on the experiences of affected individuals and communities, in-depth interviews with local residents, and participatory observation in areas vulnerable to tidal floods and saltwater intrusion. The results of the observations show that coastal communities feel the direct impact of rising sea levels in their daily lives, ranging from damage to houses, disruption of access to clean water, to an increased risk of environment-based diseases.

In terms of health, residents report that floods caused by rising sea levels often carry contaminants from domestic and industrial waste, which pose a risk of gastrointestinal infections and skin diseases. Many residents have difficulty getting

clean water when floods hit, so they have to rely on wells that are sometimes contaminated. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups due to their weaker immune systems against waterborne diseases. The residents' narratives show that these health impacts are cumulative and long-term, requiring serious attention from local governments and health institutions.

From an economic perspective, Fishermen have difficulty catching fish due to changes in the coastal ecosystem, while farmers experience damage to agricultural land due to saltwater intrusion that damages soil fertility. The tourism sector is also affected, especially in areas that depend on beaches and ecotourism. Public infrastructure, including ports, roads, and market facilities, has been damaged, hindering local economic activity. Qualitative analysis reveals that this impact is not only financial, but also social, because it reduces the quality of life and triggers internal migration of residents to safer areas.

In addition, the community developed local adaptation strategies, such as building stilt houses, modifying planting patterns, and creating a clean water collection system. However, this adaptation ability is limited by economic resources and minimal policy support. This research emphasizes the importance of a cross-sectoral approach to address the impact of rising sea levels, including health interventions, policies for building flood-resistant infrastructure, and environmental education and awareness programs for coastal communities. The overall qualitative findings show that rising sea levels are not just an environmental phenomenon, but a complex problem that touches on health, economic, and social aspects at the same time, thus requiring a holistic policy response.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Environmental and Social Impacts

The research results show that rising sea levels have caused quite significant changes to environmental conditions in coastal areas, including various phenomena such as worsening coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion into agricultural land and fresh water sources, and the loss of natural habitats for coastal flora and fauna. Local communities face very complex challenges in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem, especially in areas that have mangroves and coastal areas that are vulnerable to high waves (McKinley et al., 2020). The loss of coastal vegetation and mangrove ecosystems reduces natural protection against storms and large waves, so that natural disasters occur more frequently and their impacts are more destructive. This condition forces the community to face high uncertainty regarding the safety of their homes and livelihoods.

From a social perspective, residents affected by rising sea levels report significant disruption to their daily mobility, loss of homes due to repeated floods, and increased psychological pressure due to environmental uncertainty. The residents' narratives show that these environmental changes also affect the social structure of the community, where dependence on social networks and community assistance increases along with a decrease in economic ability to survive extreme conditions (MacGillivray, 2018). This dependence reflects how environmental

impacts can strengthen social relationships while also creating a new burden for the most vulnerable residents.

This phenomenon emphasizes the importance of in-depth environmental education and awareness among coastal communities. Education related to flood risk mitigation, management of coastal resources, and adaptation to environmental changes is very crucial for building sustainable community resilience. In this context, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) has an important role as an educational instrument that encourages residents to become agents of change (Ahmed & Mohammed, 2022). Through GCED, individuals are encouraged to understand the environmental impacts on their daily lives, as well as being motivated to take concrete steps to reduce risk and build collective resilience. Qualitative research shows that residents who have access to adequate information, as well as training and educational programs related to environmental adaptation, are able to manage health and economic risks better than those who do not have access to them.

In addition, cross-generational participation has also been proven to be an important factor in strengthening the adaptation capacity of coastal communities. Collaboration between young activists who bring innovative perspectives and modern scientific knowledge with senior residents who have local experience and traditional knowledge, creates an effective information exchange mechanism. This knowledge exchange allows for more holistic adaptation strategies, where traditional methods and modern solutions complement each other. Young activists can introduce technology, science-based mitigation approaches, and community innovations, while senior residents can provide local context, traditional practices,

as well as an understanding of long-term environmental patterns that they have observed for years. In terms of health, the research results show an increase in water-based diseases, such as gastrointestinal infections, which are more common among children. The elderly also face a higher health risk, including hypertension and respiratory disorders, due to continuous floods hitting their area. Psychological pressure also becomes a significant issue, because environmental uncertainty and the increased risk of disaster cause chronic stress in the community. Residents emphasize the need for stronger government support, including the provision of adequate health facilities, emergency medical posts ready to handle flood-related health cases, and guaranteed quality distribution of clean water.

Qualitative analysis of the data shows that the combination of environmental and social factors worsens the vulnerability of coastal communities. Therefore, adaptation strategies cannot be only technical in nature, but must involve a more educational, participatory, and community-based approach. The recommended interventions include improving health facilities that can handle the risk of disease due to floods, strengthening disaster and flood-resistant infrastructure, providing educational training based on Global Citizenship Education (GCED), and formulating local adaptation plans that actively involve the community through participatory mechanisms (Ansari et al. 2022). The results of this research show that the qualitative approach provides deep insights into the complex interaction between environmental, social, and economic impacts. More than that, this approach highlights the important role of local residents, young activists, and senior generations in building coastal community resilience, as well as strengthening a

collective, sustainable, and resilient adaptation capacity to the increasingly real challenges of climate change.

4.2. Economic Impacts and Adaptation Strategies

The economic impacts caused by rising sea levels are one of the main highlights in this research, given their broad implications for the livelihoods of coastal communities. Farmers report a significant decrease in crop yields due to saltwater intrusion that seeps into their agricultural land. Seawater entering the rice fields not only damages soil fertility, but also reduces crop productivity so it has a direct impact on the income of farm families. Meanwhile, fishermen face a different challenge, namely changes in fishing patterns that are increasingly difficult to predict due to shifts in the marine ecosystem. This change threatens the stability of their livelihoods because the catch decreases, operational costs increase, and the uncertainty of the time and location of fishing makes family economic planning more complicated (Ojea et al., 2020).

In addition to the agricultural and fisheries sectors, the economic impacts are also felt by local business actors, including small businesses in the tourism and trade sectors (Arthur et al., 2022). Economic activity is disrupted because transportation access to coastal areas becomes limited due to floods and infrastructure damage, while damaged public facilities affect the smooth operation of businesses. The qualitative analysis conducted in this research shows that these economic losses are systemic, not only affecting certain individuals or groups, but having an impact on the overall social-economic ecosystem in coastal areas, including the distribution of resources, local market interactions, and the quality of life of the community.

In response to this challenging condition, the community developed creative, innovative, and locally-appropriate adaptation strategies. Some families built stilt houses to reduce the risk of floods threatening their homes, while farmer groups modified planting patterns, chose plant varieties that were more resistant to saltwater intrusion, and regulated planting schedules to remain productive even though environmental conditions changed. Fishermen also adapted by forming cooperatives and work groups to share information on sea conditions, fish migration patterns, and optimal fishing schedules, so they can increase efficiency and minimize the risk of loss. In-depth interviews with young activists show that they play an important role as a bridge between scientific knowledge and local practices. Young activists help the community understand the phenomenon of climate change, provide science-based information, and suggest more measured and data-based adaptation strategies, so that adaptation steps become more effective and sustainable (Shaffril et al., 2022).

In addition, this research emphasizes the importance of cross-generational collaboration in strengthening the resilience of coastal communities. Young activists bring innovative new perspectives and access to technology, while senior residents contribute traditional experience and local knowledge that has been tested by time (King et al., 2020). This combination creates a more holistic and sustainable adaptation model, where local and scientific knowledge complement each other, providing realistic yet innovative solutions. The results of the qualitative analysis also show that the success of adaptation strategies does not only depend on individual capacity, but also on the sustainability of institutional support, strong social networks,

and the collective awareness of residents to work together and protect their environment.

This research further emphasizes the need for an integrative and comprehensive public policy to effectively handle the impacts of rising sea levels. The recommended interventions include improving health facilities that can cope with the risk of disease due to floods, strengthening disaster and flood-resistant infrastructure, providing educational training based on Global Citizenship Education (GCED), and preparing local adaptation plans that actively involve the community through participatory mechanisms. The results of this research show that the qualitative approach provides deep insights into the complex interaction between environmental, social, and economic impacts. More than that, this approach highlights the important role of local residents, young activists, and senior generations in building coastal community resilience, as well as strengthening a collective, sustainable, and resilient adaptation capacity to the increasingly real challenges of climate change.

5. Conclusion

This research confirms that rising sea levels are a multidimensional problem that affects the health, economy, and environment in coastal areas. From a health perspective, floods and saltwater intrusion increase the risk of environment-based diseases, especially for children and the elderly. Economically, the productivity of the agricultural, fisheries, and tourism sectors decreases, while damage to public infrastructure exacerbates the community's difficulties. The social impacts that emerge include disruption of mobility, psychological pressure, and changes in

community structure, which demand an adaptation approach that involves all elements of society.

The qualitative approach reveals that residents developed local innovations, such as stilt houses, modifications of planting patterns, and a system of fishing work groups, to reduce the risk of environmental impacts. The role of young activists in bridging scientific perspectives and local knowledge is proven to be important in strengthening community resilience. Cross-generational collaboration emphasizes the importance of knowledge exchange between traditional experience and modern approaches.

These findings highlight the need for holistic and participatory policy interventions, including the provision of health facilities, educational training based on Global Citizenship Education, and the development of disaster-resistant infrastructure. This integrative approach not only alleviates the physical and economic impacts of rising sea levels, but also strengthens the social capacity and collective awareness of the community. The overall results emphasize that facing climate change requires a synergy between local knowledge, the innovation of the young generation, and institutional support to build a resilient, adaptive, and sustainable coastal community.

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