

EVALUATION ON ADULT BEHAVIOR OF DIAPER DISPOSAL INTO THE RIVER IN SURABAYA AND SIDOARJO, EAST JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies, usually as a result of human activities. Water bodies include for example lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers and groundwater. Water pollution results when contaminants are introduced into the natural environment. The causes of water contamination are numerous and range from agricultural runoff to improper use of household chemicals and everything in between. This study aimed to evaluate adult behavior of diaper disposal into the river in Surabaya and Sidoarjo, East Java.

Subjects and Method: A qualitative study was conducted in Surabaya and Sidoarjo, East Java. A sample of 30 adults aged 20 to 55 years living with baby and/or elderly near Brantas river was selected for this study, consisting 15 adults in Surabaya and 15 adults in Sidoarjo. The dependent variable was diaper disposal. The independent variable was knowledge, instruction, traditional belief, regress of toilet using, and sanitary napkin. The data were collected by in-depth interview and observation. The data were described using descriptive method.

Results: Diapers were disposed into the river due to: (1) lack of knowledge on how to dispose diaper; (2) instruction on how to dispose diaper was non-existent; (3) traditional belief which holds that burning and burying diaper may cause physical and psychological harms; (4) regress of toilet using among babies and the elderly; (5) disposal of not only diaper but also sanitary napkin into the river; (6) disposal area was not only in Sidoarjo and Surabaya but also along Brantas river.

Conclusion: Diaper is disposed into the river along Brantas river, due to lack of knowledge, absence of diaper disposal instruction, traditional belief, regress of toilet using, and sanitary napkin disposal.

Keywords: diaper, waste, disposable, disposal

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