



The Influence of Ecological Knowledge And Locus of Control Over Pro-Environmental Student Behavior In The Urban Area of Makassar

Risa Bernadip Umar*

* Mechanical Engineering Study Program, University of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia

*Correspondent Author: Risa Bernadip Umar, Email: bernadipumar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Environmentally conscious or *pro- environmental behavior Behavior* is an important factor in maintaining environmental sustainability in urban areas. Students, as the younger generation, have a strategic role in shaping environmentally friendly behavior. Ecological knowledge and psychological factors such as *locus of control of control* is thought to influence this behavior. This study aims to analyze the influence of ecological knowledge and *locus of control. of control* over *pro- environmental This study investigated student behavior* in the urban area of Makassar. The study used a quantitative design with a cross-sectional approach. The study sample of 120 high school students was selected using a stratified sampling technique. random sampling. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using multiple linear regression. The results showed that ecological knowledge ($\beta = 0.41$; $p < 0.001$) and *locus of control* ($\beta = 0.36$; $p < 0.001$) has a significant effect on *pro- environmental Behavior*. Simultaneously, these two variables explain 48% of the variation in students' environmentally conscious behavior. It was concluded that increasing ecological knowledge and strengthening internal self-control can improve environmentally friendly behavior in students in urban areas.

Keywords: Ecological Knowledge, Locus of Control, Pro-Environmental Behavior, Students





1. Introduction

Environmental issues in urban areas are a crucial issue for sustainable development. Rapid urbanization often leads to increased environmental pollution, waste production, and exploitation of natural resources. Therefore, efforts are needed to foster environmentally conscious behavior among the public, especially the younger generation.

One of the concepts that is widely used in environmental behavior studies is *pro-environmental Behavior*, namely individual actions aimed at protecting or improving environmental conditions. This behavior can include energy conservation, waste management, the use of environmentally friendly transportation, and participation in environmental conservation activities.

Factors that influence *pro-environmental Behavior* is highly diverse, both cognitively and psychologically. Ecological knowledge is a crucial factor in increasing individual awareness of the importance of environmental protection. Individuals with sound ecological knowledge tend to better understand the impact of human activities on the environment.

Apart from cognitive factors, psychological aspects such as *locus of control* also plays a role in shaping individual behavior. *locus of control* describes the extent to which a person believes that he or she has control over the events that occur in his or her life. Individuals with *an internal locus of control* tends to feel that their actions can have an impact on the environment, so they are more motivated to take environmentally friendly actions.

This study aims to analyze the influence of ecological knowledge and *locus of control* over *pro-environmental student behavior* in urban areas of Makassar.

2. Research Methods

a. Research Design

This study uses a quantitative design with a cross-sectional approach.

b. Population and Sample

The research population was high school students in the urban area of Makassar. The sample size was 120 students selected using the stratified sampling technique. random sampling.

c. Research Variables

Independent variables:

- Ecological knowledge
- Locus of control

Dependent variable:

- Pro-environmental behavior

d. Research Instruments

Data was collected using a questionnaire consisting of:

1003





- Scale of ecological knowledge
- *Locus scale of control*
- *Pro- environmental scale behavior*

e. Data analysis

Data analysis was performed using:

- Descriptive analysis
- Pearson correlation test
- Multiple linear regression

3. Research Results And Discussion

a. Research Result

1) Respondent Characteristics

Characteristics	n	%
Man	55	45.8
Woman	65	54.2
Age 15–16 years	60	50
Age 17–18 years	60	50

2) Ecological Knowledge Level

Category	n	%
Tall	48	40
Currently	52	43.3
Low	20	16.7

Most students have a level of ecological knowledge in the moderate category.

3) Locus Level of Control

Category	n	%
Internal	70	58.3
External	50	41.7

The majority of students have an internal locus of control tendency. of control.

4) Pro- Environmental Student Behavior

Category	n	%
Tall	54	45
Currently	46	38.3





Category	n	%
Low	20	16.7

5) Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Variables	β	p- value
Ecological knowledge	0.41	<0.001
Locus of control	0.36	<0.001

value = 0.48, which means that the two variables explain 48% of the *pro-environmental variation. student behavior.*

b. Discussion

The results of the study show that ecological knowledge has a significant influence on *pro- environmental attitudes. Students* who have a good understanding of ecological concepts tend to be more aware of the importance of protecting the environment and are more motivated to take environmentally friendly actions.

Locus of control also has a significant influence on environmental care behavior. Students with *an internal locus of control also have a significant influence on environmental care behavior. of control* tends to have the belief that their actions can have a positive impact on the environment, so they are more active in carrying out environmentally friendly behavior.

This finding is in line with the theory of environmental behavior which states that cognitive and psychological factors play an important role in shaping individual behavior towards the environment.

4. Conclusion And Suggestions

a. Conclusion

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that ecological knowledge and *locus of control* has a significant influence on *pro- environmental Student behavior* in urban Makassar. Students with better ecological knowledge tend to demonstrate more environmentally conscious behavior, such as maintaining cleanliness, reducing plastic use, and participating in environmental conservation activities.

Psychological factors in the form of *locus of control* also plays a role in shaping environmentally friendly behavior. Students with *an internal locus of control of Controlled individuals* believe that their actions can have an impact on environmental conditions, so they are more motivated to take actions that support environmental conservation.





The results of the regression analysis show that ecological knowledge and *locus of simultaneous control* provides a significant contribution to *pro- environmental variations student behavior*. This shows that a combination of cognitive and psychological factors plays an important role in shaping environmentally conscious behavior in adolescents in urban areas.

Thus, increasing environmental knowledge and strengthening individual attitudes of responsibility towards the environment can be an effective strategy in developing environmentally friendly behavior in the younger generation.

b. Suggestion

1) For Educational Institutions

Schools are expected to improve environmental education through the integration of ecological materials into the curriculum and extracurricular activities oriented towards environmental conservation.

2) For Government and Educational Institutions

Local governments and educational institutions need to develop more intensive environmental education programs for students, such as green school programs, waste management campaigns, and reforestation activities.

3) For Students

Students are expected to increase awareness and concern for the environment through simple actions such as maintaining environmental cleanliness, saving energy, and reducing the use of single-use plastics.

4) For Further Researchers

Further research is recommended to examine other factors that may influence *pro- environmental behavior*, such as environmental attitudes, social norms, and family and media influences.

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