

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis relasi masyarakat desa hutan dengan hutan sebagai pelindung secara spiritual. Hutan tidak hanya dimaknai sebagai sumber daya alam yang memiliki nilai ekonomi dan ekologis, tetapi juga dipandang sebagai ruang yang memiliki nilai-nilai spiritual, sakral, dan menjadi bagian dari kehidupan sosial masyarakat. Dalam kehidupan masyarakat desa hutan, berbagai kepercayaan, tradisi, serta praktik budaya yang berkaitan dengan hutan membentuk hubungan yang khas antara manusia dan alam. Relasi tersebut terus dipertahankan melalui proses pewarisan nilai, ritual, dan pengalaman kolektif yang berlangsung secara turun-temurun.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan jenis penelitian deskriptif. Lokasi penelitian berada di Kecamatan Temayang, Kabupaten Bojonegoro. Informan penelitian dipilih menggunakan teknik purposive sampling yang meliputi tokoh Lembaga Masyarakat Desa Hutan (LMDH), tokoh agama, perangkat desa, dan masyarakat desa hutan. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara mendalam, dan dokumentasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa relasi masyarakat desa hutan dengan hutan sebagai pelindung secara spiritual dibentuk melalui proses konstruksi sosial yang berlangsung secara terus-menerus. Hutan dimaknai sebagai ruang yang memiliki kekuatan spiritual, tempat berlangsungnya tradisi budaya seperti manganan alas, serta simbol perlindungan bagi kehidupan masyarakat. Makna tersebut dikonstruksi melalui proses eksternalisasi berupa pelaksanaan tradisi, ritual, dan penyampaian nilai-nilai budaya; objektivasi melalui terbentuknya norma, kepercayaan, dan pengetahuan bersama mengenai kesakralan hutan; serta internalisasi ketika nilai-nilai tersebut diterima dan diwariskan kepada generasi berikutnya sebagai pedoman dalam berinteraksi dengan hutan. Konstruksi tersebut membentuk perilaku masyarakat yang tidak hanya memanfaatkan hutan untuk memenuhi kebutuhan hidup, tetapi juga menjaga kelestarian hutan sebagai bentuk penghormatan terhadap nilai-nilai spiritual yang diyakini bersama.

Kata kunci: relasi, masyarakat, hutan, spiritual, konstruksi sosial,

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the relationship between forest village communities and forests as a form of spiritual protection. Forests are not only perceived as natural resources with economic and ecological value but also as spaces that possess spiritual and sacred significance and constitute an integral part of the social life of the community. Within forest village communities, various beliefs, traditions, and cultural practices related to forests shape a distinctive relationship between humans and nature. This relationship has been continuously maintained through the intergenerational transmission of values, rituals, and collective experiences.

This study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive research design. The research was conducted in Temayang District, Bojonegoro Regency. Informants were selected through purposive sampling and consisted of representatives of the Forest Village Community Institution (Lembaga Masyarakat Desa Hutan/LMDH), religious leaders, village officials, and members of the forest village community. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The findings indicate that the relationship between forest village communities and forests as a form of spiritual protection is constructed through an ongoing process of social construction. Forests are perceived as spaces possessing spiritual power, as venues for cultural traditions such as Manganan Alas, and as symbols of protection for the community. This meaning is constructed through the process of externalization, reflected in the implementation of traditions, rituals, and the transmission of cultural values; objectivation, through the establishment of shared norms, beliefs, and collective knowledge regarding the sacredness of the forest; and internalization, in which these values are accepted and passed on to subsequent generations as guidelines for interacting with the forest. This social construction shapes community behavior, leading people not only to utilize forests to fulfill their daily needs but also to preserve them as an expression of respect for the shared spiritual values associated with the forest.

Keywords: community relations, forest, spirituality, social construction,