

Pak Oles Green School for younger generation in Denpasar city, Bali, Indonesia

Gede Ngurah Wididana

Institut Pengembangan Sumberdaya Alam (IPSA), Bali, Indonesia
(E-mail: gedengurahwididana@yahoo.com)

Abstract—Denpasar city is one of the rapidly developing cities in Bali, Indonesia, due to its urbanization and massive population inflow from outside of Bali. The population of Denpasar city increased from 320,000 in 1990 to 878,000 in 2015, corresponding to the population growth by 274%. This vast increase in population inevitably led to the decrease in the availability of farmlands and green land. It also resulted in the poor quality of air and water. More importantly, people in Denpasar gradually became less and less aware of the importance of agriculture and natural environment for human health and welfare. Also, People started to forget techniques and knowledge about farming and to close the eyes to the environmental concern.

The concept of Green School was first introduced to Indonesian society in the 2000s. Green School was supposed to provide opportunities, as an extracurricular subject, where students are taken outdoors to visit agricultural field, animal husbandry and surrounding natural environment. It also envisaged that students come to be more familiar with nature and environment as well, and that our future generations be born to love their environment and do not exploit nature only for human benefits. Green School started firstly as a private elementary school located in the Sibang Kaja village, Badung in Bali. However, most students were expatriate children who could communicate in English.

We started Pak Oles Green School in our integrated organic farm called “Bokashi Farm” in Denpasar in 2014. Today, Pak Oles Green School is especially for children of local kindergarten and students of local elementary, junior and senior high, schools and university to teach about herbal plants and Jamu (Indonesian traditional herbal medicine made from natural materials) and to give them experiences related to organic agriculture and environmental conservation with technology of Effective Microorganisms (EM). In Indonesia, EM technology has been used since 1990 and is now being extensively applied by Balinese people to various fields such as agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture and wastewater treatment. That is because EM technology is safe, low cost, easy to use and effective.

Teaching program at Pak Oles Green School are selected to be appropriate for the various levels of school children. For kindergarten, they are given a simple introduction to the farm, surrounding natural environment, source of food and beverage

and health. They are also invited to tour the garden, looking at medicinal plants and picking the leaves or flowers of medicinal plants that are attractive to them. For elementary and junior high school students, the activities include the making of organic fertilizer, an introduction to EM technology, multiplying the plants as well as the recognition of the benefits and efficacy of medicinal plants. High school students are introduced to the philosophy of organic farming, the benefit of environmental conservation and how to protect them that finally leads to a healthy lifestyle. The program also includes the practice of making liquid and solid organic fertilizer on an industrial scale. University students, especially from faculty of pharmaceutical sciences, join the Pak Oles Green School and enjoy observing medicinal plants and learning about Jamu in the Green School.

Almost 5,000 children and students have joined the Pak Oles Green School since 2014. About 100 students visit to the Green School each week now. According to teachers, students are getting a new vision in organic agriculture, saving environment, maintaining their healthy life and consuming organic food after receiving the Pak Oles Green School programs. The mayor of Denpasar City strongly supports Pak Oles Green School because it is vital for the education of all classes of younger generation. A full spectrum of educational program at Pak Oles Green School could contribute to develop young generation who cares seriously for environment, loves farming and appreciates the cultural heritage.



Fig.1 Students are making Bokashi (Fermented organic fertilizer)



Fig.2 Students learn name of medicinal plants.