

# Documentary Film Creation “Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on Conditions Social Economic Citizens Around The Estuary of Drainage”

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**Abstract—** *The Kanta River flows in Pujon District and Ngantang District. This river water is used for irrigation, livestock sanitation, and the main source of water for hydropower plants and tourist water sources of the Selorejo Reservoir. The high role of this river water is apparently not realized so that residents use the Sunga Kanta watershed as a place to dispose of garbage and sewage. The current water condition of the Kanta River is quite poor and the settlement around the Selorejo Reservoir as a drainage estuary is the most affected area. The author responds to this water pollution problem in a film with the title "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socioeconomic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary". The documentary genre is an option because according to the character of this film, which presents facts according to reality, it is actually considered capable of accommodating the message of the film. The film narrative is prepared based on research data that has been analyzed descriptively and obtained by three data collection methods which include observation, literature study, and interviews. Films are shown publicly so that the message of the film can be widely accepted by citizens. In the end, this documentary is expected to be able to give birth to awareness to jointly maintain the water ecosystem, especially rivers.*

**Keywords:** *water pollution, documentaries, mass communication.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Water is an element that cannot be separated from human life or other living things. The need for water is mandatory because water has the most basic function, namely, as a solvent medium for various daily needs and breaking down organic compounds in chemical reactions in nature such as respiration, photosynthesis, and excretion. The various functions of water in this life cannot be replaced by other compounds, therefore no creature in this world can survive without the availability of water [1]. The high use value of water in every line of life does not make this compound appreciated, it is proven that there are still many human activities that tend to pollute water. Starting from the smallest environment, namely families, rural and urban communities, as well as industries in various places on earth, they still don't care about this natural resource. Whereas the pollution that occurs in every environment has a global impact and humans are not aware of this. Water pollution begins with the entry or inclusion of living things, substances, energy, or other components into the water environment by human activities so that changes in the purity of water properties occur. Polluted water will experience changes in color, taste, and smell and undergo functional degradation, even in some cases, the water will completely lose its carrying capacity for life. At this point the water cannot function according to its designation [2].

Water sources are increasingly polluted because the discharge of waste into rivers and waters has exceeded its renewable capacity. The supply of clean water is very limited and is increasingly being polluted by human activities. According to WHO data, currently there are 2 billion people at risk of suffering from diarrheal diseases caused by water and food. This disease is the leading cause of death for more than 5 million children each year. Water consumption has doubled in the last 50 years and humans have failed to

prevent water quality degradation. Currently 1.2 billion people in the world do not have access to clean water and almost twice that number do not have adequate basic sanitation facilities [3].

Water pollution with fatal impacts also occurs along the Kanta River basin. The Kanta River is located in Malang Regency, precisely flowing along Pujon District and Ngantang District. The headwaters of the river are in Wiyurejo Village, Pujon District with water sources from the Argowayang and Anjasmoro Mountains. The middle part which is also the drainage estuary is located in the Selorejo Reservoir while the final or downstream part is in the Brantas River, Jombang Regency. Kanta River water is the main source to meet the irrigation needs for agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and household needs for the residents of Pujon and Ngantang Districts. Water from this river is also used as a water supply for the Selorejo reservoir and then used as an irrigation facility for farmers in Kediri and Jombang Regencies. Meanwhile, the water in the Selorejo Reservoir is used for water tourism rides and hydropower with a capacity of 4.5 Mega Watt (MW).



Figure 1 Kanta River Water Pollution Conditions

Almost all the banks of the Kanta River can be found various types of waste, ranging from domestic waste,

agricultural waste, fisheries, livestock, and household industrial waste. If the water discharge is large enough, these various contaminants will drift to other parts along the Kanta River and end up in the Selorejo reservoir, as a drainage estuary.

Various problems that arise as a result of the clean water crisis do not make residents aware that what they are doing has a long tail and tends to harm themselves. Disposal of garbage and waste is still carried out in the river area. Various activities that trigger erosion are also still ongoing for various reasons that are considered more useful than environmental considerations. The process of polluting water continues to occur in almost all of the Kanta River trajectories to this day. The quantity and quality of the river as a water source should be maintained because most of the daily water needs come from groundwater flowing through the river. PAM water (tap water) also comes from rivers [1].

Based on the description above, the author as a component of social and ecological society feels the need to provide information to the public about the importance of the value of clean water for life. Therefore it is necessary to have a media that can transform this message to the public, namely a mass media. Mass media is a means that can be used for communication with a wide audience and films are one of these types of mass media [4]. The film does not only contain elements of entertainment, but also various information that is educative and even persuasive. Furthermore, films can play a role as a medium for forming the character of the nation's generation [4].

The type of film that is considered capable of accommodating this idea is a documentary film. The main key of documentary films is the presentation of facts with a generally simple narrative structure to make it easier for the audience to understand and believe the facts presented [5]. With such a film character, the writer can authentically present various events related to water pollution that occur in the field. While the flow of the film is simple and supported by narration, it will make it easier to transform the message to the audience.

This documentary film is entitled "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary". The choice of words in this title is taken from the main theme of the film, which is about water pollution. This is based on a consideration that actually the title of the film is an identity, its presence provides information and a brief overview to the audience about the film they will see [6]. Therefore, the title of the film must reflect the contents of the film. The title "The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" is further hoped to provide an overview, even reflection on "what will be the socio-economic conditions of residents around the drainage estuary if the Kanta River water is polluted?", namely all kinds of adverse impacts caused by water pollution.

The idea of creating this documentary film is focused on three things related to the problem of water pollution in the Kanta River which include: 1) polluted water conditions, 2) the impact of water pollution, 3) and humans as actors as well as victims of water pollution. Based on this thought, the

formulation of the creation of a documentary film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" is: How to visualize polluted water conditions, the resulting impacts, and humans as perpetrators as well as victims of Kanta River water pollution use the medium of documentary film?

The objectives of the creation of this film are: 1) Documenting the condition of the polluted water flow of the Kanta River from upstream to the drainage estuary; 2) Creating a documentary film with the idea of creation extracted from the problem of water pollution of the Kanta River; 3) Provide information to the wider community about the socio-economic conditions of residents living around the drainage estuary, namely the Selorejo Reservoir as a result of water pollution that occurs along the Kanta river watershed; 4) Growing a general awareness about the high use value of water for humans or other living things so that the act of polluting water can be stopped as long as humans or other living things are still dependent on the presence of water.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **A. Documentary Films**

The term "documentary" was first used by John Grierson (who was later dubbed the "Father" of documentary film) in a review of the film *Moana* written for the *New York Sun* on February 8, 1926. *Moana* is a film that combines elements of drama and documentary or in terms of modern is called docudrama. The film, made by Robert Flaherty in 1926, tells the story of the traditional life of the Polynesian race who lived on an island called Samoa. At that time, the term "documentary" was used to refer to all types of non-fiction films, for example films about travel, educational films, or films that featured public activities such as when a train entered a station. The concept of a documentary film at the beginning of its development was to "record" events that occur in everyday life or events in the surrounding environment (International Design School. 2014. <https://bit.ly/3D3EnZx>, 15 June 2018) [7].

There is one common thread that has become the identity of documentary films since the beginning of its development, namely showing reality. Documentary film is a type of film that documents reality. The main key of this film is the presentation of facts, relating to characters, objects, events or events, as well as real locations. Documentary films do not create an event or events, but record events that really happened (authentic) [5].

Based on the character of the film described above, this genre is considered suitable for implementing the film idea "The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary", where the author intends to present the conditions of pollution in the Kanta River watershed according to reality. which ultimately has an impact on the socio-economic life of the residents around the drainage estuary.

## **B. Expository Documentary Film**

States that this type of expository documentary displays messages to the audience directly, through a presenter or narration in the form of text or sound. Both media speak as people when to the audience. Based on this description, in the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Estuary Drainage" the role of the narrator is also used to tell the contents of the film in the hope that the audience will more easily understand the messages contained therein. The presence of the narrator in this film guides the course of the film's story [8].

## **C. Elements of Documentary Narrative Film**

Bordwell and Thompson, explain the narrative element as a series of events that have a causal relationship and occur in space and time. An incident cannot just happen without a clear reason and trigger element. Events that occur today must be caused by events yesterday or the day before and of course these events occur on a certain day or hour and at a certain place or location [6]. A story is impossible without space and time. States that the narrative element relates to aspects of the story or film theme. This element contains elements such as character, problem, location, and time, which as a whole form a series of events with intent and purpose and are bound by a law of causality (causation logic) [5].

Based on the description above, there are four important things that are part of the film script "The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary", namely events, causality, space, and time.

The structure of spoken documentary films is generally simple with the aim of making it easier for the audience to understand the facts presented [5]. The main target in this film is the ease of receiving the film's message by the audience. Therefore, the narrative structure of the film "The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary", is also made briefly and simply following the type of realistic narrative. This realistic narrative is one type of film narrative structure where a story is presented as it is like life itself [5]. This pattern is considered the most suitable for the film "The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" because it is in line with the character of the documentary genre that presents facts authentically.

The pattern of narrative structure in the film is generally divided into three, namely, the beginning, the middle, and the closing. The opening stage is usually only a quarter of the length of the film. The middle stage is the longest and is usually more than half the length of the film. While the closing stage is usually about a quarter of the duration of the film and is the shortest segment [5].

The narrative structure patterns in the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" are divided according to these categories and given an identity according to the segmentation sequence.

## **D. Documentary Setting**

The main key of a documentary is the presentation of facts. Documentary films deal with real characters, objects, moments, events, and locations. This film does not create an event or event, but records events that actually happened (authentic) [5]. Thus, the proper setting concept used in the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" is a real location setting, which means the place where an event related to the film's theme occurs. This setting is known as a shot on location, which is a type of film setting using an actual location [5].

## **E. Audio Movies**

The presence of music in films is one of the most important elements in strengthening the mood, nuance, and atmosphere of the film [5]. In the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" music is used as accompaniment to every scene in this film. In addition to music, elements of the narrator's voice are also used to accompany each film scene. The narrator in this documentary film uses a descriptive language style that leads to an illustrative presentation of the contents of the film. Narrative techniques have a broad meaning, which is to describe all the techniques used to convey a story.

## **F. Film as a Mass Communication Media**

Mass communication is a process of spreading messages across distances, in which communicators use mass media technology proportionally to influence large audiences [4]. The main requirement of a mass communication is to use the type of mass media. So, even if the communication is conveyed to a large audience, such as a large meeting in a large field attended by thousands or even tens of thousands of people, if you do not use mass media, then it is not considered mass communication [4].

Film is the dominant form of visual mass communication in this part of the world. The main purpose of audiences watching films is to obtain entertainment, but films also contain informative functions, educative functions, and even persuasive functions. The four functions contained in this film should be the functions of the mass communication media as expressed by Effendy [4]. Mass communication in general has the aim of disseminating various information needed by the public. Meanwhile according to Devito. Mass communication has a function to provide entertainment, and what is no less important is to fulfill the convincing or persuasive function. The media with all the resources and strengths that exist, more often strengthens or makes the

beliefs, attitudes, values and opinions of the audience stronger. New communication activities can be carried out if there are three actor components which include source, message, and destination or communicator, message, communicant.

Based on this description, the author uses the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" for a similar purpose. This film is used as a mass media that fulfills three roles including informative, educative, and persuasive roles.

### G. Defilement as a Moral Crisis

Water pollution and the global ecological crisis that is happening today are not only related to material issues but also involve moral aspects. Humans are the main characters who have contributed greatly to various cases of environmental damage. The high population growth while the land area remains the same makes human attitudes tend to be exploitative towards nature. Human behavior is ultimately more oriented towards personal and group goals. Humans and their interests are considered the most decisive and highest. Other components in this universe will only receive value and attention insofar as they support and are for the benefit of humans. Therefore, nature is seen only as an object, tool, and means for fulfilling human needs and interests [9].

## III. RESEARCH METHODS

Documentary films are factual, which means they are able to present reality according to actual conditions. Therefore, it is necessary to do research work to obtain valid data, which will then be used as a basis or material in the preparation of film scripts. In order to obtain the data in question, the authors apply three types of data collection techniques which include, observation, literature study, and interviews. Observations were carried out in order to directly observe the condition of water pollution along the Kanta River watershed, from the upstream to the drainage estuary in the Selorejo Reservoir. Four residents were involved as guides in this observation in order to extract maximum data. They are residents who are tasked with maintaining the cleanliness of the river flow in the estuary, irrigation officers, fishermen, and PDAM employees. The literature study was carried out as an effort to explore written data and documentation, namely from previous research journals, printed or online news, books, and documentation from local residents. Meanwhile, interviews were conducted to obtain data that is personal experience from residents who are directly involved as perpetrators or residents affected by Kanta River water pollution.

The data that has been collected will be analyzed descriptively. According to Moleong, the data collected for this type of descriptive qualitative research are in the form of words, pictures, and not numbers. The data comes from

interview scripts, field notes, personal documents, notes or memos, and other official documents [10].

The method for creating the documentary film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" refers to SOPs or Standard Operating Procedures. SOP consists of four systemic work steps which include pre-production, preparation and training, production, and post-production [11].

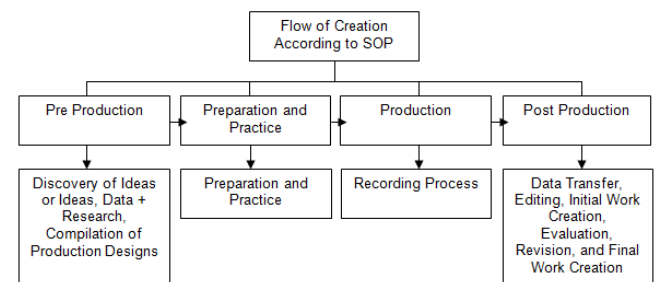


Figure 2 The four stages of creating artwork are according to SOP

## II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research that has been carried out, the following data were obtained: Water pollution which has a complex impact on the socio-economic conditions of the residents around the drainage estuary of the Selorejo Reservoir, started due to the low awareness of residents to maintain water ecosystems, especially rivers. This apathy eventually triggers "at will" behavior in utilizing watersheds. Therefore, there are daily activities that have the potential to pollute the water of the Kanta River. The dairy farming business which is occupied by most of the residents of Pujon District is an example of an activity that contributes to a large amount of pollutant material. Each farmer usually raises between 4 and 12 dairy cows and most of them do not have the awareness to treat waste, for example by using livestock manure as biogas. These breeders instead chose the Kanta River flow as a "solution" to overcome the problem of waste from their farms. In addition to animal husbandry, cultivation on the hillsides of the Pujon and Ngantang areas also contributes to the contribution of erosion material. This condition is exacerbated by the existence of sand and stone excavation businesses that are occupied by residents at several points on the Kanta River. Without realizing it, this illegal practice directly causes damage to the contours of the river and produces pollutant material in the form of floating particles and deposits in high enough quantities.

Almost all the banks of the Kanta River can be found various types of waste, from domestic waste, agricultural waste, fisheries, livestock, and household industrial waste. If the water discharge is large enough, these various polluting materials will drift to other parts along the Kanta River and end up in the Selorejo reservoir as a drainage estuary. Reservoir experiencing functional degradation. Residents around the reservoir who previously could depend on their lives as fishermen, were finally forced to change professions because the reservoir was no longer conducive as a place for



fish farming. Meanwhile, the large number of sediment particles, garbage, and water hyacinth made the reservoir water no longer usable for irrigation purposes with a pump system. Finally, farmers choose types of plants that do not require a lot of water in a certain planting period. Rice and vegetables, which should be the main agricultural products, had to be replaced by alternative crops such as corn, papaya and even elephant grass. Of course, this type of plant has a much lower selling price compared to rice and vegetables. The consequence of this condition is the reduced income of farmers from the amount that may be targeted.

Several corners of the Selorejo Reservoir appear to be filled with garbage. This condition reduces the aesthetics of the reservoir which is known to be exotic. Therefore, the reservoir that used to be crowded with visitors has finally become quiet. Visitors to the reservoir are currently dominated by local residents who usually do sports activities such as jogging or just want to spend the afternoon with their families. This condition has an impact on reducing the income of residents who were originally dependent on the Selorejo Reservoir tourism sector.

Based on the data presented above, the authors compiled a narrative documentary film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary". This film records the reality of pollution in the Kanta River watershed which ultimately impacts the socio-economic life of residents around the drainage estuary.

The main setting of this documentary film is around the Selorejo Reservoir as the most severely affected area. This area is the drainage estuary of the Kanta River in Ngantang District, where all pollutants are anchored. Another setting for the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" is in several places along the Kanta River in Pujon and Ngantang Districts. These supporting settings are selected from places that are considered representative of the film script.



**Figure 3 Selorejo Reservoir as the Main Setting for Films and Several Other Places**

The film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary" uses a realistic narrative, where the

condition of water pollution along the Kanta River watershed, from the upstream to the drainage estuary of the Selorejo Reservoir, is shown according to the actual reality. Likewise, the social and economic conditions of residents affected by water pollution of the Kanta River who live around Ngantang District, are also displayed without any manipulation or additional narrative, with a specific purpose. All events in this film are true in accordance with the rules of documentary films in general.

The narrative structure of this film is divided into three parts which include the beginning, middle, and closing. The opening and closing have a duration of 20% each, while the middle part is 60% of the entire length of the film. The opening section functions as an introduction or introduction to the story to enter into development in the middle and end. This section introduces settings related to space and time, characters, goals, and problems. Panorama of Selorejo Reservoir with extreme long shot (ELS) is shown at the very beginning. Furthermore, several corners of the Selorejo Reservoir which are full of garbage, eroded soil deposits that are starting to dry up, as well as corners of the reservoir that are overgrown with water hyacinth are shown. The activities of fishermen and farmers, including the atmosphere of villas, restaurants, wooden boat rentals that look deserted are also displayed. The next setting is upstream, then gradually moves along the watershed to the drainage estuary again.



**Figure 4 Movie Opening Section**

The middle section naturally follows the story from the opening section, which is then followed by the closing story. In the middle section, the problems and developments are briefly shown, the character's efforts to deal with the problem, then it closes with the condition of the character facing the problem. Various residents' activities that have the potential to pollute the Kanta River are displayed in this section, such as the activities of sand miners which trigger sediment and damage to the river's ecosystem, dairy farmers who dispose of livestock feces into the Kanta River or activities of residents who dispose of household waste directly into the river. . Next is shown the various types of pollutants that have accumulated in the corners of the river and in the Selorejo Reservoir. Agricultural fields that look dry and desperate fishermen looking for fish without results.

All of these shots represent the people's anxiety in dealing with this problem.



Figure 5 Middle of the Movie

The closing part is the climax of the story or the climax of the conflict. At the end of this section, various shots are shown that represent the despair of the residents over the decrease in income as a result of water pollution that occurred in the Kanta River. For example, the cleaning workers who look tired because they are constantly cleaning up the pollutants in the reservoir but the volume of waste does not seem to decrease, the owner of the stall in the Selorejo Reservoir area who looks resigned to waiting for customers among other stalls that have been closed. Meanwhile, in another part, the rental of wooden boats also looks deserted and fishermen are looking for fish without success.



Figure 6 Film Closing Section

In this film, the role of a female narrator is used who explains the whole storyline of the film. Through the presence of this narrator, it is hoped that the message of the film can be well understood by the audience. Apart from the narrator, another audio element in this film is music which is used to build the mood of the film. The type of music chosen

tends to be sad so that it supports the film's narrative about water pollution, which in general presents a sad and gloomy atmosphere.

Through the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary", the author disseminates information to the public about several things such as the existence of the Kanta River, the ecological and social environment around the river, the behavior of residents in utilizing river water, the condition of river water, types of sources of pollution and their impact on the environment and communities around the river. This information also contains an educational function, an example of which can be illustrated in the following sentence: "Salting of the Selorejo Reservoir is caused by erosional material that has accumulated in the reservoir area as a drainage estuary. This type of colloidal pollution is caused by the practice of sand mining and shifting cultivation. Therefore, residents should stop these two activities." This educational function can be said to be successful if the audience then takes the attitude desired by the film creator. At this stage it indicates that the persuasion function of film as a mass media has been successful.



Figure 7 Film Screening at Village Hall

With regard to the components of mass communication, the role of the communicator in the film "The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Estuary Drainage" is carried out by the author, the role of the message component is the content of the film itself, while the role of the communicant is specifically the residents who living around the Kanta River in Pujon and Ngantang Districts and all the people who watched this film. After these three components are fulfilled, the process of mass communication can be carried out.

This film was screened at the Sumberagung Village Hall along with an art and cultural exhibition witnessed by



residents of Ngantang District. At that time, students were also invited to watch and review the film's narrative with the hope that the film's message would also be conveyed to the younger generation.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The documentary film “The Impact of Pollution of Kanta River Water on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary” was created as a form of the author's concern for the problem of water pollution that occurs along the Kanta River watershed which occurs continuously and seems to be not being handled. The presence of the Kanta river in Pujon and Ngantang sub-districts has an important role in delivering water from the upstream to the rice fields, villages, and partly ending in the Selorejo Reservoir. The high role of this river is apparently not realized, therefore many residents actually use the Kanta River as a place to dispose of garbage and waste. Selorejo Reservoir as a drainage estuary is the most affected area. Water pollution makes reservoirs not as beautiful as they used to be. Therefore, residents who originally depended on the Selorejo Reservoir tourism sector had to swallow the harsh reality as tourist visits to this place decreased. The fate of fishermen is almost the same. The high levels of pollutants and sediments in the reservoir have disrupted the cultivation of freshwater fish in this area. In addition to tourism actors and fishermen, there are many other residents who feel the impact of Kanta River water pollution.

Based on the principle of cinematography, the whole reality that has been described above is reproduced in a documentary film. In this film, the role of a narrator is used to guide the storyline of the film. The narrator persuasively conveys the film's message to be known, pondered, and realized about the problem of water pollution which is actually caused by the residents and has an impact on the residents themselves. Departing from this thought, it is hoped that awareness will grow together to preserve the environment, especially water ecosystems. The film is shown along with other events in the hope that more people will receive the message.

Selorejo Reservoir and the surrounding settlements As the area most affected by water pollution, it became the main setting for the documentary film “The Impact of Kanta River Water Pollution on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents Around the Drainage Estuary”. In addition to the narrator, the audio element used in this film is accompaniment music, which was chosen with a sad character in accordance with the film's theme of water pollution which is dominated by a sad and gloomy atmosphere.

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