

ABSTRACT

Indigenous peoples in Indonesia are continuously targeted by governmental and non-governmental development programs, leading to a myriad of challenges. These programs often employ top-down or modern-western approaches that erroneously ignore the rich civilizations of indigenous peoples. As a result, these approaches separate indigenous peoples from their invaluable knowledge and assets, leaving them disengaged and disconnected from their cultural context. In response to these concerns, this study seeks to provide insights by addressing important questions: How to incorporate indigenous knowledge in indigenous community development programs, especially in terms of citizenship? How can indigenous knowledge, which includes the diverse societal systems and daily practices of indigenous peoples, inform the concepts, strategies, and approaches that foster indigenous citizenship toward inclusive-ecological citizenship? To achieve these objectives, an intensive three-month ethnographic study was conducted in Bara and Cindakko indigenous communities in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This study uncovers a groundbreaking idea, coined as eco-relational citizenship, derived from the indigenous knowledge of the Bara and Cindakko communities. This concept illuminates the inseparable connection between indigenous citizenship, nature, and religiosity by merging Andrea Dobson's ecological citizenship concept with the relational concept developed by Samsul Maarif and Upolu Luma Vaai. By embracing this concept, profound change can be achieved, allowing indigenous peoples to reclaim their rightful place and fostering a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future. One of the development programs for eco-relational citizenship is voluntarism, as the act of sharing: sacrificing the self for the other for the well-being of the self. This is also the main principle of eco-relational citizenship. Ultimately, voluntarism can be a tool for engaging more-than-human citizenship as one of the bases of eco-relational citizenship in indigenous communities.

Keywords: Eco-Relational Citizenship; Indigenous Citizenship Development;