

Development of a Practical Tool for Renewable Energy Materials in P5 Activities Based on Secang Extract as a Natural Dye Sensitizer in the DSSC Circuit

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Abstract: In this study, a DSSC practice tool based on sappanwood (*Caesalpinia sappan* L.) extract as a natural dye sensitizer was developed to support renewable energy learning at the senior high school level. This research is categorized as development research, aiming to produce a renewable energy practice tool that is valid and practical. The method used in this study was Research and Development (R&D), adapted from the Thiagarajan 3D model. The results showed that the practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit was declared highly feasible, with an assessment score of 85% from media experts and 86% from material experts. The product trials revealed that the small-group trial achieved a feasibility score of 83%, while the large-group trial reached 86%. Both results were categorized as “highly feasible.” These findings indicate that the DSSC practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer is valid and practical for use in the learning process

Keywords: Practical tool; Research and development; Trial of the practical tool

Introduction

Energy is one of the most crucial factors in achieving sustainable development. The world's energy usage has undergone significant changes from primarily relying on biomass, such as firewood, to meet energy needs, to shifting towards fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, driven by the Industrial Revolution in the 1900s (Gunada et al., 2023; Kasmaniar et al., 2023; Setyono, 2021). The use of fossil fuels has severe environmental impacts, such as increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, and an increase in greenhouse gas effects (Pramudiyanto, 2020). In addition, the limited availability of fossil fuels makes them an unsustainable energy source in the long term. Therefore, alternative solutions that are more environmentally friendly and

sustainable are urgently needed, one of which is the utilization of renewable energy. Among the various renewable energy sources being explored, solar energy stands out as a promising option.

Solar cell technology (photovoltaic) has become one of the promising solutions for converting solar energy into electrical energy. One type of solar cell that is currently developing is the Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell (DSSC) (Almenningen et al., 2022). The advantages of DSSCs include relatively high conversion efficiency, low production costs, and the ability to utilize environmentally friendly natural materials (Tahir et al., 2019). Natural dye sensitizer sources can be obtained from sappanwood, which contains red pigments such as brazilin and brazilein (Destiarti et al., 2024; Hemthanon et al., 2022; Nirmal et al., 2015; Sakti et al., 2019). The use of sappanwood as a natural dye sensitizer in DSSC

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circuits has previously been investigated by several researchers (Nasyori et al., 2020; Safitri et al., 2022; Zulenda et al., 2019).

Sappanwood plants in West Kalimantan are known as a source of natural dyes for food and traditional medicine. The bark of sappanwood is used to produce red pigments, which in the past became an international trading commodity (Hidayat et al., 2018; Riduana et al., 2021). Sappanwood extract (*Biancaea sappan*) has potential as a dye sensitizer in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC) (Hazar et al., 2022).

DSSCs utilizing sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer not only offer potential in technical aspects but also provide added value by employing locally sourced natural materials that are widely available across various regions of Indonesia, including West Kalimantan. The availability of this material makes sappanwood-based DSSCs relevant to be developed as practical tools that are closely connected to students' local contexts. This development aligns with the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Ahmad et al., 2022; Korir et al., 2024) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (Berlianti et al., 2023; Nurfatimah et al., 2022), which emphasize the importance of sustainable utilization of local resources. The integration with the Proyek Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila (P5) in the Kurikulum Merdeka framework positions this research not only as a contribution to renewable energy innovation but also as a means of supporting contextual, environmentally oriented, and meaningful learning for students (Basir et al., 2024; Melati et al., 2024; Yati, 2023).

P5 is a cross-disciplinary learning approach that enables students to observe problems in their environment and seek solutions by utilizing existing local potentials. The results of interviews revealed that teachers experience obstacles in implementing P5, thus requiring adjustments in its execution. The implementation of P5, which is designed to equip students with 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and environmental awareness, still faces challenges, as many teachers struggle to determine appropriate learning models and provide suitable practice tools. As a result, learning tends to be theoretical and less connected to students' real-life experiences, which implies that the objectives of P5 have not been optimally achieved. Therefore, innovative, contextual, and applicable learning media are needed, one of which is through the development of renewable energy practice tools in the form of Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC) using sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer. This development not only represents a tangible application of science and technology but also serves as meaningful support for the implementation of P5 in student learning.

Students are expected to develop critical reasoning skills so that they can think logically and systematically in analyzing, making decisions, and solving problems through P5 activities (Herliandry et al., 2018; Ramdani et al., 2020; Ridho et al., 2020). These skills can be fostered through P5-based learning that addresses global issues while utilizing local content from West Kalimantan embedded in learning media. Learning media play an important role as one of the supporting elements in the success of the teaching and learning process (Aisyah, 2022; Sasmita et al., 2023). Such media include various tools or facilities that can be used to convey information or messages, thereby attracting students' attention and increasing their interest in learning. Therefore, it is necessary to develop practical learning tools that can assist students in the learning process (Lakoy, 2022; Ulfah et al., 2021).

Practical tools are a vital component in supporting learning activities, particularly in subjects that emphasize application, such as science, technology, skills, and vocational fields (Desimarlina et al., 2021; Ramdani et al., 2019). Through the use of practical tools, students can observe, conduct experiments, and understand material directly through concrete experiences, which ultimately helps deepen their knowledge and enhance their skills comprehensively (Azmi et al., 2024; Hasbi et al., 2015). The availability of adequate practical tools can also create a more engaging learning atmosphere, foster learning motivation, and encourage the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, practical activities train students to work both independently and collaboratively in teams, which plays an important role in shaping character and cultivating a professional work ethic (Islamiah et al., 2023; Nurmayani et al., 2018).

The novelty of this research lies in the integration of developing practical learning tools based on the Kurikulum Merdeka through P5 activities with the application of renewable technology, namely Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC) using sappanwood (*Caesalpinia sappan* L.) extract as a natural dye sensitizer, which has rarely been utilized. This makes it different from previous studies that generally focused on the technical aspects of DSSCs. Moreover, it offers a multidisciplinary approach that combines science, environment, and education to produce an innovative educational product that is applicable, environmentally friendly, and relevant to the needs of 21st-century learning.

A review of scientific articles shows that the development of practical tools utilizing sappanwood as a natural dye sensitizer in DSSC circuits has not been previously conducted. Through this practical tool, students can learn about the basic concepts of DSSCs, their working principles, component assembly, and the

role of sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer. In addition, the teaching media also illustrates the stages of constructing a DSSC based on sappanwood extract. This approach enables students to increase their awareness of environmental issues, particularly global energy challenges, while also fostering an understanding of DSSC technology development and the utilization of local natural resources for renewable energy in Indonesia.

Method

Type of Research

This study employed a Research and Development (R&D) approach using the 3D development model adapted from Thiagarajan (Arifin et al., 2024; Kadir et al., 2024). This model was applied to produce a product in the form of a renewable energy practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit, designed to support the *Projek Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila* (P5) activities.

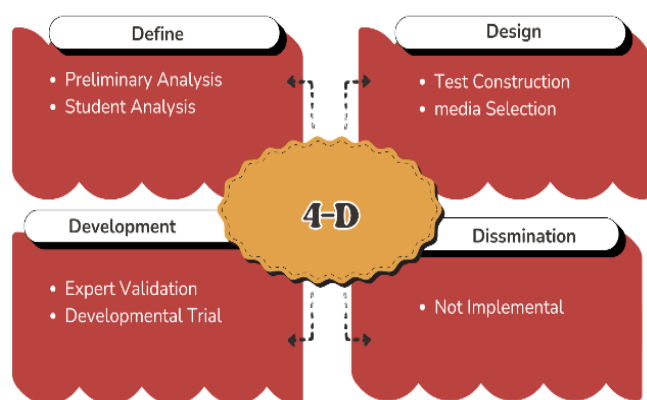


Figure 1. 4D model

Define Stage

At this stage, an initial identification was carried out regarding the learning needs of renewable energy, curriculum analysis, a literature review related to Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC), and the potential use of sappanwood extract as a natural dye. Interviews with teachers and an analysis of students' conditions were also conducted to formulate the requirements for the practical tool to be developed.

Design Stage

This stage included the initial design of the DSSC practice tool, the determination of components, the extraction process of dye substances from sappanwood, and the schematic design of the DSSC circuit. The design was developed based on scientific principles and aligned with the learning objectives of the P5 project.

Stage Development

This stage aimed to produce a practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit. At this stage, validation of the research instruments, design revisions, and trials were carried out. The validation process included the evaluation of the practice tool, teacher response questionnaires, and student response questionnaires. Based on the results of the study, corrections, and expert suggestions, improvements were made to the DSSC practice tool using sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer.

After the validation process by experts, the revised results were used to refine the practice tool. The validation was conducted by material experts and media experts using validation sheets with a Likert scale. The percentage of validity was calculated based on Equation 1 and matched with the criteria in Table 1 (Nuryadi, 2017).

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\sum \text{Validator Responses}}{\sum \text{Responses from Validators}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

Explanation:

Percentage: Percentage of learning media quality

\sum Validator Responses: Total number of validator responses

\sum Responses from Validators: The maximum possible score given by the experts

Table 1. Validation Criteria

Scorer Range	Description
$\geq 81.50 - 100$	very Valid
$\geq 62.50 - 81.40$	Valid
$\geq 43.50 - 62.40$	Fairly Valid
$\geq 25.00 - 43.40$	Not Valid

The practicality of the practical tool was determined based on data collected through a Likert-scale response questionnaire with the following categories: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). Responses were gathered through two stages of product testing: a small group trial and a large group trial. The small group trial involved 10 students from SMAN 10 Pontianak, while the large group trial involved 30 students from the same school. After tabulating the scores, the practicality percentage was calculated using Equation 2 and matched against the criteria in Table 2 (Nuryadi, 2017).

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\sum \text{Validator Responses}}{\sum \text{Highest score given by the validator}} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

Explanation:

Percentage Responses = Percentage Responses

\sum Respondents answer: Total number of respondents answer

Σ Highest score given by the respondent: total highest possible scorer from respondents

Table 2. Validation Criteria

Scorer range	Description
$\geq 81.50 - 100$	Very Practical
$\geq 62.50 - 81.40$	Practical
$\geq 43.50 - 62.40$	Fairly Practical
$\geq 25.00 - 43.40$	Not Practical

Stage Dissemination

The dissemination stage is one of the steps in the development model that aims to distribute the developed product to a broader scope, such as other schools, teacher groups, or scientific forums. However, in this study, the dissemination stage was not conducted due to time constraints, the limited scope of the research, and a primary focus only up to the validation and limited trial stages.

This study focused on the development and testing of a practical tool for renewable energy material, utilizing secang extract as a natural dye sensitizer in a DSSC, with SMAN 10 Pontianak as the trial subject.

Accordingly, the entire development and product evaluation process was conducted on a limited scale to ensure the validity and practicality of the tool within a specific context.

Result and Discussion

This research produced a renewable energy practice tool based on Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC) utilizing sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer. The fabrication process began with the extraction of sappanwood dye, the preparation of TiO_2 -based electrodes, immersion of the electrodes in the natural solution, and finally the assembly of a simple solar cell. The assembly results showed that the DSSC with sappanwood natural dye was able to generate voltage and electric current, although on a small scale. This indicates that sappanwood extract has potential as a natural dye due to the presence of brazilin and brazilin pigments, which play a role in light absorption and electron transfer.

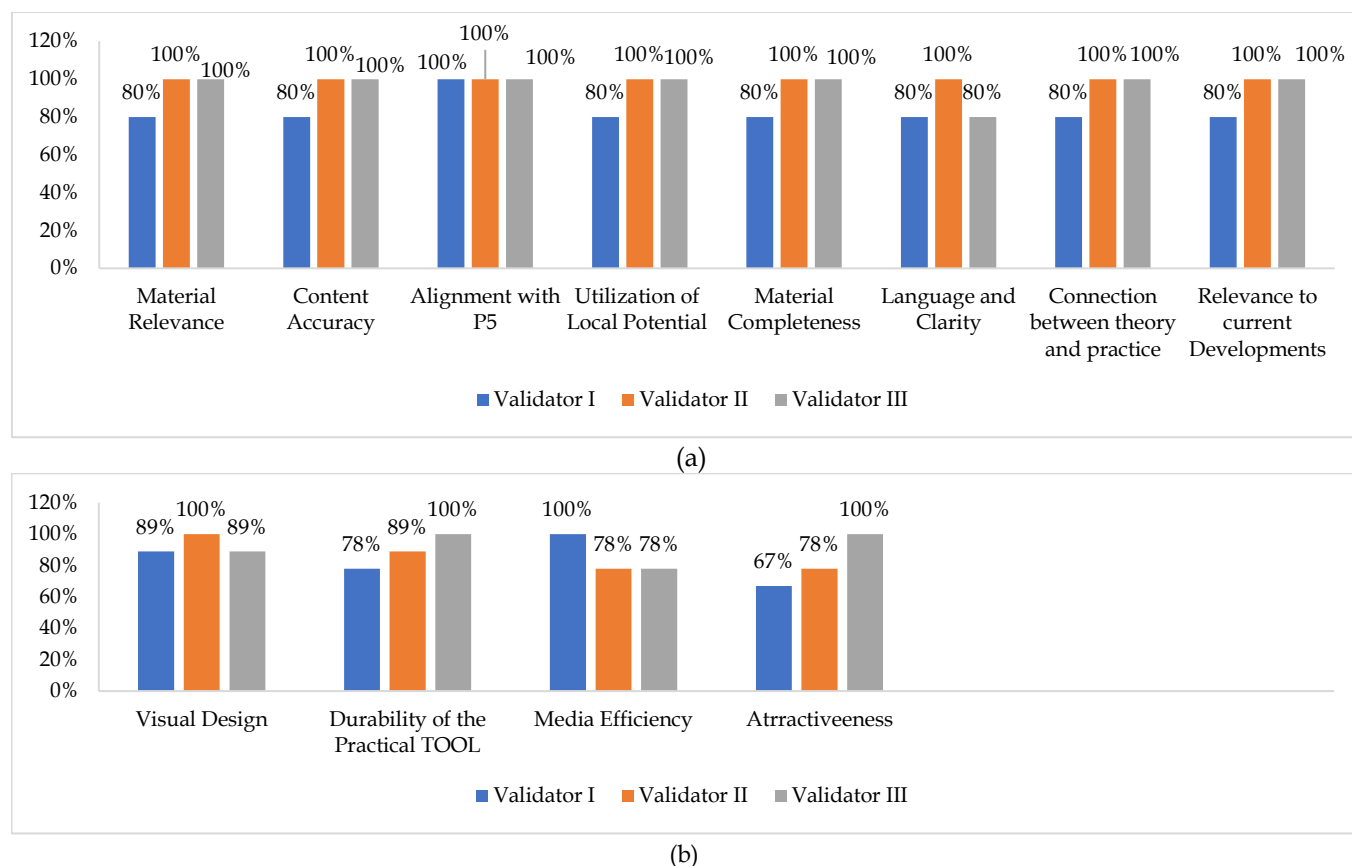


Figure 2. (a) Validation results by subject matter experts, and (b) Validation results by media experts

Based on performance testing, the voltage produced by the DSSC using sappanwood extract was relatively stable, but its efficiency was still lower

compared to DSSCs using synthetic dyes. This finding is consistent with previous studies, which reported that solar cells based on natural dyes tend to produce lower

efficiency due to limitations in pigment stability and light absorption range. Nevertheless, the ability to generate energy from simple local materials is considered sufficient for use in educational contexts, particularly as a practical learning medium.

In addition to producing the DSSC, this research also developed a practical tool that can be used in project-based learning activities within the Kurikulum Merdeka. Six validators, consisting of material experts and media experts, provided an overall assessment score of 85% at the development stage, categorizing the practical tool as highly valid (reference). Figure 2 (a) (Nengsih et al., 2019) shows that aspects such as material relevance, content accuracy, alignment with P5, utilization of local resources, material completeness, language and clarity, integration of theory and practice, and relevance to current developments received a score of 86% based on the evaluation of three material experts, which is also categorized as highly valid. The highest score was obtained in the aspect of alignment with P5, with 100%, while the lowest scores were found in content accuracy, language and clarity, and the integration of theory and practice, each at 80%.

Media validation was carried out by two lecturers and one teacher, who evaluated aspects such as graphics, durability of the practice tool, media efficiency, and attractiveness, as shown in Figure 2 (b) (Nengsih et al., 2019). The average score obtained was 85%, which categorized the practice tool as highly valid. The graphics aspect received the highest score with an average of 92.66%, while the aspects of media efficiency and attractiveness obtained the lowest scores, with an average of 85.33%. The practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit is presented in Figure 3.

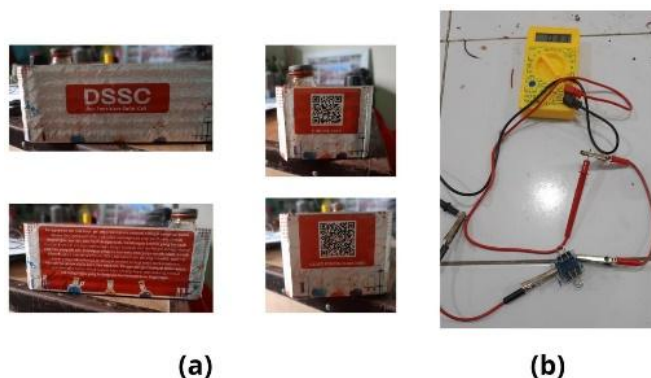


Figure 3. (a) Practical tool based on secang extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit. (b) Practical tool circuit diagram

The small-group trial was conducted as an initial stage to assess the feasibility of the DSSC practice tool based on sappanwood extract before being implemented

on a wider scale. The results showed that the small-group trial of the practice tool using sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit obtained a score of 83%, which was categorized as highly feasible. In general, the tool could be used according to the procedure, although some limitations were still found in technical aspects and the clarity of instructions. This provided valuable input for improvement, particularly in the user guide, so that the tool could be more easily understood and operated by students.

After improvements were made based on the findings from the small-group trial, the practice tool was further tested with a larger number of participants. The results of the large-group trial of the practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit showed an overall feasibility score of 86%, categorized as highly feasible, with improved effectiveness in its use. Students were able to carry out the activity steps more effectively, demonstrated more positive responses, and engaged in stronger collaborative interactions. Furthermore, the practice tool successfully facilitated a more contextual understanding of renewable energy concepts, thereby making the learning process more meaningful.

The comparison of the average percentages between the small-group trial and the large-group trial of the practice tool based on sappanwood extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit is presented in Figure 4.

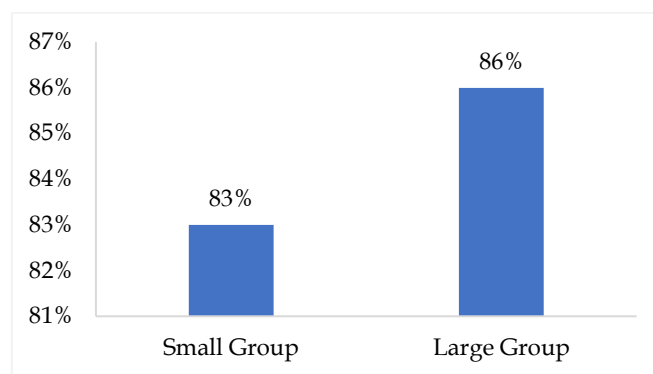


Figure 4. Comparison of small group and large group trials

Conclusion

This study produced a product in the form of a practical tool based on secang extract as a natural dye sensitizer in the DSSC circuit. The development of this practical tool is considered suitable for use. The average percentage of each evaluation result was 85% for media validation and 86% for material validation. In the small group trial, a score of 83% was obtained, while the large group trial resulted in 86%. The tool utilizes simple and efficient materials and equipment.

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Author Contributions

The research concept and design were developed by DH. The study was conducted by RS, DH, and RF. Data were analyzed and interpreted by RS, DH, and RF. RS and DH wrote the manuscript and carried out the major revisions to ensure its quality. RF was responsible for the statistical analysis, while RS and DH provided administrative, technical, and material support.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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