

The Role of Students in Improving the Quality of The Village Through Community Service Activities

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The Role of Students in Improving the Quality of The Village Through Community Service Activities

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Abstract: Community service is an activity carried out by individuals or groups, where this task is given by lecturers in carrying out the TriDharma of Higher Education, namely the aspect of service. This community service is carried out to increase community awareness and activeness in forming and developing villages. This research shows the role of students in making it happen. This activity involves efforts such as "Anti-bullying" socialization education for students, mutual cooperation, teaching ngaji at the Qur'an house, and environmental awareness efforts. Community service by students can be the first step in renewing the quality of life of a village and society. This research emphasizes the importance of the active role of students in building villages and providing recommendations for the implementation of similar programs in the future.

Abstrak: Pengabdian masyarakat adalah kegiatan yang dilakukan oleh individu atau kelompok, yang mana tugas ini di berikan oleh dosen dalam melaksanakan Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi yakni aspek pengabdian. Pengabdian masyarakat ini di lakukan guna meningkatkan kesadaran dan keaktifan masyarakat dalam membentuk serta membangun desa. Penelitian ini menunjukkan peran mahasiswa dalam mewujudkannya. Kegiatan ini melibatkan upaya seperti edukasi sosialisasi "Anti-bullying" bagi siswa, gotong royong, pengajaran ngaji di rumah qur'an, dan upaya kesadaran terhadap lingkungan. Pengabdian masyarakat oleh mahasiswa dapat menjadi langkah pertama pembaharuan kualitas hidup sebuah desa dan masyarakat. Penelitian ini menegaskan pentingnya peran aktif mahasiswa dalam membangun desa dan memberikan rekomendasi untuk pelaksanaan program serupa di masa mendatang.

Kata Kunci: komunitas, pelayanan, aktivitas

1. INTRODUCTION

In line with the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, community service is a tangible manifestation of a university's commitment to serving society. These activities are conducted systematically and focused on communities in need, with the primary goal of empowering the community. (Ali, 2021)

Through community service activities, all members of the academic community can directly contribute to community development. Students, in particular, can develop soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership while interacting with various groups of people. Moreover, this experience can open up opportunities for students to build professional networks in

the future. (Sa'ban et al., 2021)

Community service is a practical way for universities to show their commitment to society. Students, as the future leaders, can gain valuable experiences by participating in these activities, such as learning about real-world problems and fostering relationships with community members. These initiatives also strengthen the bond between universities and the communities they serve. (Swasono et al., 2020)

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara is one of the universities that implements a community service program, offering students the opportunity to engage in community service activities known as the Community Service Study Program. This program is designed as a form of social-oriented learning, where students can contribute to solving community problems based on their abilities and act as problem-solvers. The community serves as both the subject and partner of these activities. (Syahputra & Putra, 2020)

In this research, our community service activities were conducted in Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village, Rukun Mulyo sub-district, Panombeian Panei district, specifically in various locations that we believe need assistance in the form of a future design program to build the village and community, coming from us, the students, such as Bukit Cahaya Private Junior and Senior High School, located on Jl. Batu 3, Nagori Bosar sub-district, Panombeian Panei district, and also the Qur'an House Qotrunnada. The urgency of conducting this community service is to increase public awareness and active participation in creating a more harmonious and positively supportive environment. (Hamzah & B, 2020) Additionally, these activities are expected to strengthen the relationship between students and the community, while providing tangible benefits in improving the quality of education and social welfare, as well as having a long-term positive impact on the village and the well-being of the people in Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village. (Emilia, 2022) Considering the increasing prevalence of bullying in schools, we specifically aim to educate students of SMP and SMA Swasta Bukit Cahaya about the dangers of bullying and how to prevent it through socialization. Based on the 2024 KPAI data, 35% of the 114 violence cases occurred in educational institutions. Moreover, 46 cases of child suicide were recorded, with 48% of them involving students still in their school uniforms. (PUSDATIN KPAI, 2024) Thus, this socialization on bullying is expected to motivate students and enhance their understanding of the dangers of bullying. (Noviana et al., 2020)

Mutual cooperation, similar to the working system of ants, is a valuable tradition that should be preserved for generations to come. (Widayati, 2020) To enhance a sense of community and social responsibility among the community through mutual cooperation activities, it is expected that these activities will create a comfortable atmosphere and foster a stronger sense of togetherness. In line with the religious values instilled in the students of the Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, teaching and learning to recite the Quran are dominant programs. Recognizing the urgency of the learning and teaching process of the Quran, this program aims to help children develop trust in Allah SWT and the Quran, uphold their religion, and improve their Quran recitation. (Rindiyani et al., 2022) Teaching Quran recitation at the Qotrunnada Quran House to help children improve their Quran reading skills.

People often use rivers as a means of disposing of waste. (Astina et al., 2020) According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 46% of rivers in Indonesia are severely polluted, 32% are moderately to severely polluted, 14% are moderately polluted, and 8% are mildly polluted. (Defitri, 2022) Therefore, we also strive to raise public awareness about the importance of not using rivers as waste disposal sites.

2. METHODS

The implementation of this community service activity was conducted using interview and direct observation methods. This activity was supported and assisted by several partners, including village residents, the school principal, the head teacher, and several teachers from both the school and the Quran House.

1. Interview with Villagers

The first activity we conducted was interviewing the villagers to identify the problems in the village and assess its current condition, as a basis for determining the follow-up actions for our work program. The villagers reported that almost all of them use the river as a dumping ground for their waste.

2. Observation at School

The second activity involved direct observation at Bukit Cahaya Private Junior and Senior High School. The aim was to assess students' awareness of bullying issues. Observations revealed a significantly low level of student awareness regarding bullying,

which can negatively impact students' mental and emotional well-being and create an unfavorable learning environment. Based on these findings, we conducted an anti-bullying socialization program for all students at Bukit Cahaya Private Junior and Senior High School. The hope is that students will develop a better understanding of bullying and contribute to creating a safe and comfortable learning environment. Bullying is a serious issue that requires attention from all parties. Through collective efforts, we can foster a safe and inclusive environment for all children. Every individual plays a crucial role in preventing and addressing bullying. (Vanderbilt & Augustyn, 2010) Let's start from ourselves to create better changes.

3. Observation in the Mosque

The observations made at the Nurul Iman Mosque were indeed intriguing. Despite the Muslim population being a minority in the area, the community's dedication to religious practices is remarkably high. The mosque, which is always clean and well-maintained, serves as a testament to the dedication of its management and congregation. Every evening, they work together to clean every corner of the mosque, creating a comfortable and serene atmosphere for worship. The harmony and spirit of togetherness demonstrated by the community around the Nurul Iman Mosque is commendable and inspiring. Through communal efforts in cleaning the mosque, not only cleanliness and comfort are achieved, but also a spirit of goodness is fostered.

4. Observation at the Quran House

In remote villages far from urban centers, access to quality religious education for children is often limited. However, thanks to the Qotrunnada Quran House, this challenge has been addressed. This Quran House has become a much-needed center for religious education in the village community. With simple yet adequate facilities and competent teachers, the Qotrunnada Quran House has successfully provided quality religious education for children. Considering that this Quran House is still relatively new, there is a need for improvements in teaching methods to achieve more effective and efficient learning processes. It is hoped that in the future, the Quran House will introduce innovative teaching methods.

3. RESULT

Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village, located in Nagori Rukun Mulyo, Panombeian Panei district, has been selected as a strategic location for the implementation of our community service program. This village, with its predominantly non-Muslim population, aligns with our program's initial goal of reaching diverse religious communities. The open social and cultural conditions of the community, as well as the friendliness of the local residents, are major supporting factors for the success of this program. We believe that the choice of this location will have a significant impact on the local community.

Here are some results obtained from the observations we made.

1. Village Waste Management



Picture 1. Garbage Cleaning Activities

Interviews conducted with the residents of Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village revealed a rather concerning fact. The practice of littering, particularly into the river, is still a common habit among a significant portion of the villagers. This indicates that the awareness of the importance of proper waste management has not yet been fully ingrained in the daily lives of the community. However, there is a glimmer of hope as the villagers responded positively to the proposal of requesting the village head to provide waste collection services. This positive response opens up a significant

opportunity for us to work together in finding solutions to the village's waste management problem.

2. Socialization of “Anti-Bullying”



Picture 2. Socialization of Anti-Bullying

Observations at Bukit Cahya Private Junior and Senior High School revealed that students' awareness of bullying remains very low, which has the potential to negatively impact students' mental and emotional well-being and create an unfavorable learning environment. The anti-bullying socialization efforts are expected to enhance students' understanding of the importance of creating a safe and comfortable learning environment.

3. Cleaning at Nurul Iman Mosque



Picture 3. Clening at Nurul Iman Mosque

Our observations of the mosque were quite positive. Although the Muslim population in the area is small, the community is very active and diligent in carrying out their religious duties. Thanks to the highly responsible mosque committee, who clean the mosque every evening and

conduct communal cleaning activities once a week.

4. Community Religious Education



Picture 4. Activities Providing Religious Education

Our observations indicate that the Qotrunnada Quran House has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of religious education for children in the village. The innovative learning programs and intensive mentoring have yielded remarkable results, shaping a young generation with noble character and knowledge. Before the establishment of the Qotrunnada Quran House, children's access to quality religious education was very limited. However, thanks to this institution, children can now learn the Quran and understand Islamic teachings in greater depth. This has brought significant changes to the lives of the village community. The Qotrunnada Quran House not only teaches religious knowledge but also plays a vital role in shaping children's character. Through various activities and programs, children are taught values such as honesty, responsibility, and mutual respect, which will equip them to face life's challenges.

4. DISCUSSION

The discussion of our community service activities in Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village, Nagori Rukun Mulyo, Panombeian Panei district, reveal that the problem of waste disposal into the river indicates an urgent need for environmental education and improved waste management. An initial step would be to conduct a socialization program on the negative impacts of waste on river ecosystems and public health. Additionally, there needs to be a collaborative effort between the village government and the residents to create an effective waste management system.

Furthermore, our observations at the school revealed a low level of student awareness of

bullying. This finding underscores the need for an anti-bullying socialization program. Such a program can provide students with a deeper understanding of the negative impacts of bullying and the importance of creating a supportive and safe school environment. The success of this program is evident in the positive responses and active participation of students during the socialization activities.

Observations at the Nurul Iman Mosque underscore the significance of places of worship as centers for social and spiritual activities. Routine activities such as communal cleaning not only maintain the cleanliness of the place of worship but also strengthen social bonds among the community members. These activities can also serve as an example for other residents in maintaining collective environmental cleanliness.

Furthermore, the Qotrunnada Quran House plays a vital role in providing religious education to the village children. The enthusiasm and eagerness of both teachers and students demonstrate that religious education remains a priority for the community. A good and quality religious education can shape children's character from a young age, which will positively influence their development.

By addressing the various issues identified during the community service activities, it is hoped that Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village can become a better village in terms of environmental management, social awareness, and education. These activities are also expected to have a positive long-term impact on the welfare of the village community.

5. KESIMPULAN (Times New Roman, size 12)

Through community service activities in Batu 3 Huta Sidomulyo village, a number of critical issues faced by the community have been identified, such as low awareness of the importance of waste management, the prevalence of bullying among students, and the strategic role of places of worship and the Quran House in shaping individual character. Intensive socialization programs have successfully increased public awareness of the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and creating a school environment free from violence. The active participation of students in various activities organized also indicates a positive change in their attitudes and behaviors.

To achieve more optimal results, there needs to be a continuous effort in providing

education on good waste management practices and its negative impacts on the environment. The anti-bullying program at the school must also be continuously improved by involving more parties, such as parents, teachers, and community leaders, to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. Furthermore, by strengthening the role of the Nurul Iman Mosque and the Qotrunnada Quran House through various social activities and innovative religious education programs, it is hoped that a more harmonious, character-driven, and environmentally conscious village community can be created. Collaboration among various parties is the key to success in realizing a better village.

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