

The Empowerment of Underprivileged Families of Mr. Ahmad Suki

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Abstract

Purpose: This program aims to empower underprivileged families in Pelangi Village, particularly Mr. Ahmad Suki's family, by enhancing their knowledge and skills to achieve economic independence through entrepreneurship.

Method: The program includes entrepreneurship training focused on motivation, business planning, record-keeping, and profit-loss analysis. Sales of food products like geprek chicken, risol, and basreng were used as part of the practical training. Interviews with Mr. Ahmad Suki's family guided the program's development.

Practical Applications: The skills learned can be applied to small business ventures, helping underprivileged communities achieve financial independence through sustainable entrepreneurship.

Conclusion: The program was successful due to continuous support and collaboration, empowering the community by equipping them with essential business skills for economic improvement.



Introduction

Poverty is a situation where a person or a household finds themselves struggling to meet basic needs (Amri et al., 2019; Nadawi, 2024). This condition is not necessarily due to laziness in work, as there are socio-economic factors that underpin it. From September 2021 to March 2022, Jakarta's economy grew by 4.42 percent, but inflation was also at a relatively high level of 1.78 percent (BPS Jakarta Utara, 2022). At the same time, payments for various life support systems, whether from the state or the local government, that could contribute to maintaining purchasing power, have not yet been optimally decentralized. This affects the consumption levels of the poor.

Allah SWT has predetermined the fate of every human being, giving different benefits and privileges to each person. These differences lead to varying activities and routines in life, as they are part of an absolute choice (Anwar Us & Sohiron, 2020; Febrianty, 2021; Khusaini, 2018). This distinction also impacts an individual's or group's survival, because differences are a fundamental law of life, deeper than human existence itself, and more profound than any social or economic system. The difference in life units within social systems is the goodness that drives progress. Consequently, there must be lower, middle, and upper groups in the social structure. We usually refer to the lower and disadvantaged groups as "dhuafa" (the underprivileged).

Thus, the activities of our group here involve providing aid to Mr. Ahmad Suki's family, which is still focused on short-term daily needs and dependent on the generosity of donors. However, the provision of long-term livelihood support should be something they can achieve on their own if they possess specific skills. With these special skills, they would have the ability to secure more decent living opportunities independently, without relying on donations or aid (Agustiani et al., 2021; Mardhiyah et al., 2021; Mul et al., 2018). The lack of knowledge and skills within Mr. Ahmad Suki's family has resulted in their economic dependence. Many of the people in his community still rely on donations from others. With the empowerment program and the capital provided by our group, we aim to help Mr. Ahmad Suki's family start a small business and sustain their livelihood.

Method

This empowerment activity for the underprivileged (dhuafa) is being conducted in Pelangi Village, JL H. Naim III, RT/RW 007/009. The majority of the population in Pelangi Village consists of families who are less fortunate.

The method of empowerment applied to Mr. Ahmad Suki's family by our group includes entrepreneurship training and field training. This empowerment program aims to enhance self-reliance, teamwork, and self-confidence so that they can better navigate the economic crisis our country is facing.

Result

This initiative was formed based on recommendations or reports from campus assignments, and we identified the underprivileged families through public recommendations. The information gathered indicates that these families require continuous attention and empowerment. This includes providing information, entrepreneurship training, and opening job opportunities that match the family's skills.

The families living in these conditions often experience severe financial struggles. Thus, adequate support from policymakers is crucial to provide these families with the opportunity to rise and resolve their life challenges (Imbarsyah et al., 2024). Especially for underprivileged families who find it difficult to sustain their own economic needs, it has become a general necessity for other communities or institutions to help ease their burdens (Ningsih et al., 2023; Rizkillah & Arinda, 2023). This support comes in two forms: moral support, such as information, education, and encouragement, and material support, such as basic necessities or financial aid. Providing assistance is a form of preserving the family's

livelihood and ensuring their happiness (Fajri et al., 2022; Salsabilah et al., 2024).

During our visits and observations, we found underprivileged families living in homes that are sometimes deemed unfit for habitation. Their homes are cramped, and the surrounding environment is often poorly maintained. As a result, disease-causing bacteria can easily infect the neighboring families. In such cases, the struggles of these underprivileged families become even more difficult. On one hand, they don't have enough income, and on the other hand, they may need to spend money on medical treatments if a family member falls ill.

Based on some of the challenges faced by these underprivileged families, our initiative has been to provide assistance to them. The most important aspect of our efforts has been training and motivation. By entering their environment, we bring the task of comforting the underprivileged families, strengthening their hearts to face life's challenges, and, like family members who frequently visit, reinforcing their devotion to Allah.

This task has been completed without any element of preaching, let alone coercion. These lessons would not have been learned if we had been indifferent. Indifference is the root of selfishness, which traps people into neglecting their surroundings. Through community service, people learn valuable lessons that will be remembered throughout life. Additionally, this program serves as an example of how long the government has been paying attention to its people. Instead of waiting to identify those in need, efforts should be made to provide solutions for the difficult situations faced by underprivileged families. The government may already have facilities in place to help the underprivileged learn how to solve their problems, but efforts to change their circumstances have not been fully realized. Therefore, continuous communication, socialization, and education between the government, society, and underprivileged families are crucial.

Discussion

In terms of benefits, this activity fully informs underprivileged families that they are not alone and that they are still considered part of a society that must help one another. Specifically, this activity conveys both moral and material support to the underprivileged families as a form of implementing Islamic studies. This is because tawhid (oneness of God) is not just about establishing an individual's relationship with their Creator, but also manifests within society. This concept is referred to as "social monotheism" or the practical application of tawhid. This community service project is organized into several activities, including providing entrepreneurship training to increase knowledge and understanding of business for the underprivileged families under our guidance.

The initial stage of this activity involves observation, where we conduct surveys and interviews with the underprivileged family that our group intends to assist, specifically the family of Mr. Ahmad Suki. This stage is conducted to assess their living conditions, daily income, and the number of family members they are responsible for. The second stage is proposal preparation. This proposal is used as evidence to seek approval from external parties so that we can carry out our research. The proposal is also needed to apply for funding or cooperation (sponsorship) from various parties and to solicit donations from investors. The third stage is fundraising. Our group raises funds through food sales, proposals, and online donations using pamphlets. This stage is essential to support Mr. Ahmad Suki's family. The fourth and fifth stages involve distribution and monitoring. At this stage, we provide donations in the form of necessities for daily needs and materials to help the family start a business.

The main outcome of this training and mentorship is the development of synergy between our group and Mr. Ahmad Suki's family. The process of fostering self-reliance among the underprivileged takes time and effort. In the future, we hope that the family, equipped with production materials to start a business, will receive stronger financial support to further develop their business.

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Conclusion

Thus, the observation/survey of the underprivileged families was conducted. This method is crucial in providing valid and accurate information, offering a clear picture of what is happening in a particular area or field. By collecting data according to the type, nature, and condition, the most prioritized underprivileged families can be selected, based on their hardships, family conditions, and living environment. The observations made were then discussed among group members and under the guidance of the Kemuhammadiyah lecturer.

Armed with faith and hard work, the empowerment of underprivileged families can be carried out effectively and efficiently. However, this community service activity requires thorough evaluations and feedback to ensure the success of similar efforts in future years. The group also gained valuable life lessons, as each member was required to be serious in their activities, and challenges and opportunities were faced with patience and enthusiasm.

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