

Knitting Skill Training for PKK Members in Sungai Pauh Pusaka Village Langsa City

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Abstract

Purpose: This community service aimed to address challenges PKK members face in Sungai Pauh Pusaka Village, including a need for knitting skill training and knowledge. The goal was to empower these members with practical skills to create knitting products, enhancing their self-sufficiency and village development.

Method: The project involved stages like preparation, implementation, and evaluation. Coordination with the PKK head set the schedule. Training included tools and material introduction. Satisfaction surveys gauged participant motivation.

Practical Applications: The practical applications of this community service initiative are noteworthy. It has empowered PKK members with valuable knitting skills, making them more self-sufficient and capable of creating knitting products. These newfound skills can be applied in various real-world scenarios, potentially leading to economic opportunities for the participants and contributing to the development of Sungai Pauh Pusaka Village.

Conclusion: The initiative achieved an 80.0% satisfaction rate, highlighting the success of University Samudra's knitting skill training in empowering PKK members and benefiting the community.



Introduction

Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka is a village in the West Langsa District of Langsa City. The Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka community falls into the lower-middle-income category, with most residents working as fishermen and rickshaw drivers. This forms the fundamental purpose of this community service project, carried out in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka. The target participants for this initiative are the PKK members who will receive skills and knowledge. The ultimate goal is to provide benefits to these PKK members, including opportunities for them to engage in entrepreneurship by producing goods derived from community service activities. The outcomes of this community service will yield products that benefit PKK members and generate additional income through both conventional and online sales.

One of the services offered by the community service team is providing training in knitting skills. Knitting is creating fabric (Ionesi et al., 2021), clothing, knit bags, or other fashion items using knitting yarn (Yolandani, 2018). Knitting involves creating fabric, clothing (Sari et al., 2022), or fashion items from knitting yarn using two needles (Siswanto et al., 2017). This community service activity also includes guidance and practical exercises in knitting, as (Srikandi et al., 2019) has emphasized that practicing basic knitting techniques before and after will result in a neat and beautiful product. The knitting method involves using a single piece of yarn (El-Sulukiyyah et al., 2019), with each row of stitches held on one knitting needle until the start of a new row (Dan & Ursache, 2015).

Knitting can be done by hand or machine, and various knitting styles and techniques exist. The basic techniques in knitting are the knit stitch and the purl stitch. The knit stitch is done by inserting the yarn from the front, while the purl stitch involves inserting the yarn from the back. The resulting knitted fabric has a pattern resembling connected V's. There are two types of knitting techniques: knitting with a hook and yarn, where loops are inserted upward and downward to form a regular V pattern and crochet (Lu et al., 2022), the technique chosen for this support, which results in a somewhat rigid texture and is suitable for producing souvenirs such as keychains, bandanas, wallets, pencil cases, and brooches (Kim & Lee, 2022).

In connection with the explanation of knitting and the step-by-step method of creating knitted products that have economic value, this community service aligns with the findings of (Habibullah et al., 2018), who provided knitting support to mothers in Enggal, Bandar Lampung. The results of their community service activities included various knitted products, creating a brand label for the knitted products, and guidance on how to market them. This community service also relates to the insights of (Masiah & Adawiyah, 2018), who highlighted that such activities could engage young people in productive endeavors, reducing early marriages by involving them in handmade product production. Similar efforts were undertaken by (Susiana et al., 2017), who provided knitting skills to Majlis Ta'lim members and achieved positive outcomes, including the creation of various knitted items such as wallets, brooches, bags, and shoes, which motivated participants to continue as home-based businesses.

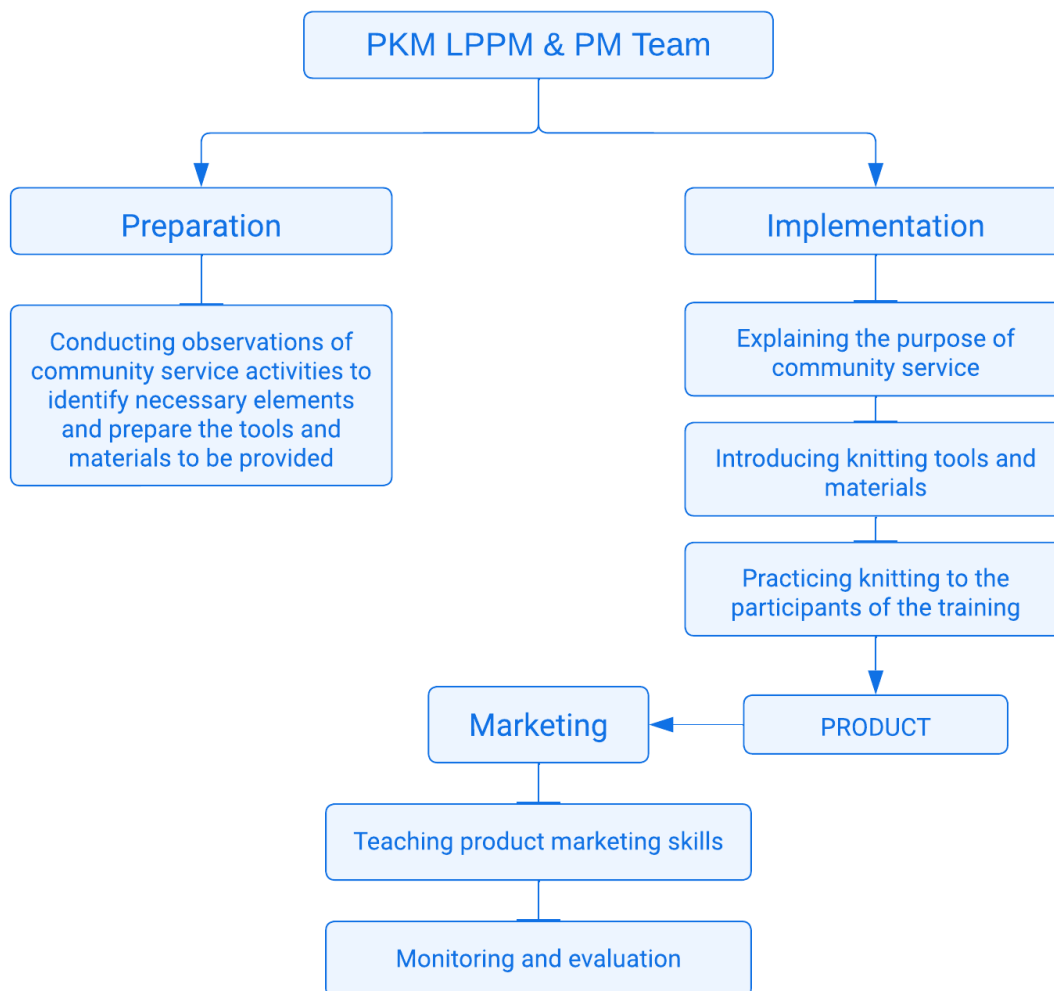
In conclusion, the community service project was designed to address specific challenges in the implementation of community service activities, including the absence of knitting skill training for PKK members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, limited knowledge of knitting skills among these members, and a lack of expertise in creating flagship products for the village. The solution to these issues was providing knitting skill training for PKK members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka and enhancing their knowledge through entrepreneurship for microbusiness opportunities.

Method

The method used in this community service activity is related to (Charli et al., 2022), which involves describing the planning and the results. This method does not test the validity of hypotheses or the relevance of validation results (Goldman & Kruger, 2021) but instead

describes and analyzes the data to uncover further study materials (Atmowardoyo, 2018). The flowchart of the community service activity method can be seen in the following figure:

Figure 1. Flowchart of the Community Service Method



The target of the flowchart of the implemented community service stages is the PKK Members of Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, consisting of 20 trained participants who will be provided with knitting training knowledge. The outcome of the community service activity will yield beneficial products as business opportunities.

Result

The results of the community service activity, which provided knitting skill training for PKK members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, are divided into several stages and can be explained as follows.

The first stage is the survey phase, conducted by the community service team at the service location on July 1, 2021. As a community service team, our initial step was to meet with the head of PKK to discuss implementing the community service activities and determine the schedule. During this stage, the community service team obtained approval from the head of PKK in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka. The outcomes of the community service team's efforts can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Community Service Team Survey in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka



Next is the Training Stage, where the community service team carried out several processes to explain the knitting product creation to the PKK Members of Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka. The scheduled activities are listed in the table below.

Table 1. Schedule of Community Service Activities

| Num. | Activity Type | Month | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Preparation of Activity Materials | | | | | ■ | | | | | |
| 2. | Preparation of Tools and Materials | | | | | | ■ | | | | |
| 4. | Implementation of Training Activities | | | | | | | ■ | | | |
| 5. | Product Marketing | | | | | | | | ■ | | |
| 6. | Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Service Activities | | | | | | | | | ■ | |

The implementation process of the community service activities conducted by the University Samudra Community Service Team involves the Training Stage, which was explained by the Head of Community Service, who also served as the training facilitator, Rizky Nafaida, S.Pd., M.Pd. This training took place on July 12, 2021, and the participants who received training consisted of 20 PKK Members from Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, Langsa City, who were considered trained participants.

The community service activities involved the knitting technique, utilizing a single-needle approach called "Crochet Hook" and yarn. The knitting process encompassed several essential stages. It began with familiarizing participants with knitting needles and yarn, then determining the appropriate Crochet Hook size by consulting the yarn label. Participants were encouraged to hold the Crochet Hook most comfortably, creating a loop with the yarn end and positioning it alongside the yarn. Careful attention was paid to pulling the yarn through the loop, ensuring a snug fit without excessive tightness to prevent the loose end from slipping off. Afterward, knots were tightened while maintaining an open loop above. The newly formed loop was then inserted into a knitting needle, and both ends were pulled to secure the knot

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around the needle. This process of forming new stitches and removing old ones continued until all stitches on the first needle were knitted, transferring them to the second. Finally, the needles were changed, with all loops facing the same direction, ensuring the knitting remained on the right side of the left-hand needle.

Figure 3. Knitting Process



The image above illustrates the stages of the technique used in practicing the creation of knitting products, taught by the Head of Community Service, who also served as the training facilitator. Subsequently, the resulting products can be seen in the image below.

Figure 4. Knitted Products



Regarding Figure 4, the products were created by trained participants who were partners in the community service activities. These products are ready to be marketed through conventional and online channels. The proceeds from the sale of these products contribute to the economic well-being of the PKK Members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, Langsa City. The final stage involves Monitoring and Evaluation. During this phase, the team distributed a five-question satisfaction questionnaire and used a Likert scale measurement with response options ranging from 1 to 4 (1=very unsatisfied; 2=unsatisfied; 3=satisfied; 4=very satisfied). This questionnaire was given to all 20 participants in the activity. To ascertain the results of the questionnaire distribution, refer to Table 2.

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Table 2. Satisfaction Questionnaire

| Num. | Statement Description | Total | Average | Remarks |
|------|---|-------|---------|----------------|
| 1 | According to the opinion of the Members in the Community Service Program (PKM) | 17 | 85% | Very Satisfied |
| 2 | The knitting technique materials provided by the PKM program gave knowledge | 16 | 80% | Satisfied |
| 3 | Implementation of the program provided skills for members in business opportunities | 15 | 75% | Satisfied |
| 4 | Personnel/members involved in community service activities provided service | 18 | 90% | Very Satisfied |
| 5 | In line with my needs, after the PKM program, we will continue to create products | 14 | 70% | Satisfied |

Discussion

The community service project conducted in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, Langsa City, aimed to address several challenges faced by the PKK Members in the community. These challenges included knitting skill training, limited knowledge of knitting techniques, and a need for flagship product development. By providing knitting skill training and fostering entrepreneurial knowledge, the project aimed to empower these members and create opportunities for them to generate additional income through knitting.

The significance of this training extended beyond mere skill acquisition. It contributed to economic empowerment by enabling the PKK Members to create various knitting products. This newfound expertise directly impacted their economic well-being, as they could market these products through both conventional and online platforms. The potential for increased income was a tangible result of their newly acquired skills, empowering them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

Based on the results of the stages of community service activities, which involved providing knitting skill training for PKK members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, it is evident that the PKK members are satisfied, with a satisfaction rate of 80.0%. This indicates that the activity has positively impacted the PKK members, providing them with valuable knowledge about the techniques of creating various knitting products.

To obtain the results of this activity, the community service team not only distributed satisfaction questionnaires but also conducted interviews with some representatives of the PKK Members in Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka. Mrs. Dewi, the Head of PKK, explained that the activity has provided us with significant knowledge, enabling us to establish a microbusiness program for the benefit of Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka based on the outcomes of the community service. Mrs. Dewi, the PKK Head, also mentioned that the PKM program is not limited to just this year; the University Samudra Community Service Team will continue to carry out this program in our Gampong in the following years.

The project's continuous monitoring and evaluation phase was vital in assessing its impact. By distributing satisfaction questionnaires and conducting interviews with participants, the team gathered valuable feedback on the effectiveness of the training and its relevance to the participant's needs. The high satisfaction rate of 80.0% indicated that the training had met the expectations of the PKK Members. Their enthusiasm and motivation to continue knitting and explore entrepreneurial opportunities were evident, reflecting the success of the community service project.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this community service activity has significantly benefited the PKK Members of Gampong Sungai Pauh Pusaka, Langsa City. During the training stage, participants acquired knowledge of knitting techniques, resulting in enhanced skills and a solid motivation to create various knitting products. These products, marketed through conventional and online channels, contributed to the economic well-being of the PKK Members. In the ongoing monitoring and evaluation phase, the trained PKK Members distributed and completed satisfaction questionnaires, revealing an impressive 80.0% satisfaction rate. This underscores their approval of the knitting skill training provided by the University Samudra Community Service Team.

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