

PRACTICE-BASED ARTICLE



Community empowerment through waste management education, early entrepreneurship, and financial literacy in Pasie Lubuk Village, Aceh Besar Regency

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ABSTRACT

Community service activities (PkM) in Pasie Lubuk Village, Aceh Besar Regency, were conducted as part of the university's tri-dharma commitment to positively contribute to community life. Various programs and activities were implemented, including waste sorting awareness campaigns, trash bin preparation, early entrepreneurship in bracelet crafting, and savings education. The outcomes of this community service activity have enhanced the understanding and knowledge of the community, including children, through the various activities implemented. The waste sorting activity has increased public awareness of the importance of proper waste management. Similarly, the early entrepreneurship activity has been beneficial in fostering and enhancing creative and innovative ideas among children. The savings promotion activity has successfully instilled awareness of the importance of good financial management from an early age among children. The distribution of money box to children at the end of the PkM activity serves as tangible evidence of the ongoing effort to cultivate a savings habit in daily life from an early age. The entire PkM activity received positive feedback from the community and hopes for its continuation in the future.

KEYWORDS

Waste selection; saving habits; craft entrepreneurship bracelets

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1. Introduction

Village development (known as Gampong in Aceh) plays an important role because it essentially synergizes with regional and national development. Villages are miniatures of autonomous government in Indonesia (Aurindah & Arham, 2024). This can be seen from the policies and development programs implemented by the central government

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with targets and priorities in rural areas. Law Number 6 of 2014 on Villages mandates that village development aims to improve the welfare of village communities and the quality of human life, as well as poverty alleviation through the fulfillment of basic needs, the development of village infrastructure and facilities, the enhancement of local economic potential, and the sustainable utilization of natural resources and the environment.

Efforts to accelerate village development must be supported and involve all components of society, including those from higher education institutions. As institutions tasked with the role of enlightening the nation, higher education institutions can actively participate in promoting accelerated development in villages. In this context, community service activities (PkM) as one of the three pillars of higher education remain highly relevant to be implemented in villages. Community service is an academic activity that utilizes knowledge and technology to advance community welfare and enlighten the nation (Rangkuty et al., 2024). Community service is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with targets to improve the quality of life, end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the environment (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2024).

Additionally, PkM aims to provide direct experience to faculty members, including students, in identifying and resolving various issues within the community. Furthermore, PkM also seeks to apply knowledge to the community. As a result, higher education institutions are expected to contribute meaningfully to improving welfare and development in the village.

Gampong Pasie Lubuk, Ingin Jaya Subdistrict, Aceh Besar Regency, has been selected as the location for a Community Development Program (PkM) involving the active participation of faculty members and students. The village is strategically located in the Ingin Jaya Sub-district. Not only is it relatively close to the Banda Aceh-Medan national highway, but it is also easily accessible to Iskandar Muda Airport, located in Blang Bintang. Despite this, Gampong Pasie Lubuk faces various village development challenges that require special attention, including from higher education institutions.

The results of observations and initial discussions with village officials revealed several major issues in Pasie Lubuk Village, including suboptimal and ineffective waste management inadequate drainage conditions and cleaning, relatively low financial literacy, and various other socioeconomic problems. Considering these issues, the Community Development Program (PkM) activities in Gampong Pasie Lubuk are focused on waste management, entrepreneurship, and promoting savings. These PkM activities are implemented with the aim of enhancing understanding and knowledge among the community, particularly among children in the Gampong Pasie Lubuk area, for a better future.

2. Methods

The PkM activities were conducted in Gampong Pasie Lubuk. This village is located in Ingin Jaya Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. The implementation stages of the PkM activities include: 1) Preparation stage, which begins with administrative procedures (obtaining activity permits) and preparing materials and tools to support field activities; 2) Implementation stage, which involves activity socialization, program implementation, and activities; 3) Final stage, which includes an evaluation of the entire program and activities. The entire community service activity was carried out by Pasie Lubuk Village with the active participation of the community.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Overview of the community service location

The Community Service Program (PkM) was conducted in Pasie Lubuk Village, which is located within Ingin Jaya Subdistrict, Aceh Besar Regency. Pasie Lubuk is part of Mukim Lubuk, one of six mukims in the Ingin Jaya area, alongside Gani, Lamgarot, Lamjampok, Lamtengoh, and Pagar Air. A mukim in Aceh Province refers to a legal community unit comprising several villages within a defined territory.

The area of Pasie Lubuk Village covers approximately 2.10 percent of the total area of Ingin Jaya Subdistrict. Administratively, it consists of three hamlets. The village directly borders Lamgarot Village in the north, Lubok Sukon in the south, and Dhampulo Village in the west, while the eastern boundary is the Krueng Aceh River.

In terms of accessibility, Pasie Lubuk Village is relatively close to public service centers. It is only three kilometers from the subdistrict center and about 53 kilometers from the district capital, Jantho. Road infrastructure is adequate, with the Aceh Besar toll road and public transportation facilities supporting mobility. Consequently, residents face no significant challenges in accessing public services either at the subdistrict or district level.

Demographically, Ingin Jaya Subdistrict had a population of 17,859 males and 17,728 females in 2022, with a sex ratio of 101 (101 males per 100 females). Kayee Lee Village has the largest population, with 1,145 males and 1,083 females (sex ratio: 106). The population of Pasie Lubuk Village accounts for approximately 1.15 percent of the total subdistrict population. Population density in Pasie Lubuk remains manageable at an average of 806 people per square kilometer.

3.2. Main community service activities

Several key activities were carried out during the community service program in Pasie Lubuk Village, as outlined below:

3.2.1. Educational activities on the dangers of plastic waste and the Ecobrick method

Awareness campaigns and education on the dangers of plastic waste and the Ecobrick method successfully raised community awareness regarding waste reduction and plastic utilization. Residents became more proactive in sorting plastic waste and producing Ecobricks, contributing to reduced environmental pollution. To support this initiative, the community service team developed a free website to promote Ecobricks and provide educational resources on their production process. Currently, the website serves as a promotional and learning platform, with the potential to attract broader participation in the future (see Figure 1).

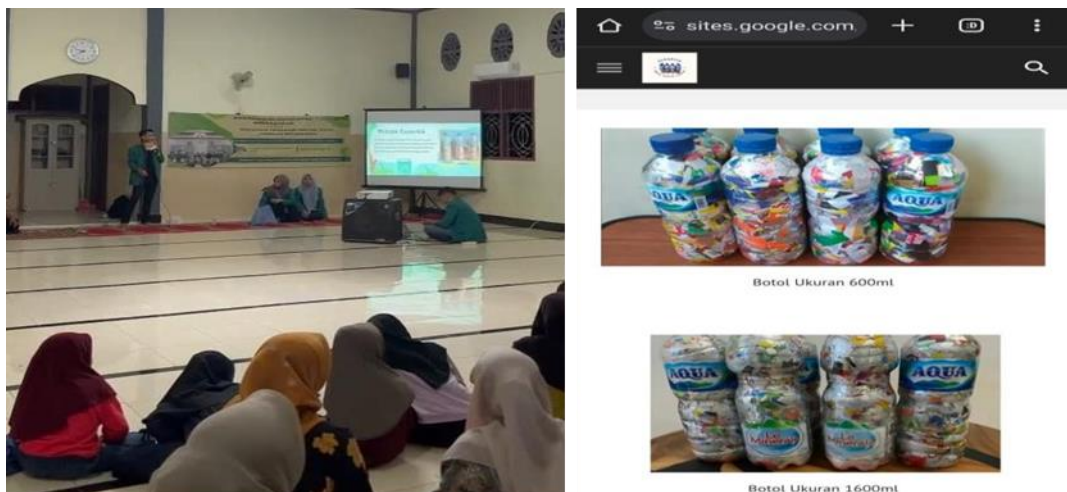


Figure 1. Awareness campaign on the dangers of waste and ecobrick products

3.2.2. Socialization of waste sorting

Socialization activities on organic and inorganic waste sorting improved residents' understanding of proper waste management. Communities learned to distinguish between biodegradable organic waste and inorganic waste that requires special handling. Following the socialization, many households adopted waste-sorting practices at the household level. This initiative reduced the amount of waste disposed of at landfills and promoted the use of plastic waste for Ecobrick production. The program has contributed both to reducing environmental pollution and strengthening sustainable waste management efforts at the village level.

3.2.3. Waste bin preparation activities

The preparation and construction of waste bins for organic and inorganic waste resulted in two prototype pairs. These bins were made from repurposed paint cans reinforced with pipes, making them durable and practical. Placed in strategic areas of Pasie Lubuk Village, the bins facilitated easier waste separation. Despite the success of this initiative, limited funding constrained the production to only two pairs, restricting program coverage.

Although the production of trash bins went smoothly, there were also obstacles in its implementation. The main obstacle in the program to produce organic and inorganic trash bins in Pasie Lubuk Village was limited funding. As a result, the community service team was only able to prepare and make two pairs of trash bins as prototypes. On the other hand, community enthusiasm is high, but the lack of funds has hindered the production of more trash bins to be placed in strategic locations in the village. As a result, the scope of this program remains limited, and waste segregation has not yet been implemented evenly throughout the village (see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Preparation of trash bins

3.2.4. Early entrepreneurship activities: Bracelet crafting

An entrepreneurship program on bracelet crafting was conducted for children in grades 4–6 of the local elementary school. The activity, titled *“Inspiring Entrepreneurship through Bracelet Crafting among Children”*, was held at the village multipurpose hall and attended by the Village Head along with community members. The program received enthusiastic participation, as it encouraged creativity, innovation, and motivation among children. The activity not only provided a productive hobby but also fostered entrepreneurial spirit at an early age (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Bracelet craft training for children

3.2.5. Savings education activity

Financial literacy activities focused on educating children about saving and money management. The program emphasized the importance of developing saving habits from an early age to build a strong foundation for responsible financial behavior in adulthood. Children learned practical saving methods, including prioritizing spending and setting aside money regularly.

The activities were conducted in the village hall and attended by local children with strong support from parents. Each child received a money box to help cultivate the habit of saving. Interactive sessions created an engaging learning environment, and parental involvement was highlighted as a critical factor in sustaining these habits. The program not only increased financial awareness among children but also laid the groundwork for long-term financial responsibility (Safwadi et al., 2024).



Figure 4. Education on the importance of saving for children

The educational activities were held in the main hall of the Keuchik Gampong Pasie Lubuk and were met with great enthusiasm, receiving positive feedback from parents.

Children were taught practical and simple saving methods that can be easily applied in their daily lives. The interactive and hands-on approaches successfully created a fun and meaningful learning environment that enhanced the financial understanding and skills of the children in Gampong Pasie Lubuk (see [Figure 4](#)).

To support the smooth implementation of these activities, each child was given a money box to save their money. This practice helped instill the habit and enthusiasm for saving. The success of this activity in the future will also depend heavily on the role of parents, as parental influence is crucial in shaping children's financial behavior. Children who begin to earn income need to learn to manage their finances responsibly, including the practice of saving (Alhadi et al., [2025](#); Purwanta et al., [2025](#); Rahmayanti et al., [2024](#); Riza et al., [2024](#)).

Developing a habit of saving from an early age is crucial, as children should be trained to manage their money and encouraged to improve their saving habits for a better future (Sari et al., [2022](#); Lelani et al., [2024](#)). To this end, parents can play a role by setting an example of saving practices and consistently encouraging their children to develop a habit of saving. Saving activities can begin with small steps, such as guiding students (children) to set aside part of their pocket money and deposit the remaining allowance into a money box (Lubis et al., [2019](#)).

4. Conclusion

This community service program in Pasie Lubuk Village successfully enhanced community and children's understanding of proper waste management and the utilization of plastic waste through Ecobricks. The initiative is expected to contribute to sustainable waste management practices in the future. In addition, entrepreneurship training through bracelet crafting and the *Gemar Menabung* (savings education) program yielded positive results in fostering creativity, financial literacy, and early entrepreneurial awareness among children.

The strong enthusiasm and support from community members, village officials, and children significantly contributed to the smooth implementation of all activities. Overall, the program received positive feedback and demonstrated its relevance to local needs. Moving forward, it is recommended that similar initiatives be continued and expanded by other stakeholders to ensure the sustainability and wider impact of these community empowerment efforts.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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