

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MANAGEMENT OF
HANDICRAFTS IN THE MAKING OF ACRYLIC BONSAI FLOWERS
DURING THE PANDEMIC, IN KERINJING VILLAGE, TANJUNG
RAJA DISTRICT OGAN ILIR REGENCY**

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Abstract

This service program aims to provide skills in the form of providing training on handicrafts through the manufacture of acrylic bonsai flowers and how to market them so that they can become souvenirs and can increase income for the people of Kerinjing Village. In addition, the product from this training is also expected to be a superior product in the countryside in Kerinjing Village. The method used in this program is carried out through several stages, including the stage of building commitment, the stage of teaching and socializing with the community, the stage of needs assessment, and the stage of planning activities and implementing activities. The results of this activity include handicraft products through the manufacture of acrylic bonsai flowers which have a selling value so that they can increase the household income of women's groups in Kerinjing Village, Tanjung Raja District. Furthermore, this product is also expected to become one of the superior products in this village.

Keywords: Acrylic, Bonsai Flower, Women Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Kerinjing Village is one of 241 villages in the Ogan Ilir Regency area and one of 19 villages in the Tanjung Raja District which is located 7 km to the west of the sub-district capital and 13 km to the east of the district capital and has an area of ± 3 km. ,00 Km², Kerinjing Village is divided into 2 hamlets led by each hamlet head. The majority of the population of Kerinjing Village makes a living in agriculture, plantations, and the service sector such as tailoring. The total population of Kerinjing Village is 652 families, consisting of 1,187 people. Kerinjing village has not had enough potential but with the help of related parties, the potential in this village will develop well.

By empowering the skills of housewives, it is hoped that it can help the household economy. However, the lack of knowledge possessed by partners, namely that they have not received training to be able to develop their entrepreneurial spirit (entrepreneur). The minimum number of entrepreneurs is a problem for all Indonesian citizens, not only the responsibility of the government but all Indonesian citizens (Ranto, 2016). Therefore, training is needed to be able to develop the entrepreneurial spirit of entrepreneurship. Making accessories or various

crafts is usually mostly done by groups of creative mothers and young women.

According to Sudipta Ketut, handicrafts are related to the term craft, Ketut (2016) states that crafts are related to the diligent nature of the hands or skills with nature of the hands or skills. Craft comes from the word "craft" and handicraft (English) which means "skill". Crafts are also mostly made as disposable objects. There are various forms of arts and crafts, such as paper crafts, bamboo crafts, handicrafts, ceramic crafts, and leather crafts. By having certain skills, one of which is making various crafts from acrylic materials that are easy to shape and have an attractive appearance. Acrylic material is a synthetic polymer that can melt when heated. Acrylic is formed for various kinds of decorations, accessories, or souvenirs with very beautiful results and adds an attractive appearance (Vera, et al, 2019).

The urgency of economic needs during the Covid-19 pandemic has made people more creative in utilizing acrylic beads, which many in the community have not been able to use properly, which with small things creates a high selling value and can compete in MSMEs during the pandemic. Covid-19. By looking at a phenomenon like this, of course, if the management of many acrylic beads in the community in Kerinjing Village can be managed properly and reliably, it will improve the economy in Kerinjing Village, Tanjung Raja District, Ogan Ilir Regency. So it is necessary to hold this training to increase the entrepreneurial spirit for mothers and adolescents in Kerinjing Village, Tanjung Raja District, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The implementation of this community service activity was carried out starting from August to December in the village of Kerinjing, Tanjung Raja Selatan District, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra Province.

The method of activity and implementation is carried out through a socialization approach. The implementation of this service uses counseling methods, lectures, and question-and-answer discussions about making bonsai flowers with a duration of 150 minutes. This service activity has a relationship with economics based on the courses taken by students, namely the Entrepreneurship Economics Course.

The material that will be presented to the participants is related to the empowerment of women in managing handicrafts in making acrylic bonsai flowers during the pandemic. The purpose of this service is to increase the creativity of housewives and teenagers in managing handicrafts and this training is also given to increase the entrepreneurial spirit of participants and can improve the economy of rural communities.

The target of this activity is 30 housewives and teenagers in the village of Kerinjing, Tanjung Raja Selatan District, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra Province.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The training began at 08.00 WIB until 12.00 WIB, which was attended by 30 participants, housewives, and teenagers in Kerinjing Village, Tanjung Raja District, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra Province. During the training, the participants were very enthusiastic about participating in each stage. This can be seen from the responses of the training participants and the feedback they provide.

The training began with remarks from the Head of Kerinjing Village, followed by remarks

by the Team leader and the reading of prayers. The event continued with the introduction and delivery of material by the resource persons with a duration of approximately 2 (two) hours. After that, there was a practice session, question and answer, and discussion. Some of the materials presented at the training included procedures for making acrylic bonsai flowers during the COVID-19 pandemic, to improve the economy of rural communities affected by this pandemic.

The resource persons themselves are people who are competent in their fields, the resource persons are business actors from acrylic flowers and are also lecturers at one of the private universities in the city of Palembang, so they can provide input and share experiences with participants. Many things and field experiences were conveyed by the resource persons based on what had been done in several activities related to making acrylic bonsai flowers during the covid-19 pandemic. This further adds to the insight and enthusiasm of the training participants to explore and develop the potential of the village community as a society that upholds entrepreneurial values.

Service on Women's Empowerment Through Handicraft Management in Making Acrylic Bonsai Flowers during the Pandemic Period, in Kerinjing Village which was held for three days at the house of one of the service participants. In our opinion, the place used for this service is representative enough to be used as a training place, although it is not too wide but quite comfortable. The training went smoothly and casually but was serious about delivering the material. All participants and resource persons sat on the floor equipped with microphones and speakers.

Participants were very enthusiastic about participating in this service, which was seen when a question and answer session was opened about making acrylic bonsai flowers, illegal online loans, and prize draw fraud. Participants also talked about their experiences regarding illegal online loans that occurred in Kerinjing Village. The resource persons answered all the questions asked by the participants and gave suggestions for trying to make art from other acrylics so that mothers and teenagers could be more creative and creative. Submission of material is carried out using simple language and is easily understood by participants so that service activities run smoothly. Participants have understood the Empowerment of Women through Handicraft Management in Making Acrylic Bonsai Flowers during the Pandemic Period.

The results of participant feedback on this service activity, some participants gave a positive response, seen from some of the participants' comments stating that the materials and training provided were very easy to understand and apply.

Table 1. Evaluation of Services Regarding Training Improving Participants' Knowledge

The Importance of Increasing Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very important	28	93,33
Important	2	6,67
Enough	-	-
Not important	-	-
Very unimportant	-	-
Total	30	100,00

Source: Field data (processed)

Based on the results of the feedback questionnaire given to service participants, it is known that 93.33 percent of respondents stated that service regarding acrylic bonsai flower management was very important, then 6.67 percent of other participants stated it was important. It can be concluded that this service activity is very important to do.

Table 2. Service Evaluation Regarding Training Delivered According to Needs

Materials Delivered According to Needs	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very Understand	27	76,67
Understand	3	23,33
Enough	-	-
Total	30	100,00

Source: Field data (processed)

Before this service activity, the community in Kerinjing Village did not know about making acrylic flowers. Based on the table above, it can be seen that the service carried out in Kerinjing village was by the needs of participants as many as 76.67 percent of respondents, while as many as 23.33 percent of service participants in the village Kerinjing just felt quite appropriate to the needs. This is an input for presenters to adjust the material better in the future by looking at the level of education and age of the service participants.

Table 3. Evaluation of Service on Handicraft Management through Handicraft Management in Flower Making Acrylic Bonsai

Understanding of Handicraft Management Through Acrylic Bonsai Flower Making	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	27	90,00
Enough	3	10,00
Not	0	0
Total	30	100,00

Source: Field data (processed)

Based on the table above, it can be seen that as many as 90.00 percent of respondents understand Handicraft Management Through Handicraft Management in Making Acrylic Bonsai Flowers, while as many as 10.00 percent of service participants in Kerinjing village are quite understanding about Handicraft Management through Acrylic Bonsai Flower Making.

Table 4. Evaluation of Service Regarding the Committee's Readiness to Carry Out Activities

Readiness of the Committee to Carry out Activities		Percentage (%)	
Information	Frequency		
Not enough	0		0
Enough	0		0
Well	30		100.00
Amount	30		100.00

Source: Field data (processed)

Based on the table above, it can be seen that as many as 100 percent of service respondents in Kerinjing village assessed that the committee was very ready to carry out service in Kerinjing village, Ogan Ilir Regency in a series of events, materials, and consumption. For Participants, this service can open further insight into the benefits of managing handicrafts through the manufacture of connectors during the pandemic in Kerinjing village. Preparation of the committee in increasing the participation of participants to be more involved in the course of service by presenting material through infocus and loudspeakers so that participants are more interested in participating in the training.

This feedback is an important part of the handicraft management training through the manufacture of connectors during the pandemic, which aims to determine the extent of participants' understanding and assessment of the training materials provided. This feedback will be used as evaluation material for service implementers to prepare the following service roadmap.

In this feedback session, each participant was asked to convey their impressions and messages, as well as criticism and suggestions for the training directly. This is done to familiarize the participants to be brave and open in expressing what is on their minds. Most of the participants gave a positive response, as seen from some of the participants' comments stating that the material provided more insight into planning the development of their village, and could build enthusiasm to advance their village. However, some participants complained about the hot weather and the rather congested implementation. However, this did not become a significant obstacle during the training.

In general, it can be concluded that the training participants responded positively to this training, despite the weather constraints and the tight implementation time.

CONCLUSION

The service activity regarding Handicraft Management Through Handicraft Management in Making Acrylic Bonsai Flowers during this pandemic is very beneficial for all of them and can improve the economy through empowering women during the pandemic accompanied by BUMDes in Kerinjing Village. And also holding this service and training, it can make the Kerinjing village economically independent and improve the welfare of the Kerinjing village community.

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