IMPROVING BUDDHIST RESOURCES THROUGH DIGITAL LITERACY DEVELOPMENT IN PURWOREJO REGENCY

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Abstract

Community service was held in Purworejo Village, Central Java. The purpose of this community service is empowering and increasing Buddhist resources through the digital library development program. Community service method used is ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) approach. The result of this community service is; 1) Buddhists can better understand about digital literacy, 2) gain basic digital skills, 3) temple administrators can utilize technology for religious activities, 4) community participation in digital mastery is formed. Besides that, it has also provided welfare to the people, digital literacy and internet access have opened the horizons of information needed by people to increase insight and broadcast religion throughout indonesia, especially in Purworejo Regency.

Keywords: Digital Literacy, Human Resource, Literacy

INTRODUCTION

This community service is carried out in Purworejo Regency. Geographically, Purworejo Regency is enormously far from the capital of Central Java province, Semarang. Its location is far enough away to make this city not too well known by many people. However, the Human Development Index in this district is always increasing every year. According to the Purworejo Central Statistics Agency (2024), the Human Development Index in this district will reach 74.28% in 2023. This is certainly a good achievement and will continue to be improved in the future.

The Purworejo Regency has a majority Buddhist sub-district such as Bagelen Sub-District, precisely in Setoyo and Hargorojo villages. Until now, there are still quite a lot of Buddhists living in these villages. The majority of the local population has a livelihood as farmers. They have gardens or rice fields planted with various crops and spices. In the village there are three Buddhist monasteries that are still active today, namely: Vimalakirti Sikuning Monastery, Vimalakirti Setoyo Monastery and Vimalakirti Hargorojo Monastery. In the third monastery has a location that is a bit far from the city. However, the three monasteries have great potential to be developed in order to have adequate digital libraries so that they can be used by Buddhists people to obtain information needed for the welfare of the people.

One way to increase the development index is to increase the culture of literacy in all circles of society. There must be many ways to make it happen. One way that can be obtained is to introduce digital literacy to the community. Digital literacy is considered necessary, because it is easy to access and the information obtained will be diverse. This is different from conventional literacy which is still hindered by time and space.

Arsa (2019) in his journal explained that literacy requires at least an unspoken sensitivity about the relationship between textual conventions and the context in which they are used and ideally the ability to reflect critically on those relationships. Sensitivity charged with intent or purpose, literacy is dynamic or not static, and can vary in the culture of a discourse. Literacy requires a series of cognitive abilities, knowledge of written and spoken language, knowledge of genres, and cultural knowledge, in the sense that complex skills are needed in literacy. A similar definition of literacy is conveyed by Ginting (2020) which states that literacy is a person's ability to use skills and potential in managing and understanding information when doing reading, writing, counting activities and solving problems in everyday life.

The purpose of literacy is that literacy is an ability related to reading, thinking, and writing activities that aim to improve the ability to understand information critically, creatively, and reflectively and literacy can be used as a learning base (Fajar, 2019). The benefits that can be taken from literacy activities according to Toruan (2021) are to increase one's vocabulary; optimize brain performance because it is often used for reading and writing activities; get various new insights and information; a person's interpersonal skills will be better; the ability to understand eating an information will increase; improve one's verbal Ability; improve one's analytical and thinking skills; help improve one's focus and concentration ability; improve one's ability to string meaningful words and write.

Beside that, literacy also has many other advantages as stated by Jariah & Marjani (2019), they believed that literacy's advantage is increasing vocabularies, optimizing the work of the brain, adding new insights and information, improving interpersonal skills, sharpening themselves in capturing the meaning of the information being read.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The method used in this recent community service using ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) approach. ABCD is built on the principles put forward by John McKnight and Jody Kretzmann who are also the founders of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute. An asset-based approach helps communities see the reality of internal conditions and the possibilities for change that can be made. This approach leads to change, focus on what the community wants to achieve, and help the community in realizing their vision (Christoper, 2013) in (Rinawati et al., 2022).

There are some stages in undertaking the community service, those are:
1. Preliminary Survey
   At this stage, the community service team identifies the initial needs and approaches and socializes the target area.
2. Workshop and Training
   The training is carried out at this stage. The training steps contain: provision of materials related to the development of technology and the digital world, 2) provision of materials

on the development of digital literacy 3) the practice of utilizing digital platforms for literacy.

3. Mentoring and Monitoring

   Mentoring and Monitoring done to ensure that digital literacy utilization programs can be implemented properly and provide benefits for Buddhists people in Purworejo Regency.

4. Evaluation

   This evaluation activity is carried out question and answer activities and the delivery of messages and impressions of the activities that have taken place. In addition, in this activity, the service community team also evaluated the sustainability of community service activities.

Community service activities through the development of digital libraries and Prevention of stunting in the Purworejo Regency area aims to improve Buddhist resources. By developing a digital library, it is expected to improve the literacy of the people with more modern through digital libraries. In addition, Buddhists in Purworejo Regency can also increase knowledge about stunting, especially in its prevention. This activity is carried out through several stages, namely interviews, permits, coordination, and implementation of activities.

In the implementation of community service activities, interviews are often an important method to explore information and understand the problems faced by the community. However, in the context of digital literacy, there are still many people, especially in remote areas, who do not have adequate access to digital literacy resources. This is an obstacle in delivering relevant and accurate information, including in stunting prevention efforts. An interview that has been conducted with one of the Buddhists in Purworejo Regency produces information that the majority of monasteries located in Bagelen District, Purworejo Regency do not yet have digital literacy resources, especially related to stunting problems that are being intensified by the government.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this community service program is to improve Buddhist literacy and stunting prevention at Vimalakirti Sikuning, Vimalakirti Setoyo and Vimalakirti Hargorojo Buddhist Monastery, Bagelen district, Purworejo Regency which is realized through digital library and socialization. This activity is said to be successful if the Buddhist community can access the digital library and use it for the benefit of the people. The analysis of the results of this activity is a process that is passed to make people aware of being open to technological advances in the world of literacy. This can be seen from the results of the evaluation carried out by the lecturer team where the people have managed to use the internet individually and collectively and use it to find information on stunting Prevention on their respective hardware.

Many Buddhist people come to the monastery in addition to worship, they also seek information about everyday life. In addition, people around the monastery also utilize the use of the internet to find information and improve their literacy skills. Some of the obstacles in the use of digital literacy technology used by the community, among others, on how to connect gadgets, laptops, and mobile phones to the internet have been overcome with assistance by a

team of lecturers. In addition, with the obstacles experienced during the process of this activity has also been successfully resolved by using a variety of solutions undertaken for the sake of the ongoing activities properly.

People's literacy empowerment activities using this digital library are said to be successful because the entire process of activities has been carried out by introducing a good product and also the community and the service team have succeeded through the obstacles faced during the activity. In addition, this digital library has also generated benefits that can be enjoyed by the people and the surrounding monastery community to increase literacy knowledge.

1. Improving Understanding Of Digital Literacy

   Buddhists in Kabupaten Purworejo have shown an increased understanding of the importance of digital technology in supporting religious activities, education, and Community Development.

2. Mastery Of Basic Digital Skills

   Participants were able to use social media positively to spread Dharma teachings, create simple digital content, and utilize usable applications.

3. Use of Technology for Religious Activities

   Some communities have successfully integrated digital technology in religious activities, such as the dissemination of worship schedules, organizing Dharma discussions online, and archiving documentation of community activities digitally.

4. Increasing Community Participation

   This Program encourages the formation of digital literacy mentor groups in several monasteries, which are tasked with helping other parishioners to be more proficient in utilizing technology.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of community service conducted related to the improvement of human resources through the strengthening of digital literacy, it was found that 1) Buddhists can better understand about digital literacy, 2) gain basic digital skills, 3) monastery administrators can utilize technology for religious activities, 4) community participation in digital mastery is formed.

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