

Economic Improvement Through Kerajaan Abot (Handicrafts from Klobot Waste) at the Dharmajati Vihara, Prigi Village, Grobogan

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ABSTRACT

“Economic Improvement Through ABOT Kingdom (Klobot Waste Craft)” Program. This program is implemented at Dhamajati Monastery located in Prigi Village, Grobogan Regency, this is done as an effort to empower the community through the management of corn husk waste, this program aims to increase community income by managing corn husks. This program uses the Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach with this approach method the community can be actively involved in every stage from training to evaluation. The result is that WBI (Indonesian Buddhist Women) mothers are able to produce crafts that can be sold from social media to offline sales. This program has also succeeded in reducing klonot waste that was previously simply thrown away or burned. The products produced are now starting to be marketed offline and online with this marketing being able to reach quite a wide range of consumers. This program has a positive impact on the economy and the environment, as well as opening up opportunities for the development of creative waste-based businesses in the future.

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INTRODUCTION

Corn is one of the staple foods that replaces rice in Indonesia, corn has a very good nutritional content for the body. Based on data obtained by the Central Statistics Agency, corn plants have experienced a fairly rapid increase every year (Ilmi et al., 2023). In addition to fruit, corn husks (husks) can also be used as unique and useful handicrafts. Corn husks (husks) have so far been underutilized by the community, because many consider corn husks (husks) as waste. This causes more and more husk waste to be produced, so that the problems caused by husk waste need to be handled seriously to reduce the problem of food waste in Indonesia (Darmayanti et al., 2020). However, corn husks that have so far only been burned and not utilized can be made into unique handicraft products that have great potential to improve the community's economy. Indexing and abstracting services depend on the accuracy of the title, extracting from it keywords useful in cross-referencing and computer searching. An improperly titled paper may never reach the audience for which it was intended, so be specific.

Based on the results of the PKM-M team's observations carried out on March 18, 2024 around the Dharmajati Monastery, Kedungjati District, Grobogan Regency, there is quite a lot of klobot waste, which is simply thrown away or burned by farmers. Based on these conditions, the community service team wants to

collaborate with the head of the Dharmajati Monastery and also the head of RT 02/RW 01 of Prigi Village with the aim of providing guidance and skills training to Buddhists of the Dharmajati Monastery, to be able to utilize klobot waste into attractive and innovative handicrafts, then named "KERAJAAN ABOT" (klobot waste handicrafts). The Abot Kingdom that is made includes ornamental flowers, figures, lotus flower lamps, and buckets. It is hoped that this Abot Kingdom product can increase the income and economy of Buddhists at the Dharmajati Monastery. According to Soegoto (2009) in (Alfionita et al., 2020), entrepreneurship is a creative endeavor built on innovation to produce something new, has added value, provides benefits, creates jobs and the results are useful for others.

Based on the background above, this community service team is trying to encourage Buddhists who have a lot of time to be creative by making products that have economic value. So it is hoped that one day these people can become successful entrepreneurs.

Community General Description

Grobogan is one of the regencies in Central Java Province with the center of government in Purwodadi. Geographically, Grobogan Regency is located between 110°15' East Longitude - 111°25' East Longitude and 7° South Latitude - 7°30' South Latitude with soil conditions in the form of limestone mountains, hills and plains in the middle (Bachtar, 2020). One of the villages in Grobogan Regency is Prigi Village, Kedungjati District, Grobogan Regency. The number of Buddhists in Prigi Village is approximately 130 people.

The potential of the Prigi Village community is the corn farming sector. However, the community's economy is still relatively low because of its dependence on corn harvests.

Several reasons for conducting skills training and creativity development to empower the majority of the population who are farm laborers to open up new business opportunities. (1) To increase community creativity in processing corn husk waste (klobot) into handicrafts, (2) To improve the community's economy through new innovations using corn husk waste (klobot) as the basic material, (3) The large amount of corn husk waste (klobot) that is not utilized by the community, (4) Corn husk waste is not only found in the community service area but in every region, and allows for similar community service in other Buddhist areas.

This training aims to provide productive activities that improve the economy. The team collaborated with Mrs. Lela, a Buddhist at the Dharmajati Monastery, Prigi Village, who has transformed klobot into high-value ornamental flower crafts.

METHOD

The method in this community service uses Participatory Action Research (PAR). The PAR method is a participatory approach that aims for learning, problem solving, empowerment, and social change processes in society. This method is a means to raise critical and collective awareness. This is a research process that is oriented towards change and empowerment (Afandi, 2020).

RESULTS

In the PKM-M activity at the Dharmajati Monastery, Prigi Village, Grobogan Regency, the focus is on the utilization of corn husk waste (klobot) as the main material in making handicrafts that have economic value. This program is carried out during October - December 2024, with various types of activities, such as observation, socialization, training, supervision, and evaluation. Initial observations were carried out online on October 20, 2024, which were conducted through interviews with Buddhists at the Dharmajati Vihara, Prigi Village, then direct observations were carried out on November 7, 2024. The data obtained showed that most of the people in Prigi Village, especially WBI (Indonesian Buddhist Women) mothers, work as corn farmers and housewives. However, there is still a lot of corn husk waste that is thrown away or burned due to a lack of understanding of how to utilize it. This is an opportunity for the PKM-M Team to introduce the utilization of corn husk waste into craft products that have a selling value.

After observation, the PKM-M Team conducted a program socialization on November 18, 2024 at the Dharmajati Monastery. In this activity, the PKM-M Team introduced the Kingdom of Abot products (handicrafts made from coconut husk waste) such as lotus and rose flower candles. This socialization was enthusiastically welcomed by the WBI mothers, who previously did not know that coconut husk waste could be processed into products of economic value. The next activity was training, where participants were taught techniques for cutting, coloring, and making coconut husk into handicrafts. With the equipment and materials prepared by the PKM-M Team, the WBI mothers were able to produce quality creative products.

The products from this training are then marketed online and offline, online through social media such as WhatsApp, Shopee, Instagram, and TikTok. This marketing aims to increase market access and expand the reach of consumers. The results of the PKM-M Team program show that the use of husk waste can provide

additional income for the community. With a profit of around IDR 180,000 per production (60 units), WBI mothers have the potential to earn additional income of up to IDR 720,000 per month if they produce weekly. Products such as flowers, ring boxes, and room decorations have a much higher selling value than the price of fresh corn, which ranges from IDR 20,000 to IDR 200,000 per unit.

This program also has significant social impacts, such as increasing creativity, productivity, and strengthening relationships between community members. An evaluation conducted on December 12-15, 2024 showed that the community not only continues to produce these handicrafts, but also begins to develop new product variations. Some families even use the crafts as home decorations and candle holders on their altars. The sustainability of this program is expected to be able to create new business opportunities and increase income, thus providing a greater economic impact for the people of Prigi Village. Overall, this program shows that waste that was previously considered worthless can be processed into products that are economically and socially useful, providing new hope for the local community.

CONCLUSION

The "Economic Improvement Through ABOT Kingdom (Handcraft of Klobot Waste)" program at Dharmajati Monastery, Prigi Village, Grobogan Regency, has succeeded in improving community welfare by processing corn husk waste (klobot) into crafts with economic value. Through the Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, the community is actively involved in identifying problems, planning, and implementing the program. Buddhist mothers are trained to make creative products from corn husk waste (klobot) that are not only aesthetically valuable but also open up new business opportunities.

The success of the program is demonstrated through increased community income. With a profit of Rp180,000 for every 60 units produced, mothers can earn an additional Rp720,000 per month with weekly production. In addition to improving the economy, this program helps reduce corn husk waste that was previously thrown away or burned, which has a positive impact on environmental preservation. Community enthusiasm is also reflected in the initiative to create new products such as corn husk candle holders for home altars.

This program strengthens community social relations through joint activities. Despite facing challenges such as limited tools and materials and the need for wider marketing, this program has great potential to be developed. With increased production capacity, product diversification, and digital marketing, the ABOT Kingdom can become a model for empowering a creative economy based on waste in other regions, proving that innovation and collaboration can transform waste into useful economic resources.

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