

Community Empowerment through Knitting Training in an Effort to Enhance the Creativity of Residents in Sadengkolot Village, Bogor

Yudiana¹, NA Rumiasih², Ofan Maulana Yudista³, Hikmatul Aliyah⁴,
Harun Faizal⁵, Rasiman⁶, Imam Sundarta⁷

^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}Faculty of Economic and Business, Ibn Khaldun University, Bogor

E-mail: yudiana@uika-bogor.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Article history: Received: ... Revised: Accepted:....</p> <p>Keywords: Community empowerment, knitting training, creativity, Sadengkolot Village, Bogor</p>	<p>This community service activity aims to improve the creativity and skills of the residents of Sadengkolot Village, Bogor Regency, through knitting training. The main problem faced by the community is the limited productive skills that can increase household income. Knitting training was chosen because it is easy to learn, does not require large capital, and has promising economic opportunities. The activity was carried out through stages of counseling, technical demonstrations, hands-on practice, and mentoring. The results showed an increase in the participants' ability to make various knitted products such as bags, wallets, and tablecloths. Participants also showed a high interest in continuing this activity as a creative endeavor. This activity succeeded in fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship and creativity among the village community.</p>

Introduction

Community empowerment is an important process in improving the social and economic welfare of villagers. Through community service activities, people can acquire new knowledge and skills that are useful for supporting their daily lives. Sadengkolot Village, Bogor Regency, has good human resource potential, but there are still few empowerment activities that focus on improving creativity and skills.

Based on initial observations, most residents, especially housewives, do not yet have additional productive skills that can be used to support the family economy. Knitting training activities are the right solution because the technique is simple, the tools and materials are easily obtained, and knitted products have high selling value. Handicrafts, such as knitting, are an alternative productive activity that not only trains perseverance and creativity, but also has economic value. Knitted products such as bags, wallets, tablecloths, and accessories now have their own market share, both offline and online. In addition, this activity can hone the creativity and perseverance of participants.

This activity aims to provide basic knitting skills, foster entrepreneurial spirit, and form independent and creative community groups in producing handicraft products.

Method

The community empowerment activity was carried out in July 2025 at the Sadengkolot Village Hall, Leuwisadeng Subdistrict, Bogor Regency. The location was chosen because it is easily accessible to residents and has adequate facilities to support training and practical learning activities. The participants involved in this program consisted of 50 villagers, most of whom were housewives and young women who were interested in learning new creative skills. The selection of participants was intended to empower community members who have the potential to develop home-based economic activities and increase family income through knitting craftsmanship.

The implementation of the activity was conducted through several systematic stages. The program began with a preparation stage that included coordination with village officials and community leaders to ensure community participation and support. The implementation team prepared the training schedule, learning materials, and necessary equipment such as knitting yarn, knitting needles, and basic knitting patterns. After the preparation was completed, the training stage was carried out by introducing participants to the benefits and business opportunities of knitting crafts as a potential source of additional income. The facilitators demonstrated basic knitting techniques, including chain stitch, single crochet, and double crochet, followed by hands-on practice guided directly by the implementation team.

Furthermore, an assistance stage was conducted to help participants apply the skills they had learned in producing simple knitted products such as small bags, tablecloths, and wallets. During this stage, participants received guidance on selecting appropriate color combinations, developing patterns, and improving product finishing so that the results would have better aesthetic and economic value. At the final stage, evaluation and follow-up activities were carried out through observation of participants' work results and interviews to assess their level of understanding and skill improvement. Group discussions were also organized to identify obstacles faced by participants and to explore opportunities for developing knitting activities into sustainable micro-businesses after the program ended.

Results

The knitting training program was implemented successfully and received a very positive response from the community. Most participants showed high enthusiasm and consistently attended all training sessions from beginning to end. Prior to the program, only around 8% of participants had knowledge of basic knitting techniques, indicating that the majority had no previous experience in this field. However, after completing the training, approximately 90% of participants were able to independently produce simple knitted products such as small bags, wallets, and tablecloths. This significant improvement demonstrates that the training method applied was effective in transferring practical skills to the participants.

The impact of the activity was not only reflected in the improvement of technical skills but also in the increased self-confidence of the participants. Many of them expressed a strong motivation to continue knitting and to develop it as a source of additional household income. Several participants have even begun

to market their products through local social media platforms, showing an initial transformation from learning activities into micro-entrepreneurial practices. This indicates that the program has successfully encouraged participants to view knitting not merely as a hobby, but as a creative economic opportunity.

Furthermore, the program contributed to strengthening social cohesion among residents. The training sessions created a space for interaction, mutual learning, and cooperation, which fostered a sense of togetherness within the community. The village government responded positively to this outcome and expressed its commitment to support the formation of small craft-based business groups. Such groups are expected to become one of the potential flagship products of Sadengkolot Village and to contribute to local economic development in the long term.

From the analysis of the training process, it can be seen that community empowerment was achieved through a participatory and skill-oriented approach. Participants felt greatly assisted because the program not only provided technical knitting knowledge but also introduced strategies for marketing products through digital platforms and online marketplaces. Knitting skills require patience, creativity, and continuous practice; therefore, participants were encouraged to perceive knitting as a productive and beneficial activity rather than a burden. This change in mindset is an important indicator of empowerment, as it reflects the growth of independence and entrepreneurial awareness among the community.

The findings of this activity are consistent with the study of Mardikanto (2015), which states that community empowerment through skills training can enhance the economic independence of rural communities. Similar to that perspective, this program proves that practical training combined with mentoring and market orientation is able to open new opportunities for villagers to improve their welfare. Thus, knitting training can be considered an effective model of community empowerment that integrates creativity, economic potential, and social development.

Conclusion

The knitting training activity conducted in Sadengkolot Village has demonstrated a significant contribution to improving the skills and creativity of the community, particularly among housewives. Through a series of structured learning sessions, participants were able to understand and practice basic knitting techniques and transform them into tangible products with aesthetic and economic value. The ability of participants to produce items such as small bags, wallets, and tablecloths indicates that the training successfully transferred practical skills that can be applied in daily life. Moreover, this activity has opened new opportunities for the development of small-scale home industries based on knitting crafts, which can become an alternative source of income for families in the village.

The results of the program confirm that knitting training is an effective approach to fostering community creativity and empowering local human resources. Participants not only gained technical abilities but also developed greater motivation and interest in continuing these skills as business opportunities. The emergence of initiatives to market knitted products, both offline and through digital platforms, reflects a positive change in the participants' entrepreneurial mindset. Therefore, this program

can be considered a strategic model of community empowerment that integrates skill development, creativity, and economic potential.

To ensure the sustainability and broader impact of the program, several recommendations need to be considered. First, advanced training focusing on intermediate knitting techniques and creative product design is required so that participants can produce more diverse and competitive products. Second, the village government is expected to facilitate the establishment of knitting-based business groups or cooperatives to strengthen collective production and marketing capacity. Third, continuous assistance in marketing strategies and business management is essential so that the skills acquired can generate real and sustainable economic benefits for the community. With consistent support from various stakeholders, knitting activities in Sadengkolot Village have the potential to develop into a flagship local product that contributes to community welfare.

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