



Social Service Activities as an Effort to Increase Awareness and The Spirit of Sharing during The Holy Month of Ramadan

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ABSTRACT

As it has been generally known that conducting Community Service (*Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*) is one of the obligations conducted by lecturer as three dharma of higher education. In addition to providing facilitate for community service, the Community Service offers institution an exciting opportunity to collaborate and make significant impacts in villages. Giving money or providing goods like food or clothing are common charitable activities. The focus of community service is on activities that directly benefit others. Regarding this concern, this community service is intended to increase social concern, especially in the month of Ramadhan which was conducted in the form of food and financial support for needy orphans and underprivileged at one of the foundations that cares and supports projects on orphans located in West Bandung regency. As it has been recognized that conducting social services especially in the month of Ramadhan is highly recommended as one of the positive activities conducted since obtaining rewards from Allah SWT. also benefits other individuals such as needy orphans and underprivileged among Muslims. The social service conducted at Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundations aims to assist and provide spiritual and emotional support to the needy orphans and underprivileged society. During the activities, the children, society, community leaders, and the foundations' teachers have shown interest and enthusiasm. Thus, it is expected that this social service could benefit the parties involved such as the orphans, the needy society, the foundation itself, and so on.

Keywords: community service, needy orphans, social service, social concern.

ABSTRAK

Seperti yang telah diketahui secara umum bahwa melakukan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat adalah salah satu kewajiban yang mesti dilaksanakan oleh dosen sebagai tri dharma perguruan tinggi. Selain memberikan fasilitas untuk pengabdian kepada masyarakat, Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat menawarkan kesempatan menarik bagi institusi untuk berkolaborasi dan memberikan dampak signifikan di desa-desa. Memberikan dana atau menyediakan kebutuhan seperti makanan atau pakaian adalah salah satu aktivitas amal yang lazim dilaksanakan, Fokus dari pengabdian masyarakat adalah pada aktivitas yang secara langsung bermanfaat bagi orang lain. Terkait dengan perihal tersebut, kegiatan Pengabdian ini dimaksudkan untuk meningkatkan kepedulian sosial, terutama di bulan Ramadhan yang dilaksanakan dalam bentuk dukungan makanan dan keuangan untuk anak-anak yatim piatu yang membutuhkan dan kurang mampu di salah satu yayasan yang peduli dan mendukung proyek tentang anak yatim yang terletak di Kabupaten Bandung Barat. Sepanjang program, anak-anak, masyarakat, pemimpin masyarakat, dan pengurus yayasan menunjukkan minat dan antusiasme. Diharapkan bahwa kegiatan pengabdian masyarakat ini akan memberikan manfaat positif bagi semua pihak yang terlibat, termasuk anak-anak, masyarakat, yayasan, dan lainnya.

Kata kunci: pengabdian kepada masyarakat (pkm), yatim piatu, bakti sosial, kepedulian sosial.



1. Pendahuluan

Humans are social creatures who need each other. Being social creatures, individuals would struggle if they did not engage with the environment at all. This is due to the fact that humans are social creatures by nature, and as such, they are essential to the effort to comprehend, investigate, and engage with their social lives. Therefore, as individuals who depend on one another, it makes sense that fostering social awareness amongst one another is one of the most crucial things to do in order to apply empathy and social awareness in everyday interactions (Rahmawati et al., 2022).

To maintain the values of social solidarity and voluntary participation of the community in the current era, it is necessary to foster it from social interactions that occur due to human bonds, so that a community is created with a shared spirit, bearing the same responsibilities, and needing one another (Sidik et al., 2023). One way to build social awareness within the community is to hold community service activities. Community service is a positive activity aimed at providing assistance to those in need (Supardi, Lubis, et al., 2023). Fauzzia et al (2018) said that community service is the process of implementing the knowledge learned in higher education to provide the greatest benefits for the community. Community service activities should always be directed towards activities whose benefits and impacts can be felt directly by the community.

Furthermore, Mutmainnah, et al (2020) also stated that social service, or more commonly known as *bakti sosial*, is an activity that arises from a sense of humanity for others. This assistance can take the form of financial, clothing, food, or other items still in good condition to be distributed to those in greater need. This activity is a kind act carried out for the benefit of others. This voluntary activity has the potential to strengthen bonds between people and create a sense of unity and kinship (Muniarty et al., 2021). Sharing basic necessities is one branch of social service which is a form of community service. Through this activity, bonds of friendship and brotherhood can be established among individuals, thereby forming a sense of kinship between the community and the academic civitas (Qurrata Ayuni et al., 2024)

The obligation of Higher Education, commonly known as the Tridharma of Higher Education, are academics' responsibility in institutions, especially lecturers. According to Law No. 12 of 2012 Governing Higher Education, the main duties that are required to make a significant contribution to the country are teaching, research, and community service (Syamsi & Heriyanti, 2022). Through the development of human resources and the construction of community capacity, higher education institutions also contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of national development goals. Therefore, community service projects are a practical way to promote sustainable development in addition to being a way to sharpen social consciousness (Mardikaningsih et al., 2024a).



It is also in line with Lumbantoruan & Napitupulu (2023) who argued that community service activities are also one of the duties of a lecturer in implementing the knowledge that has been learned with the expectation of providing benefits to the community. The concept of community service activities must be targeted and directed towards activities that can directly have a positive impact on the community.

Referring to the previous statements above, one of the aims of community service is to increase social awareness especially for those who are in need. Thus, the community service conducted in this article is in the form of Social Service Activities (*Bakti Sosial*) in one of the social foundations namely *Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor* which is located at Batujajar district, West Bandung regency.

Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation was established in 2022. This foundation has a Quran reading community, a dormitory for the students, and accommodates orphaned children. This foundation still faces several challenges such as facilities and infrastructure, access to education, teachers, and has not yet secured any definite investors. Thus, the researchers and undergraduate students collaborate to conduct community service in the form of social service activity.

The social service activity was held to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, and this activity is expected to directly contribute to assisting orphans and the underprivileged at the *Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor* Foundation orphanage. Lecturers from various study programs, namely Islamic Religious Education (PAI) and Sharia Business Management (MBS), and assisted by several students, were actively involved and directly participated in the social service activity. It is expected that students would be able to recognize and solve a variety of issues through this program and obtain practical educational experience in the community (Yuliadi et al., 2021)

This community service activity was carried out with the aim of fostering a sense of caring and empathy in the community in the midst of everyday life. The Student Association (*Himpunan Mahasiswa/ HIMA*) of STAI Darul Falah is a student group that actively and directly participated in ensuring the success of this community service activity. As stated by Tambunan et al (Tambunan et al., 2020), The Student Association (HIMA) as a platform to channel ideas and contributions, wants to contribute to the community in the form of social service that will be directly felt by the community. Social service becomes an alternative solution to the current problems of society. As the result, this social service activity is carried out in welcoming the holy month of Ramadan, and it is expected that this activity could assist orphans and the underprivileged at the orphanage (Supardi, Arina Luthfini Lubis, et al., 2023).

In addition, the purpose of carrying out community service is also to implement the values contained in the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, where students develop a sense of concern and social responsibility towards their surroundings, students can apply the theories they have learned during their studies in community life, and to create social interactions between students and the surrounding environment through social service (Fauzzia et al., 2018). Additionally, the community service, in this case through the distribution of basic food packages, is a tangible action taken by lecturers



and students. They play an active role in providing positive contributions to the community located in the designated service area. This activity is not only providing material assistance, but also about creating an emotional bond and a sense of solidarity between higher education institutions and the community (Mardikaningsih et al., 2024b).

In short, this social service activity aims to educate students toward social care in society in the form of; 1.) Increasing the sense of care and empathy for the creatures, namely the humans as creatures of Allah SWT. 2.) Increasing the spirit of spreading kindness in the form of charity to those in greater need, namely orphans and the poor, especially in the holy month of Ramadan. 3.) Spreading a spark of enthusiasm to orphans and the poor to achieve their dreams.

2. Metode

The community service was conducted through observation, interviews, and documentation, involving students, lecturers, village officials, and local residents (Aliyyah, 2021). This community service activity was carried out at the Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation in Batujajar District, West Bandung Regency, targeting foster children under the foundation's care and the underprivileged living near the foundation. Broadly speaking, the method of implementing this community service activity was implemented by implementing three main activities:

2.1. Activity Planning

In this stage, the target of the activity, the theme of the activity, the source of funds, and the team involved in this activity were determined (Probowati et al., 2024). After conducting a Focus Group Discussion assisted by several students, it was decided that the theme of this Community Service was "Building Concern to Share Happiness". The next step was to determine the location of the social service activity which was at the Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation, Batujajar District, West Bandung Regency. Next, the researchers assisted by several students visited the planned activity location to conduct a location survey and needs analysis at that location.

It is necessary to conduct a current analysis of the community's conditions to understand the context more deeply (Ashadi Alimin et al., n.d.). Thus, a survey was conducted to determine the actual situation of orphans and the community to be targeted for this community service activity (Paturohman et al., 2024). Based on the survey, it was discovered that the foundation and the impoverished need financial support as well as necessities such as clothing, food, and other items. As a respond to this situation, the researchers assisted by several students prepared various necessities for orphans and the underprivileged, such as basic food packages containing rice, cooking oil, eggs, instant noodles, as well as financial support. After being collected, the materials and basic necessities were then securely packaged for distribution to the targets of this community service activity.



2.2. Implementation of Activities

During this phase, the lecturers and students carry out core activities. In doing so, the team of lecturers as well as the students not only conducts community service but also provides cash assistance to orphans and the underprivileged. Through the Community Service Program, students can apply the knowledge they have acquired in higher education to real life (Arwadi et al., 2023)

2.3. Evaluation and Activity Report

During this stage, the lecturer writes a PKM report to be submitted to the Research and Community Service Institute (LPPM) and published in the PKM journal. Additionally, an internal evaluation is conducted regarding the activities carried out and the final results. The evaluation takes place after the activity and takes the form of a focus group discussion with the students.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Activity Planning Stage

In carrying out community service, collecting information such as needs analysis, small-scale surveys, and preparing up-to-date reports are crucial to be carried out in the planning stage of an activity (Sugiyono, 2022). In this stage, initial coordination is carried out by the Lecturer team with the students with the aim of aligning perceptions regarding the objectives of implementing community service activities. Coordination is carried out in the form of a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) where the lecturer conveys the objectives of the PKM activity. After coordinating to align perceptions, the team of lecturers and the students determined the location of the activity, where it was decided that the location of the activity would be carried out at one of the foundations that oversees orphanages and the poor near the agency.

Afterward, the students surveyed the location where the PKM would be held and coordinated with the Foundation's leadership and administrators to assess the Foundation's needs. Based on this discussion, the lecturers followed up with community service activities, including social service and donations to orphans and the underprivileged at the Foundation's orphanage.



Figure 1 The lecturer and the students conducting a survey at the selected location

3.2. Activity Implementation Stage

At this stage, a team of lecturers and the students carried out community service activities on March 21, 2025, or Ramadan 21, 1446 Hijri, at the Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation in Batujajar District, West Bandung Regency. The event began with a prayer and continued with a welcoming speech delivered by one of the Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation administrators. Following the welcoming remarks, a representative from the foundation's supervisor delivered a speech and motivational speech, specifically to the orphans at the foundation, to encourage and motivate them to achieve their dreams. The main activity then continued, distributing basic food packages and cash to orphans and underprivileged children living near the foundation.

During the distribution of basic food packages and cash, the team of lecturers and the students employed a participatory approach, directly involving the lecturers and allowing them to interact directly with the target groups. The distribution of basic food packages was tailored to the needs of the orphans and the community surrounding the foundation. Throughout the event, local residents and the foundation's foster children enthusiastically attended and participated. By providing basic food packages and financial assistance to orphans and the underprivileged, the event fostered kindness, benefits, and blessings among others, fostering social awareness during the holy month of Ramadan. The event concluded with a prayer followed by a group photo with the Foundation's management and the orphans.



Figure 2 Delivery of a speech by one of the administrators of the Al Muchlisin Miftahul Anshor Foundation



Figure 3 Group photo of the team of lecturers, the students and other parties involved



3.3. Evaluation and Activity Report Stage

As stated by Fathiah et al (2022) the evaluation is carried out as a benchmark for completing community service projects so that it may subsequently be used as a standard for other service projects of similar scope. Thus, following the event, the lecturers and student team evaluated the Community Service Program (PKM) activities. Based on feedback and discussions, the orphanage was highly enthusiastic about the participation of the faculty and students. This is because the PKM program is expected to motivate and inspire the community, especially the foster children, to gain more experience than they had previously.

Furthermore, the foundation also will not raise an objection to holding positive, wholesome, and self-development activities within the foundation. These activities are expected to inspire the children in the orphanage, in particular, to develop their potential and prevent them from feeling overlooked or ostracized by the surrounding community. The output of this Community Service activity is the distribution of aid in the form of basic food packages and cash assistance to orphans and the poor as a form of social concern and empathy to help meet the needs of orphans at the Al Muchlisin Foundation. Through this activity, it is expected to meet the needs of the orphanage, as well as to strengthen the sense of brotherhood between educational institutions and social institutions (Sa'adah et al., 2021).



Figure 4 Lecturers and the students carry out an evaluation after implementing PKM

After conducting an internal evaluation between the team of lecturers and the students, the next step is writing a report on Community Service activities in the form of a journal which would be submitted to the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) for future publication as a step to disseminate the results of community service.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of community service in the form of social service, it can be concluded that the target of activities in this community service activity highly requires attention from various groups, both academics, professionals and so on, to be able to



share concern for each other to lighten each other's burdens or simply to share experiences.

This activity also proved that how grateful the children and local community were for the visit, demonstrating their concern and contributions, which they considered extremely helpful in the current situation. The program also aims to continue its community service activities on an ongoing basis to continue sharing with those in need.

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