

Implementation of the MIT KKN Program Group 56 Caruban Village in Improving Economic Empowerment, Education, and the Social Environment of the Community

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Abstract. *Community Service (KKN) activities are a form of community service carried out by students as part of the tridharma of higher education. This article describes the KKN activities carried out by the KKN team of the State Islamic University (UIN) Walisongo Semarang in Caruban Village, Ringinarum District, Kendal. The focus of this service is to improve the quality of education and health of the village community, as well as increasing the potential of Caruban Village. The results of the activities show an increase in the knowledge and skills of residents in the fields of education and health, as well as the creation of several sustainable programs to utilize the potential of the village initiated by the KKN team.*

Keywords: *KKN, Community Service, Caruban Village, Education, Health, Village Potential.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Community service is a student implementation of the tridharma of higher education in Indonesia. This activity is an important medium in students' efforts to apply the theories they have learned in lectures, as well as a great opportunity for students to think critically about events that occur in the field directly. The purpose of this activity is for students to develop emotional intelligence to focus on responsibility, access to education, and individual skills that can contribute to society.(Mulyaningsih et al., 2024). Real Work Lecture (KKN) implemented by UIN Walisongo Semarang is located in Kendal Regency with an area of 1,002.23 km² located in the North of Java Island and has diverse natural resources, ranging from sea, beach, land, and mountains. Kendal has 20 Districts, 20 Sub-districts, and 266 Villages with a total population of 1,053,400 people consisting of 531,754 men and 521,646 women(KKN UIN July 2024 Old, nd). The implementation of the Real Work Lecture (KKN) of UIN Walisongo Semarang focused on 11 Sub-districts in Kendal Regency, namely Rowosari, Weleri, Kangkung, Gemuh, Ringinarum, Pegandon, Ngampel, Patebon, Brangsong, Kaliwungu, and South Kaliwungu. This article focuses on the activities of the KKN group post 56 located in Caruban Village, Ringinarum District, Kendal Regency. Caruban Village consists of 4 hamlets, including Krajan Hamlet, Tegalsari Hamlet, Pandaksari Hamlet, and Gentungsari Hamlet.

The process of implementing activities certainly faces challenges and carries out priority programs based on the urgency that is currently occurring in society. The priority

programs in Ringinarum District cover several fields, namely education, health, and social welfare, and economics. The KKN team at post 56 uses an interdisciplinary approach where we are actively involved in implementing the KKN program in Caruban Village based on analysis from several disciplines. The design of the KKN program in Caruban Village includes improving the quality of education, health, social, and economics of the community. Through mentoring and tutoring activities for students in elementary schools/Islamic elementary schools, health campaigns, skills training, and small business development. It is hoped that these activities can have a positive and significant impact on the sustainability of the surrounding community.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Empowerment Concept

Economic empowerment is an initiative program to improve the welfare of the surrounding community by utilizing local resources through activities that improve community competence and independence. With a participatory approach and interdisciplinary implementation, the community is able to understand and adapt the availability of natural resources directly and the effectiveness of community empowerment has a significant impact on the active interaction of KKN students with the local community. This supports the implementation of the program so that it can be sustainable (Desa et al., nd)

Interdisciplinary Approach in Village Development

Based on intensive interaction, a problem can be solved by using various perspectives and information that are related or still in the same scope. The Interdisciplinary Approach functions by involving and uniting several fields and then associated with the scope, model, and limitations determined based on the analysis that has been carried out. (Rivki et al., nd).

Community Service Program (KKN)

Community service is a student implementation of the Tridharma of higher education in Indonesia. (Rafi et al., 2024). This activity is an important medium in students' efforts to apply the theories they have learned in the classroom, as well as a great opportunity for students to think critically about events that occur in the field directly. The purpose of this activity is for students to develop emotional intelligence to focus on responsibility, access to education, and individual skills that can contribute to society. (Mulyaningsih et al., 2024).

Impact of Health and Education Empowerment Through KKN

Economic empowerment is an effort to improve community welfare through activities that increase community capacity and independence through community participation in achieving community welfare. By utilizing available natural resources is a form of local energy-based empowerment that greatly supports social development. Conversely, good management of natural resources will improve community welfare.(Desa et al., nd).

Sustainability of the KKN Program

Considerations regarding the sustainability of the program that the KKN team has worked on together with the community are a big challenge, therefore, the KKN team prioritizes the readiness of the surrounding community as the main actors in the sustainability program and the party that directly feels the results of development.(Sarfiyah et al., 2019).

Research methodology

The KKN team consists of 15 students from various disciplines. Community service activities are carried out for 45 days, with an interdisciplinary approach where community involvement in each program implemented is based on analysis from various disciplines. The research methodology in this journal is designed to study and evaluate the implementation of the Real Work Lecture (KKN) program and its impact on improving the quality of life of the people of Caruban Village, Ringinarum District, Kendal Regency. This methodology includes various stages from planning, implementation, to evaluation. The following is a detailed discussion of the methodology used:

3. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research design and a case study approach to describe and analyze the community empowerment program in Caruban village through the Real Work Lecture (KKN) activity and a relational and substantive approach. This approach was chosen to fully understand the implementation process, community involvement and impact of the program.**Location and Subject of Research**

The research was conducted in Caruban Village, Ringinarum District, Kendal Regency. The research subjects included:

- a. The Caruban Village community, including the village head, village officials, and residents involved in KKN activities.

- b. Students participating in the Community Service Program from UIN Walisongo Semarang.
- c. KKN Supervisor from UIN Walisongo Semarang.

Data collection technique

Data is collected through the following techniques:

- a. Observation

Researchers are directly involved in KKN activities to observe the interaction between students and the community and the process of implementing the program. The purpose of this observation is to understand the intensity of the community and their response to the ongoing program.

- b. In-depth Interview

Interviews were conducted with KKN students, villagers and village officials to explore experiences, perspectives and evaluations of the KKN program. Interview guides were used in the interviews designed to obtain structured and in-depth data.

- c. Documentation

Collecting documents related to the implementation of the KKN program, such as activity reports, photos, videos, and evaluation notes from students and the community.

Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis techniques as described. (Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006), nd), with the following stages:

- a. Data Collection: Organizing data from various sources (observations, interviews, and documentation).
- b. Data Transcription: Transcribe interview results to facilitate analysis.
- c. Initial Coding: Reading the entire data and coding the parts that are relevant to the research focus.
- d. Theme Identification: Grouping similar codes into broader themes.
- e. Theme Review: Examine the themes that emerge to ensure consistency and relevance to the data.
- f. Theme Definition: Define and name each theme to provide a clear picture.
- g. Reporting: Compiling findings in a structured narrative form according to research objectives.

Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this study uses triangulation of data sources and methods. Triangulation can increase the credibility and validity of qualitative research. (Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006), nd). Data from observations, interviews, and documentation were compared and verified to ensure consistency of findings.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Improving the quality of education

Tutoring

The daily activities of students in Caruban Village are diverse, most of them play with their friends after school and some go to the madrasah to take part in religious learning according to their age. Within one week after the KKN students were deployed to the village, various aspirations from the local community had been collected that made it possible for the KKN team to implement. One of the most aspired to is a tutoring program for elementary school students, with several factors behind it. Among them are the following:

- a. The main livelihood of the community as farmers, which requires them to go to the fields/rice fields from early morning until dusk, causes parents' attention to the process of children's growth in terms of education to be hampered.
- b. The inaccessibility of tutoring facilities, both in terms of time, cost, and distance, is considered inefficient and not optimal.

The two things above are points that the community often suggests to the KKN team so that they can be implemented immediately. In addition to working as farmers, there are also many people who work abroad and entrust their children to relatives, thus, there are also many children who lack parental attention in terms of educational development. With the information obtained, we finally held a tutoring activity for elementary school students at our KKN post with an intensity of once a week on Fridays starting at 13.00 WIB to 15.00 WIB.

During this activity, the KKN team found an interesting experience. On several days of the tutoring schedule, there were normal children in general and there were also 2 children with disabilities. These disabled children were brought by their parents to take part in tutoring activities by the KKN team, the disabilities they face are delayed thinking and down syndrome. The presence of these special children presents a new, unique, and challenging experience for us KKN students in finding an approach method that suits what these children need. Until finally we found an approach that fits what the children need with what the children want according to their individual characteristics.

Arts Competition Assistance

Close after the KKN students were deployed in Caruban Village, SDN Caruban participated in a competition event involving elementary schools throughout Ringinarum sub-district called the Mother Language Festival (FTBI) Competition with the following categories being competed: Cerkak, Mocopat, Geguritan, and Sesorah.

The KKN team is involved with school teachers in mentoring students so that they can participate in the competition with optimal readiness. According to the Head of the Competition Committee, this competition is held every year with the aim of introducing and preserving the cultures of the Land of Java.

Improving the Quality of Public Health

a. Supplementary Food Manufacturing (PMT)

This activity was carried out by the Ringinarum Health Center cadres in Caruban village, the purpose of this activity is as an anticipatory step and to encourage a decrease in the number of stunting that is currently occurring in Caruban village. This activity aims to ensure a decrease in the number of stunting with the Healthy Pregnant Women movement and focus on the readiness of pregnant women before birth until the beginning of birth which is optimal for children.

b. Socialization of Stunting Prevention in Adolescents

In addition to being involved in making additional food, the KKN team took the initiative to hold a socialization on preventing stunting in adolescents and adolescent examinations with the village health center which was held at SMP 9 M Gemuh. This socialization provides education to adolescents to pay more attention to their food so that they do not experience the effects of stunting such as impaired physical development, the risk of developing degenerative diseases, and decreased learning abilities. In this socialization, representatives of the village health center as speakers conveyed information on how to prevent stunting, such as maintaining adolescent dietary patterns, paying attention to the nutrition needed for adolescent health.

The activity was closed with a health check and the provision of blood-boosting tablets by representatives of the village health center to all attendees, most of whom were junior high school students, teachers, and female members of the KKN team.

Community Economic Empowerment

Regarding the activity, the KKN Team directly felt and learned about the economic conditions carried out by the surrounding community. In terms of entrepreneurship, most residents have successfully run their businesses with various types of products. However, the KKN team focused on residents who were entrepreneurs by trading around TPQ and TPA. After experiencing and interviewing several traders, a problem was found where they were often overwhelmed by changes in the buying interest of customers who were dominated by children. In response to this, the KKN team tried to do a home business "Es Kul-Kul" which was located at the post with frozen fruit as the basic ingredient which was then coated with melted chocolate. As time passed, children flocked to the post to buy our products, seeing the children's purchasing power growing, the KKN team dared to market the ice product to TPQ and TPA where we taught with positive and significant results.

Approaching the final weeks of KKN, the KKN team intends to hand over the business to local residents after selection and evaluation of the desires and readiness of production equipment. After the selection and evaluation process, the KKN team finds potential candidates and then holds a workshop for candidate residents so that they can continue the business based on the information that the KKN team has summarized.

5. CONCLUSION

The KKN activities carried out by the KKN UIN Walisongo Semarang team in Caruban Village have succeeded in improving the quality of education and public health and developing village potential. The programs implemented can run well thanks to the cooperation between the KKN team, villagers, and the local government. Evaluation shows an increase in knowledge and skills of residents, as well as the formation of sustainable programs. It is hoped that the results of this service can be a model for the implementation of KKN in other villages.

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