

Training on Making Karamunting Flour as an Effort to Increase Entrepreneurial Knowledge of Learning Community Center Participants

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Abstract: Central Kalimantan has very high biodiversity in terms of animal and plant diversity. Caramunting (*Melastoma malabathricum*) is a typical plant in Central Kalimantan. This community service activity aims to provide students with entrepreneurial knowledge related to Karamunting flour processing at the Harati Community Learning Activity Center, East Kotawaringin, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. The training material provided included the benefits of caramunting fruit, selecting caramunting fruit that can be used as a flour product, how to process caramunting fruit and product marketing techniques for 20 residents studying at the Harati Community Learning Activity Center. This training material was delivered during two meetings in August 2023 using lecture and demonstration methods. The results of this community service activity show an increase in the knowledge of learning residents from 30% to 82% about processing caramunting and correct marketing techniques.

Keywords: caramunting; entrepreneurship; flour; knowledge

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a right for all Indonesian citizens, whether it is conducted through formal education activities or non-formal education. Specifically, in non-formal education, one of the platforms that can serve as a learning medium for the community is the Community Learning Activity Center (PKBM). PKBM becomes a learning facility for the

community, especially for those less fortunate, to still obtain educational facilities similar to those in formal educational institutions. PKBM is a place for learning various skills and utilizing the facilities, infrastructure, and all the potential in the community's living environment so that the community can acquire skills and knowledge that can be used to improve and elevate their

standard of living (Noviawati & Masjidah, 2020). PKBM, as a platform for various community learning activities, aims to strengthen the potential to encourage development in the fields of education, social, economic, and culture (Rambe & Parinduri, 2020).

Efforts to improve the quality of human resources, one of which is through PKBM, need to be carried out in a directed, planned, effective, and efficient manner (Sutirna & Karawang, 2019). This is because PKBM has a very important role, so PKBM alumni also have the same quality as alumni from formal education, both in knowledge and skills. The existence of PKBM is expected to be a solution to the social problems in the community, one of which is the economic problem. The role of domestic businesses is very clear. The many economic problems in developing or poor countries, such as high unemployment rates, can be very important. The digital era's development greatly helps solve financial problems (Perwita, 2021).

The community needs specific skills, especially in improving their economic capabilities. To alleviate poverty and create prosperity for the community through empowerment or becoming more creative (Habib, 2021), the community utilizes the natural resources available in its surrounding environment. Central Kalimantan is one of the regions in Indonesia with very high biodiversity, one of which is the diversity of plants. Central Kalimantan has an abundant biodiversity of plants, some of which have the potential as medicines or are beneficial for other purposes (Zannah & Dewi, 2021). Among them is the bajei plant, which is useful as an acne treatment based on local knowledge (Zannah et al., 2017), (Zannah, Amin, et al., 2022). Another distinctive plant that is also endemic to Central Kalimantan is the karamunting.

Karamunting has potential uses both as food and as medicine. As a food source, the kara munting plant, particularly its fruit, has the potential to be used as a food fortification ingredient due to its high nutritional content (Zannah, Kamaliah, et al., 2022). As a medicine, the kara munting plant is commonly used by the community to treat stomach aches (Amir & Soendjoto, 2018). Previous research also indicates that the fruit and leaves of kara munting have antioxidant properties (Sari et al., 2018).

Given these benefits, the karamunting plant has many potential uses, but its current utilization by the community has yet to be optimal. This activity aims to generally increase the entrepreneurial knowledge of learners at PKBM by processing karamunting fruit, one of which is turning it into flour for use in baking. The Harati Community Learning Activity Center is a strategic place for conducting training on making karamunting flour because the participants come from diverse backgrounds, and the area has abundant natural resources. With this activity, the community might realize the importance and potential uses of the karamunting plant.

METHOD

This community service activity involves providing knowledge and skills to learners at PKBM Harati to improve their life skills, particularly in economic aspects. The training involves lectures on entrepreneurship and demonstrations on how to make flour from kara munting fruit.

Karamunting is a distinctive plant in Central Kalimantan, with potential use as a food fortification ingredient due to its high nutritional content (Zannah, Kamaliah, et al., 2022). This plant has various benefits, including anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, and anti-obesity (Aslam et al., 2015).

In general, this community service activity is carried out through several stages, including:

Observation

This stage involves observing the partner, PKBM Harati, in Sampit City, East Kotawaringin, Central Kalimantan. During this stage, agreements are made on various aspects of the activity, such as time and place. The training activities and materials will be delivered over two sessions in August 2023, using lecture and demonstration methods.

Implementation

This stage starts with a pre-test to assess the 20 learners at PKBM Harati's initial knowledge of entrepreneurship. The implementation includes a presentation on entrepreneurship by Mrs. Arna Purtina, M.Pd, a lecturer from the Economic Education Program. After the presentation, Dr. Fathul Zannah, M.Pd, demonstrates how to make kara munting flour. The activities will be conducted offline in September 2023.

The technology readiness provided during the implementation can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Technology readiness in community service activities

Evaluation

In this stage, an evaluation is conducted to measure the success of the community service activities. This is done by

administering pre-tests and post-tests to the learners at PKBM Harati, using ten multiple-choice questions on entrepreneurship. The data obtained is analyzed quantitatively. Additionally, a questionnaire survey was conducted to evaluate the participants' responses to the community service activities, and the data was analyzed descriptively and qualitatively.

Reflection

This stage involves reflecting on the implementation of community service activities to evaluate any shortcomings so they can be minimized in future activities. This stage is crucial for improving future activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service activities were carried out in Sampit City, East Kotawaringin, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, specifically at PKBM Harati. The activity team consisted of three lecturers from the Muhammadiyah University of Palangkaraya and two students from the Information Technology Education program.

In general, these community service activities aimed to provide entrepreneurship knowledge to the participants, who are package C learners at PKBM Harati, to improve their life skills, particularly in economic aspects.

The activities began with a presentation on entrepreneurship by the speaker, Mrs. Arna Purtina, M.Pd, a lecturer from the Economic Education Program, FKIP, Muhammadiyah University of Palangkaraya (Figure 2).



Figure 2 Presentation of materials by the speaker

Evaluations, in the form of pre-tests and post-tests, were conducted to ensure the understanding of the participants, who are 20 learners from PKBM Harati.

The assessment results are shown in Table 1, and the improvement in knowledge can be seen in Figure 3.

Table 1 Pre-test and post-test scores of activity participants

Average Scores	
Pre-test	Post-test
30	82

Based on these results, Figure 3 shows that the participants' knowledge increased.

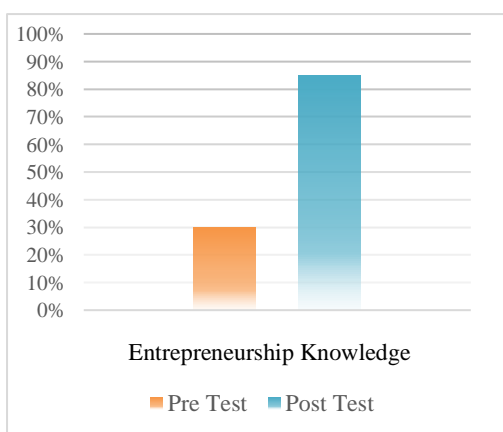


Figure 3 Graph of the increase in participants' entrepreneurship knowledge

Knowledge related to entrepreneurship is acquired from experience and learning (Aini & Oktafani, 2020). Additionally, having entrepreneurship knowledge is crucial when starting a business, as it fosters a sense of responsibility, particularly to oneself, for the decisions made (Juhariyah & Wahyuni, 2018). The evaluation results of this community service activity show that the increase in entrepreneurship knowledge among the learners at PKBM Harati indicates a positive impact on the activity's implementation.

The activities were also evaluated by observing the participants' responses using a questionnaire, the results of which can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2 Participants' responses to community service activities

Question	Percentage (%)	
	Yes	No
Did you know the benefits of the caramunting fruit beforehand?	80	20
Have you previously used caramunting fruit as a food ingredient?	0	100
Did you know that caramunting fruit can be processed into flour before baking?	0	100
After attending this training, do you want to make caramunting flour independently at home?	80	20
Does this activity provide new knowledge, especially related to entrepreneurship?	100	0

Based on Table 2, the participants in the community service activity responded positively to the implementation of the community service. When asked orally, they also expressed interest in processing

karamunting independently or finding other opportunities to utilize such resources. Karamunting fruit processed into flour (Figure 4) has so far been considered a wild plant and has yet to be optimally utilized.



Figure 4 Caramunting fruit flour

Based on these findings, especially the participants' responses, the community service activities had a positive impact. They provided information about entrepreneurship and showcased a commodity from Central Kalimantan that can be empowered to have economic value. The team recognized some areas for improvement in the activity, particularly the need for extended time and more equipment. The series of community service activities concluded with a closing session and a group photo, as shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5 Group photo of the implementation team with activity participants

CONCLUSION

The community service activity in the form of training on making karamunting flour positively impacted the entrepreneurial knowledge of learners at PKBM Harati. This aligns with the positive responses from the participants regarding the activity. Therefore, similar activities should be carried out to

enhance the entrepreneurial knowledge of the community, such as producing nutritional candy or acne treatment herbs, so that the technological advancements of lecturers can benefit a wider audience.

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