

The Role of Village Libraries in Supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program

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Abstract: This community partnership program focuses on groups often experiencing discrimination, namely women, children, and vulnerable communities (including those with disabilities). This PKM (Community Partnership Program) aims to create a library environment that is friendly to women and attentive to children, thereby supporting the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) or sustainable village programs. It aims to increase village community awareness about gender equality and child protection issues through the library. Additionally, it seeks to enhance the knowledge and skills of library staff regarding gender equality and child protection issues. The program also involves increasing the number of books that support gender equality, women's rights, and child protection in the village library. This community partnership program implements the PAR (Participatory Action Research) method, aiming to increase active community involvement, sustainability, and positive impacts of the village library program in supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program. The activities were conducted in Bicak Village, Trowulan Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency. The results of this community partnership program include a 100% increase in community understanding of the role of the Village Library in supporting the SDGs and the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village Program. After the socialisation activities, 95.7% of the community became more interested in utilising the collections and services available at the Bicak Village Library. The technical guidance activities for managers improved library management development and enhanced the knowledge and understanding of library managers regarding the library's role in gender equality and child protection. This PKM activity demonstrated that 100% of respondents believe the village library can support the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village Program. This establishes Bicak Village as a friendly village for women, children, and vulnerable communities and achieves sustainable village development through the role of the village library.

Keywords: children; disability group; sdgs; village library; women

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INTRODUCTION

One of the highly prioritised programs by the UNDP (United Nations

Development Programme) is the SDGs, which is a global action program for sustainable development

aimed at ending poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the environment (Undp.org, 2022). Village development in Indonesia uses the SDGs as a reference for sustainable village development. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 13 of 2020 concerning the Priority of Using Village Funds in 2021, 18 goals and targets for development through Village SDGs are listed, namely: "Villages without poverty, Villages without hunger, Healthy and prosperous villages, Quality village education, Gender-equal villages, Villages with clean water and sanitation, Villages with clean and renewable energy, Village employment and economic growth, Village innovation and infrastructure, Villages without inequality, Sustainable village residential areas, Environmentally conscious village consumption and production, Climate change mitigation by villages, Village marine ecosystems, Village land ecosystems, Peaceful and just villages, Partnerships for village development, Dynamic village institutions and adaptive village culture."

This community partnership program will focus on groups that still often experience discrimination, namely women, children, and vulnerable communities (including those with disabilities). First, this program supports the village government in gender mainstreaming and supporting village SDGs, creating conditions that place all village residents in a fair position without discrimination against women in all aspects of life (Mandal, 2013). Moreover, women should be given equal opportunities in public affairs in the village. This empowerment also aims to prevent violence against women and children. Some goals of

this program include providing space and opportunities for women's involvement in the village governance process, achieving the ideal first marriage age for women, and ensuring adequate health and education services for women and children.

Secondly, the program targets the disabled group, categorised as vulnerable communities who often experience discrimination and whose rights are often unmet. The disabled group should have the same status, rights, and obligations as non-disabled individuals as part of the community (Ndaumanu, 2020). Therefore, this community partnership program targets the disabled group as a special treatment to ensure they have the knowledge and capabilities to live and access opportunities on par with non-disabled individuals. These capabilities also represent efforts to protect the disabled group against various forms of discrimination and human rights violations.

Village libraries serve as non-formal educational institutions that can function as learning facilities for the community, providing information on economic, political, health, cultural, and educational knowledge (Safira, 2019). The community can also utilise the library's collection to seek information, innovation, and knowledge to solve their problems and gain new insights (Heriyati et al., 2021). Village libraries can support sustainable government programs through education. Village libraries can make changes according to user preferences by providing information from book collections and socialisation events conducted by the library. This community partnership program will empower women, children, and vulnerable communities to gain knowledge and skills to live harmoniously in the village community.

Bicak Village, one of the villages in Mojokerto Regency, has a village library called "Sari Ilmu." The fact that the village already has a library is positive, and it is known that the village library also conducts several reading promotion activities for mothers and children. These activities certainly support the role of the village library for the community. However, this community partnership program will focus on targeting groups that often experience discrimination in the village community, aiming to make Bicak Village a Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Socially Inclusive Village. These socialisation activities will likely benefit the community, and the village library can play a maximal role in the village's sustainable development process. The skills and knowledge gained are also expected to help the community, especially women, to be more empowered and contribute positively to their households and work.

The targets to be achieved from this community partnership program are implementing socialisation activities by the Village Library on Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Villages by organising educational programs in the library focused on gender equality and child protection. Secondly, the Village Library's role in supporting SDGs or the village's sustainable programs should be enhanced by focusing on communities vulnerable to discrimination, namely women, children, and the disabled. This aims to raise village community awareness about gender equality and child protection issues through the library. Thirdly, technical guidance activities on collections and services that meet the needs of Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Socially Inclusive Villages, thus increasing the knowledge, understanding, and skills

of the village library heads and managers concerning gender equality and child protection issues. Fourthly, increasing the number of books and reading materials supporting gender equality, women's rights, and child protection in the village library. Therefore, the targets and goals of this PKM activity can create a library environment that is women-friendly and child-caring.

METHOD

This Community Partnership Program (PKM) was conducted from June 3, 2022, to October 30, 2022, in partnership with Bicak Village Library, Trowulan Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency. PKM team members from the Department of Information and Library Science, FISIP UNAIR, and village officials' observations indicate that Bicak Village needs a library as an information source. The library is planned to be a facility for accessing information and improving its residents' productivity and living standards. The Socialization and Guidance activities were conducted on October 11, 2022, in Bicak Village, Trowulan Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency. There were 23 participants, and the organising committee comprised 5 lecturers and four students.

The community partnership program implementation process began with the preparation, execution, and finalisation stages, which can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 Stages of PKM implementation

Stage	Activity
Preparation	Obtaining permission from Universitas Airlangga and partners. Exchanging information online with partners. Proposal preparation and socialisation materials preparation.
Implementation	Session 1: Socialisation of Women-Friendly Village, Child-Caring

	Village, and the Role of the Library Session 2: Technical Guidance for Library Managers on Collection Procurement, Subject Sorting, and Collection Placement. Donation of 130 books on related subjects to Bicak Village Library.
Finalisation	Monitoring and evaluating the socialisation activities conducted. Preparing activity reports, journal articles, and financial reports.

The implementation method in this PKM uses PAR. This method serves as a guide for the community to understand problems and make more informed and accurate decisions about the steps to be taken next to address the issues (Andriati et al., 2022; Lewaherilla et al., 2022; Nita et al., 2022; Pangestu et al., 2023). The activities will include data collection, socialisation, technical guidance, and evaluation, as described in Table 1 (Aisyah, 2022; Darmawan et al., 2020).

The application of the PAR method related to the role of village libraries in supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program in this PKM involves several steps, including:

1. Identification and Clarification: Identifying and clarifying specific issues related to protecting women and children in the village by engaging the community through discussions, interviews, and open forums to understand their needs and challenges.
2. Encouraging Active Participation: The community is encouraged to participate actively in the initial process, where they help collect data related to the library's role, the literacy needs of women and

children, and the challenges faced by the village community.

3. Involving the Community: Involving the community in mapping local assets and resources that can be used to support the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village program, including local knowledge, community skills, and support from local institutions.
4. Joint Planning: Identifying the role of the village library in supporting the program and planning literacy activities and initiatives that meet the needs and desires of the community.
5. Collaboration: Collaborating with the community and the village library to develop literacy programs that support the goals of the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program. This may include socialisation, training, and other literacy activities.
6. Program Implementation: Implement literacy programs with active community involvement and use the village library as the activity centre.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation: Conducting joint monitoring and evaluation with the community.

Actively involving the community in every stage of the community service using the PAR method will enhance active engagement (Syaribanun, 2019), sustainability, and the positive impact of the literacy programs conducted by the village library in supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 shows the results from the questionnaire analysis distributed to the residents of Bicak Village who participated in the "Socialisation of the Role of Village Libraries in Supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring

Village Program," conducted in Bicak Village, Trowulan Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency.

Table 2 Respondent age

Age	f	%
21 - 30 years	4	17.4
31 - 40 years	14	60.9
41 - 50 years	2	8.7
51 - 60 years	3	13.0
Total	23	100.0

Based on Table 1, it can be seen that out of 23 respondents, the most dominant age group is 31–40 years, comprising 14 individuals (60.9%). This is followed by respondents aged 21 – 30, totalling four individuals (17.4%). Next, there are three individuals in the 51-60 age group (13%), and the smallest frequency is two individuals in the 41-50 age group (8.7%). This shows that most respondents who participated in the socialisation activities are predominantly aged 31 – 40. Documentation of participants and community partnership teams is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Documentation of participants and community partnership team

The results of the respondents' work are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Respondent occupations

Occupations	f	%
Teacher	8	34.8
Kindergarten teacher	3	13.0
Housewife	9	39.1
Village Head	1	4.3
Entrepreneur	2	8.7
Total	23	100.0

In Table 3, the team found that the respondents who participated in the socialisation came from various professions. Many housewives attended the socialisation activities, with 9 out of 23 participants being housewives (39.1%). This is followed by eight teachers (34.8%), three kindergarten teachers (13%), two entrepreneurs (8.7%), and the village head (4.3%). This data shows that the socialisation activities targeted housewives and people from various professions in Bicak Village.

The results of the frequency of visits to the village library in a week are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Frequency of visits to the village library in a week

Frequency of Visits per Week	f	%
1-2 times	19	82.6
3-4 times	3	13.0
> 4 times	1	4.3
Total	23	100.0

Table 4 explains the frequency of respondents visiting the village library weekly. It can be seen that 19 respondents visit 1-2 times a week (82.6%). Three respondents visit 3 to 4 times a week (13%), and one respondent visits more than four times a week (4.3%).

Table 5 Services utilised when visiting the library

Services Utilised	f	%
Reading collections in the library	16	69.6
Attending workshops/socialisation	7	30.4
Total	23	100.0

Table 5 shows the services utilised when visiting the village library. Sixteen people read the library's collections (69.6%), and seven people participated in workshops/socialisation activities held by the village library (30.4%). The results of the response to community

service activities are shown in Table 6.
 Table 6 Response to community service activities

Response to Activities	f	%
Very Happy	16	69.6
Happy	7	30.4
Total	23	100.0

The respondents' responses to the socialisation activities show that 16 people were very happy (69.6%) and seven were happy (30.4%).

The results of understanding about Women-Friendly Villages, Child-Caring Villages, and Socially Inclusive Villages are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Understanding of women-friendly, child-caring, and social inclusion villages

Understanding	f	%
Understand	20	87.0
Somewhat understand	3	13.0
Total	23	100.0

After the socialisation activity, respondents' understanding of the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village showed that 20 people (87%) understood, while three people (13%) did not fully understand. Documentation of the socialization of the Role of Village Libraries is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Socialisation of the role of village libraries in supporting the women-friendly and child-caring village program in Bicak Village

The results of participants' understanding of the role of village libraries in supporting women-friendly, child-friendly and socially inclusive villages are shown in Table 8.

Table 8 Understanding the role of village libraries in supporting women-friendly, child-caring, and social inclusion villages

Understanding the Role of Village Libraries	f	%
Understood	23	100.0
Total	23	100.0

After the socialisation activity, all respondents (100%) understood the library's role in supporting a Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village. This data is supported by research by Bahaudin et al. (2019), who found that the "Pelita" Library is empowering in community education activities. These activities, regularly conducted by the village library, positively impact youth, housewives, and the general public. Similarly, the "Mutiarra" village library supports community empowerment in Kalisidi Village by helping residents improve their quality of life, become independent, and realise their potential. These empowerment activities span education, the environment, and the economy, motivating and engaging the community more actively (Maskurotunitsa & Rohmiyati, 2016). Understanding the role of village libraries in supporting Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Villages in Bicak Village enhances the community's knowledge and improves their quality of life.

The results of participants' interest in participating in village library activities are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Interest in participating in village library activities to increase knowledge

Interest in Participating in Library Activities	f	%
Interested	22	95.7
Not Interested	1	4.3
Total	23	100.0

After the socialisation activity, 22 people (95.7%) expressed interest in participating in village library activities to increase their knowledge, while one person (4.3%) was not interested.

Table 10 Village library book collections are very interesting to read

Book Collections in the Village Library	f	%
Agree	22	95.7
Somewhat agree	1	4.3
Total	23	100.0

After the socialisation activity, 22 people (95.7%) agreed that the book collections in the village library were interesting to read, while one respondent (4.3%) disagreed. This is supported by Utami's (2017) study, which found that people frequently visit the village library because it has many books they like, making them interested and happy to come to the library. In contrast, Sari (2018) research found that the collections in the village library did not meet the needs of the villagers, consisting mainly of dictionaries, atlases, and world maps, and the inadequate collections made it difficult for people to find information, leading to a lack of interest in the village library collections.

Table 11 Book collections in the village library can enhance knowledge

Book Collections in the Village Library	F	%
Agree	23	100.0
Total	23	100.0

The socialisation activity results

show that all respondents (100%) agreed that the book collections in the village library could enhance knowledge and information about Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Villages.



Books on Disabilities and Special Groups (15 Books) Books on the Elderly (20 Books)



Books on Children (68 Books) Books on Women (27 Books)

Figure 3 Book donations for bicak village library

Documentation of the symbolic handover of books to the Head of Bicak Village is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4 Symbolic donation of books to the head of bicak village

The book donation activity for the Bicak Village Library included 130 books on various subjects, such as women, children, the elderly, and special groups. These book donations are expected to enrich the village library's collection, making it diverse

and meeting the needs of Bicak Village residents, particularly in supporting the SDGs and the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village program.

Table 12 The village library can support the women-friendly, child-caring, and social inclusion village program

Village Library Supports the Program	F	%
Agree	23	100.0
Total	23	100.0

The socialisation activity results show that all respondents (100%) agreed that the village library could support the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village program. This is supported by the Puspaningrum & Sunartomo (2022) study, which explains that socialising about the SDGs in villages can increase the knowledge of village officials and residents, especially village women, about gender, women's empowerment, and the importance of child protection.



Figure 5 'Sari Ilmu' village library socialisation, bicak village, Trowulan District, Mojokerto Regency

The image above illustrates that the Sari Ilmu Village Library in Bicak Village has many collections and a comfortable space, enabling the community to visit the library and utilise the available services comfortably.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the community partnership program regarding the Role of the Village Library in Supporting the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program conducted by the Department of Information and Library Science, it can be concluded that the community of Bicak Village, Trowulan District, Mojokerto Regency, East Java Province, has a suitable and modern village library as a means to obtain information needs and improve productivity and living standards. The socialisation activities have increased the community's understanding of the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village Program by 87% and understanding of the role of the village library in supporting SDGs and the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring Village Program by 100%.

Following the socialisation activities, 95.7% of Bicak village residents expressed interest in reading the library's collection, utilising available services, and participating in library activities, with many feeling very happy to engage. The technical guidance for library managers on collection procurement, subject sorting, and collection placement not only aids in developing library management but also enhances the knowledge and understanding of library managers about the library's role in gender equality and child protection. The results of this PKM explain that all respondents, with a percentage of 100%, stated that the existing book collection in the village library can increase knowledge and that the Bicak Village Library can support the Women-Friendly, Child-Caring, and Social Inclusion Village Program.

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