

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LIMITED LAND UTILIZATION IN GAGA VILLAGE, LARANGAN DISTRICT TANGERANG CITY

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ABSTRACT

Community economic empowerment is one of the essential steps in driving the local economy and strengthening family economic resilience. This community service activity aims to empower the community through a program to utilize yard land in the residential environment. The materials provided include land utilization, management of kitchen waste into compost, and cultivation of various plants. The methods used are lectures, discussions, questions and answers, and practice. The activity involves training trainers, who are expected to provide ongoing education for the surrounding community. The participants of the activity are teachers of Mahkota Hati Kindergarten School. The impact of this activity is broad, covering economic, environmental, and social aspects. With this training, the community is not only able to contribute to reducing waste and increasing family food security. Still, it can also become an agent of change in creating a cleaner and more prosperous environment through environmentally friendly living practices and sustainable agriculture.

Keywords: empowerment, organic waste, compost, plant cultivation, ongoing education

INTRODUCTION

The creative use of narrow land can create a functional and aesthetic space. The land can be used as a place to relax for the family and for a green area that allows for future profits. Narrow land in the yard is often considered a limitation, especially for those who live in urban areas. On the contrary, this can be a place for creativity and innovation, as careful planning is needed before turning narrow land in the yard into a helpful area.

As an agricultural country, Indonesia has excellent agricultural potential. However, it is still faced with various problems, including fluctuating food prices and vegetable and fruit commodities. One example is the price of chili in Indonesia in mid-2024, which experienced a significant increase, influenced by various factors, especially extreme weather conditions due to El Nio. In September, the average price of curly red chili reached IDR 46,190 per kilogram and red cayenne pepper was around IDR 52,590 per kilogram. Projections show that the cost of chili could reach IDR 70,000 per kilogram in the third quarter if the drought continues. El Nino affects chili production because it causes crop failures in various chili center areas (Dwi, 2024). This shows the need for a solution to reduce dependence on market supply by producing our own needs for vegetables that are easy to cultivate, such as chili and spring onions.

On the other hand, household waste, especially organic kitchen waste, is often considered useless. Data shows that organic waste contributes more than 50% of total household waste in Indonesia, most of which ends up in landfills (TPA). This condition pollutes the environment and wastes the potential of organic materials that can be processed into compost that is useful for agriculture (Widiyanto, 2020); Yusuf & Nuraini, 2021).

The general public, including homemakers, must still understand how to process organic waste into valuable products such as compost. Homemakers have a significant role in household management and environmental education for their families (Suharyanto & Laksmi, 2020).

This community service activity aims to empower the community, especially homemakers, by providing knowledge and skills regarding the use of land and surrounding resources. Not only can it help reduce waste, but it can also produce its own food, which can reduce household expenses or even generate additional income through the sale of crops (Suharyanto & Laksmi, 2020).

In this activity, the community will be trained to utilize their land so that it has economic value by providing socialization and direct practice. This activity is expected to be a real example of an environmentally friendly lifestyle, and sustainable agriculture can begin to be implemented at the community level (Asih & Promasari, 2020). Increasing

public awareness of environmental management is expected to be an agent of change in creating a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous environment. They are also likely to be able to develop new skills that are beneficial not only for their own families but also for the wider community (Nurusyifa et al., 2023).

METHOD

This community service activity aims to empower the community by understanding the use of limited land in their respective residential environments. The Implementation Team consists of the Peduli Pesona Alam Management and the Academic Team, namely Lecturers from Budi Luhur University and Tangerang Raya University. The number of participants in the activity is nine, and they come from educators and homemakers. Furthermore, participants in the activity are expected to be able to provide ongoing education in their residential environment. This activity uses a comprehensive approach to ensure participants gain a deep understanding and practical skills. The stages of this community service activity are:

a. Preparation

This stage is intended to determine ToT participants and prepare training locations; the approach is carried out in schools around the training location.

b. Theoretical Training

Socialization: Hold an opening session to explain the objectives and benefits of the training, as well as provide an explanation of effective farming techniques.

c. Implementation of Activities

This stage is carried a direct practice method. The implementer prepares equipment (such as pots, polybags, and cutting tools). The activity material consists of how to make organic planting media and the utilization of yard land. The organic planting media in question is made from waste in the form of dry leaves and household waste.

d. Evaluating

This stage is carried out by conducting a follow-up session to monitor the implementation of participants in their respective residences. This stage is continued by evaluating the training by collecting participant feedback about the materials, method, and results achieved.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Community service activities are carried out monthly from August 23 to September 27, 2024. The Implementation of activities consist of preparation, theoretical, practical activities, and Evaluation.

RESULT

a. Preparation

At this stage, the training participants are determined on August 23-27, 2024. Participants in the activity include teachers. The initial selection is to determine the school. The schools selected are kindergarten and early childhood education schools, with the consideration that parents of students will accompany the learning process. Teachers who have received training will provide ongoing education to parents of students. Mahkota Hati Kindergarten School is domiciled in Mahkota Simprug Housing, Gaga Village, Larangan District, Tangerang City. The meeting with the management of Mahkota Hati Kindergarten was held on Friday, August 23, 2024 at 11.30. The meeting discussed the time, location, and training materials.

The training location was determined at Taman Pesona Anggrek, Mahkota Simprug Housing, Gaga Village, Larangan District, Tangerang City. The location selection took into account the availability of land and training equipment. Taman Pesona Anggrek has also succeeded in innovating and being creative in utilizing its limited land, namely processing waste into planting media and fertilizer, cultivating chili and tomato plants and fruit plants in pots, and making the orchid garden one of the educational media for surrounding schools. The training time was determined every Tuesday for one month.



Figure 1. Preparation discussion activity

b. Theoretical Training

The activities at this stage are to socialize participants about the objectives and economic and non-economic benefits of land utilization and explain how to utilize limited land. The material was delivered to participants, and examples of its implementation were given at Taman Pesona Angrek.

The following is the socialization material given to training participants, adopted from Kawan Lama Solusi's article (2024). Creative utilization of narrow land can create a functional and aesthetic space. The land can be used as a place to relax for the family and for a green area that allows for future profit. Narrow land in the yard is often considered a limitation, especially for those who live in urban areas. On the contrary, this can be a place for creativity and innovation. Understanding limited land can open the door to various creative and practical ideas. The following are the uses of narrow land in the yard that can be applied.

c. Vertical Garden

A Vertical Garden is an intelligent choice for optimizing narrow yard land. This concept involves using walls or fences as a growing medium for plants planted vertically. These plants can be hung or installed in a tiered arrangement. The main advantage of a vertical garden is its ability to maximize land vertically without sacrificing limited horizontal space. This vertical garden can create a fresh and aesthetic atmosphere while positively impacting the quality of the surrounding air.



Figure 2. Socialization and ToT



Figure 3. Corner of the Pesona Angrek vertical garden

d. Mini Garden

Land utilization can create an attractive mini garden. Landowners must plan the layout wisely and consider the location and comparison between elements to create a balanced and aesthetic space.



Figure 4. Pesona Anggrek Flower Garden

e. Food Crop Area

Narrow land can be optimized for food crops, starting from hydroponics, aeroponics, and tabulampot. The ideal planting medium for tabulampot or fruit plants in pots, such as compost, soil mixture, and husks, can store water and provide nutrients for plants. Thus, people can plant various types of fruits with good quality even though the land is limited.



Figure 5. Example of plant cultivation in Taman Pesona Anggrek

f. Wet Area

Utilizing narrow land to create a wet area, such as a small pond or fountain, can be an intelligent choice. Not only that, this area can also be used as a fish consumption area so that it is more functional. In addition to being used as a children's play media, this area can be a fun educational place. For example, planting several ornamental plants that are easy to care for together with children can be an academic activity and support their growth and development.



Figure 6. Land Utilization for fish ponds for consumption and educational media

So, using narrow land in the yard maximizes space and creates a healthier and more beautiful environment. You can turn the narrow land into several functional areas, ranging from green areas, expanding interior space, and wet regions to children's playgrounds. (Kawan Lama Solusi: 2024)

g. Implementation of Practical Activities

This stage is carried out using direct practice methods. The implementer prepares equipment (such as pots, polybags, and cutting tools). The activity material consists of how to make organic planting media and the utilization of yard land. The organic planting media in question is made from waste in the form of dry leaves, coconut fiber, and household waste. Making planting media, especially from household waste, is carried out for three months to obtain optimal fermentation results. Coconut fiber waste is used for orchid plant media after being soaked for four days to reduce tannins.

h. Evaluation

This stage is carried out one week after the training, and a follow-up session is conducted to monitor participants' implementation in their residences. This stage is continued by evaluating the training by collecting participant feedback about the materials, methods, and results achieved. Participants in the activity demonstrated efforts to utilize the land around the Mahkota Hati Kindergarten School and provide education to students' parents.

DISCUSSION

Community Service Activities have been conducted using lecture, discussion, and practice methods. In the first week, participants were given material on the benefits and procedures for utilizing limited land in the environment of the participants in the activity. The activity continued with practical training in cultivating plants in the form of vegetables (chili) and fruit (avocado). In the second to fifth weeks, participants in the activity were accompanied to carry out various desired activities at Taman Pesona Anggrek, for example, consultation on orchid cultivation, business opportunities for multiple plants, both orchids, fruit plant seeds, and vegetable garden products, including chili.

Based on the discussion and consultation results, input was obtained for the activity to be continued to commercialize the cultivation of plants carried out by participants. Participants in the Activity will find it easier to provide ongoing education to the surrounding community, both to students' parents and to the surrounding environment. For example, the chili harvest can be sold through the coordinator, resulting in this.

Composting and planting media activities are not carried out comprehensively, so separate training is needed from this community service activity. Making compost and growing media will save on plant cultivation costs to maximize the results obtained.

Residents welcomed this activity and enthusiastically watched it from the first session to the last. It is hoped that they will be allowed to participate in the ongoing education program that the Universitas Budi Luhur Lecturer Team will design in the odd semester of 2024/2025. Based on discussions with residents, from an economic perspective, this activity helps mothers reduce household expenses by producing their own frequently used food ingredients so that planting practices are not limited to chilies, for example, kale, spinach, spring onions, etc. This is not only beneficial for household consumption itself but also has economic potential. The abundant harvest can be sold, thus creating an additional source of income for the family. In this way, housewives are also encouraged to be involved in productive economic activities while supporting food security at the local level.

In addition, this activity encourages a change in mindset regarding waste and resources available in households. Organic waste that has been considered useless is now seen as a valuable resource that can be processed into something useful. This is in line with sustainable agriculture principles, where every resource is managed wisely to reduce environmental impact and maximize its benefits for humans. PKK mothers who participate in this training not only gain new skills but are also expected to be agents of change in their communities, spreading this knowledge to their families and neighbors.

Socially, this training increases housewives' capacity to contribute to the welfare of their families and the surrounding community. Empowering women through activities like this is very important because housewives often have a central role in household management and in educating future generations. By training them in waste management and simple agriculture, it is hoped that they will be able to teach and pass on environmentally friendly lifestyles and sustainable farming to family members and the surrounding community.

In the long term, this training is expected to create a more economically independent and environmentally aware community. Implementing farming practices and organic waste management in households will not only help reduce dependence on the market for daily food needs but will also help reduce the waste problem faced by many cities in Indonesia. In addition, with community empowerment through this training, they will be increasingly able to take an active role in building a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous environment.

CONCLUSION

This community empowerment training has succeeded in increasing participants' interest in utilizing their respective yards and the environment of Mahkota Hati Kindergarten School. Participants were very enthusiastic in inviting parents of students to participate in the follow-up program that will be held in the future. Through the kitchen waste management program and the cultivation of chili and spring onions, this program has successfully provided effective and sustainable solutions to several major household problems, such as food price fluctuations and waste management. Another material that will be provided is caring for orchids because one of the attractions of Taman Pesona Anggrek is that it offers the opportunity to learn to care for and commercialize orchid plants for participants in the next activity.

This activity contributes to reducing dependence on the market through the production of its vegetables and introduces a simple way to utilize organic waste that has been considered useless. Participants can support simple farming at home by processing kitchen waste into environmentally friendly compost for their own consumption and commercial potential.

The impact of this activity is broad, covering economic, environmental, and social aspects. From a financial perspective, PKK mothers gain skills to reduce household expenses or even generate additional income from the harvest. On the environmental side, managing organic waste converted into compost reduces the volume of trash disposed of in landfills (TPA) and creates a cleaner environment. Socially, this training increases the capacity and role of homemakers as agents of change in society who can spread environmentally friendly living practices and sustainable agriculture to the broader community. Overall, this training shows that with the right approach, homemakers can play a significant role in improving the welfare of their families, supporting food security, and preserving the environment. They are now household managers and pioneers in creating positive environmental changes.

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