

Empowerment At As-Salam Orphanage Through Creation From Used Items

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Abstract: Empowerment of orphans is a form of empowerment aimed at providing space for growth and development so that they can become independent children through proper and consistent training and mentoring. The subjects or targets of our empowerment in this research are the orphans at the "As-Salam" orphanage. As-Salam orphanage is located at Jl. Bangkit Raya Kassi-Kassi, Rappocini District, Makassar City. The objectives of this activity can vary widely, from developing the children's creativity and skills, increasing their self-confidence through their achievements, to teaching values about aspirations and the environment. This activity was carried out over three meetings, starting from observation, implementation of activities, and results or closing activities. The result of this activity was the successful implementation of our program by making crafts from used materials using straws. The craftwork provided a bit of education to the orphans to make something out of unused items around them. Empowerment of children, especially orphans in orphanages, is an important process to provide them with opportunities to grow and become independent. Through empowerment activities such as making crafts using recycled materials, children can learn to develop their creativity, skills, and sense of responsibility.

Keywords: Empowerment, Recycled Materials, As-Salam Orphanage

Abstrak: Pemberdayaan anak yatim piatu merupakan salah satu bentuk pemberdayaan yang bertujuan untuk memberikan ruang tumbuh kembang agar mereka dapat menjadi anak mandiri melalui pelatihan dan pendampingan yang tepat dan konsisten. Subyek atau sasaran pemberdayaan yang kami lakukan dalam penelitian ini adalah anak-anak yatim piatu di Panti Asuhan "As-Salam". Panti Asuhan As-Salam terletak di Jl. Bangkit Raya Kassi-Kassi, Kecamatan Rappocini, Kota Makassar. Tujuan dari kegiatan ini sangat beragam, mulai dari mengembangkan kreativitas dan keterampilan anak, meningkatkan rasa percaya diri melalui prestasi, hingga mengajarkan nilai-nilai tentang aspirasi dan lingkungan. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan selama tiga kali pertemuan, dimulai dari observasi, pelaksanaan kegiatan, dan hasil atau penutup kegiatan. Hasil dari kegiatan ini adalah keberhasilan implementasi program kami dengan membuat kerajinan tangan dari bahan bekas dengan menggunakan sedotan. Kerajinan tersebut memberikan sedikit edukasi kepada anak-anak yatim piatu untuk membuat sesuatu dari barang-barang tak terpakai di sekitar mereka. Pemberdayaan anak, khususnya anak yatim piatu di panti asuhan, merupakan proses penting untuk memberikan mereka kesempatan tumbuh dan mandiri. Melalui

kegiatan pemberdayaan seperti membuat kerajinan tangan dari bahan daur ulang, anak dapat belajar mengembangkan kreativitas, keterampilan, dan rasa tanggung jawabnya.

Kata Kunci: Pemberdayaan, Bahan Daur Ulang, Panti Asuhan As-Salam

INTRODUCTION

The waste problem has become a global issue, not only in Indonesia but also in various countries. Waste, especially plastic waste, is difficult to handle because its use is increasing along with consumer demand for products that use plastic. Plastic waste is an artificial inorganic material that is very difficult to decompose and is dangerous for the environment, threatening the survival of creatures. Apart from that, community participation in reducing the use and recycling of plastic waste is still very low. Therefore, good plastic waste management is needed to help reduce environmental pollution.

To support the reduction of environmental pollution due to plastic waste, it is necessary to recycle plastic waste into useful and beneficial materials. This is a step in implementing the principles of reducing use, reuse and recycle. According to Fatoni in (I. A. Putra et al., 2022) recycling activities are a form of creativity in utilizing used goods, especially plastic waste. Used goods are goods that are no longer used, but still have the potential to be used and provide benefits. According to the Complete Indonesian Dictionary, "goods" means tangible objects, while "used" means the remains of something that has been used. So, used goods can be defined as objects that have been used, but their use is no longer the same as new objects.

This recycling activity can be realized in the form of empowerment. Empowerment itself has quite a broad meaning, empowerment can be interpreted as a process of obtaining abilities from those who have the power. Empowerment can also be interpreted as an effort to raise awareness of the potential that each person has and try to develop this potential to create a prosperous life. Apart from that, empowerment is also referred to as an educational process with the aim of making individuals or groups aware of their potential.

The concept of community empowerment involves community development and community-based development. In this concept, society functions as the main actor in development, while the government (bureaucracy) is responsible for providing direction, guidance and creating a conducive environment (G. A. Putra, 2011). Community empowerment aims to help individuals gain the power to make decisions and determine the actions to be taken regarding themselves, including reducing the impact of personal and social obstacles.

In order for the empowerment process to be effective, the community must participate in it and if not, empowerment will not occur. It is not only participation and mastery of technology that is important for empowerment to occur. However, it is important for us to develop human capacities so that they are able to adapt their thinking and actions to the changes that occur. Apart from that, they must also have a sense of responsibility and participate in maintaining the results or efforts that have been made.

The orphanage is a shelter for less fortunate children, ranging from orphans, underprivileged children to children abandoned by their parents. Apart from its entrepreneurial function, the orphanage must be able to accommodate underprivileged children who need a place to live, food and education, it must also be able to become a substitute family for the children in their care. Therefore, in the Orphanage there are

foster parents. Foster parents are people whose job it is to take care of the daily needs of foster children and more than that, foster parents also function as substitutes for parents who educate foster children. This aims to ensure that children can live comfortably and prosperously while living in the orphanage and can become educated human beings. Children in orphanages are expected to develop better than children who live in intact families. One way to educate children so they can develop well is to explore the child's potential. Developing the creativity of foster children can be a way to explore their potential and can also be useful when the child grows up. Apart from that, developing creativity can also be a means of educating foster children to become entrepreneurs. Because the results of this creativity are used as capital for business and sold in cooperatives managed by the foster children themselves. With this activity, it is hoped that children will have the moral values that exist in entrepreneurship. (Yansen & Arsana, 2014)

Children are individuals who have potential that can continue to be developed. However, in reality, so far children still do not receive special attention in improving their creativity from an early age (Sopiah, 2023). In accordance with Law No. 20 of 2003, education must be carried out with enthusiasm, creating students' passion and creativity in the learning process. Therefore, children's activities both at school, at home and in the surrounding environment need to encourage activities that support the development of their creativity (Margayaningsih, 2018).

One way to educate children so they can develop well is to explore the child's potential. Developing the creativity of foster children can be a way to explore their potential and can also be useful when the child grows up. Apart from that, developing creativity can also be a means of educating foster children to become entrepreneurs. Because the results of this creativity are used as capital for business and sold in cooperatives managed by the foster children themselves, so that children can have the moral values that exist in entrepreneurship. (Mardjono, 2017)

Orphanage children are children who come from underprivileged families, are orphans, or orphans who are still immature, and they do not yet have the ability to achieve success in the future. The hope is that the children from this orphanage will have a positive attitude that will enable them to remain optimistic and have good hopes for the future, even though they are faced with various difficulties and tragedies. People who have a positive outlook on life and still believe in a bright future, even though they are faced with many challenges, are known as optimistic individuals. (Agustin et al., 2020)

Empowering orphans is a form of empowerment that aims to provide space for growth and development so that later they can become independent children through appropriate and consistent training and mentoring. By empowering the use of used goods, it is hoped that we can maintain the potential of quality Human Resources (HR) to become the next generation in building the nation.

The concept of empowering neglected children is an effort to build capabilities homeless child. Efforts for neglected children are directed at achieving the welfare of neglected children through social services such as skills training, capital for economic activities, non-formal education and so on. So that children can be independent, be good and display the right attitudes and behavior so they can carry themselves wherever they are (Triastuti, 2012).

There are many alternative activities that can increase children's creativity, one of which is through handicrafts. Handicrafts can be done using used items. Meanwhile, the

empowerment was carried out using pipettes and old newspapers which were then used as tablecloths.

It is very important to develop creativity from an early age because creativity is very influential in developing aspects of early childhood development. If a child's creativity is not developed from an early age then the child's intelligence abilities and fluency in thinking will not develop due to creating a product and high creative talent. It also requires quite high intelligence. For example, when children are asked to make something from square shapes, if the child makes the square into a house, book, medicine box, or chest then this shows the child's fluency in expressing ideas because the ideas produced vary (Sari, 2012). The function of developing children's creativity is to develop children's intelligence and ability to express and produce something new. If their potential is developed well, children will be able to realize and actualize themselves into true human beings.

Crafts are a great way to enhance children's creativity, especially when using used materials that can be recycled. For example, using pipettes and old newspapers to make tablecloths is a creative and environmentally friendly idea. Apart from helping develop children's fine motor skills and imagination, activities like this also teach them about the importance of recycling and using used items more creatively.

This activity can also be empowering for orphanage children, because they learn to produce something of value from simple materials available around them. The aims of these activities can vary greatly, from developing children's creativity and skills, increasing their self-confidence through the achievements they make, to teaching values about sustainability and the environment.

Apart from tablecloths, there are many other craft ideas that can be done using used materials, such as making wall hangings, creative toys, or even 3D works of art. By supporting these kinds of activities, we not only help enhance children's creativity but also provide them with opportunities to learn and develop holistically.

The subjects or targets that we used as empowerment in this research were orphans from the "As-Salam" orphanage. As-Salam orphanage is an orphanage located at Jl. Bangkit Raya Kassi-Kassi District, Rappocini, Makassar City. This orphanage not only cares for and educates orphans but also abandoned children. We chose the children of Assalam Orphanage because we wanted to develop their skills and fill their free time with useful activities. By holding this empowerment activity, we hope to work together with orphanage children to improve the skills they have. Apart from that, the Assalam Orphanage has many children who are very enthusiastic when we hold activities there. The orphanage children show high enthusiasm every time we carry out activities at the orphanage. Based on the background above, empowerment through the use of used goods by involving orphanage children is an important thing to do and is no exception for the general public.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

Empowerment activities which started on Wednesday, May 1 2024 at the Assalam Orphanage, located on Jalan Bangkit Raya, Kassi-Kassi, Rappocini District, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, will take place throughout the month of May. This activity begins with observation to determine the targets to be achieved. The main target is children from orphanages and children around the area, with the aim of improving their skills in

managing waste that can be recycled or reused. In the first week, observations were made and permission was requested from the orphanage management, as well as preparation of the required materials. In the second week, activities were carried out by making crafts from pipettes, which were enthusiastically welcomed by the orphanage children. The successful achievement of this activity is increasing children's creativity and developing their thinking in managing recyclable waste.

During May, we carried out activities to empower orphanage children with a focus on handicraft skills training. This activity is carried out once every week so that children have the opportunity to develop new ideas at each meeting. Every week, they will make different crafts, but our main focus is pipette crafts which train good cooperation between them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are 3 stages carried out to carry out this empowerment activity which is carried out in orphanages using used goods, including:

Observation

Initial activities began with observing the place to carry out the empowerment activities, involving children in the orphanage and asking permission from the orphanage management to carry out the activities. During our observations, we not only paid attention to the facilities, but also interacted directly with the children in the orphanage. We get to know the children by talking, playing etc. From this interaction, we were able to understand more deeply about the children's interests and needs. This gave our team the idea that the empowerment activities to be implemented should be based on art and creativity.



Figure 1.1 Observations

Implementation

In the second week, activities at the orphanage were carried out by making crafts from pipettes, which were enthusiastically welcomed by the children at the orphanage. Before the activity begins, the materials to be used are prepared first. The pipettes used can be of various types, such as plastic pipettes or paper pipettes. Apart from that, additional materials such as glue, scissors, wool thread and other decorations are also prepared. The activity begins with an introduction and introduction to what will be done. Children were given a brief explanation about how to make crafts from pipettes, as well as examples of the work they could make. After that, there was a demonstration of the steps for making crafts from pipettes. We show you directly how to cut, arrange and

decorate pipettes to make various craft shapes. Then the children are asked to practice for themselves what they have seen. They were given the time and opportunity to try making crafts from pipettes with our guidance.

Below are tools and materials such as wool thread, pipettes/straws, and scissors what is needed to make a tablecloth/table decoration:

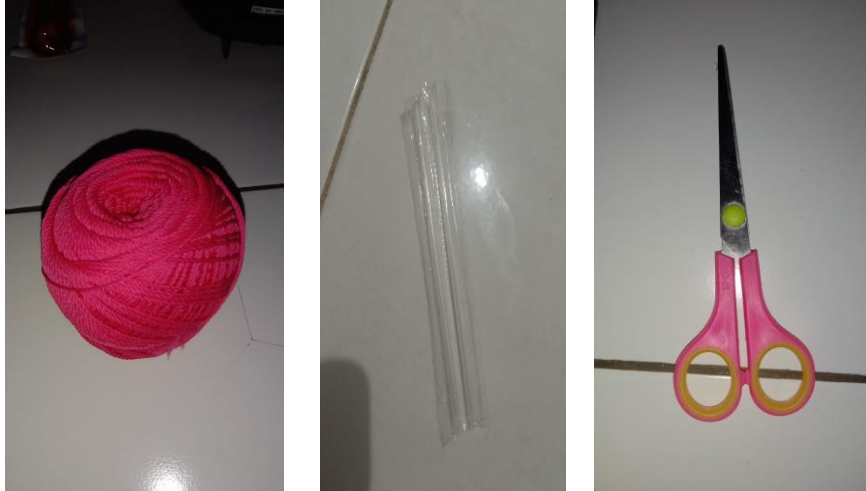


Figure 1.2 Implementation of Empowerment Activities

In the third week, we continued the activities we had previously carried out. Our activities continued in the afternoon together with the children from the orphanage. Some of them have made crafts made from pipettes or straws. We gathered the orphanage children together and together we continued the craft. The orphanage children felt happy because they worked together to do this craft. After the craft making is complete, we return to check and repair the finished craft. Then when we finished making the recycled crafts, we gathered the orphanage children again to say goodbye to them. We give a sign of our gratitude to the orphanage children for helping and participating in the activities we carry out, namely empowerment activities by recycling used goods into used goods or decorations.



Figure 1.3 Continuation of Making Crafts from Used Items

The results of this activity are the implementation of our activity by making crafts from used goods using straws. The result of the craft is to provide a little education to orphanage children to make something from unused items around them. Then it fosters interest in handicrafts and makes orphanage children more productive by filling their free time in the afternoon with more enjoyable activities.



Figure 1.4 Results of Making Crafts from Used Items

EVALUATION

In an effort to encourage participation towards community empowerment, evaluation of program results is useful for assessing the extent to which empirical facts are in line with normative rules. This evaluation includes questions about how effective and efficient the implementation of the empowerment program is in realizing participation that leads to community, government and private empowerment. This evaluation also shows the factors that encourage and hinder the success or failure of the program as well as the relationship between these factors and the performance of related parties in achieving program objectives, namely participation in community empowerment. (Agusta, 2002)

As for the evaluation of the implementation of empowerment activities, there are several factors that become obstacles and supporters of this activity.

1. Inhibiting Factors

- a. There is a shortage of orphanage children and some of the existing orphanage children are still small children or toddlers, so we have quite a lot of difficulty when providing activities or empowerment.
- b. The short time allowed us to explore more handicrafts for orphanage children.

2. Supporting Factors

- a. The orphanage administrators were very open and gave us space to carry out activities, so that we had enough space to interact with the orphanage children.
- b. The condition of the orphanage is quite spacious and comfortable, giving us the freedom to carry out this empowerment activity by making crafts from used goods.
- c. The enthusiasm of the orphanage children when we arrived at the orphanage gave us a good opportunity when carrying out activities.

CONCLUSION

Empowering children, especially orphans in orphanages, is an important process to give them the opportunity to develop and be independent. Empowering orphans at the "As-Salam" orphanage aims to develop their skills, creativity and independence through consistent training and mentoring. This activity involves using used goods to make handicrafts, which provides education about recycling and creativity. The empowerment process begins with observation and preparation, followed by practical training in making crafts from pipettes, and ends with evaluation and improvement of craft results. Through empowerment activities such as handicrafts using used goods, children can learn to develop creativity, skills, and their sense of responsibility. In this way, they not only receive help, but are also invited to actively participate in their learning and self-development process. Community support and participation as well as consistent mentoring are the keys to making children's empowerment effective and sustainable. Even though there were several obstacles such as the limited number of children and short time, the support from the orphanage administrators and the enthusiasm of the children really helped the implementation of the activities. The end result is achieving the goal of empowerment by creating a productive and educative environment for children in orphanages.

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