Empowering The Youth of Jongke Tengah Through Fish Farming

Muhamad Rofiq Muzakkir1,2, Muhammad Zahrul Anam3, Farkhan Hasani3, Dimas Adi Nugroho4

1,2,4Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183
3LPPI, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183

Abstract. The goal of this community activity is to empower the young people of Jongke Tengah village by collaborating with the Muhammadiyah Branch Board. The problem we face is the lack of young activity. Fish farming was one of the former activities that had been discontinued. The youngsters in Jongke Tengah stopped participating in this project because they lacked the initial cash to buy fish seeds. Another problem is that previous attempts at a fish farming program did not result in a large number of fish being produced. At the conclusion of the program, we produce a YouTube video, a journal article, and media coverage. The community service was completed as intended.

Keywords: Empowerment, youth, farming, fish, Jongke Tengah

1 Introduction

Sendangadi, Mlati District, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Province is home to Jongke Tengah Village. Two major roads, the Magelang and Palagan Roads, physically flank this settlement. This village, which is a suburban region, has a diversified population in terms of occupation and education. The villagers work as farmers, laborers, construction workers, industrial employees, business owners, lecturers, teachers, and other occupations.

The village's social events for both adults and kids have proven successful. Adults' participation in regular community activities like the biweekly pengajian (Islamic gathering), monthly village meetings, congregational prayers at the mosque, and managing residents' charity (Zakat, Infaq, and Shadaqah) is quite high. The activities for kids have been going fairly good as well, especially with the Quran-learning program (TPA). However, there are challenges when it comes to youth activities. When we conducted a survey before starting the community service, there were almost no youth activities, both for the mosque-based program and outside of the mosque, except for ceremonial events like the celebration of Indonesian Independence Day.

We discussed this matter with the local elders of Jongke Tengah, who also serve as the mosque's overseers. The mosque and community elders are hoping that we can inspire the youth to revive their activities. We also spoke to the young leaders directly. They suggested a scheme of fish farming which they used to run in the past, but for one semester was completely abandoned. We choose to undertake this program as a fulfillment of the youth's
initiative, but we also made our mission to attract the youth to the mosque. The strategy we chose was to run the training of fish farming in the mosque. Preparation, implementation, and evaluation meetings were also held at the mosque.

Based on our initial surveys, observations, and discussions with youth in Jongke Tengah village, the problems we can identify were as follows:

**Fig. 1. Fish pond**

1. Youth programs were inactive, with the exception of occasional events like Ramadan and the celebration of August 17.
2. The fish farming program has been vacuumed for one period. This ultimately caused the fishpond to become dirty, full of weeds, and unkempt. There was also no significant income to fund youth activities.
3. The farming activities in the previous attempts have not been productive. An area of 10 x 7 meters could only produce 50 kg of tilapia fish. This was due to, among other things, the lack of understanding of an effective farming and a lack of funds to buy fish seeds. Seeing the potential of the vast area of land, we believed that fish production could be increased.

It is ironic to see the lack of youth activities in the Jongke Tengah Village, considering the fact that Indonesia will soon enter a period known as the “demographic bonus” where the majority of the population will be young people of working age throughout this time (Kemenko PMK, 2022). According to one source, this demographic bonus period has already begun in Indonesia (Katadata, 2022). In any case, we as a country must develop sound policies and take immediate and long-term action to deal with any challenges related to our society, including young people.

Preparing our youth for skills, leadership, and networking (organization) is one of the methods to make a change. On top of that, we need to work toward economic empowerment and foster an atmosphere that will enable them to have strong spiritual foundations. From the lens of Muhammadiyah as an Islamic organization, a program to deal with youth issues is also a mandate from the 2015 Muktamar held in Makassar (PP Muhammadiyah, 122).²

² The sixth recommendation of the 47th Muhammadiyah Congress in Makassar is that: "The government and all national powers must work hard to improve the quality and morals of the nation, especially the younger generation, through education, training, eradicating drug abuse, taking firm action against criminals, and building social infrastructure and a healthy environment."
To cope with these three problems, we proposed three solutions with their respective targets. The solutions are described in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Encouraging youth to reactivate youth activities</td>
<td>Youth works together to implement their regular programs: meeting regularly, cleaning ponds, and setting up a routine schedule to feed the fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Fish farming training</td>
<td>Youth masters productive fish farming methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Grant of fish seeds and fish food</td>
<td>Production of nila and mujair fish increase.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to note that the solutions that we offered are in line with several clauses in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the eighth goal (decent work and economic growth); the eleventh goal (sustainable cities and communities); and the sixteen goal (peace, justice, and strong institutions) (United Nations, 2015). Therefore, this community service, even though it took place in a local context, is significant and in line with global issues.

2 Methodology

We implemented this community service in the following stages: 1) identifying problems and preparation, 2) giving training, and 3) helping fish farming. The partner in this community service was the Jongke Tengah Muhammadiyah Branch. Our partner in this program participated in the implementation of the following agendas:

1. Gathered young people in Jongke Tengah at the beginning of the program.
2. Provided a place for training at the Jongke Muhammadiyah Branch Mosque.
3. Provided a speaker and tutor from Muhammadiyah Branch Mosque.

3 Result and Discussion

In accordance with the principles we established, the community work we carried out in the Sendangadi Hamlet, Mlati, Sleman's Jongke Tengah has been progressing satisfactorily. The youth group has actively participated in our planned programs. We went through three stages to provide this service: planning the program, training, and aiding fish farming.

Fig. 2. Fish seeds
The first stage was program preparation. We conducted several initial meetings with related stakeholders to ensure this program run effectively. We communicated with the administrator of the mosque, the community leaders, and the representatives of the youth organization. Officially, we invited the youth to a meeting to prepare the program, particularly to identify the material they need for fish farming and to prepare a training. We also observed the pond, and sent youth to survey the price of fish seeds and foods. The youth then cleaned up the pond by removing trash and deepening the pool.

Fig. 3. Discussion

The second stage in the implementation of this service was giving training. The training was held on March 14th, 2023, at the Al-Azhar Mosque in Jongke Tengah Hamlet. The theme of the training was “tips on becoming an entrepreneur”. This training was designed to achieve various objectives, namely: a. to encourage the attendance of young people to the mosque, b. to give a lecture on how to become a productive Muslim entrepreneur, and c. to encourage youth to activate their regular programs.

In his lecture, Alfatih, the Muhammadiyah 3 high school teacher whom we asked to be a motivational speaker to the youth, stated: "when you have the intention to enter the world of entrepreneurship, you must do it with full passion. Do not do it with half intention. Is not half standing much more tiring than standing in a perfect posture? By this, I am suggesting that not being serious about fish farming is the same as the half-standing theory. It is tiring and wasting your time and energy, but the results are not optimal, or it even can end without any positive outcome."

We also provided fish farming training. The local chief, Mr. Fachruddin, who has extensive expertise running fishponds, provided the youths with direct training and guidance. The young people received instruction on how to choose healthy food, to feed the fish, and to maintain and clean the pond.
The third stage was the core part, which was assisting fish farming. This stage went well. We have donated the UMY’s community service fund to the youth of Jongke Tengah which they used to buy fish seeds and foods. The whole fish seeds they purchased were 40 kg of nila and 20 kg of mujair. The total pellets purchased was 50 kg. The fish seeds were released three months ago.

The management of the farm came next. A regular routine for feeding the fish was created by the youngsters of Jongke Tengah. Additionally, they covered the top of the pond with a net to prevent falling leaves from the nearby trees from contaminating the water. The young people were anticipating the harvest as the fish have grown large. The estimated weights of nila and mujair at that time were 55 kg and 30 kg respectively. At the time of harvest, these numbers would be anticipated to rise to 65 kg and 40 kg. Fish with a total amount of 105 kg would later be sold to the residents of Central Jongke at a relatively lower price than the price of fish in the market. Early in July, when the fish was larger, was when harvesting was anticipated to take place. The process would be assisted by the UMY community service team.

How can we understand this local community service with the broader framework? We argue that this program is significant from several perspectives. First, it symbolizes the university’s concern for real empirical and societal problems (Khoiruddin, 2019). This program shows that UMY and Muhammadiyah, in general, are institutions that contribute to cope with the real malaise of the ummah (Baha’ Uddin et al, 2010).

Second, this program is a part of UMY and Muhammadiyah’s commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, this community service is essential from the global perspective as well. There are at least three points of SDGs that we attempted to achieve through this program, namely: the eighth goal (decent work and economic growth); the eleventh goal (sustainable cities and communities); and the sixteenth goal (peace, justice, and strong institutions) (United Nations, 2015).

According to Gaurahman and Putu Arka (2020), fish farming scheme is an effective program to increase economic activities of a given society. In our case, we can make a strong case that this initiative has encouraged economic growth. Additionally, this initiative has improved cohesiveness throughout the community (both between young people and between young people and elderly citizens). To achieve peace and wellbeing, cohesion is essential (Dayton-Johnson, 2001).

Lastly, this program contributes to build strong social institutions, especially the mosque, the youth organization, the Muhammadiyah branch managers, and the village’s administrative structure. It is also important to note that these three goals are also the primary concern of Muhammadiyah. This organization has stated in its bylaws that it wants to establish an Islamic society in accordance with the verse of the Quran “baldatun jayyibatun”
4 Conclusion

This community service has been successful and achieved the predetermined targets. The community leaders and youth of Jongke Tengah have been able to revive the youth activities that were previously abandoned, mainly through fish farming. These activities have an essential impact on youth, especially in fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship. Cooperation in the implementation of the programs among youth has also created togetherness and honed their leadership talents. Activities carried out at the village’s mosque which took the theme of Islamic entrepreneurship are also helpful to build the spirituality of the youth, especially at this time when the challenges for the younger generation are severe.

This community service was successful thanks to the support of Jongke Tengah community leaders, who are also the administrator of the al-Azhar Mosque and Muhammadiyah branch officials. In accordance with the plan to achieve sustainable global development goals (SDGs) and the mandate of the Muhammadiyah Congress, we will continue this community service in the following year.

References