



The role of community service through real work lectures (KKN) in Kota Raya Darat Village, Lahat Regency

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ABSTRACT

Community service through Real Work Lectures (KKN) is a form of student contribution to overcoming problems in the community. This study aims to examine the role of KKN in increasing environmental awareness and providing education to children in Kota Raya Darat Village, Lahat Regency. The method used in this study is observation. KKN students participate in ecological cleaning activities, counseling on overcoming juvenile delinquency, and educating children about caring for themselves. The study results show that through KKN, environmental awareness in Kota Raya Darat Village has increased significantly. People are beginning to understand how important it is to maintain cleanliness and take care of their surrounding environment. Children also show increased knowledge about the importance of protecting the environment through educational activities carried out by students.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Child Education, Juvenile Delinquency

INTRODUCTION

The Program of Structured Community Service through Field Work (KKN-T) is a community engagement activity carried out by students under the guidance of Field Supervisors (DPL), the village head, sub-district head, and local village officials. The primary aim of this program is to provide students the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gained during their studies in a real-life community setting. In addition, KKN-T is a promotional tool for universities to demonstrate their contribution to social development and community empowerment. Before their fieldwork, students are equipped with social science knowledge to help them interact effectively with the community and address various issues collaboratively (Chudzaifah et al., 2021; Gunawan et al., 2020). Through this activity, students are expected to become familiar with the local community and actively contribute by applying their academic knowledge in practical situations.

Community Service (PkM) is crucial in higher education, particularly in Indonesia. As part of the tri-dharma of universities, PkM is not only about providing aid but also serves as a means of continuous education. PkM aims to empower communities through various programs designed by students, faculty, and other relevant stakeholders (Indrawan & Mulyati, 2023). This is a form of social responsibility for universities, with the expectation that it will contribute to the well-being of local communities. Therefore, community engagement also helps strengthen the relationship between universities and surrounding communities, positioning universities as agents of change that contribute to academic excellence and societal progress (Muniarty et al., 2022).

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The KKN-T program, as part of PkM, is expected to impact the communities it serves significantly. One of the primary objectives of KKN is to allow students to apply the knowledge they have acquired in real-world situations while also assisting communities in resolving social, economic, and environmental challenges. This program functions not only as a practical learning experience for students but also as a direct contribution to improving the quality of life in the community through relevant activities that address local needs (Syardiansah, 2019). In this context, students are expected to use their knowledge to provide practical and targeted solutions in economic development, education, and community health (Takim et al., 2022; Wijayanti et al., 2023).

Moreover, the community service activities through KKN-T allow students to develop social, communication, and leadership skills. Students involved in these activities can sharpen essential soft skills such as adaptability, teamwork, and problem-solving. Additionally, hands-on experience in the field provides students with a deeper understanding of the issues faced by the community and offers insights on how to contribute to solving these problems (Bismelah, 2023; McGorry, 2012). This experience enriches their learning journey by integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application in a real-world context.

Based on surveys conducted in the village of Kota Raya Darat, Pajar Bulan District, the community has several needs that align with the program we have designed for the KKN-T. One of the primary issues identified was the shortage of teachers to teach Qur'an reading at the local TK/TPA. Despite having 45 children enrolled in the Qur'an reading program, only three teachers are available, leading to an overwhelming workload for them. Therefore, we have developed a community service program that involves teaching Qur'an reading and will actively involve all members of the KKN-T Group 4 to address this issue and provide solutions for the local community.

We hope to contribute positively to the Kota Raya Darat community through this program. The KKN-T program we are implementing is expected to help address educational challenges in the village and provide broader benefits in community empowerment. By directly involving students in community service, we aim to foster a better relationship between the university and the surrounding community. Additionally, this program offers students the opportunity to implement the knowledge they have gained during their studies in everyday life, allowing them to experience firsthand the positive impacts of their community engagement (Hazaeri et al., 2023; Wulandari, 2021).

LITERATURE OR CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Community service (PkM) is one of the components of the tri dharma of higher education, which has a vital role in social development and community empowerment. In Indonesia, PkM not only focuses on assisting but also serves as a means of continuous education that empowers the community through various programs implemented by students and lecturers. As a form of social responsibility of higher education, PkM plays a role in strengthening the relationship between academics and society and improving community welfare, especially in social and economic contexts (Gunawan et al., 2020; Indrawan & Mulyati, 2023). In this case, Real Work Lectures (KKN) is a form of implementation of PkM that aims to apply the knowledge gained by students in the field, have a positive impact on society, and enrich the student learning experience (Muniarty et al., 2022).

Real Work Lecture (KKN) is one of Indonesian universities' most popular service programs. This program is a place to practice the theories studied and an essential means of developing students' social, leadership, and collaboration skills. Through KKN, students are directly involved in solving various community social problems, such as education development, health, and economic empowerment. This aligns with the goal of KKN to improve community welfare while providing practical experience that can hone students' abilities in facing challenges in the world of work (Syardiansah, 2019; Takim et al., 2022).

In its implementation, KKN is expected to significantly impact community empowerment, especially in areas that need more attention in terms of human resource development. Based on

previous research, KKN programs are often focused on improving the quality of education and public health and empowering the local economy through entrepreneurship training or other skills (Hazaeri et al., 2023). In addition, students involved in KKN also have the opportunity to develop their social and professional skills through direct interaction with the community. This experience teaches students how to address real problems in the field and increase their social awareness of environmental and humanitarian issues (Bismelah, 2023; McGorry, 2012).

However, the implementation of KKN is also not without challenges. Some obstacles that often arise in its implementation are limited resources, coordination problems between the university and the local government, and differences in expectations between students and the community involved. Therefore, optimizing cooperation between universities, local governments, and the community is essential in designing targeted and sustainable KKN programs. Using a community-based and technology-based approach, KKN programs can have a more significant impact, strengthen synergy between academics and the community, and create more effective solutions to social problems (Gunawan et al., 2020; Wulandari, 2021).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design

This research is based on the observations of the KKN group in Kota Raya Darat Village, which took place from February 1, 2025, to February 15, 2025. The work program aimed to increase environmental awareness and educate children in the village. This activity was carried out by the KKN-T Group of the Pagar Alam Islamic Religious Institute, who participated in community service work in Kota Raya Darat Village. The methods used in this study are observation and field research to educate the people of Kota Raya Darat Village about the importance of environmental awareness and childcare.

Observation methods were chosen by considering the relevance of seeing firsthand the dynamics in the field. The material presented in the Kota Raya Darat Village work program includes the role of universities, types of universities based on data clusters, types of universities based on management, and the importance of universities. The material is accompanied by concrete examples that show real success after pursuing higher education and contributing to community service.

This research also describes the planning process with group members (group organization). In this case, the subjects of service, the location of the service, and the involvement of the accompanying subjects in the community planning and organizing process are explained. In addition, the research methods or strategies used to achieve the expected goals and the stages of community service activities are also described. The planning process and strategy/method are presented as pictures and tables.

Table 1. Community Service Locations

Village	Kota Raya Darat
District	Pajara Bulan
Regency	Lahat
Province	Sumatera Selatan
Month	2
Years	2025

RESULTS

Implementing the Real Work Lecture (KKN) in Kota Raya Darat Village resulted in positive changes in public awareness related to environmental cleanliness. The community began to care more about the cleanliness around them, which can be seen from the high participation in community service and mosque cleaning activities carried out by KKN students with residents. Mosque cleaning activities in five villages of Pajar Bulan District have also increased awareness of the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of places of worship and the surrounding environment. The community actively participates not only in cleaning the environment but also in maintaining the cleanliness of the environment daily.



Figure 1. Mosque Cleaning Activities

In addition, the adhan competition program and memorizing short verses of the Qur'an created enthusiasm among village children and teenagers. This competition develops participants' ability to chant the call to prayer correctly, memorize short verses, and introduce deeper Islamic values. This shows that KKN activities can effectively instill moral and spiritual values among the younger generation and form their better character.



Figure 2. Children's Competition Activities

This community service activity also has an impact on environmental health. The cleaning program of places of worship has succeeded in creating a cleaner and more comfortable environment for the community. A well-maintained environment can reduce the potential for disease spread, as dirty environments are often a breeding ground for various disease-causing microorganisms. This is

the purpose of KKN activities, which are aimed at education and providing direct benefits for the community's health and quality of life.



Figure 3. Community Service Activities to Clean the Environment

Overall, this KKN activity shows the synergy between students and the community in achieving common goals, namely maintaining the cleanliness of the environment and improving the quality of life. This activity succeeded in strengthening the relationship between universities and the community, creating positive behavior changes, and increasing awareness of the importance of cleanliness as part of daily life. The village community has become more active in maintaining cleanliness in places of worship and their surrounding environment, which shows the long-term impact of this KKN activity.

DISCUSSION

Various factors, including education and understanding the importance of a healthy and clean environment, can influence the community's environmental awareness at the KKN location. Research by Wiradimadja et al. (2024) shows that people with higher levels of education tend to behave better in maintaining environmental cleanliness. This is based on findings in the field, where people involved in KKN activities show increased knowledge and participation in maintaining the cleanliness of their environment. Moreover, Sugiarto & Gabriella (2020) revealed that effective environmental management requires sufficient knowledge about the impact of the environment on health, which is also the main focus of KKN activities.

The service programs carried out in Kota Raya Darat Village not only focus on environmental cleanliness but also on the spiritual and moral development of the community, especially children and adolescents. Rosa et al. (2024) argue that environmental awareness is reflected in the behavior of individuals who feel free from stress, with improved quality of life achieved through ecological cleanliness. The adhan competition and short verses of the Qur'an succeeded in instilling religious values and introducing the importance of cleanliness as part of Islamic teachings, which is to the views of Handayani & Rizki (2021) about the role of cleanliness in the lives of Muslims.

In terms of environmental impact on health, this program has also succeeded in showing that a clean environment can reduce the risk of disease spread. Yadika (2024) reveals that poor environmental quality can be a breeding ground for disease-causing microorganisms. The cleaning program carried out in several mosques showed positive results in reducing the potential spread of diseases in the community, which is the view of Khairunnisa et al. (2019) regarding the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness to prevent diseases.

Overall, the KKN-T program also shows that religious education and community service based on cooperation with the community can produce significant changes. Syardiansah (2019) stated that KKN aims to ensure a strong relationship between the academic and practical worlds. In this case, students develop their academic skills and contribute to solving social problems that exist in society, thereby strengthening the relationship between universities and society.

Thus, the results of this KKN activity show that services that involve education about environmental cleanliness and religious values can create a sustainable positive impact on the community. Programs such as adhan competitions, short verses, and mosque cleaning can significantly change environmental awareness and strengthen social relationships in the community.

Conclusions

The conclusion of the implementation of the IAIP Real Work Lecture (KKN) program in 2025 in Kota Raya Darat Village, Pajar Bulan District, Lahat Regency, showed positive results with a good response from the local community. The programs that have been planned, such as cleaning mosques, teaching ngaji, marawis, and gotong royong activities, can be realized well despite several obstacles. The presence of KKN students has a direct and indirect positive impact on the community's welfare and strengthens the relationship between universities, the community, and the government.

Through this KKN-T activity, students not only play a role as servants but also as motivators and good role models for the Kota Raya Darat Village community. This program successfully overcomes various existing social problems, especially in religion and hygiene, and provides valuable experience for students to contribute directly to society. In the future, it is hoped that this KKN-T activity can continue to be carried out so that students can continue to contribute to solving problems in the community, strengthening the relationship between universities and the community, and improving the quality of life in the village.

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Conflict of Interests

The authors declared that no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the authorship and publication of this article.

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