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Socialization Of The Utilization Of Plastic Waste Into Crafts With Residents Of RT 20, RW 05, Sawah Lebar, Bengkulu

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Abstract. This community service activity aims to increase awareness and practical skills of KKN-T period VI with residents in RT. 20 RW 05 Sawah Lebar in managing non-organic household waste. Through a participatory method involving material delivery and direct practice, participants were trained to recycle and reuse waste such as plastic wrappers and other packaging into useful handicrafts. The results of the activity showed that participants gained knowledge and confidence in managing non-organic waste creatively. The direct involvement model encouraged sustainable behavioral changes and aroused participants' interest in continuing craft practices independently at home. This training has proven effective in increasing environmental awareness and encouraging innovation in waste management at the household level.

Keywords: *Waste management, Non-organic waste, Recycling.*

INTRODUCTION

The issue of waste has become a growing environmental problem in line with population growth and consumption patterns. One of the most common types of waste found in residential areas is non-organic waste such as plastic, cardboard, cans, and used bottles. This type of waste is difficult to decompose and can pollute the environment if not managed properly. According to (Nuruzzaman et al., 2021), the issue of waste has become a growing environmental problem in line with population growth and consumption patterns.

From the initial observations conducted by Community Service Program (KKN-T) Group 12 students from Dehasen University Bengkulu in RT 20, Sawah Lebar Village, it was found that most of the community did not have the awareness and skills to sort and utilize non-organic waste. In fact, according to (Marliani, 2014), inorganic waste can be processed into household decorations, household appliances, and materials for making works of art. This socialization activity was carried out in RT. 20, Sawah Lebar Village, which has great potential in developing skills based on household waste.

The purpose of this activity was to provide education and practical skills to the residents of RT. 20 on how to sort and utilize non-organic waste into useful items, items of artistic value, or even items of economic value. In addition, this activity also aimed to foster collective awareness among residents in maintaining environmental cleanliness with a simple and applicable approach. In line with the findings (Yansyah et al., 2025) in AI training activities, community empowerment based on direct training can increase active involvement and practical awareness of the community regarding the issues they face.

RESEARCH METHODS

This activity was carried out using a participatory approach that actively involved the women of RT. 20 in every stage. It began with identifying environmental problems in RT. 20, where it was found that non-organic household waste such as plastic packaging was not being managed properly. After that, coordination was carried out with the head of RT. 20 and local community leaders to determine the time, place, and technical implementation of the activity. Socialization was carried out interactively through the delivery of material on the impact of plastic waste and its potential for use in handicrafts. The activity continued with hands-on practice, where participants made simple crafts from soklin plastic packaging waste as demonstrated by KKN-T group 12 students from Dehasen University Bengkulu. This approach proved effective in increasing community involvement and their understanding of the importance of creative and sustainable waste management.

Data collection in this activity was conducted through direct observation and informal interviews with participants before and after the activity. Observation was used to identify existing waste management practices and the level of community awareness regarding non-organic waste. Meanwhile, informal interviews were carried out to explore participants' initial knowledge, attitudes, and expectations related to plastic waste utilization. This data served as a baseline to assess changes in understanding and engagement resulting from the activity.

The evaluation of the activity was carried out qualitatively by analyzing participant participation levels, enthusiasm during the practice session, and feedback obtained at the end of the program. The success indicators included participants' ability to independently create handicraft products from plastic waste and their expressed intention to apply the knowledge in daily life. This evaluation approach allowed the research team to measure not only knowledge improvement but also behavioral and attitudinal changes toward sustainable environmental practices within the RT. 20 community.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socialization activity held on Monday, January 12, 2026, was attended by residents of RT. 20, Sawah Lebar Village. At the beginning of the activity, residents were invited to discuss their habits in managing household waste. From the initial discussion, it was revealed that most residents did not understand the importance of separating organic and non-organic waste. They also did not know that plastic waste such as used bottles, plastic bags, and laundry soap packaging could be processed into useful handicrafts, as will be implemented by KKN-T Group 12 regarding handicrafts made from laundry soap plastic (soklin).



Figure 1. The Process of Making Handicrafts

The hands-on practice session was the most interesting part for the residents. Through their own experience, they felt more confident and realized that waste management was not difficult to do. This approach proved to be effective, as was also applied in the outreach

activities by the Community Service Program Group 12 of Dehasen University Bengkulu, which emphasized active learning and hands-on practice to build sustainable understanding and skills.



Figure 2. The Handicrafts

More than just technical training, this socialization became a momentum to build a new culture in waste management at the household level. The participants' enthusiasm in each session showed that the participatory approach was able to raise collective awareness and encourage residents to take a direct role in maintaining environmental cleanliness through creative and practical methods.



Figure 3. Group Photo with Residents of RT 20

Overall, this activity had a positive impact on the participants. In addition to increasing their knowledge about the importance of non-organic waste management, this socialization also fostered a sense of environmental awareness and creativity among the residents. Some participants even expressed their interest in continuing this activity independently at home and teaching it to other family members. The handicraft products produced also demonstrated the creativity of the participants, even though they were made from simple materials and makeshift tools. This success shows that simple training that is carried out in a targeted manner and actively involves the community can bring about changes in attitudes and behavior towards waste management in the surrounding environment.

CONCLUSION

The socialization of non-organic waste utilization with residents of RT. 20, Sawah Lebar Village, has successfully increased participants' knowledge and skills in managing household waste into useful items. The activity also encouraged positive attitudes toward environmental

awareness and community participation in sustainable waste management practices. As a follow-up to this activity, it is recommended that this activity be carried out continuously and involve more residents, as well as be accompanied regularly so that the skills acquired can develop into sustainable productive activities that provide both environmental and economic benefits for the community.

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