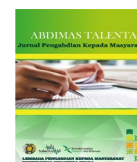




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Community Empowerment Through Improving Weaving Skills to Support the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable economic growth is a challenge for Indonesia today. The Universitas Sumatera Utara in Strengthening SDGs promotes decent and inclusive employment opportunities, and enhances sustainable economic growth in Indonesia by working with companies, civil society organisations, and governments to create an environment that supports inclusive economic development and provides fair access to employment opportunities. The community service team through the community service institution of the Universitas Sumatera Utara plays an active role in the success of the SDGs by carrying out community service with MSME partner Kilang Tenun Sinaga. The results of the team's observations that Kilang Tenun Sinaga MSMEs have such important problems, namely the difficulty of finding employees with skilled weaving skills that cause a lack of weaving production processes that can be fulfilled when ordered, lack of employees who can increase production results, unable to expand by opening new promotional outlets while promoting production results. The solution presented by the team is to carry out community empowerment through improving weaving skills so that they will get the expected employees. This community service team with partners also through this service aims to continue weaving skills, especially ulos motifs, to become part of the world heritage in the future. From this solution, employees also get decent work and improve the community's economy in accordance with SDGs goal no. 8, namely decent work and economic growth.

Keyword: SDGs, Sinaga Weaving Mill, Weaving Tools, Promotion

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programme is one of the sustainable development programmes that aims to prosper the world community and preserve nature. In its development, SDGs highlight public space as an important target in global development. The SDGs are also a global and national commitment to the welfare of society, including 17 global goals and targets for 2030 declared by both developed and developing countries at the UN General Assembly in September 2025. The 17 goals are: (1) No Poverty; (2) No Hunger; (3) Healthy and Prosperous Lives; (4) Quality Education; (5) Gender Equality; (6) Clean Water and Sanitation; (7) Clean and Affordable Energy; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; (10) Reduced Inequality; (11) Sustainable Cities and Settlements; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Addressing Climate Change; (14) Marine Ecosystems; (15) Terrestrial Ecosystems; (16) Peace, Justice and Resilient Institutions; (17) Partnerships to Achieve the Goals [1].

The Universitas Sumatera Utara as one of the State Universities also takes part in the success of the SDGs launched by the world today. The 17 SDGs are integrated-they recognise that actions in one area will affect outcomes in another, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Countries have committed to prioritising progress for those furthest behind. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. Creativity, knowledge, technology, and financial resources from all of society are needed to achieve the SDGs in every context [2].

Currently, the community service team through the USU Community Service Institute has observed that the community is currently very economically down. The income that relies on the husband's work and the very few job vacancies that exist make the family economy far from improving. The opening of doors to carry out community service is one way to succeed in the implementation of the SDGs that are being launched by the Universitas Sumatera Utara at this time. One of the 17 goals is the 8th, namely (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth. To achieve this 8th point, one way is to improve skills that can be used to produce finished products that can be traded so that it makes it easier to find work and even open new jobs. In this case, the USU community service team collaborates with partners to carry out assistance to the community, especially women and mothers who have free time so that they can work or open job vacancies so that they earn a decent income with the aim of getting qualified employees in weaving skills [3].

Sinaga weaving factory is one of the MSMEs based on weaving skills with yarn materials that can be made into finished material products, one of which is ulos. UMKM Kilang tenun sinaga was originally founded by a Batak girl named Siti R Simorangkir who had started weaving since childhood from the village. The skills that have been developed by Siti R Simorangkir are specialised in making Ulos. On 17 October 2014, it was designated as Indonesia's intangible cultural heritage by the Minister of Education and Culture. This step paved the way for further recognition, namely to become a world heritage (World Heritage) [4]. The beginning of receiving tempahan and openly accepting orders was in 2009 at a price that was cheaper than others. On 17 October 2017 Siti R Simorangkir received an award as the best weaver in North Sumatra from Bulog's anniversary programme at that time. Best sales 2017 ulos birthday [5]. Siti R Simorangkir started with simple or conventional equipment and now has started with tools that are somewhat larger and practical so as to increase the amount of production, one of which is the Non-Machine Weaving Tool (ATBM) device. After COVID19 UMKM Kilang tenun sinaga started with promotion and publication so that the products produced can be known by the general public. Siti R Simorangkir also uses social media as a means of publishing woven ulos products. Many workers have learnt from the UMKM Sinaga weaving factory so that they have been able to open their own businesses [6].

Along with the rapid progress of the Sinaga weaving refinery MSMEs and having opened up opportunities for people who need skills, especially weaving, the community service team collaborated with MSMEs to carry out community service. The participants referred to here are women who are looking for work and mothers who are still not working outside the home so that it is hoped that after learning this weaving skill, they will get a decent job so that they can open job vacancies for others.

2. Implementation Methods

This community service activity is carried out in accordance with existing problems and the willingness of partners so that the planned implementation method runs well. The methods used in this community service are as follows:

1. Pre-activity preparation by coordinating with partners through discussions about existing problems.
2. Partners as weaving trainers who will carry out socialisation together with the service team to all participants from students, students and the general public who are interested.
3. Carry out training/workshops on weaving skills starting from the initial stage to the finished weaving product.
4. Conduct monitoring, evaluation and assistance on an ongoing basis.

3. Result and Discussion

The potential to improve the family economy is very likely through weaving skills. The implementation of this service was carried out due to good cooperation between the service team and partners.

This service began with the socialisation of the introduction of materials, devices and colours as well as designs which became the basis of the participants' knowledge to carry out direct weaving practices. All participants followed the directions of the trainer who was also a partner in this service according to Figure 1 below.



Figure 1. Introduction of weaving materials and weaving tools.

After that, proceed with arranging the yarn, sorting the yarn and making the yarn motif used for weaving. In accordance with Figure 2 below



Figure 2. Arranging and sorting yarn.

The yarns that have been selected and are ready to be used for weaving are then continued with the practice of weaving which is carried out directly by the participants with guidance from the trainer according to Figure 3 below.



Figure 3. Weaving workshop

When carrying out the weaving workshop, the trainer provided some tips and tricks starting from starting weaving, making patterns/motifs, until the products produced have a selling value that can attract consumers. The implementation of this activity was not carried out in 1 day but this workshop was carried out in several days until 1 product was formed for each participant with a simple motif as learning material. In accordance with Figure 4 below.



Figure 4. Weaving results produced after the service was carried out.

The participants expressed confidence after they attended this weaving workshop because this workshop was free to discuss directly with a reliable trainer. In addition, the participants gained knowledge of skills that do not require a lot of capital and can be done at home when they are proficient in weaving. Participants believe that weaving is a skill that can improve the family economy, especially for participants who have not yet found a job.

4. Conclusion

One way to increase family economic growth is weaving. For this reason, it is necessary to continue weaving skills, especially ulos motifs, starting from design, weaving devices and weaving materials that can be used as finished goods production so that the potential of existing resources can be utilised well by the community.

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