



Increasing Economic Value Creativity With The Making Of Mask Accessories By Students In Organizations

Peningkatan Kreativitas Yang Bernilai Ekonomis Dengan Pembuatan Aksesoris Masker Oleh Anak Didik Di Panti Asuhan

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Abstract

The use of masks during pandemic Covid-19 usually is applied by community, especially in public areas. Various types of masks are sold in the market, both in terms of materials and models. Earloop masks are masks that are commonly wear by men and women, because the masker directly was attached to the ear. For Muslim women who wear hijab, wearing earloop masks does not provide freedom, because sometimes the mask must be removed, such as when they are eating, drinking while they have to wear the veil. Muslim women need mask without disturbing their appearance as Muslim women, therefore it is needed mask accessories such as connectors for earloop masks to be used. The training on making mask accessories/connector was carried out to students at the Panti Asuhan Aisyiyah. They are girls and wearing veils, totaling 17 people. The service stage was divided into 3 stages: the preparation stage, the implementation stage and the closing stage. At the implementation stage, all students were given training starting from preparing all the materials used, until they could make mask connector succesully by themselves. At closing time, all participants presented their mask connector made for evaluation. Based on this training, they can improve their skills, use connectors for themselves, and sell mask accessory to increase their income. Further, it is expected that they will have the knowledge about other mask accessories that will be needed and will be used by community, so they can produce maks accessories according the the demand of market.

Keywords: mask accesories, skill, orphanage, income

Abstrak

Pemakaian masker pada saat pandemi Covid-19 sudah merupakan hal yang wajib dilakukan oleh masyarakat apalagi kalau berada di daerah publik. Berbagai jenis masker yang dijual di pasaran, baik dilihat dari segi bahan dan model. Masker *earloop* adalah masker yang umum dipakai oleh pria dan wanita, karena langsung dikaitkan ke telinga. Bagi wanita muslim yang memakai hijab, pemakaian masker *earloop* kurang memberikan kebebasan, karena kadang masker harus dilepas seperti ketika makan, minum sementara kerudung harus tetap dipakai. Oleh karena itu diperlukan masker yang bisa dipakai wanita muslim, tanpa mengganggu penampilannya sebagai muslimah, yaitu salahsatunya dengan membuat konektor untuk masker *earloop*. Pelatihan pembuatan aksesoris masker atau konektor masker dilakukan kepada anak didik di Panti Asuhan Aisyiyah Cabang Koto Tengah Timur, Kotamadya Padang, yang semuanya putri berjumlah 17 orang. Adapun tahap pengabdian kepada masyarakat ini terbagi atas 3 tahap: yaitu tahap persiapan, tahap pelaksanaan dan tahap penutupan. Pada tahap pelaksanaan, semua anak didik diberi pelatihan mulai dari mempersiapkan semua bahan yang dipakai, sampai berhasil membuat konektor masker. Pada saat penutupan, semua peserta harus menunjukkan konektor yang sudah dibuat untuk



dievaluasi. Pelatihan ini selain dapat meningkatkan ketrampilan anak didik di Panti Asuhan, juga produk yang dihasilkan dapat dipakai oleh peserta dan bahkan dapat dijual guna meningkatkan pendapatan. Diharapkan pelatihan selanjutnya dapat dilakukan dengan memberikan pemahaman kecenderungan masyarakat tentang model dan tipe aksesoris masker yang banyak diminta masyarakat, sehingga anak didik dapat membuat konektor masker sesuai yang diminati wanita muslimah.

Kata kunci: aksesoris masker, ketrampilan, panti asuhan, pendapatan

INTRODUCTION

Since the spread of the Covid-19 Virus, the use of masks has become a must for all members of the community, especially if they are in public areas. The use of masks is one of the health protocols instructed by the government, commonly known as 5M (Washing Hands, Wearing Masks, Keeping Distance, Avoiding Crowds, and Reducing Activities Outside the Home). Even though the Government has started the Vaccination Program, the use of masks must still be done to suppress the spread of Covid-19. According to research by Guan et.al. (2020) wearing a mask can prevent the spread of droplets when an infected person talks, sings, coughs, or sneezes. Using masks properly and correctly is very necessary for preventing the coronavirus, even for the use of masks the Government is aggressively campaigning for the use of masks to the public because wearing masks not only protects yourself from Covid-19 but will also protect others even more. Likewise, at this time which is the transition from Pandemic to Endemic, although the government provides leeway for the use of masks in open spaces, in closed spaces, people are still encouraged to use masks during activities, because circulation is limited and the potential for the spread of the virus can occur. So the mask is an object that is needed by the community. According to (Saputra, 2021) the level of community compliance, especially among students, in wearing masks is quite high, it is also added that based on the results of previous researchers that women tend to comply more with health protocols starting from washing hands, wearing masks and limiting activities outside the home. The use of masks has received various responses from the community, but the policy of using masks in public is very dependent on the awareness and willingness of each individual. The government has made efforts through various policies such as mask raid operations, education, and appeals to the public media to encourage people to wear masks

. Basically, there are two types of masks, namely *earloop* and *head loop markers*. Both have differences in the hook. In Earloop Mask, the mask strap is attached to the ear while the head loop mask will be used/hooked behind the head. But unfortunately, head loop-shaped masks are sometimes difficult to find, even though this type of mask makes it easier for women to wear the hijab when wearing a mask (Sagita, 2020). Head loop masks are also considered to be more optimal in protecting from viruses, compared to masks that are attached to the ear (*earloop*). masks *Earloop* can leave a larger gap around the face and if used for a long time can cause ear pain (Alawiyah, 2020). On the other hand, earloop masks are more commonly found in the market, while head loop masks are difficult to find. According to Sagita (2020), head loop masks are easy for women to wear because the mask strap can be placed on the head (above the hijab). This gave rise to the idea that women with hijabs could wear earloop masks with the addition of a mask connector, making them easier to wear. Based on this, mask accessories in the form of connectors are a permanent solution for women who wear hijab. Using earloop masks, which are widely sold in the market, coupled with connectors that also function as accessories, will make it easier for Muslim women to wear masks easily, more flexible, and more fashionable. However, the availability of mask connectors is very limited, even though the manufacture is easy, cheap, and simple. Therefore, in this service, there will be training on making mask connectors for students at the Orphanage, so it is hoped that in addition to increasing creativity, it can also increase income.



Figure 1. Earloop Masks, although widely sold, are more difficult for women to wear than head loop masks.

The majority of the population of Padang City embraces Islam. The majority of Muslim women in the city of Padang wear the hijab in their daily activities, even students who are studying at public schools are required to wear the hijab in accordance with the local government regulation (Perda) of the city of Padang No. 5 of 2011. This regulation is carried out to protect women and culture. Minang is based on Adat Basandi Syarak Syarak basandi Kitabullah, which means that all customs used by the Minangkabau community (the majority ethnicity in West Sumatra) must be based on Islamic law, which in turn is based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Aisyiyah Orphanage Koto Tengah Timur Padang Branch is an orphanage that is engaged in social and religious fields. This orphanage is located in Koto Tengah District, Padang, West Sumatra. This orphanage was established in 2016 and has accommodated 20 children ranging from kindergarten to high school and 12 caregivers. Children's daily activities are filled with formal activities in public and religious schools such as reciting the Koran. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many activities at school were carried out online, so the foster children had a lot of free time at the orphanage. The management tries to make the best use of their free time so that their skills can increase. Skills that can increase their income or pocket money are an alternative that can be done. Currently, the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tengah Timur Branch, relies on donations and shop rental businesses. The orphanage plans to build better facilities and infrastructure, in addition to providing funding for formal schools for their foster children.

The limited availability of head loop masks in the market, then the number of Muslim women in the city of Padang who wear hijabs and headscarves in daily life, on the other hand, earloop masks are easier to obtain, providing an opportunity to be able to wear earloop masks that can be worn by Muslim women, with the addition of a connector which is a mask accessory. This condition will increase sales of connectors in the community, especially for Muslim consumers. The training on making mask accessories or mask connectors is deemed very necessary for the community, in this case, the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tengah Timur Branch, because the prospects are very good, in the sense that there is a market that can absorb the resulting product. In addition, these mask accessories can be used as accessories in Muslim women's clothing so that they appear more beautiful and attractive and can be matched and matched with the color of the clothes, bags, or other equipment used. The results of Arista, Yuliana, & Kustiningsih's (2020) research on MSMEs that innovate by making earloop masks with connectors, it turns out that these products are in great demand by consumers so they have a significant effect on business profits. This happens because the product is unique, attracts consumers, and increases sales.



Figure 2. Earloop masks with additional connectors so that it is easy for women to wear hijab.

Having discussions with the management of the Aisyiyah Panti Aisyiyah Branch, Koto Tangah Timur, and also a collaboration with 'Sunoyan Galery' and also the results of a long discussion with the Community Service Team, it was decided to conduct training for students at the orphanage which could improve the economy. According to Charisma, Djudi & Ruhana (2016) training is a learning process carried out to acquire knowledge and a skill that can be used by trainees in their field in the future. Through this training process, it is hoped that significant changes will occur, and remain aware that the abilities of each training participant are certainly different from one another. *Sunoyan Gallery* is a business that produces various hijab/veil accessories, during the pandemic the products were added with mask accessories such as connectors. The owner of Sunoyan Galeri is also a lecturer and is part of the community service team this time. The Training Program for Making Masks Accessories or connectors for students in the Orphanage is an alternative to improve the skills of students at the Orphanage, in their spare time, because schooling at that time was conducted online. Another factor to consider is that the foster children are all women, so they have basic sewing skills, and are more painstaking and tenacious in arranging beads or lace, so it was decided to make mask accessories in the form of connectors. The objectives of this training are as follows:

- 1) So that students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, have the skills to make mask accessories/mask connectors so that they can increase their pocket money.
- 2) So that students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, can make mask connectors according to the criteria desired by consumers/markets, in terms of materials, models, or colors.
- 3) So that students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, are able to develop a mask connector business in the future, both with offline and online marketing

METHODS

The training on making mask accessories was attended by 17 foster children/students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Branch, which is located at Jl. Raya Air Cold, Balai Gadang, Kec. Koto Tangah, Padang City, West Sumatra 2558. All the students who are also participants in the training are young women who wear the hijab so that the connectors that are made can be sold, they can also be used by themselves. Before the training activities are carried out, the community service research team collaborates with Sunoyan Gallery in terms of providing competent human resources with the material to be provided, so that the quality of service is better and more focused.



Figure 3. A place for community service at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Branch in Padang Municipality.

This training activity is divided into 3 stages, namely: the first stage is preparation, the second stage is implementation and the third stage is closing. The preparation stage includes introductions to the caretaker of the orphanage and planning alternative activities that can be carried out then choosing the training that is most appropriate to the conditions and situations at that time. After it is confirmed that the training in making mask accessories will be carried out, the next step is to plan a schedule of activities to be carried out by determining the time, length of training, training models to be provided, and also training resource persons/instructors. Next is the purchase of raw materials for the manufacture of mask accessories. The Community Service Team also coordinates with the orphanage regarding the number of participants and the training site prepared by the Aisyiyah Orphanage, because the training is located within the orphanage.

This community service was carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the implementation of health protocols is really carried out, especially washing hands, wearing masks, and maintaining distance. The implementation stage includes the introduction, socialization, training, demonstration, and practical application stages which are directly carried out by the training participants. The steps taken are:

With the following steps:

1. Training participants, community service teams, and orphanage representatives enter the training site by first washing their hands, with water and soap that has been provided.
2. Hand sanitizers are also placed in place before entering the room and in the training room.
3. Set a sitting position that is far apart or maintains a distance between training participants, the service team, and representatives of the Orphanage. The resource persons and representatives of Panti Aisyiyah are in the front position (close to the whiteboard) so that it is clearly visible to all training participants.
4. The use of masks is mandatory for everyone in the training room.
5. Briefly introduce the Community Service Team and also state the purpose and purpose of the visit.
6. Provide examples of mask accessories/connectors brought by the Team along with their estimated selling prices in the market and also about how to use them.
7. Prepare the necessary materials.
8. Each participant is given the materials, then the service team gives an example in front which is followed by all participants. The stages of manufacture, namely: a. Measuring textile materials with a size of 2.5 cm using a ruler, b. Tear off the measured textile material, c. Burning the edges of the textile material so that it is neat, d. Sewing baste material that has been burned e. Cutting the rubber for sewing textile materials that have been basted, f. Sewing pearls on textile materials that have been sewn on rubber, g. Attaching the buttons to the rubber



9. After finishing the explanation from the instructor, the participants immediately practiced making mask accessories individually.
10. If the training participants experience difficulties, the community service team will go around between the training participants to provide information as needed.
11. At the appointed hour, the results of the accessories made by the students are seen, collected, and evaluated.
12. Participants who can make mask accessories with the best quality will receive appreciation.
13. The closing ended with a group photo, where students were required to hold the mask accessories they had made.
14. The training was carried out for 1 day starting with the delivery of the steps for making mask accessories to the practice of making them. The activity was held on Saturday at the Aisiyiah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, which is located at Jl. Raya Air Cold, Balai Gadang, Kec. Koto Tangah, Padang City, West Sumatra 2558

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After being given training, students at the Aisiyiah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, have the knowledge and skills to make mask accessories/mask connectors

1. Prior to the training
, the majority of students initially knew the function of these mask accessories, some even had them by buying them elsewhere. But none of the participants ever made it, because they didn't know how to make it. Some of the participants were interested in making it, but were constrained by the cost of raw materials and also the manufacturing method that required patience and tenacity because this is a creative product that contains art. If they can make mask accessories too, they also don't know how to market them.
2. After the Training
, 17 connector mask accessories were produced by all the trainees. All mask accessories produced can be used, only the quality of each mask connector is different depending on the individual skills of the trainees, especially on the neatness of the stitches and the installation of the beads. In general, the trainees already have basic skills in sewing, so they are not too difficult to make. accessories for this mask, therefore the majority of the connectors produced are quite good. Only for marketing, there must be created in terms, colors, materials, or models of these mask accessories so that they are suitable for sale. Besides, "*packaging*" or packaging must be considered in sales.
3. Further Guidance
With this training, it is hoped that the students at the Aisiyiah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur, Padang Branch, are able to produce this product in greater quantity with a target of 20 pieces/day/person. Thus, students at the Aisiyiah Orphanage, Koto Tangah Timur Padang Branch, who initially did not have the skills and had a lot of free time, especially during the pandemic, now have the skills and fill their spare time with activities to produce Mask Accessories. The trainees with the best accessories were asked to help their friends further. It is hoped that in the future, this community service will be sustainable, not only until the stage of being able to make it, but also being able to market it so that it can increase their pocket money. At a broader stage, it can contribute to the construction of the orphanage.



Figure 4. Explanation from resource persons about making mask accessories, while still paying attention to health protocols, namely maintaining distance and wearing masks



Figure 5. Each participant diligently makes mask accessories with guidance instructor/resource person



Figure 6. Training participants who are almost finished with the masks they make.



Figure 7. Group photos with the trainees, holding their respective masks.



Figure 8. Examples of mask accessories produced and their use

CONCLUSION

After students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tengah Timur District, Padang attended training on making mask accessories / Mask Connectors, these students had the skills so they could make a business making mask connectors that would help increase their income. The free time they have, because school is mostly online can be used as well as possible. The manufacture of mask accessories/mask connectors has a good business opportunity in this covid-19 pandemic, because the use of masks is one of the mandatory health protocols, especially in public areas. In addition, the socio-cultural elements in the city of Padang, especially for Muslim women, support the marketing of these connector accessories, so that the marketing can be wider.

Suggestions

for the Training of making *Mask/Connector Accessories* are expected in the future, using more diverse materials and colors. So that the resulting product is in accordance with what the market wants and has a high selling value. Then this training must be followed by coaching so that the products produced are more diverse and can be sold in order to increase the income of students at the Aisyiyah Orphanage, Koto Tengah Timur Branch. Marketing can be done, both offline and online. The manufacture of mask connectors must be adjusted to the wishes of consumers, for example, in addition to textile materials, they are also made from thread, lace, pearls, and others. In other words, adjusting to people's requests so that people have a choice of diverse mask connectors



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