
Utilization of Leaves into Creative Crafts of Leaf Bone Preservation

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Submitted: 2023-10-26. Revised: 2023-11-26. Accepted: 2022-12-02.

Abstract

Mothers for Family Welfare Empowerment in Blimbingrejo village generally like various craft-making activities to be used as side activities for PKK, especially for members who work as housewives. The village youth of religious organizations namely IPM and IPNU generally have constraints in terms of funding to conduct their activities, so they conduct business fundraising activities to obtain organizational cash income. The purpose of the training in making leaf bones into crafts is to make business opportunities for the Blimbingrejo village community, especially for groups in the village to be able to produce and even be able to do business management. The method used is training with the PALS (Participatory Action Learning System) approach, the basic principle of this method is the involvement of partners in the learning process of active participation in the application of the science and technology of processing leaves to be preserved products of leaf bones. The results of the training on the manufacture of leaf bone preserving crafts are products in the form of leaf bone preserves made by the participants and also flowers made from preserved leaf bones. The conclusion is that training on leaf bone crafts is carried out as a solution to overcome the problems of partners, namely PKK women and IPM organizations and IPNU to provide knowledge and train skills to create leaf bone creations products to sell and increase financial income.

Keywords: *leaf bone, craft, sale value*

INTRODUCTION

Blimbingrejo Village is one of the villages in Nalumsari District, Jepara Regency (Nahdah et al., 2022). The village has a share of woody plant species such as soursop trees, avocado trees, durian trees, and alamanda trees. These trees generally belong to villagers around their homes and some grow on land wildy without owners. The leaves of these trees actually have the potential to be used as leaf bone crafts that have selling value, for example soursop leaves that have pinnate and hard leaf bones can be created into flowers, but unfortunately residents do not use them so that fallen leaves only become garbage collected and then burned (Noratuddini & Pohan, 2021). The unutilization of these leaves is due to the lack of knowledge of local residents to process these leaves into something of selling value, even though both fresh leaves that are still on the tree and those that have fallen can be used as leaf bone preservation (Khoiri & Hidayati, 2022).

Handicraft products produced from preserved leaf bones can be a business opportunity for the people of Blimbingrejo Village, especially for groups in the village to be able to produce and even be able to carry out business management. There are several associations in this village, ranging from non-religious associations such as PKK mothers to youth religious organizations, namely IPM (Ikatan Pemuda Muhammadiyah) and IPNU (Ikatan Pemuda Nadhatul Ulama). These three groups are the right groups to be used as target groups for training in making leaf bone crafts, this is because PKK mothers in Blimbingrejo Village are generally interested and like various activities related to making crafts, besides that PKK members also work as housewives so that they can be used as side activities that can produce products that can be sold.

In addition, village youth who are divided into two groups of religious organizations, namely IPM and IPNU, generally have obstacles in terms of funding to hold activities in the organization, so they usually carry out activities to find funds as a way taken to get organizational cash income, this leaf bone training is expected to be able to help village youth to be able to produce a product that has selling value to support business fundraising activities to income in his organization. Leaf bone preservation is the result of processed leaves that can be made into a handicraft product that has a selling value (Priyanata et al., 2022). This type of product is suitable to be used as an item to be produced by PKK mothers and also teenagers in Blimbingrejo village (Rismawati et al., 2022). This is because in addition to the main raw materials, namely leaves from certain trees that are widely found around the village, also because of adequate human resources, namely mothers who have a high interest in crafts and village teenagers who still have high enthusiasm to work to produce a product (Suherman, 2023).

In addition, the product of preserved leaf bones is also a unique and interesting product, because it is still unfamiliar even among Blimbingrejo villagers (Ahmad Bayu, 2020). Making leaf bone sawing can be done in groups, both PKK mothers and by IPM and IPNU adolescents (Grace et al., 2020). It can also be used as a routine activity for handicraft production and can then be sold both online through online stores or sold directly at certain events as additional funds or income from the organization's cash (Lantarsih et al., 2022).

This leaf bone making training activity begins with providing material on leaf bone preservation products and continues with the steps for making leaf bone preservation (Astuti et al., 2021). In addition to receiving the material at the beginning, the participants of the leaf bone craft training have also been able to make handicraft products from leaf bones, ranging from making leaf bone preservation to arranging them into a flower, besides that participants also actively ask and discuss related to the material given before, this shows the high enthusiasm of the participants to take part in the training activities for making leaf bone crafts (Khasanah & Qotrunnada, 2022). The result of this

training in making leaf bone preservation crafts is a product in the form of leaf bone preservation strands created by trainees and also flowers made from leaf bone preservation (Amalia, 2023).

METHOD

This leaf bone craft making training activity was carried out twice. The first implementation was located in the hall of Blimbingrejo Village Hall on Saturday, August 3, 2019. The implementation of training activities starts at 20.00 WIB until 22.00 WB. The participants of the first phase of the training were young men and women from two religious organizations, namely IPM as many as 20 people and IPNU as many as 15 people, who had backgrounds as junior high school students, MTS, MA, high school, and also students in lectures. The second training was held at the Blimbingrejo Village Hall Hall, on Saturday, August 10, 2019. The activity starts at 16.00 WIB until 17.30 WIB. The participants of the second phase of the activity were 40 PKK mothers in Blimbingrejo village, with backgrounds of housewives, teachers, village officials, pensioners, traders, and others.

The method used in training activities for making leaf bone crafts is training / training with the PALS approach (*Participatory Action Learning System*), the basic principle of this method is the involvement of partners in the active learning process participation in the application of science and technology leaf processing into leaf bone preservation products (Coombe et al., 2020). The activity began with an explanation of material about leaf bone crafts through presentations using power point media. The content of the material presented includes an introduction to leaf bone preservation in general, tools and materials needed in making leaf bone preserves, stages / processes of making leaf bone preserves, and examples of products resulting from leaf bone preservation creations. The tools needed in making leaf bone preservation are stoves, kendhi, stirrers, trays, and toothbrushes, while the materials needed are leaves, KOH, water, clothes bleach, and dyes (We are et al., 2023). The stages that need to be done to preserve leaf bones are leaf crushing with the addition of KOH, leaf washing, leaf brushing to separate the flesh from the leaf bones, soaking in bleach solution, dressing in dye solution, and the last stage is the drying process (Agustine et al., 2021). After the presentation, continued with discussion and question and answer with the training participants, after that the participants were invited to practice making leaf bone preservation and flower creations from the leaf bone preserve. The tools and materials needed to make floral creations are leaf bone preservation strands, skewers, green insulation, glue, and scissors (Rai, 2021).

DISCUSSION

Blimbingrejo Village is one of the villages in Jepara Regency, this village has the potential in the form of various types of woody plants whose leaves can be used as basic materials for making leaf bone preservation crafts. The use of leaves in this village to be used as handicraft products is a solution offered to overcome the problems of partners, namely PKK mothers whose members are housewives so that they can take advantage of making or producing handicrafts from leaf bones as a free time filler to generate financial income (Ronaldo et al., 2023). In addition, youth organizations, namely IPM and IPNU in Blimbingrejo village can also utilize the leaves to be processed and produced into various creative products from leaf bone preservation to increase the organization's cash income (Eyes, 2021). The organization's cash income is usually sourced from member dues and also donations from donors. The production of creative products made from preserved leaf bones is expected by the IPM and IPNU organizations to make it an entrepreneurial activity that can be sold and can generate profits for the organization's cash income which is generally used for the purpose of funding various activities or events organized by the organization.

Based on the training activities that have been carried out, participants showed very high enthusiasm, this can be seen from the number of participants who had sufficient peseta quota. Participants seemed conducive and calm when the presentation session started to the end, even participants also actively answered when the presenter gave questions to participants. When the discussion session began, participants were also still enthusiastic, and they actively asked questions related to things that were poorly understood or unclear about the material of leaf bone crafts. The enthusiasm of the participants was also still evident during the last session of this training activity, namely the practice of making leaf bone preservation and its creation into flowers. Participants were trained to brush the leaves to separate the leaf flesh from the leaf bones. As a result, most participants have been able to brush the leaves well, this can be seen from the leaf bone strands brushed by participants generally have been separated from the leaf flesh and the leaf bone strands are also not damaged or torn.

Participants continued the next stage enthusiastically according to the direction of the presenter, namely soaking in bleach solution for 10 minutes, followed by soaking in textile dye for 15 minutes and finally the drying process. While waiting for the cleaning and coloring process, participants were invited to practice making flowers from preserved leaves. The speaker guided participants to carry out the stages in making flower creations from preserved leaf bones. The stage of making flowers begins with preparing skewers as flower stems and wrapped using green insulation, the next stage is cutting leaf bone preservation strands to form flower petals to then be assembled on the stalk that has been made. The last stage is the addition of leaves to the stalk which is also made of preserved strands of leaf bones. The output of this leaf bone training activity is a product in the form of leaf bone preservation strands and flower creations that have been assembled by each peseta from leaf bone preservation (Hikmah & Sumarni, 2021). Products that have been made after completing the training activity are welcome to be taken home by participants.

The success of this leaf bone craft training activity is supported by several factors. The first factor is the cooperation of partners who are also training participants, namely PKK mothers and young IPM and IPNU youth who have taken the time to participate in leaf bone craft training activities. The second factor is the supporting facilities and infrastructure provided by the village as a place for training activities, so that trainees feel comfortable and safe during a series of training activities. In addition, the committee in charge of this activity, namely members of the UNNES Location KKN team in Blimbingrejo village, also helped a lot in the success of the activity, ranging from the preparation of the event, the provision of tools and materials for making leaf bone preserves, accommodation, and also consumption for participants. Although in general this leaf bone training activity is successful and runs smoothly, there are still inhibiting factors that make this activity less optimal, these factors are limited time available during training. In the first phase of the training, the participants were IPM and IPNU youth, which was held at night starting at 20.00 WIB, considering the imposition of a curfew in the village, the activity ended until 22.00 WIB so that when the practice of making flower creations was carried out quickly. In the second stage of training, which is mainly PKK women, it is carried out in the afternoon at 16.00 WIB and finished at 17.30 WIB, this is because if the activity continues, it will collide with the maghrib prayer time and the activity will not run conducive, so practical activities are only carried out for a short time. Time constraints that occur do not have much effect on the success of leaf bone training activities, because training activities continue to run smoothly and participants can still produce craft products.

This leaf bone craft training is one solution in answering partner problems, this is conveyed by trainees who are asked to convey things felt after attending the training (Rochmah Ika et al., 2023). Participants gave a good response by stating that this training activity was very useful for them, became new knowledge that they could apply and could add skills and could hone participants' creativity. Based

on the observation of the products produced, participants have been able to produce good products after participating in training activities, after previously participants have not been able to produce products and do not know the stages of making leaf bone preservation. In addition, this activity can also further increase the selling value of leaves, because generally fallen leaves only become waste that is used as compost or left alone because of its easily decomposed nature, while if processed into high-value leaf bone creations (Suryandari & Asmawi, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Leaf bone craft training is carried out as one solution to overcome the problems of partners, namely PKK mothers and IPM and IPNU organizations to provide knowledge and train skills to create leaf bone creation products so that they can be sold and can increase financial income. The implementation of this activity is also influenced by several factors. The supporting factor of this activity is the availability of a large and adequate place for participants to take part in training activities, besides that the enthusiasm and enthusiasm of the participants are also supporting factors for the smooth running of this leaf bone craft training activity, while the inhibiting factor of this activity is the limited time in the activity, so that the activity runs less long and there are less products that can be practiced to be made.

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