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Youth Empowerment Workshop: Building Youth Capacity to Contribute to the Improvement of the Youth Development Index in South Kalimantan

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Abstract

According to Undang-Undang Nomor 40 tahun 2009 pasal 16, Youth who play an active role are a moral force, social control, and agents of change in all aspects of national development. However, many youths are unsure how to begin participating and playing active roles in society. They often doubt their ability to contribute, lack of education, information access, and resources frequently become the primary obstacle. To address these challenges and improve the Youth Development Index (YDI), as well as support the youth development strategies of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenpora), Purna Caraka Muda Indonesia (PCMI) South Kalimantan and Gen Z Movement organized a seminar aimed at providing adequate education, training, and support. The program aimed to boost youths' confidence and motivation to engage in social projects. The seminar was attended by 200 youths, including members of various communities and university students in Banjarmasin. The implementation methods involved presentations from two keynote speakers, followed by an interactive discussion session. Subsequently, participants were divided into 10 groups to design social project plans and deliver presentations. Evaluation results indicated that 65% of participants were very satisfied, and 35% were satisfied with the seminar. Furthermore, over 90% of participants reported that the seminar helped them understand how to design effective social projects. This activity demonstrates the potential for structured seminars to empower youth and foster their active participation in society development.

Keywords: Youth, PCMI, Gen Z Movement, Social Project, Kemenpora

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is currently preparing for the demographic bonus by creating various opportunities to capitalise on it. It should be noted that the demographic bonus at the age of 100 years of Indonesian independence is expected to occur with a population of 309 million people dominated by people of productive age, those who can still earn a living and are predicted to be able to increase their income per year. This means that the potential of youth is involved in restoring order to the country's economy. (S Sholikhah & AM Sadat, 2019)

Youth is an important asset in the social structure of society. Youth also act as agents of change in development in various aspects of life. Youth development is part of the national interest (Manik, 2016) History proves that the role of youth is the direction of determining the future of the nation as well as being the leader of the nation. (Gahung, 2017) So it is natural for youth to continue to participate in advancing community life, especially in the structure of rural communities. The success of youth development, especially in creating quality human resources (HR) and having a competitive advantage, is one of the keys to opening opportunities and progress in various sectors.

The creation of new young economic actors as sociopreneur agents is an effort to improve the country's economy when the involvement of the demographic bonus is needed. BKKBN defines demographic bonus as a condition where the number of people of productive age exceeds the number of people of non-productive age. Indonesia is expected to reach the peak of the demographic bonus around 2030. The demographic bonus is described as the emergence of a high number of young people (16-30 years old) who are expected to become the productive generation in 2025-2045. Youth as the successor of the nation's ideals must prepare themselves to become

nation cadres who are rational, virtuous, and responsible. In the Youth Law No. 40 of 2009, youth have a strategic role in nation building and must be developed through awareness, empowerment, and development. (Nursyamsu, 2016)

According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of South Kalimantan Province, the population in 2023 is divided into several age groups, the total population aged 15-24 years in South Kalimantan in 2023 is around 726.5 thousand people (Badan Pusat Statistik, n.d.). In addition, according to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the percentage of youth in South Kalimantan in 2023 is 22.90% of the total population (Data Indonesia, n.d.). Based on data from the South Kalimantan Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the youth development index (IPP) in this area is at 55.2, lower than the national average of 57.9. Acting Kadispora South Kalimantan, Diauddin through the Head of Youth Development, Muhammad Anugrah said that the IPP of South Kalimantan Province this year experienced a significant increase compared to last 2023. Where last year South Kalimantan's IPP was ranked 31 out of 34 provinces in Indonesia with a value of 50.33. Although our IPP has increased, the South Kalimantan Provincial Government through the South Kalimantan Dispora continues to strive to increase the growth of youth entrepreneurial interest in Banua so that our IPP can be even better. (Diskominfo Kalimantan Selatan, 2024)

This suggests that aspects of youth employability skills supported by education and social participation still require improvement. The first challenge is in the gender and discrimination domain, which includes all indicators. One of them is the child marriage rate which is still very high (17.63 percent), even the fourth highest rate nationally although the trend has improved since 2015. The second challenge is in the participation and leadership domain. In general, youth participation in social community activities is already quite high. However, the level of participation in social organisations and giving suggestions or opinions in meetings is still low and below the national rate. (Antara News Kalimantan Selatan, 2024)

Based on field studies conducted by PCMI South Kalimantan, youth in South Kalimantan experience several problems including: Lack of practical skills in designing and implementing impactful social projects, Lack of knowledge on how to start effective and sustainable social initiatives, Limited networks and access to resources, such as mentors, financing, and support communities, Lack of Awareness of the Role of Youth in Social Development. Many youth do not realise the importance of their contribution in improving their communities and neighbourhoods.

In order to overcome the existing obstacles, Purna Caraka Muda Indonesia (PCMI) South Kalimantan collaborated with Gen Z Movement facilitated by Kemenpora RI to help overcome these problems. Purna Caraka Muda Indonesia (PCMI) is an independent organisation founded by several alumni of youth exchanges between countries in Indonesia in 1977. At the national level, PCMI is coordinated by a central committee based in Jakarta. While at the provincial level, PCMI activities are carried out by the respective regional administrators, including one in South Kalimantan. Gen Z Movement is one of the youth communities in Hulu Sungai Tengah (HST), South Kalimantan Province. PCMI South Kalimantan and Gen Z Movement held a youth workshop based on project-based learning with the theme Building an Impactful Social Project, a workshop to design and implement a social project that can have a significant positive impact on the community or certain target groups. Project-based learning is a new and creative method or strategy designed to help individuals, especially students, to effectively improve and develop the skills necessary for success in the ever-evolving modern world. (Pawar et al., 2020)

The purpose of this youth workshop are:

- a. Improve youth understanding of the concept of social projects.
- b. Train youth skills in designing and managing impactful social projects.
- c. Encourage youth to actively contribute to community development through social initiatives.
- d. Build a network of collaboration among youth, both at local and national levels, to support each other in the implementation of social projects.
- e. Develop the leadership capacity and critical thinking skills of youth, so that they are able to face social challenges with creative and innovative solutions.
- f. Increase youth awareness of social, environmental and economic issues, and the importance of their role in creating positive change.
- g. Promote the spirit of social entrepreneurship as an innovative alternative to solve social problems independently and sustainably.

Furthermore, the benefits that participants gained from this youth workshop include, For Youth: Gaining knowledge and practical skills that can be applied in community life, increasing self-confidence, and equipping them with the ability to design and manage impactful social projects. In addition, youth also gained an understanding of the importance of their role in social and economic development, and were inspired to become agents of change in their communities. For the Community: Encouraging youth to get involved in projects that support environmental

sustainability, such as waste management, reforestation, and nature conservation, which have a long-term positive impact on the community and the surrounding nature. For Organisations/Communities: Increasing collaboration between youth communities and the government in local development, as well as strengthening social networks that can support the implementation of social projects. This workshop also provides opportunities to build strategic partnerships between various parties, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector, and other stakeholders, in creating more effective and efficient programmes.

METHOD

The implementation of this activity is in the form of a seminar held for 1 day on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) Lambung Mangkurat University Banjarmasin which consists of several sessions, namely:

1. Presentation sessions by the experts
The experts or presenters were from PCMI South Kalimantan and Kemenpora RI, they provided insight into the importance of the role of youth in social development, as well as basic steps in designing social projects.
2. Mentoring and Social Project Planning Session
Participants who were divided into 10 groups were asked to develop a social project plan with guidelines provided by mentors from PCMI South Kalimantan and Gen Z Movement.
3. Social project plan presentation session
Each group presented the results of their social project plan discussion to get feedback from the mentors.
4. Evaluation
Conduct a participant satisfaction survey and provide assistance for the implementation of social projects.

The targets or participants of this workshop are students from various campuses, both public and private, as well as youth from the South Kalimantan Youth Community Organisation (OKP) who are engaged in leadership and social environment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of a youth workshop based on project-based learning with the theme Building an Impactful Social Project has successfully involved 200 participants from among the youth. Participants also participated in the activities until the end. They looked enthusiastic and listened to the material presented by the speakers. Some participants asked questions related to the material and problems that exist in South Kalimantan. This shows the participants' interest in the material presented. Participants also followed the entire activity, both the first, second and last sessions with great enthusiasm. The implementation of this workshop uses the seminar method in 1 day which has been carried out in several sessions :

1. Presentation sessions by the experts

The first session of the workshop began with a presentation by Resource Person 1, Mr Andi Susanto, S. STP, M.Sc. He serves as Assistant Deputy of Youth Leadership at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, who has deep experience and expertise in developing the leadership capacity of young people in Indonesia. In this workshop, Mr Andi Susanto not only presented material on youth empowerment and leadership development strategies that are relevant to the needs of the current era, but also highlighted the importance of the role of youth in social development, especially in the South Kalimantan area. The material presented covered key issues, such as building adaptive leadership characters, improving social project management skills, and encouraging cross-sector collaboration to create sustainable social initiatives. In addition, insights into various government policies and programmes that can be utilised by youth to develop their potential to the fullest. On this occasion, Mr Andi Susanto was also trusted to officially open the workshop. In his speech, he expressed his appreciation for the implementation of this activity, which is considered a real step in supporting efforts to increase the Youth Development Index (IPP) in South Kalimantan. The aim of this workshop is that participants not only gain new knowledge and skills, but are also motivated to become active agents of change and contribute positively to the surrounding community. The opening was marked by a passionate speech from him, followed by a standing ovation from the participants as a sign of the start of this well-designed workshop activity.



Fig 1. Presentation session by Mr Andi Susanto S. STP., M. Sc.

After completing the presentation of material by Mr Andi Susanto S. STP., M. Sc, the second session in this workshop was filled with very inspiring material presentation by Mr Herry Pradana, M.B.A. He is a professional with an extraordinary track record, including the recipient of the prestigious Fulbright scholarship and a graduate of Colorado State University, USA. In addition, Mr Herry is also known as a researcher and business consultant with experience in business innovation development, especially in assisting micro enterprises in South Kalimantan. Not only that, he is also an alumnus of the Inter-State Youth Exchange (PPAN), where he once represented South Kalimantan, proving his contribution in promoting the potential of regional youth at the international level. In this session, 'Ideation and Innovation for Youth Projects' was presented, designed to equip participants with the understanding and skills to create creative ideas and develop innovations for sustainable social projects. The material began with an in-depth explanation of the importance of ideation or the process of idea generation in starting a project. He emphasised that a strong idea must be rooted in a deep understanding of the problems in society and be able to provide relevant and impactful solutions.

Furthermore, participants were also asked to understand the innovation process which is not only about creating something new, but also about optimising existing resources to create positive change. He provided real-life examples from his experience in assisting micro businesses in South Kalimantan, including how businesses can develop their products through innovative approaches, such as the use of simple technology or creative marketing strategies.

The session was also designed to be interactive, participants were given simple simulations on how to identify problems, map community needs, and generate solutions through structured brainstorming. He also shared practical tips to ensure the ideas that emerge can be implemented well and support project sustainability, such as building cross-sector collaboration and managing risks.



Fig 2. Presentation session by Mr Herry Pradana M.B.A

The third session of the workshop featured Kesuma Anugerah Yanti, an experienced activist in designing and implementing various social projects, especially those that focus on environmental issues.

Since 2014, she has been actively involved in various initiatives that provide real impact to the community, making her one of the inspirational figures in South Kalimantan. Currently, she leads a local NGO called Borneo Urban Lab, which specialises in urban issues in Kalimantan, such as environmental management, sustainable urban planning, and urban community empowerment. In addition, Ibu Kesuma Anugerah Yanti is also an alumnus of the Youth Exchange between Countries (PPAN), where in 2021 she represented South Kalimantan, demonstrating her dedication and capacity to bring the region's name to the international level. The material presented by the theme 'Project Management for Social Impact', which is an important guide for participants to understand the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating social impact projects. The session began with an explanation of the importance of structured project management in achieving sustainable social goals. This material discusses the important stages of project management, starting from identifying community problems and needs, developing a strong proposal, budget planning, to effective project implementation. She provided real-life examples of environmental projects that Borneo Urban Lab has managed, such as urban waste management and reforestation programmes in densely populated areas. This gave participants a first-hand look at the challenges and solutions faced in implementing social projects in the field. The session also included a discussion on project evaluation methods that can help measure impact, both quantitatively and qualitatively. With a straightforward and passionate delivery style, Kesuma motivated participants that every small step they take in project management can make a big difference to the community, provided it is done with careful planning and strong commitment.



Fig 3. Presentation session by Kesuma Anugerah Yanti

The presentation of material from the speakers each for 40 minutes then continued after the three speakers finished their presentations the event continued with an interactive discussion. On this occasion the participants seemed very enthusiastic to ask questions.



Fig 4. Enthusiastic participants in the discussion session with the speakers

2. Mentoring Session and Preparation of Social Project Plan

After the participants received material from the speakers, the participants were divided into 10 groups, the participants carried out a mentoring session by Adetya Nor Rizkyka, M.Pd Alumni of the 2016 Indonesia Korea Youth Exchange Program and the head of the Gen Z Movement community, Muhammad Rahmat, recipient of the 2024 Youth Achievement Award. In this session the participants had the opportunity to brainstorm project ideas and were asked to develop a social project plan with the guidelines provided by the mentors.



Fig 5. One of the groups of participants brainstorming social project ideas

3. Social project plan presentation session

On this occasion, each group presented the results of their social project plan discussion. Each group had the opportunity to present for 5 minutes in front of the mentor and other participants to be evaluated by the mentor.



Fig 6. Presentation of social project ideas by one of the groups

4. Evaluation

As a form of evaluation of the activity, at the end of the session the participants were asked to fill out an online survey and as a form of appreciation before closing the activity, participants were announced with several categories, namely categories namely Best social project, Best speaker, Best presentation and Best participant, The winners are Best presentation: group 9, Best social project: group 10, Best speaker: Zidan from WEUS community, Rusda Afifah from PPMI, Best participant: Ocha. In addition, as a form of monitoring and follow-up to the workshop activities, the committee will provide assistance for the implementation of social projects in groups that successfully get the best social project category.



Fig.7. Awarding prizes from PCMI, Gen Z Movement and Kemenpora RI to the winners

In the evaluation results in the form of an activity participant satisfaction survey showed that 65% of participants were very satisfied and 35% were satisfied with participating in this activity and more than 90% of participants stated that this seminar helped participants understand how to design social projects in accordance with the principles of sustainability and local relevance, which are the main success indicators of this activity. These results are in line with research by (Ahmad & Yustinaningrum,

2022) which states that the Project-Based Learning approach is effective in improving collaboration and innovation skills among trainees. Nevertheless, there were several challenges faced during the activity, including variations in the level of understanding of the participants and limited time in group discussions when brainstorming project ideas. This activity made a real contribution in improving the skills of social youth that can be a model programme for other regions in Indonesia. Overall, this activity has achieved the main objective, which is to empower youth to contribute in solving social problems through a project-based approach.

CONCLUSION

The youth workshop based on project-based learning with the theme Building an Impactful Social Project successfully increased the capacity of participants in designing impactful social projects. As a follow-up activity, PCMI South Kalimantan will conduct follow-up activities in the form of mentoring to participants who are selected as the best social projects to help participants implement their social projects. In addition, collaboration with government agencies or non-profit organisations can support the sustainability of this program.

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