



JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

P-ISSN: 2962-1003 E-ISSN: 2962-0767

Homepage jurnal: <http://jurnal.untirta.ac.id/index.php/JoCSE/>



Socialization of sailing safety for fishermen at Cituis Port

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Submitted 5 August 2024
Reviewed 1 September 2024
Received 10 September 2024
Accepted 23 September 2024
Available online on 1 November 2024

Keywords:

Counseling, sailing safety, fishermen.

Kata kunci:

Penyuluhan, keselamatan berlayar, nelayan.

ABSTRACT

This community service project, conducted by Politeknik Pelayaran Banten, focused on providing sailing safety counseling to fishermen at Cituis Port in Karang Serang village. The initiative sought to address the challenges faced by local fishermen by improving their awareness of safety practices, alleviating economic constraints, and mitigating the risks associated with navigating and operating in demanding marine environments. Through participatory workshops and practical demonstrations, fishermen were educated on effective safety practices and emergency responses. The distribution of life jackets further emphasized the importance of preparedness. The project also involved collaborating with local governments and organizations to enhance sustainability. By increasing safety awareness and equipping fishermen with critical resources, this program protected lives and fostered a safer and more resilient maritime community. This effort aligns with the institution's mission of contributing to sustainable marine development and community empowerment.

ABSTRAK

Kegiatan pengabdian masyarakat ini, yang dilaksanakan oleh Politeknik Pelayaran Banten, bertujuan memberikan penyuluhan tentang keselamatan berlayar kepada para nelayan di Pelabuhan Cituis, Desa Karang Serang. Kegiatan ini dirancang untuk mengatasi tantangan yang dihadapi nelayan lokal dengan meningkatkan kesadaran mereka tentang praktik keselamatan, meringankan kendala ekonomi, dan mengurangi risiko yang terkait dengan navigasi serta operasi di lingkungan laut yang menantang. Melalui lokakarya partisipatif dan demonstrasi praktis, para nelayan diberikan edukasi tentang langkah-langkah keselamatan yang efektif dan respons darurat. Pembagian jaket keselamatan juga menjadi penekanan penting akan kesiapan menghadapi keadaan darurat. Proyek ini melibatkan kerja sama dengan pemerintah setempat dan organisasi terkait untuk memastikan keberlanjutan program. Dengan meningkatkan kesadaran keselamatan dan menyediakan sumber daya yang penting, program ini tidak hanya melindungi nyawa, tetapi juga membangun komunitas maritim yang lebih aman dan tangguh. Upaya ini selaras dengan misi institusi dalam mendukung pembangunan kelautan yang berkelanjutan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat.

Available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.62870/jocse.v3i2.29791>.

1. Introduction

Maritime safety has long been a critical concern for coastal communities worldwide, where livelihoods heavily depend on the unpredictable nature of the sea [1]. Fishermen, as one of the most vulnerable groups in these communities, face significant risks due to extreme weather conditions, limited navigation skills, and insufficient access to safety equipment [2-6]. These challenges are exacerbated by economic pressures that often force fishermen to prioritize income over safety [7-10]. Global initiatives have continuously emphasized the importance of enhancing maritime safety to ensure the well-being of coastal populations and the sustainability of marine industries [11]. However, achieving these objectives remains a challenge, particularly in developing countries where resources and education on maritime safety are often scarce [12].

In Indonesia, a country with vast coastal areas and millions of fishermen, maritime safety remains an urgent issue. Cituis Port, located in Karang Serang village, serves as a hub for local fishermen whose livelihoods depend on daily sea voyages. Despite its economic significance, the region struggles



with several safety concerns, including inadequate use of life-saving equipment, limited awareness of safety protocols, and a lack of formal education on emergency response procedures. These issues have led to frequent incidents at sea, ranging from minor accidents to life-threatening emergencies, highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

This study aimed to address these challenges by providing a structured safety counseling program for fishermen at Cituis Port. The program focused on improving their knowledge of maritime safety practices, equipping them with essential tools such as life jackets, and fostering a culture of safety within the community. By integrating participatory workshops and practical demonstrations, the initiative sought to empower fishermen with the skills and resources needed to navigate the risks associated with their profession effectively.

The urgency of this research lies in its potential to save lives and promote sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities. Fishermen are integral to the local economy and food security, yet they remain disproportionately affected by safety risks. This program not only aimed to mitigate immediate dangers but also sought to lay the groundwork for long-term changes in maritime safety culture. The findings from this initiative contribute to the growing body of research on community-based safety programs and offer practical insights for policymakers, educators, and maritime professionals to implement similar interventions in other coastal regions.

2. Methods

This community service program employed a structured approach comprising three main stages: needs assessment, implementation, and evaluation. The activities were conducted on September 15, 2023, at Cituis Port, Karang Serang Village. A team of 15 members, including 13 lecturers and two staff members from Politeknik Pelayaran Banten, facilitated the program.

2.1. Needs Assessment

A preliminary survey was conducted to identify the specific needs and challenges of the fishermen regarding maritime safety. The survey included interviews and discussions with local fishermen to understand their knowledge gaps, safety practices, and access to safety equipment. The results of this assessment informed the content and structure of the safety counseling program.

2.2. Implementation

The program was completed in a single-day session, beginning at 08:00 and concluding at noon. It started with a safety counseling session focused on key topics such as navigating hazardous marine environments, recognizing weather patterns, and using life-saving equipment. The session was designed to be interactive, combining theoretical explanations with practical demonstrations. Following the counseling, life jackets were distributed to the fishermen as a tangible safety resource to reinforce the importance of preparedness.

2.3. Evaluation

The program's effectiveness was evaluated through a post-activity survey and observations during the session. The survey assessed participants' understanding of the safety practices introduced during the counseling. Feedback from participants was also collected to identify the program's strengths and areas for improvement. This methodology ensured that the program addressed the fishermen's most pressing safety needs while providing practical tools and knowledge that could be immediately applied. The collaboration between Politeknik Pelayaran Banten and the local community fostered a sense of shared responsibility and sustainability for maritime safety practices.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Sailing Safety Counseling

The safety counseling session was conducted on September 15, 2023, at Cituis Port in Karang Serang Village. The program started at 8:00 AM and concluded at 12:00 PM, involving active participation from local fishermen. During the session, the community service team, consisting of 15 members (13 lecturers and 2 staff from Politeknik Pelayaran Banten), delivered comprehensive safety counseling.

The counseling addressed key aspects of maritime safety, including recognizing weather hazards, understanding navigational risks, and utilizing emergency response techniques. Practical demonstrations were incorporated to ensure participants could apply the knowledge in real-life scenarios. Fishermen were encouraged to ask questions and share their experiences, creating an interactive and engaging learning environment. This participatory approach successfully enhanced their awareness of potential risks and the importance of adhering to safety protocols during their daily operations.



Figure 1. Documentation of sailing safety socialization by Hendi Prasetyo and documentation of some of the community service team.

3.2. Distribution of Safety Jackets

Following the counseling session, life jackets were distributed to the fishermen as part of the initiative to reinforce the importance of maritime safety. This distribution aimed to provide tangible tools to enhance their preparedness for emergencies at sea. The life jackets serve as vital safety equipment, particularly in situations such as vessel capsizing or accidental falls into the water. The fishermen expressed their gratitude for the distribution, acknowledging the practicality and significance of having proper safety gear during their voyages. This initiative not only highlighted the necessity of using life jackets but also ensured that fishermen are better equipped to protect themselves in adverse conditions.



Figure 2. Documentation of distribution of life jackets to fishermen and photos of the community service team.

4. Conclusion

The safety counseling program at Cituis Port successfully addressed the pressing need for enhanced maritime safety among local fishermen. The program sought to enhance participants' understanding of essential safety practices and emergency response techniques. This service was achieved by integrating theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. The distribution of life jackets further reinforced the importance of preparedness and equipped fishermen with essential tools to mitigate risks at sea. This service significantly enhances the fishermen's knowledge of maritime safety and encourages the consistent use of safety equipment, such as life jackets, during their daily operations. The life jackets distributed during the program are expected to serve as a valuable resource, contributing to the overall safety and well-being of the fishermen. This effort reflects Politeknik Pelayaran Banten's commitment to fostering a safer and more resilient maritime community.

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