

## Effectiveness of Partnerships in Improving Student Learning Outcomes at PKBM Safari

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### ABSTRAK

The Community Learning Activity Center (PKBM) is a non-formal educational institution managed by a community with the hope of increasing various insights (knowledge) and skills so that they can improve their quality of life and increase their income to make it more feasible. There are still many PKBMs that have problems or obstacles in improving their functions and performance to implement various learning programs. So by overcoming these various problems and obstacles, namely by establishing partnerships to support the learning process to make it more effective. This research aims to determine the level of effectiveness of learning at PKBM by establishing partnerships in several learning programs. This research was conducted at a non-formal educational institution, namely PKBM Safari. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Where the data collected comes from interview scripts, field notes, personal documents, and other sources besides numbers. This research shows that establishing a partnership network can make the learning process and outcomes of students at PKBM Safari more effective. This is achieved by partnering with an organization or other institution that is able to support the learning process considering that there is still a lack of resources and facilities in the learning process that suit the needs of students at PKBM Safari.

**Keywords:** Effectiveness, Partnership, Learning, PKBM.

### INTRODUCTION

Education is an important part of life that can improve a person's quality of life. All groups, both in government and society, have responsibilities and important roles in organizing educational activities for all of society. In the National Education System Law no. 20 of 2003 states that "Education aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens".

Non-formal education regulations are regulated in Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System (Sisdiknas). Non-formal education is considered an integral part of the education system with tasks that are almost the same as formal education, namely providing the best service to society. Non-formal education can act as an addition, substitute and complement to formal education. Non-formal education is the implementation of learning activities outside of school, carried out as an effort to fulfill the educational rights of every individual who has certain reasons for not following the formal education pathway, with an emphasis on basic education, continuing education, and the development of life skills.

PKBM was born from an awareness of the importance of the role of society in the educational development process (Fismanelly, F. et al, 2022:92). PKBM is an institution that is organized as a place for the community to gain knowledge and skills by utilizing the resources and potential available in the surrounding environment.

As an institution built by, from, and for the community, PKBM has the potential to develop into an independent institution. Even though it initially depended on the government, it is hoped that PKBM will grow independently, so that the government will play less of a dominant role and play more of a facilitating role. This will make PKBM stand firmly on community self-sufficiency.

As an educational institution founded by the community which has an important role, PKBM requires a network of partnerships (cooperation) with various organizations or other institutions. This is important so that PKBM can face competition and change with real action to achieve both general and specific educational goals. Given the limited resources that non-formal education has, this partnership is important because more significant resources often exist in other organizations or institutions.

In line with this, PKBM institutions continue to strive to obtain support from resources that their units do not have so that they can realize their goals in providing education by partnering with other organizations or institutions. With this, PKBM needs to create a partnership network between parties or other institutions so that the objectives of organizing learning can be achieved.

Partnership networking is an activity that includes several main aspects including two or more parties, the existence of an interaction and having the same vision, mission or goal, providing direction to achieve compatibility, balance and interactions that can realize the interests between parties in carrying out cooperation (partner). Lateif and Hendrayani (2022:144) say that a partnership network is a form of cooperation established by an organization to achieve its vision, mission and goals with awareness of limited resources and obstacles to the development of organizational information technology, so that the organization can compete healthily and be able to survive.

The aim of PKBM is to produce knowledgeable individuals who have the skills and attitudes to develop themselves in life and need support in management. One way is by establishing partnerships with institutions or other parties that can help increase student learning effectiveness. Considering that there are still many limitations both in funding and ownership of facilities at PKBM, another important factor in implementing non-formal education at PKBM is the collaboration network (partners).

So along with this, the aim of this research is to describe the effectiveness of learning partnerships in improving learning outcomes for students at PKBM Safari. This is quite interesting because basically partnership is an important thing that cannot be denied is needed in helping the learning process to be effective in order to get good learning results.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach with the aim of describing several views from managers and students at non-formal education institutions at PKBM Safari located on Jl. Widya Asri Park No. 8, Lontarbaru, Serang City, Banten. The data obtained came from interview transcripts, field notes, personal documents and other documents. Using this qualitative descriptive method is useful for aligning empirical facts with relevant theories.

According to Jailani, MS (2023:3), qualitative research is a research approach aimed at understanding and explaining social phenomena by analyzing the context, experiences and points of view of individuals who participated in the event. Qualitative methods are research methods used to observe objects naturally, with the researcher functioning as the main instrument and varying data collection techniques. The data analysis was carried out inductively and the research results placed greater emphasis on the meaning contained in the phenomena studied (Mustopa, AS 2022:316).

This research involve various data collection techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation. These observations and interviews were used to systematically investigate processes and habits at the research location. Interviews were conducted with admin and several teaching staff at PKBM Safari, Serang City. Documentation is used to collect data from notes or other important information related to research activities.

After all the data is collected using these techniques, the researcher then managed and analyzed the data using a qualitative descriptive approach.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PKBM as a non-formal educational institution has a role and function in developing cognitive abilities, improving the quality of life of each individual student to obtain superior human resources. PKBM has efforts to carry out its roles and functions with activities based on the curriculum and PKBM operational guidelines.

The main objective of establishing PKBM is to empower the community, develop business groups, and improve community welfare. To achieve these goals, PKBM has various programs to implement (Nurmalasari, et al, 2023: 114). As a forum for learning and a source of information for the community, PKBM which is managed and organized by the community itself requires a partnership. This partnership (cooperation) aims to play a role in increasing student participation and so that the learning programs implemented run effectively and with quality.

Partnerships can provide various benefits, ranging from supporting each other to achieve the goals of the program you want to implement, to increasing enthusiasm for learning or student motivation and participation. Partnerships can be achieved through the formation of harmonious and cooperative relationships, by forming two-way communication that supports each other, meeting educational needs without giving a patronizing view, providing learning materials according to the needs and interests of

students, and being open to other people's opinions and criticism, (Sa'diyah, at all., 2021:995). This is done in order to improve the PKBM network and PKBM branding.

All institutions, whether in companies, organizations, education and others, need a partnership network. Likewise, PKBM Safari, as a non-formal education institution, has a partnership network with several institutions to support the learning process of its students. By partnering with partner institutions in the learning process at PKBM Safari, the learning process can be made easier and achieve the learning indicators that have been set. Apart from that, students can better understand and master teaching materials because they get learning materials from experts in their fields in the programs they carry out, so that learning becomes more effective.

Effectiveness is an important element in achieving the goals set for each organization, activity or program. In this case, effectiveness is the achievement of organizational goals by using its resources effectively by evaluating input, process and output, (Febriani, at all., 2023: 968). The resources referred to in this case include the availability of personnel, facilities and infrastructure, methods and models used. In addition, the plans that have been set can be compared with the results that have been achieved to measure the level of effectiveness.

The learning carried out by PKBM Safari with its partnership network, which is generally at a training institution, is very effective in supporting the learning process so that each student gets satisfactory learning results. The partnership carried out by PKBM Safari with several partner institutions to support the learning process, ensures that students receive appropriate learning or teaching materials for them to develop and apply in the future. This is supported by the programs at PKBM Safari which not only focus on education, but also the programs implemented include skills development. Until students can get it diverse knowledge and skills, both academic and practical, so that they can make an overall positive contribution to the personal development of each individual student.

Partnerships that have been carried out by PKBM Safari in the learning and training process include the Serang city scout organization, tahsin/reciting teachers, Entrepreneurs, public speaking, Bani Stebel, namely in horse riding and archery training programs, Acut Mebel, namely in furniture making training such as tables and chairs, and BMKG, namely training in disaster mitigation and weather forecasting.

Learning and training through partnerships carried out by PKBM Safari is said to be effective in obtaining student learning outcomes because the teaching materials obtained by students come from experts in their fields. Learning and training is carried out directly at partner locations so that the learning facilities used are also more complete and adequate. The learning methods used by educators or tutors with students are varied so that the learning process is not saturated and monotonous. Educators or tutors teach PKBM Safari students painstakingly until they feel they understand the learning well enough and can implement it in everyday life.

The learning and training carried out with the help of partnerships has produced quite satisfactory results for students. Success in achieving learning goals can be assessed and interpreted through student achievement or learning outcomes (Irsan, et al., 2024: 165). Students' skills in achieving optimal performance are one form of proof that a learning process that is carried out in depth requires involving tutors or educators who are experts in their field. High learning achievement shows that each student can not only master the learning material thoroughly, but also demonstrate a good understanding of the critical concepts taught (Wulandari, et al., 2023:225).

The learning process at PKBM Safari, which is supported by partnerships, is running well and still requires an evaluation learning. This is done to determine whether or not a goal or target that has been set has been achieved. This is also done in order to continue to improve and increase the results of student learning. In carrying out learning evaluations, you will be able to find and find out how good the learning outcomes achieved are, whether they are really good, useful or not, and whether they have an impact or not, as well as various existing challenges that can hinder the process of achieving the learning objectives. This will be used to make decisions about how to improve learning in the future (Rosmilawati, I, et al., 2023:644). So learning evaluation is still needed as a measure of the effectiveness of learning success.

## CONCLUSION

The Community Learning Activity Center (PKBM) has a crucial role in improving cognitive abilities, self-quality, and actualization of all students with the aim of forming quality human resources, making society independent, forming business groups, and improving welfare through various programs managed independently by public.

Collaboration networks or partnerships are one of the keys to increasing effectiveness programs in the realm of companies, organizations and education. One of them is at PKBM. This partnership provides many benefits, including increasing students' knowledge and skills, increasing student participation in the learning process, creating a harmonious learning atmosphere, and expanding PKBM networks and branding. One of them is PKBM Safari which has been successful in utilizing partnerships with various institutions to support the learning and training process of its students.

The effectiveness of the partnership can be seen through satisfactory student learning outcomes, where teaching material is delivered directly by tutors or educators who are experts in their fields, and learning is carried out at partner locations with complete and adequate facilities. Varied learning methods can make the learning process more enjoyable so that the learning that takes place is not monotonous. Students do not just master the learning material but can and are capable of implementing it.

Overall, PKBM Safari is successful in achieving learning objectives and the development of students' skills shows that effective partnerships are very important in improving the quality of non-

formal education. Optimal learning outcomes and achievements achieved by students are proof that an in-depth learning process involving experts in the field is very necessary for holistic individual development.

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