

Increasing Street Children's Creativity Through Handicraft Training At The Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation, Serang Regency

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ABSTRACT

Street children are influenced by socio-cultural and educational factors so they require attention and intervention. Despite preventative efforts, creativity is very important in education and life, but is still low. Educators have an important role in fostering creativity, but unattractive learning media hinders this. Researchers aim to increase the creativity of street children at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation. The research method used is qualitative with data collection techniques library study, interviews, observations and documentaries. Based on the study, it is known that the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation in Kramatwatu Village has 2 empowerment programs for street children, namely education and skills training. Skills training programs include making wedding favors, sewing and electric welding. These programs provide direct benefits to street children in terms of education and skills development. The success of these programs cannot be separated from the involvement of management, permanent buildings, external and internal donors, empowerment targets, and a good administration system. However, empowerment is hampered because parents do not know how to protect and exploit children. In addition, local community leaders do not know about children's rights and protection.

Keywords: *Creativity, Street Children, Handicrafts*

INTRODUCTION

Street children are a social problem that continues to require attention. UN Convention on the rights of children in particular Article 32, emphasizes the need to protect children from economic exploitation and hazardous work that could hinder their education or development. This phenomenon requires serious intervention considering the increasing number of children living on the streets. Social problems generally arise when there is inequality in society which endangers the welfare of certain groups (Aini and Setijanti, 2019). Street children are influenced by socio-cultural and educational factors. Although some children are forced to live on the streets to earn a living, there are also children who have dropped out of school and depend on urban areas to survive. Success in overcoming this problem depends on government programs and policies that are effective and involve community participation. However, the problem of street children still continues to occur even though the government has carried out various prevention

and rehabilitation programs (Hariyani et al, 2021).

Creativity is very important in education and life because it produces innovation and growth. Creative individuals and organizations are invaluable in adapting to evolving needs and intense global competition. This creative potential is inherent in children who are characterized by curiosity, asking questions, imagination, courage to take risks, and openness to new experiences. However, factors such as the influence of parents, school and environment play an important role in fostering creativity (Nurhidayatullah et al, 2021). The children's world is filled with real emotions and bright colors. Encouraging competence from an early age in children will foster creativity, because they are the ones who most purely explore their abilities. Street Children require special treatment because they are not miniature adults. Creativity is the ability to create something meaningful and useful from existing elements (Rachmawati, and Faedlulloh, 2021) . This can be realized by anyone, regardless of age or level of

education. Engaging in creative activities brings satisfaction and improves the quality of life. Creative ideas can benefit individuals, other people, and even society as a whole. Therefore, fostering creativity from an early age allows children to become creators, not just consumers. Children are the next generation of a nation, and their continued growth determines the quality of society. Education plays an important role in shaping the quality of a generation, and whoever gets quality experience and learning will create a quality generation (Akbarina et al., 2019).

Understanding the characteristics of roads is very necessary to give birth to a generation that can develop itself optimally, taking into account the importance of age. Educators play an important role in fostering children's creativity, because creative children satisfy their curiosity through exploration, experimentation and asking questions. However, the phenomenon of low creativity in society still continues to occur, many people copy other people's work because of the lack of development in children. Even street children show low creativity, because children are still dependent on educators and do not have their own ideas. This is caused by learning media that are not interesting so they are unable to stimulate creativity (Rapiatunnisa, 2022). Encouraging high creativity in children encourages learning, hard work, and the ability to exceed expectations. Storytelling provides positive stimulation for children, increases concentration, courage in developing creativity, imaginative thinking, and expanding vocabulary. Based on this, researchers are interested in studying the creativity of street children. The aim of writing this article is to find out what can be done to increase the creativity of street children at the Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research method use approach involving qualifications data analysis . Based on the opinion of Sugiyono (2019), qualitative research is a method used to analyze data collected naturally to obtain in-depth knowledge. According to Arioen et al (2023), data analysis is look for And collect data regularly systematic . The way to do this is by organizing the data and dividing it into several

sections categories, classifying them into units, coordinating, recognizing patterns, selecting important information, drawing conclusions that are easily understood by others. Qualitative data analysis is productive, based on the data obtained and developing certain relational patterns. In this research, data analysis will be carried out in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

The aim of this descriptive research is to describe and understand a particular phenomenon or problem, in this case the author wants to describe the process of implementing a program to increase the creativity of street children through handicraft training at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation, Serang Regency. Researchers will collect descriptive data and documents through various methods such as observation. Qualitative research focuses on the intensive study of specific events or situations. Data collection technique that is study References , interviews, observations and documentaries. The location of this research is the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation, Serang Regency, which is located in the Permai Complex, Block D2 No. 15 Rt 011/Rw 003 Pelamunan Village, Kramatwatu District, Serang Regency, Banten Province. Research methodology contains the use of a research approach, time and place of research, targets/objectives, research subjects, procedures, instruments and data analysis techniques as well as other matters related to the research method. targets/objectives, research subjects, procedures, data and instruments, are given with sub-headings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A way to support street children is by encouraging their participation in informal education programs offered by NGOs or local communities. These programs provide a platform for creative expression and skill development through activities such as arts, crafts, and music (Mahmud dan Taayibu, 2022). Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini has carried out empowerment activities to street children. They have developed several stages to ensure the effectiveness of the program. This institution emphasizes the importance of preparation and building emotional relationships with street children before

carrying out empowerment activities. After the relationship was established, they continued to design and implement a program of street children empowerment activities. This stage really determines the success of the program.

Handicraft training aims to develop students' potential in achieving abilities, skills, attitudes and personalities in line with national education goals. Indonesia's National Education System as stated in the Law Number 20 of 2003 aims to make Indonesian people smarter and develop himself as a whole. This emphasizes the importance of democratic, fair and non-discriminatory education, upholding human rights, religious values, cultural values and national pluralism. To provide education, various institutions have been formed, both formal and informal (Rahayu et al, 2020) . One example is Aulia Qurrota Aini who provides non-educational education formal for street children. This institution provides several programs to support these children's education. Skills are the abilities that individuals have in various fields such as sports, writing, and public speaking. However, this skill does not appear immediately experience will but they require development and training. Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini in the region Kramatwatu has offer various training programs Skills to child the street below his care . These programs include making deliveries weddings , sewing , and electric welding .

Delivery Making Training Program which focuses on economic empowerment and business training introduced in 2013 by the foundation. Street children can earn money by making deliveries and this program allows them to explore creativity and generate income. The program is open to children between the ages of 10 and 16, but older participants can also be involved. This foundation receives support from the Ministry of Social Affairs for its activities in empowering street children (Anwar, 2022). Additionally, the Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini offers a variety sewing training program to girls aged 14-18 years. This training program was introduced in November 2013 after street children's assistants saw their interest in sewing during production activities. Chairman Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini approached the Ministry of Social Affairs to secure sewing training facilities. Although the

program primarily targets girls, some boys living on the street also take part as well as in show interest in participating. On training sew This held twice a month on the first and third Sundays . Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini provides seven sewing machines for this program, and the machines are used interchangeably. Whereas The Serang City Industrial Job Training Center provides electric welding training held every 1-2 months. This setup allows for greater flexibility and access to necessary tools. LKSA has established good collaboration with the Serang City Industrial Job Training Center and the Lebak Regency Rehabilitation Center to support the smooth running of electrical training activities (Anwar, 2022).

Crafts such as sewing offer street children the opportunity to learn new creative and practical skills. This craft can provide a stable source of income for the future and have a positive impact on their lives. The craft of sewing produces a variety of useful items including clothing (such as daily wear, dresses, trousers, jackets, and sportswear), accessories (such as bags, hats, scarves, belts, and gloves), furniture (such as pillows, curtains, tablecloths, and blankets), home decor (such as flags, wall hangings, and decorative crafts), and other supplies and equipment (such as pillowcases, sofa cushion covers, table decorations, and more). These products have both practical and aesthetic value, making them suitable for personal use, gifts or collections. Training street children to sew can be done through a caring and sustainable approach. The following steps can be taken: 1. Listen to their stories and experiences to show empathy and willingness to help. 2. Provide the necessary tools and materials such as a sewing machine, thread, needle, fabric and equipment. 3. Teach them the basics of sewing, pattern cutting, measuring, and using a sewing machine. 4. Demonstrate the steps and let them practice, providing positive feedback and guidance. 5. Encourage creativity and experimentation with their own designs. 6. Provide training and emotional support, guide them in technical skills and market value. 7. Facilitate collaboration and community involvement for motivation and learning. 8. Discuss opportunities for skill and career development, such as joining a sewing company or starting

their own business. Adapt the approach to each child's needs and environment.

According to Anwar (2022) Street children have demonstrated amazing creativity and technical skills through their electric welding crafts. They can create sculptures and works of art from metal as a means of self-expression. Additionally, they can make furniture, home decorations, and accessories, such as bicycle racks and tool holders, that are useful in everyday life. Functional art such as unique lamps and candle holders can also be created. Garden and outdoor equipment, such as flower pots and plant holders, can also be made. Electric welding not only offers an opportunity to generate income but also helps street children develop their skills and confidence.

In the process of community empowerment, the Foundation Aulia Qurrota Aini faced various things supporting and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors play a very important role in ensuring smooth running implementation of empowerment programs For child roads in the area Kramatwatu. These supporting factors include management involvement in implementing activities, availability of permanent buildings and adequate infrastructure, external and internal donor assistance, empowerment targets (involvement of street children), and a good administrative system. However, there are also some inhibiting factors that hinder the progress of empowerment activities. The Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation identified several things that influence obstacles, including the inability of parents to protect children and exploitation of children, as well as a lack of understanding of local community leaders. These factors highlight the challenges the agency faces in carrying out its mission to empower street children in society. Despite these obstacles, the foundation remains committed to its cause and continues to strive to improve the lives of children. Overall, community empowerment requires support from various parties and the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve its goals. The LKSA Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation is dedicated to responding to the needs of street children and improving their welfare in the Kramatwatu area (Anwar, 2022).

CONCLUSIONS

Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation in Kramatwatu Village has two focused programs on empowerment child street ie education and skills training. The skills training program includes making deliveries weddings, sewing, and electric welding. These programs provide direct benefits to street children in terms of education and skills development. The success of these programs cannot be separated from the involvement of management, permanent buildings, external and internal donors, empowerment targets, and a good administration system. However, the inability of parents to protect children and exploitation of children, as well as disability local community leaders' knowledge of children's rights and protection hinders the empowerment process.

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