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Increasing Awareness Of Formal Education Through Interactive Socialization At The At-Tahkimis-Sorih Nwdi Permatan Islamic Boarding School

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Abstract

*Formal education is a crucial factor in enhancing the quality of human resources and shaping the character, knowledge, and skills of students. However, awareness regarding the importance of formal education still needs to be raised, particularly within the environment of Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*). Consequently, students participating in the Community Service Program (KKN) from Hamzanwadi University conducted an interactive outreach session at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School to increase student awareness of the importance of formal education. The activity aimed to provide an understanding of the benefits of formal education, the importance of pursuing higher education, and future educational and career opportunities. A descriptive method was employed, with data collected through observation, documentation, and direct participation during the event. The activity comprised several stages: preparation, material presentation, interactive discussion, a question-and-answer session, and the awarding of appreciation to active participants. The results indicated a positive response from the participants, characterized by high enthusiasm, active engagement in discussions, and the confidence to ask questions and express opinions regarding the importance of formal education. The activity also provided students with additional insights and motivation to pursue further education as a foundation for achieving their aspirations. Thus, the interactive outreach conducted by the Hamzanwadi University KKN students serves as an educational initiative that supports raising student awareness about the importance of formal education within the Islamic boarding school setting.*

Keywords: Formal Education, Educational Awareness, Interactive Outreach, Islamic Boarding School, Community Service Program

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic human need and a crucial indicator of national development. Through education, individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and character needed to face life's challenges. Education serves not only as a means of transferring knowledge but also as a means of personality development, developing potential, and improving the quality of human resources. Therefore, the quality of education a community receives is a determining factor in a nation's progress. In Indonesia, the implementation of education is regulated by Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, which divides educational pathways into formal, non-formal, and informal education. Of these three pathways, formal education is characterized by being structured, systematic, and hierarchical, from elementary to higher education, providing a focused learning experience and generating academic recognition in the form of a diploma, which serves as a foundation for continuing education or entering the workforce.

According to Hasbullah, formal education is an educational process that takes place in official educational institutions with established levels, curriculum, study time, and evaluation systems to achieve educational goals. Formal education is not only oriented towards academic achievement, but also plays a role in shaping the attitudes, character, discipline, responsibility, and skills of students so that they are able to adapt to developments in science, technology, and the dynamics of community life. This view is in line with the thoughts of Ki Hajar Dewantara (1936) who defined education as guidance in the life of a child's growth, namely the process of guiding all potential students to develop optimally so that they are able to achieve safety and happiness as humans and members of society. The concept of the Three Centers of Education and the philosophy of Ing Ngarsa Sung Tuladha, Ing Madya Mangun Karsa, Tut Wuri Handayani also emphasizes that educational success is a shared responsibility between family, school, and society in shaping character and developing the potential of students.

Despite the crucial role of formal education, public awareness of the need to pursue higher education remains a challenge in many regions. Family economic conditions, low parental education, limited access to information about higher education, and social influences are factors that often influence students' motivation to pursue higher education. These conditions contribute to students still lacking a sufficient understanding of the benefits of formal education as a long-term investment for their personal lives and future.

This problem is further exacerbated by the persistent belief that success is determined more by work experience or practical skills than by formal education. This perception can influence students' interest in continuing their education to a higher level, potentially reducing

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the quality of future human resources. Therefore, educational efforts are needed to increase students' understanding and awareness of the importance of formal education by conveying information that is not only one-way but also provides opportunities for participants to discuss, ask questions, and understand the benefits of education based on experiences relevant to their lives.

One form of such effort is the implementation of interactive socialization in schools and Islamic boarding schools which is expected to build learning motivation, broaden insight into educational and career opportunities, and encourage changes in students' mindsets regarding the importance of formal education. Based on these conditions, Hamzanwadi University Community Service (KKN) students carried out the activity "Increasing Formal Education Awareness through Interactive Socialization at At-Tahkimis Sorih NWDI Permata Islamic Boarding School". This activity aims to increase students' understanding, motivation, and awareness of the importance of formal education as a provision for achieving a better future. The urgency of this activity lies in the need to increase awareness of formal education as a step to support the formation of superior human resources, with character, and able to face the challenges of modern development. The novelty of this activity lies in the application of interactive socialization as an educational medium that emphasizes two-way communication through discussions, questions and answers, and the delivery of relevant experiences so that participants do not only receive information passively, but also understand the important meaning of formal education in more depth.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive method with a participatory approach. Descriptive methods are used to describe the implementation process of activities as they occur in the field without manipulating the objects being studied. According to Sugiyono (2019), descriptive methods are used to describe or analyze research results, but are not used to draw generally applicable conclusions. A participatory approach is implemented by actively involving students in every stage of the activity, from following the presentation of material, discussing, asking questions, expressing opinions, to participating in evaluations. Through this approach, participants are not only recipients of information but also directly involved in the learning process, so that socialization activities are more interactive and support increased understanding and awareness of the importance of formal education.

Data collection was conducted through observation, documentation, and direct participation during the activity. Observations were used to assess student engagement,

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enthusiasm, and responses during the socialization activity, while documentation served as evidence of the activity's implementation. The data obtained were then analyzed descriptively and qualitatively, describing the activity's implementation process and changes in participants' understanding and enthusiasm during the socialization. This analysis provided an overview of the activity's implementation and the level of participant engagement throughout the socialization process.

The research was conducted at the At Tahkimis Sorih Islamic Boarding School (Ponpes), NWDI Permatan, targeting secondary-level students. All students participating in the outreach activities became subjects in the research implementation in accordance with the participatory approach used, so that all participants played an active role in each series of activities carried out.

The research began with a preparatory phase, which included coordination with the Islamic boarding school (Ponpes), preparation of outreach materials, and preparation of supporting media. The next phase was an interactive outreach program that included material on the definition of formal education, the importance of continuing education to a higher level, the benefits of education for the future, and educational and career opportunities. To increase participant participation, the activity included discussion sessions, Q&A sessions, and motivational sessions. Throughout the activity, researchers conducted observations and documentation as part of the data collection process. Furthermore, all data was analyzed descriptively and qualitatively to illustrate the implementation process and changes in participants' understanding and enthusiasm for the importance of formal education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An educational outreach activity was held at the At-Thakimis-Sorih NWDI Permata Islamic Boarding School with the theme of the importance of higher education as a provision for self-development and career as one of the work programs of the Hamzanwadi University Community Service (KKN) students. The target of this activity was students at the MTS (Islamic Junior High School) and high school (SMA) levels, and those within the Islamic Boarding School environment. This activity aimed to increase participants' awareness of the importance of continuing formal education to a higher level as a provision for facing developments in science, the world of work, and social life.

Activity Preparation

Before carrying out the socialization activities, KKN students coordinated with the head of the Islamic boarding school as an initial step taken to ensure that the socialization activities regarding the importance of higher education as a provision for self-development and careers

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could be carried out properly. Hamzanwadi University Community Service (KKN) students coordinated with the At-Thakimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School, which involved the head of the foundation, the principal, teachers, and administrators of the Islamic Boarding School. The coordination aimed to convey the intent and purpose of the activity, determine the implementation time, determine the target participants, and prepare the technical implementation of the socialization so as not to disrupt the learning process at school. Through this coordination, the school provided full support for the implementation of the activity and helped prepare the place, facilities, and coordinate student attendance.

After obtaining approval from the school, the KKN students prepared socialization materials tailored to the characteristics and needs of the students. In addition to preparing the materials, the KKN students also prepared supporting media in the form of PowerPoint presentations, activity banners, and equipment for educational games and group discussions, such as colored paper (stick notes), stationery, and simple prizes as a form of appreciation for participants who actively participated in the activities. The use of these media aims to create a more interesting and interactive socialization atmosphere and encourage active participant involvement throughout the learning process. The thorough preparation stage is an important factor in supporting the smooth implementation of the socialization so that the activity's goal, namely increasing student awareness of the importance of formal education, can be optimally achieved.



Picture1. Activity Preparation

Implementation of Socialization

1. Opening

   The socialization activity was carried out at the At-Thakimis_Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School, involving students as the main target of the activity. The event began with an opening led by the MC, followed by remarks from the head of the Islamic Boarding School Foundation and the Hamzanwadi University Community Service (KKN) students. In their remarks, the Islamic Boarding School expressed their appreciation for the implementation of the socialization activity and hoped that the activity could motivate students to continue their enthusiasm for learning and continue their education to a higher

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level. On the same occasion, the KKN students explained the purpose of the activity, namely to provide an understanding of the importance of formal education as a provision in improving self-quality and achieving a better future.



Picture2. Opening

2. Delivery of Material

Following the opening ceremony, the event continued with a presentation on the importance of formal education. The material covered the definition of formal education as defined by Law Number 20 of 2023 concerning the national education system, the benefits of formal education for personal development, the importance of continuing education to higher education, scholarship opportunities, and career prospects achieved through education. The presentation utilized PowerPoint presentations to facilitate participants' understanding.



Figure 3. Presentation of Material

3. Interactive Discussion

An interactive discussion is a communication activity that involves the exchange of thoughts and ideas between two people. As a participatory approach, the activity continued

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with an interactive discussion that actively engaged all participants. Participants were given small pieces of paper to write down their aspirations. Their enthusiasm during the question-and-answer session demonstrated their keen interest in information about formal and higher education.



Figure 4. Interactive Discussion

4. Giving Appreciation

Support for the younger generation is not only expressed verbally but also through appreciation. As a token of appreciation for the participants' active participation during the program, the Community Service Program students expressed appreciation to those who actively asked questions, answered questions, and participated in group discussions. The appreciation was given in a simple form as motivation to increase participants' confidence and enthusiasm in participating in learning activities. Furthermore, the appreciation also aims to create a pleasant learning atmosphere and encourage other participants to be more active in expressing their opinions and participating in future educational activities. The program then concluded with a joint documentation session between the Community Service Program students, the Islamic Boarding School, teachers, and all participants as a form of closing the series of socialization activities.



Figure 5. Giving Appreciation

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DISCUSSION

The implementation of interactive socialization activities at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School shows that the participatory approach is able to create a more communicative learning atmosphere and encourage active involvement of students.

Based on observations during the activity, participants not only acted as recipients of information but also directly participated in various activities, such as paying attention to the presentation of material, asking questions, and providing feedback. This involvement demonstrates that the learning process is two-way, allowing participants to build understanding based on the experiences and interactions that occur during the activity.

It can also be concluded that the question-and-answer session demonstrated the participants' high level of curiosity about formal education, particularly higher education, scholarship opportunities, and career prospects after graduation. The high level of participant participation during the activity indicates that the approach used was able to create a more active learning process than a one-way presentation.

The results of this activity are in line with the thinking of Ki Hajar Dewantara (1936) who stated that education is a guide in the life of a child's growth, namely the process of guiding and developing the potential of students so that they can develop optimally. In this socialization activity, KKN students not only deliver material, but also act as facilitators who provide opportunities for participants to think, discuss, express opinions, and ask questions. This role reflects the philosophy of Tut Wuri Handayani, namely providing encouragement and motivation to students so they are able to develop to the potential they have. Thus, the socialization process is not only oriented towards conveying information, but also on empowering students as the main subjects in the learning process.

This finding also aligns with Hasbullah's (2017) statement that formal education is a structured and hierarchical process aimed at developing students' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and character. Through this outreach activity, participants gained information about the importance of formal education as a foundation for improving their personal qualities, expanding opportunities for continuing their education to a higher level, and preparing themselves to face future challenges. The information provided not only increased participants' knowledge but also encouraged them to understand that education is a long-term investment that benefits both their personal and societal lives.

The results of this activity also support the research of Arkanudin, et al. (2025) which stated that socialization regarding further education can increase students' motivation and understanding of the importance of continuing education. Similarly, research by Sumaidi, et al. (2024) shows that socialization activities packaged in an educational and interactive manner can build students' motivation to continue their education to a higher level. Research by Parinduri, et al. (2024) also explains that educational socialization has a positive impact on students' mindsets regarding the importance of education for the future. Similarities with the activities carried out at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School can be seen from

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the high enthusiasm of the participants during the activities, active participation in discussions, and the many questions asked regarding formal education and higher education.

The participatory approach applied in this activity provides participants with the opportunity to become active participants in the learning process. Participants not only receive material from the presenters but also construct knowledge through interaction, discussion, and reflection on their educational aspirations and plans. Meanwhile, the KKN students act as facilitators, directing the activity, providing motivation, and creating a conducive learning environment. This learning pattern increases participant engagement, making the socialization process more effective and providing a meaningful learning experience.

Overall, the observation results indicate that the implementation of interactive socialization with a participatory approach is able to create an active, communicative, and student-centered learning process. The active participation of participants in each stage of the activity is an indicator that the participatory approach can be used as a strategy in providing education about the importance of formal education. Therefore, similar activities need to be implemented continuously by involving schools, families, universities, and the community as a form of synergy in increasing students' awareness of the importance of formal education as a provision for achieving a better future.

The interactive socialization on the importance of formal education at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School received a positive response from students. This was evident in the high enthusiasm of participants in participating in each stage of the activity, from the presentation of the material, group discussions, to the question and answer session. Participants demonstrated courage in expressing opinions, conveying aspirations, and asking questions about formal education, higher education, scholarship opportunities, and career prospects. This active participation demonstrated that the participatory approach is able to create a communicative learning atmosphere and encourage participants to be directly involved in the learning process.

In addition to increasing participant participation during the activity, this socialization also provided new insights regarding the importance of formal education as a provision for improving self-quality and achieving a better future. The information conveyed regarding educational levels, the benefits of higher education, and opportunities that can be obtained through formal education becomes knowledge that can help students in planning their education. This activity also strengthens the role of the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School as an educational institution that not only fosters students in religious aspects, but also supports the development of academic insight and motivates them to continue formal education in accordance with national education goals.

Overall, the implementation of interactive socialization at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School showed that a participatory approach can create a more active, communicative, and student-centered learning process. Although this activity has not yet measured changes in the level of awareness through quantitative instruments, the results of observations show that participants responded positively to the material presented, actively

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participated in each activity session, and showed a greater interest in the importance of formal education. Therefore, socialization activities such as this are expected to be carried out continuously as an effort to strengthen the awareness of students at the At-Tahkimis-Sorih NWDI Permatan Islamic Boarding School regarding the importance of formal education as a provision in achieving goals, improving the quality of life, and contributing to society.

CONCLUSION

Through this activity, it is hoped that students' awareness of the importance of formal education will continue to grow, thus further motivating them to achieve their goals through education. Therefore, similar outreach activities need to be implemented on an ongoing basis, involving various parties, to provide broader benefits to students and the Islamic boarding school environment.

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