

Together with Well Done Crochect, Knitting the Hope of Free Orphaned Middle School Teachers

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Abstract: This community service activity was carried out by a team of lecturers and students from the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Engineering, Pamulang University with Well Done Crochet partners with grant funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture of The Republic of Indonesia. The aim of this activity is in line with the first sustainable development goal, namely ending poverty in all forms throughout the world. The focus of this goal is on efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and empower those living in vulnerable conditions. The establishment of Well Done Crochet was initially to provide additional income for free school teachers for orphans. The methods or stages used are Identification of Partner Needs, Design and Procurement of Equipment. Operational Testing of Equipment, Operational Assistance, Technology Dissemination to the community/partners, Training, Mentoring, and Monitoring and Evaluation. After going through several stages of these activities, improvements were achieved, including: (a) increasing the skills of knitting teachers regarding various knitting techniques using sentro knitting machines, knitting net bags and needle punch techniques, (b) increasing teachers' knowledge about Business. Canvas and Design thinking models, (c) increasing the knowledge of Well Done Crochet students about entrepreneurship. This service activity can be said to have succeeded in increasing the creativity of teachers and students to maximize entrepreneurial activities in the craft sector as additional income.

Keywords: Knitting; Entrepreneurship; Creativity

Introduction

The low level of income or salary of teachers in Indonesia has been a problem that has been raised for a long time (Arref et al., 2024). This can be shown if the teacher's professional salary is compared with the salaries of other professions that can be obtained by graduates of similar universities. By taking into account educational background, experience and other factors from different perspectives, it can still be said that the salary of the teaching profession is lower than other professions (Suwandi, 2012). Based on research (Prihutami, 2024), teachers are a licensed profession, having a role not only to teach, but also to guide, prepare and help students to meet the academic goals of the learning participants. This profession is actually the most important part in developing the world of education in a country.

In Indonesia, according to data from the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023), the average wage/salary for individuals working in the education sector in February 2023 was IDR 2,473,647,- and in August 2023 it was IDR. 2,704,818,-. This sector is in the bottom three along with other service sectors and providers of accommodation and food and drink. This is also the case with teachers from SMP Mandiri Teuku Umar, a free school aimed at orphans and the poor. This school has been located in Pondok Aren, South Tangerang since 2004. It has been able to save children from ignorance and dropping out of school. With this school, its alumni are able to continue their education to a higher level and even go to college. Mrs. Nur Hidayati is one of the teachers who teaches there. For his dedication to teaching at this school, he was paid Rp. 400,000 per month. With that amount, it is certainly not an adequate income, even though he is not the main

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breadwinner in his family. To generate income, he then built a business with his fellow teachers, namely establishing Well Done Crochet. Namely, the school's knitting skills education service business coordinates the implementation of extracurricular knitting activities for its students. Those who take part in extracurricular activities will be charged between Rp. 100,000 – 150,000, then the school will get a 30% profit share.

Implementation of extracurricular activities in class, with a minimum number of participants of 5 students and a maximum of 30 students. This knitting activity for students has various benefits. Among other things, it can increase emotional intelligence, foster positive self-perception because students have skills, and as a forum for creative self-expression (Farikha, 2022). Apart from that, knitting activities, like other craft activities, have a strong relationship with reducing the incidence of cognitive disorders in humans such as dementia and are able to maintain thinking abilities and train concentration. Starting from teaching extra-

curricular activities at a private school in 2014, now Well Done Crochet has taught at three schools. Total students taught, 30 – 50 students per class per semester.

To carry out this activity, Well Done Crochet has 6 teaching staff who are also teachers from Tengku Umar Mandiri Middle School. For this activity, Well Done Crochet gives its teachers an honorarium of Rp. 200,000 per month or Rp. 50,000 per arrival. Looking at this condition, it can certainly be assessed that the presence of Well Done Crochet has the potential to help the operations of schools for poor orphans, namely increasing the income of their teachers. However, along the way, it is necessary to evaluate that Well Done Crochet's business management has not been optimal. From 2014 to 2023 (almost 10 years) the number of schools that became customers was only 3 schools. The income received by Mrs. Nur Hidayati as a business owner and other teaching staff is also not significantly able to help the family economy.

Method

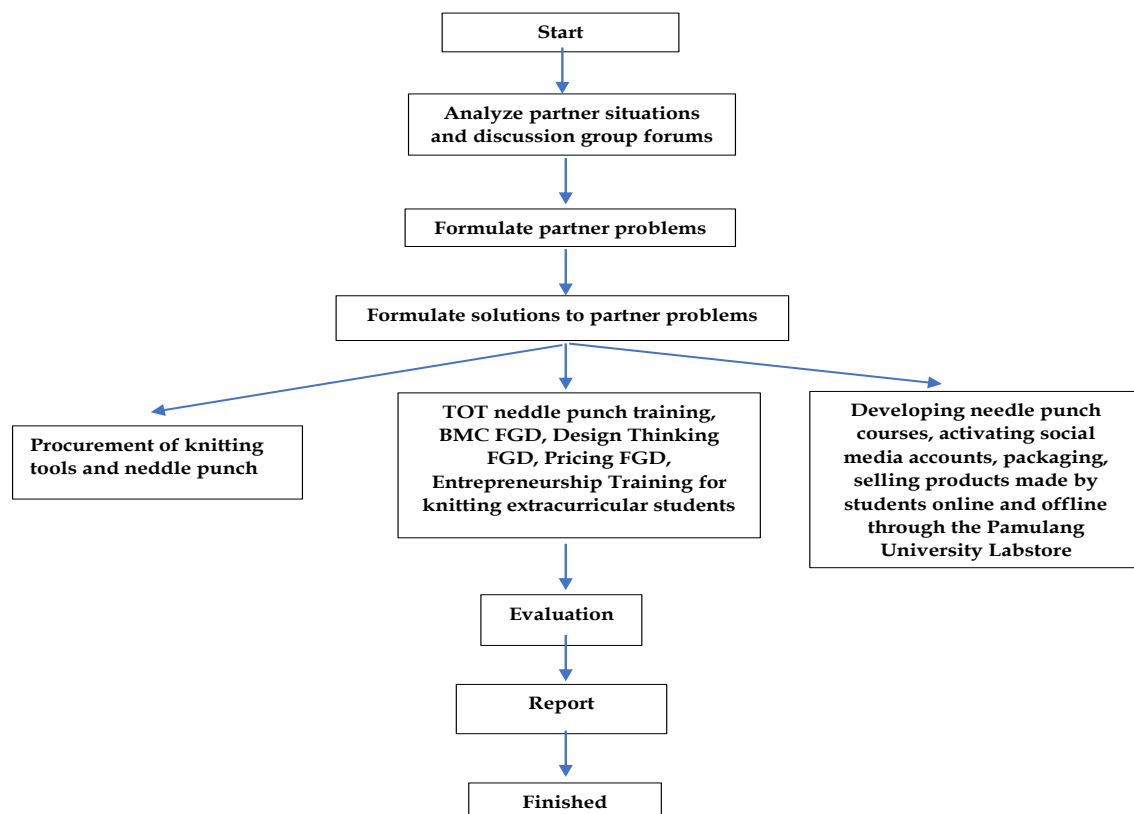


Figure 1. Method Stages

Methods and stages are as follows:

The first stage is identifying partner needs. This is related to deepening data regarding the organizational profile of Well Done Crochet as well as mapping partner

problems in increasing partner income. Second is the design and procurement of equipment. Technological modification is the development of knitting tools that can be used to increase technical variations in knitting and variations in the products produced. The third is

operational testing of tools. This testing stage is carried out to determine the performance or reliability of the tool. Fourth is operational assistance. Assistance activities can take the form of guidance, consultation, monitoring and evaluating technology transfer. Fifth is the dissemination of technology to the community/partners, in the form of:

a. Lecture and Feed Back Method

Providing information and outreach about the objectives and benefits of this technology dissemination/transfer program to partners and asking for responses from the audience.

b. Problems / Cases Based Learning Method

Contribute by looking at the potential of the surrounding environment as a basis for thinking about Well Done Crochet improving its business.

c. Technology Transfer Method (Knowledge Transfer)

Obtain information, knowledge and technology in the use of more modern knitting so as to increase business efficiency

The sixth stage is training, namely:

a. Business Model Canvas Training

The aim of this training is for partners to be able to compile their business model on a piece of paper which is usually called a canvas. In this BMC, the preparation of a business model includes 7 aspects, namely, value proposition, customer segment, channels, customer relationships, revenue streams, key activities, key resources, key partnerships, and cost structure.

b. Operational technical training for production and packaging equipment.

Training activities are carried out so that recipient partners can operate all equipment well.

c. Design Thinking Training

Design Thinking is a thinking method that can be used by a business entity by focusing on user experience

The seventh stage is assistance. Equipment operational assistance, institutional assistance, assistance in implementing BMC and Design Thinking, as well as marketing assistance inside and outside the network. And the final stage is monitoring and evaluation. Regular and independent evaluation of implementation with partners which is carried out once a month

Result and Discussion

Delivery of Appropriate Technology

Providing/granting knitting equipment, namely sentro knitting machines, knitting net bags and punch needles so that learning activities are more effective.



Figure 2. Delivery of sentro knitting machines

Partners are able to operate the tools provided and are able to maintain the tools provided for operational learning activities in schools.

Knitting Teacher ToT

a. Implementation of TOT (training of trainers) for knitting teachers able to teach needle punch techniques interactively



Figure 3. Knitting Teacher ToT

The sentro machine was successfully operated by the participant (knitting teacher). Difficulties include installing the thread in the machine, the spinning process by turning the machine, finishing after the knitted product is removed from the machine. The knitting technique uses a net bag, participants just have to sew the thread according to the net bag pattern carefully. For the needle punch technique, you are equipped with a special needle that has been strung with knitting thread, then the needle is hit into the material with a pattern drawn using a pencil.

b. Business Model Canvas and Design thinking training from the PKM team, where participants understand the importance and how to use Business Model Canvas (BMC) and Design thinking (DT) in developing the Well Done Crochet business concept.

Student Entrepreneurship Training

Implementation of entrepreneurship training for students participating in extracurricular activities at 2 schools @ 1 day x @ 20 students.



Figure 4. Student Entrepreneurship Training

Students gain increased knowledge and entrepreneurial enthusiasm from an early age through knitting and earning their own income.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that this service activity has succeeded in increasing the creativity of teachers and students to start entrepreneurial activities as additional income as a form of economic independence, by increasing: (1) 1. Skills of knitting teachers with various knitting techniques using sentro knitting machines, knitting net bags and needle punch techniques; (2) Teachers' knowledge of the Business Model Canvas and Design thinking, is enough to develop business concepts; (3) Well Done Crochet students' knowledge about entrepreneurship in the craft sector.

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