



# The Role of UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan in Economic Empowerment of Children with Special Needs through Coaching and Rehabilitation

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**Abstract:** Abandoned Children with Special Needs (ABK) face a variety of social and economic challenges, including limited access to education, skills training, and job opportunities. This condition encourages the need for special interventions, such as coaching and social rehabilitation, to improve their independence and well-being. This article explores the strategic role of UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan in empowering ABK through coaching programs such as painting, batik, sewing, sports, and package chase education. The method used involves ongoing training tailored to the unique needs of crew members, aiming to develop skills, creativity, and confidence. The results show that these programs have succeeded in creating a positive impact on the economic independence of ABK, such as the sale of artworks of up to Rp 15,000,000 and personal savings of up to Rp 50,000,000. The coaching program also improves the emotional and social well-being.

**Keywords:** Children with Special Needs; Empowerment; Economy; Coaching; Rehabilitation

## Introduction

Social issues involving abandoned Children with Special Needs (ABK) have become a serious concern in various countries, including Indonesia. This group faces various challenges, such as limited access to education, skills training, and limited economic opportunities. This condition further worsens the level of welfare for children with special needs (ABK), so it requires special interventions to empower them to be able to live independently and economically (Widhiati et al., 2022). Children with special needs are children who have special characteristics that are different from normal children. Children with Special Needs can also be referred to as children who experience physical, mental, intellectual, and emotional disorders that require special learning. Children with special needs can also be referred to as slow learners or children with mental disorders (retarded) with below-average levels of academic ability (Frans Laka Lazar, 2020). Children with Special Needs need special education because they show

abnormalities. They experience impairment or damage to intelligence or intelligence, psychological, social, emotional, and physical (Arifa Farras Fadhila, 2023). Children with abandoned status and children with disabilities face similar challenges in their growth process. Abandoned children face difficulties in utilizing their basic rights because no family offers guarantees to help them develop, while children with disabilities face difficulties in utilizing their rights (Yulinda Sari & Wahyuni, 2023). One significant form of intervention is through organized social coaching and rehabilitation, such as the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (UPTD) of Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan.

One of the goals of social rehabilitation is to help someone who is experiencing improvement and improve their abilities. Social dysfunction in order to be able to carry out its social functions reasonably. The social rehabilitation in question can be carried out both in the family, community, and social institutions in a persuasive, motivating, and coercive manner (Suci Ramadhani et al., 2017). One way to encourage Children

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with Special Needs is through training. It is very important to adapt the training method to children with special needs because children with special needs have many different and unique needs. The form of training will adapt to the unique characteristics of each child who has this special need. Training is highly dependent on the training model itself and is highly dependent on the percentage (%) of skills, knowledge, and attitudes used (Miranti Rasyid et al., 2019).

The UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan, which is under the auspices of the Surabaya City Social Service, has a strategic role in handling social problems faced by Children with Special Needs (ABK). In this UPTD, children with special needs have a variety of different backgrounds such as being abandoned, from underprivileged families, and others. In addition to providing basic needs such as shelter, food, and protection, this UPTD also runs various coaching programs that aim to increase individual independence. The program includes skills training, such as batik, music, sports, and other activities that support the development of ABK's economic potential. The skills taught to children with special needs must be in accordance with the talents, interests, and abilities of each child with special needs, because learning children with special needs does not only require materials and theories (Al-Taujih et al., 2022). With this approach, UPTD seeks to create conditions where ABK can be an active subject in economic development, not only for itself but also for families and communities.

This article explains how the role of UPTD for abandoned children with special needs (ABK) in the city of Surabaya (Rio Rio Febriannur Rachman, 2018). This aims to identify the role of the UPTD of Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan in increasing the economic independence of ABK through a coaching and rehabilitation approach. By understanding the contributions and challenges faced, it is hoped that this information can provide recommendations to increase the effectiveness of the coaching program, so that the benefits can be felt more widely by Children with Special Needs (ABK). The recommendations will focus on optimizing resources, strengthening coaching strategies, and developing collaborations with related parties to support the sustainable economic empowerment of ABK.

## Method

This service method is carried out through internship activities at the Surabaya City Social Service as a partner, the Technical Implementation Unit (UPTD) of the Kalijudan Children's Village is part of the Surabaya City Social Service (Ramadhan et al., 2023).

The activity is focused on the economic empowerment of children with special needs (ABK) through coaching and rehabilitation programs. The stages of coaching and rehabilitation are carried out through interventions such as painting, batik, music, feeding, and others. This intervention is carried out through continuous training and mentoring, where ABK is directed to practice their skills in the simulation of simple economic activities. The expected results of this service include increasing the economic independence of children with special needs.

## Result and Discussion

The results and discussions describe several examples of coaching and rehabilitation activities carried out at the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan as well as the achievements that have been achieved by Children with Special Needs (ABK) as beneficiaries of the program. Documentation in the form of photos of activities and real results from coaching will be included to provide a supportive visual picture.

### *Coaching and rehabilitation activities*

#### 1. School chase package

The school catch-up package for children with special needs is a coaching and rehabilitation program that aims to improve their quality of life and independence. The program is designed to provide inclusive access to formal education for children with special needs who may have previously been left behind in regular education. Using a customized curriculum, learning is focused on developing literacy, numeracy and relevant practical skills.

The Kejar Package Program for Children with Special Needs provides a comprehensive and inclusive formal education with a flexible and adaptable approach. The educational approach used is in accordance with the Surabaya City Regional Regulation Number 3 of 2023 concerning Children's Rights, where paragraph (1) letter d states that every child has the right to education, leisure time, and cultural activities (Afifa & Gamaputra, 2024). Children receive guidance from teaching professionals who understand their specific needs, as well as psychological support to help overcome emotional or social barriers. The Kejar Paket program aims not only to help individuals complete basic education through equivalency exams and obtain official certificates, but also to equip them with the confidence necessary to actively participate in society.

By providing flexible and affordable access to education, the program improves the educational qualifications of the ABK, opens up better job opportunities, and encourages greater social engagement. In addition, the education obtained through this program contributes to the improvement of

emotional and mental well-being, as well as social awareness, thereby creating a more inclusive and empowered society.



**Figure 1.** Documentation of the school catch up package

## 2. Paint

Painting activities can be entertainment as well as hone the creativity of Children with Special Needs, they can express their thoughts (Kusmaningtyas et al., 2022). Children's paintings, which are works of art that harness imagination when searching for ideas and concepts, contain creative ideas that represent the future and the past. Children's paintings have very prominent characteristics, especially because they are unique and have imaginative storylines. Therefore, children's painting is a way to teach children to recognize imagination and as an example of children's behavior instilled in painting (Hidayat & Arif, 2024). This painting coaching is held at the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan but sometimes also at the Children's Home. They are taught painting techniques and they are free to create according to their own imagination but still with the direction of instructors who are professional in their fields. From painting Children with Special Needs in Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan got many achievements from the exhibition of their works, so that it made them more diligent and deepened their talents.



**Figure 2.** Painting coaching activities

## 3. Batik

Batik is a form of local wisdom of indigenous Indonesian artworks in the form of fabrics that are recognized by other countries and represent the values of Indonesian ancestors. However, there is a lack of

research on batik itself (Setiawan & Pradhikta, 2021). Batik is one way to train the fine motor skills of Children with Special Needs (ABK). To make an interesting result, they have to be very patient. They also had to learn to decorate plain fabric by closing the fabric using a rope to tie the part of the rope that they did not want to dye (Teacher Education et al., 2020).

Batik activities at UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan are one of the coaching programs that aim to develop artistic skills and creativity of children with special needs. This activity is not only a means of artistic expression, but also to improve their fine motor skills and confidence. Children are involved in every stage of batik making, from design, pattern making, to the dyeing process.

Under the guidance of experienced instructors, they are taught how to use canting to draw patterns on fabric, as well as how to dip the fabric in different colors to create beautiful batik motifs. This activity teaches them precision, patience, and focus, because the process of making batik requires time and attention to detail.



**Figure 3.** Batik coaching activities

## 4. Sport

An effort to improve the field of ABK sports in the city of Surabaya is to implement a policy of coaching ABK sports. This will motivate learners and grow their confidence, as well as provide prizes for competitions (Yoga et al., 2017). Sports activities at UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan are part of a coaching program that aims to improve the physical condition, emotional balance, and confidence of children with special needs. Sports are carried out regularly with various types of physical activities that are tailored to the abilities and needs of each child.



**Figure 4.** Sports coaching activities



## 5. Sew

Sewing means pressing down on the dynamo drive saddle with the neck angled forward and both hands remain on the sewing machine table to hold the sewing item (Rizki Wulandari et al., 2016). Sewing is a hand skill that involves using needles and threads to connect or fix fabrics, as well as making different types of textile products, such as clothing, accessories, or household items. The sewing process can be done by hand or using a sewing machine, which speeds up and makes the work easier. Sewing is not only a practical skill, but also an art that requires precision, creativity, and an understanding of patterns and designs.

In sewing activities, children are trained by experienced instructors to get to know various types of sewing tools, such as sewing machines, needles, threads, and sewing patterns. They learn how to cut fabric according to patterns, sew fabric parts into finished products, and tidy up the seams so that the result is neat and functional. Children are also taught basic sewing techniques, such as hand sewing, using a sewing machine, as well as making various products such as bags, clothes, or other accessories.



**Figure 5.** Sewing coaching activities

### *Output Generated*

From empowerment activities, coaching and rehabilitation can have a good effect on ABK in the future, especially in terms of economic empowerment and poverty reduction. This can certainly be a solution for ABK considering the many problems of poverty, one of which is the lack of jobs (Ristika et al., 2021) In Indonesia, poverty is one of the most difficult national problems to overcome, both in developed and developing countries in the world (Rahmatullah et al., 2022).

Empowerment, coaching, and rehabilitation activities carried out by institutions such as UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan have a significant role in improving the quality of life of ABK. Programs designed to train skills and provide mental and social coaching are able to open up opportunities for crew members to be more economically independent. Skills

training such as batik, painting, and sewing, not only serves as a form of creative therapy but also provides economic added value. Some of the results of the empowerment of the UPTD of Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan are as follows:

### 1. Works sold



**Figure 6.** Fish painting



**Figure 7.** Landscape painting and signed by the mayor of Surabaya

In addition to these paintings, there are many more works from Children with Special Needs under the auspices of the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan. And their work is often exhibited at several major events in Surabaya. Not only are they exhibited, but their paintings are also sold at varying prices, some are Rp 1,500,000 and even up to Rp 15,000,000. According to detiknews written by Zainal Effendi (2015), three paintings of the UPTD Kalijudan Children's Village were purchased at a price of Rp 15,000,000 each, at the painting exhibition "Believe Amazing Grace" at the Orasis Painting Gallery on Jalan HR Muhammad Surabaya on Saturday, December 19, 2015.

### 2. Savings

Savings is an act in which a person sets aside a certain amount of money to be deposited or collected in a place or banking institution with certain conditions as a deposit that can be used for future purposes (Febiyansyah et al., 2022). Based on the information provided by the companions, the crew there has their own savings for those who work or earn income from selling their work. One of the residents, namely Yanti, is a person with the Visually Impaired but she also works as a cleaner at the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan and she gets a salary every month with a fairly

large nominal, and Yanti herself has savings of up to Rp 50,000,000 or more that she gets from her work.

The output produced from empowerment activities at the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan shows a significant positive impact on the economic independence of Children with Special Needs (ABK). Artworks such as paintings, which sell for up to Rp 15,000,000, as well as savings from their work income, such as those experienced by Yanti with savings of more than Rp 50,000,000, are tangible evidence of the success of this program. This program not only supports the economic strengthening of individual crew members but also reduces social stigma by showing that they are able to be productive and independent parts. Life skills development can be an effective empowerment tool for Children with Special Needs (Akbar et al., 2024).

## Conclusion

Empowerment activities at the UPTD Kampung Anak Negeri Kalijudan have proven to be effective in increasing the economic independence of Children with Special Needs (ABK). Programs such as painting, batik, sewing, and package chase education have had a significant impact, both in skill development and economic well-being. Works such as paintings that sold for up to Rp 15,000,000 and ABK's personal savings show the success of this program in reducing social stigma and encouraging inclusion.

For sustainability, it is necessary to strengthen collaboration with the government, the private sector, and social institutions to support the training and marketing of ABK works. In addition, inclusive policies such as special budget allocations, technology-based skills development, and the opening of formal job opportunities are needed. Periodic monitoring and evaluation are also important so that the program is more effective and effective, supporting ABK to become independent and productive individuals.

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