

Utilization of Student Potential as Volunteers in Religious Social Activities in a Surau

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ABSTRAK

Kegiatan sosial keagamaan di surau membutuhkan dukungan relawan yang cukup untuk mempererat hubungan sosial dan memajukan nilai-nilai keagamaan di masyarakat. Namun, seringkali surau sulit melibatkan relawan yang memadai. Oleh karena itu, pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis potensi mahasiswa sebagai relawan dalam kegiatan sosial keagamaan di surau dan menggali manfaat dari kerjasama ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan partisipatif dengan melibatkan mahasiswa sebagai relawan dalam mengembangkan dan melaksanakan kegiatan sosial keagamaan di Suru. Metode pengabdian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan pengembangan kapasitas dimana mahasiswa dilibatkan dalam pelatihan, workshop, dan pendampingan untuk meningkatkan pemahaman mereka tentang peran relawan, keterampilan sosial, dan pengetahuan agama. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa pelibatan mahasiswa sebagai relawan dalam kegiatan sosial keagamaan di surau memiliki manfaat yang signifikan. Mahasiswa membawa antusiasme, energi, dan beragam keterampilan, seperti keterampilan komunikasi, organisasi, dan kepemimpinan. Kegiatan sosial keagamaan mereka di surau dapat meningkatkan kualitas dan jangkauan. Mahasiswa juga mendapat manfaat dari pengalaman belajar praktis, pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang nilai-nilai agama, dan mengembangkan keterampilan sosial yang berharga dalam kehidupan sehari-hari.

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ABSTRACT

Socio-religious activities in Surau require the support of sufficient volunteers to strengthen social relations and promote religious values in society. However, it is often difficult for the surau to involve adequate volunteers. Therefore, this joint community service aims to analyze students' potential as volunteers in social-religious activities in Surau and explore the benefits of this collaboration. This research uses a participatory approach by involving students as research partners in developing and implementing social-religious activities in the surau. The service method used is a capacity-building approach in which students are involved in training, workshops, and mentoring to increase their understanding of the role of volunteers, social skills, and religious knowledge. The study results show that involving

students as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau has significant benefits. Students bring enthusiasm, energy, and diverse skills, such as communication, organization, and leadership skills. Their socio-religious activities in surau or mosques can improve quality and coverage. Students also benefit from practical learning experiences, a deeper understanding of religious values, and developing valuable social skills in everyday life.

1. Introduction

Socio-religious activities in the surau or mosque strengthen social ties and promote religious values in society (Hafizh & Batubara, 2022). A surau or mosque is not only a place of worship but also a centre for religious activities, which is a source of inspiration and spiritual guidance for the people. In the surau or mosque, people can worship, hold recitations, receive religious instruction, and organize various social activities aimed at helping the surrounding community (Sabri et al., 2022).

However, the surau or mosque often challenges getting adequate volunteers to support these socio-religious activities. A lack of volunteers can hinder the smooth implementation of activities, reduce the positive impact that can be achieved, and limit the capacity of the surau or mosque to provide services to the community. Several factors, such as the lack of public awareness of the importance of the role of volunteers, the limited human resources of the surau or mosque, and the busyness and time constraints of the surau or mosque administrators, can cause this challenge (Isnaini et al., 2023).

One potential that can be used to overcome this problem is students' potential. Students have diverse enthusiasm, energy, and skills that can contribute positively to socio-religious activities in a surau or mosque. As active young people, students have good communication skills, a deep understanding of technology, and high motivation to participate in social activities (Wachidi & Sudarwan, 2021; Warmansyah et al., 2023).

Involving students as volunteers in social-religious activities at the surau or mosque provides benefits for the surau or mosque itself and the students themselves (Zain et al., 2022). For a surau or mosque, the presence of students as volunteers can help increase organizational capacity in organizing activities, expand the reach of socio-religious programs, and bring fresh ideas that can enrich these activities (Silvianetri et al., 2022). In addition, involving students can also strengthen the relationship between the surau or mosque and higher education institutions as partners in promoting religious values and establishing synergy in community development.

For students, social and religious activities in the surau or mosque provide opportunities to develop social skills, leadership, and teamwork. By participating in this activity, students can broaden their religious perspective, hone interpersonal communication skills, and learn religious values that can be applied in everyday life. In addition, volunteering in social and religious activities also provides practical and concrete learning experiences so that students can apply the knowledge and skills they acquire in real-life situations.

Several previous studies have highlighted the role of university students as volunteers in various social contexts (Eka et al., 2022; Fattah & Sayuri, 2019; Fauzzia et al., 2018; Moh. Abdullah Rosyidi

et al., 2022; Muttaqin & Faishol, 2018; Rachmat Bin Badani Tempo & Aqbar, 2020). For example, research by Cronje, (2015), shows that college students involved in volunteer activities have higher levels of life satisfaction and are more involved in society. They also reported improvements in social skills, understanding of cultural differences, and reinforcement of human values and altruism.

On the other hand, research by Afzal & Hussain, (2020) found that student participation in volunteer activities can develop leadership skills, interpersonal skills, and multicultural understanding. Shows that involving students as volunteers in social-religious activities at surau or mosques can improve their skills and understanding in various fields and provide social benefits for the community.

In addition, higher education institutions have an Early Childhood Education Islamic Study Program (PIAUD) with specific competence and knowledge in early childhood education and development. The presence of the PIAUD Study Program can be a resource that can potentially support socio-religious activities in surau/mosque by applying appropriate approaches and methods in early childhood development. In addition to the PIAUD Study Program, the Study Program Student Association is also active in community service activities. Through this activity, students can be directly involved in contributing to the surrounding community, including in the social and religious fields. Collaboration between surau/mosque and the Program Student Association Studies can provide strong synergy in developing socio-religious activities that involve students as volunteers.

Although there has been some research on the role of students as volunteers, there is still limited research that specifically examines the potential of students as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau or mosques. Therefore, this research has significant relevance in deepening our understanding of the role of students in a religious context and how their potential can be optimized to strengthen social bonds and religious values in society.

By utilizing students' potential as volunteers in social-religious activities at the surau or mosque, it is hoped that mutually beneficial collaboration will be created between the surau or mosque, students, and the surrounding community. Through this collaboration, students' active participation in socio-religious activities can be increased, increasing the quality and scope of activities and providing tangible benefits for all parties involved.

2. Method

To strengthen the surau/mosque's position as a centre for constructive social-religious activity, an approach is needed that involves potential students as volunteers. Through their active participation, it is hoped that mutually beneficial collaboration will be realized between surau/mosques and higher education institutions. It will describe a method for implementing joint community service to utilize students' potential as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau/Mosques. This joint community service is located in Surau Bungo, Jorong Tumpuak, Tanah Datar District, West Sumatra Province.

This research uses a participatory approach by involving students as research partners in developing and implementing social-religious activities in the surau. The service method used is a capacity-building approach in which students are involved in training, workshops, and mentoring to increase their understanding of the role of volunteers, social skills, and religious knowledge. The implementation of this PkM is carried out in a series of stages of activities which are as follows:

Identification of Surau/Masjid Needs: The first step in implementing this joint community service is to identify the needs and challenges faced by the surau/mosque related to social-religious activities. It can be done through interviews with surau/mosque administrators and direct observation of ongoing activities.

Identification of Potential Students: Identify and select students who can volunteer in social-religious activities. This potential can be seen in students' interests, religious knowledge, social skills, and communication skills.

Training and capacity building:

Involving students as volunteers require careful preparation. Therefore, training and capacity building are carried out for students regarding their roles and responsibilities as volunteers in social-religious activities. This training may include understanding religious values, communication skills, leadership, and knowledge about the social and cultural environment of the community where the surau or mosque is located.

Collaboration with the surau or mosque: Students work with surau/mosque administrators to plan and implement social-religious activities. It involves discussions, regular meetings, and active collaboration between students and surau/mosque administrators in planning activities according to the needs and objectives of the surau/mosque.

Implementation of Religious Social Activities:

Students, as volunteers, are actively involved in implementing social-religious activities in the surau or mosque. They can assist in organizing events, provide religious understanding to the community, support community empowerment activities, and involve themselves in other social endeavours that are relevant to the mission of the surau or mosque.

Evaluation and Update:

After the activity's implementation, the results and impact of the activities carried out by students as volunteers are evaluated. This evaluation involves surau/mosque administrators, student volunteers, and the community in social-religious activities. The results of this evaluation will serve as material for improving and renewing social-religious activity programs in the future.

3. Results and Discussion

Results

The results of implementing this joint community service show that the utilization of students' potential as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau/mosques has a significant positive impact. Here are some of the results obtained:

Increased Participation: Involving students as volunteers have increased community participation in socio-religious activities in the surau/mosque. With energetic and enthusiastic students, the community becomes more interested and encouraged to participate actively in these activities.

Improving the Quality of Activities: Students' presence as volunteers significantly contributes to improving the quality of socio-religious activities. Students bring fresh ideas, good communication skills, and a deep understanding of technology that can enrich and broaden the range of these activities.

Community Empowerment: Student volunteers can empower the surrounding community through social-religious activities. They provide a better understanding of religion, guidance, and training and assist in community economic and social empowerment efforts.

Student Self-Development: Students who are involved as volunteers in social-religious activities experience significant self-development. They develop social, leadership, and teamwork skills. In addition, they also gain a deeper understanding of religious values and their application in everyday life.

Discussion

Increased community participation positively impacts strengthening the relationship between the surau or mosque and the community. With more people involved, the surau or mosque can more effectively convey religious messages, promote good values, and assist in building a solid and sustainable community. With students' contributions, socio-religious activities in the surau or mosque can be more innovative, creative, and relevant to the needs of society. For example, students can organize lectures, interactive discussions, or skills training for the community. It will increase the satisfaction and benefits obtained by the community from surau/mosque activities, strengthen social bonds, and provide a more significant positive impact.

Community empowerment is one of the essential goals of social-religious activities. By involving students as volunteers, the surau or mosque can achieve a higher level of empowerment. Students can act as facilitators and catalysts in encouraging active participation and improving the quality of life in the community. Empowerment through socio-religious activities in the surau or mosque can also assist in overcoming various social and economic problems the community faces, such as unemployment, poverty, or a lack of access to education. With volunteer students who care and are committed, surau/mosques can act as agents of change who provide concrete and sustainable solutions to improve people's welfare.

Students' self-development is an essential aspect of implementing this joint community service. Through experience as a volunteer in social-religious activities, students can develop the soft skills needed at work and in everyday life. They can improve their communication and leadership skills and learn to work in heterogeneous teams. In addition, through interactions with diverse communities, students can also develop empathy, tolerance, and cross-cultural understanding. In the following, the researcher attaches some documentation during the community service program.



Fig. 1 Brochure



Fig 2. Implementation of community service activities



Fig 3. Closing

4. Conclusion

Utilizing students' potential as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau/mosques has a significant positive impact. Involving students in these activities can increase community participation, improve the quality of socio-religious activities, empower the surrounding community, and develop students themselves. Close collaboration between surau/mosques, higher education institutions, and the community is essential. Surau/mosque needs to establish more robust cooperation with universities in identifying and involving students as volunteers in a planned manner. There is also a need for a comprehensive training program to prepare students to become effective and competent volunteers. With exemplary implementation, the utilization of the potential of students as volunteers in social-religious activities in surau/mosques can become a model that other religious institutions can imitate. Thus, social-religious activities that are sustainable, beneficial to society, and contribute to strengthening social bonds and religious values can be created.

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