



Intervention of the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in Labulawa Village, Pasir Putih District, Muna Regency in the Field of Education for School-Age Children in Remote Areas

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in the field of education for school-age children in remote areas. In this study, a qualitative descriptive method is used. The determination of informants in this study uses the *Purposive Sampling* method and the informants in this study include the Village Children's Love Expedition Community Management, Volunteers involved in the activities carried out by the community, the community and children at the location of the activity. The data sources used in this study are Primary Data and Secondary Data. The data collection techniques in this study use interview, observation, and documentation techniques. The data analysis technique in this study uses data reduction, presentation and verification techniques. The results of this study show that the intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community is carried out through several programs, namely Regular Teaching, Afternoon Teaching, Environmental Care Program, Tree of Hope, "Early New Year's Gift" Donation Program, Quran and Iqro Donation Program, and Village Children's Competition Program. The stages of Intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community, namely the preparation stage, are divided into several stages, namely the officer preparation stage (Volunteer Recruitment and Training), funding preparation, regional feasibility study, and expedition activity licensing process. The stage of assessing the needs of children at the expedition location. Planning stage, Action plan formulation stage, Program implementation or implementation stage, Evaluation stage, and Termination stage.

Keyword: Intervention, Community, Education, School-Aged Children, Remote Areas

INTRODUCTION

Education is a very important thing for each individual, Education is also a right that must be obtained by all elements of society including facilities, costs, a good system, and built on religious values that lead to the welfare of mankind. These points are as stated in the 1945 Constitution article 31 which reads: (1) Every citizen has the right to education. (2) Every citizen is obliged to attend basic education and the government is obliged to pay for it. (3) The government seeks and implements a national education system, which increases faith and

piety as well as noble morals in order to educate the nation's life, which is regulated by law. (4) The State shall prioritize the education budget at least twenty percent of the state revenue and expenditure budget as well as from the regional revenue and expenditure budget to meet the needs of the implementation of national education. (5) The government advances science and technology by upholding religious values and national unity for the advancement of civilization and the welfare of mankind. Thus, national education must provide basic education to the community, basic skills, including reading, writing, and arithmetic which will later become the basis for citizens in society, nation, and state. Not only that, the education provided must also be quality education.

Based on Santoso's research, *et al* (2018) found that quality education is one of the factors that can increase children's chances of getting out of the poverty trap - a condition where households encounter difficulties in accessing public services and changing their poverty status. Research by Widiensyah (2017) also revealed that economic growth in Indonesia is also influenced by education. Therefore, the importance of education for economic growth in Indonesia by increasing learning productivity so that the nation's successors who are still studying can better understand economics and can improve the economy in Indonesia which is in a slump. With the increasing economic needs, it is the education factor that will help economic growth, because with education it will produce more professional human resources (HR) qualities both for the industrial sector and the agricultural sector, and from there it will have an impact and influence on the economic growth of the Indonesian nation in the future.

By seeing the importance of education for the formation of quality Human Resources (HR), it is necessary to have an equal distribution of quality and quality of education in Indonesia, especially in remote areas. In remote villages, there are still many people or children who still do not feel the change in a better standard of living and get higher knowledge. And it can be said that they only earned a degree or diploma in elementary school and junior high school. The right of the community or in this case children to continue their education has a very strong influence to change the state of a nation (Chonelia, *et al* 2023).

In the research of Fitri and Setiadi (2020) entitled "Educational Inequality in Southeast Sulawesi in 2019 and Its Determinants", it was found that educational equality is still concentrated in urban areas. This is shown by the low Gini Education Coefficient (KGP) in

Kendari City and Baubau City, compared to other districts in Southeast Sulawesi in 2019. From the model formed, the three variables were able to explain the variation of KGP in Southeast Sulawesi by 78.7 percent. The Literacy Rate (AMH) has a significant effect on reducing educational inequality in Southeast Sulawesi in 2019. However, the variable of the percentage of the poor population and the variable of the percentage of the pure education budget did not have a significant effect in reducing educational inequality in Southeast Sulawesi in 2019. Generally, what causes this uneven education is the problem of lack of facilities, low quality of teachers, and inadequate access to education. We can find these problems in several regions in Indonesia, for example Southeast Sulawesi.

Based on the analysis data of student satisfaction and parents with the quality of elementary school education services in several districts/cities in Southeast Sulawesi, several findings show. The results of the research Fredy, Tembang, & Purwanty (2019) Seven districts/cities in Southeast Sulawesi showed good educational services in terms of security, rule enforcement, communication, and teacher-student relations. However, some areas such as Kolaka, Wakatobi, East Kolaka, and West Muna are facing infrastructure problems, including damaged school buildings and inadequate facilities. Wakatobi has difficulty accessing due to geographical conditions, forcing students to cross the island by boat. Muna also faces the problem of inadequate teacher competence. Although there are advantages in some aspects, significant improvements are still needed in infrastructure and teaching quality in some areas. Improving the quality of education in remote areas requires the role of the government in allocating budgets for the development of teachers, facilities, and learning facilities. However, community and community involvement is also important to ensure the success of efforts to improve the quality of education in remote areas.

According to Adi (2013), the fact is that intervention is an activity that aims to provide an impact on changing conditions for groups that need services. Meanwhile, the term community intervention is one of the intervention methods carried out at the community level. As a method, community intervention can be understood as an activity to achieve the goal of improving community welfare. Based on initial observations in the field, the researcher found a community that voluntarily participated in helping and serving education in remote areas of Southeast Sulawesi because they saw various realities that existed. This community also helps education in various regions in Southeast Sulawesi.

The Southeast Sulawesi Village Children's Love Expedition Community, which was established at the end of 2017, started from the GEMAR program in Mantobua Village. The main focus is to improve education in remote areas of Southeast Sulawesi through direct teaching and cooperation with various parties. One of the locations of the expedition is Labulawa Village, Muna Regency, where they help children from underprivileged families improve their literacy skills, read the Qur'an, and develop their potential. The expedition program lasts 7-14 days, covering the fields of education, environment, and health. However, the main focus of the community remains on the field of education, especially educational programs. Their activities include teaching for school and non-school children, using household waste into valuable crafts, and health counseling for the local community.

From the above explanation, it has been seen that various efforts by the Village Children's Love Expedition community in carrying out interventions to help improve children's education in remote areas. Therefore, the author wants to know more about the intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition community for school-age children's education in remote areas with the aim of answering two main questions related to the educational programs provided by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in Labuawa Village, Pasir Putih District, Muna Regency, to school-age children in remote areas. First, the research will describe the educational programs organized by the community. Second, this study will outline the stages of intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in improving education for children in remote areas of Labulawa Village. Thus, this study provides an in-depth understanding of the concrete efforts made by these communities in creating access to quality education in remote areas.

METHODS

This research was carried out in Labulawa Village, Pasir Putih District, Muna Regency. In the Village Children's Love Expedition Community, the selection of the location of this research was based on the consideration that this area is located in a relatively remote and underdeveloped area, so access to quality education is a challenge for the community. Limited educational infrastructure, lack of qualified teaching staff, and limited educational resources are the main factors that encourage the selection of this location. In addition, the level of community awareness of the importance of education in this village still needs to be increased. By choosing Labulawa Village, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community hopes to

have a significant positive impact in improving the quality of education and opening opportunities for local children to achieve a better future through education.

The type of research used is qualitative descriptive. The research informants were selected by the researcher using the purposive sampling technique. The informants in the study consisted of 3 Village Children's Love Expedition Community Administrators, and 5 Volunteers involved in the activities carried out by the community, 2 Community Members and 3 Children at the activity location. So that overall the number of informants in this study is 13 people. The types of data and data sources used in this study are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The data collection techniques carried out are observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis techniques carried out in this study are data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research conducted, it shows that the intervention carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community for school-age children in Labulawa village is carried out adopting the stages of intervention proposed by Adi (2014), namely the preparation stage, the assessment stage, the program alternative planning stage, the action plan formulation stage, the program implementation or implementation stage, the evaluation stage, and the termination stage. Which in its implementation has been developed according to the needs at the time of the implementation of the Village Children's Love Expedition Community activities.

1. Preparation

The Village Children's Love Expedition Community is a volunteer group that emphasizes its movement or mission, especially in improving education in remote areas. To achieve this goal, they need careful preparation both in terms of funding, officers (volunteers), regional feasibility, and licensing that will go directly to expedition activities. Therefore, the preparation stage carried out by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community is divided into several stages, namely the officer preparation stage (Volunteer Recruitment and Training), funding preparation, regional feasibility study, and expedition activity licensing process.

a) Officer Preparation

The following is a restatement of the information in the form of a paragraph: The Village Children's Love Expedition Community relies on volunteers or volunteers to carry out its expedition activities. The term "volunteer" or "volunteer" is a non-standard form of the word "volunteer" which is defined by KBBI as someone who does something voluntarily, without reward and coercion. The volunteer recruitment process, according to an interview with Ardian on September 10, 2023, involves several stages such as filling out forms, interviews, and announcing the selection results. Recruitment information is disseminated through a variety of media, including physical and digital pamphlets, as well as social media platforms such as Instagram and the community's official Facebook. In addition, information is also disseminated through student groups and campus information media.

After the recruitment process, the selected volunteers undergo an orientation and training stage. This stage aims to introduce the community, discuss the vision, mission, and values of the organization, as well as provide an understanding of the social and cultural conditions at the expedition site, namely Labulawa Village. As revealed by Wa Ode Tri Azhari in an interview on September 9, 2023, the training also includes the debriefing of communication and leadership skills needed during the expedition. The importance of this orientation and training is in line with the research of Sekarayu and Irfan (2023), which emphasized that this kind of debriefing is necessary considering the difference in the level of experience and knowledge among volunteers. Thus, this recruitment, orientation and training process is a crucial step in volunteer management to ensure the success of the expedition.

b) Funding Setup

The Village Children's Love Expedition Community is a non-profit organization that focuses on improving the education of rural children through social and humanitarian services. They operate in a voluntary spirit with no commercial purpose. Funding is obtained from donations, charity funds, bazaars, and collaborations with similar organizations. According to Iswar (September 3, 2023), volunteers use personal funds for the expedition, while other activities are funded through bazaars and fundraising via Instagram. Preparation for the expedition takes 3-6 months after the recruitment of volunteers. Volunteer funds come from personal contributions and bazaar proceeds. Facilities for children such as stationery, Quran, books, and uniforms were collected through an open donation on the community's

official Instagram. This donation aims to collect funds or needs from donors to be distributed during the expedition program.

c) Regional Feasibility Study

At this stage, the feasibility study of the area conducted by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in the realm of educational interventions for school-age children plays a very important role. This process involves an in-depth analysis of a number of factors, including socio-economic aspects, infrastructure, and educational conditions in the target areas. Through this approach, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community systematically tries to formulate intervention strategies that can effectively help children in villages, especially those in remote or coastal areas with uneven educational conditions and far from urban centers. As revealed in an interview with Iswar on September 3, 2023, before going down to the expedition site, the community conducted a survey to identify the socio-economic, infrastructure, and educational conditions of the children at the location. The results of the feasibility study of the area provide an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by children in Labulawa Village. This information is the basis for the Village Children's Love Expedition Community in designing interventions aimed at improving the quality of education in the region.

d) Licensing Process

After conducting a feasibility study on the target area, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community took a very proactive approach in initiating the necessary permits for the implementation of their program in Labulawa Village. The Desa Children's Love Expedition Community recognizes the importance of involving formal channels in running their programs, as a key step to ensure compliance with applicable procedures and obtain full support from the authorities. Ardian, in an interview on September 10, 2023, explained that before carrying out the expedition, they carried out the licensing process by submitting an application letter to the village head and coordinating with local traditional leaders. This is done so that they can be facilitated and well received at the expedition site. The community is also actively involved in constructive meetings and dialogues with village officials, including village leaders and relevant officials, to obtain official permission and full support from the village government level. Furthermore, they strive to interact and coordinate with traditional leaders, uphold local cultural values and traditions and gain strong approval and support.

This overall effort reflects the commitment of the Village Children's Love Expedition Community to a formal process with integrity, with the hope that their intervention will have a positive impact on the education of children in Labulawa Village, in line with a strong understanding of the social, cultural, and legal aspects of the local area.

2. Assesment

The Village Children's Love Expedition Community conducts a comprehensive assessment of basic needs based on normative needs or needs based on normative standards that apply and are needed for children in Labulawa Village. This assessment includes the following;

a) Planning

At the planning stage, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community designs a diverse and comprehensive activity program based on the results at the assessment stage to meet the various needs of children in Labulawa Village. The results of the assessment which was used as the main guide by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community became the main basis in designing an educational program aimed at improving the ability to read, write, count, and master the Qur'an among the children of Labuawa Village. In an interview with Ardian on September 10, 2023, it was revealed that the results of the assessment were used in the planning stage, after coordinating with on-site teaching staff during the survey. The programs designed by this community include regular teaching and afternoon teaching, with the aim of increasing the learning motivation of the children in the village. With this plan, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community hopes to provide comprehensive and effective education, as well as motivate and inspire children to reach their maximum potential. This program not only provides learning opportunities, but also strengthens community bonds and prioritizes positive values in the lives of children in the village.

b) Formulation of Activity Plans

The formulation of the Activity Plan by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community is a critical stage in designing concrete efforts that will be implemented for the welfare and development of children in the village. The process of formulating an activity plan by the Village Children's Love Expedition Community involves careful planning, needs analysis, and intensive dialogue with community members and related parties. In an interview with Iswar on September 3, 2023, it was explained that on the first day of arrival in

the village, the community met with village officials to explain the program to be implemented and its objectives.

In designing activities, the community not only explores interesting activities, but also ensures that each activity has a clear purpose and is relevant to the needs of the village children. This process involves careful thinking, considering different aspects of people's lives and focusing on education, health, and skill development. Sustainability and diversity are the main focus, by including religious and cultural aspects. This approach involves the active participation of all community members, ensuring that the activity plan is not only an administrative document, but a strategic instrument to achieve positive and sustainable goals in improving the welfare of children in Labulawa Village. After formulation, the activity plan becomes a guideline for every step taken by the community, becoming the foundation for their efforts in achieving the desired positive impact. The formulation of the activity plan is not only considered as an administrative task, but as a strategic step to make a real contribution to the development and welfare of children in Labulawa Village.

c) Program Implementation

In the implementation of the expedition program, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community runs their educational programs with enthusiasm and commitment in Labulawa Village. The Cinta Anak Desa Expedition Community runs their programs based on the rundown that they have carefully prepared before starting the expedition. Ardian, in an interview on September 10, 2023, explained that the implementation of the program was carried out in accordance with the rundown which included various activities, such as teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, creative classes, trees of hope, and Quranic literacy classes. Additional programs, such as gifts at the beginning of the year, poetry reading and coloring competitions, as well as adhan and short surah memorization competitions, are also included in the rundown.

During the ten-day period of the expedition, the community ensured that each activity had a clear goal and made a significant contribution to the education and welfare of the children in Labulawa Village. Although some activities may experience obstacles, such as health counseling that cannot be carried out due to the presence of health workers who are unable to attend, the seriousness and determination of the community in implementing the

plan reflects a strong commitment to their goals. This is a concrete step to improve the quality of life and education of children in remote areas.

d) Evaluation

At the evaluation stage, the Village Children's Love Expedition Community carries out the evaluation process at night after running the program during the day. Evaluation is a crucial moment for the Village Children's Love Expedition Community to reflect and improve their educational programs. In an interview with Ardian on September 10, 2023, it was explained that evaluations were carried out routinely every night after activities at the expedition site. Community members gather to discuss aspects such as program implementation, interaction with children and local communities, and the achievement of educational goals. They also evaluated the children's progress by coordinating with the teaching staff at SDN 7 Pasir Putih, who provided positive feedback on the children's enthusiasm for learning and attendance at school.

During the evaluation session, community members also discuss obstacles or challenges that may arise and try to find the right solution. In addition, the evaluation became a forum to share inspiring stories and experiences that occurred during the activity, fostering enthusiasm and strengthening bonds between members. The results of the evaluation are the basis for the improvement and adjustment of educational programs in the future, showing the commitment of the Village Children's Love Expedition Community to continue to develop and innovate in order to have a greater positive impact on the lives of children in the village.

e) Termination

The termination is one of the historic moments for the Village Children's Love Expedition Community, and currently, the termination is aligned with the friendly night activities on the last night they are at the expedition site. In preparation for the night of hospitality, the Desa Children's Love Expedition Community strives to ensure that the moment becomes a meaningful experience for all parties involved. Iswar, in an interview on September 3, 2023, explained that the friendly night was held on the last day of the expedition as a farewell to the people of Labulawa Village, held at the village hall with the announcement of the results of the children's competition. To ensure maximum participation, the community distributed invitations to village offices, schools, and residents' homes. This approach allows

the community to communicate directly with the locals, explain the purpose of the hospitality night, and understand the community's hopes and aspirations.

In this moment, in addition to sharing expedition experiences, the community listens to the aspirations and feedback from the community, builds close relationships, and ensures that future programs are more suitable for their needs. After termination, the community continues to maintain relationships with the community and teaching staff at SDN 7 Pasir Putih through video calls and regular communication. This commitment is a testament to the community's mission to have a positive impact on children's education, making them not only organizers of educational programs, but also partners who care and support the development of children in Labulawa Village. With maintained relationships, the community can continue to work together with the local community to overcome challenges and create better educational opportunities for children at SDN 7 Pasir Putih.

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In this context, Palik and Ostby (2023) various approaches to improve children's access to quality education and learning have been extensively evaluated. Programs such as the provision of scholarships, the development of school infrastructure, teacher training, and the integration of technology in learning have shown great potential to improve access and quality of education. For example, scholarships help reduce financial barriers, while teacher training improves the quality of teaching. The development of adequate school infrastructure, including access to clean water and sanitation facilities, supports a more conducive learning environment. The application of technology in the learning process has also been proven to be effective in increasing student interest and engagement. Nonetheless, challenges such as the digital divide and uneven distribution of resources remain a major concern.

Therefore, a holistic and coordinated approach is needed to overcome these barriers in order to achieve equitable and quality access to education. With regular evaluations,

communities can continue to adapt their approach to changing needs and conditions, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to receive a proper and quality education

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion above, the conclusion that can be drawn in this study is that the Village Children's Love Expedition Community carried out an educational intervention in Labuawa Village, Pasir Putih District, Muna Regency, with the center of activity at SD Negeri 7 Pasir Putih. Some of the programs carried out include Regular Teaching, Afternoon Teaching, Environmental Care Program, Tree of Hope, Donation "Gift at the beginning of the year," Quran and Iqro donations, and Village Children's Competition. The intervention stages start from volunteer preparation, funding, and field preparation, followed by an assessment of children's basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills, as well as Quranic reading proficiency. Furthermore, program planning to be carried out at the location, formulation of action plans, and program implementation are carried out. After implementation, an evaluation is carried out to assess the success of the program, and ends with the termination or closure of the activity. This program aims to improve access to education and skills for children in remote areas.

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