

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS: TRAINING IN FRAGRANT CARBOL PRODUCTION AS A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY AT RAUDHATUL ULUM SAKATIGA ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL

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### Abstract

This community service activity aims to provide training in making fragrant carbols to students at the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School, Indralaya, Ogan Ilir, as an effort to improve skills and open up business opportunities. Attended by 40 students, this training included socialization about the importance of entrepreneurship, a basic understanding of the chemicals used, and hands-on practice in making fragrant carbols. Although the participants showed high enthusiasm, the evaluation of the activity found that some students still needed further guidance in production techniques and marketing strategies. Thus, this activity is expected to be the first step for students to develop independent businesses in the field of making household cleaning products, as well as increase their knowledge in entrepreneurship. Further development in the form of additional training and mentoring is expected to strengthen the skills and readiness of students in entering the market.

*Keywords: Making Aroma Carbols, Entrepreneurship Training, Business Opportunities.*

### Abstrak

Kegiatan pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk memberikan pelatihan pembuatan karbol wangi kepada santri di Pesantren Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga, Indralaya, Ogan Ilir, sebagai upaya untuk meningkatkan keterampilan dan membuka peluang usaha. Diikuti oleh 40 santri, pelatihan ini meliputi sosialisasi tentang pentingnya kewirausahaan, pemahaman dasar mengenai bahan kimia yang digunakan, serta praktik langsung dalam pembuatan karbol wangi. Meskipun peserta menunjukkan antusiasme yang tinggi, evaluasi kegiatan menemukan bahwa beberapa santri masih memerlukan bimbingan lebih lanjut dalam teknik produksi dan strategi pemasaran. Dengan demikian, kegiatan ini diharapkan dapat menjadi langkah awal bagi santri untuk mengembangkan usaha mandiri di bidang pembuatan produk pembersih rumah tangga, serta meningkatkan pengetahuan mereka dalam kewirausahaan. Pengembangan lebih lanjut dalam bentuk pelatihan tambahan dan pendampingan diharapkan dapat memperkuat keterampilan dan kesiapan santri dalam memasuki pasar.

*Keywords: Pembuatan Karbol Wangi, Pelatihan Kewirausahaan, Peluang Usaha.*

### INTRODUCTION

One of the responsibilities of the Tri Dharma of higher education is to carry out community service, as a

bridge between the world of education and the community, where universities are faced with challenges to ensure that community members can face the changing situation (Abdillah et al.,

2022). Currently, the negative impact of the post-pandemic period is particularly felt, with many workers being laid off by companies and a significant decline in formal and informal employment (Hoehn-Velasco et al., 2021). Various professions such as teachers, doctors, hospital employees, traders, farmers, and others have also felt the bad impact of the post-pandemic period. This has caused many people to experience unemployment, declining incomes, and bankruptcy for many entrepreneurs. Even more concerning, some were forced to close their businesses. If normal activities can resume, the business world will take a long time to find new employees and restart business operations. Many business actors and traders may not be able to survive during the post-pandemic period.

To overcome this challenge, the community needs to optimize its potential so that costs can be minimized and people's income can be increased. Therefore, comprehensive training is needed in various fields. Training to the community in making fragrant carbols, so that they can utilize the potential of natural resources in a sustainable manner and improve the economic welfare of their families. With this training, it is hoped that the public can understand the benefits of fragrant carbols for health and hygiene, master the techniques of making quality fragrant carbols, learn marketing strategies and market access for fragrant carbol products.

Business development at the community level plays a key role in local economic empowerment (Ansari et al., 2012). In many regions, there is still great potential that has not been fully utilized, one of which is the processing of fragrant carbols. Fragrant

carbol, also known as fragrant lime, is a product that has many benefits, especially in the fields of health, hygiene, air fresheners and natural antiseptics. However, despite its great potential, the processing of fragrant carbols at the community level is still limited and has not been optimized.

The processing of fragrant carbols in the community is often done traditionally with simple techniques. Most people living in rural areas, where fragrant carbol raw materials are abundant, have not been able to experience the economic benefits of this natural potential. The many potential natural resources that have not been utilized to the fullest are often caused by the lack of knowledge and technical skills of the community in processing them. In addition, the lack of market access and information about the potential of the fragrant carbol business is also the main obstacle in developing this business. The public needs to be given a deeper understanding of the benefits of fragrant carbols, the right production techniques, and how to market them to optimize the economic potential of this natural material. Meanwhile, the demand for natural products is increasing, along with the awareness of the importance of using environmentally friendly and natural products. This is a great opportunity for the community to develop a quality fragrant carbol business.

The goal of Sustainable Development (SDG) is to create development that pays attention to the economic growth of the community in a sustainable manner, pays attention to the sustainability of the community's social life, improves the quality of the environment, and ensures justice (Moschen et al., 2019). The SDGs are a global and national commitment to

improve people's well-being by covering 17 main goals (Diouf, 2019). Some of them are efforts to end poverty, promote inclusive economic growth, promote industrial innovation, and reduce inequality (Ali & Zhuang, 2007). The SDGs are seen as a framework that encourages the implementation of management that is able to maintain the quality of life from generation to generation, both at the global and national levels (Chapman & Shigetomi, 2018).

The current focus of national development is efforts to achieve the SDGs goals, which require synergy in policy planning at the national, provincial, and district/city levels. The SDG targets at the national level are in line with the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), which consists of measurable programs, activities, and indicators as well as financial support indicators. The SDGs are a refinement of *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) that are more inclusive by involving more countries, both developed and developing, expanding financing sources, emphasizing human rights, and involving various parties such as civil society organizations (Bidarbakhtnia, 2020).

National economic progress must be enriched through efforts to reform micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). MSMEs play a central role in Indonesia's economic dynamics, especially during times of crisis. According to economic principles, a comprehensive economic recovery is almost impossible without improving the MSME sector. The reason is that most Indonesian entrepreneurs, reaching up to 99 percent, are from MSMEs. The government has paid attention to the need to rejuvenate MSMEs through a

number of strategic programs. Therefore, all parties involved work together to make MSMEs the backbone of the economy. The government has prepared various plans in order to promote MSMEs as a driver of economic growth, as well as strengthen the capacity of MSMEs through various important programs such as wider market access, digitalization, and the provision of access to more affordable financing. The government's efforts to provide more inclusive financial support for MSMEs have become a major concern. On the other hand, savings and loan cooperatives are also important partners for MSMEs in accessing financing. The Revolving Fund Management Institution (LPDB) also continues to provide financial support to cooperatives which are then distributed to their members, many of whom are MSME actors (Djkn. Ministry of Finance).

The development of MSME-based entrepreneurship that is right on target must be able to increase the competitiveness of MSMEs in the national and global markets, so that MSMEs can be integrated into the global value chain and more and more MSMEs are improved (*scaling up*) (Tresnasari & Zulganef, 2023). An increase in trade volume, export growth, and MSME workforce growth is expected. Entrepreneurs need to be able to make MSME products as *First Pass* in displaying local and regional advantages by providing facilities and space to develop household detergents, for example. The development of strategic partnerships between Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business entities must continue to be strengthened throughout Indonesia, support local superior products, and consider the diversity of opportunities that exist to improve the

quality of MSME entrepreneurship. This will allow MSMEs to take advantage of this collaboration to increase the competitiveness of SMEs in the world market.

Competition in the business field is increasing from time to time. One of the strategic steps that can be taken to overcome economic and social inequality is to develop Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This is because MSMEs use simple technology and provide job opportunities for the community. Through MSMEs, an equal distribution of business opportunities and income is created, which will ultimately contribute to increasing the economy and income in the region (Wedeslassie et al., 2019).

In economics, the concept known as "supply creates demand" is an important principle. Entrepreneurs, both those who are just starting out in the business world and those who are trying to develop their businesses in various industries, are the main subject of this concept. Entrepreneurs, or often referred to as "entrepreneurs", are now getting more and more attention, especially among the younger generation. The younger generation involved in the business world is an example of young entrepreneurs, where they start their businesses at a relatively young age.

Currently, in the midst of the post-pandemic period, many of the younger generation are starting to show interest and skills in entrepreneurship or starting their own businesses, which then gives the impression that they have greater control over the situation. This is related to the characteristics of the millennial generation who tend to move from one job to another, so they see independent entrepreneurship as an attractive choice to express their

quality and identity.

Through the use of simple technology and the use of local labor, these young entrepreneurs are able to create opportunities for many people to get involved in the business world. They are also able to understand the importance of equitable distribution of business opportunities and equal distribution of income. This, in turn, makes a significant contribution to the improvement of the local economy and overall regional income.

This training will provide opportunities for the community to have an independent business with the knowledge and skills obtained, the community can produce fragrant carbols for sale, increase family income, and reduce dependence on conventional jobs. Fragrant carbols have many benefits, including as an antiseptic, air freshener, and insect repellent. With proper use, this training will provide an understanding to the public about the importance of environmental hygiene and health. This training will also provide opportunities for women in the community to be actively involved in economic efforts, increasing their role and contribution in local economic development.

Based on this background, the service team provides counseling and training on making fragrant carbols and is expected to have a positive impact on the community, especially in improving the economy and environmental health. By involving various related parties, such as local governments, non-governmental organizations, and local business actors, this program has the potential to be the first step in developing micro businesses at the community level. Thus, improving the quality of life and economic empowerment of the community can be realized in a

sustainable manner.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of entrepreneurship includes several important aspects. First, entrepreneurship is not just about having a business idea, but also involves a proactive and unyielding mental attitude (Muthumeena & Yogeswaran, 2022). This includes the courage to take risks, the ability to adapt to change, and the willingness to keep learning and growing. In addition, creativity and innovation are key in the concept of entrepreneurship. An entrepreneur needs to have creativity to identify new business opportunities, and innovation to develop ideas into products or services that are unique and value-added to the market.

Managerial skills should also not be overlooked, where an entrepreneur needs to be able to manage resources, manage time, make decisions, and overcome challenges that arise. In addition, networking and collaboration are important aspects of entrepreneurship (Fernandes & Ferreira, 2022). Building good relationships with others, including fellow entrepreneurs and other related parties, can help expand markets, improve access to capital, and obtain other necessary resources.

Ethics and social responsibility are also the focus, with the importance of integrity, honesty, and fairness in doing business (Abländer et al., 2016). An entrepreneur is also expected to have social responsibility for the surrounding environment, both in terms of the environment, labor, and contribution to society. Finally, adaptation to technology is also a key element in modern entrepreneurship. The ability to adopt and leverage existing technology is important in optimizing the business. With a good understanding of these

concepts, a prospective entrepreneur can better prepare themselves to start and grow their business, reflecting the importance of having the right skills, knowledge, and attitude in facing challenges and opportunities in the business world.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The method of activity and implementation is carried out through a training approach. The target of this activity is 40 students at the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra. The method of implementing this service activity is based on an interactive and participatory training approach. The activity will be carried out in the form of an intensive workshop involving 40 students and teaching staff. The training material will include techniques for making fragrant carbol products as well as an emphasis on the importance of starting a business or entrepreneurship. The training sessions will be led by experts in the field of economics and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development, using demonstration methods and group discussions to improve participants' understanding and skills.

The target audience of this service activity is 40 students of the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School. Students are expected to gain new knowledge about simple financial management and entrepreneurship, while teaching staff are expected to support the implementation of materials in their educational activities. Thus, this activity aims to improve economic understanding and skills among them.

The evaluation of participants will measure the level of improvement

in economic knowledge and skills they have acquired after participating in the training. This includes an assessment of their ability to understand basic economic concepts, as well as their potential to apply the learning in the context of daily practice or educational activities in Islamic boarding schools.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This service activity focuses on empowering students at the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School, Indralaya, Ogan Ilir, through training in making fragrant carbols as a business opportunity. This activity was held for one day on September 21, 2024. The manufacture of fragrant carbols was chosen because in addition to being easy to learn, this product has wide market potential, so it can be a source of additional income for students in the future. This program aims to equip them with useful entrepreneurial skills after completing their education at the Islamic boarding school.



Figure 1: Group photo



In addition, the manufacture of fragrant carbols is closely related to the

application of chemistry, especially in the selection of the right chemicals and the mixing process. The students were not only taught basic techniques for making products, but also given an understanding of the chemical reactions that occur during the carbol manufacturing process, such as the interaction between the active ingredients of cleaning and fragrance. This knowledge is expected to broaden their horizons in the field of applied chemistry, as well as provide technical skills that can be used in business development in the field of household cleaning agent production.



Photo 2: Carbol Manufacturing Process

This activity was attended by 40 students which were carried out in several stages. The first stage is socialization about the importance of entrepreneurial skills for students, especially in fields that are relevant to daily needs, such as making household cleaning products. In this session, participants gained an understanding of the business opportunities they can create through the production of scented carbols, as well as the vast market potential for these products.



The second stage is a theoretical explanation related to the basics of chemistry in the manufacture of fragrant carbols. Participants were given knowledge about the chemicals used, such as surfactants, fragrances, and antiseptics, as well as how these ingredients react to produce effective and safe scented carbol products. This material is delivered in a simple way so that it is easy for students to understand.

The third stage is the direct practice of making fragrant carbols. The students were divided into several groups and guided by instructors to follow every stage of carbol manufacturing, from material preparation, mixing, to product packaging. This activity is designed to ensure that each participant can be actively involved and understand every step in the production process.

#### **Method 1 uses Pine Tree Sap and Pine Oil**

##### **Tools and Materials :**

1. Bucket/basin
2. Spatula/stirrer
3. Measuring cups and scales
4. Arpus/ gum rosin 150 grams (pureed first)
5. Pine oil 50 ml (can be added if you want to be more fragrant)
6. Teepol 100 ml or replaceable camper 50 grams
7. Caustic soda 50 grams
8. 10 liters of water (If you want less than 10 liters is also acceptable)



**Figure 3: Photo of the material**

##### **How to Make:**

1. Put the refined arpus and caustic soda in a basin, then add 1 liter of water, stir 1 liter, stir until 3 liters first
2. Add the teepol and stir again until smooth
3. Add pine oil and stir again
4. Put in as much water as you need if you want to make 10 liters, which means less than 7 liters
5. Let it sit until everything is well mixed, it can be left for 1x24 hours first and covered. Occasionally you can check and stir
6. Carboles ready to use



**Figure 4: Photo of Carbol results using Pine Tree Sap and Pine Oil**

## Method 2 using Pine Oil or Lemongrass Oil Active Ingredients

### Tools and materials:

1. Pine oil/lemongrass oil 100 ml
2. Magnasoft 50 ml if liquid or can be thick like pasta
3. 6 liters of water (max 10 liters)
4. Bucket
5. Wooden spatula

### How to make:

1. Infuse the magnasoft stirring gently with water per 1 liter
2. Add pine/lemongrass oil
3. Mix well and add the remaining water
4. Let stand overnight and the carbol is ready to use



Figure 4: Packaging of Karbol Santri Products (SarBol)

### Evaluation

The last stage is evaluation. After the practice was completed, participants were invited to discuss the challenges faced during the manufacturing process and how they can improve the quality of the product. The evaluation was carried out to assess the students' understanding of the carbol manufacturing process and the potential

for the development of this business in the future.

An evaluation of the activities of making fragrant carbols at the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School shows that although the students already understand the basics of making carbols, some of them need further guidance in technical matters, especially in the proportion of materials and the safety of the use of chemicals. In addition, practical skills in mixing ingredients also need to be improved, because variations are found in the quality of the products produced. On the other hand, the aspects of marketing strategy have not been fully understood by the students, so additional training is needed that focuses on how to market products effectively, including determining the target market, promotion techniques, and small business management. With further guidance in terms of production and marketing, it is hoped that students can be better prepared to utilize these skills as a sustainable business opportunity.



Figure 5: Photo with the school

## CONCLUSION

The service activity carried out at the Raudhatul Ulum Sakatiga Islamic Boarding School, Indralaya, Ogan Ilir, successfully involved 40 students in training in making fragrant carbols. This activity not only provides practical skills in carbol production, but also introduces the concept of



entrepreneurship which can be a business opportunity for students in the future. Although the participants showed enthusiasm and ability in participating in the training, the evaluation showed that some students still needed further guidance in the technical aspects of manufacturing and marketing strategies to improve product quality and expand the market.

Based on the results of the evaluation, it is recommended that the training activities be continued with additional in-depth sessions on chemistry related to carbol manufacturing and effective marketing techniques. The use of more interactive learning methods, such as marketing simulations and case studies, can also improve students' understanding. In addition, there needs to be continuous assistance for students who are interested in starting a business, so that they can implement the skills they have acquired and develop their businesses independently.

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