

## Empowering Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit: A Service-Learning Approach for MTs Students

Hendra Halim<sup>1\*</sup>, Sri Utami Permata<sup>2</sup>, T. Meldi Kesuma<sup>3</sup>, M. Ridha Siregar<sup>4</sup>,  
Muhammad Haris Riyaldi<sup>5</sup>, Burhanis Sulthan DM<sup>6</sup>, Husaini<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1,3,4,5,6</sup> *Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia*

<sup>2</sup> *Fakultas Ekonomi, Universitas Sulawesi Barat, Majene, Indonesia*

<sup>7</sup> *Fakultas Matematika dan Ilmu Pengetahuan Alam, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia*

### ABSTRACT

This community service program aimed to cultivate creativity and entrepreneurial spirit among 7th-grade students at MTsN 2 Aceh Besar through a Service-Learning approach. The program, conducted on May 23, 2023, at Aula Madrasah Terpadu Tungkob, involved interactive sessions and practical exercises to enhance students' understanding of entrepreneurship. The program included sessions on the definition and categories of entrepreneurship, brainstorming for business ideas using simple materials, the importance of entrepreneurship education, and basic financial recording for businesses. The activities encouraged students to think critically and creatively, providing them with practical skills for future endeavors. Collaboration between faculty members from Universitas Syiah Kuala, Universitas Sulawesi Barat, and researchers from the Pusat Riset Komunikasi Pemasaran, Pariwisata & Ekonomi Kreatif, Universitas Syiah Kuala, ensured a comprehensive and impactful program. The conclusion highlighted the success of the program in achieving its objectives and its positive impact on students and the community.

**Keywords:** Community service, Service Learning, entrepreneurial spirit, entrepreneurship education

Received: 01.02.2024	Revised: 18.02.2024	Accepted: 21.02.2024	Available online: 29.02.2024
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### Suggested citations:

Halim, H., & et al. (2024). Empowering Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit: A Service-Learning Approach for MTs Students. *International Journal of Community Service*, 03 (01), 58-65. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55299/ijcs.v3i1.800>

Open Access | URLs:

<https://ejournal.ipinternasional.com/index.php/ijcs/OpenAccessPolicy>

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding Author: Hendra Halim, Email: [hendra.halim@usk.ac.id](mailto:hendra.halim@usk.ac.id)

## PRELIMINARY

The importance of fostering creativity and entrepreneurial spirit among students, especially at the Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTs) level, must be considered in education. However, the challenges faced by the target community, in this case, MTs students, are often complex and require a holistic approach. On the other hand, this phenomenon can also be seen in a global context where the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the focus in efforts to improve community well-being comprehensively.

One of the main problems students' faces is the need for more knowledge and skills in creativity and entrepreneurship (Andayani et al., 2021). This hinders their potential to contribute to community development and actively achieve sustainable development goals, especially those related to quality education (Goal 4), inclusive economic growth (Goal 8), and partnerships for the goals (Goal 17) of the SDGs.

The literature review indicates that a holistic approach to enhancing students' creativity and entrepreneurship has been a significant concern in educational research (Mulyany et al., 2023). Various theoretical studies and recent research findings have highlighted the importance of integrating these skills into the educational curriculum to prepare students for future challenges (Alvendri et al., 2023; Pare & Sihotang, 2023; Thana & Hanipah, 2023).

Through community service activities in the form of Training to Foster the Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit of MTs students, the service team aims to fill this gap by providing a new, innovative, and practical approach to developing the creativity and entrepreneurship of MTs students. Using an integrated and in-depth method, we hope to impact MTs students and their surrounding communities significantly. Various community service experiences conducted by universities have shown positive results on post-service partners (BZ et al., 2019; Halim et al., 2024; Halim, Kesuma, Siregar, Riyaldi, et al., 2023; Halim, Kesuma, Siregar, Syahrizal, et al., 2023; Hibatullah et al., 2021; Iskandarsyah et al., 2023; I. Majid et al., 2021; M. S. A. Majid et al., 2022).

This community service aims to provide concrete solutions to the identified problems by presenting a measured and integrated approach to improving the quality of education and the readiness of MTs students to face global challenges. Through this article, we also aim to disseminate the results and lessons learned from our experience and positively contribute to the development of science and technology in education while broadly supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals.

## METHOD

The community service activities were conducted using the Service-Learning method. This method was chosen because it emphasizes practical aspects of Experiential Learning, where the knowledge gained in lectures is directly applied in the community (Agus Afandi et al., 2022). Through this method, students interact directly with the community and become part of the solution to their issues.

The activities were aimed at 7th-grade students at MTsN 2 Aceh Besar. They occurred on May 23, 2023, from 08:30 to 12:30 WIB, at the Aula Madrasah Terpadu Tungkob. The Service-Learning method allows students to learn theoretically and practically in real-life situations in the community. Thus, these activities provide

valuable learning experiences for students and make a real contribution to the communities they serve.

Furthermore, through this method, students also could develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills. They are encouraged to find innovative business ideas using simple materials, training their ability to think critically in creating products creatively. Therefore, it is hoped that these activities will provide broader benefits for the holistic development of students.

This community service was carried out by lecturers from the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Syiah Kuala, in collaboration with teachers from MTsN 2 Aceh Besar, lecturers from the Management Study Program, Universitas Sulawesi Barat, and researchers from Pusat Riset Komunikasi Pemasaran, Pariwisata & Ekonomi Kreatif, Universitas Syiah Kuala. This cross-university collaboration is expected to result in a deeper understanding and better solutions for developing students' creativity and entrepreneurial skills at MTsN 2 Aceh Besar.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service in the form of Training to Foster Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit among MTs Students, held on May 23, 2023, at MTsN 2 Aceh Besar, aimed to enhance creativity and entrepreneurial skills among 7th-grade students. This activity focused on practical aspects through the Service-Learning method. During the service, speakers covered several topics to give the students a deeper understanding. These topics included:

1. Entrepreneurship: Definition and Categories. This topic encompassed the understanding of entrepreneurship concepts, including general definitions and categories of entrepreneurship. The explanation also included the importance of entrepreneurship in economic and societal contexts. Additionally, it discussed the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur and the factors influencing entrepreneurial success.
2. Finding Business Ideas for MTs Students (students were asked to write business ideas from used bottle caps and mineral water bottles, and some representatives presented them to their classmates) (Figure 1). This topic aimed to encourage students to think creatively in creating business ideas. Apart from used bottle caps and mineral water bottles, students could also be encouraged to use other easily accessible materials around them. This topic could involve brainstorming sessions and discussions to develop these ideas into more mature business concepts.



Figure 1. Students were asked to explain business ideas from used bottle caps and mineral water bottles

3. Entrepreneurship Education is Essential for the Future. This topic explains why entrepreneurship education is essential for students' Future. In this context, it could discuss the role of entrepreneurship in job creation, enhancing community welfare, and developing the local economy. Emphasis could also be placed on how entrepreneurial skills can help students face future challenges and opportunities.
4. Simple Business Financial Recording. This topic covered learning how to record business finances. Students were taught the importance of financial record-keeping in managing a business, including basic bookkeeping, and using applications or software that support financial recording (Figure 2). This topic could be delivered practically by providing relevant case examples or case studies.



Figure 2. Students are invited to practice recording business financial report

These topics aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding to students about entrepreneurship and the importance of entrepreneurial skills for their Future. Hopefully, with a good understanding of these basic concepts, students can further develop their entrepreneurial potential.

The results of this activity showed a positive impact on students. Students could develop their creativity and entrepreneurial mindset through various sessions, such as understanding entrepreneurship, generating business ideas from recycled materials, and basic financial recording for businesses. The session on generating business ideas, where students were asked to write business ideas from used bottle caps and mineral water bottles, was particularly engaging. Several students presented their ideas to their classmates, showcasing their creativity and critical thinking skills.

The discussion of this activity compared the results with theoretical concepts and similar community service activities (Figure 3). The emphasis on entrepreneurship education for future readiness aligns with the global trend towards holistic education. The direct approach of this program provides students with essential practical skills for their future endeavours.



Figure 3. Presentation of material by the speakers

This program is a best practice example for other community service activities. By integrating creativity and entrepreneurship into the curriculum, schools can better prepare students for future challenges. Additionally, this program contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Despite its success, the program also faced several challenges during implementation. Some of these challenges included logistical issues and time constraints, which affected the depth of student engagement. However, the team overcame these obstacles through effective planning and collaboration.

## CONCLUSION

The community service activity with the theme "Training to Foster Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit among MTs Students" is an important step in supporting the goals of the Strengthening Student Profiles in Pancasila (P5) and Rahmatan Lil' Alamin (PPRA) Projects initiated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Through the Service-

Learning method, this activity has provided valuable learning experiences for 7th-grade students at MTsN 2 Aceh Besar. In this activity, students learn theoretically and practically by creating innovative business ideas from simple materials. The materials presented, such as understanding entrepreneurship, finding business idea inspirations, the importance of entrepreneurship education, and simple business financial recording, provide a comprehensive understanding of students' entrepreneurship.

Besides benefiting the students, this activity also positively contributes to the served community. Through the understanding they gain, students can develop creativity and entrepreneurial skills that will be useful for their future. The implication of this activity is to create a young generation that is not only academically intelligent but also has the skills and mindset needed to face future challenges. Thus, this activity has successfully achieved its goal of fostering creativity and entrepreneurial spirit among MTs students. Furthermore, this activity contributes positively to community development and demonstrates the importance of a practical approach to education.

#### Thank-you note

Thanks to all those who have supported and contributed to implementing community service programs with the theme of training in fostering the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of MTs students. We thank MTsN 2 Aceh Besar, who is willing to collaborate on one of the activities of the project strengthening of Projek Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila (P5) and Profil Pelajar Rahmatan Lil' Alamin (PPRA) initiated by the Kementerian Agama Republik Indonesia.

Thanks to Universitas Syiah Kuala, Universitas Sulawesi Barat, and Pusat Riset Komunikasi Pemasaran, Pariwisata & Ekonomi Kreatif, Universitas Syiah Kuala for cooperating in this activity. Support and contribution from various parties are very meaningful for the success of this program. We also thank all the speakers, participants, and all those who have participated in this activity. This program will positively impact students and the community/community served. Once again, thanks for all the support and cooperation that has been given. Our corporation can continue to impact education and community progress positively.

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