



Strengthening Educational and Cultural Values Through the International Community Service Program in Pattani, Thailand

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Abstract

The International Community Service Program (KKN) at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand, aims to strengthen educational and cultural values through a series of work programs that focus on various aspects of learning and culture. The work programs include: (1) Teaching Program, which improves the quality of education at the elementary, middle, and high school levels with interactive teaching methods; (2) Dream Tree Program, which inspires students to set their dreams and plan for their future; (3) Finger Painting Program, which encourages students' creativity through painting; (4) Direction Sign Program, which facilitates navigation and language comprehension in the school environment; (5) Batik Program, which introduces the art of Indonesian batik as part of cultural heritage; and (6) Introducing Indonesian Cuisine Program, which introduces Indonesian cuisine such as rendang, chicken curry, and chili paste to staff, teachers, and students. These programs not only enrich student's educational and cultural experiences, but also strengthen the relationship between Indonesia and Thailand. These activities successfully facilitated positive cultural exchanges and deepened the understanding of Indonesian culture and education in Thailand.

Keywords: Community service program, education, culture, participation.

1. Introduction

The Community Service Program (KKN) is a form of community service by students as a manifestation of the tridharma of higher education. This program aims to connect the theory learned in college with direct practice in the field, while making a real contribution to society. In Indonesia, KKN often involves students in various social, educational and development activities. In Thailand, similar activities are conducted to advance the quality of education and introduce innovation (Lee, 2024).

On July 2, 2024, Muhammadiyah University of Riau dispatched 10 students to participate in a community service program in Thailand. Muhammadiyah University of Riau collaborated with Kalamullah Al-quran and Multilingual School on this activity. The students were assigned to teach at various school levels such as elementary school, junior high school, and high school.

Amidst the challenges and opportunities faced in today's global education system, both Indonesia and Thailand are working to improve the quality of their education (Kantavong et al., 2017). Education, as an important process in transferring knowledge and skills, plays a crucial role in preparing future generations (Malay et al., 2024). In Indonesia, education reforms aim to improve teaching standards and equip students for future challenges. In Thailand, there are similar efforts to improve the quality of education through innovation and technology integration. In the face of these challenges, Muhammadiyah University of Riau (UMRI) launched an International Community Service Program in Pattani, Thailand, which not only aims to improve the quality of education in Pattani, but also to introduce Indonesia's rich culture, such as batik, rendang, and other traditional arts to the local community.

Culture is widely studied and preserved because of its role as a form of identity and characteristic of a country. Culture is something complex which includes a belief, knowledge, art, morals, customs, and other abilities and habits

possessed by humans (Hawkins, 2012). UMRI International Community Service Program in Pattani involves various activities designed to improve skills and knowledge at Kalamullah Al-qur'an and Multilingual School. These activities include learning for students and cultural programs by introducing Indonesian culture such as batik and typical food from Indonesia such as rendang. In addition, the program also provided opportunities for UMRI students to learn about Thai culture and life, broadening their horizons.

This research aims to show that international community service programs can have a positive impact. It is expected that the impact of UMRI program in Pattani will be seen in various aspects of the local community's lives, from improved quality of education to a deeper cultural understanding. With an inclusive and collaborative approach, UMRI can create an environment that supports mutual growth and make a significant contribution in advancing education and introducing Indonesian culture in Pattani.

2. Materials and Methods

The research method used for the UMRI International Community Service program in Pattani, Thailand uses observation and field research methods. This observation aims to understand how the activity is implemented, the interaction between program participants and the local community, and its impact on improving the quality of education and cultural understanding (Afenyo et al., 2024). Data collected through these observations will include field notes, photographs and video recordings documenting various aspects of the activities.

From this observation, data can be obtained about who are the subjects of service, the level of teaching and the location of service. Thus, the group was divided into various school levels at Kalamullah Al-qur'an and Multilingual School. The division is in accordance with the following table.

3. Results and Discussion

UMRI Student Program in Strengthening Educational and Cultural Values in Pattani, Thailand

The international community service program (KKN) held in Pattani, Thailand focuses on service and contribution to the educational environment in schools. This program is a program that involves students in community service activities abroad carried out by Muhammadiyah University of Riau. This activity is an implementation of the tridarma of higher education which aims to introduce and apply Indonesian knowledge and culture in an overseas academic environment. This program requires in-depth preparation and field research to ensure the success and positive impact of the program.

In the International Community Service in Pattani, Thailand, this activity is centered at Kalamullah Al-qur'an and Multilingual School, an educational institution that is the main location for program implementation. One of the main programs is The Teaching Work Program, which focuses on developing student's academic skills through interactive learning. This activity is designed to help students understand various subjects better, while encouraging them to be active and participate in the learning process. The program also aims to strengthen student's understanding of basic concepts and equip them with useful knowledge for their future (Triatmanto et al., 2023).

In this real work course, a number of work programs were designed to improve knowledge, skills, and introduce aspects of Indonesian culture. Students of Muhammadiyah University of Riau (UMRI) carried out various programs to introduce the culture and education system in Thai schools. Some of these programs included:

3.1 Teaching Program

This program aims to improve learning at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand, focusing on different levels of education, including elementary, middle, and high school. Students involved in this program are assigned specifically to teach at the school. They act as teachers and are also involved in cultural exchange between Indonesia and Thailand.

During this program, the teachers not only deliver learning materials but also learn the Thai language to facilitate communication with students. This is done so that students can understand the explanation better. Students at Kalamullah School show great enthusiasm for the lessons given by Indonesian teachers. They really enjoy the learning process despite the differences in accent and pronunciation, which is natural because they are used to everyday Thai.

Many students at Kalamullah School hope to continue their education in Indonesia after finishing school in Thailand (Soykan et al., 2015). This interest is due to the similarities in cultural aspects and cost of living between the two countries, as well as the opportunity to study in a Muslim-majority country. The program has had a positive impact in improving the quality of education at Kalamullah School and strengthening cultural ties between Indonesia and Thailand.



Figure 1: Teaching Program

3.2 Dream Tree Program

The Dream Tree program at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand, aims to inspire students to pursue their goals and dreams. In this program, students are invited to write or draw their dreams and aspirations on “Dream tree” placed in the school premises.

This activity is designed to help students identify and formulate their future goals, as well as provide additional motivation to achieve them. During the implementation of this program, Indonesian teachers play a role in guiding students to express their dreams in a creative and constructive way. The program also serves as a platform to share experiences and aspirations between students from different backgrounds.

Through the Dream Tree program, students can focus more on their personal goals and get inspired to plan the steps towards achieving their dreams. This activity not only increases student’s motivation but also strengthens their confidence in pursuing future academic and career goals. In addition, the program encourages positive interactions between students and teachers, strengthens cultural ties, and enriches the learning experience at Kalamullah School.



Figure 2: Dream Tree

3.3 Fingers Painting Program

The Fingers Painting program aims to strengthen the relationship between teachers and students at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand, through a simple yet meaningful art activity. It involves students and teachers in an activity where their hands are painted and then applied to a cloth as a keepsake.

The palm-painting process is not only an art activity, but also a symbol of togetherness and collaboration between students and teachers. The students enthusiastically participated in this activity, feeling happy and proud to be able to leave their handprints on the fabric which will be a beautiful reminder of the togetherness. The handprinted cloth will later be displayed at the school as a symbol of friendship and a memory of The International Community Service program.

In addition to providing creative experiences, this activity also strengthens the emotional bond between students and teachers, creating positive memories that will be cherished by students even after the program ends. The Fingers Painting program successfully created deep and meaningful moments, and became part of the efforts to strengthen cultural relations between Indonesia and Thailand through simple yet meaningful activities.



Figure 3: Fingers Painting

3.4 Direction Sign Program

The Direction Sign Program at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School, Pattani, Thailand, aims to improve orientation and navigation within the school by installing directional signs. These signs use both Thai and English language writing, to ensure that all students, staff and visitors can easily find their way around the school.

The implementation of this program began with mapping the school area to determine strategic locations that required signage. Next, the students involved worked closely with the school to design the signs. Each sign was created with the use of language that is easily understood by everyone, especially students who come from various language backgrounds.

These signs not only make navigation easier, but also serve as an educational tool. Students at Kalamullah School can learn and understand basic vocabulary in English through everyday use. In addition, the program helps to create a more organized and welcoming learning environment for all its inhabitants.

The response from the school community to the signage has been very positive. The students find it easier to move around the school, especially for those who are new to the school and are not familiar with the layout of the school. The program is also a means to introduce and familiarize the use of English in everyday contexts, which is beneficial for the improvement of students' language skills. The Direction Sign program has successfully improved convenience and efficiency in the school environment, while enriching student's learning experience.



Figure 4: Direction Sign

3.5 Batik Work Program

This program aims to introduce the art of Indonesian Batik, especially the Dyed Batik technique, to students at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand. Through this activity, students from various levels (elementary, junior high, and high school) were invited to learn and practice Dyed Batik techniques that are unique to Indonesia.

During this program, the students were introduced to the process of making Dyed Batik, starting from the fabric preparation stage, dyeing, to drying. This activity not only serves as a cultural introduction but also as a means of developing students' artistic skills and creativity. Students were very enthusiastic in following each stage of the batik process, even though this technique is quite challenging for those who are trying it for the first time.

In addition to learning The Dyed Batik technique, students also gained insight into the history and cultural significance of Batik in Indonesia. They were interested in the stories behind each motif and color used in Batik. This

activity succeeded in fostering curiosity and appreciation for Indonesian traditional arts, as well as opening up opportunities for students to express themselves through art.

The batik program provided valuable experience for the students at Kalamullah School, while strengthening cultural ties between Indonesia and Thailand. The resulting positive impact is not only seen in the improvement of student's art skills but also in the recognition and appreciation of Indonesia's cultural heritage.



Figure 5: The Dyed Batik Result

3.6 Introducing Traditional Indonesian Food

This program aims to introduce traditional Indonesian food to the community at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand. The students involved in this program were tasked with cooking and serving several traditional Indonesian dishes, such as rendang, chicken curry, and shrimp paste chili, to the staff, teachers, and students at the school (Nurmufida et al., 2017).

During the activity, the students collaborated to prepare the ingredients and cook the dishes. The cooking process also provided an opportunity for the students to share knowledge about the origins and cultural significance of each dish served. The staff, teachers, and students were very enthusiastic about tasting the dishes, which, for most of them, was their first experience enjoying the flavors of Indonesian cuisine.

The introduction of traditional Indonesian food not only enriched the staff and students' understanding of culinary diversity but also strengthened the relationship between Indonesia and Thailand (Ghozali et al., 2016). This program successfully introduced an important element of Indonesian culture through the flavors of its cuisine, which is expected to spark further interest in learning more about Indonesia. The positive reactions from the participants demonstrated that culinary arts can serve as an effective cultural bridge in strengthening relations between the two countries.



Figure 6: Traditional Indonesian Food



Figure 7: Positive Reactions from the Teachers at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School

4. Conclusion

The International Community Service Program conducted at Kalamullah Al-Qur'an and Multilingual School in Pattani, Thailand, through various work programs, has successfully had a positive impact on both the students and the school community as a whole. All of the implemented work programs ran smoothly and made a positive difference for the students in Thailand, particularly in Pattani. Additionally, this International Community Service Program provided new experiences and learning opportunities for students from Muhammadiyah University of Riau to understand Thai culture. Throughout the community service activity, the students from Muhammadiyah University of Riau successfully completed several work programs with highly satisfactory results.

The Teaching Program has helped improve the quality of education across various levels, from elementary to high school. Through interactive teaching, students gain new knowledge and motivation to continue their education to higher levels, particularly in Indonesia.

The Dream Tree Program provides students with space to dream big and plan their future. By writing down their dreams, students are encouraged to think creatively and boldly set life goals. The Finger Painting Program serves as a means for students to express themselves creatively through art. This activity not only introduces painting techniques but also strengthens their understanding of art and culture as part of life.

The Direction Sign Program helps create a better learning environment by installing directional signs in the school. This makes it easier for students to navigate and enhances their ability to understand language and spatial orientation. The Dyed Batik Program provides hands-on experience for students and staff in creating Batik, a rich Indonesian cultural heritage. This activity not only teaches new skills but also deepens their appreciation of traditional art.

The Introduction to Indonesian Cuisine Program, which involves cooking and serving rendang, chicken curry, and shrimp paste chili, successfully introduced Indonesian flavours to the staff, teachers, and students. This program strengthened intercultural relationships and increased their understanding of Indonesia through its cuisine.

Overall, these programs not only enriched the experiences of students and staff at Kalamullah School but also strengthened the cultural ties between Indonesia and Thailand. The community service activities successfully achieved their goals of introducing Indonesian education, art, and culture in Pattani, fostering mutual respect and understanding between the two countries.

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