



Improving Community Welfare Through the Distribution of Basic Necessities in Semarang City

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Abstrak

Program pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan warga Kampung Amposari, Kelurahan Kedungmundu, Kota Semarang dengan membagikan sembako kepada keluarga kurang mampu. Metode yang digunakan dalam pengabdian ini melibatkan identifikasi dan pemetaan kelompok sasaran melalui kerja sama dengan pemerintah setempat dan organisasi kemasyarakatan. Selanjutnya, dilakukan distribusi sembako secara langsung ke rumah-rumah penerima manfaat dengan tetap memperhatikan protokol kesehatan. Hasil dari kegiatan ini menunjukkan peningkatan signifikan dalam akses kebutuhan dasar bagi keluarga penerima, yang tercermin dari pengurangan beban ekonomi dan peningkatan kepuasan sosial. Meskipun demikian, evaluasi program menunjukkan perlunya pendekatan yang lebih terintegrasi dalam penyaluran bantuan, termasuk pelatihan kewirausahaan dan penguatan jaringan dukungan komunitas. Untuk pengabdian selanjutnya, disarankan agar program ini tidak hanya fokus pada pembagian sembako tetapi juga melibatkan pendampingan berkelanjutan serta pendidikan keterampilan yang dapat memberdayakan masyarakat secara lebih menyeluruh.

Kata Kunci: kesejahteraan masyarakat, pembagian sembako, Kota Semarang.

Abstract

This community service program aims to improve the welfare of the residents of Amposari Village, Kedungmundu Village, Semarang City by distributing basic necessities to underprivileged families. The method used in this service involves identifying and mapping target groups through cooperation with local governments and community organizations. Furthermore, the distribution of basic necessities was carried out directly to the beneficiary houses while still paying attention to health protocols. The results of these activities showed a significant increase in access to basic necessities for recipient families, which was reflected in the reduction of economic burden and increased social satisfaction. Nonetheless, the evaluation of the program shows the need for a more integrated approach to aid delivery, including entrepreneurship training and strengthening community support networks. For further service, it is recommended that this program not only focuses on distributing basic necessities but also involves continuous assistance and skills education that can empower the community more comprehensively.

Keywords: community welfare, distribution of basic necessities, Semarang City.

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INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a big challenge for developing countries, including Indonesia. This reflects the inability of the community to meet basic needs and the existence of social and economic inequalities that hinder the progress of the nation. BPS data in March 2023 shows that the poverty rate in Indonesia reached 9.36% or 25.9 million people. Although there is a decrease compared to the previous year, the pace is still slow and not significant to completely alleviate poverty. The causes of poverty in Indonesia are not only economic, but also social, cultural, and political (Sumarto, 207). Limited access to education, health, jobs, and resources are the main factors that trap people in a cycle of poverty (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the economic condition of the community, deepening existing problems.

The government has made efforts to overcome poverty through various programs and policies, such as the Basic Food Program organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs based on the Regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 5 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of the Basic Food Program (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2021). However, the implementation of this program still faces various challenges, such as complicated bureaucracy, suboptimal allocation of funds, and lack of coordination between related agencies (Maulidia et al., 2021).

One of the efforts to help alleviate poverty is through community service activities. Community service is a form of concern for fellow nobles and is one of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education that

must be carried out by Hutagalung higher education institutions, 2023). Community service activities can be carried out in various forms, one of which is the distribution of basic necessities. The provision of basic necessities is an effective community empowerment program in helping to meet daily basic needs (Kusumawati et al., 2021).

The implementation of community service through social service (baksos) with the distribution of basic food packages is a concrete step to help people in need of assistance. This activity is very relevant, especially when many individuals and families are facing economic difficulties, both due to crises and disasters. The distribution of basic food packages not only provides material assistance, but also expresses deep social concern and solidarity. Basic food packages generally consist of staple food ingredients such as rice, cooking oil, sugar, and other basic needs. Through this activity, community service actors try to provide assistance that can meet the basic needs of those who are less fortunate. In addition, these activities often involve various parties, including governments, social institutions, communities, and volunteers, who work together to achieve the same goal (Maulidia et al., 2021; Mardikaningsih et al., 2022).

This problem is an important reason to hold community service activities in the form of distributing basic necessities in Amposari Village, Kedungmundu Village, Semarang City. Amposari Village is an area with a relatively low economic level of the community, with a poverty rate of 12.5%, higher than the average poverty in Semarang City of 8.2% (BPS Semarang City,

2023). This activity is expected to help ease the burden on the community and improve their welfare.

METHOD

The method carried out in the distribution of basic necessities in Amposari, Kedungmundu Village, Semarang involves several stages that are structured to ensure that the assistance is on target and the implementation runs smoothly. Here are the stages:

1. Logging

Conducting initial data collection to find out the number and condition of the community to be assisted involves several steps. First, collaborate with RT/RW and BPSAPMS Tirta Kedungmundu to obtain data on the underprivileged population. Furthermore, from the data, direct visits were made to residents' homes to see their conditions firsthand. The visit includes an analysis based on housing eligibility standards, economic standards, as well as health conditions that may prevent a person from working. This analysis helps determine people who really deserve assistance, so that the results of this evaluation are used as a criterion in providing compensation to the underprivileged. These measures are taken to ensure that the aid is on target and to prevent social jealousy in the community.

2. Fundraising and Basic Food

The collection of funds and basic necessities is carried out through several institutions and organizations in Semarang City. First, Lazismu Tembalang 1 Service Office actively plays a role in raising funds and basic necessities from people

who care about them to then be distributed to those in need. Second, BPSPAMS Tirta Kedungmundu also participated in efforts to collect funds and basic necessities, showing their commitment to helping the surrounding community. In addition, additional funds for the collection of basic necessities also came from LPPM ITESA Muhammadiyah Semarang City, which showed solidarity and support from educational institutions for this social activity. The collaboration between these three entities ensures that the collected aid can be distributed in a targeted and effective manner, helping to ease the burden on people in need in Semarang City.

3. Distribution of Basic Necessities

The distribution of basic necessities was carried out by involving Tirta Kedungmundu Youth to assist in the distribution process. The first step is to determine the time and place of distribution of basic necessities so that the implementation is organized. The distribution of basic necessities is carried out in an orderly and safe way, ensuring that people in need receive assistance properly and without crowds that have the potential to cause security or health problems. The entire process of distributing basic necessities is well documented, which is useful for future reporting and evaluation. This documentation includes photos, videos, and other relevant notes, so that all parties involved can review the activity and make improvements if needed in the future. With this approach, the distribution of basic necessities is expected to run smoothly and provide maximum benefits for people in need.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are carried out to monitor the distribution of basic necessities to determine their effectiveness and efficiency and collect input from the community for the improvement of further community service activities. With this structured approach, community service activities in Amposari can be carried out properly, on target, and provide maximum benefits to people in need. The evaluation aims to ensure that the distribution of basic necessities runs according to plan and achieves the set targets, as well as identifying obstacles and solutions to improve the process in the future. Gathering feedback from the community is critical in understanding needs and expectations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community service by distributing basic food packages to the community in RW 3 Kedungmundu Village, Tembalang District, Semarang City was carried out in collaboration with the Community-Based Drinking Water and Sanitation Supply Facilities Management Agency (BP-SPAMS) Tirta Kedungmundu Semarang and the Muhammadiyah Branch Executive (PCM) Service Office (KL) of the Amil Zakat Infaq and Sodaqoh Muhammadiyah (LazisMu) PCM Tembalang 1.



Figure 1: Representative Funders and Recipients of Basic Food Package Assistance

In the stage of distributing or distributing food packages to people who really need them and the elderly, they are equalized. The distribution system for distributing basic necessities by distributing them in a place that has been prepared on March 10, 2024 at 09:00-13:00 WIB and is also delivered to the homes of residents who cannot attend due to age and illness. The total number of basic food packages delivered was 150 packages, 100 basic food packages were delivered to the community who attended and as many as 50 packages were delivered to the elderly who could not attend during the distribution of basic necessities. The basic food package provided is Rp. 150,000 which contains daily necessities, namely rice, oil, sugar, soy sauce and flour.

The recipients of basic necessities are the RW 3 community who have education from the results of the questionnaire that we share as shown in the following table:

Table 1. Recipients of Basic Food Packages based on Education

Education	Number (percent)
Not finishing elementary school	22 %
SD	24 %
JUNIOR	23 %
SMA	31 %

The majority of recipients of basic food packages in the community of RW 3 (Amposari) Kedungmundu Village, Tembalang District, Semarang City based on the table above most of them have an education below 69% of junior high school graduates or do not have a high formal education. This shows that they have limited access to better jobs and more stable incomes. In line with the research conducted by (dedi Julianto, 2018)Julianto (2019) that factors that affect a person's income other than education are gender, age and location factors. A person with low education and no skills will face great difficulties in getting a decent job and meeting the demands of the times in the era of globalization. Fierce competition in the global job market demands a workforce that has high qualifications, technical skills, and the ability to adapt quickly to technological changes. Without adequate education and relevant skills, such individuals will fall behind and find it difficult to compete, thus reducing their chances of achieving economic well-being and career stability. This condition emphasizes the importance of education and skills training as a foundation for success in this modern era. Therefore, it is necessary to have support from the local government or cooperation with related agencies to empower the community through free courses or training.

In community service activities with the distribution of basic food packages in RW 3 Kedungmundu Village, Tembalang District, Semarang City, there are variations in the type of work owned by the recipients of basic food packages, as in the following table:

Table 2. Recipients of Basic Food Packages by Employment

Work	Number (percent)
Laborer	23,26 %
Private Employees	6,97 %
Not working	69,77 %

Labor workers and private employees are in the category of jobs with uncertain or limited income. The non-working part includes those who are unemployed, elderly, or unable to work due to health conditions, so basic food assistance can be very helpful in reducing their economic burden. The article "A Decade of Flat Wages: The Key Barrier to Shared Prosperity and a Rising Middle Class" by Mishel and Shierholz (2013) published by the Economic Policy Institute describes the phenomenon of significant wage stagnation in the United States over the past decade. This article identifies that wages for workers in various sectors and income levels have tended to stagnate or increase very slowly in the past decade. This means that while there is overall economic growth, the benefits are not fully reflected in workers' incomes.

The distribution of basic food packages is a concrete step in helping people in need, especially in difficult economic situations. This activity also pays special attention to the elderly community who often need more help than others. With flexible distribution methods, namely on-site distribution and home delivery, ensuring that aid can be effectively delivered to all in need. Angus Deaton, an economist who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2015, has contributed many important research related to economic and social

well-being. In the context of social assistance programs, Deaton places a strong emphasis on its important role in reducing social and economic inequalities, as well as providing economic protection to vulnerable groups in society.



Figure 1. Basic Food Distribution Activities

This service shows that the distribution of basic necessities for the underprivileged in Semarang City has various significant benefits. First, it can help meet basic daily needs such as food, which is an important foundation for their health and well-being (Rahmadeni et al., 2019). Second, this program can ease the economic burden on families who often find it difficult to meet basic needs due to limited income (Fahrezi et al., 2023). Third, basic food assistance can also increase the sense of solidarity and social concern among community members, strengthening relationships between individuals and communities (Jamilatun & Istiqomah, 2022). Finally, these programs can contribute to social stability by reducing inequality and potential conflicts arising from economic disparities.

The distribution of basic necessities to the poor often faces a number of obstacles, including logistics problems and uneven distribution. One of the main challenges is to ensure that the aid reaches those who really need it without any irregularities or misappropriations. In addition, uncertainty in recipient data can cause some families to not get the basic necessities they should receive, while others may receive more than they need (Ramdani et al., 2022). These constraints are often exacerbated by budget constraints, lack of coordination between various agencies, and the existence of inadequate infrastructure in remote areas.

To carry out food distribution activities for the poor in a sustainable manner, several important steps must be taken. First, identify and map needs by involving social institutions and local communities to ensure that assistance is on target. Second, form an implementation team consisting of volunteers and professionals to plan and organize distribution activities (Hutagalung, 2023). Third, establish partnerships with donors, companies, and non-governmental organizations to get the resources and funds they need. Fourth, create an efficient distribution plan, including transparent schedules, distribution locations, and distribution methods. Fifth, utilize technology to manage aid recipient data and track the distribution of basic necessities (Mardikaningsih et al., 2022). Sixth, periodic evaluation of the implementation of activities and their impact on recipient communities to identify strengths and areas of improvement. Finally, report and be transparent about the use of funds and the

distribution of basic necessities to all stakeholders to build trust and support the continuation of the program. With these steps, basic food distribution activities can be carried out effectively and sustainably to help the poor.

CONCLUSION

Based on the distribution of basic necessities in RW 3 Kedungmundu Village, Semarang City in March 2024 provided direct assistance to 150 recipients, including the elderly who could not attend. With a focus on low-educated people who reach 69% and have irregular jobs, this activity shows sensitivity to vulnerable groups. This assistance not only meets basic needs materially but also strengthens social solidarity in the community. Through future policy evaluation and improvement, it is hoped that the positive impact of this social assistance program can increase. By understanding the profile of the type of work of the recipients of the basic food packages, social assistance programs can be better adjusted to provide maximum benefits to people in need. With targeted assistance, it is hoped that the economic and social well-being of the wider community can be improved, creating a sustainable positive impact on the community.

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