

Improving Knowledge and Skills of Mosque Teenagers in Da'wah Communication: A Case Study on Community Engagement in Ganggong Hamlet, Sleman Regency

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ABSTRACT

Mosque youths play an important role in fostering and empowering the people and in spreading Islamic teachings to the community. Therefore, mosque youth must be equipped with the right competencies, especially in terms of organization and other skills. This community service aims to increase the knowledge and skills of mosque youth in da'wah communication. This community service was carried out at the Al-Hikmah Mosque in Ganggong Hamlet, Bangunkerto Village, Kapanewonan Turi, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Special Province. The object targeted in this service is the youth of the mosque. Some of the methods used include focus group discussions (FGD), lecture methods, and public speaking science-based da'wah communication practices among teenagers. The stages of the activity include training on the management of mosque youth organizations, public speaking training, training on creating da'wah content in offline and online media/social media, and monitoring and evaluation. The results of this community service show that all community service programs have been carried out properly. Specifically, mentoring mosque youth has provided knowledge and practices related to da'wah through both offline and online media. Mosque youth partners know the benefits and can apply several techniques to create interesting and attractive da'wah content on social media. Additionally, mosque youth can effectively organize the management of mosque youth organizations as one of the pillars driving Islamic da'wah in society. Furthermore, the synergy between mosque youth and takmir (mosque management) has become an asset and reinforces the sustainability of Islamic da'wah in the local community.

Keywords: Communication, Mosque Youth, Preaching, Public Speaking



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INTRODUCTION

Mosque Youth or Mosque Islamic Youth (Remaja Islam Masjid or RISMA) is one of the pillars that functions as a vehicle for coaching and empowering the community. Apart from that, it also has an important role in spreading the message of Islam to the surrounding community with a coaching program centered at the mosque [1], [2]. As part of the organization, Risma is part of the mosque management which is an important pillar in efforts

to prosper the mosque. The aim of establishing Risma is as a forum for teenagers to improve and develop youth morals. Considering that problems often arise in society, this organization has an important role in efforts to foster morals through mosque programs. Through Risma, it is hoped that it can protect especially teenagers from promiscuity, and be able to guide teenagers in good behavior as a provision for their lifetime [3], [4].

Ganggong Hamlet is in Bangunkerto Kapanewonan Turi, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region Province. Based on observations in February 2022, data was obtained from the head of the hamlet that there were approximately 200 heads of families (700 people) in this area and 100% of the residents were Muslim. Approximately 50 of the residents of this hamlet are teenagers. This hamlet socially has potential, including a takmir organization that manages the Al-Hikmah Mosque; the Pangruti Loyo group which helps religious figures in the process of providing body care services; community recitation activities consisting of children's recitation, weekly adult recitation, and general field recitation.

The existence of the Al-Hikmah Mosque has made a positive contribution to increasing community religious activities, one of which is the existence of Wi-Fi Internet facilities which can be used by the congregation for free, and reading glasses facilities for the elderly who are learning to read the Koran. However, apart from this potential, the hamlet is also experiencing problems which are the cause of not yet optimal religious activities in the community. To be precise, this problem is the low participation of teenagers in carrying out activities organized by the mosque.

So far, the fact is that there are mosque youth groups, but these youth groups have not actively contributed to the mosque. This is partly because mosque youth do not yet have the ability and skills in organization and there are no activities available that meet the demands and talents of mosque youth, especially in the fields of technology and information. On the other hand, the existence of youth groups and the availability of Wi-Fi Internet facilities at the mosque provide great potential for spreading da'wah and broadcasting religious activities.

Referring to the problems and potential of the community, it is hoped that this community service activity can be an alternative solution to solving these problems. The activities carried out include improving the skills and abilities of mosque youth in the fields of organization and public speaking based on offline and online media. The hope is that mosque teenagers can become public relations (PR) for the mosque in spreading religious broadcasts in the hamlet.

The targets achieved in this community service include: increasing knowledge about youth organization management, increasing teenagers' skills and abilities in the field of public speaking as an instrument of da'wah communication, and increasing teenagers' skills in preaching offline and online media. Thus, this community service activity aims to improve the abilities and skills of mosque youth in organizing within the mosque; to increase the participation of mosque youth in religious activities; and increase teenagers' knowledge and skills in the field of da'wah communication (public speaking) through offline media and online media/ social media.

This service activity is considered urgent because teenagers are the next generation who will continue the baton of the mandate of managing and spreading the message of religious activities from the older generation who are currently in the mosque organization. This activity becomes a raw model for empowering mosque youth as mosque public relations in preaching and disseminating religious information. This activity becomes a medium or forum for teenagers to work and be creative in religious activities.

METHODS

This community service was carried out between March and December 2022. The program was carried out offline at the Al-Hikmah Mosque, Ganggong Hamlet. The target of the activity is teenagers from the mosque. Several methods used to achieve the targets and objectives of this community service activity include FGD among teenagers; lecture methods and preaching communication practices based on the science of public speaking. This method will be realized in several activity stages as shown in the following Table 1.

Table 1. Community Engagement Phases

| Activity Stage | Method | Activity Output |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Mosque youth organization management training | Lectures,FGDs | Increased knowledge about youth organization management |
| Establishment of a Mosque Youth Organization | FGD | Formation of mosque youth organizational structure and job distribution Increasing teenagers' skills and abilities in the field of public speaking as an instrument of da'wah communication |
| Public speaking training | Lectures, role plays, and practice | Increasing teenagers' preaching skills in offline and online media. |
| Training in creating da'wah content in offline and online media/social media | Lectures and practices | Recommendation |

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identification and Socialization of Activities

Identification and socialization activities were carried out on March 27, 2021. In this activity, the team explored the problems faced by partners. We invited partners from *Takmir* Al-Hikmah Mosque and representatives of Muslim youth in Ganggong Hamlet. In the initial stage, the community service team presented the program plan to be implemented, followed by a presentation of the real conditions in the community by partner representatives, namely from *Takmir* and representatives of Muslim youth. The results of problem identification show that the mosque's youth partners are currently not running optimally because:

1. The Al-Hikmah Ganggong Mosque youth organization has not yet been formed.
2. The ability and knowledge of Muslim teenagers in organizing are still low.
3. Teenagers' skills and knowledge in da'wah communication both offline and online are still low.



Figure 1. Identification activities with the Takmir of Al-Hikmah Mosque

Mosque Youth Organization Management Training

To provide basic knowledge about mosque youth organizations and foster organizational enthusiasm among Muslim teenagers and youth, the team carried out training activities on mosque youth organization management by presenting the Jogokaryan Yogyakarta Mosque Youth President, Muhammad Syafiq H as the main resource person. This activity was carried out on June 4, 2022, at the Al-Hikmah Kuran Education building, which was attended by 35 Muslim teenagers and youth participants from Ganggong Hamlet. The material for this activity includes motivation to restore the role of Muslim teenagers and youth as drivers of mosque-based da'wah activities. Apart from that, it also describes the patterns and methods

applied by the management of the Jogokaryan Yogyakarta mosque youth organization in revitalizing the da'wah movement in the youth environment.



Figure 2. Mosque Youth Organization Management Training Activities

Formation of the Mosque Youth Organization

The follow-up to the Mosque Youth Organization management training activity was the establishment of an organization and management structure for mosque youth. This activity was carried out on June 23, 2022, attended by 35 Muslim teenagers. The process of forming and preparing the mosque youth management structure was carried out using the FGD method guided by the Indonesian Islamic University Community Service Team consisting of Dr. Junanah, MIS as chairman, Dr. Joko Susilo, M.Pd. as a member and Ichwan, MSI as a facilitator. These activities resulted:

1. Formation of the Al-Hikmah Mosque youth organization in Ganggong Hamlet with the name "Karisma" (Al-Hikmah Mosque Islamic Youth Association)
2. Arrangement of a management structure and description of the duties of authority for each field in the Karisma organization.



Figure 3. Activities for Forming the Management of the Karisma Ganggong Organization

Public Speaking Training

Teenagers are one of the agents driving Islamic da'wah in society in general and among the younger generation in particular [1]–[5]. Because teenagers must have capital in the form of sufficient knowledge and skills in the field of da'wah communication often known as public speaking skills. To increase knowledge and communication skills, the UII Community Service Team held Public Speaking Training for Muslim teenagers. This activity was held on July 3 2022 by presenting resource person Dr. H. Imam Mudjiono, M.Ag, a public speaking/ *da'wah* communication expert from the Islamic University of Indonesia. The material presented in this activity includes:

1. The importance of mastering public speaking techniques in preaching
2. Types of communication methods used by preachers
3. Things and techniques that need to be considered when delivering da'wah

The method of this activity is carried out using a lecture pattern of delivering material, discussions, and simulations or preaching practices. This activity is very popular with teenagers because it provides a challenge for them to present their thoughts and ideas in front of other people in an interesting, convincing, and fun way.



Figure 4. Public Speaking Training and Practices for the Young Generation

***Da'wah* Content Creation Training on Social Media**

Today's modern world requires teenagers to understand, be familiar with, and be skilled at utilizing digital technology media in all social aspects, including Islamic da'wah activities [6]–[10]. The use of social media is a necessity for anyone, including Muslim teenagers, to interact with each other. To increase knowledge and skills in preaching via social media and optimizing social media as a medium for preaching, training activities were carried out on creating Da'wah content on social media for mosque teenagers. This activity presented Ustadz

Akbar Nazary Muhammad as the training instructor. One of the social media-based da'wah activists. The material presented in this activity is:

1. Social media-based da'wah strategy, especially using the Instagram platform
2. Techniques for making Da'wah videos using the Snapseed application

The training method is carried out by delivering material, practicing making da'wah video content, and ending with a da'wah video-making competition. Through this activity, the potential of mosque teenagers to use social media and creativity in making videos was identified.



Figure 5. Training in creating propaganda content on social media

Through activities to prosper the mosque, is in line with Allah's commands as stated in the QS.

At-Taubah: 9, that

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَحْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ

"Indeed, those who prosper in Allah's mosque are only those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and (keep) performing prayers, paying zakat and not being afraid (of anything) except Allah. So hopefully they will be among those who receive guidance." (QS At Taubah: 9).

In another verse, Allah has also said in Surah An Nur verse 36 that mosques should be used as places for praying and performing other noble acts of worship.

فِي بُيُوتِ أَذْنِ اللَّهِ أَنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا أَسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْأَعْدَاةِ

"Praise Allah in the mosques that have been commanded to glorify and mention His name in them, in the morning and evening."

In this digital era, a form of participation by mosque youth in making the mosque prosperous can be in the form of spreading the spirit of congregational morning prayers at the mosque, scheduling spiritual studies, spreading good preaching, and messages of peace to

maintain the integrity of the nation, and also becoming agents of change. For this reason, skills in mastering information technology are needed because times have changed. *Da'wah* is no longer carried out by certain religious leaders, but da'wah is an obligation for every individual, including through cyberspace [4], [8]. However, teenagers still have to be wise in using technology because quite a few teenagers are so caught up in technology that they forget who they are. For example, if a teenager is addicted to playing games [11]–[13], if he is unable to manage his time then prayer time is considered a waste of time. Therefore, it is best for mosque youth to remain under the guidance and direction of mosque management or adults with a wise and friendly attitude. Considering that the psychological condition of teenagers is still unstable, it must be done slowly so that it is easy to understand. This is to avoid a mosque youth crisis [14]–[17].

CONCLUSION

The entire series of service activities in Ganggong Hamlet has been executed successfully. Based on the results of the community service implementation, several conclusions can be drawn: Firstly, mentoring mosque youth has proven effective in providing them with knowledge and practical skills related to da'wah, both through offline and online media. As a result, the mosque's youth partners are now aware of the benefits and are capable of applying various techniques to create engaging and compelling missionary content on social media. Secondly, these partners have demonstrated the ability to organize and manage mosque youth organizations, which serves as a crucial element in advancing Islamic da'wah within the community. Lastly, the collaboration between mosque youth and the takmir has become a vital asset, reinforcing the sustainability of Islamic da'wah efforts in the local area.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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