

## Creating Sharia-Based Santripreneurs as A Pillar of Economic Empowerment for The Community

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### ABSTRACT

Islamic boarding school-based entrepreneurship studies are studies that require students to become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial activity is one aspect of empowering the people's economy. Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka Islamic Boarding School is one of the Islamic boarding schools located in the middle of Kolaka, close to the center of the economy and the economic development sector. This position has opened up insight into entrepreneurship. In practice, Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka Islamic Boarding School already has several business units, but the management does not involve students. Even though this is one step to create santripreneur. Therefore, there must be concrete steps taken by Islamic boarding schools to prepare santripreneurs to develop a sharia-based people's economy, thus the most appropriate way to produce entrepreneurial spirited students is to provide entrepreneurship training assistance to students. The purpose of this service is expected to be able to create students at the Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka Islamic boarding school to have business skills with a Sharia economic approach. The methods for implementing community service activities are the preparation stage, the service implementation stage, and the evaluation stage. The results of this activity, students have an understanding of sharia-based business, sharia financial management, sharia marketing management and are able to create products. The conclusion from the results of this community service activity is that creating sharia-based santripreneurs for Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka Islamic boarding school students can be the main pillar of economic empowerment for the people in Kolaka Regency, Southeast Sulawesi.

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## INTRODUCTION

The current development of Islamic economics is not limited to the realm of Islamic banking or financial institutions, but also extends to the real sector. The real sector refers to the ability of society to feel the spirit of Islamic economics, including in pesantren (Islamic boarding schools). Pesantren are educational institutions that play an important role in society. Initially, the pesantren world was known to be conventional; however, as times have changed, pesantren have adapted to contemporary conditions (Damanhuri et al., 2013). The knowledge within the pesantren does not only focus on traditional texts (kitab kuning), but has also expanded into modern sciences, including the business world. Students (santri) who were once passive are now encouraged to be more active in cultivating a business spirit early on to create their own business after leaving the pesantren.

The study of entrepreneurship based in pesantren demands that students become entrepreneurs. According to (Suharyono, 2017) an entrepreneur is an individual who can capitalize on market opportunities through technical and/or organizational innovation. (Tran & Von Korfflesch, 2016) define an entrepreneur as "someone who is accustomed to creating and innovating to build something valuable and recognized." Meanwhile, (MacKo & Tyszka, 2009) states that "entrepreneurship is about taking risks." This definition explains that an entrepreneur is someone who can do something unique that generates profit while bravely facing risks.

Empowerment of the economy for the people involves strengthening production factors, ownership, enhancing control over distribution and marketing, empowering communities to obtain adequate wages, and equipping them with information, knowledge, and skills. Community empowerment must be carried out in various aspects, both within the community itself and in policy aspects. According to this concept, economic empowerment for the community can be achieved by fostering student entrepreneurs (santripreneurs) in pesantren environments.

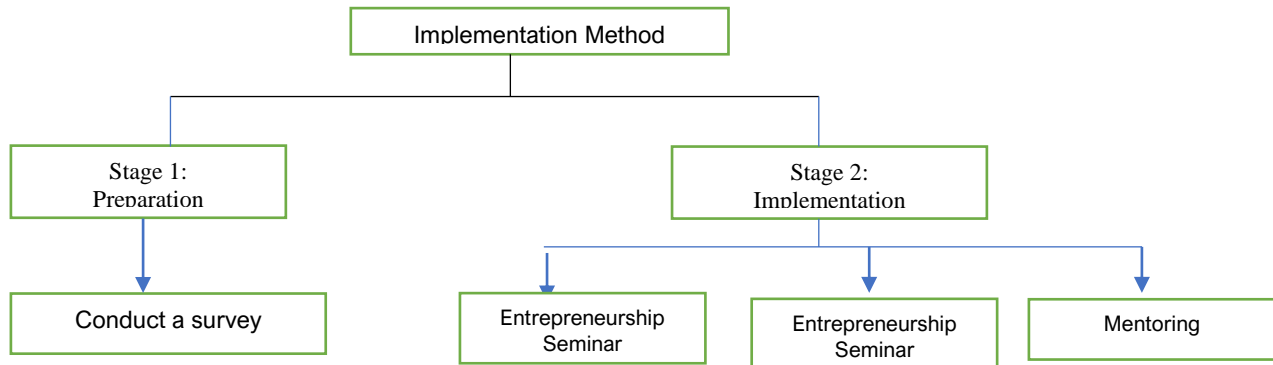
Geographically, the location of Pondok Pesantren Al Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka is very strategic, as it is situated in the heart of Kolaka, close to economic centers such as Alaska, Pasar Raya Mekongga, and modern shopping centers like Indomaret and Alfamidi. This position has broadened perspectives on entrepreneurship.

Pondok Pesantren Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka is one of the pesantren that attempts to align classical and modern studies located in Southeast Sulawesi. In practice, Pondok Pesantren Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka has established several business units, such as cooperatives, BMT (Baitul Maal wa Tamwil), and cattle farming. However, the management of these units has been limited to the administrators and has not involved the students. This represents a missed opportunity to create santripreneurs. There must be concrete steps taken by the pesantren to prepare santripreneurs to develop a community-based economy that adheres to Islamic principles. Thus, the most appropriate way to cultivate entrepreneurial spirit among students is to provide entrepreneurial training and mentorship.

The santripreneur program aims to equip students at Pondok Pesantren Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka with business skills through an Islamic economic approach. Various types of businesses will be taught both theoretically and practically, as outlined in the objectives of this community service proposal, including skills in marketing, production, and market knowledge, in addition to foundational skills in Islamic economics to ensure that practices comply with Sharia principles based on the fatwa of DSN-MUI.

## METHOD

The implementation method for this community service activity begins with a preparation stage, which includes conducting a survey through interviews with eleventh-grade students regarding their interest in entrepreneurship. The implementation stage consists of entrepreneurship seminars, entrepreneurship management, and mentoring, which includes forming entrepreneurial groups, managing raw materials, product testing and packaging, marketing, distribution, and evaluating the results of the entrepreneurship mentoring activities. These methods are explained in the flowchart.



**Figure 1.** The Flowchart Illustration

The flowchart illustrates the two main stages in the implementation of community service activities focused on entrepreneurship. Here is an explanation of each stage: Stage 1. Preparation, Conduct a Survey: In this stage, a survey is conducted to collect data on the interest in entrepreneurship among eleventh-grade students. This survey is crucial for understanding the needs and preferences of participants before moving on to the implementation phase. Stage 2. Implementation: a) Entrepreneurship Seminars: After the preparation stage, entrepreneurship seminars are held to provide participants with foundational knowledge about entrepreneurship; b) Entrepreneurship Management: In this section, participants are taught about entrepreneurship management, including how to manage resources and operate a business effectively; c) Mentoring: This stage involves more personalized guidance, where mentors assist participants in developing their ideas and entrepreneurial skills.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pondok Pesantren Al Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka is one of the pesantren located in Kolaka City, Kolaka Regency, Southeast Sulawesi. Al Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka is one of the most comprehensive pesantren in Kolaka, offering educational levels from Early Childhood Education (PAUD), Raudhatul Athfal (RA), Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI), Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTs), Madrasah Aliyah (MA), to higher education.

At Pondok Pesantren Al Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka, there are various business units; however, these are managed solely by the administration without involving the students. Therefore, specific mentoring for students is needed to develop sharia-based santripreneurs, with the following steps:

### Coordination with the Principal

The community service activities began with coordinating with the school principal, Mr. Fery Padli, S.Pd., M.Pd., to obtain permission for entrepreneurship mentoring for the students. The results of this coordination indicated that the partner institution allowed the implementation of community service activities. Subsequently, a survey was conducted among the students through interviews regarding their interest in entrepreneurship. The interview results showed that the majority of students were very interested in

becoming entrepreneurs. However, they had no knowledge of sharia-based entrepreneurship, indicating a need for mentoring to become sharia-compliant entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurship education in pesantren is crucial for ensuring that entrepreneurship within these institutions can compete with external economic sectors. The development of santripreneurs in pesantren can enhance the entrepreneurial interest of students, enabling them to be not only knowledgeable in religion but also experienced and skilled in entrepreneurship (Aslihah & Yaqin, 2021). Entrepreneurship education can shape the mindset of the next generation, making them resilient, competitive, and capable of problem-solving (Munawaroh & Nia, 2021). Thus, pesantren has significant potential to improve economic welfare (Robbani et al., 2023). Therefore, integrating entrepreneurship education in pesantren will be a strategic step in creating a generation of santri ready to contribute to the community's economy.

**Implementation of Community Service Activities** The implementation of this community service activity is divided into several parts, including:

### **Entrepreneurship Seminar and Talk Show**

The entrepreneurship seminar is considered important as it can inspire enthusiasm for creating, innovating, and developing ideas. This seminar featured three speakers: the first speaker introduced various types of sharia-based businesses and sharia marketing. The character of sharia-based business is marked by a deep understanding of halal and haram, a commitment to spiritual values, practices that comply with sharia, and an orientation towards worshipping Allah. This ensures that every business activity not only focuses on material profit but also prioritizes moral and spiritual principles in its execution (Arizal & Onasis, 2021). Meanwhile, the concept of sharia marketing emphasizes the importance of understanding consumer needs and building good relationships with them, as well as leveraging competition as motivation for innovation, thus not only focusing on worldly satisfaction but also leading to ukhrawi satisfaction in accordance with ethical principles and Islamic values (Miftah, 2015). The application of these principles is expected to create a business ecosystem that is not only financially profitable but also positively impacts society and the environment in line with Islamic teachings.

The second speaker discussed sharia-based financial management and practical methods for preparing financial reports based on Sharia PSAK (Financial Accounting Standards Board). PSAK Sharia is intended for entities that conduct transactions within a sharia context (Lubis et al., 2023). PSAK Sharia establishes the foundation for presenting financial statements for sharia entities, focusing on fairness and transparency in transactions, thereby supporting the principles of sharia accounting based on compliance with Islamic law (Yunita, 2019). This is highly relevant in the context of entrepreneurship, as the implementation of PSAK Sharia can provide a strong foundation for entrepreneurs to manage their finances ethically and responsibly, while also attracting the trust of investors who are concerned with sharia principles.

The third speaker explained how to create products. Providing practical examples that can be applied to various types of businesses, ranging from food to handicrafts. Additionally, the speaker encouraged the students to innovate and adapt their products to market needs to become more competitive.



**FIGURE 2.** Entrepreneurship Seminar

The entrepreneurship seminar program was conducted with the aim of enhancing the students' understanding of sharia economics. Workshops for the students can broaden their insights and knowledge about entrepreneurship, as well as encourage their desire to develop and realize business ideas (Putra et al., 2023). Pesantren has great potential in developing sharia economics, which aims not only to produce sharia-based entrepreneurs but also to improve community welfare through the integration of Islamic values in economic practices (Hasniaty, 2022). With proper management and support from various community elements, pesantren can play a role as a center for the development of knowledge and sustainable sharia economic practices.

### **Entrepreneurship Management**

Students gain directed knowledge for entrepreneurship, guided directly by experts, covering sharia management, sharia-based financial management, and sharia marketing. Through this training, students will learn how to apply sharia principles in various aspects of business, enabling them to run enterprises that align with Islamic values. Additionally, they will be equipped with practical skills in financial management and designing effective marketing strategies. Thus, this program aims to cultivate a generation of entrepreneurs who are not only technically competent but also possess high moral integrity.

The development of sharia-based entrepreneurship in pesantren is crucial to understand, especially regarding the application of management principles that align with Islamic teachings. The practice of sharia business management focuses on the halal nature of products, grounded in the teachings of the Quran and Hadith, while maintaining integrity in marketing, thereby creating quality products and building trust along with moral values in the business world (Setiawan et al., 2020). Thus, the understanding and application of sharia management principles in pesantren not only contribute to sustainable entrepreneurial development but also reinforce integrity and moral values within the community.

### **Mentoring**

The process of training santripreneurs is closely linked to a mentoring process, ensuring that the pesantren has clear guidance in creating a product or service. This mentoring begins with dividing the students into five groups, with each group consisting of six students.

The role of a mentor in the entrepreneurship learning process helps mentees plan their goals, remind them of the right direction, and serve as a model to follow, thereby increasing their chances of success in running a business (Nurani et al., 2023). Each group has the right to determine the type of product they will produce. The brands successfully created by the students of Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka include USAHA SANTRI: SANTRI MANDIRI DAN NKRI HEBAT.!



**FIGURE 3:** Product Brands Used by Santripreneurs

Each group has different products; some groups create their own products, while others use a system of purchasing ready-made goods. However, the products marketed are tailored to the needs of the students, who are the primary consumers. In the entrepreneurship learning process, each group is given the freedom to choose the type of product they wish to develop. Each group has a different product; some groups create their own products, while others use a system of purchasing ready-made goods. However, the products marketed are tailored to the needs of the students, who are the primary consumers. This allows students to better understand market dynamics and hone their business skills. Additionally, this experience encourages creativity and innovation in developing products that are relevant to community needs.



**FIGURE 4.** Student Products and Marketing Activities

## Evaluation Stage

In this stage, an evaluation is conducted on the results achieved by the training participants. The indicator of the success of this community service initiative in a short period is that the students are able to support the school's organizational economy independently, without relying on funding donations. The profits from the students' businesses can help finance student council activities and extracurricular programs at the



school. Thus, this program not only provides entrepreneurial experience but also contributes to the development of students' managerial and leadership skills.

To enhance the effectiveness of the entrepreneurship education program, it is important to conduct regular evaluations. The evaluation of entrepreneurship education activities aims to ensure that the quality and implementation meet the established plans (Fikri, 2022). The results of the evaluation show that the students have successfully applied ideas with potential to become economically valuable products and demonstrate a strong enthusiasm for seizing those opportunities (Riyadi et al., 2024). Regular evaluations not only ensure the success of the entrepreneurship education program but also equip students with the skills and motivation to develop innovative ideas into tangible business opportunities.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion from this community service activity is that cultivating sharia-based santripreneurs among the students of Pondok Pesantren Al-Mawaddah Warrahmah Kolaka can become a key pillar for economic empowerment in the community of Kolaka Regency, Southeast Sulawesi. This is evidenced by the students' ability to create products, innovate them, and market them with effective sharia management. With these skills, students not only contribute to the local economy but also raise awareness of sharia values in the business world. This success is expected to inspire other pesantren to implement similar programs for the welfare of the community.

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