

Enhancing Economic Independence of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin Members through Herbal Dishwashing Soap Production Training

Sri Handayani^{1, a)}, Mohamad Haifan^{2, b)}, Ismojo^{3, c)}, Linda Allifia Yoshi^{1, d)}, Nur Fadilah Kahfi^{1, e)}, and Rohman Hakim¹

¹Chemical Engineering Study Program, Institut Teknologi Indonesia, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia

²Engineering Professional Program, Institut Teknologi Indonesia, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia

³Mechanical Engineering Study Program, Institut Teknologi Indonesia, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia

^{a)}Corresponding author: sri.handayani@iti.ac.id

^{b)}moh.haifan@iti.ac.id

^{c)}ismojo@iti.ac.id

^{e)}nurfadilahkahfi@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Majelis Taklim is a non-formal, religion-based educational institution that plays a role in the community's religious, social, and economic empowerment. This community service activity aimed to enhance the financial independence of the members of Majelis Taklim al-amin through training on the production of herbal liquid dishwashing soap. The program was implemented over three months using a participatory approach through training and mentoring methods, which included needs identification, module development, soap-making practice, production assistance, and evaluation. The training was attended by 15 participants, consisting of administrators and active members of the majelis taklim. The training materials covered basic entrepreneurship, herbal-based soap production, business analysis, and marketing strategies. The evaluation results showed an increase in participants' knowledge by 32 points, from an average pre-test score of 62 to a post-test score of 94. Product quality assessment obtained an average score of 4–5 on a Likert scale (1–5), indicating that the product met basic quality standards and was feasible for household-scale production. This activity also resulted in the establishment of a community-based entrepreneurship group under Majelis Taklim al-amin. The formation of this group is expected to support the continuity of production activities, facilitate collective business development, and generate sustained income for members. In the long term, the group has the potential to evolve into an independent micro-enterprise unit that strengthens local economic resilience and reinforces the role of the majelis taklim as a sustainable community empowerment institution.

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Submitted/Received: 05-12-2025

First Revised: 11 December 2026

Accepted: 10 January 2026

First Available online: 31 January 2026

Publication Date: 31 January 2026

Keyword :

Community-based economic empowerment

Majelis Taklim community development

Herbal dishwashing soap production

Women's entrepreneurship

empowerment

Household-scale micro-enterprise

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment refers to a process that enables individuals or groups to act independently by optimizing their potential (Suharto, 2005). Within the broader framework of community development, empowerment is closely linked to self-reliance, participation, social networking, and efforts to promote social justice (Sumodiningrat, 1999; Suharto, 2014; Wrihatnolo & Dwidjowijoto, 2007).

Economic empowerment is critical in improving household income and reducing external dependency through small-scale, home-based entrepreneurship (Handayani et al., 2021-2024). Women's empowerment also contributes significantly to family welfare, as women frequently assume dual roles in managing household responsibilities and generating supplementary income (Nugraheni & Lestari, 2020).

Majelis Taklim—non-formal, religion-based community organizations widely found across Indonesia—function not only as centers for religious learning but also as platforms for social and economic development (Azra, 2003; Subagyo, 2010). With strong community engagement, Majelis Taklim holds substantial potential to support grassroots empowerment initiatives (Fitriyah et al., 2021; Isnawati et al., 2022). However, many Majelis Taklim still lack structured programs that effectively enhance entrepreneurship skills and small-business management among their members.

Training programs that build practical skills using local resources offer a relevant strategy to address this gap. Such programs can strengthen technical competence, foster entrepreneurial motivation, and promote economic self-reliance (Putri et al., 2023). Herbal liquid dishwashing soap production, in particular, is well-suited for community-based training due to its continuous market demand, eco-friendly appeal, affordability of raw materials, and simple production process (Ayu et al., 2022; Dewi & Rahmawati, 2023).

The herbal dishwashing soap training implemented at Majelis Taklim Al-Amin aims to provide participants with practical skills that can serve as an entry point to small-scale entrepreneurship. It also supports broader objectives of strengthening women's economic roles, expanding community-based economic networks, and integrating religious-based learning with productive economic activities.

Despite the strategic role of Majelis Taklim in community life, limited studies have examined structured empowerment models that combine religious community settings with skill-based micro-entrepreneurship training. This program offers a novel approach by positioning Majelis Taklim as an integrated hub for spiritual learning and sustainable economic empowerment, supported by measurable training outcomes and the formation of a follow-up entrepreneurship group.

METHOD

Research Design

This community service program employed a Participatory Action Research (PAR) design, integrating training, mentoring, and collaborative decision-making involving the members of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin. A mixed-method evaluation was applied by combining quantitative assessment (pre-post test scores and product evaluation ratings) with qualitative inputs (interviews and field observations). The program was implemented over three months within the Majelis Taklim Al-Amin community and facilitated by lecturers and student volunteers.

Participants

A total of 15 participants took part in the program, consisting of female members and administrators of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin. Participants were primarily housewives aged 25–55 years, representing a community with modest socio-economic backgrounds and a strong interest in home-based entrepreneurial activities. Participation was voluntary.

Ethical Considerations

Before data collection and program implementation, informed consent was obtained from all participants, and formal permission was granted by the leadership of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin. Participants were assured that all information would be used solely for educational and program evaluation purposes, with confidentiality maintained throughout the process.

Needs and Potential Identification

The initial assessment involved semi-structured interviews and direct observations to identify socio-economic conditions, participants' skill levels, and interest in household-based businesses. Findings indicated limited knowledge in product formulation, production hygiene, and basic entrepreneurship, justifying the need for structured skills training.

Training Program Design

Based on the assessment results, the implementation team developed a structured training module on herbal dishwashing soap production. The module included:

- Fundamentals of surfactants and basic soap chemistry,
- Types and functions of natural herbal additives,
- Formulation techniques and production steps, and
- Safety considerations, including basic household product regulations.

Training Implementation

Training was conducted through demonstrations and group-based hands-on practice. Participants produced herbal dishwashing soap using accessible and low-cost materials. Each group was supervised to ensure proper measurement, mixing techniques, and quality control during production.

Production and Packaging Assistance

Following the main training sessions, ongoing mentoring was provided to support participants in:

- Improving formulation stability and product consistency,
- Developing simple and feasible packaging designs,
- Calculating production costs and setting selling prices, and planning basic marketing strategies suitable for household-scale businesses.

Evaluation and Follow-Up

Evaluation consisted of both quantitative and qualitative components:

- Pre-test and Post-test: A 10-item multiple-choice test was administered to measure participants' knowledge of soap formulation, safety, and entrepreneurship.
- Product Quality Questionnaire: A 7-item Likert-type questionnaire (scale 1–5) assessed clarity, scent, foam quality, cleaning performance, packaging, and overall acceptability.
- Qualitative Feedback: Short interviews were conducted to capture participants' perceptions of program benefits.

The follow-up phase focused on forming a community-based entrepreneurship group under Majelis Taklim Al-Amin to ensure program continuity and explore opportunities for small-scale production.

Program Outcomes

This empowerment program resulted in three key achievements. First, participants demonstrated substantial improvement in their knowledge and skills related to herbal dishwashing soap production, including formulation accuracy and product handling. Second, the program facilitated the establishment of a household-based business initiative within the community, expected to evolve into a sustainable micro-enterprise. Third, a comprehensive training module was produced to serve as a replicable guide for future community empowerment initiatives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Training Implementation

The entrepreneurship and herbal dishwashing soap production training was organized by a team of lecturers from the Institut Teknologi Indonesia on May 23, 2025, at Majelis Taklim Al-Amin, South Tangerang City. The initiative aimed to empower community members, particularly housewives, to build small-scale home businesses, thereby fostering economic self-reliance.

Fifteen participants, consisting of administrators and active members of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin, attended the training. The sessions were interactive and received positive feedback from participants. The program was structured into three main sessions:

- Introduction to entrepreneurship and community-based business development.
- Hands-on practice in herbal dishwashing soap production.
- Business feasibility analysis and product marketing strategies.

This program provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurship, equipping them with practical skills to produce herbal dishwashing soap as a sustainable home-based industry product.

Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Community-Based Entrepreneurship

During the initial session, participants were introduced to fundamental concepts of entrepreneurship, emphasizing its applicability in the Majelis Taklim Al-Amin community. The session described

entrepreneurship as the ability to create value through risk-taking, creativity, and responding to community needs. The key characteristics of an entrepreneur—confidence, persistence, and the ability to learn from experience—were discussed.

It was highlighted that entrepreneurship is a learned skill, not an innate talent, and can be cultivated through practice and reflection. Additionally, the concept of community-based entrepreneurship was presented. This approach emphasizes collaboration, the use of local resources, and the pursuit of collective economic benefits. In the context of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin, this model fosters empowerment by strengthening individual capacities and contributing to family and community resilience in a sustainable manner.

Community-Based Entrepreneurship

Community-based entrepreneurship focuses on collaboration among members to manage collective economic activities. It takes a bottom-up approach, using local resources, skills, culture, and social networks to create value. The main goal is not just profit generation but also social value creation and strengthening community solidarity.

In this program, the community-based model was applied by teaching participants how to produce liquid dishwashing soap, thereby enhancing economic independence. Success depended on a process involving potential mapping, group formation, skill training, production mentoring, and network development with stakeholders, including universities and local governments.

Furthermore, the program incorporated Islamic entrepreneurial values, ensuring that business practices adhered to sharia principles. These principles emphasize honesty, trustworthiness (amanah), fairness, and social responsibility. The avoidance of unethical practices, such as usury (riba) and deception, was also emphasized. By embedding these values into the program, participants were encouraged not only to pursue profit but also to contribute to the well-being of their communities. Figures 1 and 2 show the implementation team (lecturers from ITI) and the participants during the session on community-based entrepreneurship.



FIGURE 1. Implementation Team (Lecturers from ITI) and Training Participants



FIGURE 2. Presentation Session on Community-Based Entrepreneurship at Majelis Taklim Al-Amin

Dishwashing Liquid Production Practice

Dishwashing liquid, a common household cleaning agent, primarily relies on surfactants to reduce surface tension and improve cleaning efficiency. In the training, participants learned to formulate a herbal dishwashing liquid using a mix of surfactants, water, and natural ingredients like Aloe Vera.

The preparation process involved two main steps: one for dissolving sodium chloride (NaCl) in water, and another for blending SLS, SLES, CPAB, and DMDM hydantoin with water. The practical steps involved in producing liquid soap are illustrated in Figure 3. These mixtures were combined with Aloe Vera extract, fragrance, and coloring agents, and homogenized to produce the final product. This method ensures that participants can replicate the process at home with minimal equipment.



FIGURE 3. The procedure for making liquid soap

Quality analysis of the herbal dishwashing liquid showed the following results:

- pH: 6 (within the acceptable range for skin-friendly products)
- Viscosity: 1300 cP (indicating a stable fluid consistency)
- Specific gravity: 1.05 g/mL (suggesting proper ingredient solubilization)
- Microbiological analysis: 10 colonies/g (well below the safety threshold)

These parameters align with industry standards, demonstrating that the product is of suitable quality for household use.

Business Analysis and Product Marketing

In the final session, participants learned about business analysis and product marketing strategies. Understanding these concepts is critical for assessing the economic viability and long-term sustainability of any entrepreneurial venture.

Business Analysis: A thorough feasibility study is essential for determining the potential profitability of an enterprise. Participants were introduced to methods for estimating production costs and setting prices. They learned to calculate both fixed and variable costs, and how to determine the cost of goods manufactured (COGM). Financial viability was assessed using indicators such as Net Present Value (NPV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), Benefit-Cost Ratio (B/C), Break-Even Point (BEP), and Payback Period (PP).

Product Marketing: The marketing mix (Product, Price, Place, and Promotion) served as a basis for developing effective marketing strategies. Participants were encouraged to focus on:

- Product quality and customer satisfaction
- Competitive pricing aligned with consumer expectations
- Effective distribution to ensure product availability
- Promotional strategies that build brand awareness and customer loyalty

These tools provided participants with a structured approach to developing and marketing their products within their local communities.

Evaluation and Follow-Up Activities

The effectiveness of the training was evaluated using pre- and post-test assessments. The results showed an improvement of 32 points in the participants' knowledge, from an average of 62 in the pre-test to 94 in the post-test. This indicates a significant increase in participants' understanding of small-scale business management, soap formulation, and product marketing.

In terms of product evaluation, participants rated the herbal dishwashing liquid positively on attributes such as color, scent, thickness, foam quality, and cleaning ability. The average ratings were between 4 and 5 on a 5-point Likert scale, indicating that the product met basic quality standards and is ready for further development as a home-based commercial product.

As a follow-up, a small entrepreneurial group was formed to continue producing the dishwashing liquid. This group was supported in creating a simple business plan, setting product prices, and developing local marketing strategies. This initiative aims to enhance economic independence and empower women in the community.

Discussion

This community empowerment initiative aligns with broader goals of enhancing economic self-reliance, particularly among women in marginalized communities. The training program demonstrated a practical approach to entrepreneurship, combining technical skills in herbal soap production with core business management knowledge. These efforts are particularly effective in the context of community-based entrepreneurship, which emphasizes local resources, collaboration, and social responsibility.

However, there are a few areas that could be explored further. First, the small sample size ($N = 15$) limits the generalizability of these findings. While the training had a positive impact on the participants, it

would be useful to evaluate the long-term outcomes of such initiatives, especially regarding the sustainability of the businesses established. A longer follow-up period and a larger sample size would provide a clearer picture of the program's long-term effectiveness.

In terms of limitations, the technical aspects of soap production, particularly the surfactant chemistry, may have been too complex for some participants. Future iterations of the program could simplify this content or provide additional resources to help participants fully grasp the chemical processes involved.

This program underscores the importance of combining technical skills with entrepreneurial knowledge to promote sustainable empowerment. By integrating practical product development with business and marketing strategies, the training provided participants with the tools they need to build successful, sustainable businesses. Ultimately, this model shows how community-based entrepreneurship can enhance economic self-reliance, particularly for women, while adhering to Islamic values that promote ethical business practices and social responsibility.

CONCLUSION

The herbal liquid soap production training at Majelis Taklim Al-Amin was successfully implemented and yielded positive outcomes. It effectively enhanced participants' knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, production processes, and marketing, with a significant increase in cognitive abilities—from an average score of 62 to 95. Participants also evaluated the quality of the soap products produced as excellent.

Beyond individual capacity-building, the program facilitated the formation of a community-based entrepreneurship group focused on household-scale soap production, marking a significant step toward fostering economic independence and promoting women's empowerment within the community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the Center for Research and Community Service (PRPM) of the Indonesia Institute of Technology (ITI) for providing financial support and facilitation throughout the implementation of this community service program. Appreciation is also extended to the management and members of Majelis Taklim Al-Amin for their active participation and cooperation during the activities, which enabled the herbal liquid soap training program to run effectively and deliver tangible benefits to the community.

REFERENCES

Ayu, L., Isna, M., & Dwi, S. (2022). Pelatihan pembuatan sabun herbal ramah lingkungan untuk masyarakat. *Jurnal Inovasi dan Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 3(3), 211–219. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jipm.v3i3.12345>

Azra, A. (2003). Jaringan ulama Timur Tengah dan Kepulauan Nusantara abad XVII dan XVIII. Kencana.

Dewi, P., & Rahmawati, S. (2023). Pemberdayaan masyarakat melalui pelatihan pembuatan sabun cuci piring herbal. *Jurnal Abdi Cendekia*, 7(1), 14–22. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jac.v7i1.23456>

Fitriyah, N., Hidayati, M., & Pramesti, A. (2021). Pemberdayaan ekonomi berbasis majelis taklim dalam meningkatkan kemandirian keluarga. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Al-Ikhlas*, 4(2), 98–106. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jpma.v4i2.34567>

Handayani, K. Y., Duryaneta, R. A. S., Fahmi, A. G., & Saputra, I. S. (2022). Formulasi sabun cair cuci piring menggunakan ekstrak air tanaman lidah buaya (Aloe vera L.). *Medical Sains: Jurnal Ilmiah Kefarmasian*, 7(2), 109–118. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/msjfk.v7i2.45678>

Handayani, S. (2023). Proses scale up pembuatan sabun mandi sekali pakai dari palm cooking oil (PCO) dengan penambahan berbagai jenis parfum. *Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan dan Teknologi (IPTEK)*, 7(1), 12–21. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jipt.v7i1.56789>

Handayani, S., Haifan, M., & Ismojo, F. (2024). Pemberdayaan pesantren melalui pelatihan pembuatan sabun herbal cair di Pesantren Hurriyatul Amiin, Kabupaten Bogor. *Jurnal Lentera Karya Edukasi*, 4(1), 9–16. <http://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/lentera/index>

Handayani, T., Arina, S., & Wulandari, P. (2021). Pelatihan kewirausahaan perempuan berbasis rumah tangga. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Indonesia*, 6(2), 155–162. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jpmi.v6i2.67890>

Nugraheni, F., & Lestari, R. (2020). Peran pemberdayaan perempuan dalam peningkatan ekonomi keluarga. *Jurnal Gender dan Pembangunan*, 8(1), 45–56. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jgdp.v8i1.10134>

Putri, A. D., Fadhilah, S., & Amelia, S. (2023). Pelatihan kewirausahaan berbasis komunitas sebagai strategi peningkatan ekonomi rumah tangga. *Jurnal Abdimas Kreatif*, 5(2), 121–129. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jak.v5i2.11234>

Subagyo, A. (2010). *Sosiologi agama: Memahami peran agama dalam kehidupan sosial*. Pustaka Pelajar.

Suharto, E. (2005). *Membangun masyarakat memberdayakan rakyat*. Refika Aditama.

Suharto, E. (2014). *Membangun masyarakat memberdayakan rakyat: Kajian strategis pembangunan kesejahteraan sosial dan pekerjaan sosial*. Refika Aditama.

Sumodiningrat, G. (1999). *Pemberdayaan masyarakat dan jaring pengaman sosial*. Gramedia.

Wrihatnolo, R. R., & Dwidjowijoto, R. (2007). *Manajemen pemberdayaan: Sebuah pengantar dan panduan untuk pemberdayaan masyarakat*. Elex Media Komputindo.