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Financial Access Improvement For MSME "Herbal Medicnine Cluster" Through Financial Reporting Assistance

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ABSTRACT

Financial access is needed by busines, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Financial access is able to provide certainty regarding the adequacy of funding for MSMEs. There are several factors that affect financial acces. One of them is the existence of financial information from financial report which relfect the business activities. Financial institutions will usually require the financial report in determining funding decisions. Financial report is a tool that can provide information about the company's performance, as well as information related to the company's cash flow. Financial reports is needed for prospective creditors to get an overview of business activities during one reporting period, and business prospects in the future. Financial report can provide information needed by prospective creditors as a basis for consideration in funding decisions. Not all micro, small and medium enterprises have the ability to prepare financial reports. Business actors who are members of the MSME group have the same problem, namely not being able to compile financial reports. This condition can hinder business actors from accessing finance. Business actors will find it difficult to get access to the capital needed for business development. Therefore, training and assistance programs in the preparation of financial reports are needed for business actors. This program aims to provide an understanding related to the importance of financial statements, the benefits of financial statements for businesses, and to train the ability of business actors in preparing financial reports.

Keywords: Financial Acces, Financial Reporting, MSMEs

INTRODUCTION

The MSMEs cluster of food processing and herbal medicine is a business cluster consisting of micro and small business actors engaged in food processing and herbal medicine in Semarang. This cluster was formed as a means for affiliated business actors to jointly develop food processing and herbal medicine businesses in groups. The MSMEs cluster for food processing and herbal medicine has a vision and mission to make the food and herbal processing business an innovative and modern business. Currently, the MSME cluster of food processing and herbal medicine has 10 active members. The members' business locations are scattered around Semarang, in Tembalang and Banyumanik. The food processing and herbal medicine cluster, produces processed food products as well as herbal medicine.

The location of the MSME cluster for food processing and herbal medicine clusters is around the city of Semarang, namely in the Tembalang, Tugu, and Pedurungan. The location of the workshop from the UNISSULA Campus is about 11 km. MSME cluster of food processing and herbal medicine in Semarang has good business prospects in the future. Especially during a pandemic, the need for healthy food and supplies of traditional medicines increases. During the pandemic, the need for products produced by the MSME Cluster group for processed food and herbal medicine has also increased. There has been an increase in demand for products produced especially for processed food and herbal medicine in Semarang. This is indicated by the increase in sales turnover which increased during the pandemic.

To meet the demand for processed herbal products, which is quite high during the pandemic, business actors need additional capital to produce. Production activities will run with the fulfillment of capital needs, such as production equipment, labor, raw materials, and other production factors (Syaiful et al., 2021) . This condition is a separate problem for business actors who are members of the MSME group in the food processing and herbal medicine cluster

in the city of Semarang. The problem faced by business actors in the group in this condition is the difficulty of meeting the capital requirements needed to increase production capacity during the pandemic.

Group members need additional capital to meet market demand for herbal preparations. This capital need can actually be met by increasing own capital, and also adding capital from external sources, namely from investors, or adding liabilities in the form of debt from financial institutions (Wardi & Putri, 2020). In addition, group members have also taken advantage of various social assistance programs from the government in the form of aid for production equipment, raw materials, and other assistance. However, due to the high demand, the need for working capital is also getting higher. Therefore, efforts are needed to facilitate financial access for business actors who are members of the MSME group for the food processing and herbal medicine cluster in Semarang. By providing access to finance, it is hoped that working capital needs can be met (Simanjuntak et al., 2021).

METHOD

This community service is carried out through a participatory approach to increase the participation of business actors in direct activities. Direct involvement is needed, so that the improvement of skills on targets can be measured, evaluated, and followed up by the team. This method was design to achieve the objectives of the program. The program will be carried out in the form of sharing, training, and mentoring. Each program is designed by directly involving business actors in service activities. Sharing activities are carried out periodically in the initial 2-month period, to gain engagement between business actors, team and facilitators. In addition, the activities are also designed to motivate business actors. Training activities will be carried out through workshops involving facilitators who will assist business actors during service activities. Assistance activities are directly carried out by the team and also facilitators for business groups, especially for those who have difficulties in preparing financial reports.

RESULTS

This program is carried out through outreach activities, training, and regular assistance for business actors who are members of Processed Food and Herbal Medicine cluster. The socialization activity was carried out by sharing activities and discussions in the herbal food processing group. Meanwhile, the training activities were carried out with workshops that presented facilitators from CPS Soft as partners who collaborated in this program to assist in providing accounting software that will be used by business actors in preparing financial reports. Assistance is carried out directly to business actors who have difficulty using applications to prepare financial reports. This activity was carried out through several activities, namely on November 30, 2021, December 11, 2021, and December 12, 2021.

DISCUSSION

One of the strategies to increase financial access for business actors is through improving the business image for prospective creditors (Farhan et al., 2020). This business image can be built through good news related to business financial performance through financial reports (Indra et al., 2021). This good news can increase financial access for business actors. Business actors will be more trusted by potential creditors as a viable business to be funded (Pardede et al., 2018). Business actors can use financial reports to convince external parties regarding the prospects of the business being carried out (P & Marlina, 2016). This financial report can be used as a means of communication related to business performance, especially financial performance which is considered in providing credit or business capital (Ferina et al., 2020). Information related to performance, such as earning profit, is needed by prospective creditors in assessing business prospects and the possibility of a business to be funded and invested.

This community service activity provide assistance in the preparation of financial reports, through several programs, namely training and direct assistance to business actors, in order to produce financial reports. This program help MSMEs to improve the financial access of business actors so that production during the pandemic is not disrupted. The community service

carried out through training activities, and financial reporting assistance for the food processing and herbal medicine cluster group in Semarang City. Training activities carried out through several stages, to make it easier for objects to receive skills in preparing financial reports.

Business actors in the food processing and herbal medicine cluster MSMEs have been able to make the financial report after joining the training and assistance from this program. Financial reporting assistance for business actors in the food processing and herbal medicine cluster in Semarang help the MSMEs in solving the problem during financial reporting. In addition, mentoring activities are also carried out to resolve various obstacles encountered during the training process and post-training.

CONCLUSIONS And RECOMMENDATIONS

Community service that has been carried out, through socialization activities, training in the preparation of financial reports, and assistance in the preparation of financial reports to improve financial access for business actors who are members of the Food and Herbal Processed MSME group. Based on the activities that have been carried out by the community service team carried out in the Food and Herb Processed SME Group, business actors can prepare the financial reports as a condition for obtaining financial access through financial institutions, especially BPRS for business improvement. It is recommended for the MSMEs actor to prepare financial statement continuously to achieve sustainable business.

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APPENDIX



Figure 1. Financial Reporting Training



Figure 2. Assistance Program