

Improving Digital Literacy Skills for Mekarbuana Village Officials

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Abstract

The village is the smallest part of the public service provider that is in direct contact with the community as the recipient of public services. The digital literacy ability of village officials is the most important aspect in supporting optimal services to the community. UNESCO defines digital literacy as the ability to use information and communication technologies. The purpose of this activity is that the application of digital literacy will make the socio-cultural life of the community tend to be safe and conducive. Building a digital literacy culture also needs to involve the active role of the entire community, especially the Mekarbuana village apparatus. Based on the results of the pre-test and post-test evaluations, Mekarbuana village officials were able to understand digital literacy well and knew that the training materials provided could be useful in improving public services in Mekarbuana village.

Key words: Community Service, Village Information System, Digital Literacy.

INTRODUCTION

The village is the smallest part of the public service provider that is in direct contact with the community as the recipient of public services, which is positioned as an extension of the government at the lowest level. (Arifah, 2018). The digital literacy ability (Rahmayanti & Nusivera, 2021) of village officials is the most important aspect in supporting optimal services to the community. (Praseptiawan et al., 2021). This is also influenced by the rapid development of technology and support for telecommunication networks in rural areas, the need for optimizing the use of information and communication technology is very much needed at the village government level. (Rakhman & Haryadi, 2021).

With the integration of the Village Information System (Sulistiyowati, 2020) on the village website, it makes it easier for village communities to access online information system applications (Kurniawan et al., 2021). Village administration services via the internet are one way for the village government to convey information to all village officials (Rifai et al., 2020), for that reason, digital literacy skills are needed for village officials to improve public services in Mekarbuana Village.

UNESCO defines digital literacy as the ability to use information and communication technology (ICT) to find, evaluate, utilize, create, and communicate content or information with both cognitive and technical skills. The aim is to educate and advocate for community users as internet users. Protection aspects include personal data protection, security, and individual privacy (Astuti, 2019).

The Village Information System must be implemented by the village government in Indonesia to provide fast and precise information. (Apriyansyah & Maullidina..., 2018). To support village optimization, the central government and local governments are obliged to develop a village information system (Shomad, 2018) which includes hardware and software facilities, networks, and human resources.

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METHOD

The digital literacy capability improvement activities for the Mekarbuana Village Officials were carried out in the form of exposure and training on the use of village information systems carried out by the village information system application development team. In principle, this training covers several aspects related to digital literacy, starting from understanding digital literacy, the practice of using village information systems, and discussing it directly with Mekarbuana village officials.

As for the concept described previously related to the method of implementing community service, it is necessary to have a comprehensive stage related to the training. As for the design of the implementation of these activities (see in Figure 1)

For a more detailed explanation of the methodology used in this training, it is as follows:

- **Preparation:** Field observations are conducted directly to the location of community service during the preparation stage. Furthermore, after observing the community service team, they prepared training materials that were in accordance with the partner's circumstances, so it was hoped that this training could improve the digital literacy skills of village officials. Then the next stage is to prepare the tools and materials used in the training.
- **Implementation:** At this stage, the implementation of the training begins with a simple test to test the insight of village officials in using the village information system and then continues by providing digital literacy materials by the team to improve the understanding of village officials. After that, village officials are guided directly in the use of village information systems and provide Post The test was used as a team evaluation tool to determine the extent of village officials' understanding of digital literacy in the use of village information systems.
- **Evaluation:** in this activity, an evaluation is carried out so that the program can run well and sustainably, as well as become an evaluation material for further activities as well as an indicator to measure the digital literacy ability of village officials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The target of the Digital Literacy Capacity Building activity for Mekarbuana Village Officials is an increase in the ability to understand and use information from various sources that are accessed through computer devices. Digital literacy can help someone think critically, solve problems, and communicate fluently. In addition, digital literacy can also provide an opportunity for someone to collaborate with many people. This capability is needed by the Mekarbuana village officials in providing public services.

Preparation Stage

At this stage, our team conducted observations and data collection. From the results of observations made twice, it was found that public services in the village of Mekarbuana are still done manually and do not use information technology devices. In line with research activities related to the implementation of good village government in Mekarbuana village, a village information system was developed that will be used by village officials in providing public services in Mekarbuana village. The village information system used in Mekarbuana village is based on OpenSID, which is an opensource application. As for the village information system application used in the Mekarbuana village (see Figure 2)

Implementation Stage

This training activity was carried out for one day, namely on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The implementation began at 09.00 to 11.00 WIB directly with the Mekarbuana village officials. This activity continues to observe the health protocol to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The presentation of materials related to digital literacy is divided into 3 parts, namely:

- **Pre-test,** which is a test carried out to measure the initial ability of village officials before participating in digital literacy training activities
- **Providing Materials** related to Digital Literacy
- **Post-test,** which is a test carried out after the digital literacy training process, this test is carried out to determine the extent of the participants' acceptance.

Openness and good response from the village so that what is planned is carried out properly. In terms of the obstacles faced in the implementation of the training, not all participants had the same level of understanding about the village information system because village officials were not very familiar with technology due to the age factor, so learning about the village information system was a bit difficult.

Evaluation Stage

The implementation of activities is evaluated as a whole, including the stages of preparation, implementation, and evaluation. This stage is needed to find out the extent of the participants understanding and as a reference for carrying out further activities.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of community service carried out to improve digital literacy of the Mekarbuana village officials has an impact on public services in the Mekarbuana village. The village information system application was developed in the village of Mekarbuana using OpenSID, which is an open source application that can run effectively. Based on the results of the pre-test and post-test evaluations, the Mekarbuana village officials was able to understand digital literacy well and knew that the training materials provided could be useful in improving public services in Mekarbuana village.

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APPENDIX

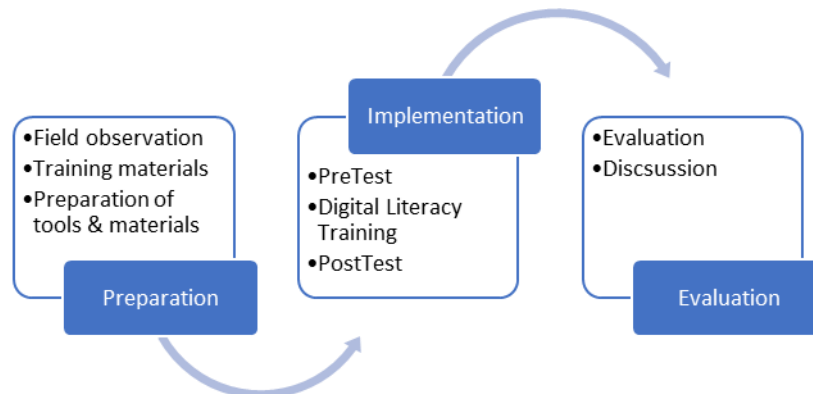


Figure 1. Implementation Method

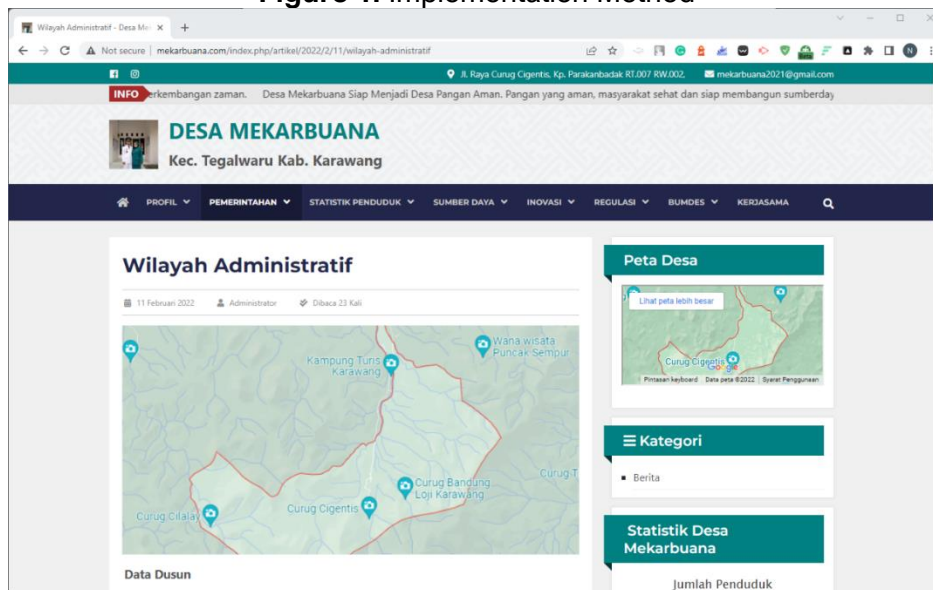


Figure 2. Village Information System



Figure 3. Digital Literacy Presentation



Figure 4. Demonstration of Village Information System



Figure 5. Participants in digital literacy training