## Palm Stick Plates: Efforts to Improve the Economy Children's Tribe in Jambi

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### ABSTRACT

The SAD settlement in Pulau Tujuh Village is in the middle of an oil palm plantation. The village of Pulau Tujuh is the source of life for SAD at this time. Almost all the SAD there earn their livelihood by collecting rice palm fruit left over from the palm oil harvest because that is their only skill. Based on the survey, it was found that there are several problems, namely: The Trans Social SAD community in Pulau Tujuh Village currently only focuses on collecting palm oil palm kernels so their income is very low. There has not been optimal utilization of the potential resources in their environment, such as palm oil waste which is managed by the SAD community to become a product with economic value and high artistic value. There has been no transfer of science and technology to the SAD community to utilize the natural potential resources around them. utilizing the potential of palm oil stick waste to become handicrafts that have economic value for the welfare of the SAD community as well as a way to market the products they produce. PkM Activities 1) Increasing the knowledge of the SAD Pulau Tujuh Village community, regarding managing the potential resources they have to improve their economy, 2) Increasing the knowledge of the SAD Pulau Tujuh community about the benefits of palm oil waste into economically valuable products, 3) Providing assistance and training to the SAD community of Pulau Tujuh village how to make piling from palm oil stick waste into a handicraft, determine the cost of production and how to market it. This service activity is provided in the form of training. The methods used are: lectures, questions and answers, sharing ideas, practice/exercises on how to implement and maintain the system.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Anak Dalam Tribe (SAD) is a minority community group in Indonesia who live on the island of Sumatra, specifically in the provinces of Jambi and South Sumatera (Fatimah AS; et al., 2024). There are various names for this group, namely Orang Kubu or Orang Rimba and is now better known as the Anak Dalam Tribe (SAD). It is estimated that their population is around 200,000 people spread across various regions in Jambi Province.

This tribe is included in the category of isolated communities in Indonesia, because they live in the interior and have minimal interaction with the outside world (Nur Rahmawati et al., 2021). The Anak Dalam tribe is known for firmly maintaining its primitive way of life amidst the increasingly rapid flow of modernization outside its community. Regarding the origins of the Anak Dalam tribe, to date there is no written evidence that tells us where they came from (Fitrah Wardani et al., 2023). Therefore, the information currently obtained regarding their origins is obtained from oral traditions and stories in society.

According to this oral tradition, the ancestors of the Anak Dalam Tribe came from Maalau Sesat. They fled to the jungle in Air Hitam, Bukit Dua belas National Park (Imam Muttaqin, 2016) The Maalau Sesat people who fled were later referred to as Moyang Segayo. However, there are also those who believe that the Anak Dalam Tribe people came from Pagaruyung who fled to Jambi. This opinion is strengthened by the similarities in language and traditions between the Anak Dalam tribe and the Minangkabau. An example of similarities is the matrilineal kinship system which is apparently also used by the Anak Dalam tribe.

Meanwhile, historical data and information on the origins of the Anak Dalam Tribe according to the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 1990, stated that the history of the Anak Dalam Tribe began in 1624 (Mulyadi, 2016). At that time, the Kingdom of Jambi and the Sultanate of Palembang were constantly arguing, even though they both came from the same family. The inevitable battle occurred at Air Hitam in 1629. Those who remained from this battle ultimately remained in the jungle, but as 2 different groups of people. This version of the Department of Social Affairs explains why currently there are 2 groups of the Anak Dalam Tribe (Sari et al., 2022). Both have different customs, physical characteristics and speak different languages. The residence of the two Anak Dalam communities is also different.

The Anak Dalam tribe who live in the Musi Rawas wilderness, South Sumatra, speak Malay. They had yellow skin and had physical characteristics like the Mongoloid race, almost the same as the people of Palembang today. It is believed that they are descendants of the people of the Palembang Sultanate. In several villages in Musi Rawas Regency, namely in Sungani Clear Village, Sungai Kijang and Kabu Village, SAD have embraced Islam and have a good understanding of religion such as performing prayers, fasting in the month of Ramadan, paying zakat fitrah and are prohibited from committing adultery (Harmi, 2022).

Meanwhile, the Anak Dalam tribe who live in the Jambi forest area have the physical characteristics of curly hair, brown skin, and inward-looking eyes. This group belongs to the Wedoid race, namely a mixture of Vedda and Negrito. This ethnic group may be descendants of the Jambi Kingdom.

Currently, several tribal groups of children still experience economic deprivation, their limitations affect their lifestyle and health. One of the reasons for this is that SAD education is still low. Their low level of education causes them to interact less with the wider community. So intensive formal education is very necessary for SAD, such as the ability to read, write and count as well as communicate (Rizky & Nazri Abdul Rahman, 2023). Low education levels also affect their health, especially for SAD mothers who determine nutritional intake for their children (kartika Fitri et al., 2017) and food insecurity conditions are still often found in SAD in various regions in Jambi province (Isyaturriyadhah;, 2019). Interest in sports activities in tribal communities is categorized as lacking due to tiring gardening activities and the lack of sports facilities (Putra et al., 2023).

SAD is often underestimated by the Malay community because the SAD community has a culture that feels strange and left behind (Ridhwan; et al., 2020). Malay people view the Anak Dalam tribe community in Jambi province as also having traditions or customary laws attached to their lives which become the basis of reference or guidance for their lives. Another name for Pulau Tujuh Village is Trans B4, West Pamenang District, Merangin Regency, Jambi Province. It is one of the areas where the Anak Dalam tribe is settled (Lindayanti; & Zaiyardam;, 2015). The Anak Dalam tribe in Pulau Tujuh village is one of the SAD fractions in Bukit Beringin Village or Trans E2, West Bangko District, Merangin Regency, Jambi Province. This SAD group has not received the Government's attention. They still live on local residents' oil palm land by first obtaining a residence permit from the land owner. In the middle of this oil palm land, they built the roofs where they lived.

The SAD group consists of 6 families totaling 13 people. Their group leader, Putra, is often called Joni. The Chief of SAD Pulau Tujuah is Chief Burhan. In the middle of an oil palm plantation, one of the residents of Pulau Tujuh village is the source of life for SAD. The majority of them do not have definite jobs because they do not have other skills to improve their economy. To maintain their survival, the SAD group carries out hunting activities for wild animals in the forest such as pigs and various types of poultry. The tools they used were rifles and machetes. But now they are complaining because since Covid19 hit, many wild animals in the forest have died, including pigs, so their livelihoods have been reduced. To cover this shortfall, some of them work to collect palm oil leaves left over from the local residents' palm harvest, then sell the collected products to middlemen and earn around Rp. 20,000-Rp. 30,000. This work is only limited to meeting the daily needs of the local SAD community. So many SAD children do not go to school because the high school costs mean that SAD parents cannot afford to send them to school. For this reason, the SAD community needs assistance to be able to improve their economic level by training the skills of the SAD community by utilizing the resources available around the environment where they live (Setyagustina et al., 2022).

Seeing this reality, the team from this service saw the need for assistance to provide expertise in the form of training to the SAD community by utilizing the potential of natural resources in their environment, namely palm oil waste (Ridhwan; et al., 2020). Because their settlement is also in the middle of an oil palm plantation, the expertise that can be provided to improve the economy of the SAD community is training in making handicrafts made from palm oil palm waste, where the results of this craft can have high economic value. Crafts that use palm oil stick waste can be in the form of eating utensils or wall decorations. Apart from that, this activity is expected to reduce the existing palm oil waste.

## METHOD

The community service program is focused on three main activities. First, increase the knowledge of the SAD community about managing the potential of their resources in order to improve their economic conditions. Second, provide an understanding of the benefits of palm oil waste which can be converted into economically valuable products. Third, provide assistance and training to the SAD community on how to process palm oil stick waste into handicrafts, including determining production prices and marketing strategies. The method used in this program is the Asset based community development (ABCD) method (Afandi & dkk, 2022)which utilizes palm oil palm leaves around SAD settlements, involving various approaches, ranging from lectures, questions and answers, to direct practice in implementing the new system. The location of the service activities is carried out directly in the SAD Pulau Tujuh Village community settlement to ensure active participation and program sustainability. Thus, it is hoped that this program can have a positive impact in improving the welfare and economy of the SAD community through utilizing the potential of existing local resources. The activities carried out can be seen in the following flowchart (Setyagustina et al., 2022):

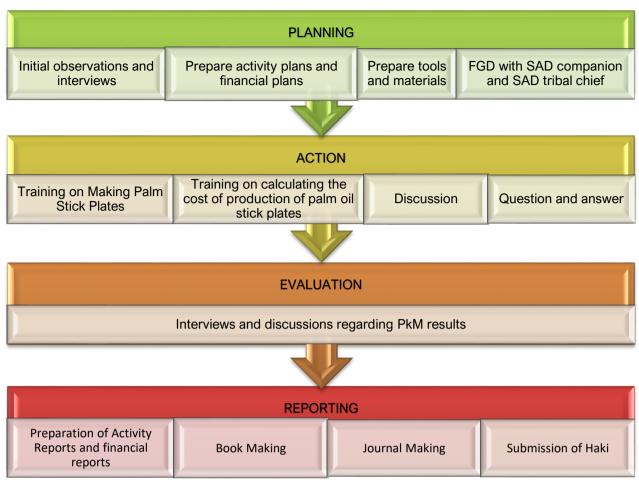


FIGURE 1. PKM Method Flowchart

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The target of this service is how to increase literacy or knowledge and understanding of the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village, how to utilize the natural resources around the SAD settlement into a product that is useful for improving their economy. With the aim of realizing blessed prosperity for the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village. The output of this science and technology service implementation activity is a method for increasing community literacy/understanding of the benefits of palm oil sticks and the SAD community being able to make handicrafts from palm oil stick waste that have economic value, as well as methods for marketing processed products from these handicrafts.

The science and technology innovation in this community service program takes the form of assistance in making handicrafts sourced from palm oil sticks, starting from the equipment preparation process, taking craft materials, forming craft patterns, making palm tree stick craft plates, to assistance on how to market the products. The output that will result from this science and technology service implementation activity is the method of increasing the knowledge of the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village regarding making handicrafts from palm oil sticks and methods for marketing the processed products that have been produced. The publication that will be carried out in the Scientific Journal and also the product of this service is the SAD handicrafts of Pulau Tujuh village which have economic value. The method for implementing this service explains several stages or steps with the aim that the solutions offered can overcome the problems that have been described and can be resolved. well. In the implementation of this science and technology service activity, involving several parties, namely the service team who are lecturers and students at IAI Syekh Maulana Qori Bangko, village officials, the SAD community and accompanying teachers and resource persons have succeeded in creating handicraft plate products from palm oil sticks which have economic value. Based on the problems that occur, the method of implementing the science and technology service to the SAD community, starting from the process of identifying the needs of partners, designing activities, creating activities, operational testing of activities that have been created, operational assistance, and implementing the service will be implemented to data dissertation partners. who support (a description of assistance in making handicrafts from palm oil sticks and other forms of handicraft products, etc.). The following is documentation related to activities in the SAD community.



FIGURE 2. Documentation of Handicraft Training in SAD Communities

Work stages in implementing Community Service to support the realization of what is being offered. The work procedure in this service is that first the service team explains the work that can be done by the SAD community of Pulau Tujuh village and the accompanying teachers and resource persons have succeeded in creating handicraft products from palm oil sticks which have economic value and provide knowledge of the benefits of oil palm waste for the community. improve the economy and welfare of the SAD community of Pulau Tujuh village. Second, the Service Team carries out training with resource persons in making handicrafts from palm oil sticks and calculating the cost of goods sold as well as assistance in marketing products from the handicrafts that have been produced.

The role of service partners' participation in implementing the partner participation program includes discussions with university lecturers as parties providing service and resource persons as agents selling palm oil stick plates. Participation in this activity can be described as follows: survey determining the location of the target partners, preparing proposals, determining participants to be trained, counseling about work that can improve the welfare of the SAD community, counseling and assistance in making handicraft plate products from palm oil sticks and how to market the products. Evaluation Assessment of service activities and program sustainability after the implementation of service activities has been carried out. Community Participation (level of community participation in implementing the service, strategic position of the SAD community) Increased Regional Potential (program success in utilizing regional potential in Pulau Tujuh village, harmony of regional potential and program activities, accuracy of the program to the problem).

There is high motivation from the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village to utilize palm oil stick waste to make handicrafts in order to improve the economy of the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village, where previously the SAD community in the village did not know how to use this waste to make a crafts that have economic value to improve the economic level of the community in Pulau Tujuh village. However, this

activity can run even better. There needs to be a special stakeholder role for the district government. Merangin is related to improving the economic level of the community in partner villages, especially the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh village, by providing knowledge and training so that in the future the SAD community in the village can improve their economy so that they are more able to send their children to a higher level of education. so that the quality of SAD human resources in the village in the future will be even better. The following is documentation of the results of service activities for the SAD community.

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FIGURE 3. PKM Activities in SAD Communities

From the results of community service in Pulau Tujuh Village, it can be seen that there has been a significant increase in the literacy and understanding of the SAD community regarding the potential for utilizing surrounding natural resources, especially palm oil palm pulp, for economic purposes. The SAD community has succeeded in developing skills in making handicrafts from palm oil stick waste which has economic value which can increase their income and welfare. The following is documentation of the work of the SAD community.



FIGURE 4. Handicraft Results with the SAD Community

The service program has had a positive impact in increasing the knowledge and skills of the SAD community in the production, design and marketing of handicraft products from palm oil sticks.

Through applied science and technology innovation, structured assistance in making handicrafts has succeeded in providing the public with a deeper understanding of effective production and marketing processes. Publication of the results of service activities in the Scientific Journal and through the handicraft products produced has provided wider exposure to the economic potential of products from Pulau Tujuh Village. Implementation methods involving various parties, such as service teams, village officials, SAD communities, and resource persons, have demonstrated effective collaboration in achieving program objectives. The active participation of the SAD community in the entire program process, from training to product marketing, has proven their high motivation and involvement in improving the local economy and welfare. Evaluation of the program's sustainability shows that this intervention has made a positive contribution in optimizing the potential of local natural resources to create economically valuable products. It is hoped that the involvement of the local government and related stakeholders can strengthen this program to have a wider impact in improving the economy of the SAD community in Pulau Tujuh Village. With the active participation of various parties and high motivation from the local community, this program has become a solid foundation for continuing to develop and provide long-term benefits for the welfare and improvement of the standard of living of the SAD community.

The service program in Pulau Tujuh Village has brought significant positive changes in opening up new opportunities for the SAD community to develop their local economic potential. Through collaborative efforts involving various parties, this program not only results in increases in knowledge and skills, but also strengthens social networks and cooperation between village residents. With the encouragement of science and technology innovation, the people of Pulau Tujuh Village not only learn about effective production and marketing processes, but are also able to apply this knowledge in their daily practices. Publication of the results of activities in scientific journals has provided wider recognition of the potential and quality of handicrafts from palm oil sticks produced by village communities.

Active participation from the SAD community and full support from the local government and related parties are important pillars in the success of this program. Through ongoing evaluation, this program is proven to make a positive contribution in optimally utilizing local natural resources to create sustainable economic value. It is hoped that through continued involvement from all relevant parties, this program can continue to develop and provide sustainable benefits for the welfare and improvement of the standard of living of the SAD community. The continuity of this program is not only a hope, but also a joint commitment to strengthen the local economy and improve the quality of life of the Pulau Tujuh Village community in the long term.

## CONCLUSION

The SAD community in Pulau Tujuh Village faces serious challenges related to the lack of understanding and utilization of local resource potential to improve their economy. The majority of SAD communities depend on the activity of collecting palm oil as their main source of income, but the income generated is still low. The community service program which focuses on increasing knowledge, training and mentoring the SAD community has proven to be the right step in overcoming this problem. Through an educational approach, direct practice, and collaboration between researchers and the community, this program aims to empower the SAD community to utilize the potential of local resources, such as palm oil waste, to create economically valuable products and improve their welfare. Thus, the conclusion of this narrative is that the community service program in Pulau Tujuh Village can be an effective solution for improving the economy and living standards of the SAD community through optimizing the use of local resources and transferring relevant knowledge and skills. It is hoped that this program can have a significant positive impact on the SAD community and become an example for sustainable local economic development efforts.

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