

# Empowering PKK Women in Household Waste Processing Effort to Reduce Waste And Improve The Quality of Life for the Community

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## ABSTRACT

Kuliah Kerja Nyata (KKN) is an important element in higher education that aims to connect students with society and introduce them to real problems faced by society. Tanjungsari Village is one of the villages in the Umbulsari District, Jember Regency. PKK women in Tanjungsari Village have a crucial position as drivers of change at the community level. The form of service activities is carried out by means of socialization and training. The stages of community service activities consist of three stages, namely: preparation, implementation of training, and evaluation. The main objective of the program to empower PKK women in managing waste in Tanjungsari Village is to reduce the volume of waste generated by the community. Through educational and training activities, they are provided with an understanding of the importance of separating waste, waste composition, and effective ways of recycling. By supporting this behavior change, the community can contribute to reducing the negative impact of waste on the environment. In addition to environmental impacts, this empowerment also has the potential to improve the community's economy

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Are an important component of higher education that aims to connect students with society and expose them to real problems faced by society (Syardiansah, 2019). The 2023 Collaborative KKN Program in Jember Regency provides an opportunity for tertiary institutions to collaborate among students in implementing the KKN program. One of the themes that is getting more and more attention in KKN is community empowerment in waste management, especially through the active role of mothers Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (PKK).

Tanjungsari Village is one of the villages in the Umbulsari District, Jember Regency. Like many villages in Indonesia, it faces serious challenges in managing household waste (Suryani & Anggraini, 2022). Population growth and lifestyle changes have resulted in a significant increase in waste production (Prajati & Pesumay, 2019). Unfortunately, a lack of awareness of the negative impacts of indiscriminate waste disposal and limited waste management infrastructure have created increasingly worsening environmental problems (Clasissa Aulia et al., 2021). It is in this context that empowering PKK women in Tanjungsari Village in managing household waste becomes very relevant.

PKK women in Tanjungsari Village have a crucial position as drivers of change at the community level. They have a close involvement in the daily life of the village community, including in managing the household. By empowering PKK women in waste management, it is hoped that positive changes will be created in the mindset and practice of waste management at the individual and family level. (Sekarningrum et al., 2018). Empowering PKK women in waste management in Tanjungsari Village has the main objective of reducing the amount of waste produced. Through education and training, they can understand the importance of waste segregation, waste composition, and recycling practices (Agustiansyah et al., 2023). By supporting this behavior change, the community can contribute to reducing the negative impact of waste on the environment. In addition to environmental impacts, this empowerment also has the potential to improve the community's economy in Tanjungsari Village. By involving PKK women in recycling practices and product creation from waste, sustainable local business opportunities can be created (Chrispanjalu et al., 2023). Apart from supporting a cleaner environment, these efforts also contribute to increasing the income and welfare of the village community (Halim, 2020).

Collaboration between PKK women, village government, and 103 Collaborative KKN students in Tanjungsari village is the key to success in this empowerment effort. With strong support and synergy between various parties, it is hoped that Tanjungsari Village can become a positive example in sustainable waste management. Through empowering PKK women in household waste management, Tanjungsari Village can create significant changes in reducing waste and improving the quality of life of the community as a whole (Nurmala et al., 2023).

## 2. METHODS

Based on the problems faced by the PKK women's group in Tanjungsari village, the solution provided was through training in craft making as an alternative to processing household organic waste. Forms of service activities are carried out by means of socialization and training. The stages of service activities consist of three stages. These stages can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Stages of Devotion

Source: Service Program, 2023

The preparatory phase was carried out on July 20, 2023, where the implementation team conducted initial communication with the Tanjungsari Village PKK, in this case, namely the PKK Chair as a partner regarding the planned training to be held. During the preparatory stage, the implementation team also conducted meetings and analysis of partners' situations regarding household waste management, as a first step in understanding the relevant context. Next, the training implementation stage will be carried out on July 25 2023. Activities will be carried out at the Tanjungsari Village Hall. The number of participants who took part in this activity reached 22 participants who were women members of the Tanjungsari Village PKK. In its implementation, the implementation team consisted of all Jember Collaborative KKN participants batch 2 in 2023. The final step was an evaluation used to measure partners' increased independence. The evaluation process is carried out through assessments by village officials to evaluate the products that have been produced. Increased partner empowerment is assessed by comparing the results in the initial condition and the final condition after training.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to increase the awareness of Tanjungsari Village residents and provide education about the importance of household waste management, then counseling and training on appropriate technology is carried out regarding the processing of household inorganic waste into handicraft products. This activity was carried out on July 25 2023 with a total of 22 participants who were PKK Tanjungsari Village women as community service partners. Prior to implementing this activity, understanding of the importance of maintaining a clean environment which was affected by the accumulation of household waste was still minimal, as was awareness of the importance of healthy living. However, after attending an educational session regarding the significance of maintaining health and environmental cleanliness during this activity, it was seen that the mothers had increased their understanding of the importance of environmental cleanliness and alternative solutions that could be implemented. This can be clearly observed from the high level of enthusiasm they show towards the educational material delivered by the team implementing the community service program.

Participants in the training activities enthusiastically participated in the activities until they were finished. This can be seen from the many questions asked to resource persons regarding the type of manufacturing process, such as what types of waste can be used, how to sort the waste, and how to use the product for daily use. While the activities of the practice of making household waste recycling are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Implementation of Training

Source: Service Program, 2023

The response from the Tanjungsari Village PKK women was very good towards the activities carried out by the Community Service Collaborative KKN implementing team. They hope that activities like this can be done again. With this training, it is hoped that it can help housewives in South Hagu Village to increase their knowledge about environmental cleanliness and processing household waste into a product that has high economic value so that it can increase (help) the family economy. The results of the practice of recycling household waste are shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Training Results Products

Source: Service Program, 2023

The results of the evaluation show that training activities for making products from household waste can increase the knowledge and insight of PKK mothers in terms of benefits, uses, and how to process household waste. Through the counseling and training activities that have been carried out, it is hoped that housewives in Tanjungsari Village, Umbulsari District, Jember Regency will gradually increase efforts to manage household waste. The community is also expected to be able to process household waste independently and produce it in a sustainable manner so that it can increase the income of the Tanjungsari Village PKK group. From the training that has been delivered it is also expected to be able to make alternative activities for PKK Tanjungsari Village women to be more productive and able to produce products that are of use value and economical.

In addition, through training and practical skills acquired during the program, PKK women become more skilled in waste segregation, composting and recycling principles, which significantly reduces the amount of household waste that ends up in landfills. This has a positive impact on the cleanliness of the surrounding environment and promotes a cleaner and healthier environment. In addition to waste reduction, this research also shows a positive impact on the quality of life of the local community. Cleaner and healthier environmental conditions lead to improved public health due to reduced potential for diseases related to waste and pollution. In addition, communities become more involved and empowered in waste management, which encourages the formation of stronger and more sustainable communities. Thus, the results of this service illustrate that Empowering PKK Women in Processing Household Waste not only reduces the negative environmental impact of waste, but also contributes to improving the quality of life of the community as a whole.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Through this program, PKK women have increased their understanding of the importance of proper waste management and have acquired practical skills in waste management. This results in a reduction in household waste and creates a cleaner and healthier environment. Apart from environmental impacts, this empowerment also has the potential to improve the community's economy. The empowerment of PKK women in household waste management has proven that through education, training, and active community participation, we can achieve significant waste reduction and a sustainable quality of life improvement.



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