

Revitalizing Indonesian Migrant Workers: Empowering Human Capital and Financial Independence

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Article history:

Received: December 2023

Revised: December 2023

Accepted: December 2023

ABSTRACT The financial management activities for Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) hold significant importance in addressing effective financial management challenges. IMWs' adaptation to information technology is crucial in managing finances effectively, with IT-based financial applications serving as an effective solution for them. Economic self-reliance also becomes a vital focus when IMWs return to their homeland after working abroad. Basic financial training plays a key role in preparing IMWs to reintegrate into their local environment or start their businesses after their stint as IMWs. Understanding basic financial reporting is also critical for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), aiding them in understanding the financial health of their business and accessing funding more effectively. Previous studies show that regular financial reporting strengthens investor confidence, aids long-term business planning, and minimizes financial risks. To address these issues, an International Community Service Activity in Malaysia has been conducted. Through collaboration with universities and the Indonesian Embassy, this activity provided training and socialization on finance and MSMEs. IMWs participating in this activity showed enthusiastic responses to financial reporting training. The evaluation of this activity indicates that the contributions from IMWs, academic communities, and the Indonesian Embassy played a crucial role in designing and executing the program. Positive feedback from IMWs and the Indonesian Embassy highlights the benefits and enthusiasm for this program. The outcomes of this activity align with previous research on enhancing skills and independence for IMWs in financial reporting, preparing them for better prospects upon returning home. This activity provides practical insights for IMWs and MSMEs to understand and manage finances effectively. Thus, this activity has made a positive contribution to IMWs and MSMEs, emphasizing success in providing necessary training and a better understanding of basic financial management. Recommendations for the future involve enhancing collaboration and coordinating sustainable programs.

Keywords: MSMEs; Financial Statement; Migrant Worker; Community Service

1. INTRODUCTION

The management of finances for Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) is of paramount importance. IMWs are now starting to adapt to information technology, which can aid them in effectively managing their finances in the future. IMWs, who seek income abroad for their families in Indonesia, face challenges in efficient financial management. In this context, technology-based

financial applications are considered an effective solution to assist IMWs in generating accurate and reliable digital financial reports. However, despite these applications easing financial record-keeping, it is crucial for IMWs to comprehend and master their usage along with the fundamental principles of financial management. Basic financial reporting also serves as new knowledge for those intending to establish their own businesses in the future after their tenure as IMWs.

Economic self-sufficiency becomes a crucial issue when Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMWs) cease working abroad. As they discontinue their overseas employment, the financial dependency on that source of income diminishes or vanishes entirely. Economic self-sufficiency can aid them in reducing reliance on income from overseas work. Upon returning to their homeland, IMWs need to adapt to new circumstances and establish their lives within the local environment. Economic self-sufficiency enables them to initiate new ventures, adapt to local employment, or engage in entrepreneurship (Riana Mayasari & Isa, 2021). Acquiring new skills, receiving training, or starting their own businesses can help IMWs achieve financial independence, not solely reliant on overseas employment. Migrant workers often encounter shifts in their family's economic situation upon their return. Achieving financial autonomy allows them to contribute to their family's financial recovery and minimize dependency.

In this context, basic financial training becomes exceedingly important, both for managing family finances and for future business endeavors. Basic financial training not only assists migrant workers in better handling their finances abroad but also prepares them more adequately for their return to their homeland in financial terms (Wibawa et al., 2019).

Basic financial reporting serves as a crucial foundation for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as it plays a significant role in comprehending a business's financial health (Simanjuntak et al., 2020). Understanding financial reporting entails more than just tracking inflows and outflows of money; it encompasses efficient financial management. Through accurate financial reports, MSMEs gain improved access to capital, aiding in business planning and ensuring compliance with legal and tax obligations. The regularity in financial reporting also bolsters investor confidence, driving business growth opportunities, and aids in identifying and managing financial risks.

Based on previous studies, basic financial reporting for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is deemed highly significant. Sound financial reporting enables MSMEs to grasp the financial health of their businesses (Riana Mayasari et al., 2023). By understanding income, expenditures, and other financial aspects, they can make more informed decisions (R Mayasari et al., 2023). Studies also indicate that MSMEs with regular financial reporting tend to gain better access to external funding sources such as financial institutions or investors, aiding in business

development and growth(Isa & Mayasari, 2022). Furthermore, through financial reporting, MSMEs can devise long-term business strategies and identify potential opportunities or threats(Febriantoko et al., 2022). This helps them manage financial risks and gain trust from external parties such as clients, suppliers, or business partners. This has been found to contribute to enhancing their business reputation and competitiveness in the market. Hence, prior research underscores that basic financial reporting serves as a critical foundation for the success of MSMEs in operating and expanding their businesses.

2. METHOD

2.1 Place and Time of Implementation

Based on the background of previous studies regarding the urgency of the issues to be addressed, this Community Service activity needs to be conducted for Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW). This activity is conducted in a hybrid manner for IMW located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the event held at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a total of 64 lecturers contributed to the activity as Speakers and Co-Speakers. The event gathered more than 50 individuals who are Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) from various regions in Indonesia. The presence of these IMWs was facilitated by the shelter of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, operated by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur. The event was also attended by several students from various universities in Malaysia.

Activity 1

Date: October 14, 2023

Location: Hassanudin Hall, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Method: Hybrid

Activity 2

Date: November 11, 2023

Location: Hassanudin Hall, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Method: Hybrid

Activity 3

Date: November 8-12, 2023

Location: Hassanudin Hall, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Method: Offline/Face-to-Face

Overall, the preparation for this Community Service program was conducted for approximately $\pm$ 6 months for support activities (survey of the Community Service location, preparation, implementation, and reporting).

2.2 Participants of Community Service

Regarding this Community Service Program (PKM), the involved target participants are Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW), comprising 50 individuals from the shelter of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2.3 Involvement of Students and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

In this international community service activity, students from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Malaysia, affiliated with the Indonesian Student Association of UPSI, are involved. Additionally, this activity is facilitated by LSM SHARING, an NGO from Indonesia focusing on community service and empowerment initiatives.

2.4 Implementation Stages of the Community Service Program

The execution of the Community Service Program is carried out through several sequential stages as follows:

Phase 1: Development of the Service Proposal

The proposal for community service is formulated as a proposal for activity implementation. This process is initiated at the department level and then forwarded to the Centre for Research and Community Service. Before the commencement of the community service activity, the proposing team submits a request letter to the director, seeking approval and permissions for the execution of the activity.

Phase 2: Formulation of the Community Service Program Protocol

The protocol for the international community service activity is established through pre-implementation meetings, both for hybrid and offline activities. This phase is undertaken to preclude any potential issues during the main activity. The preparation encompasses various aspects, including health protocols, documentation readiness, and network arrangements.

Phase 3: Execution of the Community Service Activity in a Hybrid Format

This activity is conducted using a hybrid approach through Zoom meetings. Participants from the Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) gather at the Hassanudin Hall of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. IMW participants attend the event by observing the screen. The implementation of this stage is supported by students from the Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris who are part of the Indonesian Students Association.

Phase 4: Technical Meeting and Preparation for Departure

This phase involves activities such as technical meetings, preparation of banners, souvenirs, supporting materials, flight tickets, and accommodations. Additionally, the community service organizers arrange travel documents such as passports and MDAC forms. Coordination of these activities is overseen by the LSM SHARING organization.

Stage 5: Implementation of Offline Activities in Kuala Lumpur

The offline Community Service activities are executed according to the agenda in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Stages of Offline Community Service at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (ERI) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Activity	Time
OPENING	
1. Prayer/recitation	09.00 – 09.05 (5')
2. Indonesian National Anthem	09.05 – 09.10 (5')
3. Address by the Chairperson of LSM SHARING	09.10 – 09.15 (5')
4. Introduction and Pre-test	09.20 – 09.30 (15')
BREAK AND EVENT PREPARATION	09.30 – 09.50 (20')
PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL 1	09.50 – 13.00 (190')
ISHOMA	13.00 – 14.00 (60')
PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL 2	14.00 – 16.00 (120')
CLOSING	
1. Report on Activity Results & Follow-up Plans by LSM SHARING	16.00 – 16.10 (10')
2. Address from ERI, concluding the event	16.10 – 16.15 (5')
3. Handover of Children's Reading Books and Thank You to ERI	16.15 – 16.25 (10')
4. Symbolic Presentation of Event Certificates to Speakers and IMW Participants	16.25 – 16.30 (5')
5. Closing Prayer	16.30 – 16.35 (5')
6. Group Photo	16.35 – 17.00 (25')

Stage 6: Completion of Community Service Outputs and Report Preparation

Following the completion of the community service, the executing team authors an article in a community service journal. Additionally, as a means of accountability for the community service activities, the executing team prepares an activity report.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

Stage 1: Drafting the Community Service Proposal

The drafted community service proposal has obtained approval at the institutional level. This indicates compliance with the administrative procedures set forth at the institutional level, evident by the issuance of an assignment letter for the execution of this community service initiative.

Stage 2: Formulating the Protocol for the Community Service Program

This activity has been successfully conducted through Zoom meetings. It has contributed to the smooth implementation of the initiative and provided guidance for the activity implementers. LSM SHARING, as the facilitator, offered directives to the activity implementers regarding existing regulations.

Stage 3: Execution of the Hybrid Community Service Activities

This event took place on October 14, 2023, and November 11, 2023. Presenters delivered training materials via Zoom meetings from Indonesia to Indonesian Migrant Workers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The activities progressed seamlessly, and the attending Indonesian Migrant Workers actively engaged in discussions.

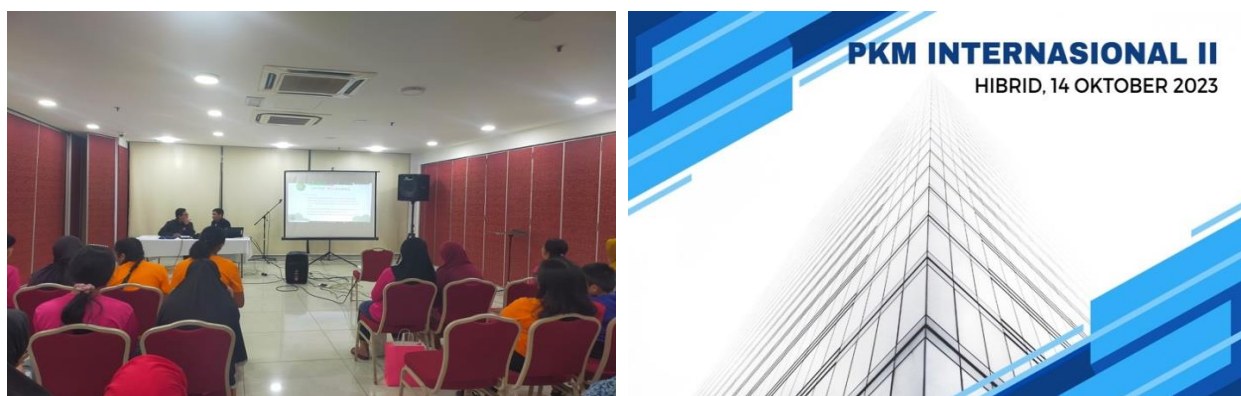


Figure 1. Implementation of Activities on October 14, 2023



Figure 2. Implementation of Activities on November 11, 2023

Stage 4. Technical Meeting and Departure Preparation

This activity was conducted three times to ensure that the implementers understood the regulations for conducting activities according to the rules set by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur. This activity significantly impacted the ease and comfort of the departure preparations. Additionally, it helped to prevent any hindrances in the execution of activities while in Malaysia.

Stage 5. Implementation of Offline Activities in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The event took place at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur, commencing with the Opening Ceremony. The agenda included a Prayer/recitation, singing the Indonesian national anthem, a Welcome Address by the Chairperson of LSM SHARING, Introduction, and Pre-test. After the Opening Ceremony, participants and organizers moved to a coffee break and prepared for the core activities. The core activities involved Materi Presentation Session 1 by the organizing team until 13:00, followed by a communal lunch. Post-lunch, the Materi Presentation Session 2 took place, focusing on basic financial reporting for the management of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. During this session, the Presenter provided insights into the tricks for preparing financial reports accepted by banks and other funding institutions, emphasizing the importance of financial reporting skills. The Presenter engaged participants in a financial quiz, encouraging active participation in answering questions. After the completion of all sessions, which were attended by Indonesian Migrant Workers, the event moved on to the closing ceremony. This segment included a Report on the Activity Results & Follow-up Plan by LSM SHARING, a Speech from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur by the Education and Culture Attaché, formally concluding the event. Subsequent activities involved the Distribution of Children's Reading Books and an Expression of Gratitude to the Embassy of the

Republic of Indonesia, symbolic Certificate Presentation to Presenters and IMW participants, a Closing Prayer, and a Group Photo.



Figure 3. Implementation of Community Service Activities at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur



Figure 4. Presentation at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur



Figure 5. Group photo of Indonesian Migrant Worker

Stage 6. Completion of Community Service Deliverables and Report Compilation

The finalization of community service deliverables takes place following the completion of the activities. Following the conclusion of the community service deliverables, the team responsible compiles a report signed by the leadership of Politeknik Negeri Sriwijaya.

3.2 Discussion

The evaluation of the activities was conducted in collaboration with Indonesian Migrant Workers through the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. The evaluation aimed to set a standard for the success of community service activities, which could serve as a guideline for similar future endeavours. To enhance the potential success of these community service activities, supportive factors are required. The first supporting factor includes the contribution of Indonesian Migrant Workers, academic communities, and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in realizing the program's objectives. The second supporting factor involves the realization of cooperation among all members of the community service group in executing various activities, starting from location surveys and coordination with the Embassy and Indonesian Migrant Workers, media creation during the execution of activities, to reporting the results of community service activities (Mafruhah et al., 2012).

The final evaluation results from the Embassy and Indonesian Migrant Workers were very enthusiastic and appreciative towards the academics who engaged directly with the community to apply their knowledge. The hope is that the training and socialization brought forward will bring benefits in the future. The academics/professors for this international community service project were very enthusiastic in their participation, evidenced by the number of professors representing and traveling to Malaysia to conduct this program. The aspiration is for this international community service project to bring extensive benefits to both participants and professors, not only conducting these positive activities in Malaysia but continually utilizing connections to various countries.

This International Community Service activity has proven beneficial for enhancing the capacity and preparing the self-reliance of Indonesian Migrant Workers and has provided substantial benefits to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. The program facilitated training and socialization related to finance and SMEs. Its purpose was to equip Indonesian Migrant Workers with the necessary training and understanding to develop their potential and interpersonal skills, enhancing their competitiveness and professionalism post their migrant work tenure.

Acknowledging that providing education and skills training for Indonesian Migrant Workers remains a primary concern, the community service team collaborated with Indonesian universities

and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to address this issue (Al-Zoubi et al., 2023). The tangible impact of the International Community Service Activities (PKM) in Malaysia for Capacity Enhancement and Self-Reliance Preparation is the enthusiastic response from Indonesian Migrant Workers, which amplified their knowledge of financial reporting conducted by the speakers (Novitasari et al., 2020).

The results showed the understanding of the material provided to Indonesian Migrant Workers and their positive response to the information/knowledge, especially regarding the utilization of financial reporting by Indonesian migrant workers (Rahayu & Rahmawati, 2021). Community service activities like this have an impact on the welfare of migrant workers (Isma et al., 2023). Furthermore, similar community service activities reflect efforts to enhance the quality of the human resources (Febriantoko et al., 2019).

Aligned with the research conducted by (Hanum et al., 2023), the achievement of the activity's targets lies in the enhancement of competencies, self-reliance, and improvement of key interpersonal skills among Indonesian Migrant Workers, particularly in financial reporting for SMEs. This approach enables Indonesian Migrant Workers to enhance their position in the job market as they transition from working as migrant workers in the international job market (Van Doorn et al., 2023). The success indicators involve resolving migrant worker issues, enhancing their self-reliance, and facilitating their economic self-reliance (saad et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

The community service activity conducted provided the implementers with insights into programs highly needed by the international community and offered invaluable experiences. This International Community Service aimed to integrate aspects of Economics, Information Technology, Education, Health, and other multidisciplinary fields. Most knowledge acquired through academic lectures often remains theoretical. The International Community Service event held at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur received a positive response, evident from the enthusiasm displayed by participants and academic members throughout the event. As for recommendations for the execution of these community service activities: providing opportunities for the community (Indonesian Migrant Workers) to further explore their potential by frequently organizing various activities related to their potentials would be beneficial. Additionally, planning programs and committee formation should be more coordinated for future endeavors.

4. CONCLUSION

Provide conclusions on the level of achievement of targets for community empowerment activities. Providing conformity to methods of community empowerment with problems, needs, and challenges that exist in the area of community empowerment activities. Give conclusions about the impact and benefits of community empowerment activities. Provide advice for further community empowerment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Community Service activity was made possible through the contributions of various parties, including the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur, LSM SHARING, Politeknik Negeri Sriwijaya, and the Indonesian Student Association at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The content presented in this article is the sole responsibility of the author and has no connection to any contributors involved in this activity.

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