

SKILLS TRAINING FOR MIGRANT WORKERS: THE MAKING SOAP OF KARI (*MURRAYA KOENIGII*) LEAVE'S EXTRACT USING PANDAN LEAF COLORANT (*PANDANUS AMARYLLIFOLIUS*)

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ABSTRACT This study investigated a skills training program whose main target was soap production using natural ingredients, namely kari leaf extract and pandan leaf dye. The objective of the study was to understand the socio-economic circumstances of the migrants and assess the possible benefits of the skills development program for their livelihoods. The study utilized plant resources and provided participants with step-by-step guidance in the soap production process, starting from processing the ingredients and ending with packaging. The study aims to foster participants' self-reliance and confidence and emphasizes the positive impact of utilizing pandan leaf and curry leaf extracts on the environment and skin health. The initiative focuses on promoting eco-friendly methods and meeting the market need for organic soap by creating marketing strategies and establishing distribution channels. Skills training programs, as researched, are critical in empowering migrants and promoting sustainable living by providing prospects for economic growth and opportunities to utilize local resources. Policy makers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders have the ability to provide assistance and expand such initiatives to improve the capabilities of underprivileged communities on a global scale.

KEYWORDS : *Migrant Workers, Kari Leaves, Soap, Pandan Leaves, Colorant*

1. INTRODUCTION

Skills training programs are an important element of community development projects, especially for underrepresented groups such as migrant populations. These programs seek to provide individuals with essential information and skills to increase their employability, earn money and improve their overall well-being. In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the importance of upskilling migrants through skills development (De Haas, 2010). These findings highlight the importance of special treatment that specifically targets the different difficulties experienced by migrating communities, such as limited educational opportunities, discrimination in employment, and isolation from social networks.

Emigration rates among individuals with higher levels of education consistently exceed emigration rates from less educated individuals in all countries and at every stage of development (Kerr et al., 2017). There are several factors contributing to this trend: individuals with exceptional qualifications are more likely to possess relevant and sought-after skills; they tend to assimilate easily into the host society due to their better linguistic and cultural understanding of the foreign country; they have improved access to information channels around the world through the utilization of social and professional networks; and they are able to obtain financial resources and loans to cover the costs associated with migration. As a result, middle-income countries experience higher levels of emigration because migrants in these countries are able to manage the expenses associated with migration, unlike poor countries, and also have the motivation to leave their home country, unlike rich countries. one (Oliinyk et al., 2021).

Therefore, migrants from Indonesia need to be given skills in the form of training that can help them to compete with migrants from other countries so that they are able to adapt to their new environment to improve their economy. In addition, it helps them to have high self-confidence which is beneficial in contributing to their community.

Training that can be done is to utilize natural ingredients found in the community as ingredients for making herbal soap such as curry leaves (*Murraya koenigii*) and pandan leaves (*Pandanus amaryllifolius*). As is known, curry leaves contain phenolic compounds such as flavonoids, saponins, tannins which are useful as antioxidants and anti-bacterial which are useful for health and contain vitamin E which is necessary for the skin (Jelita et al., 2019a; Jelita et al., 2019b ; Singh & Sahu, 2017). In addition, Kari leaves have a distinctive aroma that can be used as a fragrance in soap making. This is in accordance with research (Rajendran et al., 2014) that Kari (*Murraya koenigii*) leaves extract has antibacterial characteristics and a pleasant fragrance so that it has potential in skin care products.

Pandanus leaves (*Pandanus amaryllifolius*) is a monocotyledonous plant belonging to the Pandanaceae family that is widely found in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. These leaves are famous for their bright green pigments and are often used as colorants in food and have a unique aroma. These leaves are an alternative ingredient as a colorant in soap making that is environmentally friendly and harmless to health and can increase the visual appeal of soap. According to (Hariana, 2013), pandanus contains alkaloid, flavonoid, and tannin compounds that can reduce pain and anxiety, as well as reduce feelings of discomfort and has antioxidant properties (Al-Alwani et al., 2017). Its components consist of various alkaloids and the non-glycosylated pandamine protein, which has antiviral properties against many human viruses (Suwannakul et al., 2017). The use of curry leaves and pandan leaves as deodorizers and colorants in the manufacture of herbal soap is an alternative to prevent household waste and is environmentally friendly.

This training aims to empower migrant residents to have skills in producing soap, thus enabling them to make money in improving their economic welfare and opening opportunities for them to become entrepreneurs in improving their quality of life (Mitra & Tiwari, 2021). The training will also provide employment opportunities for migrants to become self-sufficient in changing their lives and utilize the abundant natural resources in the region to enhance economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion for the migrant population.

2. METHOD

The International Community Service Program (PKM) was conducted on May 26, 2024 online at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur (SIKL), Malaysia with 113 Indonesian migrants (PMI) and 7 foreign migrants (PMA).

The success of international PKM activities is the result of collaboration from 82 universities in Indonesia facilitated by SHARING NGOs with international institutions in Malaysia, namely the Special Branch of Nadhiatul Ulama (PCINU) Malaysia, the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) Universitas Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) Kuala Lumpur and Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur (SIKL).

The implementation of this training program was carried out through showing videos about making soap from natural ingredients, namely curry leaves extract and pandan leaves dye. This activity begins with the stage of participants' knowledge about the benefits of natural ingredients and types of soap followed by a demonstration of soap making. From this activity, it is hoped that PKM participants can practice again with ingredients that are easily obtained according to the instructions contained in the video and are able to produce good and quality soap products. Videos can be accessed through devices and face-to-face sessions held at SIKL Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

From the results of observing the video, participants were asked to provide feedback on the training provided to determine the success of the activities that had taken place.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The training on natural soap making with curry leaves extract and pandan leaf coloring can provide promising benefits for migrant residents in improving the socio-economic value and welfare of Indonesian migrant workers (PMI) and PMA. The participants were enthusiastic and engaged during the training program, gaining practical knowledge on soap-making techniques. The use of natural ingredients resulted in visually appealing soaps with bright colors and unique fragrances. The training activities through community service (PKM) received the attention and interest of migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, which was shown by their active participation from the beginning of the training until the activity was completed. This can be seen in the following activity photos.



Figure 1. Training Activities For Migrant Workers in Kuala Lumpur

The results of the training provided increased knowledge and skills. The knowledge gained about the benefits of curry leaves and pandan leaves as antioxidants and antibacterials that can maintain skin health and can be implemented in making soap naturally and they indirectly reduce the use of materials that can cause waste. In addition, migrant workers have the skills to make good quality soap that has a distinctive refreshing aroma. Migrant workers can make new innovations by using other natural ingredients according to what is available in their environment to replace curry leaves and pandan leaves according to their wishes so as to provide added value to the soap products produced. They can also combine several natural ingredients with different compositions to improve their skills.

In addition, migrant workers are motivated by increased economic independence through entrepreneurship to make soap. Although marketing and sales of the soap have not yet been carried out, this product can be used in household life so that it can reduce the cost of expenses from migrant workers. To increase the economic independence of migrant workers, later soap sales can be carried out through social media and e-commerce platforms so that they can be seen by consumers.

Online training conducted through an online forum using videos from resource persons allows the involvement of participants to participate through questions provided through chat. Interactive online training can increase participation and knowledge retention (Mitra & Tiwari, 2021). The implementation of online soap making training can be seen in the following figure 2.

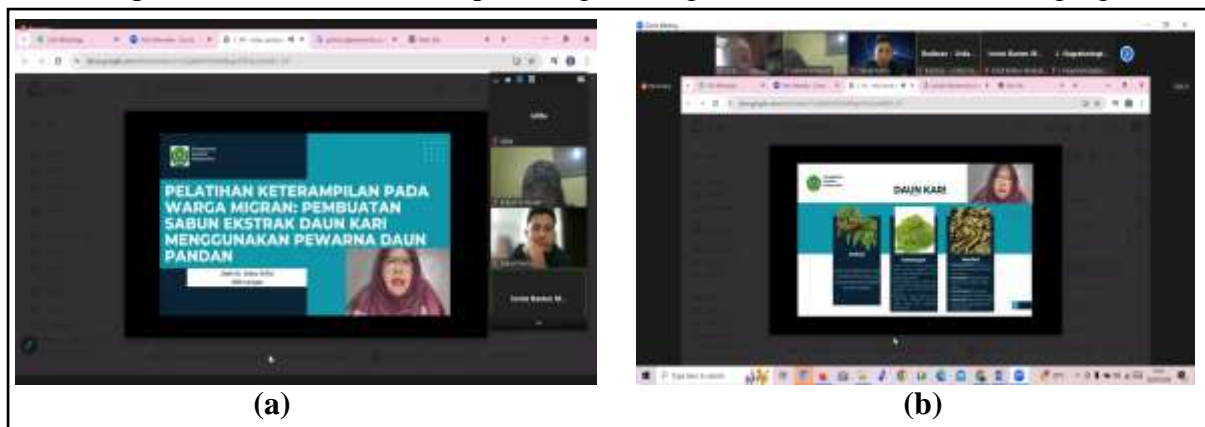


Figure 2. Participants Satisfaction During The Training Phase: (a) Introduction; (b) Soap Making

Soap making training with natural ingredients curry leaves extract and pandan leaf coloring produces antibacterial and antioxidant soaps that are beneficial for skin health. The soap produced cannot be used directly but it takes time for all the compound components contained in the soap to react with each other so that the resulting soap is solid and foams as desired. Antibacterials contained in soap are useful for killing bacteria found on human skin and help prevent skin infections, overcome acne and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. While antioxidants in soap are useful for protecting the skin from damage caused by free radicals so that it can prevent cell damage and reduce signs of aging. The results of the soap after 1-2 weeks are as follows.



Figure 3. The results of the Herbal Soap

From the picture above, the color combination depends on the amount of pandan leaf extract used. The resulting soap has a distinctive aroma that is refreshing and can provide a calming effect from skin inflammation. From this description, soap making provides a great opportunity for migrant workers to increase the economic value of their families and communities.

However, the online training of soap-making skills from curry leaf extract and pandan leaf dye allows for several obstacles, namely the limited supporting tools for migrant workers such as inadequate internet access, laptops and the memory capacity of participants' mobile phones to take part in online training. In addition, the digital literacy of participants is low because they are not accustomed to using information technology so it is difficult to access the platform. To overcome this, there needs to be a comprehensive approach such as increasing internet access and technology.

4. CONCLUSION

Soap making skills training activities utilizing curry leaves extract (*Murraya koenigii*) and pandan leaf dye provide a great opportunity for Indonesian migrant workers (PMI) to be able to create jobs independently in improving their economic welfare. In addition to gaining new knowledge and skills, they also have the opportunity to contribute to their community and can increase their confidence to socialize with their surroundings. This training is expected to be an alternative for migrant workers to improve their overall quality of life and this training is expected to have a positive impact on migrant workers.

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