

STRENGTHENING ETHNOSCIENCE TO FOSTER LOVE FOR THE MOTHERLAND OF INDONESIA MIGRANT WORKERS IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT Improving the competence of Indonesia Migrant Workers (PMI) families is a crucial factor in facing the challenges of globalization and labor market dynamics. This community service program aims to strengthen ethnoscience in order to foster a sense of love for the homeland among Indonesia migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ethnoscience, as traditional knowledge passed down from generation to generation, has great potential to strengthen cultural identity and improve psychological and social well-being. With cultural and language differences between Indonesia and Malaysia, it is hoped that parents can help children introduce ethnoscience through knowledge transfer sessions on strengthening ethnoscience. Participants were 115 Indonesia Immigrant Workers who are parents and guardians of children studying in Malaysia. With a good understanding of ethnoscience, parents of Indonesia children living and studying in Malaysia can form cultural identities and increase solidarity among the migrant community.

KEYWORDS: *Ethnoscience, Culture, Love for The Homeland*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia Migrant Workers (PMI) who decide to work abroad certainly have certain reasons for leaving the country to work (Noveria, 2017). Some of the main factors that influence the decision of migrant workers include: (1) job opportunities with higher incomes than domestic work, (2) lack of jobs in Indonesia that match the skills and education of Indonesia migrant workers, (3) low opportunities to get a job in Indonesia due to the high unemployment rate, (4) the desire to meet the financial needs of families in Indonesia, (5) a desire to gain international experience by upskilling and expanding PMI's professional network. Indonesia is actually a country rich in natural

resources and human resources (Tyas & Ikhsani, 2015). If these two resources can be managed properly, Indonesia can become a developed country with adequate employment opportunities for its citizens. However, this can certainly be realized if the potential of the workforce is in accordance with the available jobs.

Indonesia is a country rich in cultural diversity and traditional knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. This traditional knowledge covers various aspects of life, ranging from traditional medicine systems, agricultural techniques, to local wisdom in environmental management. One form of traditional knowledge that has great potential to be developed and preserved is ethnoscience (Aza Nuralita, 2020). Ethnoscience is a science that studies and utilizes the traditional knowledge of society in the context of modern science (Novitasari et al., 2017).

Indonesia migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, are one of the most disconnected communities from their traditional cultural roots and knowledge (Munarni Aswindo et al., 2021). In the midst of the dynamics of life in a foreign country, migrant workers often face challenges to maintain their cultural identity and love for their homeland. In this context, strengthening ethnoscience can be one of the strategies to regrow the love of the homeland and strengthen cultural identity among migrant workers.

Strengthening ethnosciences not only serves as an effort to preserve culture, but can also provide practical benefits for migrant workers. Through understanding and applying traditional knowledge, migrant workers can improve their quality of life, both in terms of health, resource management, and social welfare. In addition, strengthening ethnosciences can also be a means to strengthen relationships between fellow migrant workers and their communities of origin, so as to create stronger solidarity and support overseas.

The purpose of this community service program is to develop and implement various activities aimed at strengthening ethnoscience among Indonesia migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur. This program is expected to be a concrete step in fostering love for the homeland, strengthening cultural identity, and improving the quality of life of Indonesia's migrant workers. Through this program, it is hoped that valuable traditional knowledge can continue to be preserved and inherited, so that it remains an integral part of the lives of the people of Indonesia, wherever they are.

2. METHOD

This community service program uses a hybrid approach, combining online and on-site activities. The online component includes webinars, virtual workshops, and interactive discussions. The on-site activity took place at the Hasanuddin Hall of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

The topic discussed during the program was fostering a sense of love for the homeland through ethnosience.

The design of community service activity programs is carried out through online and on-site activities. The program that we delivered was related to material about ethnosience in the form of herbal drinks, traditional herbal medicine, and Indonesia specialties. Ethnosience helps children understand and appreciate the rich local culture as well as the traditional knowledge possessed by their ancestors. This can increase their sense of pride and cultural identity. This activity collaborates with literacy experts, educators, and related stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the program in fostering a sense of love for the homeland for the children of Indonesia Migrant Workers (PMI).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Ethnosience as a means to regrow the sense of love for the homeland and cultural identity among Indonesia's migrant workers. By introducing and strengthening traditional and cultural knowledge, migrant workers can feel more connected to their cultural roots. The material was delivered to migrant workers by sharing their experiences and stories about their home culture, as well as how they apply traditional knowledge to life in Malaysia. The integration of online and on-site activities has proven effective in meeting the diverse needs of Indonesia Migrant Workers (PMI), facilitating reflection on cultural identities and strengthening bonds between fellow migrant workers with similar backgrounds



Figure 1. PKM Participants Activities at the Hasanuddin Hall of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur

Based on Figure 1, it can be seen that the PKM activities at the Hasanudin Hall of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur were very enthusiastic. The enthusiasm of the participants was evident in the hybrid program which showed their commitment to improving their skills and knowledge about fostering love for the homeland through ethnosience for families. The

utilization of webinars, virtual workshops, and interactive discussions in the online component allows for convenient and accessible learning. The virtual delivery of material in this community service activity facilitates seamless communication, overcoming geographical barriers, and allows for wider audience participation. The on-site activity at the Hasanuddin Hall of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur provides a physical space for face-to-face interaction, creating a sense of togetherness between participants.

The program's emphasis on the development of ethnoscience materials provides a clear and tangible picture to community service participants about ethnoscience. The delivery of material virtually is invisible The boundaries of different spaces and places. Even though the material was delivered virtually, participants were able to receive well what was conveyed by the speakers (Sanusi & Prasetyo, 2019).

This hybrid program has succeeded in fostering a sense of togetherness among Indonesia Migrant Participants (PMI). Virtual discussions and on-site activities facilitate opportunities to build a mutually beneficial network of Cooperation. This activity can maximize participants to share experiences, challenges, and success stories. The formation of this cooperation network is an alternative to maintain the impact of this community service program. Building community cooperation networks in line with social model theory, which emphasizes the value of social relationships and networks in achieving individual and collective goals (Rozak et al., 2021). This hybrid program aims not only to provide knowledge and skills, but also to create a community that supports Indonesia Migrant Workers (PMI) who can continue to learn and encourage each other in facing various challenges.

Through this activity, participants are more aware of the importance of maintaining and preserving traditional knowledge as part of their cultural identity. As many as 90% of participants felt more connected to Indonesia culture and expressed an increase in love for the homeland after participating in this program. This program also has a positive impact on the psychological well-being of participants. They feel more valued and recognized in their communities, as well as better social support. As many as 75% of participants reported increased life satisfaction and felt happier after engaging in this activity. Participants began to apply ethnoscience knowledge in their daily lives, such as using traditional herbal remedies to overcome minor health problems and cooking traditional meals for their families. As many as 65% of participants reported positive changes in their lifestyle after participating in the training.

The results obtained from this community service program show that the strengthening of ethnoscience can have a significant positive impact on Indonesia migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur. Here are some points of discussion related to the results: Education and training on

ethnoscience have proven to be effective in increasing participants' knowledge and awareness about their cultural heritage.

This shows that similar programs can be implemented in other migrant worker communities to achieve the same results. Increased knowledge of ethnoscience helps migrant workers feel more connected to their cultural roots (Lidi et al., 2022). A strong cultural identity can be a source of strength in facing the challenges of living in a foreign country and strengthening a sense of love for the homeland. This program not only provides benefits in terms of knowledge, but also has a positive impact on the psychological and social well-being of participants.

Community support and a sense of being valued can improve the quality of life and happiness of migrant workers. The application of ethnoscience knowledge in daily life shows that traditional knowledge is still relevant and can provide practical solutions to various problems faced by migrant workers (Rahayu et al., 2015). It can also help in the preservation of such traditional knowledge.

These service programs can be expanded to include more migrant workers and cover more aspects of traditional knowledge. In addition, cooperation with local organizations and the Indonesia government can strengthen the support and sustainability of the program. With these results and discussions, it is hoped that the ethnoscience strengthening program can continue to be developed and implemented widely to foster a sense of love for the homeland and strengthen cultural identity among Indonesia migrant workers around the world.

4. CONCLUSION

By better understanding and appreciating Indonesia's cultural heritage, migrant workers feel more connected to their homeland. Indonesia parents and children living and studying in Malaysia will be able to learn more about Indonesia's culture, traditional songs, customs, legends, traditional clothing, traditional houses, traditional musical instruments that are characteristic of Indonesia.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

All authors have agreed to publish this article to the International Journal of Community Care of Humanity (IJCCH). We guarantee that the writing in this article is our original scientific work not plagiarised and has never been published in other journals or in other publication activities. All authors agree that the author list is correct in its content and order and that no modification to the author list can be made without the formal approval of the Editor in Chief, and all authors accept that the Editor in Chief's decisions over acceptance or rejection or in the event of any breach of the Principles of Ethical Publishing in the Journal of Community Care of Humanity (IJCCH) being discovered of retraction are final.

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