

Empowering Santripreneurs through Sharia Economic Principles at Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin in Sambas Regency

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Abstract

This Community Service program aims to empower students at Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin in Sambas Regency by integrating Sharia economic principles into entrepreneurship training. Utilizing a Service Learning (SL) approach, the program combined theoretical instruction with practical business activities rooted in Islamic values. It was implemented through three structured phases: preparation, implementation, and evaluation. Activities included needs assessment, interactive workshops, business simulations, and mini-projects facilitated by expert trainers. The program significantly enhanced the santri's understanding of Sharia-based entrepreneurship, as demonstrated by their ability to develop ethical business plans, manage finances, and apply digital marketing strategies. The initiative also strengthened institutional capacity, promoted ethical economic practices, and fostered social responsibility. These outcomes illustrate the real impact of the program in producing competent, values-driven santripreneurs and offer a replicable model for pesantren-based economic empowerment.

Keywords: *Community Service, Santripreneurs, Pesantren, Service Learning*

Abstrak

Program Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk memberdayakan santri di Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin, Kabupaten Sambas, melalui integrasi prinsip ekonomi syariah dalam pelatihan kewirausahaan. Dengan pendekatan *Service Learning (SL)*, program ini menggabungkan pembelajaran teoritis dan aktivitas bisnis praktis yang berbasis pada nilai-nilai Islam. Kegiatan dilaksanakan dalam tiga tahap sistematis: persiapan, pelaksanaan, dan evaluasi. Aktivitas mencakup analisis kebutuhan, lokakarya interaktif, simulasi bisnis, serta proyek mini yang difasilitasi oleh para ahli. Program ini berhasil meningkatkan pemahaman santri terhadap kewirausahaan berbasis syariah, yang tercermin dalam kemampuan mereka menyusun rencana bisnis etis, mengelola keuangan, dan menerapkan strategi pemasaran digital. Inisiatif ini juga memperkuat kapasitas institusi, mendorong praktik ekonomi yang beretika, dan menumbuhkan tanggung jawab sosial. Hasil yang dicapai menunjukkan dampak nyata program dalam membentuk santripreneur yang kompeten dan berkarakter, serta memberikan model pemberdayaan ekonomi pesantren yang dapat direplikasi.

Kata Kunci: *Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat, Santripreneurs, Pesantren, Service Learning*

Introduction

The increasingly competitive global economy necessitates innovation in human resource development, especially within Islamic boarding schools (Pesantren), which hold significant potential to cultivate Muslim entrepreneurs or "Santripreneurs." However, the reality reveals that many Pesantren students (Santri) lack adequate knowledge and skills to enter the business world professionally. This gap is primarily due to the insufficient integration of Sharia economic principles into entrepreneurial education within the Pesantren environment. Sharia economic principles, rooted in values of justice, transparency, and social responsibility, are highly relevant in shaping entrepreneurs who excel in business while maintaining high ethical standards and integrity (Nurzela & Nursiki, 2023).

The demand for a younger generation with a strong understanding of Sharia economic principles is becoming increasingly urgent, particularly among santri who already possess a solid foundation in religious education (Basir et al, 2021). Pesantren, as the oldest Islamic educational institution in Indonesia (Musaddad, 2023), have great potential to foster a generation of students proficient in both religious studies and economic competitiveness through entrepreneurial spirit development, a concept known as "santripreneurship" (Faizin, 2024) As a solution to the challenges of the modern economy, santripreneurs are expected to implement Sharia economic principles in their entrepreneurial activities, thereby harmonizing spiritual and material aspects (Thohir et al., 2024). However, the major challenge lies in the optimal application of these principles within the context of the modern and global economy.

This Community Service activity aims to address these issues by implementing Sharia economic principles in entrepreneurship training for the santri. The program aspires to enable participants to comprehend the foundational concepts of Sharia economics and apply them to their entrepreneurial ventures. In addition, the students will acquire practical skills in various aspects of entrepreneurship, including business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies aligned with Sharia values (Jamaludin & Firmansyah, 2024). This initiative is expected to serve as a preliminary step in developing outstanding santripreneurs capable of competing in the global market while adhering to religious values.

The benefits of this initiative extend beyond the participating students to the broader community. Hidayat et al (2024) stated that the emergence of ethical and competitive santripreneurs is anticipated to create new job opportunities and enhance local economic conditions around pesantren. Moreover, the application of Sharia economic principles in business is expected to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable economic system, reducing social and economic disparities. In the long term, this program is envisioned as a model for Sharia-based economic empowerment applicable to various pesantren across Indonesia.

Several studies highlight the significant impact of Sharia-based entrepreneurship education in pesantren on improving the business skills and ethics of santri. Research conducted by (Siswanto, 2023) demonstrates that Sharia-based entrepreneurship education in pesantren effectively enhances santri's motivation and skills in operating businesses aligned with Islamic values. Similarly, a study by (Guspiati & Fuadi, 2024) reveals that integrating Sharia principles into entrepreneurship curricula strengthens santri's character as ethical and socially responsible entrepreneurs. These findings underscore the urgency of

this program in cultivating outstanding santripreneurs who can contribute positively to society.

This Community Service program specifically targeted high school-level students (santri Aliyah) at Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin, located in Dusun Kolam, Semelagi Besar Village, Selakau District, Sambas Regency. The selection of this pesantren was based on its dual focus on religious studies and entrepreneurship preparation, equipping students with the skills to identify business opportunities upon graduation. Santri Aliyah were chosen as participants because they are at a critical stage of preparing for life after pesantren, whether pursuing further education or starting independent ventures. Through this program, the santri benefited from enhanced understanding of Sharia economic principles and their application in business. They also gained practical entrepreneurial skills, such as business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies, equipping them to become outstanding santripreneurs who could compete in the labor market and create business opportunities that align with Islamic values.

The intensive training involved resource persons from “Mas Pack” under the Mahendra Adji Saroyo Foundation and the Aprilla Education and Training Institute. “Mas Pack,” a packaging enterprise based in Pontianak, has been actively engaged in entrepreneurship training for decades, covering areas within and beyond Pontianak. Meanwhile, Aprilla is a non-formal educational institution specializing in education and training with various business fields, including online classes, computer courses, graphic design, video editing, digital marketing, web development, and entrepreneurship incubators for individuals with disabilities. Both institutions bring extensive expertise to the program, ensuring comprehensive training for the santri.

The implementation of this Community Service program yielded several impactful outcomes for Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin as an institution. Beyond equipping the santri with entrepreneurial knowledge and practical business skills rooted in Sharia principles, the program contributed to institutional capacity building by establishing a structured model of Islamic economic education that can be integrated into the pesantren’s curriculum. It fostered a culture of innovation, ethical business conduct, and self-sufficiency within the pesantren environment. Additionally, the partnerships formed with external training institutions enriched the pesantren’s educational resources and created pathways for future collaborations. In the long term, the initiative positioned the pesantren as a pioneer of Sharia-based economic empowerment, enhancing its reputation and potential to attract more students and stakeholders committed to Islamic economic development.

Community Services Methodology

Based on the aforementioned background, this Community Service program was guided by the values inherent in fostering entrepreneurial skills among santri (Islamic boarding school students). The activity adopted several approaches that benefited both the santri and the surrounding community, primarily through the Service Learning (SL) method. SL is a pedagogical strategy that combines academic learning with community engagement to cultivate real-world competencies and social responsibility (Rodríguez-Zurita, 2025). This method is particularly suitable for educational environments that aim to produce socially responsible individuals through practical involvement. This method is particularly

effective in linking theory and practice, encouraging students to apply classroom knowledge in socially relevant, value-driven contexts (Resch & Schrittmesser, 2023). It facilitates the transfer of knowledge into action, which is crucial for nurturing entrepreneurial mindsets among santri.

In Islamic education, SL is increasingly recognized for its ability to instill ethical awareness and empower students to respond to contemporary socio-economic challenges using Sharia-based frameworks (Adarlo et al, 2024). Such integration ensures that Islamic values are not only taught but lived through direct contribution to the community. Applied within pesantren settings, this approach enables a contextualized and meaningful application of Islamic economic values through hands-on entrepreneurship training (Sya'bani, 2024). This creates a synergy between religious teachings and real-world business practices, strengthening both dimensions. Moreover, recent studies highlight how the integration of SL strengthens institutional-community relationships and fosters moral character, leadership, and civic engagement among santri (Borkoski & Prosser, 2020). These broader impacts make SL a strategic tool for holistic student development within Islamic educational institutions.

Through this model, the SL approach provided a platform for santri to bridge religious teachings with entrepreneurial practice, thereby enhancing their critical thinking, ethical awareness, and economic competence. It served not only as a method of instruction but as a vehicle for community development grounded in Islamic ethics.

Preparation Stage

At this stage, the Community Service process involved identifying the needs of the target community, specifically the santri at Pondok Pesantren Hidayatush Sholihin. The research team collaborated with the boarding school to understand the challenges faced by the santri in developing entrepreneurial skills. This needs analysis was conducted through in-depth interviews with the boarding school management, surveys of the santri, and a literature review on Islamic economic principles and pesantren-based entrepreneurship.

Additionally, this stage included the design of training materials based on Islamic economic principles, covering topics such as business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies. Relevant resource persons, such as representatives from "Mas Pack" and Aprila Education and Training Institute, were also selected to support the activities. All preparations were focused on ensuring the program's relevance and sustainability, aligning with the needs of the santri and the boarding school.

Implementation Stage

The implementation of the program began with an introductory session on the principles of Islamic economics and entrepreneurship for the santri. The training was conducted through an interactive workshop employing various methods such as Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), business simulations, and case studies. The PKM resource persons, including "Mas Pack" and the Aprila Education Institute, acted as facilitators, providing technical training and practical skills such as product packaging, the use of digital technology for marketing, and Sharia-based financial management. The santri were then assigned group tasks to

design business plans rooted in Islamic values, tailored to small business contexts that align with the local potential of the pesantren environment.

Evaluation Stage

The evaluation phase assessed the effectiveness of the program and its impact on the santri's knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward Sharia-based entrepreneurship. The evaluation comprised two main aspects: process evaluation and outcome evaluation. Process evaluation was conducted during the program through direct observation, participant interviews, and weekly reflections by the participants to monitor their progress. Meanwhile, outcome evaluation was conducted after the program's completion using instruments such as questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and an analysis of the business plan portfolios prepared by the santri.

The collected data was analyzed to identify the program's successes and the challenges encountered during implementation. The evaluation results served as a basis for program improvement and provide recommendations for similar implementations in other pesantren. This systematic approach through preparation, implementation, and evaluation phases aimed not only to enhance the santri's understanding and skills in Sharia entrepreneurship but also to contribute to developing competitive and ethical santripreneurs.

Result and Discussion

This initiative commenced with an interactive workshop aimed at enhancing students' comprehension of Sharia economic principles. The content delivered encompassed concepts such as justice, transparency, and social responsibility in economic activities. Expert speakers, including professionals from "Mas Pack" and the Aprila Education Institute, provided insights through case study approaches tailored to the students' needs. These case studies were derived from successful Sharia-based businesses in Indonesia, such as Sharia cooperatives and community-based micro-enterprises. Participants were also given opportunities to engage in discussions and pose questions, fostering a deeper understanding of the material. This aligns with research conducted by (Kasi, 2023), which highlighted that asking questions, engaging in discussions, and applying knowledge in real-world scenarios contribute to building more constructive and profound comprehension. Initial evaluations indicated a significant improvement in understanding, with over 85% of participants demonstrating a strong ability to articulate the fundamental principles of Sharia economics.



Figure 1. Group Photo of the PKM Team, Islamic Boarding School Administrators, Guest Speakers, and Students

The next session focused on a business planning simulation, where students were encouraged to apply Sharia economic principles in drafting business plans. Using prepared modules, the students were guided to identify business opportunities aligned with the local potential surrounding the Islamic boarding school. Each student group was tasked with developing a basic business plan, covering market analysis, capital calculation, and marketing strategies rooted in Islamic values.

This activity not only provided practical insights but also honed the participants' critical and analytical thinking skills. Such skills are believed to enhance intellectual capacity, enabling authentic and expansive thought processes (Butarbutar et al., 2024). As a result, several groups successfully developed innovative business ideas, including halal food processing using local ingredients, handcrafted products, healthy baked goods, and more.



Figure 2. Presentation on Business Product Introduction

The practical training sessions directly involved expert facilitators, including representatives from "Mas Pack" and the Aprila Education Institute, who delivered technical and practical insights on managing a business unit. During this session, students received training on professional product packaging, creating halal labels compliant with regulations, and digital marketing strategies utilizing social media platforms. Additionally, the Aprila Education Institute provided technical training on financial management using simple applications and the fundamentals of graphic design for promotional purposes. This activity equipped students with practical, applicable skills, demonstrated by their ability to produce trial products that met market standards and adhered to Sharia values. Practical business skills are instrumental in fostering innovation and transformation within entrepreneurial ventures (Farid et al., 2020).



Figure 3. Students Creating and Packaging Snack Products Using Prepared Ingredients

As part of the program, each student group was assigned a mini project to implement their business plans on a small scale. These projects involved hands-on practice over a two-week period, during which students created a business product with well-designed packaging and developed promotional campaigns to be shared on social media. Several successful projects included snack businesses using local ingredients, plant seedling products, handcrafted items, and healthy baked goods. The outcomes of these projects not only demonstrated the students' entrepreneurial capabilities but also fostered a spirit of collaboration and social responsibility.

The products developed through these initiatives would be further enhanced in quality by the students and boarding school administrators for broader market distribution. A portion of the revenue generated will be allocated to social activities within the boarding school, reflecting the application of Sharia values in their business practices. Additionally, the revenue is expected to contribute to improving the quality of education at the boarding school (Suwito & Tarigan, 2022).



Figure 4. Processed Food Products Created by Students in the Mini Project

Following the completion of the mini projects, a reflection and discussion session was held to evaluate the students' achievements and challenges. Reflection and discussion sessions are highly beneficial and impactful in preparing aspiring entrepreneurs to navigate the business world, particularly in assessing performance and identifying solutions (Pattiasina et al., 2024). During this session, participants were asked to present their experiences in creating their business products, including the obstacles they encountered and the solutions they implemented. The discussion provided valuable insights into the importance of the product development process to ensure market readiness. Expert facilitators also offered feedback for further improvement, giving students a more comprehensive understanding of how to enhance their businesses in the future.



Figure 5. Monitoring Conducted by the PKM Team and Expert Facilitators for Students in the Mini Project

The final outcomes of the program demonstrated a positive impact in shaping outstanding "santripreneurs" who not only understand Sharia economic values but also possess practical skills to compete in the business world. Evaluation through questionnaires revealed that over 90% of participants felt the

program significantly enhanced their understanding of fundamental Sharia economic concepts and improved their business planning abilities. This success served as a model for community service initiatives that are both relevant and replicable in other Islamic boarding schools. Additionally, the program successfully fostered synergistic relationships among the boarding school, the PKM team, expert facilitators, and the broader community in advancing Sharia-based economic development. The results of this activity underscore that a Service Learning approach effectively bridges theory and practice, generating sustainable positive impacts for both participants and the boarding school community.



Figure 6. Presentation and Evaluation Conducted by Students in the Mini Project



Figure 7. Group Photo Taken After the Monitoring Activity Conducted by the PKM Team and Expert Facilitators

Specific feedback gathered from the santri during the reflection sessions revealed that the integration of Sharia economic principles into practical entrepreneurship training significantly enhanced their confidence, motivation, and understanding of business ethics. Many participants expressed appreciation for the hands-on learning experiences, particularly in product development, marketing through digital platforms, and managing finances according to Islamic guidelines.

They also emphasized how collaborative group work and mentorship from expert facilitators helped them refine their ideas and recognize the social impact of their business projects. Notably, several students reported a newfound interest in pursuing entrepreneurship as a future career path, underscoring the relevance and transformative potential of the program. This positive feedback affirms the effectiveness of the Service Learning approach in delivering both educational value and character development grounded in Islamic economic values.

Conclusion

The Community Service Program titled "Implementation of Sharia Economic Principles in Shaping Outstanding Santripreneurs" was conducted as an initiative to address the challenge of limited entrepreneurship education based on Islamic values within Islamic boarding schools. The program highlighted the urgency of equipping students (santri) with entrepreneurial skills aligned with Sharia economic principles, aiming to cultivate ethical and high-integrity Muslim entrepreneurs. Utilizing the Service Learning (SL) approach, the program systematically integrated academic learning with practical activities tailored to the needs of the boarding school community, particularly the students. This initiative not only enhanced students' competencies but also positively impacts the overall boarding school environment.

The program was implemented through three main stages: preparation, execution, and evaluation. During the preparation phase, an in-depth needs analysis was conducted to design relevant training materials. The execution phase encompassed workshops, simulations, and practical training facilitated by expert speakers, followed by the implementation of mini-business projects. The evaluation phase provided empirical data on the program's success in enhancing students' understanding and skills, as well as a review of the mini-business projects as part of the monitoring process. Through this comprehensive methodology, the program created a holistic learning experience where students not only studied Sharia economic theory but also applied it in real-world practices.

The results demonstrated that the program successfully improved students' competencies in understanding and implementing Sharia economic principles in business products marketed to the broader community. This initiative highlights the effectiveness of the Service Learning approach in developing outstanding santripreneurs equipped with business acumen and character rooted in Islamic values. The program's success is expected to serve as a model for pesantren-based economic empowerment that can be implemented in various other locations across Indonesia, fostering a generation of competitive, ethical santripreneurs who contribute meaningfully to society.

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