

TOGETHER WITH SMILES : SPREADING HAPPINESS AND BUILDING CHARACTER AT MUHAMMADIYAH ORPHANAGE SIMOKERTO LKSA BUYA HAMKA

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

**TOGETHER WITH SMILES :
SPREADING HAPPINESS AND BUILDING CHARACTER
AT MUHAMMADIYAH ORPHANAGE SIMOKERTO LKSA BUYA HAMKA****Imtihanatul Ma'isyatuts Tsalitsah^{1*}, Muhammad Wahid Nur Tualeka¹,****Maheswari Ayu Pratiwi¹, Fani Maulina¹.*****imtihanatul@fpsi.um-surabaya.ac.id**^[1] Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia.**ABSTRACT**

Muhammadiyah Orphanage Simokerto LKSA BUYA HAMKA, located in Surabaya, has 30 children from diverse backgrounds, ranging from early childhood education to elementary school. Children face various challenges in their community, which are addressed by their parents. Many cannot express their emotions and their needs are not met. Through workshops, children can communicate with each other. To improve the Global Health Environment, creative education and learning must be provided to children so that they understand their environment and help them make the best use of it. This study aims to understand the effectiveness of seminars and workshops with the theme "Together with a Smile: Spreading Happiness and Building Character" and its impact on children and the environment. The PjBL (Project Based Learning) program aims to enhance their life experiences, reduce plastic usage, teach them about various aspects of happiness, food, and educate them to be kind and considerate.

Keywords: happiness, children, PjBL, muhammadiyah.

INTRODUCTION

In an attempt developing effective and meaningful teaching methods, Project Based Learning (PBL) has become a popular approach among educators. This method allows students to learn through direct involvement in real projects, which not only strengthens their understanding of the subject matter, but also forms important practical and social skills. Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah courses have adopted the PjBL method with the theme "Together with Smiles: Spreading Happiness and Building Character". This theme emphasizes the importance of happiness and goodness that can spread from one individual to another, through small but meaningful steps.

One of the main activities in this project is painting, which aims to provide a platform for orphanage children to express their emotions and feelings. Through the art of painting, children can communicate what may be difficult to express in words. These activities not only enhance their

creativity, but also help in the emotional healing process and improve mental health. In an atmosphere full of joy, children are invited to describe their world with colors that reflect their deepest feelings.

Apart from painting, this project also coincides with the commemoration of World Environment Day. In commemoration of this important day, orphanage children were given drinking tumblers as a concrete step to reduce the once use of plastic. The distribution of these tumblers is not only a symbol of celebration, but also practical environmental education. By using tumblers, children are expected to understand the importance of protecting the environment and start small habits that can have a big impact in reducing plastic waste.

It is hoped that this activity can instill the values of caring for others and the environment from an early age. Through this project, children learn that happiness does not only come from receiving, but also from giving and contributing to the

environment. They are taught that small steps, such as reducing the use of plastic, can make a big difference in preserving the earth.

By combining art activities and environmental education, Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah courses at the Simokerto LKSA Buya Hamka Orphanage strive to create a holistic and meaningful learning experience.

Children not only learn about Islamic and Muhammadiyah values, but also how to apply these values in everyday life. Theme "Together with Smiles: Spreading Happiness and Building Character" becomes a strong foundation for teaching that true happiness can be achieved through togetherness, kindness and concern for the environment.

METHOD

The method for implementing Project Based Learning (PjBL) in the Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah courses at the Simokerto LKSA Buya Hamka Orphanage begins with a thorough planning and preparation stage. Students together with their lecturer supervisors formulated the theme of the activity, namely "Together with Smiles: Spreading Happiness and Building Character". This theme was chosen to spread happiness and increase environmental awareness among orphanage children. At this stage, children's needs and potential are identified, activity schedules are determined, and coordination is carried out with the orphanage to ensure the smooth implementation of activities.

Painting activities were held as a way to express the emotions of the orphanage children. This activity takes place in a fun atmosphere, where each child is given painting equipment such as paper, brushes and watercolors.

Students and lecturers act as facilitators, providing guidance and encouragement to children to express their feelings through painting. The aim of this activity is to provide space for children to develop their creativity, as well as a therapeutic medium for expressing emotions that may be difficult for them to express verbally.

In line with commemorating World Environment Day, activities at the Simokerto LKSA Buya Hamka Orphanage are also focused on increasing environmental awareness. Students and children learn together about the importance of protecting the environment through interactive discussion sessions. In this session, children are invited to understand the negative impact of plastic waste on the environment and how they can contribute to reducing plastic waste around them.

As a concrete step to reduce the use of single-use plastic, students distributed drinking tumblers to every child in the orphanage. This distribution of tumblers is accompanied by an explanation of the benefits of using tumblers compared to once-use plastic bottles. Children are instructed to always carry their tumblers when doing activities, both at school and in the orphanage environment. By providing tumblers, it is hoped that children can start adopting environmentally friendly habits in their daily lives.

After the entire series of activities was completed, a reflection and evaluation session was held with the children and the orphanage. Students collect feedback from children regarding their experiences while participating in painting activities and environmental campaigns.

Evaluation is also carried out to assess the effectiveness of the PjBL method in achieving the stated learning objectives. The results of this evaluation will be used as consideration for improving similar activities in the future.

Thus, this activity not only provides direct benefits to children, but also improves the quality of student learning in applying the concepts of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah in real life.

RESULTS

Observation Results

Orphanage Muhammadiyah Simokerto LKSA BUYA HAMKA is located at Laban Pond 53, RT.008/RW.03, Tambakrejo, Simokerto, Surabaya. In this orphanage there are around 30 foster children of varying ages, from PAUD to elementary school age. Located in the middle of a

residential complex, this orphanage building consists of two floors with shades of blue on the outside as a characteristic of Muhammadiyah. On the lower floor there is an administration room and a prayer room which is used as a place to carry out prayers for both orphanage children and local residents.

As for the top floor, there is a room that is used as a place for children to study. This room is quite spacious with several windows that are wide enough to see the surrounding views, there is a fan, stacked folding study tables and a blackboard that the teachers uses when teaching.

The learning atmosphere was very calm when the presenter gave the material and the children seemed enthusiastic about listening, they were very active in answering when the presenter asked several questions and looked neat when entering and leaving the room. It can be seen when they take and rearrange the folding tables and queue up to shake hands with the teacher. Apart from that, when the lesson was over and the call to prayer sounded, they rushed to queue downstairs to take ablution water and pray in congregation, this reflected how the teachers taught them to always be disciplined.

Involvement

The activities carried out in Project Based Learning at LKSA Buya Hamka are about the importance of sharing happiness for yourself and others.

Teaching children to share happiness is an important step in cultivating noble character and building a loving generation. This habit is not only about giving material things, but also about instilling a sense of empathy, caring and enthusiasm for helping others.

The first program implemented was a seminar with the theme "Spread Happiness with Children". With this seminar, it's hoped that there will be awareness from an early age for children to encourage noble character.



Figure 1.1 Seminar Activities

The children were then given material about the meaning of happiness and the importance of sharing happiness with others. Then at the end of the time the speaker gave the children the opportunity to ask questions and discuss. The speaker also asked the children several questions in the hope that they could understand what had been said from beginning to end. Throughout the event the children looked very enthusiastic about asking and answering the questions given.

The second activity carried out was painting tote bags, apart from training children's motor skills, painting can also bring many benefits to their development both cognitively, physically and emotionally.



Figure 1.2 Painting a Tote Bag Together

The third activity carried out was sharing food with children, sharing teaches them to remain grateful and remember other people. Even though the value of something given seems small to us, it will have a big impact on other people. This is also in line with the teachings of the Islamic religion that every

sustenance given by Allah SWT has other people's rights in it.

Sharing or often called alms brings blessings to life. With alms or *sedekah*, we can increase our faith and devotion to Allah SWT. We can teach this from an early age, because the behavior we get used to from an early age will bring goodness and will be remembered forever.



Figure 1.3 Sharing Food

Expected reflection

Through participation in project-based learning at the Simokerto Muhammadiyah LKSA BUYA HAMKA Orphanage, Tambak Laban 53, we gained several memorable thoughts and experiences.

Our experience in this activity is very valuable. Interaction with active, friendly, and open young children makes us feel happy. Below are some of the thoughts and experiences we gained after participating in this activity.

Education provided from an early age is a process of learning knowledge and skills that shape moral and intellectual character. Early childhood education is an important foundation in forming superior humans, starting from an early age to brighten life and develop character early childhood.

Sharing for mutual happiness is an obligation for everyone. Giving a smile or acting sincerely and sincerely is the main value of happiness. Our sense of gratitude increases by remembering the importance of sharing with others. For young children, sharing happiness is not just about giving things or money, but also about lending things and

doing good things to friends as a sharing value that is inherent in oneself.

Religious education has an important role in forming character. Teachers and parents must accompany children in understanding the religious values they adhere to, as an effort to improve human morals. Concern for the environment is an important step in maintaining the sustainability of nature.

Children's awareness of the environment and how to share happiness needs to be instilled from an early age to maintain a cheerful and peaceful mood, as well as friendship towards others which is important to maintain.

DISCUSSION

From several agendas and research that we have carried out, some of them include seminars on early awareness education for children to encourage noble character, painting tote bags, sharing food, and even distributing drinking water tumblers to orphanage children in order to protect the environment. We have found something certain. That the children in this orphanage need attention from all of us not only regarding their material or physical needs, but also their spiritual needs, namely the need to care for their faith, beliefs and mental health so that they remain healthy children. and excel, ready to welcome the future with full happiness. Balance and harmony in educating them both in science and religion is a necessity in order to achieve a harmonious and progressive life. There is no overlap or imbalance between worldly life and the afterlife. Everything is done according to religious teachings with full kindness as a nature in the human soul, namely the nature of doing good to get and spread goodness too.

CONCLUSION

Project Based Learning (PjBL) implemented in the Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah courses at the Simokerto LKSA Buya Hamka Orphanage has succeeded in creating a meaningful and holistic learning experience. With the theme "Together with Smiles: Spreading Happiness and Building

Character", this activity combines painting and environmental education to teach important values to orphanage children.

Through painting activities, children are given the opportunity to express their emotions, increase creativity, and help the emotional healing process. Meanwhile, distributing tumblers on the occasion of World Environment Day instills environmental awareness and teaches the importance of reducing the use of single-use plastic.

This PjBL method is not only effective in conveying lesson material, but also forms important practical and social skills for children. Reflections from this activity show that early education, sharing happiness, religious education, and concern for the environment are important aspects in shaping children's character. This activity succeeded in achieving its goal of creating a comprehensive learning experience combining Islamic and Muhammadiyah values with practical applications in everyday life.

This activity not only provides direct benefits to children, but also improves the quality of student learning in applying the concepts of Al Islam and Muhammadiyah in real life. We hope that similar activities can continue to be carried out and improved in the future, thereby providing a wider and positive impact on society.

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DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We does not work for, consult, own shares in, or receive funding from any company or organization that would benefit from this manuscript, and has disclosed no affiliations other than those noted above.

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