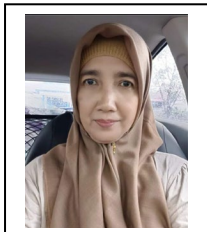


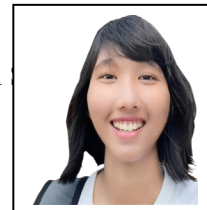
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ONLINE AND SEMI-ONLINE MENTORING METHODS: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES DURING THE NEW NORMAL PANDEMIC

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Abstract: Community stewardship can be done directly. Direct interaction is commonly applied, appreciated, and easy to communicate. During the COVID-19 pandemic, direct interaction and visits are almost impossible due to activity limitations and social distancing. Online and semi-online interaction can be applied by inviting community limited representatives combined with the online method. Initiation on online communication is introduced. This project was conducted in companionship and training in Braja Harjosari and Labuhan Ratu VII, East Lampung. Following the introduction of the online and semi-online methods, local people can apply and share their knowledge of the new normal paradigm.

Keywords: : Community stewardship, technology, online methods, Braja harjosari, Labuhan Ratu VII, COVID 19

INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment is one of the programs supporting the village government in utilizing all existing resources to develop and can help the process of village progress. Community empowerment can be carried out in various fields such as village governance, institutions, economy, health, education, technology, and a combination of these fields. Target activities include household industries, farmer groups, tourism awareness groups, forest farmer groups, and markets. This empowerment program can include training, workshops, capital/capital, equipment assistance, assistance, and improvement of facilities/infrastructure, including mastery of technology. It is hoped that community empowerment can improve the economy and welfare of the community. Assistance in technology can be carried out to keep up with the times. This empowerment program can be in the form of training, technology development, and the use of technology in the work process and community life. The empowerment of communities in the technology field is expected to increase community competitiveness, make it easier for people to work, and

make it easier for people to interact, share, and get information. Thus, introducing and utilizing online technology is expected to improve people's abilities and create a qualified and competent society.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, assistance was carried out directly through visits to activity locations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, with restrictions on face-to-face meetings, travel, and interaction in crowds through the Circular Letter of the Governor of Lampung Province Dated March 16, 2020, Number 440/1022/06/2020, concerning Anticipation and Preparedness for Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) infection in Lampung Province and Circular Letter of the Regent of East Lampung dated March 16, 2020 Number 360/092/31-SK/III/2020 concerning Alert for the prevention of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19). One of the things that must be done is an indirect meeting, namely online or semi-online. Online meetings are conducted if it is possible for assistance to be fully provided without having to meet face-to-face or interact directly. If direct interaction is still required, it is done with a small group of community members as representatives who then, after the meeting, will share their skills with the community in the village of origin. This has been done in Braja Harjosari and Labuhan Ratu VII, East Lampung.

METHODS

Component 4 (University of Lampung Team) of the UNILA-ALeRT Consortium carried out this mentoring activity under the Tropical Forest Conservation Action (TFCA) Sumatra program for the 2019-2021 period. The materials used in this activity are Whats app, Skype, and Zoom programs, while the tools are mobile phones and laptops. In the first stage, assistance was provided using the Whats app. Training and introduction of online programs were carried out gradually and alternately to representatives of members of the Braja Harjosari and Labuhan Ratu VII Tourism Awareness Groups (Pokdarwis), East Lampung. The program was introduced with Skype and continued with Zoom after getting used to Skype (Figure 1).

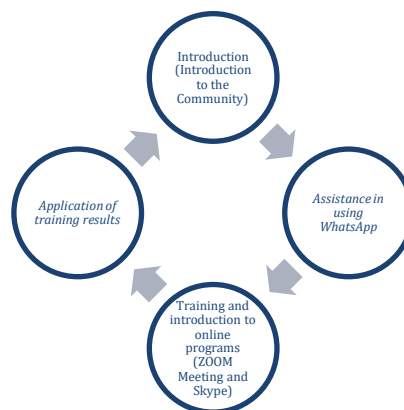


Figure 1. Diagram of the online and semi-online Training and Mentoring Stages: a strategy for community empowerment during the new normal pandemic.

Then, each introductory participant shared the online program skills with the next small group. For the smooth running of online activities, people who actively participate in online interactions are assisted in purchasing internet quota. Laptop facilities are provided

for people who need help to operate online programs during activities. During small group meetings with COVID-19, protocols such as maintaining distance, small groups, and using masks are still applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Previously, due to the long distance, communication and interaction with the community was carried out by direct visits and face-to-face for mentoring, counseling, and training every certain period and when needed, as was done with the tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis) in Labuhan Ratu VII and Braja Harjosari Villages. Meetings are conducted in person and start with small groups by keeping a distance (Figure 2). For smooth communication and daily interaction, communication is supported using a WhatsApp group.



Figure 2. Training and training and mentoring using the visit and face-to-face method before and at the beginning of the pandemic. pandemic in Braja Harjosari and Labuhan Ratu VII

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the main challenge was the restrictions on in-person meetings and travel outside the area. Communication is carried out using WhatsApp group calls to adjust the form of interaction. After most of the community was accustomed to it, the Skype application was introduced, utilizing person-to-person video calls (Figure 3), then continued with assistance in trial use, including regular weekly meetings (Figure 4).

Gradually, the community was also introduced to the Zoom program in the same way, including being introduced to the use of exposure sharing, and then small group mentoring was carried out (Figure 4). Practice displaying exposure was delivered. After mentoring, a small group trial was conducted small groups, while assisting community members who still needed to become fluent in the operation (Figure 5-6).

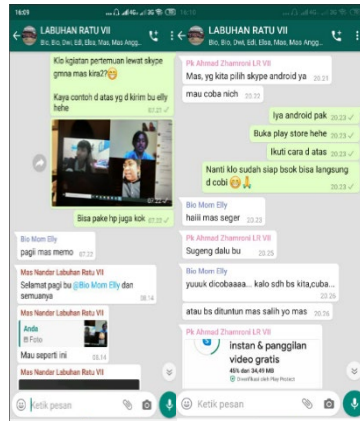


Figure 3. Assistance in using the Skype program in Labuhan Ratu VII



Figure 4. Assistance in introducing the Zoom program in small groups in Braja Harjosari Village and Labuhan Ratu VII

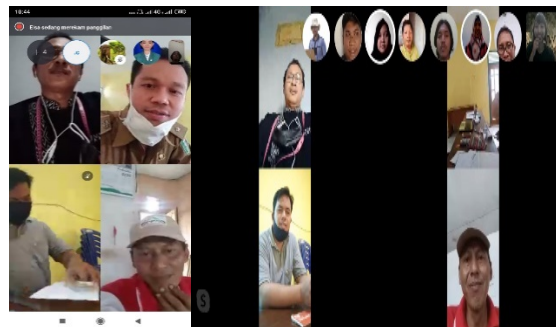


Figure 5. Trial of online interaction using Skype program with members of Pokdarwis Desa Labuhan Ratu VII and Braja Harjosari online, including for regular weekly meetings.

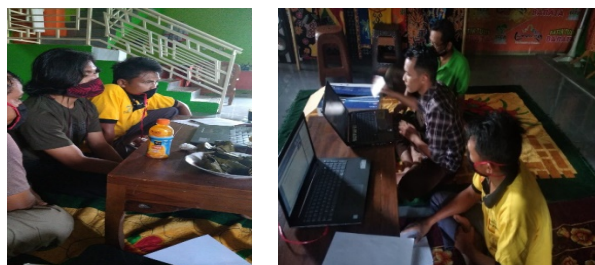


Figure 6. Trial of online interaction using the Zoom program with members of the Pokdarwis of Labuhan Ratu VII Village

While it's still possible, semi-online meetings are conducted in two ways. The first way, such as the "Discussion on tourism preparation in the *new normal* era friendly to

COVID-19 protocols", resource persons delivered the material fully online and pokdarwis members followed, by being divided into small groups in different locations, or individually at their respective residences (Figure 7). For training that must be done with skill demonstrations and then participants try to do their own things such as making resin-based keychains by Dr. Dwi Asmi and team, the resource persons together with small groups of participants directly with COVID-19 protocols and other participants follow online in small groups (Figure 8). It is hoped that participants who follow directly will share knowledge and skills upon returning to their place of origin.

In conditions of restrictions on meetings and movement, assisted villagers can adapt well, and can even take advantage of online interaction capabilities to participate in online training and discussions independently.

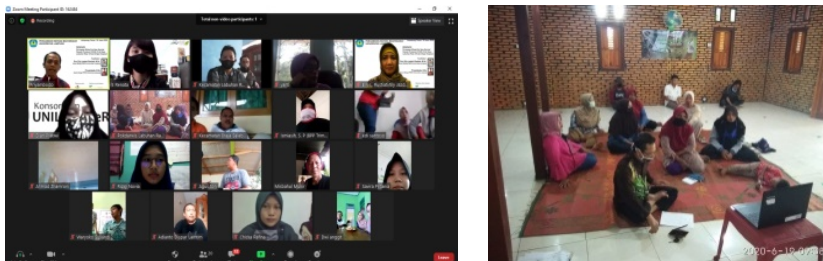


Figure 7. Online assistance "Discussion of tourism preparation in the *new normal era* friendly to COVID-19 protocols" with resource person Dra. Elly L. Rustiati, M.Sc., Department of Biology FMIPA, University of Lampung, fully online and semi-online community through small groups with village assistants.



Figure 8. Semi-online assistance "Training on making resin-based souvenirs epoxy to Pokdarwis Labuhan Ratu VII" with representatives of joint participant Dr. Dwi Asmi was a resource person at the Physics Laboratory, FMIPA, University of Lampung, to take part in demonstrations in training and then skill practice, other participants followed from Labuhan Ratu VII village.

CONCLUSION

Anticipating the COVID-19 pandemic in community mentoring activities can be carried out online and semi-online in small groups by gradually introducing online programs.

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